



The Burl

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



Member chapter

Volume 27, Issue 12

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

December, 2023



Next Meeting: 6:30-8:30 PM, December 14, 2023
Salem 50+ Center

December President's Message:

Happy Holidays Willamette Valley Woodturners!

Yup, the Holidays are upon us; may we all survive!

So we have a new Board elected as of the last meeting whose terms start as of January 1st. President is Larry Curry, Vice President is Kip Allen, Secretary is Chris Burke,

Membership Director is Jeff Wimer, and At Large position is Mark Choitz. Dick Powell stays on as Treasurer and I get to stay on as Past President... Congratulations to all and THANKS SO MUCH for taking on the jobs.

Also, it is with deep gratitude that we still have Brian Skaar as our newsletter editor. As he could no longer continue as secretary, I was rather afraid the newsletter would drift into oblivion. One other former At Large Board member is Randy Nichols. Thanks so much for all you have done and will continue to do for the club with the woodlot being available. I know of no other club that has this resource; it's amazing! I'll continue to rely on Jeff Zens as a Past President mentor and GoTo guy for questions on process and OH YEAH Thanks for all you do as Webmaster. And keeping the supplies and inventory of Walnut oil and anchor seal at the ready! The club has little idea how much you do for us! (Oh! And can't forget the Craft Supplies order manager!)

Jumping right into the last event of the year, I'll recap our efforts at the Empty Bowls event. The entire event brought in about \$26,797. There are still a few determinations to be made about some donations and sponsorships. And the Willamette Art Center has some expenses to account for.

For our part, it's fairly straight forward. We sold \$1,745 in turned items and accounted for \$342 in our proportion of a raffle item. So we had \$2087 in revenues donated. They said they would allocate an amount for the lids we turned, but that number has not been turned in yet. In discussions, they suggested a wood turned lid could enhance the value by another 30% to 40%. I think we turned in about 20 lidded items (unofficially).

Thanks so much to everyone providing the Bowls! I think we had just a few more than 100. And to the Volunteers who helped put on the event, thank you SO much!

Our hard-working team of demonstrators included Paul Hirt (Thanks again for the loan of the lathe!), Jonah Miller, Darcy Tatyrrn, and myself. Lots of tops and goodwill was provided. Jonah was also featured in a Statesman Journal article. I got one call referencing that, so I know somebody saw the article.

All-in it was a good event for registering the club's name in deeds and actions.

The next thing the club **members** need to consider is getting the **club dues** current for 2024. As mentioned previously, there is a list of folks who will have their dues waived for 2024 because they volunteered at the Oregon Symposium. For the remaining folks, annual dues are late as of January 1st. The club Treasurer would like to have us all pay by check to avoid the processing fees associated with PayPal. But if that works for you and you want to keep it simple, please do. It is available on the website.

The OWS volunteers I know of (in no particular order) include Randy Nichols, Larry Curry, Brian Skaar, Jen Lance, Roger Clark, Sam Sapp, Bill Caffy, Jeff Zens, Mark Choitz, Dick Powell, Ed Cinquini, Glen Jones and Kathy and Jonah Miller and oh yeah, myself. But it could not have been done without the OWS Board including our own Paul Hirt, Terry Gerros and Henrik Aberg. THANKS EVERYONE!

Looking forward, the next meeting will include a demo by Reed Gray. I understand that this will be a focus on threading jigs for making lidded items. I know the idea resounds with a high degree of desire to be able to do this. I have never been able to make my hand chasers work. Probably due to lack of really good hard wood (that's

what I tell myself...). Apparently, a jig can even work in a slightly softer hardwood like maple. Come to the meeting to find out!

The Show N Tell item focus for December is to bring an Ornament. My guess is anything for the holidays theme will work. Sounds appropriate to the season. Thanks **Chuck Fell** for organizing this.

The AAW Portland Symposium has offered a \$40 discount for registering as a club member if you are also an AAW member. I have acquired a bundle of the discount codes so when you go to register, let me know and I'll get you the code. This is in addition to the early bird registration fee savings. I'm not sure when that evaporates; might be soon or already passed??? There is also a discount at a nearby hotel if desired. The Hyatt Regency is right next door and saves a trip up and down the freeway. Additionally, you might find yourself hobnobbing in the hotel lobby with internationally known woodturners. Great opportunities!

As an **end of term** note, I will remind everyone that it has become a tradition to submit a new **gavel** to the incoming President for his personal use and ownership. In my own case two years ago, I selected a fine instrument created by Jonah and Kathy Miller at a class provided by Paul Hirt. It was selected as a Great reminder that effort results in the making of a thing.

Now looking forward, Larry may well want to select an object that has exceptional craftsmanship such as that made by Jim Devorss. My soul was severely tried by that mighty gavel. I still remember the details of precision, spectacular balance, and not to mention the knurling! OMG. Please **consider bringing a gavel to the January meeting for our new leader!**

Well, I think this wraps up my term of office and I would like to say it has been a great experience. While there are, of course, days that test one's will to carry forward, it has all been for the greater good of the club. I certainly hope the members have considered my efforts have met the needs of the club. I will continue to be available as past president, and will continue to do all I can to help the club in its efforts to meet the goals, intents, and purpose of the club.

Happy Holidays and Stay Sharp for Happy Turning!

Marc

Upcoming Presenters and Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Presenter/Event</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Follow-Up/notes</u>
12/14/23	Reed Gray	Threading Jig	
12/17/23	Sawdust Session	As needed	9 AM-3 PM-ish, Darcy Tataryn's Studio Wear your nametag and come learn or teach or practice or visit. May get to try your hand at threading!
1/11/24	Sally Ault	Lidded Sea Urchin Boxes	
12/17/23	Sawdust Session	As needed	9 AM-3 PM-ish, Darcy Tataryn's Studio Wear your nametag and come learn or teach or practice or visit.



December presenter: Reed Gray

The demo will be with the Baxter Threading jig. Got started with threading jigs and cutters via a 3 day workshop at Nick Stagg's place with Bonnie Klein. I turn on mini lathes for this part. I use waste blocks which are mounted on 1 by 8 tpi locking nuts so I can do them in batches. I rough turn and let them sit for a while. Then glue them to the waste blocks. I will show the making of the waste blocks. I will include 'timing' the threads, which makes/allows the grain to line up, and will show some finishing. The techniques will





apply to the Chef Ware kits as well. I will be using two mini lathes. I have found out it is really helpful to have a second lathe so the cutter and jig can remain seated on one lathe, and do all my turning on the other lathe. I will cover tools, tool rests, and woods. I am working on a video that will

complement this demo.

Word from the Library

Roger is happy to see items going to members and getting used but wants to remind folks to not let them languish for too long at your homes. A couple months and then bring them back for the next patron! *(Editor's note-I'd appreciate a word or two on materials you've found especially good that I can include in the Burl.)*



Year of Challenges from Chuck Fell

Dec. Holiday ornament
Jan. Bowl with piercing
Feb. Vase with any type of enhancements
Mar. Lidded Box
April Goblet
May Prep for Symposium
June Sphere
July Spinning top
Aug. Calabash Bowl
Sept. Wing Vessel
Oct. Anything with 3 woods
Nov. Platter or Plate
Note: Enhance any project as you wish (ex. texturing, coloring, burning, piercing, etc)

November Sawdust Session: Another fine time was had at

Darcy's place with some 25 folks in total during my time there. Jeff showed his dedicated rest for sharpening his negative rake scrapers and later a few folks knocked out the pricing of the club pieces donated for the Empty Bowls event (thanks to y'all!). I got a chance to crank out a bowl on the new huge Rikon. One word: smooth...Chris got going on a large gnarly looking burl. Look forward to seeing that!





Getting the Most from Sawdust Sessions

We have been doing our current format for sawdust sessions for quite a while now. The program has grown. New turners are getting the help they need. Club members are developing new skills. Friendships are being made. It is nice that we get to see each other outside of the monthly meetings.

To keep the sawdust sessions successful, and to help members get the most out of the session, here are some helpful suggestions and guidelines for sawdust sessions.

Set Goals

To really benefit from the Club's monthly Sawdust Sessions, preparation is important. Turners who have no idea what they want to accomplish each month are less likely to improve their turning than those who have a goal in mind. Know what you want to turn: are you working on tool handles? Pens? Bowls? Or, know what you want to practice: do you need to brush up on your sharpening skills? Have you recently purchased a new tool and want help making it work? Once you make these decisions, you should take additional steps to prepare.

Get Ready

If you know what you want to accomplish, you can gather the proper tools, select your wood blanks, and have your equipment ready to go on Sunday morning. But: what if you simply don't know what you need? Get in touch with one of the regular Sunday mentors – Darcy Tataryn, Jim Devorss, Larry Curry, Mark Vickery, Walt Thies, Brian Skaar or Jeff Zens – and ask questions. Mentors are all willing to assist club members get ready, so plan to take advantage of their availability and experience. What if you don't have any wood? There is a limited supply of stock on hand at Darcy's shop, but it might not be suitable for the project you're considering (see below for more on this topic). If you don't have your own wood, you'll need to be flexible in your project selection. Signing up for the Wood Gatherers group is a superb way to increase your inventory, as is touching base with Randy Nichols, who has plenty of stock on hand for the club.

Some projects, like pens, bottle stoppers, pizza cutters, etc. can require significant advance preparation and specialty tools such as mandrels. It would be a good idea to call Darcy ahead of the session to help determine if what you need will be available.

Check in with a Mentor

When you get to Darcy's shop, please check in with a mentor. Discuss what you want to do. Have your tools available. The mentor will most likely want to look at the tools you have on hand, and if they aren't sharp, will either direct you to the proper grinder or help you get sharp edges. Having sharp tools is essential, for your own satisfaction and for the safety of everyone else in the shop. Dull tools require unnecessary pressure on the workpiece and are more likely to result in the workpiece separating from the lathe. Of course, if you're already proficient at sharpening, this step should be completed at home, before you leave for the Sawdust Session.

Once the tools are ready to go, the mentor will get you set up on the most appropriate lathe for your project. Please don't grab the first lathe you see, or your "favorite," without talking to a mentor first.

Be Curious and Open

During the Sawdust Session, you should expect mentors to check in with you several times. If we see or hear something that might signal a problem, we'll step over to see what you're working on. Mentors attend the sessions to help, so please be willing to accept it. Remember that we are guests, and most sessions are crowded. Mentors will be concerned for safety of everyone present, and for the care and preservation of the lathes, tools and other equipment in the shop. If your turning techniques might result in injury to you or others, or damage to the equipment, mentors are expected to offer assistance. Please be open to these suggestions – they are offered entirely in the spirit of helping participants improve and learn.

Be Respectful

The club is extremely fortunate to have access to a great shop each month, and it's really important to remember that *almost every tool in the shop is personal property*, not the Club's. Here are a few "rules of the road" on this subject:

- Tools in the black tool cabinets are **not** for Sawdust Session users. Exceptions can be made by asking Darcy, Marc or Jeff, who will look at the work, and determine if one of Darcy's personal tools is required. Using a tool from Darcy's chest is generally meant to demonstrate how a particular tool or tool type might help the project in question. The goal would be to encourage the club member to consider purchasing a similar tool for their long-term benefit. Participants should not expect to be equipped from the tool cabinets month after month.
- There are four sets of club tools available in the shop, and these are provided for club member use. As you progress as a turner, you should begin to acquire your own tools. If club tools get dull, let one of the mentors know and they will either show you how to sharpen, or get the edge restored for you.
- Some tools need to be sharpened on white or gray wheels, while others can be sharpened on the metal CBN wheels on Darcy's grinders. If you don't know which is which, ask a mentor. Using the incorrect wheel can damage or destroy it.
- There is a specific shelf in the upper shop called the "Sharing Shelf" where free wood can be found. This wood is set aside for Sawdust Session participants. Wood in the lower shop, on other shelves, or anywhere else is not for club member use. If you need some specific wood and can't find it on the shelf check with Darcy.
- If you take wood from the "Sharing Shelf", please consider bringing some with you the next month to share with someone else. Thank you to all who donate regularly. Some beautiful pieces have been made from those pieces.
- Consumables. The club does not currently store items such as *glue, sandpaper, finishes* etc. at Darcy's shop. Please consider bringing a supply of what you need. If you don't know what you need or do not have what you need, please ask.
- Power tools. Please ask before using other power tools such as table saws, bandsaws, mitre saws etc.

Wrapping Up

For many of us, time at the lathe is not as plentiful as we would like, and we need to make the most of the time we have. Some of us have heard the phrase "Plan your work, then work your plan," and it's certainly appropriate for Sawdust Sessions. If you have a good idea what you want to achieve, you can be better prepared with tools, workpieces and questions, and your lathe time will be productive. Preparation coupled with an understanding that we are all guests in Darcy's shop will result in safe, productive Sundays.

Woodgathering Event:

Member Archie let Marc know he had access to some black walnut south of Albany and Dec. 2 at 10AM was set to meet and harvest some wood! Upon meeting we found those of us with 2 wheel drive vehicles would not be able to navigate some of the slickest wet clay in the valley but it wasn't a long walk from the pile to our vehicles. Most of the wood was massive which fit right into Marc's wheelhouse! I was only able to attend for a short time, but got a few pieces that will be beautiful. Thanks Archie and Marc!





November meeting notes:

Pres. Marc gavelled the meeting to order at 6:30 immediately following with the Pledge of Allegiance. 58 folks were in the room!

-First order of business was the election of the board. With no new nominations, the president, vice president, membership director, and secretary ran unopposed and were voted in by a voice count. Three members were in the running for the sole at-large position and after recounting the paper ballots three times, Mark Choitz had been elected to the position. Congratulations and thank you to each for taking on the positions!

Chuck took the group through the large Show-n-Tell collection (see pics below) and the ornaments brought in as the theme for the month's challenge (carried over into the December meeting). Great work members!

***Jimmie and family brought a huge display of their excellent D-Way and Boxmaster tools for sale and before the meeting and at the break members and guests got a chance to peruse and buy. *(I hope I can master the sharpening of the couple I procured. They have been great, but I haven't put them to the wheel yet...)*

Presenter: Jimmie Allen

Jimmie took us through his process for turning small lidded boxes using mostly his D-Way scrapers and beading tools. He also talked about sharpening, other tools, and other points to consider in crafting these boxes.

Jimmie's complete presentation to the Northwest Woodturners is on-line at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DitOPmxOfuo&t=1579s>

and is the best way to revisit what he shared with us. It is essentially the same presentation and way more complete than any recap I can provide here.

These are just a few observations that may or may not be covered in the video.

*Jimmie likes to make boxes with a precise suction fit.

*Design wise, he likes to make the widest part of his base and lid the same.

*He uses a screw-on chuck holding a waste block that he glues the pieces to. This method allows him to remove and replace the piece on the lathe in the exact same position over and over. *(This really shows well in the video)*

*Jimmie had the lathe running at between 2000 and 3200 for most of the turning!

*He covers sharpening well in the video. The top bevel of his scraper is around 20° and does not get ground very often. The bottom bevel is at a steeper 70° and gets touched up often using his very fast upside down method to create his burr. *(See the article below by Jeff Zens.)*

(This is a video made by Jimmie and Eric Lofstrom showing both Jimmie's and Eric's methods for sharpening the cutting edge on the negative rake scraper.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YsatMuK1Ei8>

*Jimmie's concluding tip was "Don't stress" saying it takes the fun out and shows in your pieces.





Above: Jimmie often uses his tools unhandled for light, finishing cuts.



Above: Making the tenon for the lid, his hand drill, the 3 second sharpening pass.



Above: Quick touch up on a diamond stone, close up of his finger wrapped around the post of the tool rest, his preferred method for control.



Above: Shopping, Jimmie likes precisely matching beads above and below the joint.



Above: Amazing streamer shavings, some spindle gouge work, and the long pointed scraper in action.



Thanks for the visit Jimmie and family! We appreciated your friendly way, detailed explanations, and approachable methods!

Negative-rake sharpening article by Jeff Zens

The Willamette Valley Woodturners November Presenter, Jimmie Allen, made a lovely lidded box using a variety of tools. Many of these were negative-rake scrapers he manufactures and markets under the Boxmaster brand. Because they hold an edge well, he didn't need to spend a lot of time at the grinder. During the demo, it seemed to me that a lot of members were making tool purchases, and it occurred to me that a quick discussion of how to sharpen these tools might be in order. These are not my techniques - they are Jimmie's, and they are the method he uses in his shop during the manufacturing process. I should note here that you can use these same techniques to create negative-rake scrapers from your existing scrapers and they will work in a similar fashion to a Boxmaster tool.

Use Dedicated Platforms

The key to getting these tools sharp, quickly and efficiently, is to use two different, dedicated grinding platforms, one for the "top" bevel, and one for the "bottom" bevel.

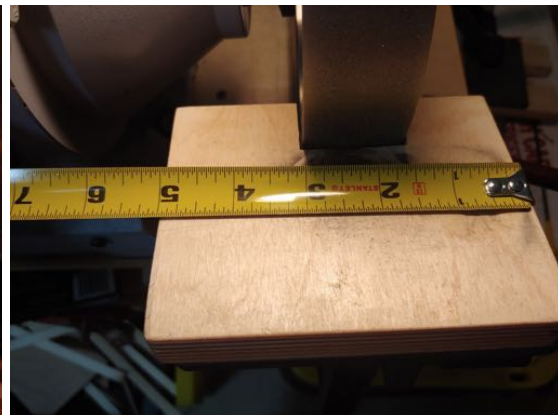
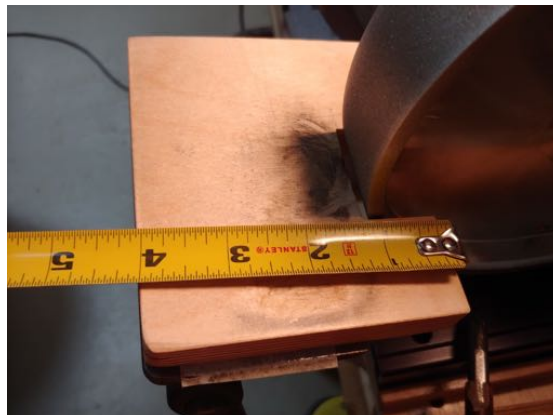


Of the two, you will sharpen the "bottom" bevel frequently, and the "top" bevel rarely - but eventually you will need to re-create it. Dedicated platforms offer important benefits, including a huge reduction in setup time, and very rapid return to work. Additionally, because you're not making a new bevel every time you move to the grinder, you're removing substantially less tool steel with each grinding. The time and tool savings, in my experience, outweigh the additional expense. If two dedicated platforms seem extravagant, purchase one now for the bottom bevel, and another one later when it's time to re-establish the top bevel.



You will want to attach an auxiliary wooden platform to the Wolverine (or your own) grinding platform. The left photo shows the auxiliary platform I use for the “top” bevel. The size isn’t terribly important, but the cutout that allows the grinding wheel to be embedded in the platform is essential for tool support and safety. My platforms are cut to the width of the Wolverine base (see the photos below of the other base) but this dimension is not at all critical. I used epoxy to attach the $\frac{3}{4}$ ” (18mm) Baltic birch ply platforms after doing trial runs using double-sided tape. The platform is adjusted to the grind angle of the top bevel the first time you use it, and then locked in place and left alone.

The other platform is made in the same manner, illustrated below.



The photo at left illustrates two points about sharpening the “bottom” bevel, which you will do frequently. First, note that the tool rest is angled down, toward the bottom of the wheel. Next, you’ll see that the tool is “upside down” - in other words, the top of the tool rests on the platform. This sharpening position places the burr created by the wheel on top of the tool, where you want it during use. Once you have your tool rest properly adjusted to the grind angle of the scraper, leave it alone. Sharpening the tool should take no more than one or two gentle passes along the bevel, sweeping along the curve of the scraper, and should take less than 10 seconds once the wheel is up to speed.

At right is the platform for sharpening the top bevel. The technique

is identical to the bottom: the tool is face-down on the platform, and grinding takes only one or two passes. Grinding the top bevel removes the burr, so you must follow up by sharpening the bottom bevel before the tool is ready to go. You won’t need to dress the top very often, but when you do, the dedicated platform will save you time and tool steel.

Many of us use the Wolverine system for our lathe tools, and separate platforms are available at [Craft Supplies USA here](#). Be sure to use the club’s CSUSA order process to save on the platforms and shipping!



Feel free to get in touch if you have questions about sharpening these great tools.

Gallery :







For Sale:

A gentleman from Turner, Terry Boehme, contacted us regarding a lathe. He plans to upgrade.

Asking only \$500.

The lathe is in good shape and is good sized.

(503) 931-4601

(If unable to read the fine print, it is a ¾ hp, MT2, 1" x 12TPI, weighs 300 lbs and has a speed range of 600-2400 rpm.)



Membership Rewards

Chain Sharpening Service from Jeff Zens: I have an electric chain sharpener and can accurately sharpen your chains and adjust depth stops for your saw chains. This service will restore the chain to “factory-new” condition. Most chains for 18" and shorter bars can be sharpened for \$10.00. Longer chains (up to 30" bars) are \$20.00. Badly damaged chains might be a little bit more. I will also tell you if the chain has reached the end of its useful life, and will not sharpen a chain beyond that point. This price is only available for club members.

Supplies-See Jerry Lelack at club meetings

The club purchases a few supplies in bulk and sells them to members at club cost.

*CA superglue (\$7), black or brown superglue (\$10) accelerator (\$10).

*Half round protractors (\$6) used to measure the angle ground on a tool

*Depth gauges (\$5)

*HSS ¼" x 8" Round Tool Bits rods

*Anchorseal (\$9/gal) and walnut oil (\$20/gal) are available through **Jeff Zens**. You will need to bring your own gallon containers; contact [Jeff](#) to make arrangements.

Wood Gathering

Anyone who learns of a tree or log that is available to the club should notify **Randy Nichols**.

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.

Club Member Discounts

• **Club Member Discounts at Craft Supply:** The club's order is processed the Monday following our Club

meeting if it equals or exceeds \$1,000. Craft Supplies offers us a 10% discount **plus** free shipping on almost all items (lathes and other heavy items are excluded) and occasional additional discounts on certain other items and quantity purchases. If you order from Craft Supplies current sale 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 **January 2022 Burl**, available on the club's website. Questions? See [Jeff Zens](#).

- 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.exoticwoodsusa.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

Cascade Woodturners (Portland, OR)

www.cascadewoodturners.com

Beaver State Woodturners (Eugene, OR)

www.beaverstatewoodturners.com

Oregon Coast Woodturners (Newport, OR)

www.oregoncoastwoodturners.com

Southwest Washington Woodturners (Vancouver, WA)

www.southwestwashingtonwoodturners.com

South Coast Woodturners (Coos Bay, OR)

www.southcoastwoodturners.com

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

<u>Executive Board</u>		<u>Non-Executive Positions</u>	
President	Marc Vickery	Webmaster	Jeff Zens
Vice President	Larry Curry	Newsletter Editor	Brian Skaar
Secretary	Brian Skaar	Wood Gathering	Randy Nichols
Treasurer	Dick Powell	Librarian	Roger Dirkx
Past President	Jeff Zens	Glue/Supply Sales	Jerry Lelack
Board Position 1	Bruce Stangeby	Steam-Up Coordinator	Jim Devorss
Board Position 2	Randy Nichols	Mentor Coordinator	Paul Hirt
		State Fair Coordinator	Kip Allen
		Empty Bowls Coordinator	Darcy Tataryn
		Facilities Coordinator	OPEN
		Video Coordinator	Marc Vickery
		CraftSupplies Order	Jeff Zens

		Beads of Courage Membership Director	Mark Choitz Darcy Tataryn
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rlpowellsaf@gmail.com

Checks payable to: Willamette Valley Woodturners

Send changes to roster information (address, e-mail, phone#) to Dick Powell (rlpowellsaf@gmail.com)

Send all other club correspondence to the clubs official address:

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Club e-mail: vwturners@gmail.com