



CHATTERMARKS

The eNewsletter for Woodturners of Western Puget Sound

Gadgets, Gizmos And Shop Made Tools

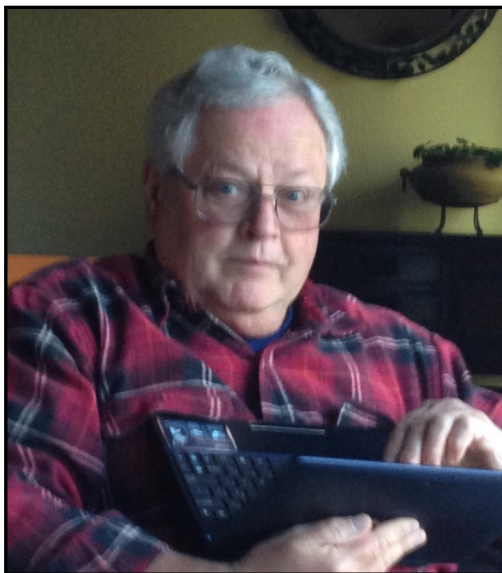
You have seen his bright smile greeting members at the beginning of the meetings. You have seen him at the Show and Tell table, showing and telling what he sees and knows. Now it is time to see **Tones Briggs** in the front of the meeting telling us about fun things that he has made himself or encountered in other shops. This month's topic is "Handy Dandy Tools that you can make yourself in your own shop and have fun inventing them." (I tried that as the entire headline, but it took up the whole page.)

Tones will be joined by **Russell Neyman** and **Ralph Linberg** in a subset of the act that they have taken on the road before entitled "Nifty Fifty Shop Ideas."

You may have heard some demonstrators tell you that you should always stick to the commercially made tools and not venture out on your own. Tones is here to preach that if you need something special, make it. From files to screwdrivers to Allen wrenches to guitar strings, if it can be made into something that serves you, there are no rules that prevent it. Well, maybe the rules of physics and safety, but then we ALWAYS are paying attention to that—CORRECT?

If you ever have the chance to chat with

Tones, you may wonder why you have an overwhelming urge to bare your soul to him. Well, that trait comes from his owning and running a tavern in Seattle's University area and later owning a convenience store. Tones is married to Kyong, of Korean descent; and they are deep into the renovation



of a shore-line home in Port Orchard. That renovation keeps him busy and not able to turn much these days, he laments.

Originally a *woodworker*, Tones was introduced to wood turning in the early 90s. Turning has become his passion ever since. In Tones' words, "The world is a better, more enjoyable place when chips are flying."

Come to our meeting this month, the last Wednesday which is AFTER Thanksgiving, and enjoy and evening of entertainment and enlightenment.

NOTE— If you have a tool or jig that you have made or developed in your shop, bring it. The Tree Amigos will want to include your tool in the demonstration. There will be a table in the front of the room where you can leave your shop made tool.-JTC

Nov 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

Happy Thanksgiving

Woodturner's Feast

You and your family are invited to join The Olympic Peninsula Woodturners to our Annual Holiday Potluck Dinner, Wednesday, December 14th, starting at 6 o'clock, at the Chico Adventist School Gymnasium. There will be plenty of good food, light entertainment, and dozens of prizes given away. For additional details and updates, see our newsletter or club website—OPCAAW.com.

OPCAAW will provide ham and turkey, and club members whose last name begins with **A-F** should bring a Side Dish; **G-L** Fingerfood; **M-R** Salads; **S-Z** Desserts.

Volunteers wishing to lend a hand with preparations please contact Pam Kellington at 815-543-6639.



TURNABOUTS / BY RUSSELL NEYMAN

Goodbye and Thank You!

FUNNY HOW THAT SAME key-word keeps popping up: “Spin.”

My life has had many chapters and that theme has been a recurring one, first when I was a slider-throwing baseball pitcher, then when I ran an advertising agency that spun corporate images, and again when I became a professional writer and learned to “spin a phrase.” Moreover, I’ve always enjoyed the art of storytelling, sometimes known as “spinning a yarn.”

The latest spin-themed adventure began a dozen years ago, when I discovered woodturning. I advanced my skills from basic bowlmaking and platters to show-quality hollow-forms, but there are times when I feel like my greatest role in the craft as been as President of the Olympic Peninsula Woodturners.

After more than three years in the position, my tenure will come to a close at the end of the year. It truly has been quite a ride.

Truth is, I never sought this office, and I had not previously been involved with the club leadership at any level. The previous president, Noah Barfield, recruited me, asking me to show up at a board meeting. By the end of that evening, I was the de-facto president, despite my personal concerns that I didn’t know enough about how the organization worked.

“Look,” I told the Directors, “I’m going to need a ton of help to succeed at this. I don’t know where the land mines are and I don’t know the politics ahead of me.”

The deal was struck and — for the most part — I received plenty of help from the officers and staff. Mind you, serving as the chief administrator for a group of most-

ly older right-brained white men is a tall assignment. They have a tendency to be stubbornly set in their ways and are resistant to change.

* * *

WE BEGAN THAT VENTURE with an emphasis on improving communication and energizing the membership. We dramatically expanded both the newsletter and the



web site, and encouraged the use of our Facebook page, too. The announcements portion of our meetings was deliberately expanded to create a more social environment and to help people get more familiar with each other.

We also wanted to bring new blood to the forefront and, if possible, get younger as a club. We immediately introduced a program of displaying at various fairs and shows, creating a new club brochure in the process.

I’m extremely proud of what the club has accomplished and what it has become during this time. We celebrated our 25th Anniversary as an AAW Chapter (28th as a club) and assumed a leadership role among Puget Sound woodturning clubs.

When I first took office, not only were



The highlight of the last three years was, for many people, our 25th Anniversary of becoming an AAW Chapter. Our guest speaker was 90-year-old Wally Dickerman, who was interviewed via Skype.

Nov 2016

Page 3

Continued on Pg 4

we without the sophisticated video system we have today, but we didn't even have a camera crew. Our library consisted of books stuck in old suitcases, our Glue & Sandpaper sales were extremely hit-and-miss, and attendance at our social events was spotty, at best.

But the bigger challenge was that of bringing new blood to the forefront. I recall, distinctly, that the first time I took center stage the audience stared blankly back at me, as though I was talking to the bingo parlor at the Old Soldiers' Home. Somewhere, during the previous years, OP-CAAW had lost its enthusiasm.

* * *

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE, I

set out to do something about that. I made a concerted effort to breathe some life into our proceedings, adding a bit of humor to the club announcements and taking care to involve as many people as possible in the discussions. I told a joke or two and took extra time to welcome new members, pointing out the key support programs we offer. Some of those efforts worked; others fell flat.

Today, when I look out into the crowd, I see a large, active group with lots of interaction and people becoming friends. That alone has made all the work worthwhile.

It was obvious from day one that we needed to enhance the viewing experience with better equipment, and — thanks to generous contributions by a score of donors — we managed to raise the funds through a series of tool auctions and raffles. Yes, there were long hours required to repair/refurbish lathes and other shop equipment, but it was worth it.

Despite all of the upgrades that have taken place during this span of time, we remain as financially healthy as we ever have been. The Board Members have

been remarkably disciplined. Almost \$4000 has been spent on upgrading our cameras and demonstration equipment without touching any of our cash reserves. That's remarkable.

Another effort that took up a great deal of time was writing a monthly column that usually went well beyond the typical "Letter From The President" that you see in most club newsletters. In the end, I wrote about 45 major articles, chaired more than 80 meetings, and had countless personal meetings with individual members.

When I took office, I was warned by more than one person that if anything were to be accomplished I'd have to do it myself.

I have found that to be anything but true. There have been, perhaps, a hundred hard working people who made things happen and made my job easier. I couldn't possibly recognize all of them, but there are a few whose extraordinary contributions need to be noted:

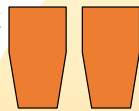
Tones Briggs, who served as my invaluable sounding board and counsel when decisions needed to be made; he headed and helped organize our Mentoring Program, too;

Vern West, who was a tireless workhorse, whether it was coordinating the County Fair program, setting up the meeting hall, or serving as an able secretary;

Pete Gerstel, who also served as set-up man for meetings and who also served as secretary for several terms;

Ralph Lindberg, Jimmie Allen and Brad Stave, all of whom served as our Vice Presidents of Training and Demonstrations during the past three years;

Jim Conway, who patiently accepted my challenge to introduce a new format to our club newsletter, CHATTERMARKS, and tackle the extensive duties of Vice President of Public Relations; he also was



Today, I see

an enthusiastic,
involved membership.

That speaks volumes
about our future."



We've come a long way from a library in a suitcase and old-fashioned cameras, haven't we?"

one of my principle sounding boards when dealing with internal issues among individual members;

Jeff Childs, Tex Lewis, Jeff Nagley and the video crew who installed a new video system that dramatically improved the quality of our demonstrations; Jeff Childs, self-funded much of the upgrades and spent hundreds of hours researching the technology;

George Kromka, who along with **Tones Briggs, Larry Lemon** and few others, served as club auctioneers as well as general support for various special projects;

Cindy Allen, who stuck with us as Social Chairman, organizing our Summer Picnics and Woodturners' Feast events;

Troy Kellington, who stepped up several times to help renovate equipment and to stage special demonstrations;

Barb Davis and the **Kitsap Adventist School**, for accommodating our club's meeting and storage needs;

Pam Kellington, who made heads and tails out of our membership roster and kept it current;

Larry Matkins, our soft-spoken webmaster and, for a time, newsletter editor, who lifted our internet presence to a higher level;

Ellen Winnie and **Jon Geisbush**, the club Treasurers during my tenure; the point where finances meet with decisions is a stressful but critical role for any organization;

Stan Stumbo and the other sound technicians go about their work quietly and with ease to a point where we almost take them for granted:

Norm Hix, the Past President who gave me assistance and insights into how and why things were done in the past.

There were plenty of others who donated their time and materials — **Jeff Brody, Daniel Cave, Ron Gates, Dave Masters, Dave Schweitzer, Bob Flynn, Bob Hinkey, Ron Uren** — the roster of contributors is endless and impossible to list them all. I apologize if I've overlooked anyone;



I'm sure I have.

Free from the obligations of office, I will turn my attention to several interests that have been neglected, including two books — one about the United States Navy in the 1880's, *Shadows of the Mast*, and the other a novel about baseball, *Rotation*. I also look forward to spending more time in front of my lathe and, perhaps, doing demonstrations for various clubs in the area. I will certainly continue to teach woodturning in my Port Orchard workshop.

* * *

I HAVE FREQUENTLY referred to our club as "one of the finest woodturning groups in the nation." And I truly believe that. The work all of you do and the creativity you demonstrate is breathtaking. My favorite part of our general meetings is, by far, Show & Tell.

Last month, I wrote a column, "The Nine-Cow Woman," which drew quite a few responses, mostly complimentary but some expressing curiosity about its intent. In case you missed the point, *The Olympic Peninsula Woodturning Organization* is MY *Nine-Cow Woman*.

To serve this organization has been, truly, a privilege.

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



We've come a long way from a library in a suitcase and old-fashioned cameras, haven't we?"

Calendar of events, shows, classes and other things

2016

- Nov 30— Monthly meeting. Gadgets, Gizmos and Shop-made Tools.
- Nov 30— Membership meeting—Election of Board of Directors for 2017
- Dec 3— (Sat) Strait Turners (Sequim) will have a fund raiser at the Woodworkers Holiday Show—Pioneer Park, Sequim.
- Dec 14— Holiday (Christmas) Woodturners Feast. This is when you find out why you've been writing your name on the back of those tickets when you check in. Pot Luck dinner-see page 2.
- Early Jan 2017— Burl delivery at Dave Schweitzer's place in Sheldon. See Ralph Linberg to reserve your burl.



Making Boxes in your Boxers

We'll never know about the second half of the title, but making boxes is what happened on November 6th. **Jimmie Allen**, box maker extraordinaire taught a class to eight willing students in the art of—box making.

Yes, Jimmie has given demos in sawdust sessions and did the monthly demo last meeting in October; but there is something different and special about a small group and hands on instruction that carries the student to a much higher level.

Much like bottle stoppers and pens, box making does not require large pieces of wood to turn an attractive box. Because of that, it opens up many possibilities for making boxes from exotic woods.

In addition to the basic how-to instruction on boxes, the students were able to

experience Jimmie's negative rake scrapers that he so ardently believes in. They really do make a difference in reducing the chances of getting a "catch."

Assignment of the day—"make your first box a simple box." Perhaps we'll see several of those simple boxes at the next Show and Tell.



Greg O'Guinn getting personal instruction in box making from Jimmie Allen.

**Burl,
Burl,
Burl,
coming to
you in
January!**

**See-
Ralph
Linberg**



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Annual Burl sale

Each year Dave Schweitzer coordinates the sale of Maple and Madrone burl hauled in from Oregon. This year it will be earlier—Probably the first part of January. The price has increased a little to \$1.50 per pound.

Talk to **Ralph Lindberg** to reserve your part of the shipment. Remember, if you sign up for burl, you're expected to show up and take delivery of your order.

Nov 2016

Page 6

OPCAAW Annual Elections

Our club's annual officer **elections will take place at our November 30th meeting.** Any member may self-apply or nominate another individual, subject to acceptance by the nominee. Terms are for one year, effective January 1st.

President – Oversees all general and board meetings, and is charged with insuring the smooth operation of the club. *Russell Neyman* has announced that he will not return after this term. **Larry Lemon** has placed his name in nomination.

First Vice President of Education – Plans and coordinates all demonstrations open shops and sawdust sessions. *Brad Stave* has also announced he will not return. **Jamie Straw** has placed her name in nomination.

Second Vice President of Public Relations – Edits the club newsletter, prepares all press releases, and oversees the club website. **Jim Conway** has indicated that he will run for re-election.

Third Vice President of Membership – Supervises enrollment, promotes memberships, and maintains all club member lists. *Pam Kellington* has indicated that she will not run for re-election and **Larry Matkins** has placed his name in nomination.

Secretary – Handles all club correspondence, takes notes during board meetings and solicits donations for the annual December Holiday Party. **Vern West** has indicated that he will run for re-election.

Treasurer – Maintains all club financial bank accounts, pays bills, and collects fees and dues. **Jon Geisbush** has indicated he will run for re-election.

Sergeant-at-Arms – Sets up the meeting hall, assists with decorum during general and board meetings, and maintains club equipment. *Larry Lemon* has indicated that he will not run for re-election. **George Otterson** has placed his name in nomination.

Board meetings are usually held two weeks prior to the monthly general meeting at various sites throughout the peninsula. Officers must be members in good standing (dues paid up) and it is suggested they also maintain a membership in the nationwide American Association of Woodturners. The election will be conducted by Past President **Norm Hix**.

Summary of nominations—

President—**Larry Lemon**
 1st VP of Training—**Jamie Straw**
 2nd VP of Public Relations—**Jim Conway**
 3rd VP of Membership—**Larry Matkin**
 Secretary—**Vern West**
 Treasurer—**Jon Giesbush**
 Sgt-at-Arms—**George Otterson**



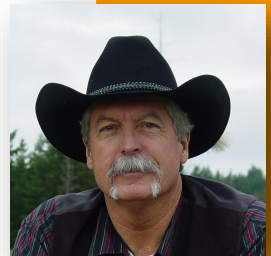
~On a Personal Note ~

When I joined OPCA AW a couple of years ago, I was like a lost lamb, wandering in the woods. One of the first people to befriend me was Russell Neyman. But then that's how he is; always reaching out to the new members. Never a person to be shy and withdrawn, Russell will launch into full President mode when the need is there.

When I timidly mentioned that I *would like to talk about* the newsletter. The next thing I knew, I was it! The VP, not the newsletter. But that's the way of Russell. If there is a need, he will see that it is filled.

I have seen Russell consistently go *above and beyond* the normal duties of president. Like when he drove to Portland to interview Wally Dickerman for our 25th anniversary meeting. Who else would have done that? Not I, for sure.

Because I can, I would like to take this space to publicly thank Russell Neyman for the past three years of his service and dedication to our club. His innovations and foresight will be of great benefit to the club for years to come.—JTC



Resolve To Cover Your 'A's

ART, ASSETS & ARCHIVES

With January may come resolutions to advance your art career in the coming year, but here's one resolution every artist can quickly check off the to-do list in less than an hour! **Resolve to visually record your art business inventory.**

"I recommend any artist do a yearly inventory of tools and materials. The time you will save, and peace of mind earned, will be well worth it," says New Jersey wood carver Jode Hillman regarding his insurance claim after a 2013 woodshop fire.

Take pictures or do a video of your business property and its contents. Include every angle of your studio, inside and out. Don't forget any nooks, crannies, and inside closets and drawers. Narrate as you go on the video if you like. If photographing, include the make and model of any major tools in the photo file names.

Transfer the resulting video or image files to your computer and organize as you like, and then upload them to "cloud" storage (or directly from your cell phone if that is your image recording device). Services such as box.com, Dropbox, Google Drive, iCloud, and OneDrive offer free storage as well as paid accounts. A free account is likely sufficient for this purpose.

Recording more detailed information about your art business assets is a good idea. Once you have created and safely stored the visual record, consider creating **a list of the items along with their purchase date and value.** As a computer spreadsheet, this too can be stored in the cloud with the image files.

There! You now have a safe record of most of your business assets. Congratulations! Do this every year at the beginning of the year, and if you make improvements to your studio or invest in new tools during the year, add images of those to your cloud stash as you go.

And now that you have a visual record of the things that allow you to make your art, you may have given yourself incentive and momentum to go deep with preparedness. Here are some possible next steps with links to more detail.



If you don't have business insurance, use the resources at CERF+'s [Studio Protector](#) to help you [get business insurance](#). It is unlikely your homeowner's or renter's insurance will cover your business assets, and basic liability and property coverage is not out of reach for most artists.

[Do an annual review of your business insurance](#) if you already have coverage.

View the [Studio Protector's studio inventory blog](#) for more ideas on creating and keeping records of assets.

[Create and maintain a more detailed inventory](#) of tools and equipment, and create an inventory system for your artwork.

Identify and have [safe storage](#) for (and duplicates of) career and business related documents

Download free [inventory spreadsheet templates](#) from CERF+

Take steps to [reduce the risk of fire](#) destroying your studio

[Disasters](#) aren't always elsewhere. Be prepared in case one comes close to home

[Create a disaster preparedness kit](#)

Tip and links courtesy of CERF:

See the articles [HERE](#).

Link to AAW Member Insurance Program—[HERE](#).



Disasters are not always elsewhere.

Be prepared in case one comes close to home.



If you don't have a business, the need for insurance on your shop and equipment is still vital. Use these links to learn more. AAW insurance link is at the bottom.

Early-Bird Turning

We continue to offer “**Early Bird Turning**” on an occasional basis. Bring a piece that you may be having problems with and let the Mentor du jour help you with your issues.

Or you may just want to ask a bunch of questions. “How do you do this?” “How do you know when to....?”

And, Speaking of Occasional

Jimmie Allen, when he’s not scheduled to teach a demo on Box Making, will usually be at the meeting early to help with any sharpening techniques or problems that you may have.

Bring your particular gouge that you need help with in getting the correct grind.



Video Camera-person needed

Jeff Childs is in need of another video operator. A third person is needed so that the load doesn’t fall heavily on just one person when the other can’t make the meeting. I know, it happens. Comes from having a life outside of the club. Shouldn’t be allowed, but we do.



If you have a leaning toward the tech, or would like to learn, please see one of “Los Jeffs” (Childs or Nagley) for information.

While you’re talking to them, thank them for what they do to make our learning and enjoyment more complete.—JTC

STRAIT TURNERS UPDATE

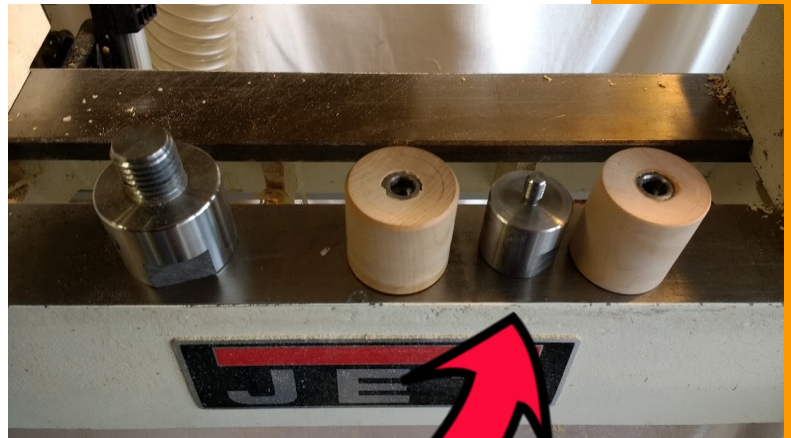
The peninsula’s newest turning club is beginning to find its footing. Just announced is their new meeting place starting in Jan 2017.

The meeting site will be the Gardner Community Center on Hwy 101. For GPS it is 980 Old Gardner Rd, Sequim, WA. The meetings will be held on the last Tuesday of the month from 9:30 to noon. January’s meeting will be on the 31st, the week after OPCA’s.

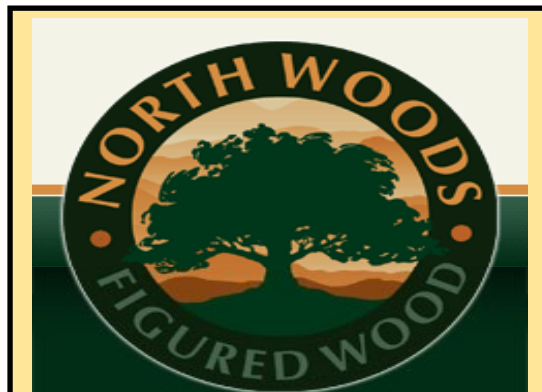
Ackerman’s Chuck Available

Dan Ackerman has announced that he will have his 3/8” chucks available at the next meeting. The kit that is available for **\$60** comes with a 1”-8tpi to 3/8” adapter and two glue blocks with 3/8” steel inserts. The set up is essential for making boxes or small items that may require the pieces being taken off and on the lathe—as is done with a box.

The 3/8” chuck is between the two glue blocks (below). To the left is a 1-1/4”-8tpi to 1”-8tpi adaptor, required for larger spindle sized lathes. Available online.



Please Note



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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

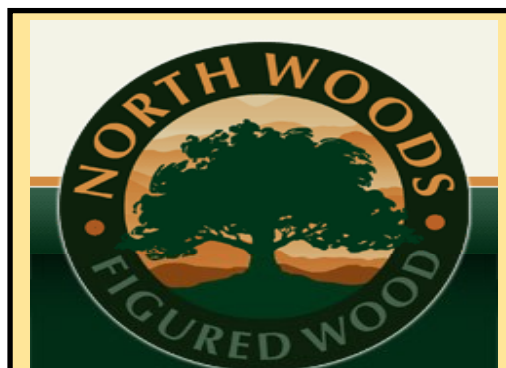
Barbara Davis, Glue & Sandpaper Sales
C: 360-731-2725

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

Jeff Nagley, Cameraman
360-229-3900

_____, Cameraperson
360-551-9233

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

**-- Dick Raffan,
Master
Woodturner**