



The Burl

A monthly newsletter for the
Willamette Valley Woodturners
e-mail: wwwturners@gmail.com
We are also on Facebook



Member chapter

Volume 22, Issue 3

A non-profit/501(c)(3) corporation

March, 2018

Next Meeting
Thursday March 8, 2018 6:30 pm



2615 Portland Rd, NE. Salem, OR 97303

LET THE CHIPS FLY

By now I hope most of you have met with Jeff and collected some pen kits and started turning the pens of appreciation for our troops. Kate and Dick were nice enough to supply a whole lot of oak blanks from their stash so I have a few busy weekends ahead of me.

If you need a break from pen turning please remember that we are also working on bowls and boxes for our other two projects this year. October is the target for our Empty Bowl event and we would love to surpass what we raised the last time. In order to do that we will need well over 100 bowls. Remember that these don't all have to be fancy burl or exotic. Utility bowls are needed for this too.

As a club we have been asked if we would like to help turn balusters for the restoration of the Brunk house. These would be paint grade for the front porch. The materials would be supplied. They are 22" long. If anyone is interested let me know and I will get you in touch with the organizers. (See details on page 6)

Happy turning

Darcy Tataryn
President

Club Meeting Minutes February 8, 2018

Submitted: Ron Freshour, Secretary

- President Darcy Tataryn lead in the **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Visitor** Steve Eword was introduced
- Jeff Zens - **Turned Pens for Troops** - Jeff has an order going in for 1,000 pen kits. Volunteers from the club will be turning these pens. Volunteers will be using their own tools, blanks and bushings, etc. Text or e-mail Jeff to volunteer.
- Jeff Zens is also setting up a **Pen Turning Class**. Text or e-mail your interest in attending a future class.
- Jeff Zens wants to know who is interested in a **Tool Sharpening Class**. Text or e-mail your interest in attending a future class.
- Henrik Aberg is taking **\$25.00 reduced pre-registration** commitment for those who **text or e-mail** him prior to February 28th for the:

The American Association of Woodturners,
32nd Annual International Symposium,
Portland, Oregon,
June 14-17, 2018

- **Monthly Challenge** for March will be “Spalted Turning”. Kate Selby suggested a monthly challenge to be determined the month prior. Entries will pay \$5.00 for their project each month with winners having a chance to earn back cash.
- Terry Gerros introduced our **demonstrator** for the evening: **Seri Robinson, PhD**. Her topic was “Tips and tricks for turning punky (spalted)(spungy)(rotted) wood without stabilization.” Seri is an assistant professor teaching wood science at Oregon State University.
 - Spalted wood turns best when thorough dry.
 - Using a face plate is “Always” required when turning spalted wood.
 - Turn at slow speed -- not at “production” speed -- speed is not your friend
 - Stand out of the line of the wood in the event it decides to catch or fall apart.
 - Scraping tools do not do well on spalted wood - Use a tool designed for spalted wood, i.e. something like a blunt/flat nose bull gouge at a 61-64 degree grind. **VERY SHARP**
 - Make very fine cuts - not a scrape
 - Ride the bevel - May need very little sanding
 - Zone-lines in a spalted piece is “a dime a dozen” but the real money is in the pigment such as a blue or pink or red, etc.
 - Pigment is a result of “angry” fungi attacking the wood
 - The fungi that creates the pigment is not active and safe
 - Seri’s choice of finish is a **water-based poly**. If the finish soaks into the wood it will be uneven and may destroy the pigment.

2018 SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION DISCOUNT OFFER FOR CHAPTERS

The AAW has developed a 2018 AAW Symposium registration discount offer for AAW members which extends a **SAVINGS OF \$25 per symposium registration**. Additionally, chapters that elect to participate will receive one complimentary **RESERVED TABLE at the Saturday evening dinner** (dinner tickets not included).

ELIGIBILITY

- The discount is available to AAW chapters and chapter members who are **AAW members**.
- A check for **\$300** has to arrive in Henrik Aberg's postal mailbox **no later than March 30**. Checks past the date will be returned.

Club Business

Treasurer's Report (2/3-3/2)

By Henrik Åberg, Treasurer

Beginning Balance **\$15,283.21**

Income

Membership dues \$350.00
Raffle \$89.00
Glue sales \$60.00

Total Income **\$499.00**

Expenses

PayPal charges \$3.96
Seri Robinson demo \$250.00
Paper and envelopes \$29.98
ODOJ Annual Filing Fee \$20.00
Pen Kits \$928.50
Total Expenses **\$1232.44**

Ending Balance **\$14,549.77**

Pens for Troops

The club has received our order of 1,000 pen kits for one of our community outreach programs – **Pens for Troops**. If you're unfamiliar with this effort, here's a brief description.

In conjunction with Sawmill Creek, an online woodworking community, wood turners all across the United States volunteer their time and talent to turn pens for service men and women stationed overseas. When I made contact with the national coordinator for this effort I learned that he has a large backlog of request for pens from units stationed across the globe. Our work to deliver 1,000 finished pens will help to fill them.

On Saturday February 24 members picked up about 500 of the kits, leaving another 500 to go. Of particular note, Webmaster Ron Fox grabbed 100 kits, along with a large box of oak pen blanks graciously prepared and donated by Kate and Dick Selby. Ron and his wife Betty are going to prep the blanks and glue in the tubes in preparation for an upcoming pen turning class. See the separate article for more information on this.

I will bring a limited number of kits to the March meeting for those who are unable to visit my shop during the week. If you would like to get a head-start on prepping and turning, the best way to get in touch with me is email (jeffzens@custombuiltfurniture.com) or text (503-508-4803). I don't always hear the phone while I'm working, so if you call please leave me a message and I will call back.

Pen Turning Class

Members at the January meeting showed significant interest in a pen-turning class, so we're moving forward with preparations. Ron Freshour, Ron Fox and his wife Betty, all experienced and proficient pen turners, will instruct. The class will be four hours in length and cost \$60.00. Enrollment is limited to 8 turners and Terry Gerros has graciously offered his shop for the purpose.

Pen kits will be prepared in advance by Ron and Betty Fox, but the preparation process will be covered in detail. All of the steps involved in completing finished pens – from stock selection to finishing – will be covered, and turning techniques will be demonstrated. You'll have plenty of time to practice in class, and by the end of class you should be ready to go back to your own lathes and turn beautiful objects that will be appreciated by anyone who uses them. You'll also be prepared to help out with the Pens for Troops project!

If you're interested in this class, please contact me via email at jeffzens@custombuiltfurniture.com. I will add your name to the list and let you know when we can get it scheduled.

Upcoming Events

March 8: Dale Larson, Past President, American Association of Woodturners

Green-Turning Wooden Bowls

By Dale Larson

“Green turning” a wooden bowl starts with a piece of wet wood. I rough out a bowl, let the piece dry, then remount the bowl and finish turn it. Here are a few tips that will help you through the process.

The process starts at the tree. I want to get the wood as soon as the tree is cut. If you wait, especially in the summer, the tree will end check and radially check. And bugs will move in and start eating the wood. So the first rule is to get the tree as soon as it is cut. The wood never gets better over time (except for spauling in some species). As soon as you cut the block, put end sealer on the end grain (Anchorseal, Sealtite 60). If you wait very long micro cracks will start and the sealer will not work as good.

The next step is to rough out the bowl as soon as you can. A big block of wood will want to split and crack as it starts to dry. A roughed out bowl can “move” to relieve the stress and is less likely to crack as it dries. After the bowl is roughed out, mark the date and source of the wood on the bottom of the bowl. This will allow you to track all the bowls from a given tree over time. When one bowl is ready to turn, generally all the bowls from the same tree are.

How thick to leave the bowl when you rough it out? That answer depends on the wood. The general rule is that the larger the diameter the bowl the thicker to leave it. A 16" bowl maybe 1 ¼" to 1 ½". A smaller bowl would be less. But the answer also depends on the species. Stable woods like Black Walnut can be left thinner. Generally walnut doesn't move much. Madrone burl and Apple move a lot. You need to leave it thick enough that when it dries there will still be a “round” in it. The problem with leaving it too thick is that it may not let the bowl “move” and the piece will crack.

After I rough out the bowl I use cheap paste wax on the end grain on both the inside and the outside of the bowl. I don't use Sealtite liquid wax at this stage because it soaks into the end grain. When the bowl dries the wood that the Sealtite has soaked into will have to be turned off. Paste wax does just as good but doesn't penetrate.

The drying process starts by stacking the bowls on dry stickers in the coolest place in my shop, the floor. If you stack wet bowls touching each other they will mold and spault. Separate them with dry wood stickers. For the first couple of weeks I might check the bowls every day or two. If I find small cracks in the end grain or on the foot I immediately use thin CA glue to seal up the crack. (Bill Luce uses thick CA glue and sawdust to build a “scab” over the crack. The advantage here is that the thick CA glue doesn't soak into the end grain of the wood which will have to be turned off later.) The cracks tell me the bowls are drying too fast. I then put them in garbage bags with dry chips. This slows the drying process and lets the wood re-equalize its moisture content. The blank cracks because the wood on the outside of the blank is drier than the wood further inside the blank. The dry chips will absorb the moisture from the blanks.

Every couple of days I'll take out the damp chips and put in dry chips. The bowls may go in and out of the bags several times before they are stable. I leave them in the bags 3 to 4 days then put them back on the stickers on the floor.

If the bowl starts to mold it is drying too slowly. I move the blanks into the heated part of my shop. I want to get the surface moisture off the blanks. But be careful because too long in a warm dry location can crack the blank at this stage. I also spray the blanks with a mixture of 50% household bleach and 50% water. This kills the surface mold. Mold is the first step of spauling and I generally don't like the effect at this stage. The bleach doesn't penetrate enough to affect the wood color.

As time goes on I check the bowls less often. Generally, after six weeks the bowls are stable and won't crack after that. They are not dry at this time and will continue to move. I then move the bowls up on the racks around my shop and forget about them.

How long does it take to dry the blanks? Depends. Depends on the time of the year. Depends on the species of wood. Madrone burl (that has been boiled) and Big Leaf Maple dry in as little as 4-6 months in the summer. Oregon White Oak and California Black Oak take 18 months to two years.

Time of year to green turn. I like to do my green turning during the cool damp part of the year (late October to early May). This allows the blanks to dry slowly while it is cool. They are stable before it gets hot. I will rough out bowls in the summer time if that is when the wood is available but it is a lot more work to successfully dry them without cracking.

In this area (Western Oregon) roughed out wooden bowls will dry down to 13%-15% moisture content in the unheated part of my shop. Once they reach this point I can move them into my drying room. I keep it at 70 degrees f. and 60% humidity year round. The bowls will dry down to 6% - 8% in there.

The bowl is then ready to remount on the lathe. Remember that the bowl has "moved" during the drying process. The old center that the bowl was roughed out on may not be the new center. A quarter-sawn bowl will move more on the sapwood side as it dries. A flat-sawn bowl will end up longer with the grain and shorter across the grain as it dries. Burl and some woods like Apple will move in all kinds of directions. I measure across two points and locate the new center. I put the faceplate on and slowly rotate the bowl on the lathe. This will tell you if it is centered or you need to move it a little. And you may want to adjust the faceplate depending on how the grain pattern is in the bowl or to remove flaws on one side of the blank.

Because the center can change during the drying process I rarely use chucks to hold the bowl on the lathe for finish turning. I use face plates and screws. When I rough out the piece I try and leave an extra 1/2 to 3/4 inch extra scrap on the bottom to hold the screws. I generally use a chuck during the green turning. If you put screws into the wet wood during green turning the tannic acid in the wood and the iron in the screws will react and leave a black spot in the wood that will have to be removed when you finish turn the bowl. After the bowl is dry I can move the faceplate around on the scrap part until I find the new center or where I want the center of the bowl to be. A chuck prevents adjusting for the new center. I also find that most chucks are too big and get in the way when I am turning the bowl down around the foot. A faceplate allows for more clearance down around the foot of the bowl.

You are now ready to remount and finish your bowl.

Green turning has some major advantages over turning dry wood. 1. It is easier to turn wet wood. 2. There is less dust. 3. Finding large pieces of dry wood free of defects and flaws would be hard. 4. I can use wood species and sizes of wood that are not found on the commercial market.

There is a final reason and probably the most important reason to use green wood: I get to control the wood blank. If I go out and buy bowl blanks I've let someone else make all the artistic decisions. Michael Elkan's book "Reading the Wood" says it all. How I cut the bowl blank out of the tree determines what the finished bowl will look like. If someone else cuts the bowl blank out of the tree, they make the artistic decisions. I want to make these decisions on my bowls. I want to "Read the Tree" and cut my blanks out. I am then responsible for what the finished bowl looks like. I want to cut for the prettiest bowls not the most bowls out of a given tree.

How much water is in green wood? I wanted to see how much water was in a block of wood. So I took a fresh cut blank of Black Oak and weighed it at every step of the process. The block was 8” thick and 18” square. Fresh from the tree it weighed 99 lbs. I band sawed it round. It weighed 69 lbs. I roughed it out the same day. It weighed 21 lbs. It took about 2 ½ years to dry. The dry roughed out blank weighed 10 lbs. Note that more than 50% of the weight of the blank was water. The finished bowl weighed about 3 lbs. Simply roughing out the solid blank got rid of nearly 80% of the weight and water the first day and it allowed the blank to move and dry successfully without cracking.

I encourage you to join the American **Association of Woodturners**. It is an organization dedicated to the education of woodturning. It is a great resource for skills, tools and mentors. Learning how to read and work wood has been a good path in life. I encourage you to walk down this path. Besides, everyone can turn a bowl.

April 12: Joshua Kinsey, Handcrafted Objects of Wonder
May 10: Nick Stagg

Turning help needed !!

I am a member of the non-profit Polk County Historical Society. We are currently undertaking a preservation project on the residence at Historic Brunk House on Highway 22 near the Highway 51 cut-off to Independence. The building is on the National Register of Historic Homes.

The structure is a Classic Revival home with a two-story porch spanning the front. This includes turned balusters; LOTS of them. Unfortunately, we are needing to replace many of these balusters due to dry rot and we want to be able to replicate what is on there. This means turnings. We do not have the know-how or manpower to do this. We do have money for materials.

Is this a project that your group might consider doing in a volunteer capacity?

I work out there on Monday and Tuesday mornings between 9 and noon, if someone wanted to see what the project is about. My cell number is 503-857-6413. Please leave a message or contact me at this email address: pchsbuild@gmail.com

Thanks for your kind consideration.

Ann Gage
Brunk House Liaison for PCHS



For Sale



JET 10-20 PLUS DRUM SANDER and a few extra belts. It is on a portable wooden stand with 4 " rubber casters. Can be removed or go with the sander. New purchase price was \$759. Make an offer!!!! I'm upgrading my shop.

Contact: Hal Schalles (541) 924-1114 or halsphoto@yahoo.com

JWL-1221VS 12" X 21" VARIABLE SPEED WOOD LATHE

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2 years old on a solid steel stand with adjustable feet and floor anchors.

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All factory Accessories included, spur drive center, live center, two tool rests, knock out bar, faceplate, wrench and a spare drive belt.

Perfect working condition, well cared for.

\$550 firm.

The current price for this lathe, new, is \$849 without a stand.

Contact: Kate Selby Call or text: (731) 307-8647



Monthly Challenge starts with the next meeting!!

By Ron Freshour

The **Monthly Challenge**, as explained at the February meeting, will begin at the club meeting on March 8, 2018. At our February meeting it was announced that the challenge will be **A Turning From Spalted Wood**. Since we are just now getting our act together we've moved this same challenge to April.

Here is how to enter the challenge for April with **A Turning From Spalted Wood**:

- 1) March 8th - Purchase a \$5.00 ticket as an entry fee for the April challenge. Don't lose it, you will bring it along next months.
- 2) April 12th - Bring the ticket and your project to the meeting. Clearly print your name on the back of your ticket and drop it into the jar for the monthly drawing.
- 3) One half of the cash collected each month will be awarded to the lucky winner of the drawing. (See #2 above)
- 4) After the monthly drawing all tickets and other half of the cash will be dropped into the ANNUAL jar for a big drawing in 12 months. The more months you accept the challenge the better your chances for the Annual Drawing.

This procedure will repeat monthly.

Welcome to new members:



Craig Blair
Keizer



Steve Laue
Hubbard



Tom Ezell
Salem

Membership Rewards

Library

A friendly reminder to members with books and/or videos checked out from the library. Please return them at this next meeting.

Wood Gathering

Sign-up sheets will be available to indicate your availability to help with wood gathering. Anyone who learns of a tree or log that is available to the club should notify Jerry Lelack, (503) 510-1577 or Bob Hutchinson, (503) 508-3279. The intent is to gather wood, process it to usable pieces, store it at the home of Terry Gerros, and then make it available to members. Terry can be reached at (503) 580-5013.

From Terry Gerros

I am a distributor for Stick Fast CA glue, Sharpfast Sharpening systems, the Holdfast vacuum chucking system and Saburrtooth Carving bits. If you have an interest in these products, give me a call or send me an [email](#) for details.

Supplies

The club purchases a few supplies in bulk and sells it to members at club cost. We routinely have superglue (\$5), black or brown superglue (\$10) accelerator (\$10) and Anchorseal (\$11/gal). The club has a small supply of half round protractors (\$6) used to measure the angle ground on a tool, and depth gauges (\$5). HSS Round Tool Bits rods (1/4" x 8") are also available (\$3). Bruce Stangeby will have the resale items available at the meetings, except for Anchorseal which is available through [Jeff Zens](#).

Club Member Discounts

- **Craft Supply:** The club's order will be going out on the Monday following our Club Meeting if our order equals or exceeds \$1,000. Craft Supply gives us a 10% discount plus free shipping on all items, and occasional additional discounts on certain other items and quantity purchases. If you order from the sales items, you will receive the club discount in addition to the sale discount, making many items available at very attractive prices. For detailed instruction for ordering see the article in the [November](#) 2015 Burl. Questions? See jeffzens@custombuiltfurniture.com.
- Club members are registered with **Klingspor's Woodworking Shop** at www.woodworkingshop.com or 800-228-0000, they have your name and will give you a 10% discount.
- If you show your club card at checkout time to the cashier at **Woodcraft** in Tigard they will give you a 10% discount (May not apply to some machinery).
- **Exotic Wood** is offering a discount of 15% off any orders placed at: www.exotewoodusa.com. (This includes sale items and free shipping on orders over \$300). Use promo code ewusaAAW
- **Gilmer Wood** now offers our club a 10% discount on purchases made there. If you haven't been to Gilmer's, it is well worth the trip to Portland, if only to make your mouth water and make you cry if you leave empty handed.

Club happenings in our area

(Please visit the club's website listed below for additional information)

Northwest Woodturners (Beaverton, OR)

www.northwestwoodturners.com

Meets 1st Thursday 7:00 PM at the Multnomah Arts Center, 7688 SW Capitol Hwy, Portland

Cascade Woodturners (Portland, OR)

www.cascadewoodturners.com

Meets 3rd Thursday 6:45 PM at Willamette Carpenters Training Center, 4222 NE 158th Ave., Portland

Beaver State Woodturners (Eugene, OR)

www.beaverstatewoodturners.com

Meets 4th Thursday 6:00 PM at the Woodcraft Store, 1052 Green Acres Rd, Eugene

Oregon Coast Woodturners (Newport, OR)

www.oregoncoastwoodturners.com

Meets 3rd Saturday 10:00 AM at Hasting Coastal Woodworks, 3333 SE Ferry Slip Rd, South Beach, OR

Southwest Washington Woodturners (Vancouver, WA)

www.southwestwashingtonwoodturners.com

Meets 4th Wednesday 7:00 PM at Friends of the Carpenter's Center, 1600 West 20th St, Vancouver, WA

The Burl is a monthly newsletter publication of the **Willamette Valley Woodturners**.....

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President	Darcy Tataryn
Vice President	Jeff Zens
Secretary	Ron Freshour
Treasurer	Henrik Åberg
Past President	Bob Hutchinson
Board Position 1	Kate Selby
Board Position 2	Terry Gerros

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Librarians	Terry Gerros/Paul Hirt
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	Bruce Stangeby (Mentors)
	Bob Hutchinson (State Fair)

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Checks payable to: Willamette Valley Woodturners
Send changes to roster information (address, e-mail, phone#) to Henrik Åberg (henrikeaberg@gmail.com)

Send contributions to the Burl by the end of Wednesday the week prior to our meeting to:
henrikeaberg@gmail.com

Send all other club correspondence to the clubs official address:

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