

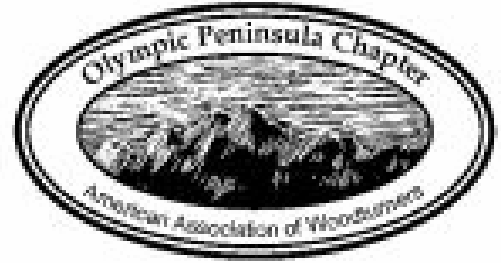


CHATTERMARKS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
OLYMPIC PENINSULA CHAPTER OF THE
AAW

CHAPTER WEB SITE:

<http://www.geocities.com/opaaw>



August MEETING – It's a picnic!!

When: August 20th, 2 pm

Where: Dan & Kathy Ackerman's Place
163 Sylopash Lane, Brinnon, Wa.

Advice for Beginners

(Contributed by Dave Schweitzer and Tones Briggs)

1. Work with an available mentor through your club or friendship with another turner. Very important to help apply terminology to the object.
2. Sharpening -- Utmost import in order to cut wood properly and safely. "Knowing" the difference between a sharp tool and a not sharp tool.
3. Turn "green" wood! New turners should find a readily available source of branch, limb and firewood available for just making chips.
4. Keep "forms" very open and avoid rolled rims and or complex curves.
5. Avoid jumping in too quickly when buying a lathe or lathe tools. See if your local club will let you check out a mini for a month or two, and with the aid of your mentor, you will make wiser selections in tools purchase as well.

Note

Northwest Woodworkers on Central in Tacoma is closing. All items are 40% off until they are gone. It's a shame to see them go.

Tones Brigg's bypass surgery was a complete success and he is well on his way to recovery.

President's Turn

First and foremost is the PICNIC! A great event you don't want to miss. Bring your chair, a five-inch diameter turned wooden ball for lawn golf and beverages of your choice. If your last name starts with a letter from "A" through "M" bring a salad and if you are "L" through "Z" please bring a dessert. If you missed the July meeting or you didn't raise your hand to signify that you will be attending, please let Roger Dunn know that you are coming so that he can plan for the correct number of people for whom to purchase food. Roger can be reached at: rd@redunn.com or 360.437.7907. The location is of course at Dan and Kathy Ackerman's waterfront estate. For directions, see the July "Chattermarks".

Second, the ELECTIONS! In January, we will be electing new officers. I want to invite anyone who is interested in running for any of the offices to attend the next four Board of Directors meetings, which are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 4:00 pm at Denny's in West Bremerton. This will give you a chance to "get your feet wet" and see how things are currently operating. It is not too late to put your two cents in; stick your oar in the water; or toss your hat in the ring. **YOU** can become a Board of Directors member. See you at the PICNIC!

Steve Austin, President

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MENTORING PROGRAM

The mentoring program has been set up to answer questions and give directional 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

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TIP #1

Don't have a spray booth? Use a plastic storage container such as those sold at Costco. Set it on its long side and open both lids. Use a cheap lazy Susan from the dollar store to put you piece on. Start your spraying beyond the edge of your piece and then move the spray across it in an even sweep. Move back and forth until the whole piece is coated. Rotate a quarter turn and repeat. Wait for manufacturer's recommended time to recoat then rotate another quarter turn and spray. Finally rotate one more time and spray one last time. You can repeat the entire process until the right thickness is achieved. Make sure the space is well ventilated.

Tip #2

How do you fix a small dent in wood? With a soldering iron and tissue paper, of course. Here's how. Wet a piece of tissue paper with water. Get it pretty wet. Place the tissue paper over the dent. Put the hot soldering iron on the tissue paper and allow the steam to penetrate to the wood. This will cause the crushed fibers to expand back to the normal shape. This will usually refill most, if not all of the dent. Be careful not to let the tissue dry or else you may scorch the wood. A little judicious use of sand paper and finish and you're back in business.

Eastern Red Cedar

(*Juniperus virginiana*)

by Rick Hurst

Unlike last month's wood Eastern Red Cedar (ERC for short) is All American growing from Maine to Texas. The color of eastern red cedar can range from creamy white to a rich purple. The most common hues are reds and rusts. The feature that makes it so beautiful is that these colors are usually all mixed up. Its one of the most decay resistant woods in the world. I cut down a tree that had been dead for years. The sapwood was infested with everything from ants to scorpions but as you can see, the heartwood was in good shape.



ERC can be difficult to turn, as it tends to chip out and tear, however, if you use light cuts and keep you tools sharp, you should have not problems. Although it smells good, it's too much of a good thing when turning; so be sure to wear full gear. I like to put a fan behind me because the cedar oil is volatile and can get through a particulate filter type mask. If you keep the shavings separate (yes, you will have to sweep the floor) you can put them in a sachet to keep the closets and drawers smelling nice.

One problem with ERC is that it is soft, especially near the sapwood. If you want to use if for pens and the like, you'll need to harden it up with epoxy or super glue. It also is difficult to get a high gloss, but that doesn't matter. People seem to love this wood.

(Ed. Note: If you'd like to write about your favorite wood, let me know.)

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