



Northwest Washington Woodturners

A Local Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners



Monthly Newsletter for April, 2022

About NWW...

The Club meets every 3rd Thursday of the month. There is no meeting in Dec.
Time: 6:30pm No host dinner beginning at 5:30pm.

We meet at the Mount Vernon Christian School (820 W. Blackburn Rd. in Mount Vernon, a short distance west of I-5).



Meetings are open to anyone interested in woodturning. All skill levels from novice to advanced turners are welcome.

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President's Letter

I want to extend my thanks to the membership for their support of our return to regular monthly meetings. The April meeting represented a substantial increase in member participation. We continue to work on being able to conduct our meeting in person and to transmit the meeting via Zoom.

I also want to thank those club members who supported our participation in the events at the Sedro Woolley Woodfest and the Everett Children's Museum Top Turning. Both events signal the start of our 2022 community outreach season. I have recently been notified that the city of Mount Vernon will be holding their 36th Annual Youth Art Festival again this year, after a two-year break due to the corona virus. This will be a fun opportunity for the club to turn tops for the children and reinforce our club's image in the community. Mark your calendars for the Anacortes Arts Festival Aug. 5th-7th and Aug. 13th for the Mount Vernon Youth Art festival. We encourage all club members who can to turn out and support these events.

As you can see we are going to have lots of opportunities for top turning this summer. If you are unfamiliar with the process of turning tops, please see the information later in the newsletter about our Sawdust Saturday event this month that will feature Top Turning as one of the sessions. Speaking of Sawdust Saturday, we had a very good turnout of new club members at the April Intro to Woodturning session led by **George Way**. If you can lead a Sawdust Saturday session or provide support during the sessions, please contact **Giovanni Monteferrante**, who plans our Sawdust Saturday Sessions, at gmonteferrante@gmail.com.

(Continued on next page)

President's Letter (Cont'd)

Finally, we are in need of additional member support of our Zoom/internet/camera equipment at our club meetings. If you have some basic computer knowledge and would be available on meeting evening from 5:00 pm, please contact **Brad Thompson** at vicepresident@nwwwt.org. He will be more than happy to discuss the club's needs.

Regards,

Rod Parker



President's Challenge

As a follow on to John Shrader's demonstration on **Metals in Woodturning**, please bring your turnings that have been embellished with metal or powder inlays. And given the tardiness of this notice getting to you, pretty much ANY metal in wood is acceptable!



Club Gallery

Please bring your latest creations and share them with other club members.

Sawdust Saturday News

Contributed by Giovanni Monteferrante

For all you newbies, not so newbies, and anyone interested in learning or enhancing their woodturning skills, our club has an on-going program fondly known as **Sawdust Saturdays**. No experience necessary! On the last Saturday of most months, we utilize the Bayview woodworking studio of one of our generous members (**Gerrit Van Ness**), which has nine complete lathe stations with accessories. For a mere contribution of \$10 (mostly to cover materials and coffee) you can be treated to a vast array of topics with hands-on turning, taught by your fellow NWW members. Classes normally run from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, with a break for brown bag lunches, coffee and donuts provided. Get your reservations in now, there are only 8 slots available!!!

Reply to **Giovanni Monteferrante** at sawdustsaturday@gmail.com with any questions or comments, or to get on the signup list. Sign up sheets will also be available at the club events.



ABOVE and RIGHT: Several intrepid club members enjoyed instruction and hands-on turning during the Woodturning 101 session at the end of April with George Way, Rod Parker, and Giovanni Monteferrante.

Upcoming Sessions:

 **May 28** – Top Turning - Start your collection for the yearly donation

June 25 - Intro to Bowls

July 30 – Intro to Platters

...with more to come!

April Program Recap

On Thursday, April 21st, **John Shrader** gave an in-person demonstration on metal inlays. John is a longtime member of the Seattle Woodturners. He is a retired Boeing engineer who has been using metal inlays in his turned pieces for many years, most often silver or brass.

John began by demonstrating his process for inlaying a brass band near the top edge of a bowl. Since his demo was concerned with the inlay process and not bowl turning, he began with a pre-turned bowl. Of note, most of John's bowls are segmented. John prefers segmented bowls because then any grooves or slots made with the lathe rotating are made into side grain, as opposed to a mix of side and end grain of a traditional bowl, which is more prone to tear out.



John Shrader



The photo (left) shows typical examples of his segmented bowls with either a double brass band or an "ebonized" edge, done with a black Sharpie marker. Before using the Sharpie, John uses a sealer coat to prevent the black dye from seeping into the grain.

To make each brass band, John first cuts a fine groove into the outer bowl using a narrow 1/16" parting tool. He cuts the groove's depth just shy of the brass wire's thickness. The width of the groove is exactly twice the brass wire's thickness. He then cuts two lengths of square brass wire, each just slightly longer than the circumference of the bowl.

John is able to straighten and stress-relieve the wire by affixing one end in a vise and pulling on the other end using non-marring pliers. Once the wire is relieved, he cuts one end with toenail nippers that he finds make a nice squared off cut. He uses medium CA glue to "tack" the end of the wire down in the groove, then he slowly and steadily pulls on the wire while applying CA glue to hold the wire in place in the groove as he works his way around the bowl. As the brass wire nearly circles the bowl in the groove, he cuts it slightly long (by perhaps 1/16th inch or so). Next he carefully goes through a few nip-and-check, nip-and-check trials until the wire just makes a tight circumference, then he glues the ends in place.

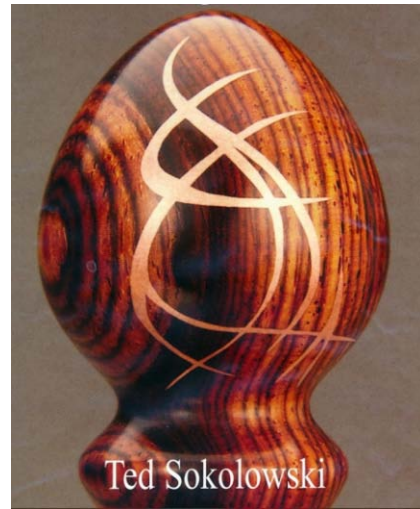
In a similar fashion, John takes the other piece of brass wire and repeats the process, but offsets the starting point by about an inch so that the join is less obvious.

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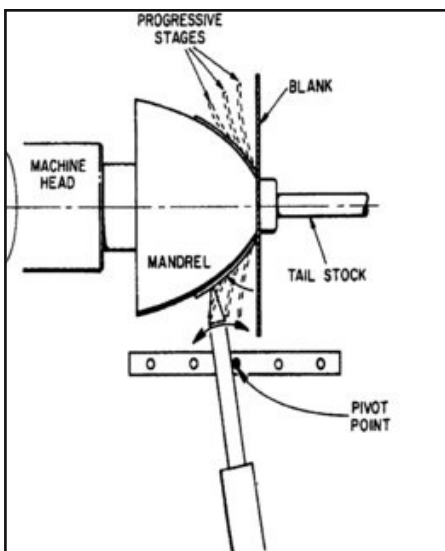
March Program Recap (Cont'd)

With the two square wires glued tightly adjacent to each other in the bowl's groove, John then takes a file with the lathe turning slowly, and files the metal down until it is flush with the wood surface. He then sands through progressive grits until the metal shines brightly.

John next described and showed the method promoted by Ted Sokolowski for infilling voids using metal powders and CA glue. The process can be used for filling natural cracks and defects as well as intentionally carved lines and designs. It involves pressing the powdered metal into the void, followed by drops of fresh thin CA glue. The glue saturates the metal powder and with a quick spritz of accelerator it becomes hard and can be sanded flush to the wood surface. Available metal powders include aluminum, brass, bronze, copper, and pewter.



In the final segment of his presentation, John did a brief demo of metal spinning on a wood lathe, using a conventional technique (i.e., a metal forming tool rather than a roller, see diagram on left). He made a point of showing how metal spinning needn't be as expensive as one might imagine. One can make the necessary tools and tool rest from commonly available supplies. For example, John took an ordinary 3/4 inch steel rod from Home Depot and ground, filed, sanded and polished the end to create a perfectly acceptable forming tool.



John also created a tool rest by welding a 1 inch rod onto the center of a 8 inch length of 1 1/4" steel rectangle from Home Depot. He then drilled holes along the rectangle so that a metal pivot point would fit into it securely.



John has spun disks of different metals. He recommends beginning with aluminum, as it is not expensive and doesn't work-harden as quickly as some other metals. Pewter and silver work well but are considerably more expensive, especially the latter. Copper is less expensive but does work harden fairly quickly.

(Continued on next page)

March Program Recap (Cont'd)

In his concluding remarks, John stressed the importance (and fun) of simply getting out there and trying things. Mistakes will inevitably happen, but you will learn a lot in the process, and the next time it will be easier and the final result will be better.

John closed with an offer to let anyone who wished to try metal spinning to come up and give it a whirl, so to speak. Tal was first in line to try and although there are no pictures available to show his semi-finished piece, suffice it to say that it was a one-of-a-kind item with a fascinating pattern of undulations (all unintentional, but they had a certain aesthetic appeal nevertheless!).

Sources of supplies:

Riogrande.com - square wire, sheet copper and silver

Sokolowskistudios.com - metal spinning and metal inlay instruction, powdered metal, spinning supplies



Finishing Tips...For Procrastinators (Part 2)

By Ray Shields

This small series goes over finishes that can be completed quickly for those rare (ahem!) cases where you need to have the finish looking good byyesterday. Last time we looked at the pros and cons of shellac. Now it's time to turn our attention to another quick finish:

LACQUER - Lacquer dries fast and does not require sanding between coats. You can find it at any big box or hardware store, made by many companies (Deft, Mohawk, Minwax, Krylon, Rust-Oleum to name a few). On occasions too numerous to count I have been saved by a rattle can of Satin Deft. It is 100% nitrocellulose lacquer and although the manufacturer recommends 30 min between coats, in a warm environment I can get on 3 coats in about an hour which is often all that is required for an attractive finish. Yes, the finish is not as durable as polyurethane and can scratch easily, and it is not as sensual as a buffed out oil and wax finish, but for a purely decorative interior piece it often suffices nicely. And it is FAST!



Woodfest in Sedro-Woolley, April 23-24

Contributed by Tom Thornton

Nope, it wasn't a figment of your imagination. After a two year Covid-related break, Sedro-Woolley's [usually] annual **Woodfest** returned. As you are likely aware, Woodfest is a woodworking show sponsored by the Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce where high school students show what they have created and vendors involved in the woodworking industry attend, selling their various wares. This year it took place on April 23-24 at its usual venue, the Sedro-Woolley High School gymnasium.

NWW participated with turning demos (tops included), displays and sales by our members, and something new for this year, several maple slabs for sale. We are greatly indebted to **George Way** for taking on the coordination of the event for NWW. Many thanks are also due to **Tal Birdsong, Tom Thornton, Norman Lanford, Rick Terney** and multiple other club members who dedicated considerable time and effort into making NWW's participation a success.

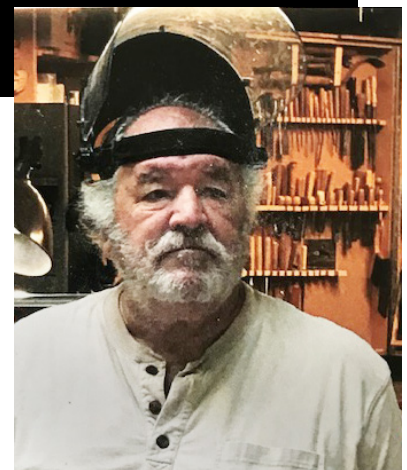
Photo of Woodfest from my now-destroyed cell phone was supposed to appear here.



It is with a heavy heart that we note the passing of **Clark Champion** who died suddenly and unexpectedly of a brain hemorrhage on May 4, 2022. He was 76 years old.

He and his wife, Denise, moved to Bellingham in 2005, but prior to that his work in property management had him residing in multiple states, including a 30 year stint on Maui. A long term woodworker, he became involved in woodturning after his

retirement. He was a well-liked, active and enthusiastic member of NWW. He will be missed, but not forgotten. R.I.P.



Upcoming Programs

May 19, 2022 - We will welcome back **Jimmie Allen**, owner of D-Way Tools of Silverdale, WA, who will give a demonstration of his **box making** using his signature Boxmaster tools. He may also have a presentation describing the unique manufacturing process for his turning tools. He will undoubtedly be bringing with him a supply of tools available for purchase.



June 16, 2022 - Although this slot was originally scheduled for John Beaver of Pacific Palisades, CA, he is now scheduled to come to our September meeting. At press time, we have a couple of good candidates who may be available to fill in for June, but specific arrangements have yet to be finalized. Further information will be provided as it becomes available.



July 21, 2022 - **Eric Lofstrom**, one of our favorite demonstrators who now lives near the Hood Canal in Seabeck, WA, will be joining us for an in person presentation (and hopefully at least one hands on class, if his schedule permits).



Coming Demonstrator: Jimmie Allen

Contributed by David Pettenski

Our May 19th meeting will be a hybrid physical and zoom meeting, featuring a live demonstration with **Jimmie Allen** of D-Way Tools, Silverdale, WA. Jimmie will be discussing the general operations of his company and tool design as well as demonstrating his box turning using his Boxmaster tools. You may come to the physical meeting at the Mt. Vernon Christian School to socialize, buy supplies, check out reserved library books, participate in the tool /wood raffles, pay your dues and of course watch the live demonstration by Jimmie. If you prefer to stay at home, the zoom meeting option will be available.

We plan to open the Zoom meeting at 5:30 PM with a full business meeting starting around 6:00 pm and the program to start at 7:00 PM. Jimmie will bring a selection of his tools for sale (you can review the tools at <https://d-waytools.com/>).



Jimmie Allen

A blemish box will be available for a 10% to 15% discount. These are fully operational tools with slight cosmetic blemishes. Blemish tools can only be purchased with cash or check! Consider arriving at the meeting early for time to purchase tools and the best selection.'

Jimmie Allen is a long-time northwest resident and currently resides in Bremerton, WA. Jimmie discovered woodturning during his semi-retirement as a finish carpenter. He joined the Olympic Peninsula Woodturners (OPCAAW) club in 2003 and was instantly hooked – he went on to serve seven years as the club's Vice President of Training.

After experimenting with various wood turning aspects, Jimmie was drawn to the challenge that wood boxes presented. Since then, he has concentrated his efforts on improving technique, wood selection, design/shape and proportion. Through this journey, Jimmie also found another creative outlet - the design and crafting of box making tools that helped him to create his signature style of boxes. He became the owner of D-Way Tools, Silverdale, WA.

Jimmie's philosophy is that we all start at the same place and it's important to keep it simple – "If you put in the time, you'll get there". He appreciates the opportunity to encourage and motivate people by sharing his experiences and techniques through demonstrations and sawdust sessions.



(Continued on next page)

Jimmie Allen (Cont'd)

Going forward, our June meeting was originally planned to be a demonstration by John Beaver but his session has been postponed until September 2022. At press time the June meeting is still undecided. Stay tuned.

As the Programs Chair, I continue to seek out woodturning demonstrations and I have been asking local clubs if they have members capable of demonstrating for us. They have begun to provide some exciting options. In turn, I have been asked to provide contacts of our members who would be willing to demonstrate at another club. If you have the talent and interest, please contact me (David Pettenski at dpettenski@msn.com or 425-984-3724). We might also be able to do a dry run with our club if you are a little rusty or timid with your demonstrating skills!

Free AAW Test Drive

Contributed By Brad Burdick



Did you know that if you have not been an AAW member before, you can sign up to get all the benefits of online AAW membership FREE?

Once you sign up, you'll get full access to all digital content including AAW publications American Woodturner and Woodturning FUNDamentals. Plus, you'll get weekly and bimonthly e-newsletters, and have access to Explore, Video Source, online learning portals, optional public profile as a Demonstrator and/or Maker with image availability, and more. All of this is FREE for up to 90 days.

CLICK HERE to sign up!

Review of the New Library System

By Tal Birdsong

At our last meeting we began a new procedure for checking out books and DVDs from the library. The complete library will no longer be present at the meetings, BUT you will have access to the complete library from your computer or smart phone with the TinyCat app (see link below).

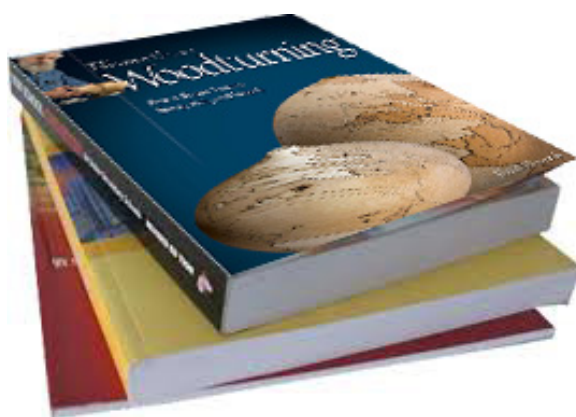
You will be able to see our entire inventory and tell if an item is AVAILABLE, ON HOLD, or CHECKED OUT. You can use the following procedure to put an item ON HOLD and that item will be brought to the meeting for you.

Only items that have been put on hold by noon on the day of the meeting will be brought to the meeting for you to take home.

All items checked out at one meeting are due back at the next meeting.

Here is the link to the library:

www.librarycat.org/lib/NWWWTLIBRARY



Clicking on this link will take you to the library where you can search by: subject, book or DVD title, author, key word, or click on one of the books scrolling across the screen. When the description page opens check the top of the page for its status. If it is AVAILABLE, you can place it on hold by clicking the PLACE HOLD button.

- This will bring up a pop up that asks for **Patron ID**
- Type your phone number as listed on the club roster.
(Important: Include the hyphens in the phone number)
- Family members who are listed with the same phone number on the roster will use the same number as their Patron ID, i.e., Tal and Rosalie Birdsong 360-123-4567.
- On the next pop up check the name of the book and click **CONFIRM REQUEST**.
- Do not use the CHECKOUT button unless you are where you can take possession of the book or DVD.
- No more than 5 items should be on hold or checked out at one time.

When an item is placed on hold I receive a notification that you have placed that item ON HOLD. Then I will pull the book or DVD and bring it to the next meeting. Noon on the day of the meeting is the last time that I will check for ON HOLD items for that month.

New Library System Review (Cont'd)

At the meeting I will issue the books or DVDs and change their status to CHECKED OUT. Items are checked out from meeting to meeting. If you won't be present at the next meeting you can request an extension or make other arrangements for returning the items that you have out.

If you change your phone number and you wish to change your Patron ID to your new phone number then email me at librarian@nwwwt.org or talrose@msn.com.

Enjoy informed turning,

Tal Birdsong

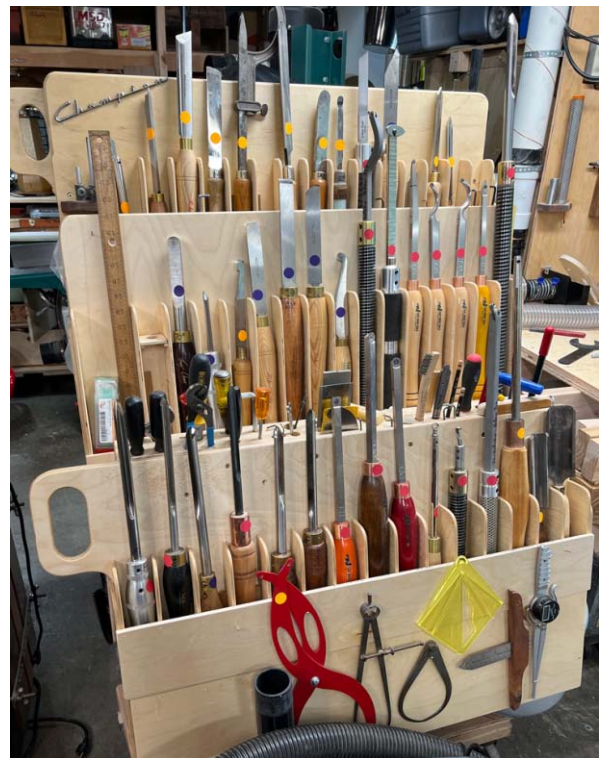
Tool and Wood Sale

Following Clark Champion's untimely death earlier this month (please see page 7) his widow, Denise, asked NWW for assistance in liquidating his woodworking/woodturning tools and collected pieces of wood. Several board members visited his home shop and helped Denise inventory and assess his tools and equipment for their fair market value. Since some of the tools are rather heavy or bulky, it was elected to hold a sale on the premises during the coming month.

The tool sale will take place at the Champion home in Sudden Valley on **Saturday, June 4, from 9 am to noon**. Since general woodworking equipment is available in addition to many woodturning items, the flat

woodworkers (NCWA) will be invited to attend if they wish. Quite a few nice woodturning-specific tools will be available, some examples of which are shown above. Further details will be emailed to members in the relatively near future, so watch for the sale notice.

Additionally, Clark had bought or collected some **interesting and unique pieces of wood**. The wood was gathered up and will be available **for sale at our Thurs (May 19) meeting**. Bring some cash and don't miss out on this opportunity!



Know Your Woods

Cocobolo (*Dalbergia retusa*) is a dense hardwood tree native to Central America with a height 45-60 ft and a trunk diameter of 1.5-2 ft.

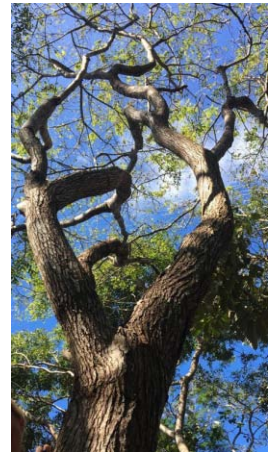
Cocobolo can be seen in a kaleidoscope of different colors, ranging from yellow, orange, red, and shades of brown with streaks of black or purple. Sapwood is typically a very pale yellow. Colors are lighter when freshly sanded/cut, and darken with age.

Grain is straight to interlocked, with a fine, even texture. Good natural luster. Rot resistant.

Cocobolo's high oil content can occasionally cause problems with gluing. The wood has a moderate blunting effect on cutting edges.

Cocobolo has a distinct spice-like scent when being worked. The wood is notoriously allergenic. Despite this, it is highly sought after and expensive.

From THE WOOD DATABASE



Turning on the Web*...

Contributed by Rick Anderson

As we age (yes...I'm talking about us...) one of the common issues woodturners encounter are back issues, shoulder issues and elbow issues. This month we will focus on our aching backs. Most common is neck pain and lower back pain.



So, starting from the top, let's look at an article in the February 2020 issue of American Woodturner by Dr. Rich Foa, a retired neurosurgeon turned talented woodturner. Dr. Foa discusses the sources of neck pain and some strategies on avoiding them. A sidebar to this article is information from Robin McIntyre, a retired physical therapist who also has discovered the joy of woodturning. Robin provides some "strategies for relief". These 2 articles help us understand what's happening in our upper backs/necks and how to avoid or correct the issues.

<http://thewoodshed.org/assets/img/neckpain.pdf>

If you aren't experiencing neck pain you may be experiencing lower back pain which is also a very popular issue. In the October 2019 issue of American Woodturner, Dr. Foa helps us understand what's going on. Plus he provides insight into avoiding and correcting the pain. This article also includes a sidebar by Eric Lofstrom....a name familiar to our club. Eric, with his education in biomechanics, teaches us "A Practical Approach to Relief". I'm sure Eric will be spending a few minutes on this subject when he once again demonstrates for our club in July.



NOTE: To view article you will need to scroll to pages 34-37 as this link is to the entire issue.

<http://ezine.americanassociat.netdna-cdn.com/2019October/html/index.html?page=34&origin=reader>

Just as we need to practice preventative maintenance on our lathes, we should also be maintaining our backs. Full Disclosure: Not long after the headstock bearings in my lathe failed so too did my back!

*The internet contains a wealth of information of value to woodturners. Some is direct "how to" articles and videos ...other resources provide inspiration and techniques which can be applied to our craft. But remember, the internet is unedited, so beware of poor and unsafe techniques. Even some well known turners have bad habits!

Stunning Trees of the World

The Crooked Forest, Poland



The Crooked Forest (Polish: *Krzywy Las*) is a grove of oddly-shaped pine trees located in the village of Nowe Czarnowo in north-western Poland.

This grove of 400 pines was planted around 1930. Each pine tree bends sharply to the north, just above ground level. It has been speculated that the trees may have been deformed to create naturally curved timber for use in furniture or boat building, then abandoned during WWII. The curved pines are enclosed by a surrounding forest of straight pine trees.

Club Contacts



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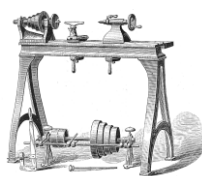
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Classified Ads

This space is set aside for contributors and for members to advertise free of charge to sell or purchase tools, wood, etc. Please submit your ad to the Newsletter Editor by the last Thursday of the month or submit it to him at the meeting for inclusion in the next month's newsletter.

Have some hand-me-down tools you would like to donate?

Contact our Store Manager, Tom Thornton (chippytom44@gmail.com), or bring the tools to a weekend parking lot sale. Thank you!!!



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Oby says: "NWW Club members will get 10% off on their purchases."

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Outtakes

Experience can be a cruel teacher, but John Shrader has learned valuable lessons over the years....

