



CHATTERMARKS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
OLYMPIC PENINSULA CHAPTER OF THE
AAW

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



March 2006 MEETING

When: March 29th, 7 pm
Where: Kitsap Adventist School
5088 NW Taylor Rd. Bremerton, WA.

Demonstrator: Molly Winton

I was introduced to woodturning while in high school woodshop, but it wasn't until 22 years later, that I once again stepped in front of a lathe. In 1998 I sold my business to become a stay-at-home Mom and at that time my husband presented me with a lathe.

I have a brief background in pottery, which introduced me to the importance of form and design. It is my opinion that no matter what you do to enhance a turning, whether branding, pyrography, coloring, texturing, or carving, it will all be for naught if the original form is not pleasing. My goal is to create work that begs to be picked up and caressed.

I had the good fortune to hear a well known turner speak on the subject of finding inspiration for our work. He recommended looking to our passions and interests outside of woodturning and discover a way to express it in our work. Since childhood I have been fascinated by North American native cultures, and petroglyphs such as found on the rocks in the Columbia Plateau (Pacific Northwest), and in the caves of Lascaux, France. Through the use of pyrography, their influences can be seen in my work.

President's Message

Last month I spoke about how quickly time is moving. Our March Board of Director's meeting again brought this to mind, because we started talking about the summer picnic. No wonder this is a great event, considering the amount of planning that goes into it! To get more people involved in the "game" (something like a mix of golf, lawn bowling, and croquet, but apparently having no name) we decided to have prizes and to have a ball turning demo in May. Last year my own efforts at making a ball were less than successful, so for me, a demo seems very useful.

We are very fortunate to have Molly Winton as our March demonstrator. She is also demonstrating at the 2006 AAW National Symposium in June, so we will be enjoying a good preview for those of us who are unable to go to Louisville.

Speaking of AAW, if you aren't a member, I'd encourage you to join up. Even if you are not interested in the personalities and politics of the organization, the magazine has great articles on turning design, processes, and projects. This year, as an added membership bonus, the AAW is also providing a DVD about sharpening along with the usual registry of members and clubs. I know I am often repetitious about the benefits of membership in turning clubs, but I think this is another good investment of your turning dollars.

So time keeps spinning along, and I hope you are getting in lots of turning and

remembering to faithfully wear your safety gear!

Norm

Chapter Officers

Norm Hix President
(360) 368-0420, normhix@comcast.net
Jimmie Allen Vice Pres of Education and Training
(360) 373-3041, jcallen4605@earthlink.net
Rick Hurst Vice President of Public Relations
(360) 876-1373, rick_hurst@hotmail.com
Susan Hurst, Secretary
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Cindy Allen, Sergeant at Arms
(360) 373-3041, jcallend4605@earthlink.net
Stan Stumbo Treasurer
(360) 842-1458, stumbo@speakeasy.org
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New Members, Guests and Friends

It occurs to me that we have grown substantially in the last couple of years, both in members and the number of guests we have at every meeting. That there may be some reluctance on the part of these folks to "join in" on things like show 'n tell, questions and to bring problems they may be having to meetings. The purpose of the club is to celebrate, disseminate information and educate woodturning.

The Olympic Woodturners exist for the benefit of its members. To that end, we have mentoring programs designed to help new members learn and problem solve. Don't be hesitant to approach the mentors listed in the newsletter (or any club member for that matter) and get acquainted. The job they have volunteered for is to help YOU! Another is to bring your efforts to the show 'n tell. Even if it's your first effort and it looks like a dog dish, ask for comments to help with technique, design or finishes (ed. note: I've made some very nice dog dishes). That's how you learn and walk away from a meeting realizing that it was worth your time to come. The more you participate, the more you gain. Another area of education is the

wood auction...not just to buy woods, but to learn about them...so ask the auctioneer about the various woods, their properties that make them good or not so good for turning. The programs during the meeting are aimed at educating and demonstrating to all levels of turners...don't be afraid to ask questions, chances are there will be others who have the same question, but are reluctant to show their lack of understanding too.

Come one, come all is our battle cry, but come to participate too.

Dan Ackerman

MENTORING PROGRAM

The mentoring program 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

I want to thank those who contributed articles this month. But ... all you other slackers aren't off the hook yet.

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 II)

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

Ever wonder why palm wood is so much different from maple (for example)?

To answer that question let's talk about corn and beans. When corn sprouts it comes up as a single leaf (all you non-gardeners will just have to take my word for this) whereas a bean sprout has two leaves. Well, that's because corn is a "monocotyledon" (or monocot for short) which a very fancy way of saying that the seedling only has one leaf. On the other hand, the bean sprout is a "dicotyledon" (or dicot for short) which is a very fancy way of saying that the seedling has two leaves. The difference between the seeds is why you can split a bean seed rather easily but not a corn seed. Another distinguishing characteristic is the way that the veins of the leaves arrange themselves. In monocots, the veins are more or less parallel whereas in dicots the veins are branching and divide the leaf into cells.

By far the vast majority of woods that we turn are dicots. But here's the kicker, palm wood is not really wood at all! Technically, wood is produced when a tree increases its diameter by adding layers to create wood and bark. This is the main function of the cambium layer, which is the sappy layer just beneath the bark. Palm "wood" is produced by overlapping leaf bases (that's why palm trunks are often scaly in appearance). That's also why palm "wood" has no distinct rings.

So the next time you turn palm wood, just remember, you are really turning a giant tulip!

Rick Hurst
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Introducing a New Victim (err I mean Editorial Contributor), Ace Foster

Well, I knew better, but I volunteered
anyway.

I'm a new kid on this particular block, so
maybe I should give some account of myself
and my life as a turner. Back in the early
70's, a friend was breaking up housekeeping
and wanted a good home for some tools.

They ended up at my house. There was an old Craftsman lathe he had from his father, along with a pretty miscellaneous collection chisels, a Craftsman bandsaw of similar age and a hodge-podge of miscellaneous hand tools.

About the same time, I ran into a guy at work who was in the International Wood Collectors Society and a turner as well. He got me into the IWCS, which was pretty active in that space-time, and that got me access to a bewildering variety of wood at way under retail, along with some helpful advice on woodwork. One thing led to another and here I am.

In that long-ago age, of course, there was no such thing as a video or CD or DVD; there weren't turning schools all over the place nor meetings nor conventions nor seminars. I could only find two books that were worth a hoot so I'm pretty much self-taught.

This is a much better time to get into turning!

I'm a hobbyist turner, though I sell when I can. Right now, I'm a retired turner; the building that was to have been my shop had a tree fall on it. We've contracted for a replacement, but 'til it gets built, I'm pretty much shut down.

On the other hand, it will be new and it will be all mine, so I give thanks.

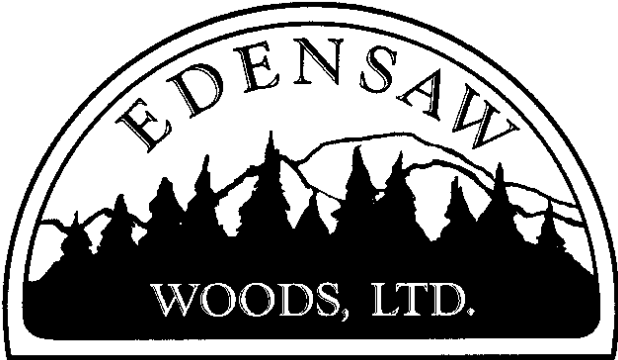
I've been a member of the AAW for about as long as there's been such a thing and was in at the start of Silicon Valley Woodturners. I look forward to getting acquainted with the OPCA AW.

Wood Buying Opportunity

Erwin Wright, from Oregon, will arrive at the church at 5:30 pm on the meeting day to sell some excellent maple and myrtle wood. The myrtle ranges in color from chocolate brown to blond with lots of good figure. Some is

already cut into bowl blanks and some is in block form. Be sure to bring cash or checks.

Thanks,
Dan Ackerman



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Can I Put Water In It?

By
Ace Foster

We've all at one time or another made little weed pots or vases. It's a good way to make something pretty out of little pieces of wood that might otherwise end up in the burn pile.

But somebody always asks, "Can I put water in it?" And of course, one can, but not usually with happy result. Paraffin or candle wax can be used to waterproof the inside, or a heavy coat of epoxy, but it's a lot of trouble and not always very effective

Glass test tubes are another solution to the problem, pretty readily available, not all that expensive. But breakable. A handy way to keep a test tube in place, incidentally, is a little rubber band. Drill the hole in the vase oversize by a thirty-second or so, wrap the rubber band around the test tube and it will hold the tube in place nicely but permit easy replacement in case of breakage.

The aluminum tubes that cigars come in work pretty well, too. I trim off the threads to make a neat end, glue the tube in with epoxy leaving the end about a sixteenth proud of the wood, then roll the end over with a piece of dowel so it lies down flat. Guaranteed not to leak.

For Sale: Grizzly 1067Z Lathe

Used about a half a dozen times.

Accessories include: Face plate, scroll chuck and dead center.

Asking price is \$150.

Cell phone is 360-620-6831 and residence phone 360-830-2562.

Mark Burnham

2585 Lost Creek Lane NW (by Wildcat Lake, Seabeck)

Bremerton, WA 98312

Got Wood Scraps

John Denis is looking for your small but interesting scraps, the stuff you'd normally burn in the fireplace. He is looking for pieces down to a quarter of an inch to try some new techniques. If you have some please bag them up for John and bring them to the meeting or give John a call at (360) 871-2571.

Thanks,
Rick

My Triton Experience

Many of you have probably heard me whine about my wood dust allergies, and the fact that I need to wear a respirator when I turn. This is especially true when I sand (which at my level of turning skill, is a major part of every project). I chose a Triton respirator over a Trend because I thought the Trend was too heavy and would make my neck sore. I also thought the rigid polycarbonate face shield of the Triton would give me more protection than the flexible shield of the Trend. Before going to a respirator, I wore an integrated full face shield and helmet, so the Triton format wasn't all that big a change for me. Here's what I've discovered after six months of use:

The good news is, I've had no allergic breathing events since I started wearing this device. This, despite the fact that I often forget to tighten the draw string on the shroud. Using this system has also increased the amount of time I wear ear protection. Formerly, I wasn't as faithful at protecting my hearing as I was at protecting my face. While neither the Trend or the Triton is approved for protection from fumes, I find that having the air intake on the back helps the Triton diffuse glue and finish fumes. Its not so effective however, if you are a big fan of beans.

The rig is a little cumbersome to put on, which is a negative. However, once I put it on, this same characteristic keeps me from taking it off. The net result is that I probably wear it more than I would if I often took it off and left it lying on the other side of the shop. I also occasionally bang the power unit on things while moving around the shop, but my shop is really crowded and my butt is big.



Norm modeling the latest in respiratory protection

There is some heat build up inside the mask and helmet, but probably no more than with my former helmet and mask setup. Much of the heating is due to the insulation of the headphone type ear protection (think winter ear muffs). To keep the inside from getting "funky" from sweat, I've made a stand which allows the unit to breathe and dry out while I have it hung up.

Initially I had a concern about the length of time a charge would last. So far, I'm getting about two "days" of turning from each charge. This is probably about eight hours of actual run time. One bad feature of the Triton is that there is no separate battery. If you want to have a back-up battery, you must buy a whole power pack at about \$80. However, this also includes a new fan and filters. For the Trend, an additional battery alone costs \$40, but it is also necessary to get an 8 hour run time. These differences make an actual comparison a little tricky.

Both units use Ni-cad batteries. Because I worry about battery “memory” and over charging, I run the Triton until it starts to run out of gas, but not until it is totally flat. Then I put it on the charger which is connected to a 24 hours timer, so it doesn’t continue to charge if I don’t use it for a day or two.

Finally, there is the comparative cost of the Triton and the Trend. Normally the Trend costs about \$20 to \$40 more than the Triton. However, both the current Woodcraft and Craft Supply catalogs have the Triton at \$200. That price and my satisfaction with my Triton makes the choice clear to me. However, whether you choose one of these respirators, or some other system, I urge you to protect yourself from airborne dust, so you can enjoy turning for a much longer life.

Norm

“One man's junk is another man's treasure”

By Bob Hickernell

(part 1)

.....and spalted wood embodies that truism. Wood turners and wood workers alike hold it in high esteem for its natural beauty. Because spalted wood is consistently inconsistent in appearance, it is in high demand. Each piece is unique.

Spalting occurs in many species but is most commonly seen in our local woods; alder, birch and maple. The spalting process occurs at different rates for different woods and depends on climate and environmental factors. The characteristic blue-black zone lines of spalted wood form when incompatible colonies of fungi come into contact with each other and lay down barriers to separate their territories. This

phenomenon represents the early stages of decay.

Producing spalted wood for the workshop is, although a hit and miss process, completely attainable. The key to stimulating wood to spalt is providing the moist, warm environment that the fungi thrive in. The most taxing challenge is calculating when to halt the process to arrest the spalting.

The simplest method to promote spalted wood, but the hardest way to control it, is to put logs into a shady wood, cover with leaves or bury in sawdust and keep moist. The sawdust can add to the color, and while mushrooms and roots grow, they leave trails and irregularities. For better control, and in dealing with smaller sized pieces, place the wood in plastic bags and keep moist. Here are some options:

1. Seal the end grain of your selected fresh-cut piece, leave the bark on and store in a dark, moist environment. Do not use dry wood.
2. Create a ‘spalting paste’. Spread the paste covering the surface of a rough-turned piece. Place in a plastic bag and leave in a warm place for several weeks.

Spalting Paste #1

1 ½ tablespoons of ammonia (non-sudsing type)
1 cup of nitrogen-rich fertilizer (mixed double strength)
Oak leaves

*** And like any good sourdough recipe, it doesn't hurt to have shavings from spalted material of the same species to act as a “starter”.

(Next month – more spalting recipes)