



# CHATTERMARKS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
OLYMPIC PENINSULA CHAPTER OF THE  
AAW

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



## February 2006 MEETING

When: February 22nd , 7 pm  
Where: Kitsap Adventist School  
5088 NW Taylor Rd. Bremerton, WA.

### Demonstrator: Mehrdad Azarpay

Mehrdad Azarpay is a member of the National AAW in addition to the Seattle and the North Puget Sound chapters. He is also the current president of the Seattle chapter. He has been turning seriously for the past 6 years and selling his creations through the galleries and juried art shows. He believes that making his creations should be unique even if they may be an everyday use salad bowl should stand out either by uniqueness of the wood itself and or embellishments by the artist. He will show us how to turn a round bottom bowl using a screw chuck and a chuck with dovetail jaws. He will then show us how he goes about deciding if the piece should be enhanced and how. He will concentrate on the use of the powered rotary tools and burrs. As always he welcomes questions and comments. It should be fun and interesting demo.

### Dues are Due (Last chance)

Don't forget to renew you membership. We have some great programs and activities planned for the new you that you won't want

to miss. So dues (\$25) are now due and payable and can be paid in person at the meeting on the 25th or mailed to the Treasurer, Stan Stumbo, 15985 Euclid Ave NE, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110. Checks should be made payable to "OPCAAW".

### Chapter Officers

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### Thanks for volunteering

I would like to thank Ace Foster for stepping up to help with the newsletter, Ed Cover for helping with the web site and Jim Leary for helping organize club demonstrations and charitable events

As always, I am looking for good articles for the newsletter.

Next month, if there are no volunteers for articles, I am going to write about the "Motivational Implications for Computer Scientists Working with Quasi-Intractable NP Complete Algorithms". I am sure no one else has ever written about this so you'll get to read it here first. that is of course, unless

someone submits an article or two. This is not a threat. So contribute an article!

If you are interested, contact Rick Hurst, (360)876-1373 or Rick\_Hurst@hotmail.com.

## **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

Henry Wischoefer...(360)377-3464

## **Advertisers**

As some of you will undoubtedly notice, we've lost a few advertisers this year. The reasons vary but all of them are in business to make money and, at least, most of them donate to our Christmas drawing because, not only is it a nice thing to do, it is also a relatively inexpensive form of advertising. But, they will not continue to do so if we do not buy from them. So please, purchase your supplies and equipment from them and when you do, let them know that you are from OPCAAW. If you use Woodturner's Catalog and order on line, then you can put "OPCAAW" in the box for the "special offer" code. Most other online suppliers have a place for special instructions. Use this space to tell them something like, "I'm a member of OPCAAW and I'm ordering from you because you advertise in our newsletter and support us with an annual donation." You can copy and paste that if you like.

## **Call for Articles**

Please, please, please, pretty please contribute articles, product reviews or whatever to the newsletter. Many of you have told me you like the job I'm doing because of the great content. But, it's not me; it's the great articles and ideas contributed by our members. So please keep 'em coming.

Thanks,  
Rick

## **Thinking About Wood**

(Part I)

This is the first in a series of articles dealing with wood and its properties.

Hardwood and Softwood Trees

### **What is a Hardwood Tree?**

A hardwood tree is defined as a woody treelike member of the plant phylum Angiospermata, meaning those plants whose seeds are enclosed in a membrane. It is tempting to think of hardwoods that shed their leaves in the winter but there are many examples in the tropics and subtropics of trees that are angiosperms that are evergreen. Common examples of angiosperms are apple, maple, balsa,

### **What is a Softwood Tree?**

A softwood tree is defined as a woody treelike member of the plant phylum Gymnospermata, meaning those plants whose seeds are not enclosed in a membrane (a further complication is that not all plants produce seeds but that's another story). Again, it is tempting to think of softwoods as those trees that keep their leaves in the winter but, again, there are exceptions. Common examples of softwood

trees are pine, redwood, juniper, fir and ginkgo.

## Were you Paying Attention?

Those of you who were will have noticed that balsa was listed as a hardwood. Yet, model makers use balsa because it is so soft and easy to carve and cut. On the other hand, ginkgo, which has most of the characteristics of a hardwood; branching habit, deciduous; is a softwood. You may also have noticed that juniper was listed as a softwood, but some junipers are harder than most temperate hardwoods. *Juniperus ashei* in particular has a density of 0.65 oven dry. It is quite dense.

## Conclusion

As you undoubtedly have concluded, not all hardwoods are hard and not all softwoods are soft. If you are a stickler for precision (I must admit I am) then you would be more precise in classifying woods as either Gymnosperms (naked seeds) or Angiosperms (covered seeds). While you're thinking about that I'm going to the lumber store to buy some softwood pine for my new deck and on my way back I'll pick up some hardwood balsa to fix my friend's model airplane.

***We'll talk again in part II.***

Rick Hurst  
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