



The Burl

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



Member chapter

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

April, 2026

**Next Meeting: 6:30-8:30 PM, April 9, 2026
Salem 50+ Center**

April President's Message:

To my fellow Willamette Valley Woodturners,
As spring blossoms around us, I want to take a moment to reflect on the renewal and creativity that this season brings. April is not just a time for flowers and blossoms. It's also an opportunity for each of us to embrace new ideas and techniques in our Woodturning journey.

I encourage everyone to take advantage of the warmer weather to explore new projects, whether it's experimenting with different woods, trying out new tools or even collaborating with fellow members. Our community thrives on the sharing of knowledge and skills, so let's continue to support one another in our craft.

This month we have some exciting events lined up, including our upcoming demonstration where we will dive into advanced turning techniques and the Sawdust Session the weekend after. I urge all of you to participate as it's a perfect chance to learn from each other and enhance our skills. Additionally, don't forget to share your recent projects at our next meeting. Your work inspires others and fosters a sense of pride within our community.

As we celebrate our passion for wood turning, let's also remember the importance of safety in our workshops. Please ensure that you're using the proper safety gear and following best practices to keep the craft enjoyable and hazard free.

I'd also like to mention the importance of checking your fire extinguishers to make sure they're fully charged.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the Willamette Valley Woodturners. Together, let's make this spring a season of growth, creativity and camaraderie.

Warm regards

Kip Allen

President, Willamette Valley Woodturners.

April Challenge:

No specific project, but Brett showed bowl technique so bring a bowl!

Upcoming Presenters and Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Presenter/Event</u>	<u>Topic</u>
April 9	Terry Gerros	Salturn
Mar 15	Sawdust Session	As needed: time 10 AM, Darcy Tataryn's Studio

		Wear your nametag and come learn or teach or practice or visit!
May 14	Elizabeth Weber	TBA



March presenter-Terry Gerros

Terry has been turning for about 30 years and is a long time member of WWW, going on 18 years. During this time he has held virtually every position on the board except treasurer. During his turning journey, he has been fortunate to have been invited on the Norwegian Woodturning Cruise as an assistant in the tuition room on the last four trips. Terry was also instrumental in organizing the Oregon Woodturning Symposium.



His project preferences are simplistic turnings that display the beauty of what lies beneath the bark. Lately his focus has been on coral skeletal structures as surface enhancement.

Terry is a semi-retired veterinarian. Starting as a go-fer, he has spent over 50 years in veterinary medicine.

The demonstration scheduled for April was originally presented to WWW by Keith Gotschall in 2011. The SALTURN, coined by Keith, is the wooden version of a ceramic salt and pepper shaker. The SALTURN is a project that offers the new and seasoned turner lots to explore in a number of areas: box making, hollowing, bowls, shape design, surface decoration, coves, and drilling with a spindle gouge to list a few.

While simplistic in design and build, the SALTURN can lead you down a wonderful path of exploration. Who knows where you'll end up?? Hmm, maybe chase threads and put a screw top on a SALTURN? I'd encourage you to read Keith's article in American Woodturner June, 2011 PP 40-43.



<https://www.woodturner.org/common/Uploaded%20files/AmericanWoodturner/AW2010s/AW2603-2011.pdf>



From Rick Rich: The **2027 Oregon Woodturning Symposium (OWS)** is just a year away. The fun will be in Albany, Oregon on March 19-21, 2027. Yes, that's 2027. 2027. That's plenty of time to organize the magnificent volunteer energy that actually runs the show. Many hands make light work, so don't be surprised if when Blair needs you to run a camera, Larry signs you up for a registration desk shift or Tim asks for some help in the exhibit hall. You'll be all smiles wearing your 2027 OWS t-shirt!

Also - The OWS will have a *new and improved* website soon and will need some help managing it. So, if you know of someone who really understands website management, is willing to volunteer some of their time and loves woodturning (or a woodturner), please let Rick know.



March Meeting Notes:-Brian

President Kip Allen gavelled the meeting to order at 6:30 PM followed by the group recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. 54 fine folk were in attendance!

Gary Dahrens announced that another collecting day at the same location (near McMinneville) was arranged to take place March 14.

VP Brian let folks know the Nova benefit was live with the first order going out Monday after the meeting.

Gallery: Great collection brought in! Pieces based on Rick Rich's demo, first time efforts at techniques (Chuck doing a hollowform and Mark doing a basket illusion), and other excellent and fun pieces.

Darcy, in looking at Kip's massive basket illusion piece, relayed the way one gets into this technique that being filling your mouth with marbles, spitting one out after each bowl turned, and after you've lost all your marbles, you're ready to try basket illusion turning...



Turmkreisels!

Above: Paul Hirt (dime is for scale...), Brian Skaar

Below: Dave Pitman, Tom Huhn, Rick Jarosz,



Above: Dave & Brian, Jim Devorss, Darcy Tataryn

Below: Jon Magill (enhanced using a "Rose Engine")



Above: Shelly, Jon's lidded box showing threads
Below: Brian Skaar, Chuck Fell



Above: Darcy
Below: Mark Bollenbeck, Kip Allen



Above: Jerry Lelack, Jeff Wimer (left also)
Below: some of Brett Williamson's pieces



March Presenter: Brett Williamson-Brian

Brett began by crediting a number of people who have inspired and taught him with Dale Larsen being at the top of his list. Dale's name was invoked numerous times throughout his presentation. Brett didn't do a stand alone talk on design but sprinkled design factors that he considers throughout his demo, his first being (from Dale) that, overall, good design will feel good in the hands.

Brett's demo piece was a second turning of a piece of cherry. He said that he rough turns his wet blanks with a tenon and recess inside for remounting and writes the wood and date on the piece before waxing and setting aside to dry.

Below: Brett talked about his wet turning process where he works in a mass producing manner. He chainsaws all the blanks, then bandsaws all to round, drills a hole in each for the worm screw, turns the outside of all, and then the inside of each. Whew...
-He chucked up the piece on the tenon and quickly reestablished the recess groove on the

inside with a square scraper. He then reversed it, mounted it with the jaws in expansion and began working the foot and outside.



Above and below: With lathe at about 1200 rpm, Brett talked and demoed long cuts using the whole body to guide the tool. The final cut went from tenon to rim and was very thin. He said he doesn't worry about exact angles on his tools and that he did minor adjustments in his grinding until he got the performance he liked. He then used a very thick traditional scraper to finish the surface. Brett said likes a negative rake scraper for fine finish cuts only on highly figured wood such as burl.





Above: Brett used a 3 sided pointed tool to refine the foot and mortis to match the jaws he would use to hold the piece when he reversed it.

TIP-In general, he runs his tool rest lower on the outside and higher on the inside.

TIP-To achieve a precise eye and light touch, practice turning with a 1/4" skew (!!)

Below: Brett likes to sand with oils saying it softens and raises the fibers. At this point the outside was done, but the conversations continued throughout the break!



Above: Brett talked about the finish he uses. He mixes 3 parts walnut oil with 1 part beeswax saying he likes the warmth and touch and easy maintenance this provides. TIP: When asked about selling price, he said he uses the

formula: height x diameter x 3.5 and then adjusts up for unique grain or features.

TIP: He likes the mesh pads for final sanding (red=800 grit; grey=1600 grit) and applies the wax/oil finish with the grey.

TIP: Use a wire brush to clean clogged sandpaper. *(Tried this; works! Used light brass wired one.)*

TIP: Brett said he does not sell cracked bowls-ever. If he has filled any void with CA glue it's vital to inform the buyer.

TIP: Brett talked about the special needs for madrone. He will keep rough blanks in water after chainsawing and bandsawing. After rough turning, bowls are boiled for a couple hours. He doesn't wax them for storing to finish drying.

TIP: For easy gripping of bowls, slightly undercut inside of rim or leave a bead on the outside (or both).

Below: Brett cuts from rim to halfway (thirds for deeper bowls). He then used a negative rake scraper for the inside walls supporting the walls with fingers on the outside.



Below: After using his heavy traditional scraper on the bottom (not shown), Brett did a final light cut to true up the rim.

Thanks Brett! Informative and entertaining. Your mantra of the importance of passing on the craft was clear and believable and your solid, down to earth technique was on full display!

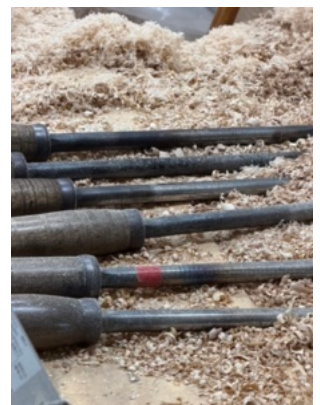


Japan! Submitted by Darcy Tataryn

This past Month I was fortunate to be able to visit Japan with my wife Gina and our youngest son.

We crammed a lot of "in the country travel" into our trip visiting several cities and towns. One of the highlights for me was the day we dedicated to learning about Japanese style woodturning.

We started the day in **Kanazawa**. We met our guide, **Kenji**, at a little company he runs called **CRAFT TOURS**. We had a tour of the woodturning school, a mill, and a production bowl factory and two private turning studios of turners who have graduated from the school.





The school admits 10 students each year and they study turning for 4 years. There is quite an extensive curriculum which does include learning how to make their own tools. I did try to find some turning tools to purchase but the most I could find was a skew and a rudimentary gouge. Since turners typically make their own knives and hook tools to fit the length of their arms, there is no real market for production of these tools. The turners at one of the private studios was kind enough to invite me to try her lathe and tools. A true highlight.



After our tour Kenji was kind enough to drive us to **Kaga**. There we met **Eiko Tanaka** at a cafe where she is a partner and where she has a small gallery and turning studio. We got to see her lathe and



how it functions differently than what we are used to using in our part of the world.



We were also very honored to be invited for tea at Eiko's home and to visit her private gallery at her home that is not generally open to the public.



It is a beautifully restored building that houses an amazing collection of art. To say Eiko's work is inspiring is a huge understatement. There is an article in *American Woodturner*, February 2024, that details her work and finishing method.



Above is a mix of locations Darcy saw. He sent a video of the industrial lathe on the right. The cutter works more like a metal lathe and hollows out the piece in maybe 2 seconds.

Below is a foot-powered lathe and a more modern sit-down homemade lathe similar to the one Darcy got a chance to use. The video he shared showed him successfully cutting ribbons!



Above: Eiko was a featured turner at the AAW symposium in Portland last year and her sessions were packed. She spoke on a number of topics including making and using traditional lacquer. Very involved process ...



Darcy said she and her partner restored this home which had sat empty for some 30 years. The amazing carvings were part of the original home!

What an amazing trip and thanks for sharing a little bit of it Darcy!



March Sawdust Session Well, it was a hopping event for sure. I counted about 20 folk that came for part or all of the session with lots of learning and practice going down!



Below right: Lots of lies being told in this group...

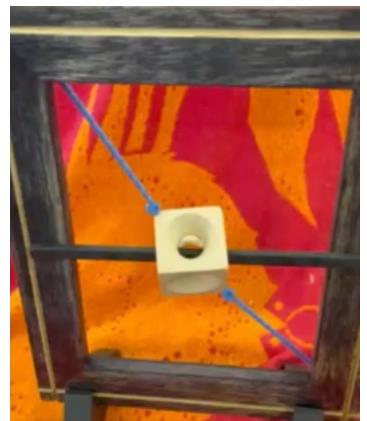


Myrtlewood interest? Jerry Lelack has a connection to get myrtlewood, hopefully at a very good price. Contact Jerry at jlelack@comcast.net for more info.

What's on your lathe? Well, I'm still getting out and turning now and then, but not as much as I'd like as the yard decided to awake and everything is growing. Like 2 inches a day. Especially the weeds...

But **Elling Hoem** sent me a couple videos of a creative project (right) he did (which I hope he brings to the meeting). It's a cube with turned through holes suspended by some sort of elastic bands in the frame he made. You wind it up and it goes and goes!

Warren Gookin wondered about the laser engraver I use to put my name on the bottom of





my pieces. He researched for a while and settled on this little one, got it, and then it sat. I do that all the time... Anyway, we got together and assembled it and got it burning! It's small, but powerful. Not sure where Warren is at getting the software figured out. We got it on his phone, but it was pretty limited. Warren picked it up for \$210 and is happy so far. Being Warren, he had to test the limits and cranked it up to its full 20 watt power and slowed the rate. Yes, there was fire... Ha!

I (Brian Skaar) gave a couple guys at Philomath MS the task of rough turning some large maple to cylinders for drying. They were loving the



ribbons piling up! I about had to tackle them to get them to stop before they turned them into toothpicks...

I also decided to try out the **Nova discount** as I'd been looking at these dome jaws for a while. My small step jaws go down pretty small but the sharp edges spinning next to my knuckles when I'm doing small finial stuff is a bit nerve wracking. I also like that each jaw is secured with 2 screws while the step jaws only have one screw each. And if a screw is loose and you only have one, well...

Anyway, I followed **Jeff's** directions in the March Burl and ordered a chuck body and the jaws and the discount was substantial! Jeff determined there would be no savings doing a group order so he submitted it to be sent directly to me and I paid directly to Nova (taking Jeff out of the middle). All went great!

If anyone runs a Mac and doesn't have MS Excel, I can help as I made it work with Google Sheets.



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 **Marc Vickery**.

From Terry Gerros

I am a distributor for Stick Fast CA glue and accelerator. 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 D-Way:** WVW members get a 10% discount on a group order (See the September 2025 Burl for complete details). Jeff Zens manages the program.
- **Nova:** WVW club members get a 20% discount with no club minimum. See March 2026 Burl for details.
- 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.
- **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.
- **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 WVW.

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)

<https://beaverstatewoodturners.org/>

Oregon Coast Woodturners (Newport, OR)

www.oregoncoastwoodturners.com

Southwest Washington Woodturners (Vancouver, WA)

<https://www.southwestwashingtonwoodturners.org/>

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	Kip Allen	Webmaster	Jeff Zens
Vice President	Brian Skaar	Newsletter Editor	Brian Skaar
Membership Director	Mark Bollenbeck	Wood Gathering	Marc Vickery
Secretary	Terry Gerros	Glue/Supply Sales	Roger Dirx
Treasurer	Jeff Wimer	Steam-Up Coordinator	<u>OPEN</u>
Past President	Larry Curry	Mentor Coordinator	Paul Hirt
Board At-Large	Jerry Lelack	State Fair Coordinator	Kip Allen

		Empty Bowls Coordinator Facilities Coordinator Video Coordinator D-Way Order Beads of Courage Benton Co Fair OWS Anchorseal/walnut oil	Darcy Tataryn <u>OPEN</u> Marc Vickery Jeff Zens Mark Choitz Brian Skaar Mark Choitz, Larry Curry, Brian Skaar Jeff Zens
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Send dues & other financial matters to:

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