

Dec 1 Sawdust Session

DEC.

2021

No meeting
this month.



See our
website at:
OPCAAW.COM

President's Corner

Hope that all our members have a wonderful and joyous holiday season. This month's Chatter Marks will be a bit brief. The main event is to remind all of you that we will not have any meeting this month. However in January we will have our 2021 members celebration. It will be held January 26th at the school. We have not worked out the agenda as of yet so stay tuned for next month's Chatter Marks. We will be giving out many gifts donated by sponsors. Last year there were appx. \$1500.00 worth of donations passed out via a drawing. At next month's meeting we will also be voting for our slate of officers, they are as follows:

President – Brad Stave

VP of Training – Roger Dunn

VP of Membership – Cecilia Williams

Secretary – Denise Larsen

Treasure – Ray Ewing

VP Public Relations – Tim Larson

Sargent – at – Arms – Dale Mc Daniels

Board Member at Large – Jeff Brody

Board Member at Large – Brad Powers

If any one else wants to take on a board position we will gladly accommodate your request. Once again have a safe and Happy holiday season

Due to state and local mandates masks will be required in the building when we hold our general meeting.

Brad Stave, OPCA AW President

Take a look at Page 5, OPCA AW member Scott Overby is setting up a contest and the winner gets a \$150.00 gift certificate to D-Way Tools

Just a reminder about Dues

Individual member dues for 2022 will continue to be \$30 (Family member dues remain \$50).

Our membership process is based on our website this year, so you must log in to the website to renew your membership.. Your dues payment renews your membership through Feb. 28, 2023. If you don't pay your yearly dues before March 1, 2022, your membership will lapse and you will no longer receive member-only emails and membership perks.

If you are having issues logging in and renewing your membership, please contact Jeff Brody directly at Webmaster@OPCAAW.com

To renew your membership by going to the **OPCAAW.COM** website, please log in and then and click on

“Renew Membership.”

***No Meeting in
December***

Dangerous Conversations: Shop Safety.

By Russell Neyman.

During the Battle of Britain, when the Royal Air Force went it alone against the formidable German Luftwaffe, the Brits had plenty of fighter planes but were short on experienced pilots. In desperation, they threw hastily trained 18-year-olds into the Mosquitoes and Hurricanes and sent them aloft.

The RAF Command Staff knew the odds were against these new pilots, privately muttering, "If those pilots could *somehow* last five or ten missions—long enough to learn how to dog-fight the Germans—they *might* have a chance." Sometimes I think this applies to woodturners new to the craft; we push them toward the lathe and really don't brief them about safety. We send them out and *hope* things turn out. There's the potential for injury here, and it's time we were frank about it.

Recently, there have been a handful of naysayers in the national woodworking community warning of the extreme dangers involved in woodturning; I was involved in a discussion on a Facebook Page, "Woodturners From Around the Globe," that described a bowl breaking apart and flying against the wall. The turner wasn't injured, but joked about it being a close call. Another turner from Queensland, Geoff Whaling, jumped in with a dark and foreboding warning, citing a serious injury to a woman that occurred in September of 2012.

He contended, "The real facts are that a wood lathe is the most likely machine in a wood shop to actually kill a woodworker [through] a severe head injury complicated by the fact that they are turning in solitude and their injury goes undiscovered for some time..." He made the same point multiple times, arguing with other turners who joined the thread.

After pondering his commentary and responding within the limits of a Facebook format, I went to various Internet sources and I'll be darned if I could find many deaths caused by working in front of a wood lathe, and I voiced some skepticism that it was, truly, an activity that

presented a threat to our lives. Frankly, I don't think it is.

Finally, I decided to start my own expanded dialogue on the SawmillCreek.org Turners Forum titled, "Woodturning Deaths?" Geoff, who I have since learned is a longtime woodworker who also has researched safety procedures, eagerly

joined this second conversation, and responded:

"Long term I suspect it averages to 1-2 wood turning-related deaths per year in our English-speaking woodturning community. How do I arrive at that figure? It is very difficult to say with any authority due to research data capture methodology. On scene deaths do not appear in hospital admission figures and other data that does record fatalities does not record sufficient data on mechanism of death etc. Some recent confirmed deaths at the wood lathe."

One or two? That's a very small number considering that there are,

probably, 100,000 serious woodturners in the US alone, each of whom works at a lathe for 10 to 40 hours a week. Isn't that less than driving in a car? Even so, he admits that he has no documentation to support his "high" estimate, and for the life of me I can't find any evidence of frequent deaths. Mind you, both OPCAOW and our Board of Directors take safety seriously, and I am not suggesting that turners should take risks. Geoff makes a couple of good points, but I take exception to his warning that what we do is more dangerous than, say, using a table saw or climbing a ladder.

A bruised or lacerated hand? Absolutely. A wound that required stitches? A broken bone? Possibly. But death? In my opinion, extremely remote. Almost no chance at all.

The one death that Geoff cited specifically involved a woman who was using a metal lathe and her hair somehow became entangled in the machine. The incident had absolutely nothing to do with flying pieces of wood. In fact, it wasn't a woodworking death at all.

The discussion was a healthy one, and dozens of experienced woodturners offered their



"The number one safety tip is DON'T TURN STUPID WOOD."

—RN.

Safety (Continued).

thoughts. Michigan resident Rich Aldrich had this to say:

"I prefer to have more positive protection. Not only do I use lung protection and a shield, I also use the guard that came with the lathe. I tend to turn a lot of burls, so things come off much more frequently than if turning normal clear wood. Mostly, I use the guard when roughing and starting the finish turn... I try to practice the line of fire method and normally by this point any weak spot has reared its ugly head and has been remedied. On burls, I use epoxy – instant coffee glue to hold things together. You still need to watch for logs with wind shake or other cracks and weak spots, even if the wood appears to be clear."

Another turner, Hilel Salomon of South Carolina, added: "When a bowl suddenly breaks because of a hidden fault...there is a good possibility of some injury occurring. Using safety equipment and using the tailstock can prevent a lot of 'misfortune.'" He also advises, "The proper speed is as important the proper equipment." Both of these are excellent points.

There's an ironic undertone here. Fear presents its own hazard. Sure, we want woodturners to be aware of the possible risks of using power equipment, but you also need to keep control of the situation. To my way of thinking, a timid, apprehensive individual is more likely to experience a "catch" than one who holds the tool firmly and approaches the wood without flinching. But you can't be reckless about it, either.

We can't ignore another obvious fact: the most awe-inspiring turnings would seem to present the greatest possibility of a piece that flies all over the shop. Don't we admire the vessel with paper-thin walls or the extreme voids? Doesn't the tone of the artistry encourage us to take chances? Isn't the piece we consider the best work essentially a high wire act?

It seems to me there's a risk-reward tradeoff here that is similar to other avocations, like riding a motorcycle, mountain climbing, or snow skiing. Personally, I don't mind a banged up knuckle every once in a while because I love the results I get. That's a small price to pay for the satisfaction of working with wood.

Getting back to the analogy of the young British pilots thrown into battle, I also have this observation: that beginning woodturners often jump into the craft without understanding the dynamics of the machine, wood, and tool. They incorrectly conclude that they shouldn't use "good"

wood for practice, throwing a cheap piece of lum-beryard fir or cracked firewood onto their lathe and spin away. That can be dangerous! Not life threatening, mind you, but you could be injured.

So, here are a few very broad safety guidelines I would like to offer.

- **Know the limits of your lathe.** Some machines do not go slow enough for irregular shapes and get up to speed with a jolt.
- **Use a secure mount.** Take the time to be sure your tenon or mortise mount is properly sized and well secured.
- **Choose wood that is safe to turn.** If you elect to turn "natural edge" pieces or those with bark inclusions, be extraordinarily cautious and wear extraordinary protective equipment.
- **Use all of your senses, including your ears.** A cracked bowl sounds differently than a solid one. Vibration – or a sudden change in the rhythm of your project — can often be a warning sign. If something acts differently, turn off the lathe and check things out.
- **Use the tailstock even if you don't think you need it** until you have turned off most of the bowl's mass.
- **Avoid standing in the line of fire** – that area directly opposite the "waist" of a bowl blank — especially when you first turn on your lathe. If you have a variable speed lathe, start slow and gradually dial the speed up.
- **Wear a mask or other breathing protection.** Respiratory problems are a serious consideration.
- **Wear a face shield whenever possible**, especially if there is any chance that the piece has cracks or splits.
- **Keep hair, clothes, and jewelry away from your machine.**
- **Maintain a well-stocked first aid kit** that includes supplies (butterfly sutures, etc) for serious cuts and traumatic injury.
- **Keep a cell phone nearby**, too, so you can call for help if you need it. If it's possible to leave a door open to a public avenue, do that so that you can be seen or heard.

Moreover, use *common sense*, expect the unexpected, and pay attention. Come to think of it, this advice isn't just for novices; it applies to all of us.

Russell Neyman is a former president of OP-CAAW who resides in Port Orchard and teaches woodturning



"I firmly believe turning is a very safe avocation."

—RN.

Scott Overby's Challenge

Okay everyone, here is my challenge (Scott Overby) to you. I would like you to pick out a shape that interest you. Be it inspired from a Greek amphora, Delft pottery, a Ming vase, etc. It doesn't even have to be pottery, it can be a fellow woodturner's piece. The sky is the limit. I would like you to turn it between now and Christmas. I would like you to bring your finished turning and a picture or even the real inspiration to the Holiday party (January 26th) for all of us to enjoy. The best in show as determined by my wife (that way no one can say the judging was biased) will receive a \$150.00 gift certificate to D-Way Tools. Embellish as you see fit based on your inspiration. Shown are some examples of what I may turn and decorate. Unfortunately, I am not eligible to win, but I will bring a turning and what inspired me.

Thanks Scott Overby



“He who works with his hands is a laborer. He who works with his hands and his head is a craftsman. He who works with his hands and his head and his heart is an artist.” — St. Francis of Assisi

DEC 2021

Calendar of events, shows, classes and other things

CHATTERMARKS

Jan 26 Meeting at School: Member Appreciation

More to follow and you can *keep up to date at our club website [calendar](http://opcaaw.com/my-calendar/)*.
<http://opcaaw.com/my-calendar/>



"...craft is about making things well...art is about manipulating and arranging materials to visually articulate an idea." (from Studio Craft as Career by Paul Stankard)

Thank you to everyone who demonstrated and attended!

DEC 2021

Page 6

CLUB SPONSORS

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



ROBO HIPPIE: WORKING WITH WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION & OTHER WOOD TURNING TIPS.

541.463.9634

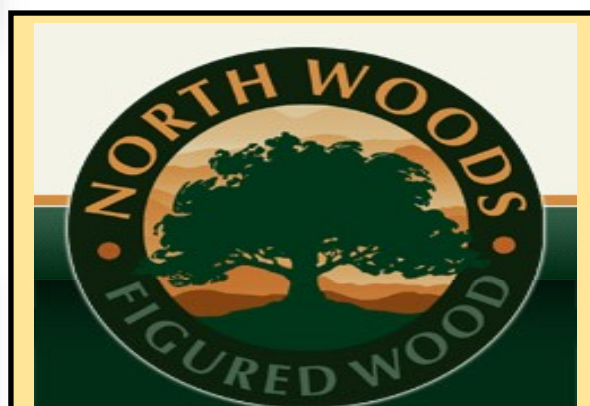
REEDGRAY@COMCAST.NET



Sumner Woodworker Store



www.nilesbottlestoppers.com



Show-quality
figured bowl, pen, and
spindle blanks

nwfiguredwoods.com

800-556-3106

**“When the
wood is
pretty,
keep it
simple!”**

**Mike
Mahoney**

BOXMASTER TOOLS

D-WAY TOOLS

Simply the finest
lathe tools available



www.D-WayTools.com DWayTools@hctc.com 360-689-4541

DEC 2021

Page 7

CLUB SPONSORS

Many of these sponsors will honor your current 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

W | **F**

WANE + FLITCH

LIVE EDGE WOOD FURNITURE

<https://www.waneandflitch.com/> (253) 200-5939

W | **F**

Create with Confidence

ROCKLER
WOODWORKING AND HARDWARE

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

COOK
WOODS

877-672-5275
www.cookwoods.com

The Board Hoarder

Wood for the woodworker

Steve Bartocci, 206-359-4300 • wopwoody@comcast.net

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, ad-

vanced 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:

George Kromka (Bremerton) 360-373-1028

Jim Leary (Kingston) 360-297-5872

Brad Stave (Gig Harbor) 206-910-5459

Go to this [link](#) on our [website](#) for an updated article on the Mentor Program — what it takes to be a good mentor!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brad Stave, President

C: 206-910-5459

President@OPCAOW.com

Larry Lemon, Past President, VP Training,

FaceBook Admin

C: 253-278-9058

PastPresident@OPCAOW.com

Training@OPCAOW.com

Tim Larson, VP Public Relations

C: 360-930-1064

PublicRelations@OPCAOW.com

Cecilia Williams, VP Membership

C: 760-613-6575

Membership@OPCAOW.com

Denise Larsen, Secretary

Minuteman@OPCAOW.com

Ray Ewing, Treasurer, FaceBook Admin

C: 360-813-2820

Treasurer@OPCAOW.com

Dale McDaniels, Sergeant-at-arms

SergeantatArms@OPCAOW.com

Jeff Brody, Board Member at Large, Webmaster

C: 360-710-2800

Webmaster@OPCAOW.com

Brad Powers, Board Member at Large, audio

C: 360-271-7965

AtLarge1@OPCAOW.com

STAFF POSITIONS

Vern West, Librarian

H 360-479-8634

John Clauson, Glue & Sandpaper Sales

Open, Video Director

Open, Cameraman

Bruce Claiborne, Cameraman

C: 206-498-3045

Valerie Henschel, Wood Auction, Facebook Moderator

C: 360-808-7743

CHATTERMARKS is produced by and for **The Olympic Peninsula Chapter of The American Association of Woodturners - OPCAOW** and is published monthly electronically. All articles are copyrighted by **OPCAOW** unless otherwise noted. *Letters to the Editor* and article submissions are welcome.

Tim Larson, Editor

Photos from prior month's meetings are posted on our [website](#) at:

<http://opcaaw.com/gallery/>