



# CHATTERMARKS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
OLYMPIC PENINSULA CHAPTER OF THE  
AAW

CHAPTER WEB SITE:  
<http://www.geocities.com/opaaw>



## February 2006 MEETING

When: Apr 26th , 7 pm  
Where: Kitsap Adventist School  
5088 NW Taylor Rd. Bremerton, WA.

[normhix@comcast.net](mailto:normhix@comcast.net). WE NEED YOUR  
INPUT!

Norm

## Demonstrator: Frank Van Atta

Frank started turning seriously since 1999 and has been a member in long standing of the OPCAOW. His specialty is miniatures which he recently shared with the membership in a slide presentation – they were spectacular. At this month’s meeting, Frank will be demonstrating turning scale miniatures, natural edge miniatures, turnings between 2 and 3 inches, and various laminations. In addition, he’ll be presenting alternative ways to turn without having to purchase higher priced chucks - methods of securing and holding work to the lathe.

## Chapter Officers

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## President’s Message

So what’s the right level of activities for a wood turning club? Your Board of Directors wants to know what you think. In addition to our monthly meetings, how many other events are you interested in supporting or participating in? Each event takes considerable planning, and effort on the part of organizers, demonstrators, etc. Should we be striving for one every three months, every two months, what do you think? Recognize that if you want more events, you too will be expected to participate. Let one of us know. I can be reached at:

## 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  
“Tones” Briggs.....(360)871-7607  
Henry Wischhoefer...(360)377-3464

## Call for Articles

Here are some article ideas:

- ✿ Tell us about when it didn't quite work the way you thought it would and what you did about it.
- ✿ How you organize your shop/tools/wood.
- ✿ A jig or tool that you made to make your work easier.
- ✿ An evaluation of your lathe, tools, finishes. What you like and what you don't.
- ✿ A unique way/source that you get wood from.

Now, back to those who submitted articles. My whining has been so successful that I have ***a temporary*** glut of articles so if your article or idea doesn't appear in this issue, rest assured that it will be here in the following months. In order to snail mail the newsletter for just 39¢, it must be kept at eight pages or less.

Thanks,  
Rick

## Thinking about Wood

(Part III)

[This is the third in a series of articles dealing with wood and its properties.](#)

### Whither Tree Rings

Last month, as you will recall, we talked about how a palm tree grows and how that causes the speckled pattern commonly found in palm wood.

This month we'll look into how maple tree gets its rings. It all goes back to that monocot/dicot thing we've talked about before. Most of the woods that we turn come from dicots (two seed leaves).

Trees (and most common plants) grow from general areas called meristems (words like that are used to ensure job security for geeks, by the way). Apical meristems are located at the tips of branches and are where leaves, flowers and seeds are formed. If you want to see an apical meristem in action go to this web page, <http://www.fw.vt.edu/dendro/Forsite/hdtg2.htm>.

The other area of growth is called the cambium layer and is located between the bark and the sapwood. It's composed of two layers, the xylem and phloem. The xylem originates in the meristem cells in the cambium and grows to the inside. It conducts water and nutrients from the roots to the top of the tree. Each year, during the winter and spring months the old xylem cells die forming woody tissue while new cells are created by the cambium. This cycle of dying and rebirth is what gives woody plants their ring like internal structure. The youngest of these inner cells (the sapwood) still participate in moving nutrients and fluid within the plant.

The outside layer of the cambium produces what is called the phloem, which when it dies becomes the bark of the tree. Many fewer phloem cells are produced than xylem, otherwise; trees would have really thick bark. How these phloem cells are born, live and die is what causes the bark of a particular species of tree to be the way it is.

Heartwood is formed when resins, tannins and oils accumulate. Heartwood is also dead and serves primarily as structural reinforcement for the tree. As any logger can tell you, the heartwood can be completely rotted away and the tree still look healthy. Alders are especially bad in this respect and I strongly advise against felling an alder of any appreciable size unless you are an experienced woodsman (this is experience talkin' here, folks).

By the way, the next time a furniture salesman tells you that brand X furniture



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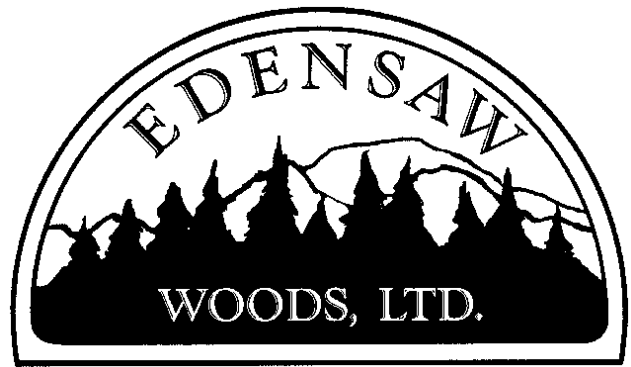
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SANDRA A.  
REESE  
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## **“One man's junk is another man's treasure”**

(part 2)

More spalting recipes

### **Spalting Paste #2**

1 litre or quart water  
1 cup nitrogen-rich  
fertilizer (granules)  
1 can beer  
1 litre/quart manure  
(rich with ammonia  
odour)  
Oak leaves

### **Spalting Paste #3**

Any mix of nitrogen, organics,  
ammonia, sugar, malt extracts,  
tannins and leaf molds –  
everything necessary to  
stimulate all many of weird and  
wonderful growth.

Check after 2 months. You  
are looking for a black slimy  
mess with external growth.  
Mushrooms are good.  
However, there are no  
guarantees. Mother Nature  
can be capricious at best.

The dust created from sanding and sawing spalted wood has a toxic nature with a reputation for causing respiratory problems. More specifically, the mold/fungi can trigger severe reactions like asthma. A small percentage of the population can be expected to develop allergic sensitivity to one or more compounds found in wood. If you handle a lot of potentially toxic species, and work with them long enough, you increase your chances of a reaction. So, the best defense is to wear a dust mask or full face biologic filtering respirator and use a good dust extraction system; it doesn't hurt

to have a fan blowing the dust away from your work area also.

## **The Following Article was submitted by**

**Russ Robinette**

### **Milwaukee/Sioux Angle Drill Bearing Failure Prevention**

The problem stems from these drills being used beyond their original design limits in that they were not built for use in dusty/abrasive environments. Blowing them out after each use with compressed air will help, but the bearing are only "shielded" types and will eventually fail. You can solve the problem by changing to a double sealed radial bearing.

I bought mine online from ENCO, their part number is 510-1961, and the cost was about \$2 each. It's really important to change out the bearing before they go out because if they get hot, they'll deform the plastic holder where they sit in the drill's outer shell. When that happens trash the whole drill. You can get to ENCO at

<http://www.use-enco.com/CGI/INSRHM>

Russ later tried it out and here is what he reports:

I've verified the info provided is correct.

Replaced bearings in my drill successfully. Although I've been very attentive to blowing compressed air thru the drill housing periodically during use as well as always blowing the dust out before putting the drill away, I was amazed at the amount of sawdust inside the case. One of the bearings was showing early signs of failure.

Had to machine a special puller to remove one of the bearings. It's available for others in the club to use in upgrading their drill.

Russ