



Volume 36, Issue 1  
January 2019

Orange County Woodworkers Association

A 501(c)(3) Charitable Corporation

# Sawdust & Shavings

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year everyone, we made it through another year, and we finished the old one off with a bang. We made a slew of toys, made a bevy of pens, had a great auction, did very well at the Fair, and finished with a bang up party. Pretty good if you ask me.

The party was catered by Len Musgrave, and his wife Maggie with a lot of help from Richard, and Richelle Kalman, John and Paula Butler, Roy and Nancy Reaser, Ross Gilroy, Kathy Koukl, and last, but not least, Isha Grinenko. I doff my chapeau to them for another stellar performance, and a big thank you as well.

There were a number of awards given out during the festivities, which you can see in the toy, and pen program articles.

The Joe Lomax memorial Woodworker of the Year award was presented to our outgoing Toy committee

Chairman Mr. Bill Rogers for another fantastic year of producing heirloom quality toys for the less fortunate children of Orange County.

Bill Rogers will be succeeded by our new Toy Committee Chairman, Mr. Ken "Doc" Crandall, and I am sure he will do a great job, but he is going to need a lot of support from our membership, so dust off your Toy making hats, and let's get started making these great toys for those kids who could use a little cheering up at Christmas time.

### JANUARY MEETING

The first Thursday of the month of January falls on the third, which should be sufficient time to recover from the New Years Eve debacle, so you should be able to find something for the Show and Tell table. Remember, there is a chance at winning twenty-five bucks, which should cover the cost of the bottle of Scotch you spilled on the living room rug.

James Santhon, *President*

### IN MEMORIAM

Lastly, I would like to take a moment to remember those members we lost in 2018.

"The Captain" Mr. John Marshall who was our Support our Troops Pen Program Chair, and did a fantastic job reinvigorating a program that had fallen on hard times.

Mr. Jim Anderson, who was a tireless supporter of the OCWA, who, so generously let us use his facility to store our toys, and have our professional demonstrations. He also, along with John Marshall, distributed our wooden writing instruments to active duty service personnel, and veterans groups.

Mr. Jim Driscall, who dedicated his life to teaching the art of woodturning. Jim had a number of students who have become members of the OCWA, and have become accomplished woodturners.

Mr. Harvey Carr, who was an integral part of the OCWA Christmas Toy Program having created many of the toy plans and jigs, and was a tireless master toy maker.

We were all better for having known these men, and their presence will be sorely missed. Rest in peace gentlemen.

# WOODWORKERS' SAWDUST

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*Contributing photographer:*  
Len Musgrave

## **Sawdust & Shavings**

is the monthly newsletter of The Orange County Woodworkers Association. It is published monthly before the Woodworkers Meeting.

Do you have an idea for an article, shop tip, or tool review? Please send articles to: **newsletter@ocwoodworkers.org**

Deadline for submissions is the Monday after the Woodturners meeting.

Visit us on the Web at:  
**OCWoodWorkers.org**



## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our annual Christmas party was held on Friday evening, December 14, at the Tustin Senior Center main hall. Attendance was very good and very friendly. Between 80 and 100 guests and members dined on Christmas turkey, ham pot-luck style. There were many, many delightful and delicious salads, sides and deserts – more than anyone could sample at a single setting. My wife and I set a table of new friends and had a delightful and merry evening.

The highlights of the evening were announcing the club's annual awards and of course, the voluntary gift exchange. (I joyously snagged a pair of toy wooden cars. Each of my grandchildren have laid dibs!)

The **Woodworker of the Year** award was deservedly given to Bill Rogers who has been a member of the Toymakers group since the 1980's and has led the group for about 25 years. Under Bill's leadership the toy program has grown from providing a few 100 toys to a handful of organizations to, this year, providing about 4200 toys to more than 50 organizations.

Bill Rogers presented special plaques to a number of the long-time, key toy makers to recognize their contributions. As a special touch, a drawing of each of the maker's specialty toy was etched into the plaque.



# WOODWORKERS' SAWDUST



Gary Phipps, leader of our pen program, also presented plaques to the four most prolific pen makers. Together, these four members created nearly half of this year's pen production. Recognized were: John Sobota, Mike Johnson, Eric Thorson and Al Ward.

This year OCWA created and distributed more than 2000 pens to active military and veterans to honor their service to our country. To date more the program has given away more than 40,000 pens!



**JANUARY MEETING:** Our next meeting is Thursday, January 3, 2019. Ross Gilroy, winner of multiple turning awards at the Orange County Fair and at our own annual turning competition, will talk about how he invents, executes and finishes his creations. I would like to extend a special thanks to Ross, who agreed to deliver this talk on very short notice when our scheduled speaker canceled due to a work conflict. Ross is one of the key individuals that makes our club successful.

Jerry Knight, Vice-president

# WOODTURNERS' SHAVINGS

Judging by the full house, most people had all their Christmas gifts finished, as empty seats were few and far between. We even had two guests, courtesy of the Internet. Somehow, they managed to introduce themselves without revealing their names. Hopefully they will be inspired to give this month's project a shot.

Speaking the demo project, for December we have Lyle Rawlings showing us his method of making wands for all the magic lovers in his life. They started as a request from his daughter, and one thing lead to another. Lyle estimates he's made around 360 wands over the years, some for gifts but most for sale at craft fairs. As his current stock numbers only about 2 dozen, it's been a popular item. The thing that make his special is the hidden compartment (made with a toothpick holder kit) and glass cabochon in the handle.

Construction starts with a 1 1/2" x 18" blank. Mount this in a four-jaw chuck. With a drill bit chucked in the tailstock, make a hole for the toothpick holder tube in the end that will become the handle. The hole should be deep enough for the entire length of the tube, plus a knob on the end. For Lyle's kit, this deep hole is 27/64" in diameter. Be sure to check with the directions on the one you use. Change the drill to one sized for the outside diameter of the toothpick holder case top, and use it to expand the hole, but only as far as you plan to make the knob.

The next step is what makes it possible to cleanly mount a cabochon to the end of the knob. Lyle uses

a counterbore to form a recess in the end that is just the right size for the glass cabochons he buys on eBay. If (when) you make something similar, be

sure to get the glass ones, as plastic will become scratched quickly. What's a counterbore, you ask? It's a flat-bottomed drill with a pilot bushing in the tip, commonly used by machinists to make a recess for bolt heads. If you don't want to buy yet another tool, you can approximate the effect with a Forstner bit. Just be sure to do your drilling in the reverse order so everything stays concentric.

With the holes drilled, swap a cone shaped live center into your tailstock to support the far end of the blank. Rough turn things round, and start

thinking about your overall shape. You'll need to form a knob on the end, a handle section, and a longish tapered body. Lyle does this with an extended cove flanked by a pair of beads, but this is by no means the only way to do it. To the delight of some and dismay of others, Lyle uses a skew chisel as his primary tool for turning his wands. It's a tool that takes a bit of practice to learn, but the results are worth it.

Begin by forming the bead on the end that will form the removable knob. In your design, leave room to part off the knob. Shape the handle to your taste, remembering to make

it comfortable for the recipient to hold, and get most of the shaft tapered. This is a good time to sand things smooth and put on a finish. While Triple-EEE is popular for this, Lyle has noticed it can add a dark stain to lighter colored woods such as the yellowheart he was using. Based on some Internet research, he



uses a homemade mix of beeswax, diatomaceous earth, and mineral oil. This provides the same sort of polishing without a dark colored abrasive.

Things start to get fun here. While you still have things gripped in your chuck, part off the knob end. If you don't have a thin parting tool, careful work with a hand saw (lathe off!) will do. Remember that toothpick holder kit? Press the threaded cap end into the tube. (To be extra secure, use a bit of thin CA here, or even solder the two parts together.) After making sure you can unscrew the cap, glue the tube into the body of the wand. Similarly, glue the cap into the knob. Test the fit while you have a chance to fix things. When you satisfied with things, remove the knob and glue the

cabochon into the recess you made for it. With your cone center supporting the end, part off the wand at the tip.

*On Friday, after our turners meeting Thursday evening, I let my grandkids know that I could now make Harry Potter wands. Before the day was out 8 grandkids said they wanted one - who knew.*

Ross Gilroy

The last thing to do is final sanding and finishing of the tip. Lyle's ingenious method involves padding the wand handle with pieces of thick walled plastic tubing so the chuck jaws won't scar the finish. With the speed turned down, he can now spin the wand to sand the tip smooth and apply his finish. Once that's done, put a bit of parchment with the activating spell (or a rolled up \$20 bill) into the handle compartment, screw the knob on securely, and hand it off to your favorite witch or wizard.

Chuck Phillips

### NEW GRINDER WITH CBN WHEELS

The OCWA has purchased a new grinder that has two CBN grinding wheels. Cubic Boron Nitride is a synthetic chemical compound made up of boron and nitrogen atoms in a one-to-one ratio. It exists as a cubic crystal lattice, with its atoms arranged in a symmetrical, cube-shaped structure like the crystalline structure of diamond. Its material properties include extreme hardness, stability under heat, and superior chemical resistance. Cubic boron nitride is the second-hardest known material after diamond, making it useful in a wide variety of industrial applications, where it is often used as an abrasive or cutting tool. The professional demonstrators that we've had in 2018 were amazed that we did not have a set of CBN wheels for use by the pros and our members at Associations functions. These were purchased



from woodturnerswonders.com and we have 8 inch radius edge 80 grit and a 180 grit 4 in one wheel. I couldn't resist the temptation to make sure they worked and I sharpened my tools and I can tell you they will spoil you and make sharpening easier. I have ordered a set for myself, however, since my tools now are already configured to what I want I ordered a radius edge 180 grit and a 4 in 1 with a 350 grit. What the Association has is a great all around grit set up that will work for everyone. I am going to keep the grinder at my home in Orange until the next turners meeting in January. You are welcome to give me a call and come by and sharpen your tools and see if they will work for you. The grinder is set up with the Wolverine Sharpening System.

Len Musgrave

# SHOW AND TELL



## MONTHLY CHALLENGE



The Challenge for the January meeting is to turn a wand in the style of Lyle Rawlins' December demo. Note that Lyle created a removable end piece covering a small secret compartment in his wands. The glass cabochon that he inserts into the end is optional - although an inset of a contrasting wood disc or even mineral chip inlay would be great. As Lyle noted in his demo the magic is optional. The handout for Lyle's wand making demonstration is on the website under Handouts.

### IRONMAN

Four club members completed all of the monthly challenges for 2018: Ralph Crowther, Don Winans, Roy Reaser, and Ross Gilroy. There are a couple of others close behind. A shout out to Ralph who has completed every monthly challenge for the past 6 years.

## TOY STORY



I have heard that over 4,000 children in the area have had a great Christmas by receiving one of the toys made by our Association. I have received many thank you notes from the organizations we gave toys to and they are very thankful for our efforts. With the new year just starting and we now have a new beginning for the toy program. We have a new Chairman in Ken "Doc" Crandall and new location for the Toy Workshops starting in February. The January 5th Workshop will still be at my house until Ken gets his shop area ready for the mass of people.

During 2018 we have had the most new people join our group and we've added several new toys to the lineup. If you see a new toy that you want to make feel free to get busy and make them and who knows your toy might catch the eye of someone and they will make more. I like the new roll over car that Mike Taylor made that goes down a ramp and then rolls over and continues on. I know one of the members is making more of these and it is a toy for both girls and boys.

Hope to see you all at the January 5th from 9 to 12 at my house.

Bill Rogers, *Toy Chairman*

## PEN PROGRAM – SUPPORT OUR TROOPS



Well another year over and a successful one for our Support The troops Program. Over 2200 pens distributed and more than 20 participants. I would like to offer a challenge this year. What if everyone in the club that turns will just turn 5, or 10 pens this entire year. I'll keep track and what great help that would be for one of the town community services we are known for. If you make a toy instead that would be great also.

Best of the new year!

Keep turning and remember  
"NEVER WRITE WITH AN UGLY PEN!"

Gary Phipps, *Chairman, Support Our Troops Pen Program*



OCWA is now registered with AmazonSmiles which allows OCWA eligible to receive a .5% donation from all eligible purchases through the AmazonSmiles.com. If you'd like

to participate, simply go onto Amazon.com, search and click on AmazonSmile, and once on the AmazonSmiles site select Orange County Woodworkers from the list of charities. There is no need to change settings – all your account info/settings remain the same. You'll have access to the same products as found on Amazon.com. Thank you for participating.

For more information please contact Ralph Crowther.



## NEW MEMBERS

A big welcome to our new members:

Tom Weizoerick –  
Huntington Beach  
Margaret Hogarth – Chino Hills  
Robert Rasmussen –  
Huntington Beach  
Allan Lamonte – Orange

## OPEN POSITION ON THE BOARD – Director of Public Affairs

It's been a pleasure being your Public Affairs Director for the past 3 years and now I feel it's time to pass the baton to new blood with new ideas on promoting OCWA. My reign will be ending in December of 2019.

As Public Affairs Director I have been responsible for the newsletter and printed materials (brochures, flyers, and business cards supplying them to vendors and OC Fair). The working files are created in InDesign with Illustrator, Photoshop and Acrobat as support applications. All files have been archived and will be turned over to OCWA, making it seamless for anyone stepping into the position.

The best part of doing the newsletter is that you get to work with great OCWA members who provide you with great articles and plenty of photographs.

If anyone would like to find out more or is interested in the position, please contact me, Isha Grinenko at: [newsletter@ocwoodworkers.org](mailto:newsletter@ocwoodworkers.org) or talk with me at any of the meetings.

## MEETING LOCATION AND DATES:

### Tustin Senior Center

200 S. "C" Street  
Tustin, CA 92680

### Woodworkers' Meeting

Thursday, Jan. 3, 7:00 p.m.

### Woodturners' Meeting

Thursday, Jan. 17, 6:30 p.m.

### Board Meeting

Thursday, Jan. 3, 6:00 p.m.



## FRIENDS OF OCWA

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