



The Burl



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

Member chapter

Volume 23, Issue 1

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

January, 2019

Next Meeting
Thursday January 10, 2018 6:30 pm



2615 Portland Rd, NE. Salem, OR 97303

January 2019 President's Message

It is with no small amount of apprehension that I take over as your club president this month. As I write this, I reflect back on our club's presidents during my ten-year membership in this club. To Darcy, Bob, Terry, Bruce and Walt – I understand I have large shoes to fill. Thanks for your leadership. I will do my best to meet the standards you've set.

At this time of year, it is appropriate to spend a minute looking at the year that draws to a close and to say a few words of thanks. Our outgoing board members, Kate Selby and Past President Bob Hutchinson helped lead the club in ways too numerous to count. Thanks to both of you. And to incoming officers and board members Milt Engelke, Jerry Lelack, Marc Vickery, and to Terry, Darcy and Henrik for continuing your leadership roles with the club.

We also had a very successful 2018 community service project with the Freedom Pens/Pens for Troops project. Club members turned and donated nearly 1,000 pens for our service men and women stationed overseas. For those of you who worked so hard to make this a success, please accept the thanks of the Board.

Among the notable 2018 presenters, we were fortunate to have Eric Lofstrom visit us in August and he put on a great demonstration (and a class for the lucky few who attended). We always learn a lot when skilled turners are available to offer classes to the membership, something I hope will expand in 2019.

Looking ahead to the 2019, I have set a few goals. It's clear to me that our membership has changed a lot in the ten years I've been a member, and the club needs to respond to that. You've heard me mention a club survey at the meetings: it's going to happen early in 2019 with the assistance of the Board. According to the club's bylaws, the President is charged with "control[ing] all of the business and affairs of the WWW,...." I understand this to include learning what the membership wants and needs from the club in terms of classes, demonstrators, and so on. Thus, the survey.

**Happy
New Year!**

When I started turning, I was a bit overwhelmed about where (and how) to start. There is so much to learn: finding wood, preparing it, getting it mounted on a lathe, deciding what tool to use for which cut, and on, and on, and on. To help our many new members, I would like to have our expert mentors develop some sort of curriculum so a brand-new turner has a “road map” of sorts to follow when deciding what sort of classes to take or to request from the club. We have a lot of really excellent turners in this group, and a lot of new people. I hope we can tap the club’s experience to help our new members grow.

Finally, and speaking of new members – we’ve taken the first steps to forming a “New Members” welcome program. We intend this to be a physical place at our meetings where visitors and new members are directed to learn about the club, meet the board members, understand membership benefits, and so on.

This is an ambitious agenda, and the Board is going to need your help to make it work. When a board member approaches you and asks you for assistance with a specific task to help our club prosper, please say yes. Anticipating your assistance in advance, let me say thank you.

Jeff Zens

Upcoming Events

Volunteers needed for the 2019 Oregon Woodturning Symposium

2019 looks like another sold out show with early registrations to date exceeding our 2017 Symposium - that’s the good news! The bad news you might be asking yourself? Getting a good seat in the demonstration rooms can sometimes be a challenge. Our club demonstration room will have Richard Raffan and Cynthia Gibson throughout the weekend.

Would you like the best seat in the demonstration room this Symposium? Simply sign up to be a camera operator, room helper or moderator. We need about 80 volunteer hours to make our demonstration room successful. Could you help with setup on Thursday night? Could you fill one of 10 shifts in our demo room throughout the weekend; demonstrator introductions or room monitor? Could you help with breakdown on Sunday afternoon? Please sign up today and help us make this Symposium another fun time for everyone. Many hands make light work!

We also need volunteers for the Registration table, Raffle ticket salespeople and spotters during the Auction on Saturday evening. Please contact Mark Choitz, Volunteer Coordinator at msc6990@gmail.com to sign up. Thanks in advance for helping us make the 2019 Oregon Woodturning Symposium another great success.



OREGON WOODTURNING SYMPOSIUM

MARCH 15-17 2019



Upcoming Events

January Presenter: Jay Shepard

Jay Shepard received his Master of Fine Arts degree from Arizona State University in 1977. He focused on painting and drawing, art history and museum science. Shortly after graduation he discovered his interest in woodworking. Over the years he has designed and built houses, made cabinets and created furniture.

While creating a table he got excited about the idea of round legs, not the square legs that his table saw produced. So, he bought a 1938 vintage Delta lathe. While turning the legs he realized, “this is fun!” Needless to say, he has been turning wood ever since (and he never did finish that table).

Now Jay creatively blends his wood turning, woodworking and painting skills to produce unique lathe turned and sculpted artwork. These works are inspired by the daily shifting from day to night, the mysteries and imagery of nature and the cosmos, and the textures, layers and undulations of the landscape.

Jay seeks out locally grown wood that, for the most part, is considered urban salvage, wood scrap, and guitar wood rejects that would otherwise be disposed. He will only occasionally use some imported woods for accents.

Jay had been somewhat of a recluse when it has come to his artwork, generally avoiding competitions and exhibitions. But with the encouragement of friends and family, has reentered that world and has exhibited widely, with his work being published in woodworking and woodturning magazines nationally and internationally.

In the article that follows, Jay will describe the process he’ll demonstrate for us this month.

Quick Finished Hollow Form
Start to Finish in Under 90 Minutes
Wipe on Water-Based Lacquer Finish
© Jay Shepard

I overheard some people talking about the finish on one of my pieces. “It’s wipe-on poly,” one person said. The others around him accepted his comment then moved along. In fact, the finish was a sprayed water-based lacquer. I had sprayed multiple coats, well over twelve, and has wet sanded and buffed it to a glossy mirror finish.

But I was curious, just what is wipe-on poly and why would they think it was my finish? Well, its thinned polyurethane. Hmm. Not my finish. But if you want to save yourself some money and if you are a wipe-on poly fan, get regular polyurethane and thin it 50/50 with mineral spirits. You have wipe-on poly at a reduced cost.

So, why wipe-on poly? You can apply it while your work is on the lathe. It will dry fairly quickly so you can apply a second and third coat. Problem is, it still needs to cure so its not quite ready for sanding and buffing until the next day. Also, it is spirit based, so there is a toxicity factor to consider. You’ll want to wear a respirator while using it.

But, I am a water-based lacquer user. It has worked well for me and is very safe. However, the appeal of a wipe-on that I could apply on the lathe sounded rather attractive. But if I used water to thin the lacquer, it

wouldn't dry any faster, in fact it might take a longer. So, I asked myself, what else could I thin my water-based lacquer with that flashes quickly and would leave the surface dry enough to accept subsequent coats? Denatured alcohol! It is hydroscopic, it likes water, and it evaporates fairly quickly, especially when friction is involved.

So, I thinned my water-based lacquer 50/50 with denatured alcohol and gave it a try on a test piece. I took a rag and applied it to the piece with the lathe turning at 1200 to 1500 RPM. The speed created some friction and the heat generated helped evaporate both the water and alcohol. Boom. In less than a minute, the first coat was applied and dried! On went the second coat. Dry. Then the third and fourth and fifth. These coats were applied lightly, without a lot of pressure. The spinning of the piece on the lathe seemed to generate "wind" that helped dry the finish. Going beyond a sixth coat provided diminishing returns. So, this was a pretty good place to stop.

At this point, I checked the finish, it felt a little cool, so I let it spin a little while longer.

I then tried to sand the test piece. I took my wet/dry sand paper, dry, to the piece starting with 400 grit, still turning on the lathe, but now at less than 500 RPM. It gave off a fine white powder. It worked! I followed with successive grits through 2000. The sanding method here took only a light touch. I didn't want to sand through the finish. The sanding held up, the next step was to buff it out.

I use the three-stage buffing system from Beall. The result was a high gloss lacquer finish.

Now, my spray-on method, applying multiple coats (12 to 20), letting it dry, apply coat after coat, wet-sanding then buffing is a multi-day event. Compared to spirit-based lacquers, the water-based is fairly quick, in that the curing time is shorter. But still it would take several days to get through the whole process (at least a couple, if I were in a hurry).

With the dilute lacquer, I could get a gloss finish in 15 to 30 minutes, a significant time savings.

While the finish isn't as perfect as the sprayed finish, it offers a very high-quality finish in a fraction of the time. All good in my book.

Drawbacks. There could be a few. If the alcohol thinned lacquer were to be applied to a surface that was colored with an alcohol-based dye, the dye will smear. Secondly, the build-up is not as thick as the sprayed finish so the protection the lacquer provides is not as strong.

However, if you want a quick high-gloss finish that looks really good, give this a try. I think you will be satisfied with the results.

The process

Turn you piece as you normally would but leave a longer space between the foot and the tenon. After you finish turning and sanding the piece, you will partially turn the foot. If you cut this recess for the foot prior to when you do your hollowing, the piece will vibrate too much and you will have a poor cut. Keeping the mass at the bottom will result in easier turning and a better result.



Turn your hollow form as you normally would.

The major key to success in this and really all good finishes is surface preparation. Get as smooth of a cut as you can, then sand. I use a random orbit sander to 400 grit. If you use regular sand paper by hand you could leave circular scratches around the piece that will be visible under the finish. The random orbit sander eliminates that concern. Sand at 500 RPM or lower on the lathe for good results. Walk through the sanding grits on the sander to at least 400. Sand inside the vessel with 80 to 120 grit. That should provide smooth surface to the touch.



Sand the inside using a hemostat clamping sandpaper around a wad of cloth. Move the angle of the sandpaper to match the angle of the inside contour. Sand the outside with a random orbit sander hooked up to a vacuum.

After you are finished turning and sanding and are satisfied with your work, partially cut the foot, about 80 to 85% or so, leaving a stem connecting the piece to the tenon portion of the wood. Sand the foot to the same grit as you did the main body of the piece.



Turn down the foot and prepare it for finishing.

The water-based lacquer I use is Hydrocote Resisthane Plus, gloss finish, from Hood Finishing Products

http://www.hoodfinishing.com/HYDROCOTE_finishes.html. It is their water-based lacquer. Thin the lacquer 50/50 with denatured alcohol. Once you mix it, keep the container sealed. Alcohol evaporates quickly.



Mix the lacquer and denatured alcohol 50/50.

Turn your lathe up to 1200 to 1500 RPM. Apply the thinned lacquer with a rag. Apply moderate pressure through the first few coats. Apply gentle pressure in the final few coats. Touch for dryness between coats.



Apply multiple coats

After the sixth coat let the piece spin on the lathe until dry. The piece should feel dry to touch and not cold, slightly cool is OK, room temperature preferred.

I am surmising that ambient air temperature and humidity will dictate just how long it will take the lacquer to really dry. If you try this, your results may vary because of these factors. During the winter months I have used a heat gun to speed up the drying. If you use a heat gun, don't get it too close to the piece as the finish could blister with excessive heat.

Now sand with a high-quality sand paper. Start at 400 to 600 grit and go up to 2000. The lathe should be turning at about 500 RPM or less. Use very light pressure and keep the sandpaper moving. A fine white powder should be coming off as you sand. You want to smooth out the surface, not remove it. The finish should look even and smooth after sanding.



Sand with a light touch, with the lathe turning slowly to produce fine white powder.

At this point it is time to remove the tenon and finish turning the foot. When removed sand lightly, to even out the surface and apply a few coats of the diluted lacquer to the open area on the foot, or finish in a manner to your liking.



Carefully start cutting the rest of the foot. I use a jamb chuck for this step. Sand and apply lacquer.

The last stage in the process is buffing. Using the buff at around 1000 RPM on your lathe, start with a Tripoli wheel, then white diamond and finish with carnuba wax.



Run the buffing wheel at about 1000 RPM. Hold the piece securely.

You are done. Go show it off.

A Tale of Two Cities

I know. Dickens beat me to the title – but this is appropriate for the subject matter, and I will shamelessly borrow it. This article expands on and explains some of the thoughts I offered in my first message as president.

This is a story of two cities with craft-related organizations: one is prospering, the other is dying. I am a member of one and a Board member of the other so I have a ringside seat for both of them.

The Portland-based Guild of Oregon Woodworkers is the booming organization. When I joined (back around 2008) the group had about 275 members. Now it's close to 1,000. Monthly meetings then were held at Franklin High School in Portland and had an attendance between 50 and 70 each month, more or less depending on the time of year and the presenter. Today we've outgrown a new meeting space (more on this later) and monthly meetings are held at the Multnomah Arts Center in Multnomah village.

Prior to joining the Guild, I was recruited to teach for them, and classes were held wherever we could find a space. I taught at Franklin High School, Sherwood High School, in hotel meeting rooms and even a brewery meeting room.

For a number of years, the big topic of discussion was whether or not to have our own shop. Membership and the board of directors was pretty evenly split on this. The nay-sayers predicted the long, slow, painful death of the Guild would begin the day we moved into and operated a shop. In 2013, we took the plunge. Now the membership is fourfold what it was in the pre-shop days and we're looking for a bigger, better facility. Classes are held there, but we already need more room for more classes. Membership meetings were held in the machine room but that quickly became far too small. As the membership grows, so does the pool of available people to help with all of the chores.

The Evergreen Woodworkers Guild is dying. Based in Puyallup Washington, the club has essentially the same goals and objectives of the Oregon Guild – furthering the art and craft of woodworking. I became a board member of EWWG last year at the request of Michael Dresdner (yes, *that* Michael Dresdner, for those of you who study wood finishing) because of my role with the Oregon Guild. EWWG was especially interested in the opportunities they might experience in a shop of their own. That never happened.

This last Tuesday, New Year's Day, EWWG had a board meeting, the primary topic of which was deciding if it was time to wrap up the Guild's business, dispose of its assets and dissolve. The biggest reason for this horrible state of affairs is, in my estimation, lack of member involvement with their Guild. There are five board members. Four of them live in Washington and do all the work. I live in Salem and appear via Facetime for the meetings. So, four board members are doing all of the work of that Guild: arranging for presenters, finding new members, trying to maintain membership lists, and on and on. Member involvement is non-existent.

We're a lot luckier with our WVV club. We have more member involvement than the Washington group, but not as much as we could have or should have, and far less than the Guild of Oregon Woodworkers.

Please think about this. The Willamette Valley Woodturners belongs to you – not the officers, not the Board, but the membership. Our job as board members and officers is to provide guidance and direction, but it's up to each individual member to make this club work.

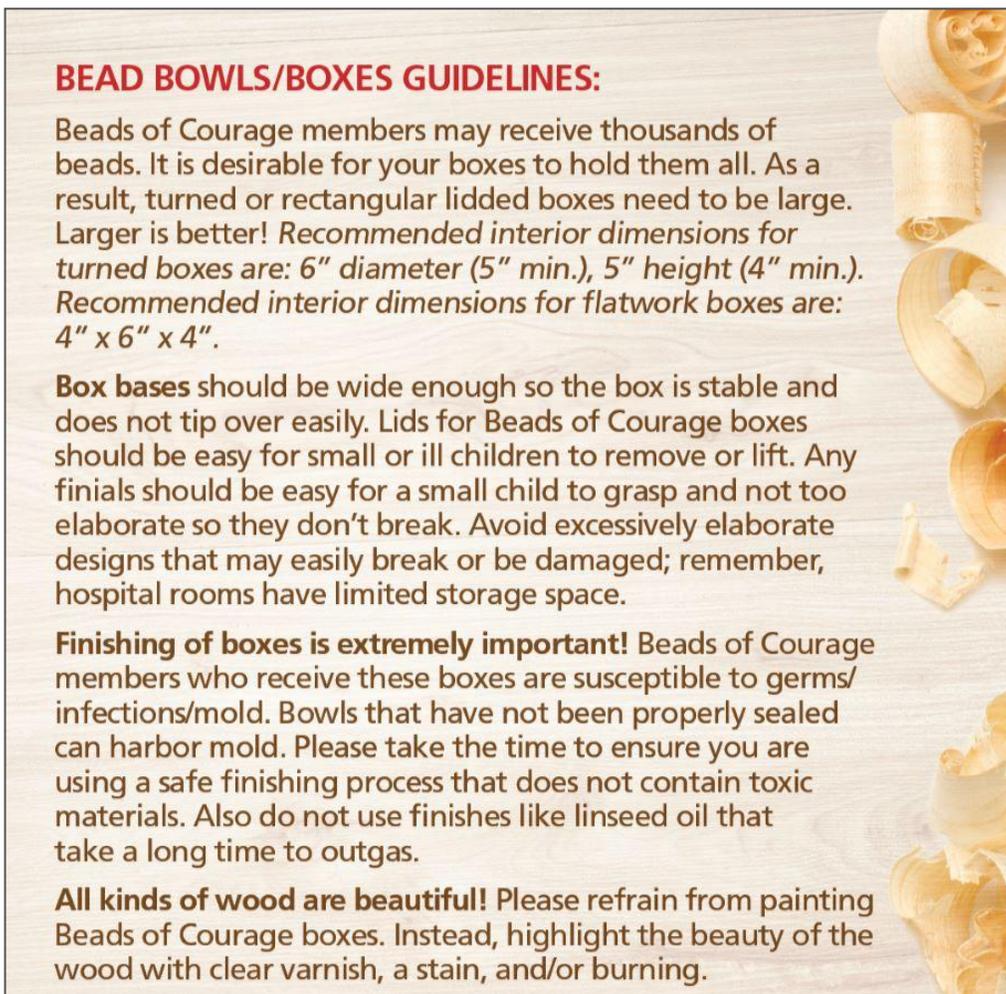
~~Jeff Zens

Have you started your **Beads of Courage** lidded box? At the 3rd annual Oregon Woodturning Symposium coming up in March 2019, we have a challenge of collecting **50 boxes** to help the Beads of Courage program. The Beads of Courage program teams up with doctors and nurses to help children with long term illness. As kids go through their journey, they receive beads to commemorate their operations and treatments. Of course they need somewhere to keep their memory beads and that's where we can help. We will again be donating our boxes to the **Mary Bridge Children's MultiCare Health System in Tacoma, WA**. How about helping a child today and turn a lidded box for our next symposium?

To find out more about the bowl specs go here –

www.beadsofcourage.org/pages/woodturners.html

Or read this...



BEAD BOWLS/BOXES GUIDELINES:

Beads of Courage members may receive thousands of beads. It is desirable for your boxes to hold them all. As a result, turned or rectangular lidded boxes need to be large. Larger is better! *Recommended interior dimensions for turned boxes are: 6" diameter (5" min.), 5" height (4" min.). Recommended interior dimensions for flatwork boxes are: 4" x 6" x 4".*

Box bases should be wide enough so the box is stable and does not tip over easily. Lids for Beads of Courage boxes should be easy for small or ill children to remove or lift. Any finials should be easy for a small child to grasp and not too elaborate so they don't break. Avoid excessively elaborate designs that may easily break or be damaged; remember, hospital rooms have limited storage space.

Finishing of boxes is extremely important! Beads of Courage members who receive these boxes are susceptible to germs/infections/mold. Bowls that have not been properly sealed can harbor mold. Please take the time to ensure you are using a safe finishing process that does not contain toxic materials. Also do not use finishes like linseed oil that take a long time to outgas.

All kinds of wood are beautiful! Please refrain from painting Beads of Courage boxes. Instead, highlight the beauty of the wood with clear varnish, a stain, and/or burning.



"Nothing is impossible, the word itself says I'm possible." – Audrey Hepburn

Submitted by Marc Choitz

Club Business



Your membership renewal for 2019 is overdue

By Henrik Åberg, Treasurer

It's that special time of the year again! As the bylaws state: "The WVW Club's annual dues shall be payable by **December 31st.**" The club dues continue to be a very reasonable **\$35** for the year. Renewing your membership is very simple: Send me a check for **\$35** and make sure I can identify you from the check or money order (made out to "WVW") so don't use your brother-in-law's check. If any of your information (phone, address etc.) has changed, write me a note of the change. My address is on the last page of this Burl. You can also by clicking the button below. Your help in paying on time is appreciated.

Thank you!

At time of press **49%** of our members have paid their dues.
In 2018 we were at **%58** at this time.



Note: The club [web page](#) also includes a link on the home page for PayPal payments of membership renewal.

Treasurer's Report (11/28-1/3)

By Henrik Åberg, Treasurer

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Beginning Balance | <u>\$12,616.28</u> | Ending Balance | <u>\$13,582.37</u> |
| <u>Income</u> | | <u>Expenses</u> | |
| Membership | \$1190 | PayPal | \$33.00 |
| Total Income | \$1190 | December meeting food | \$190.91 |
| | | Total Expenses | \$223.91 |

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 (\$9/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). Jerry Lelack will have the resale items available at the meetings, except for Anchorseal which is available through [Jeff Zens](#). You will need to bring your own gallon jug; contact Jeff to make arrangements.

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.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

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 Pacific Northwest Carpenters Institute, 4222 NE 158th Ave., Portland

Beaver State Woodturners (Eugene, OR)

www.beaverstatewoodturners.com

Meets 4th Thursday 6:00 PM at the Coburg Community Charter School, 91274 N Coburg Rd, Coburg

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.....**

Executive Board

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| President | Jeff Zens |
| Vice President | Darcy Tataryn |
| Secretary | Milt Engelke |
| Treasurer | Henrik Åberg |
| Board Position 1 | Terry Gerros |
| Board Position 2 | Jerry Lelack |
| Board Position 3 | Marc Vickery |

Non-Executive Positions

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Newsletter Editor | Henrik Åberg |
| Web Master | Ron Fox |
| Wood Gathering | Larry Curry |
| Librarians | Terry Gerros/Paul Hirt |
| Coordinators | Myron Yancey (Steam-Up) |
| | Paul Hirt (Mentors) |
| | Bob Hutchinson (State Fair) |

Send dues & other financial matters to:

Henrik Åberg
7231 Bethel Road SE
Salem, OR 97317
henrikeaberg@gmail.com

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Roster Editor | Henrik Åberg |
| Facilities | Open |
| Video | Jeff Zens |
| | Larry Curry |
| | Marc Vickery |
| Craft Supplies | Jeff Zens |
| Orders | |

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:

Jeff Zens
3932 75th Avenue SE
Salem, OR 97317 jszens@custombuiltfurniture.com
Club e-mail: wvturners@gmail.com