



CHATTERMARKS

The eNewsletter for Woodturners of Western Puget Sound

Emerging Technologies

SEPT 2016

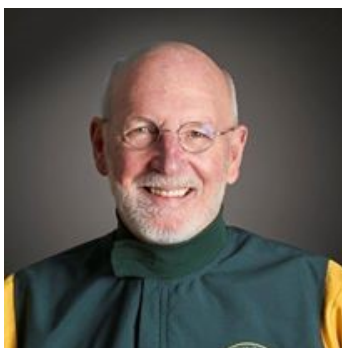
Tom Wirsing from Longmont, CO is coming to the Northwest this month to demonstrate the **Emerging Technologies in Woodturning**. Two main components in turning have been revolutionized in the recent past—Tool Steel and grinder technologies. We all are semi-aware of the transition from Carbon Steel to HSS or High Speed Steel that has made turning much easier of late. If nothing else it has cut down on the trips from the lathe to the grinder as the HSS tools will hold an edge much longer than the older carbon steel gouges, if you don't drop it on the concrete.

Tom will also be discussing the Particle Metal Steels and where the industry will probably be going in the evolution of steel. The most widely used steel for woodturning tools in HSS is the M2, and Tom will be comparing this to the new CPM 10V, which is a particle metal steel. He will be explaining why particle metal steel is becoming the next level of woodturning tool steel.

The other half of the technologies advancement that Tom will be addressing is in the realm of grinders. He will be discussing the merits and differences between the conventional grinding wheel and the newer Cubic Boron Nitride (CBN) wheels.

During the demonstration, Tom will grind both M2 and 10V tools on both conventional and CBN grinding wheels, then

he'll turn wood with the sharpened tools, **THEN** he will examine the tools' grinds with a 300 power microscope. Now **THAT** should be an eye opener!



Tom is originally from the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia and grew up in a house centered around wood. His

father was an expert on American period furniture and built reproductions in his basement shop. Tom leans towards turning

platters and feels that like the antiques that he grew up with, his bowls and platters will become heirlooms that will be enjoyed by generations to come.

Tom will also be teaching a small class on Thursday the 29th on turning platters. Currently the class is full, but you never know about last minute changes. So talk to Brad Stave if you

have interest in being placed on the waiting list.

Join us on Wednesday, September 28th at our monthly general meeting. Besides Tom's presentation, there will be a great Show and Tell and as always, a phenomenal Wood Auction.



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

Much-Maligned Scrapers

WE'VE ALL heard the old curmudgeon woodturner scoffing when someone suggests using a flat-bladed tool to turn a bowl, as though it's uncouth or crude.

In fact, a couple of my best friends — both highly-esteemed woodturners — have expressed their disdain for scrapers. "That's the hard way to go about it," one said. "It's too easy to get a major catch with a scraper, and nearly impossible to get a good finish cut."

Reed Gray (aka "Robo Hippy"), who has demonstrated for our club several times and advocates the use of scrapers, even goes so far as to say that they're "very effective as heavy roughing tools ... very effective as a shear scraping tool ... not so good for finish cuts other than in end grain."

Even my friend Dave Schweitzer, owner of D-Way Tools in nearby Shelton, has expressed the opinion that scrapers have limited use in his shop. "I don't use them very much. I get better results with bowl gouges and have less sanding to do with them."

I asked, "Aren't many of the most popular items sold these days — traditional beading tools, parting tools, and your hollowing tool — all really scrapers?"

"Yes, they are," he replied. "But they really don't work well for some of the softer woods we encounter here in the Pacific Northwest. They're fine for hard, dense woods, but not for maple and cherry."

Many experienced woodturners subscribed to the gouge-only mindset, but eventually came back to scrapers. Roger Chandler, an online acquaintance of mine

from Virginia who frequently exchanges ideas with me through the Sawmill Creek



turners discussion board, had this to say:

"I have had a few catches along the way with a scraper, but not near as many as with other tools, like a bowl gouge or spindle gouge and, especially the skew. Cutting slightly above center with the handle high is an important technique...."

"Shear scraping cleanup cuts with feather light shavings coming off the tool.....good for going up the sides of walls to clean up any ridges. Sometimes smaller is better, as I have had a few problem transitions from side to bottom of a bowl, and my usual go to scraper [a 1" roundnose] would not give the surface I was looking for, but went to a 1/2" roundnose, and it gave the better surface I wanted....."

"I think that depends on the shape of the curve in the transition, the size of the bowl, and the species of wood, but it is a good thing to remember as there are times when a change in a tool will help, including going to a smaller size bowl gouge."

My respect for Dave, Reed, and several others notwithstanding, I humbly disagree. Used correctly, a well-sharpened scraper can produce very nice results.

• • •

LET'S START BY

Continued on page 3

Dave Schweitzer says he doesn't use scrapers very much because "They just not my thing. I've use bowl gouges all my life."



discussing the difference between a scraper and other tools and how it cuts. Gouges and skewers, the two other primary cutting tools, use a knife-like edge to peel away material, while a scraper uses a very small “burr” that is created at the very edge metal during the sharpening process. This edge is created naturally, but some woodturners choose to create a refined burr using hardened steel pressed against a freshly sharpened scraper, much the same way cabinetmakers prepare card scrapers.

As the word implies, this sharp edge is dragged along the surface, peeling away a layer of wood as the wood passes underneath. Correctly done, the excess material should look like fine shavings when you are working toward a finished cut. (I’ll discuss scrapers used for removing large amounts of material during the rough-out process later.)

One of the biggest advantages to using a scraper is that the sharpening process is many times quicker and easier, since it only requires a three-second pass across your sharpening wheel. I use an 85-degree angle (the relative position between the top of the scraper and the front vertical edge) but suggest you experiment to find what works best for you.

Some people add a second grinding process on the top of the scraper — a “negative scrape” — but haven’t found any advantage to it. If I want additional downward angle to a particular cut, I simply

raise the tool rest and lower the burred edge. There is some debate over the effectiveness of this technique, so be forewarned that some will disagree. .

■ ■ ■

AS WITH SO MANY TOOLS, technique is the key component to achieving success. With a scraper, maintaining maximum leverage — moving the tool rest as close as possible and holding the tool at the handle’s end — is critical.

It’s also essential to be sure you don’t bite off more than you can chew during any one cut. If your scraper is a full one inch wide, you should rarely attempt to cut the tool’s full width. Doing so can result in the burred edge digging in and overpowering your control of the cut.

That’s probably the biggest cause of scraper catches I’ve seen.

There are two fundamental techniques for using the scraper. One is the standard “flat” cut requiring a ever-so-slightly downward application of the cutting edge to the wood. This should be a hair below center on the outside of a bowl or spindle, and a similar distance above center on the inside of a bowl.

The other technique is known as a shear cut, applying the tool at a 45-degree angle and pulling it across the surface to achieve a smooth finish that requires less sanding.

To achieve a smooth finish cut, I advocate a very slight touch with a freshly-sharpened tool. If you’re using a square-ended scraper, avoid digging in the ends. (As a side note, I often hear stories of woodturners who say that they get such incredible results with a bowl gouge that they don’t even need to sand afterward. Frankly, I’m skeptical; I’d love to see a live demonstration of those impressive skills. Sure, they might get *nearly* perfect finish cuts, but I bet they al-

Continued on page 4

“I began with gouges but gradually transitioned to scrapers. Now I use them almost exclusively.”

—Chris Crundsolly

I’m here to
say that scrapers
get an underserved
bad rap.”



ways sand.)

• • •

MANY PEOPLE LIKE scrapers for removing large quantities of wood in a hurry especially for the inside of bowls and vessels. Again, technique is the key to achieving success. With a scraper, maintaining maximum leverage — moving the tool rest as close as possible and holding the tool at the handle's end — is critical.

There are two ways to do this. One is to simply use a very narrow scraper, like a manufactured handle that holds a shaped tip or cutting head, which offers a limited cutting width. Or, you can use only part of a wider flat scraper. This latter option helps fight the tendency of a tool to torque.

Another advantage of scrapers is that it's easy to make your own custom shapes. I take old v-shaped tools or cheap parting tools and re-grind them for a specific purpose — a variety of radius shapes can be found in my tool rack to achieve different coves. I also sharpen old allen wrenches into special shapes so that I can reach the insides of hollow forms and around hard-to-get-at corners.

Chris Crundsolly, a veteran woodturner who lives in Wisconsin, might have summed it up with his comment:

"When I began, I used bowl gouges exclusively because that's what everyone said was the best for turning bowls. I was happy with the results I was getting, but naturally, I would [try other methods].

"As time progressed, I continually

like."

There's a point early in the process of making a turned object that I like to call "the information stage" when you are simply determining what will work with the tool, lathe, speed, and wood you've chosen. It's at that time that you check to see if a scraper is the right tool to do the job. If you see tearout or fiber compression, try something different.

I think it's a safe bet that some of you regard me as a Machiavellian Woodturner; I subscribe to the belief that "the end justifies the means" and that whatever technique you use to achieve the result you are looking for is the one you should use. It's also safe to say the vast majority of us do this because it's enjoyable.

Scrapers work for me.

Russell Neyman is a writer, woodworker, and historian and is president of the Olympic Peninsula Woodturners. He operates a cabinet shop in Port Orchard and teaches woodturning.



experimented with different tools and techniques to accomplish similar things, I actually ended up transitioning to using scrapers exclusively ...
"You could do absolutely everything you need to in bowl turning with a round nosed scraper if you'd

"I began with gouges but gradually transitioned to scrapers. Now I use them almost exclusively."

—Chris Crundsolly

Calendar of events, shows, classes and other things

2016

Sept 28	—	Monthly meeting with Tom Wirsing on emerging technologies
Sept 29	—	Tom Wirsing workshop at Ray Ewing's shop, Port Orchard
Oct 1	—	Port Townsend Sawdust Session— Fort Worden
Oct 26	—	Jimmie Allen on Boxes—Oct Monthly Meeting
Nov 5-6	—	Port Townsend Woodworkers Show at American Legion Hall
Nov 6	—	Jimmie Allen's Box making class
Nov 16	—	Handy Dandy Homemade Tools—Tones Briggs

PT Sawdust Session

Brad Stave, VP of Training, has scheduled a "North of the Bridge" sawdust session in partnership with the Port Townsend School of Woodworking. The day long session will be on **October 1**, a Saturday, at the Fort Worden facility.

The Session will be near the School of Woodworking, but not in their usual building. It will be from **9am to 3pm**, and no lunch will be provided. There is a café on Ft Worden grounds or you can bring your own lunch.

This is a special event designed to reach out to woodturners and latent woodturners North of the Hood Canal Bridge. There will be 5 or 7 turners demonstrating various aspects of the craft.

One special presentation will be by Brad on "Embellishments". So if you have a bowl or blank that you would like to have something burned, carved, painted, textured, etc onto it, bring for Brad to demonstrate.

If you live in the **NOP*** and haven't had a chance to attend one of our programs, this is your opportunity. Come, see, share, socialize.

*North Olympic Peninsula



Let the Writer OUT!

For those members who might have an idea that they would like to share with the group, here is your opportunity!

I would invite anyone to submit a column for the newsletter on any turning subject, or something related.

If you are not confident of your writing

abilities, fear not! We have a cadre of copy editors and proofers that will come to your aid.

Send your submission to this editor at opcaaw@gmail.com. Don't want to write but have an idea? Send it along.



IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN

November elections will be right around the corner. Our club functions best when new ideas and new members participate in the workings.

If you have a talent or a desire to fill one of the many slots in our organization, step forward and be heard.

Write, call or corner Russell Neyman, current president and let him know what's on your mind. Also write to the Board of Directors at—BOD@OPCAAW.com



Jimmie Allen's Boxes

Jimmie Allen will be hosting a workshop on box making. We have all seen Jimmie's fine work displayed at our Show and Tells each month. Now is your opportunity to learn the ins and outs of quality box making.

The class will be on **November 6** at the school. It will be from 9am to 3pm and will include demonstration as well as hands on experience. The cost of the class is **\$60** per member and does not include lunch. Size of the class is **limited to 8**.

Currently the class has slots available, but don't wait until the last minute to reserve your place. Talk to Brad Stave.

206-910-5459.



A Beginner's Approach to Design

If it is not a dedicated subject with our monthly meeting demonstrations, there is usually a mention of some kind of design elements or techniques during the presentation. As artist, (make no mistake that what you are pursuing is, in fact, art) your final product will be judged by how it looks and how appealing it is. It doesn't make any difference if you are selling your art, or just giving it away to friends and family.



[Detour]—I have found that carrying around a couple of pens to give to someone who has done you a special favor or someone who has gone out of their way to help you at Home Depot or a favorite restaurant goes a long way to spreading joy in your universe.]

The first time or two that you stand at the lathe with your chunk of wood, the thought will run through your mind, “Now what? What am I going to do with this thing?” Actually, that is a process that happens most of the time. The answer just comes quicker the more you turn.

Each month we have “Show and Tell” at the general meetings. This is not to make you feel bad about what you’re doing in your shop, but to inspire you to reach further and create better than you have. You may see a piece that totally dazzles you, but is so far beyond your level and current abilities it makes your head hurt. Got a phone? Take a picture and store it in your woodturning file under “future projects” The time will come when you will take that step to create something like it.

Meanwhile, back at your lathe, you’ve looked at that blank and you may see imperfections. Do you want to turn those out (get rid of them) and have just nice, simple bowl; or do you want to incorporate those imperfections into the final product?

(Warning: If the imperfection is too large or



Simple and elegant

too unstable, it could cause problems that may be beyond your current abilities. Be careful.)

The size of the blank may suggest to you that it wants to be short and squat or tall with swooping lines. Ah—another detour here..... I listen to my wood. Yeaah, OK. That sounds a little nutso and woo-woo; but it actually does work. I ‘listen’ to what it wants to be. A cove here, a swooping line there. Sometimes a catch means that what you thought it was going to look like will be different because now you have to erase the big chunk that just got knocked out of the side of the bowl. Remember you are just taking away all of the “not bowl.”

Okay, so don’t listen to the wood; Be Inspired! Let the artist within you begin to emerge. Trust in what you feel guided to do next. Trust in the Force, Luke!

Eventually, your time in front of your lathe will evolve from effort, to pleasure, to meditation. If it doesn’t, you are missing out on one of the great pleasures that turning offers.

There seems to be subtle pressure when you view the Show and Tell table to make your bowl wall thickness as thin as possible. The adage of ‘you can never be too rich or too thin’ does not apply here. It’s a turner’s competition thing to make a bowl that is so thin a misplaced sneeze will send it across the table.

Last month **Nancy O’Guinn** brought three bowls to Show and Tell that were very heavy and thick walled, but I thought they were elegant and very graceful. I hope that she will bring those bowls back to S & T again so that, if you missed it the first time, you’ll be able to see them again.

Don’t get caught up in the rush to make everything thin. It’s a nice goal to have so that you can feel accomplished in your tool control, but in the beginning, it can cause problems.

And while we’re at it, you know that “pop” that makes everyone smile when they take the lid off a

Continued on Page 7



Beautiful, exotic and unstable.

Remember you are just taking away all of the “not bowl.”



Nancy O’Guinn’s Heavy Elegance

turned box? That's a turner's thing. Find me one woman who wants to put the handful of rings in her ring box if it takes two hands to open the darned thing. No, she wants the lid to be loose fitting. Pop is what you want when you open a bottle of wine.

As a beginning turner, you may be tempted to use your beginning bowls as kindling on a cold December night, but don't. Keep them. Once a year go through them and see where you started and then note where you are today. I have to smile at some of the early clunky and poorly finished objects that passed for bowls in my beginning attempts at the lathe.

Jim Conway is the VP of Public Relations and irreverent editor of the monthly newsletter. Originally from the deserts of West Texas, he has found his nirvana in the Northwest.

Lathe Auction

The lathe that the club used 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.** 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 make sure that you are at the September meeting with your checkbook in hand. The last lathe auction went quickly, so pay attention!

As a comparison, Home Depot carries this style lathe 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.

Blank Challenge!

Remember—This month is "Blank Challenge". You should have gotten a 3/4"x3/4"x7" blank at the last meeting, on which you are to make whatever you want.

You will have THIS MONTH to make something with your block. Bring it to Show and Tell at the September meeting and we'll compare turnings.

Vern has made a 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

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



Storing wood and blanks on the floor of your shop is an invitation for disaster when you have to step over them to get anywhere.

—From the handbook of "Do as I say, not as I do"



A proud sponsor of The Olympic Peninsula

Woodturners

5963 Corson Avenue South, Seattle 206-767-6394

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
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
1-800-683-8876

D-WAY TOOLS Simply the finest
lathe tools available

www.D-WayTools.com DWayTools@htc.com 360/432-9509

Create with Confidence

ROCKLER
WOODWORKING AND HARDWARE

www.rockler.com
345 Tukwila Parkway
Tukwila, WA 98188
206-244-9161



877-672-5275
Www.cookwoods.com

The Board Hoarder

Wood for the woodworker

Steve Bartocci, 206-359-4300 • 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 OPCA AW 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.

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

The current Mentors are:

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

OPCA AW Officers & Staff

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Russell Neyman, President
C: 360-813-4484
President@OPCA AW.com

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

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

Pam Kellington, VP Membership
C: 815-543-6639
Membership@OPCA AW.com

Vern West, Secretary
H: 360-479-8634
Secretary@OPCA AW.com

Jon Geisbush, Treasurer
H: 360-297-1773
Treasurer@OPCA AW.com

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

To email all Board of Directors at once—
BOD@OPCA AW.com
To email all Staff email at once—
Staff@OPCA AW.com

STAFF POSITIONS

Larry Matkins Webmaster
360-551-1044
Webmaster@OPCA AW

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

Jim McFarland, Librarian
903-352-9807

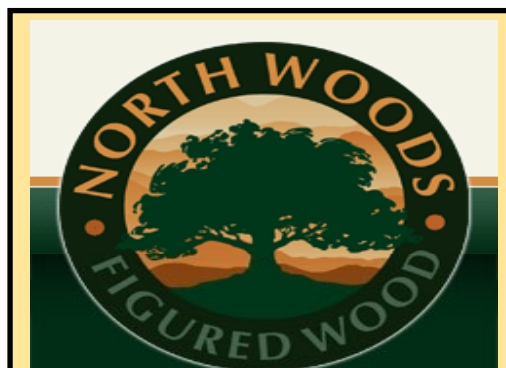
Barbara Davis, Glue & Sandpaper Sales
C: 360-731-2725

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

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

**-- Dick Raffan,
Master
Woodturner**