



CHATTERMARKS

The eNewsletter for Woodturners of Western Puget Sound

Skinny Goblets

Jan 2017

Coming to us this month is a new face from the Olympia Woodturners, **Larry Miller**, with a demonstration on Long Stemmed Goblets.

Larry likes to turn what he calls "Functional Art". Taking reclaimed wood from the stack of firewood or a piece recycled from someone's throw away pile, Larry will turn something that will reflect the natural beauty of the wood he has chosen.

Larry has been teaching woodturning to students of all ages in his shop for the past 12 years. He mentors other woodturners and is the founder and past president of the Olympia Woodturners Club.

Jammed into his already busy schedule, Larry enjoys volunteering with the Olympia High School wood shop,

teaching woodturning. He also chairs the youth program for the American Association of Woodturners (AAW), of which the Olympic Peninsula Woodturners is a Chapter. His duties

with AAW include coordinating the annual Youth Program at the AAW symposium.

AAW's 31st Annual Symposium will be at the Kansas City Convention Center, Kansas City, MO on June 22 to 25, 2017.

Join us the 25th (see the address on the right panel) for what should be an enjoyable presentation of Long Stemmed Goblets.

Remember that the "President's Challenge" for

February is a stemmed goblet—long, short or in-between. So get your tips on goblet making and head to the shop!



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



President's Corner / Larry Lemon

Happy New Year everyone!

I am *excited* to be your new President and look forward to continuing the excellence that is this club.

A little about me. I was a shop teacher for 32 years, with nine years in LA city schools primarily as the electronics instructor at a Junior High School. The next 23 years were spent in Medford, Oregon teaching Electronics and Small Engines until the program was phased out. I then moved on to teaching advanced Algebra I and II as well as Geometry.

My grandfather, who was a cabinet maker, first introduced me to a lathe when I was in elementary school. Since then I have dabbled with it off and on.

I joined the **Olympic Peninsula Woodturners** club after the **Kitsap County Fair** several years ago and was very impressed with the quality of the monthly meetings and demonstrations. I soon became a walking advertisement for the club! The camaraderie of the members and help offered has elevated my interest and skills tremendously. Although a relatively new member to the organization I have tried giving back by assisting in the setup and operation of the Sound system; been your Auctioneer, Sergeant at Arms, and now President. It's been a fun trip.

As President, I would like to initiate a **monthly challenge**. Since the demonstration this month is on Long Stemmed Goblets, I am challenging you to bring in a *stemmed goblet* to the February meeting. It does not matter how good or bad you *think* the piece is and it does not matter how long the stem, just have it a stemmed goblet. *There will not be judging for the best goblet*, instead we will be keeping track of who participated. At the end of the year there will be awards given for those that have participated. I hope to select a challenge each month to go along with the theme of the previous month's demonstration or some related theme. Participate as much as you can.

I would also like to encourage all of you to **consider volunteering for committees and demos at the fairs**. Also try new and different techniques that are presented each month. You will find that your skills keep improving. When I hear people say "I can't do that", they are right - only if they are not willing to try. You will find that

if you just relax and try new things you just might amaze yourself.

We are all in this together. The support for each other in this organization is tremendous, and I hope that everyone will embrace that.-LL

Coming in 2017 / VP of Training

I'm **Jamie Straw** and I'm writing to introduce myself, to share my thoughts about learning and teaching, and about some goals for OPCA's training and education activities for 2017. But first of all, I want to invite *all* of you to share your "needs and desires" with regard to demos and Sawdust Sessions for this year. Many of you completed the questionnaire handed out at the November meeting, and I would like to see many more! It is an efficient (short) but comprehensive query as to what you are interested in, like, don't like, etc. In addition, a larger return of questionnaires also helps me understand the distribution of experience levels in the club, so please pick one up at the next meeting you attend (if you haven't already). If you hate questionnaires, no problem! Grab my ear when you can, message me on Facebook, or email me at training@opcaaw.com.

Introduction to woodworking—My adventure started around 2001 when I repurposed our "used-to-store-stuff" detached garage, stocking it over time with all the tools needed to work flat wood – band saw, table saw, jointer, planer, you know the drill. Little did I know what I was missing without a lathe! I dinked around making various jigs, fixtures and storage for the shop, a few small cabinet-type projects, etc., in my off-hours. In about 2008, in a fit of spontaneity, I bought a used Jet 1236 lathe and a few inexpensive turning tools. After an introductory workshop with Bonnie Klein, I was hooked! However, a parallel activity – that of training Dressage horses and eventually their riders – took off beyond anything planned. I shut the shop down completely after turning only a few bottle stoppers and trial bowls. In 2015 I re-entered the turning world, having retired from riding after two serious riding accidents reminded



Jamie Straw-VP Training

Continued on page 3

me that Seniors don't bounce well!

Immediately after restoring my shop, I began attending OPCAOW meetings, and the turning fever was on me again. I was incredibly thankful that I already had most of the tools, chucks and other accessories I needed, so no heavy cash outlay required. I took advantage of, and *greatly* appreciated the availability of mentors from the club.

Taking on this job—When **Brad Stave** stepped down as VP of Training and Education, I couldn't help but be interested in the job. My experience in teaching adult riders the extremely complicated discipline of Dressage riding solidified my life-long interest in successful approaches to teaching and learning. Though I certainly have a ways to go before being qualified to teach turning myself, I feel that with your input and feedback, I can bring a quality slate of demonstrators, workshops and Sawdust instructors to the floor to educate, entertain and encourage turners of all levels of expertise over the next year.

Challenges and Goals: Given the wide range of expertise represented by our members, from brand new "which lathe?" beginners to professionals who've long been turning for a living, the first challenge is to schedule demonstrators to the monthly meetings who bring something to the table for everyone. For sure, each demonstrator will have a focus, and each member will like some more than others, but the aim is for virtually everyone to take away *something* they can use – something new or more advanced; or an improved approach; or a tune-up of a basic technique they've possibly neglected, or something to put on the shelf to bring up later. To that point, it's important for novices to realize that even an advanced presentation will show you something you can use now, be it understanding woods or tools better, seeing the turner's physical approach to turning, or learning how a certain tool is used for examples. Also, looking toward your future turning, watch carefully now, don't get overwhelmed, and just absorb what the

presenter is offering. You'll look back on that presentation some day and say "Wow, I should try that!" or "Ahhh. Now I understand!" Above all, ask questions when you have them!

Speaking of Novices, a prominent goal I have is to provide more opportunities for our beginners and novices to get hands-on, supervised experience at the lathe via what we call "Sawdust Sessions." These are set up in the regular meeting place with several lathes, each attended by an instructor. My vision for novices is to have a progressive approach that enables the attendees to gain experience and confidence as they go along. With that aim, I'm planning to increase the number of sawdust sessions in the coming year so that we can have some focused on novices and others that will hone the skills of our more experienced turner, yet will still welcome

the early learners (we all started out in the same place!).

Learn through our resources: OPCAOW's leadership and staff are dedicated to helping all members learn about turning through a variety of free or low-cost resources, and I encourage you to take advantage of them.

Our mentors: Toward the back of each newsletter, you will see a list of highly qualified mentors who have volunteered to help members as they explore the world of turning. They will welcome your call! Please take advantage of their offer to help. (See the Resources section of our



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- JS

website for details.)

A new and improved website: We have a brand new website with a modern structure and improved listings of resources, and information about the wider turning community. Jeff Brody, our webmaster, will continue to add links to videos and written materials to help in members' education.

Sawdust Sessions and workshops: Hours-long or day-long sessions with hands-on learning are the focus here. Most Sawdust Sessions are free, workshops are generally low-cost, with an occasional national presenter holding a more expensive activity

Our library: We have a library containing videos, DVD's and books, which you are welcome to check out and take home.

Appreciating variety—One thing that's become apparent to me – turners and horse people have one characteristic in common: they are ♥passionate♥ about what they do and how they do it. What's important for us all to remember is that, generally, there is no one right way to do something.** All of us have our preferred tools, grinding techniques, turning processes, finishes, etc. We can learn throughout our turning careers if we remember to be curious about and interested in what others do, and ask questions in addition to offering advice. Students will appreciate knowing that these various approaches are *personal preferences* of the instructor or mentor. They are not, as sometimes is said "the only way, and anyone who tells you differently doesn't know diddly." Personally, I appreciate phrases such as "This is what has worked well for me" or "I'll show you why I like this particular technique". (**Some safety procedures excepted)

What's in store—Check the calendar on page 5 to see what is in store for the near future. It all promises to be great stuff.



This is from Jeff Childs—A video on Vimeo about a woodturner from Nova Scotia. It's quite a production; like maybe someone's semester project from videography class.

<https://vimeo.com/126545288>

And a Good Time Was Had By All

Each year the Olympic Peninsula Woodturners celebrate the year and the Christmas season by having our annual Christmas dinner.

This year the main dishes were coordinated through the talents of Tony DeCarlo. A special thanks goes to Tony for a job well done and much appreciated. Surrounding the main meat dishes were a plethora of sides, salads, breads and desserts.

Most going through the line fulfilled the axiom from my mother of their eyes being bigger than their stomachs.

Many a belt was let out to make room for the array of gorgeous desserts.

After the feast was done, our resident Party Coordinator, Cindy Allen, along with her able assistant, Ellen Winnie, got to the highlight of the evening. The Raffle!

Throughout the year, each time you check in to a meeting, bring a guest, or bring something for Show and Tell or the wood auction, you get a ticket. Write your name (legibly) on the back and drop it in the bowl.

Prior to December, we receive donations from our sponsors in the form of tools, gift certificates or nice pieces of wood. The talented ladies then draw names from the collection of tickets to award the various prizes.

You have to be present to win, and many who didn't go to the party had their names called and tickets tossed because they weren't there. Just a thought for next year.—JTC



After the feast, Santa's elves prepare the raffle table. Let the fun begin!



Calendar of events, shows, classes and other things

2016

| | |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jan 25— | Monthly meeting-Larry Miller with long stemmed goblets |
| Feb 22— | Monthly Meeting-"Round-Robin Demonstrations"—First of 2017 |
| Mar 17-19— | Oregon Wood Turning Symposium. Linn County Fairgrounds, Albany, OR. See www.oregonwoodturningsymposium.com |
| Mar 29— | Monthly Meeting-Martha Collins with her exquisite laminated turnings |
| Apr 26— | Monthly Meeting-Ralph Linberg—holding wood on the lathe |

Strait Turners

The "other" woodturning club on the Olympic Peninsula will be having their monthly meeting in a new place... The Gardiner Community Center on Hwy 101. The address is **980 Old Gardiner Rd**, and you get to it by taking Old Gardiner as it forks off of 101, just beyond where Old Gardiner Cemetery Rd crosses 101 going west.

It's a white building with a green roof that you can plainly see as you drive past it on 101 because you missed the turn. You'll have to go about a mile further on 101 where Old Gardiner Rd comes back into 101. Turn right and back track to the Community Center

Programming will include Show and Tell, a wood auction and a presentation by Dan Ackerman. Dan will be turning a small bowl and discussing sharpening of tools. More information can be found at www.straitturners.org.

Ackerman Chucks

As some of you might know, Dan sells a chuck adaptor—1" to 3/8" - to be used primarily in turning small items like boxes that need to be taken on and off the lathe, but maintain the same orientation.

He wants everyone to know that he now has the 3" plate that can be used for stabilizing larger items. He will have that plate available at both the Gardiner and the Bremerton meetings for anyone that is interested.

The cost is \$40 per plate, and Dan can explain more about the chuck and the plate.

Dues be Due

It's that time of the year again—dues. It would be great if we all paid our annual dues when we check in on the 25th of Jan.

Have your check or cash ready when you check in and your membership will be paid for the year. Need to use Credit Card? No problem we can do that.

It's the value of the century—\$30 per person or \$50 for a family.



New Things for 2017

If you haven't been to the website lately, check it out. An all new look for 2017, courtesy of our new webmaster **Jeff Brody**.

Just go to OPCAAW.com.

Added to the new things will be a resumption of the Show and Tell items being photographed and posted on the website. **Ralph Lindberg** will be doing the photography duties.

The new face that you see running the Wood Auction will be that of **Brad Stave**. Always a great source of information on what you can do with that piece of wood you are about to bid on.

Remember that the Wood Auction is a major source of income for the club and pays for the demonstrations that are presented each month. So support your club, **Bid often and Bid high!**



One for summer,
one for winter—



"In a moments time, everything can change!"—

Definition of a catch.

Which leads to - "...what we refer to as a 'design opportunity'!"

Woodturning 101 / BY JIM CONWAY**Resolutions? - Not me!**

Every year I would feel the need to make my New Year's Resolution—like just about everyone else.

And like everyone else, I would break mine by the first Friday of February.

So this year, I have a **"PLAN"**, which will be somewhat of a challenge as I can usually put the "pro" in procrastination.



My *Plan* is to do a little each month what I normally wind up doing in late November and December—like Christmas ornaments and gifts. Also part of my *Plan* is to turn several tops each week starting now. This does two things—it gives me a little **"skill enhancement"** (something you'll hear more of in 2017) by practicing with my various gouges and it goes towards filling the top bucket that we need for the **Kitsap County Fair**.

Haven't heard of that? Each year that we participate in the County Fair, we as a club, try to fill a 5 gallon bucket with tops that we've turned. Kids come by the booth, we offer them a top and show them how to spin it. Before long the floor is littered with kids spinning their tops. Where are the parents? Standing there watching their kids and at the same time, watching us do live demonstrations on a lathe. Before long someone is telling them all about the club. From that type of contact we have grown our club in small steps.

Here's more of my *Plan*— Attend a workshop. Jamie Straw will be planning many such workshops all year long, so I plan on taking some or all and expanding my repertoire.

YOUR Plan could include working with one of our **MENTORS**. They are there for you, the member. Check the back page of this newsletter for a listing of the Mentors and then call one. I wasted too many months and countless bowls trying to teach myself the craft. Since working with Mentors and taking classes, I feel so much more confident in what I do.

Would your Plan include purchasing that special tool that you've lusted after? Who was it said, "I'm just one tool away from being a Master!"? This could be that tool.

Lathe for sale

Vega 2600. Upgraded to an EVS control and motor. The lathe is about 12 years old and in 'very good condition'.

Spindle = 1-1/4" with #2MT

Wt = 500 lbs

2 hp—240 v.

Spindle clearance—13"

17" Between centers

Two tool rests included

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For information call or text Bob Wiltermood at 360-731-8975 or email at bob@wiltermood.com.



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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 |

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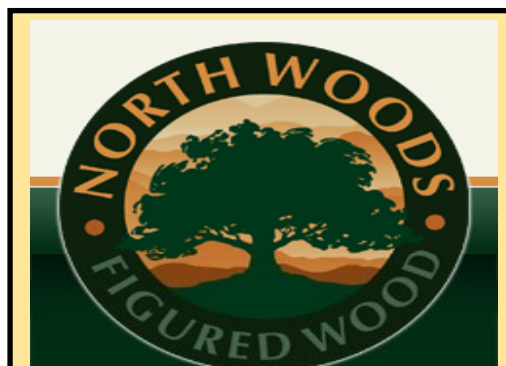
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enough."**

**-- Dick Raffan,
Master
Woodturner**