



# CHATTERMARKS

The eNewsletter for Woodturners of Western Puget Sound-

## Lost Wood Technique

By Jim Conway

Last year Art Liestman dazzled us with some of his very unique art work turned on a lathe. And you say, "Well of course, Jim, all of our demonstrators turn things on a lathe." Yes, but it did not **look** like anything I would make on a lathe. Same thing this year. Art will be with us on the 31st of August and demonstrate his Lost Wood technique.

Knowledge of the "lost wax" process of jewelry doesn't help a bit in understanding what Art does. So I guess we'll have to wait until the end of the month to what it's all about.

The item at the right is one of his Lost Wood pieces. It's 7-1/2" tall which is about one hand span long, from thumb to little finger. Hmmm, still doesn't look like something I'd turn on a lathe.

Under Art's website ([artliestman.com](http://artliestman.com)) on his "Sprites" page, he describes the Lost Wood sculptures as "small hollow, non-round vessels". "They are asymmetrical



forms, being oval in cross-section and with carved pointy tops."

He further describes them as evoking "happy beings in hooded cloaks, perhaps monks or residents of a cold rainy climate."

Originally from Kansas, Art has lived half of his life in Vancouver, B.C. (Canada), where his day job is that of a University Professor. He readily admits to what all of us already know—turning can be very addictive. According to his web page, he turns when his day job allows him and although Art is an accomplished artist extraordinaire, he humbly asserts "I just make stuff". That motto has been seen around the Olympic Peninsula Woodturners meetings as Art sells T-shirts with that saying.

A little known fact about Art is that he dabbles in playing Jazz bass. Don't ask him about music theory from a Jazz perspective unless you want your eyes to glaze over. That's something Jazz musicians can do without even breaking a sweat.

Come join Art and your fellow club members on Wednesday the 31st, and be treated to a unique artistic demonstration in wood turning.



August  
2016

Regular  
meeting is  
the last  
Wednesday,  
of the month

Meet & Greet at  
6 PM followed by  
announcements  
at 6:30.

Kitsap  
Adventist  
School  
Gymnasium  
5088 NW  
Taylor Road  
Bremerton.

Other  
activities  
include

Featured  
Demonstration,  
Refreshments,  
Show and Tell,  
Wood Auction,  
Sandpaper &  
Glue sales.

See our  
website at

**OPCAAW.COM**

TURNABOUTS / BY RUSSELL NEYMAN

# The Joy of Teaching

**I**F YOU are one of those, like me, who is passionate about woodturning, there is no better way to share that enthusiasm than to show others how to spin wood. Our club does exactly that each year at the **Kitsap County Fair** and other local craft shows as well as a series of “open shop” events by individual artisans.



The Olympic Peninsula Woodturners have been a featured live demonstration at the county fair for several years, drawing small crowds at the President's Hall in Silverdale. We have an ample display of some of our members' work, an assortment of tools and a lathe to help us explain how (and what) it takes to execute the craft, and – occasionally – live turning.

As many of us have noted, “when the lathe is turned, on the crowd shows up.” These events are really fun and generate excitement.

Yes, we DO participate in these sorts of events several times a year\* (see footnote on following page) to promote our club and to promote the craft, but there are benefits beyond mere expansion of our sphere of influence. The truth is, there is no better way to LEARN than to TEACH. We encourage all of you – advanced turners and novices alike – to come, participate, and help us articulate what our club and the craft are all about.

Think about it: In the early stages of woodturning, the beginner struggles to remember all the variables and apply them appropriately. But, when asked to explain it to another individual (or, listening to another turner's explanation) things seem to make more sense. Teaching gives you the

opportunity to share your successes and failures and shorten the learning curve of others.

Typically, the people who drop in at these events already have a passing interest in the craft. They usually say things like, “I turned a little way back in shop class” or “I've always been fascinated by this but didn't know where to start.”

Well, *this* is where woodturning starts--! Taking a block of wood and reshaping it into a useful thing or a piece of beautiful art is a timeless craft that dates back thousands of years, and we're passing it on to future generations by demonstrating it at these events. It's a win-win deal; You grow as a woodturner and

woodturning grows because you shared your enthusiasm for it. That's what this club is all about.

**THE POINT IS**, if you'd like to advance your skill-set or help others to advance theirs – *or both* – step up and take a shift at the County Fair or host an open shop at your place. You might *THINK* you're merely helping the club, but I can guarantee that you'll leave with an expanded awareness of what it is, exactly, that occurs behind the lathe and become more articulate about what our club has to offer.

OK, we get it that some of you lack the confidence in your technique to actually teach it, but if you

simply approach these events as “leading a discussion” you'll get comfortable in your role quickly.

For those of you who need a refresher course, OPCAOW offers the following:

- General meetings on the last Wednesday of most months that include a major speaker, an incredible Show & Tell, and a Wood Auction.

*Continued on pg 3*



*Turned by Russell Neyman*

- A free, comprehensive lending library.
- Glue and Sandpaper Sales at discount.
- Many retail woodworking stores honor our membership badges with a discount.
- A resource-oriented website with hundreds of tips and links useful to woodturners far and wide.
- A monthly newsletter, CHATTERMARKS, that is both informative and entertaining.

*Because we are one of the oldest and largest turning clubs in America, we have the leverage to bring in top demonstrators. It helps that we are financially secure and well managed.*

*Our pro-rated January-to-December dues are a mere \$30 annually, with a family plan available.*

As I like to say, "We put on a really good show."

*\*In addition to the Kitsap County Fair, OP-CAAW also demonstrates at the Olalla Bluegrass Festival, the Port Townsend Woodworking Show, and the Washington State Fair. We also have several club-sponsored "Sawdust Sessions" and hands-on classes throughout the year. See the Calendar of Events in this edition of CHATTERMARKS for details.*

Russell Neyman is a writer, woodworker, and a historian who lives in Port Orchard. He is president of the Olympic Peninsula Woodturners as well as chairman of The Yukon Harbor Historical Society.

## Block Challenge!

Vern West will be running a "Block Challenge" for the month of September.

Whuzzat?!?

Take a block of wood, uniform to the challenge and make something with it. Emphasis "something." Anything.

Vern will have blocks of wood (a few different types) all 3/4"x3/4"x7". See Vern at the August meeting and request your block of wood. You will have ONE MONTH to make something with your block. Bring it to Show and Tell at the September meeting and we'll compare turnings.

Vern is here to help—here is his list of

things that you can make with your block.

- Ear rings—drop, bead, hoop segmented
- Necklace—medallion, beaded
- Rings—segmented
- Bracelet—beaded, segmented
- Honey dipper—small
- Doll house miniatures—plates, cups, saucers, goblets, flasks, bowls
- Box Finial
- Christmas ornament finial
- Bird house ornament parts
- Legs for feet for various plates, bowls, vessels
- Salt spoon
- Miniature bat

And the list goes on. When you pick up your block of wood from Vern, he may have some additional suggestions—or you could give him one of yours.

Anyway, it should be fun to see what we each can do with a similar starting point.



## A PIC-A-NIC REPORT

From Cindy Allen

A good time was had by all. We were totally covered by the structures on site and trees, so with the breeze we were shaded, comfortable, and could kick back and enjoy the great conversation. There was croquet and horseshoes if folks were interested and plenty of groomed grounds for kids to play on. We had a couple of door prize winners (\$30 Craft Supply gift certificates), but the real treat was spending quality time with those who have a shared interest, meeting new members and spouses, and getting a chance to swap stories.

Many thanks to those who made this the success that it was: George Kromka who bought the BBQ ingredients and delayed his vacation to man the grill, and Larry Lemon who was the lead for this picnic and missed a family celebration to make sure this went without a hitch. I would encourage everyone to attend the picnic event next year. If you have ideas to improve or would like to participate in future planning - let Larry know, he would appreciate the help.—CA



# Calendar of events, shows, classes and other things

2016

August 24-28	—	Kitsap County Fair
Oct 1	—	Port Townsend Sawdust Session
Nov 5-6	—	Port Townsend Woodworkers Show
Nov 6	—	Jimmie Allen's Box making class
Sept 28	—	Monthly meeting with Tom Wirsing on emerging technologies
Sept 29	—	Tom Wirsing workshop

## PT Turning Classes

Port Townsend School of Woodworking is hosting four classes in September and October on wood turning. Bonnie Klein, Stephen Hatcher and Tom Henscheid will be the instructors. Go to their web page for more details—<http://www.ptwoodschool.org/woodturning-classes/>.



## OLALLA FUN!

In the photo below, Troy Kellington shows Doug, a young visitor to the Olalla Blue Grass Festival, how to turn a bowl. We have said many times that as a group we need to reach out to the younger generations to interest them to the world of wood turning.

The Olalla Festival was on such event that your club is using to spread the word. The Kitsap County Fair—August 24 to 28—is another venue where we have a presence and will share the fun of our hobby and craft.



Troy Kellington shows a visitor, Doug, how to turn a bowl on a lathe.

## Lathe Auction

The lathe that the club will be using at the Kitsap County Fair for demonstrations was donated to the club and has been refurbished. It will be auctioned off at the September Meeting on 9/28/16. As happened the last time we did this, the auction will be open to members and non-members and take place right after the announcements at the meeting.

The lathe is a Jet 12-36 on a rolling stand. It has a Reeves variable speed drive and a 1"x8tpi spindle. It comes with two tool rests, but does not have a chuck or spur drive at the moment.

If you are interested and would like to try it out, come by the club's booth at the Kitsap County Fair and give it a spin. Then make sure that you are at the September meeting with your checkbook in hand.

This lathe is refurbished but as a comparison, Home Depot carries them for \$920. This could be a great opportunity to have a sweet running Jet lathe for a bargain.

Remember—the proceeds from this sale will go into the video upgrade fund for our live demonstrations.



*Didja know??  
That you can  
pay for your  
wood auction  
purchases with  
a credit card?  
See Jon Gies-  
bush after the  
sale to make  
that payment.*

# Lookie Here!

## At your local Henery's



**Henery Hardware** of Bremerton is pleased to announce that members of the *Olympic Peninsula Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners* (OPCAAW) will receive 10% off their total in-store purchase\*. To receive this discount, you *must* present your OPCA AW membership badge when you check out.

### **Henery Hardware**

3449 Wheaton Way  
Bremerton, WA 98310  
(360)824-5047

Sunday	8AM-6PM
Mon-Fri	7AM-7PM
Saturday	8AM-7PM

\*Note that this offer applies to the Bremerton location only. Discount cannot be combined with other offers and does not apply to items already on sale.



I'll check with the other Henery's to see if they'll honor the same—  
JTC

**Woodturning 101 / BY JIM CONWAY****Frozen in Time**

There are times that I use myself as an example when explaining the evolution of developing your skills as a woodturner. Not that I've done it so right or perfectly. Quite the opposite. I usually take the road less travelled because everyone else figured out a better way to do it, and I'm still stumbling around in the dark.



**In the beginning**, I took a bowl turning class from Bonnie Klein in the spring, which was the spark to send me down the road of wood turning. Over the next few months I accumulated the tools and machinery that I could afford and began turning—badly.

I thought I was the only turner in Port Townsend, and was doomed to teach myself how to do this new hobby/passion. I chose tough projects, like big out of round chunks of alder that walked my lathe all over the shop. I didn't have a band saw, so I had to remove and remount the block many times before I could get it close to round with my chainsaw.

**The alder and I made war** at the lathe over the next several days if not weeks. It kept getting smaller as I would make major catches and then have to work them out. **I also learned that wood can move—as in warp—overnight.** Every time I would enter the battle zone, I had to reshape the bowl back down to round, work on it a little more and then walk away exhausted. Because of my inexperience, I was timid, very. It took forever for me to advance my project because I moved at it so slowly.

Later that year, I obtained a piece of wet madrone. I thought I had died and gone to heaven, it was so easy to work with. Happiness is streams of ribbons flying off of a piece of madrone. I still hadn't developed the habit of finishing a piece or at least finishing a stage of production, so I would leave it on the lathe and come back the next day or so, and deal with that darned warping issue.

Then one day I went to my shop and was horrified to see a giant crack in the bottom of my madrone bowl.

Since I know that I'm the only wood turner in Port Townsend, there was no one I knew that I could turn to. I didn't learn until two years later that boiling madrone will stabilize the wood.

I spent the entire holiday season fussing with that madrone bowl, trying different things to fill the crack and keep it from warping more than it had. But so much of the time, I did nothing.

**Basically I froze. I didn't know what to do, so I did *nothing*.**

I should have tossed the thing into the wood stove and started over. But I didn't. I wasted months on that bowl because I was too afraid and intimidated to move forward.

Today I would pick up my phone and call any number of experienced turners and get a solution or at least a suggestion as to how to resolve my problem.

**If you are a new-ish turner** and struggling to make your reality match your dream, take a page from my odyssey and talk to someone better than you. On the last page of this newsletter is a list of mentors who have volunteered to be available to the membership to guide them through those rough stretches.

The longer you wait to call one of them, the more frustrated you'll be. Discouragement follows frustration and that's a road you certainly don't want to go down.

Yes, you can teach yourself how to turn, and you can spend a long time doing that. I have found that it is so much more satisfying to take a class, watch a demonstration, or talk to an experienced turner.



*This is that madrone bowl in my "hide and forget" storage. I keep it to remind myself of how difficult I can make things when I don't have to. The missing piece in the rim was either when it flew off the chuck or I threw it across the room in frustration. Or it might have been a hammer. I don't remember.*

*"Happiness is streams of ribbons flying off of a piece of madrone."*

## CLUB SPONSORS

Many of these sponsors will honor your membership badge with a discount.

**CRAFT SUPPLIES USA**  
THE WOODTURNERS CATALOG

- Low Price Guarantee
- Largest Selection
- Quality Products
- Superb Customer Service
- Fast, Low Cost Shipping
- Family Owned Since 1982

**LOW PRICE GUARANTEE**  
We shop our competitors so you don't have to!  
woodturnerscatalog.com/PriceGuarantee

We constantly compare our prices to other companies to make sure we offer you the best possible price. If you find a lower price elsewhere, we'll match or beat the price!

1-800-551-8876 • woodturnerscatalog.com

[www.edensaw.com](http://www.edensaw.com)  
Port Townsend: 211 Seton Road  
Port Townsend, WA 98368  
(360)-385-7878  
Fax: (360) 385-5215  
Toll-Free: (800) 745-3336

**EDENSAW**  
WOODS, LTD.

Now with a full line of  
Rockler Supplies

TURN TO  
PACKARD  
FOR QUALITY  
TURNING TOOLS  
AND SUPPLIES

**Packard**  
WOODWORKS  
INC.

The Woodturner's Source

[www.packardwoodworks.com](http://www.packardwoodworks.com)  
1-800-683-8876

**D-WAY TOOLS** Simply the finest  
lathe tools available

[www.D-WayTools.com](http://www.D-WayTools.com) DWayTools@htc.com 360/432-9509

Create with Confidence

**ROCKLER**  
WOODWORKING AND HARDWARE

[www.rockler.com](http://www.rockler.com)  
345 Tukwila Parkway  
Tukwila, WA 98188  
206-244-9161



877-672-5275  
[Www.cookwoods.com](http://Www.cookwoods.com)

**The Board Hoarder**

Wood for the woodworker

Steve Bartocci, 206-359-4300 • [wopwoody@comcast.net](mailto:wopwoody@comcast.net)

**CHATTERMARKS**  
is produced by  
and for

The Olympic  
Peninsula Chapter of The American Association  
of Woodturners -  
**OPCAAW**

and is published  
monthly both  
electronically  
and for printed  
distribution. All  
articles are copyrighted by OP-  
CAAW unless otherwise  
noted. Letters to  
the Editor and  
article submissions are  
welcome.

Jim Conway,  
Editor

# The Mentoring Program

**CONSIDER A MENTOR**—The OPCAOW Mentors are a select group of artisans and professionals who we have designated to promote, encourage, and guide novice and intermediate woodturners within our organization. Mentors provide counsel on subjects like shop setup, equipment purchase, safety, wood preparation and specialized skills. These are some friendly folks willing to give you a point in the right direction.

While not actually a formal training program, meetings with mentors often become just that. In some cases, advanced formal instruction is available at

an hourly rate.

OPCAOW Mentoring is available only to members. Please bring your current badge with you to the first session.

The current Mentors are:

<b>Dan Ackerman</b> (Brinnon)	360-796-4155
<b>Tones Briggs</b> (Port Orchard)	360-271-6448
<b>Bob Hickernell</b> (Bremerton)	360-479-5501
<b>George Kromka</b> (Bremerton)	360-373-1028
<b>Jim Leary</b> (Kingston)	360-297-5872
<b>Jim McFarland</b> (Shelton)	903-352-9807
<b>Brad Stave</b> (Gig Harbor)	206-910-5459

## OPCAOW Officers & Staff

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Russell Neyman**, President  
C: 360-813-4484  
President@OPCAOW.com

**Brad Stave**, VP Training & Education  
C: 206-910-5459  
Training@OPCAOW.com

**Jim Conway**, VP Public Relations  
C: 360-531-0168  
PublicRelations@OPCAOW.com

**Pam Kellington**, VP Membership  
C: 815-543-6639  
Membership@OPCAOW.com

**Vern West**, Secretary  
H: 360-479-8634  
Secretary@OPCAOW.com

**Jon Geisbush**, Treasurer  
H: 360-297-1773  
Treasurer@OPCAOW.com

**Larry Lemon**, Sergeant-at-Arms  
C: 253-851-0487  
SergeantatArms@OPCAOW.com

To email all Board of Directors at once—  
BOD@OPCAOW.com

To email all Staff email at once—  
Staff@OPCAOW.com

### STAFF POSITIONS

**Larry Matkins** Webmaster  
360-551-1044  
Webmaster@OPCAOW

**Cindy Allen**, Special Events Coordinator  
H: 360-373-3041  
SpecialEvents@OPCAOW.com

**Jim McFarland**, Librarian  
903-352-9807

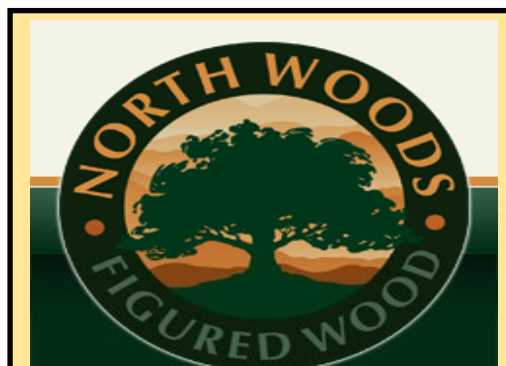
**Barbara Davis**, Glue & Sandpaper Sales  
C: 360-731-2725

**Jeff Childs**, Video Director  
C: 360-303-7074

**Jeff Nagley**, Cameraman  
360-229-3900

**Tex Lewis**, Cameraman  
360-698-3893

**Stan Stumbo**, Audio  
206-842-1458



Show-quality  
figured bowl, pen, and  
spindle blanks  
[nwfiguredwoods.com](http://nwfiguredwoods.com)

**"If you don't  
blow up a  
bowl every  
now and  
then,  
you aren't  
trying hard  
enough."**

**-- Dick Raffan,  
Master  
Woodturner**