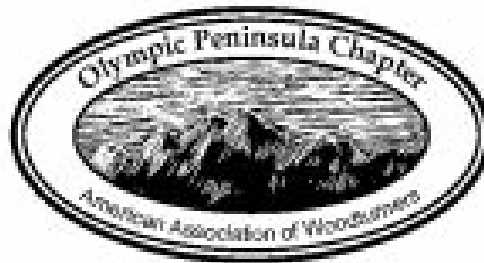




CHATTERMARKS  
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
THE  
OLYMPIC PENINSULA CHAPTER  
OF THE AAW  
CHAPTER WEB SITE:  
<http://www.geocities.com/opaaw>



### June 2006 MEETING

Kitsap Adventist School June 28th, 7 pm 5088 NW Taylor Rd. Bremerton, WA.

## June's Demonstrator – Dave Schweitzer

Dave Schweitzer was born in Midland, Michigan and has resided in the Pacific Northwest since 1962. Dave & his wife Lu now reside near Harstine Island where they enjoy spending time with their children, grandchildren and entertaining their friends.

Dave retired from Operating Engineers; he was a diesel mechanic, welder and fabricator for 40 years. Dave spends some of his retirement hours tending his oyster and clam beds and spoiling his cat. Dave was looking for an art medium now that he was retired. Having worked with metal most of his adult life he considered metal sculpture but felt wood was a much softer medium, readily available considering the area in which he lives. Like many woodturners Dave started out working in his garage. He now turns in a large studio on the shores of South Puget Sound.

Dave has taken his talents, fabricated his own lathe and tools which he uses on his turnings. He does one of a kind pieces as no two pieces of wood are the same. He shows particular attention to form, detail and finishes which best show the fine grain and beauty of the natural woods.

Dave is a member of American Association of Woodturners. He is affiliated with the Olympic Peninsula Chapter and is on the Board of Directors of South Puget Sound Chapter. He likes to spend his time teaching and educating others interested in the fine art of woodturning.



## International Wood Collectors Society (IWCS)

By Ace Foster

Here's a little infomercial on the International Wood Collectors Society. Many of us are already acquainted with the IWCS; all of us should be. It's a great way to get kinds of wood that just don't show up in the lumber yard.

Originally a small group of people professionally interested in wood – foresters, wood technologists, lumbermen – the Society has evolved over the years and now includes a large contingent of hobbyists – carvers, marquetarians, turners, and the like. Bob Stocksdale was a member for many years. Ted Bartholomew, Frank Lynn, Jack Wayne, Fred Holder and Bob Means are a few local collector/turners whose names come to mind.

We're fortunate here in this corner of the country to have quite an active local IWCS group. There was a meeting in Adna in April; there will be another on 15 July at Fred Holder's place in Snohomish.

## **President's Message**

The Questionnaire Results:

We had a really great turnout at the last meeting! However, only 25 people chose to complete the questionnaire. Despite the limited sample, the results were instructive, and the Board of Directors is following that input until we hear different directions from the membership.

I arbitrarily assigned 2 points for a "high interest" rating, 1 point for "moderate interest" and 0 for a "no interest" vote. The two activities which garnered the most votes are another "All day turning event in the Fall" with 40 points, and a "Turner's swap meet" with 33 points. Based on that input, Jimmie Allen will commence planning those events. I hope you will all give him your support.

Having an "internal critique session" was next with 27 points. That's still open to discussion.

Doing a demonstration booth at the Kitsap Fair (25 points), and its related activity gaining "non-profit tax status" (22 points) have been shelved because of low interest. "Improving the audio system" (23 points) didn't make the cut either, but we need to do some stuff with the audio system anyway, so that probably isn't totally dead.

With only 25 people filling out the questionnaire, the separation was not as clear cut as we might have liked, so I am going to bring the questionnaire to the next meeting, and see if we can get more input, and maybe better definition. However, thanks to those who gave us input!

The one disturbing thing that came out of this questionnaire is that only one person of the 25 respondents would be willing to take a Board of Director (BOD) position. Assuming this result is representative, it means out of 100 members, we have only four who would be willing to take on a leadership role. Four is not enough to fill the officer positions. Even if you are perfectly satisfied with the direction the club is taking, and the events we are planning, I hope you will fill out a questionnaire and tell us if you are willing (or unwilling) to take a BOD position. Many who did fill out questionnaire are old hands who have held leadership positions in the past, so it's understandable if they want someone else to step up! It's time to make your position known. It's your club, and it can not continue unless some new people are willing to step up and become active leaders. Please let us hear from you!

Norm

## **Editor's Note**

As you can see the formatting of the newsletter is considerably different than before. This is to facilitate a quicker editing cycle. The old two column style required a whole lot of fiddling to get it just right. Going forward all the ads and standard information will always be on the last two page of the newsletter. Also this format will enable more complex formatting, as well as larger images.

On another note, I am now working full time and simply will not have as much time available to devote to the newsletter. Last week I worked 72 hours not including commute time of about 2 hours per day. My average week is about 50 hours. So you know I will not be able to devote as much time. There are a number of people who are currently helping out including Jim Leary, Ace Foster and Ed Cover, but just like everyone else these folks go on vacations, get ill, travel on business or for whatever

reason are not always able to do the job each and every month. So we need people to backup these volunteers. Additionally, we need to put up a new web site so that we can have more article, more photos and better service with no ads. So to cut to the chase, I need people to support the club in the following areas:

**Newsletter layout and publication** – this entails writing and editing the newsletter; preparing envelopes, printing original and making copies for all the snail mail clients, printing and stuffing envelopes, folding newsletter and stuffing into envelopes, placing stamps and a run to the post office to mail them. Then prepare a PDF version, verifying the membership list, entering new data for the mail merge and preparing a cover letter with appropriate enclosures and, finally, sending off the mail.

**Photographing member's work and updating the website** – each month we need an individual to photograph member's work and post the new images on the website. Currently, Ed Cover handles this. But on one occasion Ed was out of town. This left a gap in the images. Additionally, moving forward it would be nice if we could attribute the images we post on our website to the individual who did the work.

**Webmaster** -- This is another responsibility that falls upon the shoulders of the Public Relations officer. We need a knowledgeable person or someone willing to learn, who can help out with our website. If you have an inclination to learn this skill then this is a great opportunity to get started. We have a volunteer but getting a new website up and running is big job.

**Advertiser Relations** – This job entails keeping in touch with our current advertisers and finding new ones. Remember these are the folks that provide the prizes at our annual Christmas drawing. This is a relatively easy job but vital none-the-less.

**Disseminating Information** – From time to time, information needs to be passed along to the entire membership between newsletters. This is a small but important task. This job should be combined with the Newsletter.

**Acquiring Newsletter Content** – This is a perennial need. It can be time consuming because you have three choices 1) Write it yourself after doing the research which can often take several hours 2) Cajole a club member to contribute (I must admit that the recalcitrance of a large number of our members to participate is extremely frustrating. But a big hats off to those who do. Without them we would not have the vibrant woodturning community we do.) 3) Copy it from another source after getting permission (hats off to Russ Robinette for contacting Russ Fairfield who has agreed to let us use any content from his website). Of all these options, I really want to publish those articles written by our members.

So now you know what I and our public relations committee members do (at least most of it).

Lastly, it is my intention to step down as VP of Public Relations at the end of this calendar year so if anyone is interested in taking this position in 2007 just let me know. I will pass along what I know and I think you will find it a fun and challenging job. Just in case you're wondering, I have not yet decided whether I will stand for another position. That will depend a great deal on how my new job settles out.

## **My Five Rules of Sanding (<http://www.woodturnerruss.com/FSOriginal2.html>)**

**by Russ Fairfield**

The following was originally published as, "Sanding Savvy", in the American Woodturner Magazine, Spring 1999 issue.

### **Sanding Is Important**

Sanding is the second of the three steps in the turning process - turning, sanding, and finishing. These steps are not independent. A poorly turned surface will require more time sanding, a poorly

sanded surface will result in a poor final finish, and sometimes the finish and sanding are done at the same time.

We are overwhelmed with information on turning tools and finishing products. Everyone wants to know about the latest tools and techniques; or the merits of various finishing products, and which ones will give them that elusive “perfect finish”. But nobody wants to hear about sanding, and very little is ever published about it. In fact, it is more important than the finishing because the final finish will only be as good as the surface under it.

### **Sandpaper, The Tool**

We can't discuss sanding without some knowledge about sandpaper (or cloth). The commonly used abrasives can be listed in the order of their hardness, sharpness, and durability: Ceramics, Aluminum Oxide, Silicone Carbide, and Garnet. Aluminum Oxide will remove wood faster than Garnet because it is harder and sharper, making a deep V-grooved scratch pattern on the surface, while the softer Garnet wears faster and leaves a pattern of shallow U-shaped grooves. It makes sense to start sanding with Aluminum Oxide and finish with Garnet. It also makes sense that the surface from garnet will appear to have a higher gloss because of the more rounded reflective areas in the surface scratches.

### **Don't buy cheap sandpaper.**

The grit designations of sandpaper do not represent a uniform fixed particle size. Rather, they are a range of particle sizes; with the majority of them being the stated size. The number and size of the particles that are different from that designated depends on the equipment and the quality specifications of the abrasive manufacturer. A tighter grit specification costs more. Unless we have access to their product specifications, we have to rely on either price or experience to determine quality. Cheap sandpaper isn't necessarily a bargain because it usually has a broader range of particle sizes within a designated grit size, and it is the big ones that we don't want because they leave deep scratches.

I use and recommend the sanding medium, both sheet and discs, available from **Industrial Abrasives** (<http://www.industrialabrasives.com/>). Their prices may be lower, but their quality is every bit as good as any of the major suppliers. They also have large 36" X 39" sheets of flannel backed Aluminum Oxide medium so we can cut our own sanding discs and really save some money.

### ***The “Five Rules” of Sanding***

Everything that I know about sanding can be reduced to “**The Five Rules of Sanding**”. These “5 Rules” will shorten the time between laying down the turning tool and realizing a museum quality finish. Since sanding can't be ignored, we can try to make it an easier task.

Two prerequisites to sanding should be obvious. We can't see in the dark, and we can't work when we can't breathe. Always use a bright incandescent light, the brighter the better, while sanding so that the scratch pattern on the wood surface is clearly visible. Aiming the light at a shallow angle to the wood will make them even more visible.

Fluorescent light has no shadows, and the surface texture can be almost invisible until you take the finished piece outside the shop lighting.

Always wear a dust mask while sanding, or better yet, use both a dust mask and a dust collector.

#### **Rule 1 –**

#### **Sandpaper is a cutting tool, keep it sharp and keep it clean.**

Throw it away when it gets dull. Don't use a worn-out coarser grit as a substitute for a finer grit. Worn-out 120-grit is just that, and it cannot be used as a substitute for 220-grit.

Keep it clean.

The spaces between the grit particles are like the gullets of a saw blade. The grit can't remove wood when these spaces are full. Clean both sheet and disc abrasives with a block of crepe rubber. (Yes, it works on sheet when we lay it on a flat surface and rub the rubber block across it). Some turners glue a piece of rubber to a block of wood that is then attached to their lathe. Blocks of natural colored crepe rubber are available through most of the woodworking catalogs, a \$10.00 purchase that will last for years. Do not use colored rubber, white rubber, or any caulking materials because they contain dyes and silicones that can interfere with many finishes.

A small brass bristle brush, such as would be used for cleaning vegetables, is an effective cleaner for removing stubborn materials from the abrasive.

### **Remember those big grits we talked about??**

They can be removed by dragging the sanding sheet across the edge of a piece of steel. This dressing of the sheet will break off those big particles that are sticking out above the surrounding grit. We can do the same thing to a disc with a brief spin against the same edge of a piece of steel, but have to be careful that we remove only the big ones and not the ones we want to keep.

### **Rule 2 –**

**Refine the shape, remove all tool damage and torn grain, and repair the surface with as coarse an abrasive as necessary to do the job - BEFORE moving through the finer grits...**

The only purpose for all subsequent sanding with finer abrasives should be to refine and remove the scratch pattern made by the coarsest paper. Go straight to the 60-grit if there is torn grain or other tool damage on the surface, and don't fool around with anything finer. It makes no sense to brag about never using anything coarser than 180-grit, and then spend two hours to do the same job that could have done in ten minutes with 60-grit. The finer grit can be used, and for a shorter time, when we have improved our tool handling skills during the turning phase of our work.

### **Rule 3 –**

**Sand through all of the progressively finer grits in as fine an increment as available.**

Don't skip any grits, and don't quit before 320.

It is much faster to use all of the abrasive grits in the smallest increments possible, than to make large jumps in grit size. This is particularly true at the coarse end of the scale. I assure you that it is quicker to go from a 100-grit to a 320-grit in several steps than it is to go directly from the 100 to 320 grit.

For hand sanding, I usually start with 60 or 80, and proceed through 100, 120, 150, 180, 220, 280, 320, and stop at 400. Did I miss any? Several grits can be eliminated while using the more aggressive power sanding, and I typically use 60, 100, 150, 180, 240, 320, and 400 for power sanding. I prefer to use the 2" discs because there is less torque and they are easier to control.

### **Rule 4 –**

**Remove all of the scratches from the previous grit, and all of the dust from the present grit before going to the next finer grit.**

This step is faster when Rule 3 is also observed. If we leave the scratches from the previous grit, we will be making it more difficult to remove them with the next finer grit. If we don't remove the trash from the present grit we will still be abrading the wood surface with it when we go to the next finer grit.

### **Rule 5 –**

**Slow is good, and slower is even better.**

Patience is a virtue.

There is a universal tendency to sand too fast. There is an ancient rule that we should be sanding at twice the speed that we used for the turning. It is even worse for power sanding because we think we can get it over with faster by running everything wide open.

Heat is the enemy. Keep the sanding medium cool by sanding slowly. And, the slower moving abrasive will remove more material than one that quickly “skates” across the wood surface.

Don't spin the piece in the lathe so fast that the paper gets hot. If it burns your fingers, it is also burning the wood surface, and casehardening rather than cutting it. We have all experienced the situation where the sandpaper quit cutting, and it took a coarser grade to break through the surface glaze, only to have the same problem when we used the finer sandpaper. When this happens, slow down. I typically sand with a maximum lathe speed of 250 RPM for most work.

It is very easy to generate too much heat when power sanding because we have no direct touch with the abrasive. Heat will clog the disc, and destroy either the cloth backing or the sponge rubber on the arbor. Just because we have an electric drill with a top speed of 2400 RPM doesn't mean that wide-open is the best speed for sanding.

The slower speed will remove more wood faster, the disc is easier to control, there is very little airborne dust, and the sanding discs will last longer. I use a 3/8" Black and Decker Magnum drill for power sanding wherever it will reach because it has an excellent trigger control and it will run continuously at less than 150 RPM. I use a Milwaukee (same as Sioux) angle drill for those areas that I can't get at with the old B&D. And I have a 1200RPM air powered right-angle drill for the insides of things that nothing else will fit into.

There are many woodturners who will argue that running the disc sander at a high speed while the work is spinning slowly in the lathe is the best way to go, and there are still some who believe that running everything wide open is the best way to go. To them I say, try running both at a lower speed and see if the sanding isn't just as fast and easier to control. Two other benefits will be less airborne dust and the sanding discs will last longer.

It is most difficult to convince someone to try sanding at slower speeds. Once convinced to try it, they usually become advocates of sanding SLOW.

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(Ed. Note: Russ' article needed to be reformatted for print. All formatting errors are mine.)

Dear Fellow Turners:

Mid-Columbia Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners has a couple of very rare and exciting opportunities to share with you and your membership.

Two internationally known turners J. F. Escoulen and Stuart Batty will be both demonstrating and giving classes for our club in the Tri-Cities area in July.

While we realize this is on the heels of the national AAW symposium, we also know not everyone could manage their way to Louisville, so such events in the Pacific Northwest may be of real interest to your chapter members. Or maybe your trip to Louisville whet your appetite for more. Both Stuart and J. F. Escoulen will be at the national symposium...

The Tri-Cities is lovely this time of year. Bring your spouse and enjoy Southeastern Washington this July. Enjoy a dinner cruise on the mighty Columbia River, take an unparalleled wineries tour, get in some golf at any one of our 12 courses, do a little fishing or picnicking along the Snake, Yakima, or Columbia Rivers. Get to know some of your fellow turners over here in the desert - we have terrific, warm, knowledgeable members.

If you are into sunshine, blue rivers, incredible sunsets, and unique archaeological and geological phenomena come to the Tri-Cities. Please see more about our community at <http://www.visittricity.com/> So come and stay a few days and partake of the events the Mid-Columbia AAW chapter.

Here is our chapter's slate of events.

July 4th J. F. Escoulen <http://www.escoulen.com/> demonstration

July 5 - 6 Escoulen classes

July 22nd Stuart Batty Demonstration

July 23 - 24 Stuart Batty Classes

July 25 - 26 Stuart Batty Classes

July 27 - 28 Stuart Batty Classes

Classes are filling up, but there is some space available. The demonstrations are \$30.00 each and the cost of classes depend on the number of participants, but they will be around \$100.00 per day.

Please visit our website <http://www.mcwoodturners.org> to find out more about us and to register for any of these events.

You can contact me for further details or to register as well. My phone numbers are below.

Happy Turning...

Denise

President MCW AAW

home 509.375.1215

cell 509.430.6880

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Scott Overby      Vice President of Membership  
(360) 895-8626, hawkinwa@wavecable.com

## MENTORING PROGRAM

The mentoring programs has been set up to answer questions and give help to new members and those whom may be having a problem in a specific area. Although not intended to be free lessons in woodturning (many of those volunteering are professional turners and derive their income from turning and teaching), these are some friendly folks willing to give you a point in the right direction.

Dan Ackerman.....(360)796-4155

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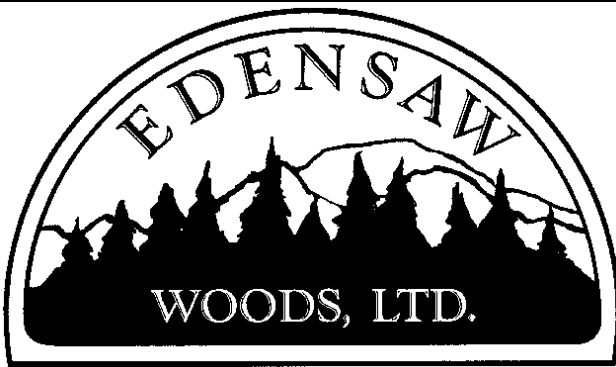
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