



CHATTERMARKS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
OLYMPIC PENINSULA CHAPTER OF THE
AAW

CHAPTER WEB SITE:

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



September 2005 MEETING

When: September 28th, 7 pm

Where: Kitsap Adventist School
5088 NW Taylor Rd. Bremerton, WA.

Demonstrator: Steve Hatcher

Steve Hatcher is a Northwest artist who works with wood and stone, lathe turning his pieces from wood and then inlaying mineral crystals to create images of striking beauty. Merging the disparate techniques of woodturning, wood carving, and stone carving, Stephen's work is unique in both technique and style. His pieces are made from highly figured woods and translucent crystals which are accentuated with carving and dyes then buffed to a high luster.

Stephen's work is principally inspired by the changing seasons and natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest. His work has been showcased in national and international magazines as well as being regularly featured in shows and exhibits across the nation.

Steve will be demonstrating his stone inlay techniques. The handouts for this demo are attached to the email so make sure you print out what you need before the meeting. There will be a few handouts available but they are for those folks who don't get the newsletter by email.

This Month in Chattermarks

Norm Hix has written an excellent article on designing and installing a dust collecting system. See page 5.

Also welcome our new advertiser, James Ross from Riddle, Oregon. He has the best pen and kit blanks I have seen.

President's Turn

Planning for the Christmas Party is well underway. There are many tasks to be completed. If you would like to help, contact Roger Dunn at 360.437.7907. The more help Roger gets, the better the Christmas party will be for everyone. The meeting schedule for the holidays is 16 November for the November meeting and 14 December for the Christmas Party. The Christmas Party will start at 6:00 PM and it will be potluck hors d'oeuvres and desserts. Roger Dunn will have an announcement at the October 19 meeting.

The Nominating Committee has continued their efforts to field a full slate of candidates for the November election. The candidates to date are:

President:

Norm Hix

V.P. Education and Training:

Jimmie Allen

V.P. Membership:

Gary Burdyslaw

V.P. Public Relations:

Rick Hurst

Maxx Pehling

Treasurer:

Stan Stumbo

Ted Ripley

Secretary:

Susan Hurst

Michael Jones

Sergeant at Arms:

Cindy Allen

Floyd Walker

As you can see, we still have some ballot spots to fill. We will be calling for volunteers at the October meeting.

Keep Turning
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

Henry Wischhoefer...(360)377-3464

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SANDRA A. REESE
President

Meeting Dates for the Rest of the Year

Because of the holidays, our meeting dates are different from normal for November and December. Here are the 2005 meeting dates for the rest of the year.

October 26

November 16

December 14

Don't forget to plan for the December meeting. Bring your favorite desert or snack and celebrate the holiday season with your favorite turning club.

Roger, Russ & Rick

Vinhatico

(Plathymenia reticulata)

by Rick Hurst

Never heard of it? Well neither had I until I got a few pieces in a box of blocks on ebay. It is native to eastern Brazil and grow to 125 feet high and 3 feet in diameter. The heart wood is a rusty yellow with streaks of pure yellow and pink. Like many colorful woods, it darkens over time. It looks somewhat like Osage Orange but more colorful. In my experience, it is hard and closed grain but "A

Guide to Useful Woods of the World” says otherwise.



The guide recommends not using Vinhatico for turning but they don't say why. Well let me tell you, it is the MOST abrasive wood I have ever worked with. When making the bottle stopper above I got at most two good cuts before I had to run back to the grinder.

Note from the Board of Directors

The rules for the Christmas drawing have changed. Make sure to read the email attachment named “OPCAAW Christmas Party Drawing Guidelines1.pdf.”

Thanks,
The Board

Editor's Note

As you may notice, the format of the newsletter is morphing. This is to help me make the newsletter more flexible and easier to manage. From this point forward only advertising copy will be boxed.

Good Price on Scroll Chucks

Neil at Equipment Sales and Surplus has 20 Nova chucks with 50mm jaws which he is selling for \$85.00 to club members.

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Saving Money

It costs the club roughly \$1.00 to mail a newsletter and nothing to send the same information by e-mail. I urge you to begin receiving your newsletter by email if possible. If everyone did, it would save us over \$60 per month.

Rick

Reminder

Please do not forget! You should bring any turning donations to the meeting next Wednesday, October 26 and turn over to Barb Davis. They will be going to a good cause; namely, the Chapter's landlord who will raffle them off in November.

Tip

Don't have an air compressor or just don't like hearing the racket? For those small jobs like blowing the sanding dust out of a coarse grained wood or blowing the chips out of a small turning, try using a can of compressed air. These are available at Costco in a four pack or at any electronics supply house.

Dust is not my friend! (part 1) by Norm Hix

- 1) **Why collect dust?** My shop space is one bay of a three car attached garage, where we actually keep two cars and all the other impedimenta of maintaining a home. So my original motivation for having dust collection was probably just to keep peace in the family. I soon realized that it also meant I would spend less total time cleaning up. There is also, probably, a certain improvement in safety, although that was not a factor in my original planning. Later in life I have also discovered I am very sensitive to dust from some woods. So here's what I did for dust collection and health protection.
- 2) **Collection at the source collection.** The first layer of dust management is collection at the source. This involves a vacuum system, ducting, and adapters for each machine.
- 3) **Vacuum System:** I started out with a Delta 50-850 (Figure 1), which had two fabric filter bags, one up, one down. I soon realized that changing the lower bag when full of dust was a pain, literally. I soon substituted a thirty gallon metal garbage can, which I line with a plastic bag, for the lower bag. This also required that I increase the size of the upper bag to minimize back pressure. I bought a couple of yards of 1 micron filter felt from Penn State (I don't think they still sell raw cloth, but it is available elsewhere), which my wife sewed into the tallest widest bag I could fit in the space available. If you do this, use fabric glue and double sew the seams to prevent leaks. Another solution is to sew the two factory bags together, but those bags are only good for 5 micron dust. My 6' tall bag hangs from a hook on the ceiling. She also made a cuff to connect the lower garbage can to the machine. Before emptying the can, I smack the bag with a flat stick to knock the loose dust down into the can.



Figure 1

The second part of the vacuum system is a cyclone separator (Figure 2). The separator is based on another thirty gallon garbage can. I made a top by sandwiching the metal can lid between two layers of half-inch MDF. The extra weight helps the lid seal and provides an easy way to mount the inlet and outlet ducts. I used a metal furnace flange to connect the outlet duct, and plastic fittings to connect the

inlet ducts and to make the angled inlet inside the can that causes the cyclone action.

The separator removes a large part of the chips that reduces how often the dust can must be emptied. Just as importantly, it keeps big pieces, tools, metal parts, sandpaper, etc. from going through impeller of the vacuum. Finally, it allows retrieval of stuff without going into the dust bin. If you are like me, you will have to retrieve things.

The last part of the vacuum system is a remote switch. To make sure you use your collection system, it must be convenient to turn on and off. I use a Long Ranger remote to activate my vacuum. Thanks to my wife, I have hanger loops on my shop apron so the remote is always at hand.

Ducting: I started out calculating duct sizes using the guidelines and formulae in the book Woodshop Dust Control by Sandor Nagyszalanczy. However, after doing that, I realized there is only one affordable choice...4" plastic pipe.



Figure 2

Between the vacuum and the separator I was able to use six inch adjustable furnace elbows and a section of flexible tubing. The Delta comes with dual 4" outlets, but when I removed that "Y" fitting, it provided a flange that just fits a 6" furnace elbow. This improved the suction to the separator, but it meant I had to build my own separator lid. The commonly available black plastic separator lids won't accept a 6" duct. The rest of the ducting is 4" plastic pipe, and 4" flexible tubing. It's cheap and gives many options for fittings.

I've had several trials at optimizing my shop layout, so I've had several ducting layouts. Even after the machine arrangement was settled, I found myself changing the ducting to improve the flow, accessibility of duct gates, etc. The low price of the PVC has been a real benefit. I originally thought I would eventually go to metal ducting, but the plastic has worked out so well, I've passed on that idea. Even if you plan to use metal, I think it would pay to develop the system in plastic. Some design considerations are:

- 1) Keep the amount of flex tubing to a minimum. The ribbed inside has higher flow resistance, and has a tendency to catch things;
- 2) Use special large radius elbows to lessen flow resistance when possible (Penn State sells these);
- 3) Locate the gates so extensions handles or levers are just as accessible as the on-off switch. This makes it convenient to open the gate that means you will use the system more, and it makes it easy to see if you've left a gate open;
- 4) Make the connection at the gate easy to disconnect. Dust and chips collect in the gate slots, so it is occasionally necessary to dig them out. I use a bent nail hammered flat and stuck in a wood handle to do this chore.

Regarding grounding the ducting, I found wide differences in opinions about whether it was necessary or not. I choose err on the side of safety and have fully grounded my system. Inside the tubing sections, I applied two strips of the adhesive backed half inch wide copper tape of the type used by stained glass makers. On long sections, I used sticks to peel off the backing and a pad on a stick to press the tape inside the tubing. You should also make sure the inside of the tube is clean. I soldered stranded bare copper leads to the copper tape and led them out through small holes. These wires jumper over joints, gates, etc. In the flexible tube sections, I used a wire outside, bound on with electrician's tape, which folds over the upstream end of the tube and then continues inside. The inside wire has a free end in the down stream direction. If you tie down the free end, it will act as a catch point and cause plugs. I also solder the free end to keep it from fraying so it doesn't catch shavings. Where the inner and outer wire fold over the end of the flexible tube, I solder on a lead with an alligator clip. This is clipped to a metal part of the tool. I use an ohm meter to check that there is electrical continuity all the way to a ground. Mine goes all the way to the ground point of my power panel. Finally, instead of duct tape, I use black electrical tape to seal joints. It stretches to conform to section changes, and is easier to remove, which is occasionally necessary.