

# The Burl

A monthly newsletter for the  
**Willamette Valley Woodturners**  
e-mail: [vwturners@gmail.com](mailto:vwturners@gmail.com)  
We are also on Facebook



Member chapter

Volume 29, Issue 6

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

June, 2025



**Next Meeting: 6:30-8:30 PM, June 12, 2025**  
**Salem 50+ Center**

## June President's Message:

Well, I am still upright and semi functioning. Summer is almost here and so is the good weather. Don't let that keep you out of your shop. We need items for the display table and to fill

Chuck's challenge.

Time to start thinking about which shifts that you want to fill at the Benton County Fair and the State Fair. They are only a couple of months away.

Brian Skaar is coordinating Benton County and Kip Allen is coordinating the State Fair. Contact them for details.

And possibly we will be a presence at Steam-Up again! Ed Cinquini said he had connections to the event and will head up our effort.

Remember, Kip has a great line up of demonstrators so feel free to bring friends and family to the monthly meetings.

Happy turning! See you Thursday.

Larry Curry

## Year of Challenges from Chuck

### Fell: 2025

January: Cereal Bowl or Porringer

February \* Hollow Form

March \* Plate or Bowl with 4 square edge

April \* A turning which has a charred finish

May \* 3 Legged Vessel

**June \* Find an old wood turning at thrift shop, or wherever you may find one, and rework or reuse it. Take and bring the picture of the "before" so we know the starting point (Suggestion by Mark Choitz)**

July \* Something with live edge

August \* For the kitchen (or grill or...cooking theme)

September \* Candle stick holder off axis

Check out Carl Jacobson's video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ftsz8DFXcQM>

October \* Something way outside your comfort zone

November \* Miniature form no larger than 2" x 2"

December \* Christmas Ornament or Holiday decoration

**Note:** Enhance any project as you wish [ex. texturing, coloring, burning, piercing,?]

## Upcoming Presenters and Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Presenter/Event</u>	<u>Topic</u>
June 12	WVW members	Christmas Ornaments (Kip thinks it a good idea to not wait until December to get started on them)
June 22	Sawdust Session	<b>Note: This is a week later than typical due to family obligations the typical date</b>
July 10	Carl Jacobson	Will try again since he got aced out by the weather in February!
July 13	Sawdust Session	As needed: 9 AM-1 PM, Darcy Tataryn's Studio Wear your nametag and come learn or teach or practice or visit!
July 26-27 Aug 2-3	Steam-Up	May have a demo booth! <a href="https://www.antiquepowerland.com/steam-up">https://www.antiquepowerland.com/steam-up</a>
July 30 -Aug 2	Benton Co Fair	This event overlaps with the 2nd weekend of the Steam-Up

August 14	Eric Loftstrom	<i>TBA</i>
Aug 22- Sept 1	State Fair	To the left are the dates of the Fair; TBA which days we will have a booth.

It is with a heavy heart I'm letting folks know two past members have passed away. **Stan Page** passed away in April at the age of 88. **Steve Wolfenbarger** passed in May at 72. Both are remembered as super friendly great guys who were more than willing to help club members and with the club as a whole. Steve had a large complete shop and his family has asked for help with the sale of many of his tools with a portion of the proceeds going to WWV. Generous indeed. Our condolences to both families.

### **June presenters: Brian Skaar and Walt Thies**

I (Brian) will crank out 2 or 3 seasonal spindle turnings I do quite regularly. I will mainly use spindle gouges, the skew, and the parting tool. I'll talk just a bit about finishing and design. And I'll have the lathe going at a good high speed so the catches might be spectacular...

Walt has a huge catalog of ornaments he's done over the years and will share the steps he takes to make two or three of them. Hopefully we'll get his instructions to add to the presenter files as his ornaments can be sophisticated and his instructions are wonderfully detailed.

### **May Meeting Notes:**

President **Larry** called the meeting to order and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30 sharp with a fine crowd of 43 folks in the room.

#### **Announcements:**

-**Larry** began the meeting with news that he'd been diagnosed with liver cancer. He'd been going through a lot of exams and working with doctors on a plan.

-**Larry** also announced the reception of \$1500 from the Oregon Woodturning Symposium!

-**Larry** began a discussion on the status of our Craft Supplies deal. CS has changed a number of their policies regarding club orders including not allowing gift cards and not counting back ordered items as counting toward the \$1k threshold for the benefit.

Discussion was whether to continue the relationship or explore other vendors. Most comments supported moving on with both Klingspor and Rockler being put out there for consideration.

-**Larry** also had a collection of white oak in a truck available at the break!

-**Jeff Z** shared a fun story of an email he received as webmaster from a writer in Brownsville, Texas. The writer was perusing a Goodwill website, saw and purchased a lovely lidded box dated 2018 on the bottom. And the turner's name on the bottom was **Mark Choitz**. The writer took the time to find out Mark was a member of WWV and also

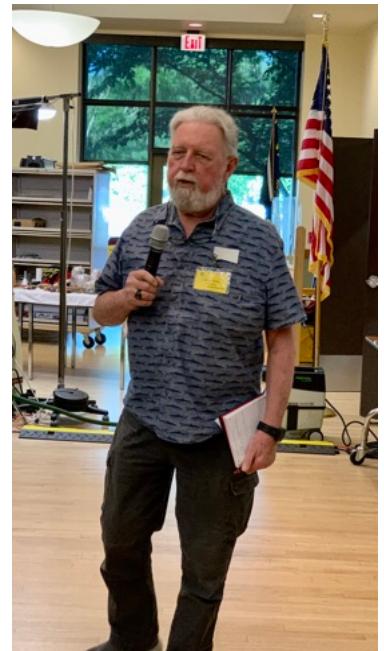
the time to write a note of appreciation of Mark's skill and our club's important role. Great story!

-**Larry** asked if there was interest in demonstrating at the Steam-Up (there was) and if anyone would like to head it up. As noted above, **Ed Cinquini** said he had connections with the organisers and would head up our efforts. Thanks Ed!

-**Chuck** invited Mark C to introduce the next Challenge, that being a reworking of a thrift shop find, a project he'd seen in an edition of the AAW magazine (see Mark's story below of his adventure with the challenge).

### **Presenter: Bill Karow-Erosions**

Bill began with a bit of his history. He said he began in earnest about 15 years ago when at his grandfather's place in Montana where he saw the family "key bowl" which is where the family, as indicated by the name, stored the jumble of family keys. He got curious about turning and went on the self-teaching journey on-line to learn. He said while entertaining, he improved much faster once he joined the clubs in the Portland area where his skills grew much more successfully.





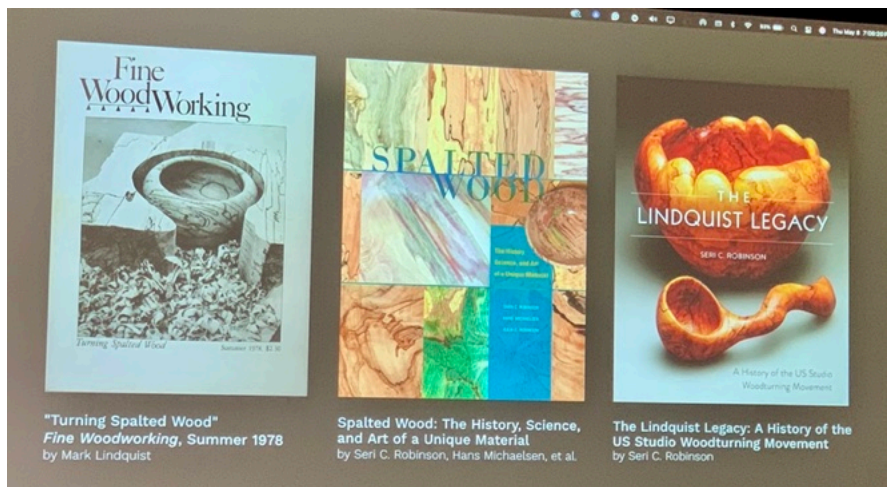
**Spalting** is caused by different fungi that colonize and break down wood.

**Zone Lines:** Dark, distinct boundary lines formed where different fungal colonies compete for territory. (melanin)

**Pigmentation:** Certain fungi produce dark or brightly colored stains in the wood.

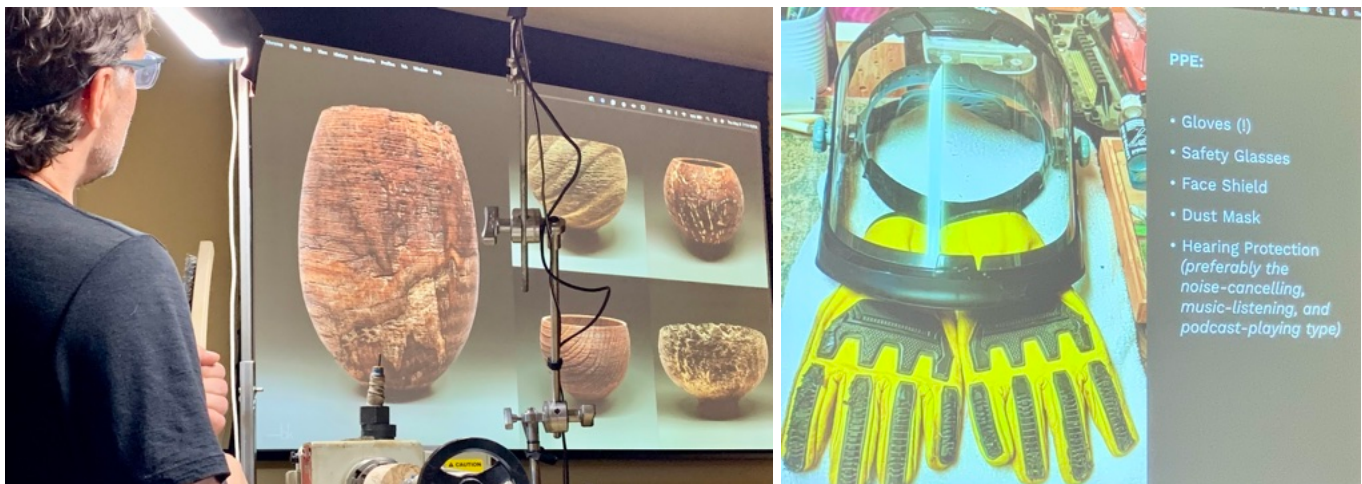
**White Rot:** Fungi that digest lignin, leaving the wood bleached, softer, and fibrous.

**Soft Rot:** Fungi that break down cellulose, often creating a brittle, cracked texture.



Above: Bill talked about spalting a great deal and gave shout outs to Seri Robinson and Mark Linquist. He likes to work with spalted wood, but said that it's tough to find the ideal mix of punky and solid wood that results in his favorite look. Bill said he got curious about texturing spalted wood, put a wire brush to a piece, loved it and has been experimenting ever since.

Below: Bill took us through a slide show to show us the variety of effects he's been getting (see his website for these). He talked about coloring techniques he's used including bleaching to make pieces white and fuming (ammonia in a container in a box) and charring to make pieces black. *(I tried a black alcohol based dye. It went right through the piece. Not good. Dots inside. Ugly. Was showing it to a teacher and how much I disliked it and that it was destined for the fire. He kept it. Go figure...)* Bill was big on safety gear. Besides the normal, the gloves are important as the wire brushes are brutal on the hands.



#### FINISHES:

- Matte Fixativ
- Satin or Semi-Gloss Clear Wood Finish (Lacquer)
- Krylon Matte Finish
- Spray or brush acrylic paint
- Brush on India Ink

For the most part, I do NOT use oils (linseed, Danish, walnut, etc.) as they will darken the surface and reduce the visual effect.



Above: Bill has tried many finishes, but likes the spray-on matte finish lacquer best for the outside. He said he doesn't like oil at all as it muddies the look too much. Dust collecting is a big deal as wire brushing produces a ton. He picked up this plastic "velocity stack" to attach to his vacuum. The rim design causes dust to be pulled in from a much wider distance than the diameter of the cup. Fascinating!

Below: The basic wire brush is his main go to. Bill did say they need to be sharpened and did so with just a couple



passes on each side. *(I found the sharpening made a huge difference when I tried the technique.)*



Above: Bill showed a couple other wire brushes he uses and then used a regular brush to start “eroding” a piece in spindle orientation. Running the lathe at about 1000 rpm, he went after a 3”x5” piece of spalted maple. An amazing amount of sawdust flowed right into the velocity stack!

Below: He got deep results after a very short time! Bill then reshaped the piece into a bud vase with the final smoothing cuts being made with a homemade pointed scraper made from a planer blade.



Above right: I missed getting a pic but Bill drilled a  $\frac{5}{8}$ ” hole for a plastic test tube. He uses a waxed spade bit starting very slowly to keep it centered and then speeding up. He then inserts a spindle sander tube into the hole which (below) a cone live center goes into for more work.

Bill next mounted a rough turned piece of sequoia saying that it’s very frustrating to turn as it’s so soft and the tear out is very prevalent, but that it erodes great!





Above: Bill says it's important to do the eroding first as it can change the shape of the piece a great deal and that the depth of the erosion affects the wall thickness of the piece. He also says he gets the best results going in both forward and reverse.

Below: This piece of maple had both solid and spalted sections. Bill turned another bud vase and then eroded focusing more on the spalted areas.



Below: Bill showed this wheel with bent wires that he mounted on a spindle so he could, using two hands, get really aggressive, deep eroding. On pieces with solid and eroded sections, sanding is tougher. Bill uses stiff foam backed paper or sandpaper mounted on a solid backing resulting in just the taller, solid wood being touched by the sandpaper.





Below: Bill likes to make the inside of his pieces smooth to accentuate the contrast.



*Wow! Thanks Bill! When we saw your pieces at the Oregon Woodturning Symposium we weren't sure what we were looking at. Was it sandblasted? Powerwashed? What?... You cleared it up and made it all accessible and us excited to give it a go. Thanks again! (Pic to the right: AI or real? Looks like too many fingers... Ha!)*



## Gallery

Folks must have been busy during the month of May; we had a pretty small number of items. However, they looked great per usual. Rick J's piece was our sole 3 legged piece. Well done Rick and well done WVVW!





Above: Shelley

Below: Brian Skaar, Gary Dahrens (both hollowed from the bottom as learned in the Dave Landers class)



Above: Shelley; Dave Pitman

Below: Walt Thies (experiments with the off-center jig from Carl Jacobson), Rick Jarosz





## Goodwill to Gallery Challenge—by Mark Choitz

After reading Kurt Hertzog’s article “Garage Sale Bowl” (AAW Journal, October 2024, pp. 17–21), I was reminded of a conversation I had with a friend a few years back. He had been poking around a Goodwill store looking for wood to turn. That got me thinking—why not search for bowls, boxes, or other turned pieces with the potential for a second life?

Kurt’s goal of transforming a castoff into a Beads of Courage bowl was an ambitious one for such humble beginnings. But really, isn’t that the spirit of woodturning? How many of our best projects began life as firewood?

Last fall, I found my own candidate in the Corvallis Goodwill store for \$9.99. It was a glue-up of four pieces, originally purchased from the Myrtlewood store in North Bend, Oregon. For those unfamiliar, the Myrtlewood shops sprang up decades ago as tourists began exploring the Oregon Coast by

car. What better souvenir than something made from the region’s mysterious and beautiful myrtlewood?

The piece I found was clearly a misfit. The lid didn’t fit quite right, the form was shallow and clunky, and the base bore **original faceplate screw holes**.

As I pondered its future, I couldn’t help but think about the original turner. Who were they? What inspired them? Why had this piece ended up in a thrift store? And most importantly—what could I do to give it a facelift?

First order of business: reshape the foot and strip away that old finish. The box revealed itself to be a myrtlewood glue-up with what appeared to be a walnut base—and yes, a lovely crack just to make things interesting.

When I measured the lid, I discovered the problem wasn’t with the lid itself, but the recess—it had warped. Once I rematched the lid to a newly cut recess, I hollowed out the interior to improve the proportions. I wanted to preserve the original label on the underside of the lid, so I left it as-is.

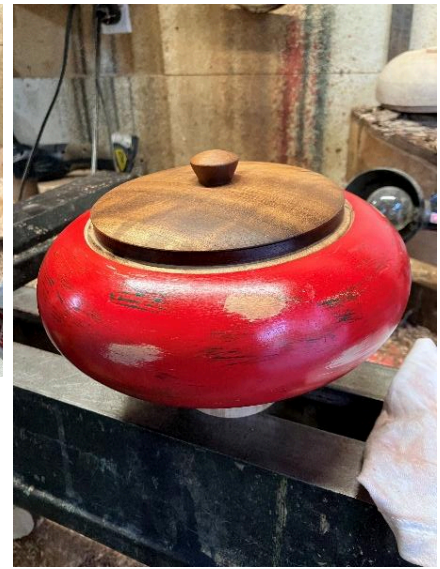


To bring everything together, I reduced the walnut recess, added a coat of red milk paint,





scuffed it back for character, and finished the whole thing with Tried & True Original.



challenge and a joy. There's something uniquely satisfying about taking a forgotten object and reimagining it with fresh eyes—and sharp tools. I hope you tried your hand at giving new life to an old piece of wood. If you did, make sure you bring it to the next club meeting!



### **Super Event-by Brian Skaar**

Well, last night, Friday, from 6-8PM Dick Powell was in his element. He is the featured artist for the month at Gallery Calapooia in Albany and the artist's reception was held. Dick was there and self-admittedly pretty frail, but his humor, intellect, and grace was as strong as ever and he gave time to each and every of the **many** visitors that came through the door.

My wife and I were very happy to see so many people from the club, his former business, and family friends. So many folks showed up that we overwhelmed the HVAC system and it got warm! I enjoyed visiting with folks to the point I completely forgot to take any pictures. Oops.

Luckily Dick's daughter is a master of capturing the moment and shared a few with me as seen below. Thank you Candi!



The following is the "artist's statement" Dick has posted as part of his display.

Wood – one of the greatest natural resources on Earth! Wood has been essential since the beginning of civilization when people discovered they could cook and heat with it. Then they found they could fire clay and make storage containers. Wood floats so rafts and ships were made to transport people and goods great distances over water. Similarly, the invention of the wooden wheel allowed for the movement of people and goods great distances over land. Later, people discovered fire would extract metals from the earth which led to the Bronze Age.

Wood (or lack of it) sometimes changed history. Mesopotamia collapsed when their forests were gone and their irrigation canals could not be kept clear of sediment. Once the Italian Peninsula had been largely de-forested, the Romans coveted their neighbor's trees for ships, baths, and smelting silver coins. Even in N. America, tall, straight trees were reserved for the King's ships. In part, our Revolutionary War was because the French would pay more for our wood than the English King!

Today, wood is used for several thousand things though, unlike ancient times, we've discovered that wood can be grown sustainably and it can be reused and recycled.



In my work, I rarely buy wood. Instead, I salvage scraps from a recent harvest that would ordinarily be left to rot or I use wood given to me.

My recent resin pieces are all salvaged wood; some are, quite literally, taken from my firewood pile! I like using the “defects” (e.g., cracks, wormholes, rot, voids, etc.). Instead of trying to hide or discard those defects, I feature them. To me, those are all part of the wood’s history.

## **On the lathe!**

After last month’s meeting, I (Brian) was stoked to give “eroding” a bowl a try but before I could even find a wire brush I got a text and pic from **Mark Choitz**. He’d already tortured

a piece of ash to beauty! He used black Chestnut spirit stain to color it. Don’t know what that is but it looks great! (pic to right)



Also got a note from **Darcy Tataryn** that he had been working on a bowl that had some spalting, but that he just couldn’t bear to tear it up as the grain was too nice. He said it’s still on his “things to try” list though! (pics to left)

### ***From Mark Choitz:***

Rick Rich was our demonstrator last month at the Newport club. His primary focus was on skew chisel techniques, which he showcased by turning weed pots and a lighthouse. He also took time to share something new he had recently learned to make: a **Turmkreisel** — a spinning top that balances and spins atop a small tower.

It’s a fun and intriguing project with a few key details that need to be just right for it to work properly. When spun correctly, the top finishes by staying “hooked” on the platform at the top of the tower.

Here’s a good Youtube tutorial by Thomas Haeckel.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ufmK-Rw8zAI>

*(This video is in German with no subtitles that I could find but is easy to follow and Thomas seems like an amazing turner. Mike Peace does one in English at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKjAYWGyE6o&t=23s>)*



I (Brian Skaar) got after the ‘erosion’ technique on four bowls and learned a few things. One, as mentioned above, the alcohol based dye wicked right through the oak bowl I made. Two, I was eroding away and felt the handle of my brush getting warm, then hot, and then wires started popping out. I had melted some of the epoxy or glue or whatever held them in. Brushes need a break to cool down... Third, I learned on the 2nd one I need to spray the lacquer on the outside before I turn the inside.

And then there was

#3, as in this is the 3rd time I’ve gone through a hollowform. Darcy has implied I’ve got issues...







These are a couple projects on the school's lathes. Abby found the precise dimensions and a plan on Instructables and convinced her dad to order a blank for a bat. She's being very methodical and accurate. Really needs a steady rest... Eli has done a great job on a "bowl from a board" project! I may have had too much of an influence on him; he almost went through the bottom.



## 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 (\$8), black or brown superglue (\$10) accelerator (\$16).

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

\*Depth gauges (\$5)

\*HSS 1/4" 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 instructions for ordering, see the article accessed by clicking on "*read this document first*" which is linked to on the Place Group Order page in the Members Only part of our website. Questions? See [Jeff Zens](#).

- Club members are registered with **Klingspor's Woodworking Shop** at [www.woodworkingshop.com](http://www.woodworkingshop.com)



or 800-228-0000. They have your name and will give you a 10% discount.

- **Exotic Wood** is offering a discount of 15% off any orders placed at: [www.exoticwoodsusa.com](http://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.
- **Taylor Woodworks** offers 10% off your online order. Enter **Guild10** in the "Discount code or gift card" window when checking out.
- **Rockler** offers 10% off with a mention of membership to WVV as well.

## Club happenings in our area

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

**Northwest Woodturners** (Beaverton, OR)

[www.northwestwoodturners.com](http://www.northwestwoodturners.com)

**Cascade Woodturners** (Portland, OR)

[www.cascadewoodturners.com](http://www.cascadewoodturners.com)

**Beaver State Woodturners** (Eugene, OR)

<https://beaverstatewoodturners.org/>

**Oregon Coast Woodturners** (Newport, OR)

[www.oregoncoastwoodturners.com](http://www.oregoncoastwoodturners.com)

**Southwest Washington Woodturners** (Vancouver, WA)

[www.southwestwashingtonwoodturners.com](http://www.southwestwashingtonwoodturners.com)

**South Coast Woodturners** (Coos Bay, OR)

[www.southcoastwoodturners.com](http://www.southcoastwoodturners.com)

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

<u><b>Executive Board</b></u>		<u><b>Non-Executive Positions</b></u>	
President	Larry Curry	Webmaster	Jeff Zens
Vice President	Kip Allen	Newsletter Editor	Brian Skaar
Membership Director	Jeff Wimer	Wood Gathering	<b><u>OPEN</u></b>
Secretary	Terry Gerros	Librarian	Roger Dirkx
Treasurer	Dick Powell	Glue/Supply Sales	Jerry Lelack
Past President	Mark Vickery	Steam-Up Coordinator	<b><u>OPEN</u></b>
Board At-Large	Mark Choitz	Mentor Coordinator	Paul Hirt
		State Fair Coordinator	Kip Allen
		Empty Bowls Coordinator	Darcy Tataryn
		Facilities Coordinator	<b><u>OPEN</u></b>
		Video Coordinator	Marc Vickery
		CraftSupplies Order	Jeff Zens
		Beads of Courage	Mark Choitz
		Benton Co Fair	Brian Skaar
		OWS	Mark Choitz

Send dues & other financial matters to:

Dick Powell

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Checks payable to: Willamette Valley Woodturners

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

Send all other club correspondence to the club's official address via Dick Powell:

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[wwwturners@gmail.com](mailto:wwwturners@gmail.com)