



# Northwest Washington Woodturners

A Local Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

Monthly Newsletter for April 2011



## Northwest Washington Woodturners....

meets every third Thursday of the month except April when the meeting is held the fourth Thursday. There is no meeting in December.

We meet at Hillcrest Park Lodge in Mt. Vernon WA. Exit I-5 at Kincaid street, exit 226. Turn east up Kincaid to So. 13th, turn right on 13th. Hillcrest Park is approx. six blocks south on 13th. The lodge is located in the Northwest corner of the parking lot beyond the tennis courts. Meetings are open to anyone interested in wood turning. All skill levels from beginners to advanced turners are welcome.

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## *President's Letter*

Spring is trying its best to come to the Pacific Northwest so gardens and other activities will start to compete with time spent in the shop. The club doesn't have any extra activities for the next couple of months so you'll have time for gardening, painting, fixing your boat, fishing or whatever you do when you're not turning wood.

April 30<sup>th</sup> was our Sawdust Saturday with five students and three instructors. That's a pretty good student/instructor ratio for any kind of instruction. Most students turned both an open form and a more challenging closed form natural edge bowl. Everyone seemed to enjoy the experience which has been typical feedback from these workshops.

Our next Sawdust Saturday will be Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at Jerry Holmes's shop. Jerry, who is a logger, will cover chainsaw maintenance, safety, sharpening and how to properly fall a tree. He also will challenge himself to fall a tree and hit a cup showing how accurate one can be after many years of practice. The time and directions will come later this month in a reminder. Directions are also in the Shop Tour e-mail sent out last month. Feedback from last year indicates that this is educational, entertaining and there might be a chunk of wood in it for you.

June's Sawdust Saturday will be a morning and afternoon class on making tops. I've been reminding everyone of the importance of being comfortable making tops by July so you can help us at the children's festival. We also need tops for Christmas so put top making high on your priority list.

Julian Lee is organizing a workshop with Don Derry at the Ellensburg campout. If you might consider going to Ellensburg to camp and hang out with Don Derry, give Julian a call. The exact date hasn't been set because he needs to know what the demand is before he can obligate Don. Call Julian (360-299-2900) to let him know when would be the best time between July 10 and July 23<sup>rd</sup> to camp and learn.

Our next meeting will be May 19<sup>th</sup> at Hillcrest (same time, usual place), 5:30 dinner (Pizza) and 6:30 meeting. Bob Doop is keeping the program a secret so just show up and be surprised. Seriously, we should be able to let you know when the reminder comes out.

See you May 19<sup>th</sup>, GW

# April Meeting

The meeting started with another great meal prepared by Shirley Butters, featuring delicious chicken cacciatore, herbed pasta, Normandy style vegetables, garlic bread, and green salad. For desert we had pumpkin caramel cake and banana bread. We are very fortunate to have Shirley looking after us as those who had the meal really enjoyed it.

New members this month are Guenter Elsner, Jorge Linaves, Jeffery O'Donnell. We would like to welcome them to our club and hope to see them join in on all the benefits we have to offer.

After introducing our three guests President George Way complemented Dennis Shinn for building the new sound and camera boom which will span the 15 feet above our demo lathe. This will greatly improve lighting and the views we will be able to see on screen during demos

George mentioned there were some problems with members not getting email notification of the meeting information. If you are having trouble or think you are missing emails please contact John Novak and he will make sure your email information is correct in the club directory.

John Gruenewald has volunteered to be the "Top Gun" for our Tops for Tots project. Remember Saturday July 17<sup>th</sup> is the annual Children's Art Fair at Hillcrest Lodge. We will have lathes set-up for top turning and need volunteers to help with the turning. After you have turned 10 or 15 tops with children watching you need a break, so do your friends a "good turn" and join the fun, don't make it a struggle for the few who are usually there. Remember that we need to fill the "Top Box" before December, so start turning tops and bring them to the next meeting. The June Dust Saturday will feature "How To Turn Tops" and there will be 2 half day sessions, one in the morning, and if enough sign up another in the afternoon.

Bill Rawls mentioned again the AAW "One Good Turn Project". All members are encouraged to contribute a turning. The items will be sold for \$25.00 as a souvenir at the 25<sup>th</sup> National Symposium. The proceeds will be reserved for educational outreach and technical development. Bill Rawls will collect, organize and ship our items to the AAW HQ in time for the sale. Bill said we should bring our turnings to the next meeting so they can be readied for shipment back to AAW in time for the event. Bill said the turner's name, type of wood and AAW 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary should be written on the piece.

George reminded us about the cookie sign-up sheet, and that we need two volunteers for each meeting to bring a couple dozen cookies for the mid-meeting break

David Lippincott from the Seattle turners club had a nice selection of wood slabs for sale. His brother had a business partner that shipped the wood from South America and the wood is available in turning sized pieces and is also available in lumber sizes. He will bring the selection back to future meetings as long as there is interest

Les Books, our librarian, said Bob Doop has donated his video and book collection to the club library and there is now a very nice collection of new material to check out. Les asked that we all look at the past due list and to please return any items you have to the library.

# April Meeting cont.

Rick Anderson Education chairman mentioned the mentors list for beginning turning and specialty turning. There is only one name on the list for the "Lets Start Turning" class and if we can get three or more signed up they will schedule a class.

Dennis Shinn SD Saturday Chairman; reported that the April 30th Saw Dust Saturday will be on natural edged bowls, and Dennis said the class was for turners that had some end grain turning experience. May 28<sup>th</sup> will be Chainsaw Basics at Jerry Holmes shop. June 25th will be learning to turn tops and July 30<sup>th</sup> will be turning Flat Things. August 27<sup>th</sup> will be on Off Axis/Multiple Axis Turning. September 24<sup>th</sup> is Lidded Things, and October 29<sup>th</sup> will be Spoons and Scoops. Watch for sign-up sheets at the regular club meetings; check the web site for more details

George Way reminded us that the Olympia Woodturners are going to have their "Creativity in Woodturning Symposium" on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011. They have many interesting programs planned along with two nationally known turners Mike Mahoney and Steven Hatcher

George said the Ellensburg camping and turning event is planned for July 16<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>. Julian Lee is our contact for this event. It is running in conjunction with the Carving Academy Seminar at the Ellensburg Rodeo Grounds. This should be a week of fun for all who are interested. He suggested looking at the club web site for more information and to let Julian Lee know as soon as you can if you are interested. If there are enough folks planning to attend Don Derry said he would present a demo.

George announced that we've been invited to participate in the 3rd Annual Craft Fair and Garage Sale at United General Hospital on Saturday, May 21st. The spaces go for \$15 for one or \$25 for two. Since there wasn't much of a response at the meeting, George suggested anyone interested should contact the organization directly

Bob Doop program chairman requested help with planning future programs. He has been doing it for over 3 years now and would like someone to volunteer to help. He said the club has a good budget for programs.

Our program for the evening was about "Sanding", and we had four club members discuss different aspects of tools and materials that are commonly used by all of us.

Bob Doop presented the first part of our program with a very informative discussion on sandpaper and the many different types, grades, and the bewildering difference between grits and grit types or material. Bob passed out a sheet from "The Sanding Glove" that compared the different grit sizes used by different grading standards of U.S. European, and Japanese.

Bob had assembled a variety of sandpaper products to show the many different and various types of compositions of sandpaper available from many different manufactures, and also a few tool accessories that would work for a variety of tasks. An example is the 3M Bristle Pad that is similar to a miniature flap sanding wheel that would get into small crevices on natural edged turnings. Bob went on to the question of, do you double, or increase by halves, the grit size when working the progression of grits when sanding your work.

## April Meeting cont.

The conclusion was to increase by 50% increments, and if you find a scratch go back a grit size. Bob said that he likes Abernet for sanding wet wood as it can be cleaned with a blast from an air hose and reused. He said however you should treat your sandpaper as if you did not pay for it, once it becomes clogged change to a new piece. The newer papers are designed to fracture and give you a fresh cutting surface, the older types of grit tend to round over and will burnish your piece making it harder for the next grit to work. Bob said he has had good luck with a product called Blue Ice which has a ceramic grit with a releasing agent that prevents clogging to a degree.

Bob suggested using a fairly slow lathe speed for sanding, usually around 400 to 500 rpm. Speed and pressure will create heat which ruins and wears out sandpaper faster than anything else. He said it was very important to always clean away the sanding dust before moving on to the next grit size. A blast of air works the best. He suggests not going beyond 320 grit if you plan to use a stain or varnish as it will not adhere. Oils and waxes which are penetrating finishes will be fine on work that is sanded beyond the 320 range.

Bob warned about not using a rubber or foam back-up pad with your sandpaper, as your fingers will cause an uneven surface. You should be sure to use foam pads on electric and inertial sanders in soft, medium, or firm densities depending on the wood type you are working. Handy rubber sanding blocks can be purchased inexpensively at auto supply stores. They can be easily cut to handy sizes

There is no "Snake Oil" magic to finishing, learn to use the tools you have .

Rick Anderson our second presenter spoke about Inertia Sanders. He said it is a great way to quickly sand your work on the lathe and not end up with swirls and streaking lines. He has the "Sanding Solution" sold by The Sanding Glove. He has been using it for several years and is very happy with the quality and ease of use. Rick says there is a variety of lesser priced tools on the market however the biggest problem with them is the bearings do not fit well and tend to bind up and stall often, which causes sanding irregularities on your work. Rick passed around many examples of the different sanders available so we could feel the difference in quality. Rick demonstrated how to correctly use an inertia sander, saying you should use half of the disc below the center line of the turning. Using only half of the disc will keep it spinning, if you tilt it to the middle of the disc it will stall and cause scratch lines. Rick suggests sanding at about 1000 rpm and on spindles he sands with the grain between grits to clear any flaws

Dennis Shinn our third demonstrator discussed the use of Scotch Brite, Norton and other microfiber products. Dennis said that generally the white was the softest/finest, green and gray being medium and maroon and brown was the coarsest. You could compare them to 220, 100 and 80 grit papers. The Norton products are not color coded but are labeled as soft, medium and coarse. The products have abrasive imbedded in them and can be cleaned and reused as they get clogged. Dennis has found the abrasive pads work well for him. He said they also work well for wet sanding as they can be cleaned and reused. The down side to microfiber products is the color can sometimes become embedded into your turning and it will have to be cleaned before you apply a finish. Dennis recommended that you use care with a fresh pad as it could catch on slivers of wood.

## April Meeting cont.

Once the turning has been initially smoothed or the pads have been used a bit they will be less apt to catch. Dennis also said it is not recommended using steel wool on a spinning lathe. A fresh piece will easily catch on a bit of wood and quickly pull into a tangle to snag your hand. It was recommended that along with the mail order catalogs, auto supply stores were a good source for the abrasive pads as they are sold in large sized sheets that you can cut to useful sizes. Another product Dennis suggested was the wall board sanding sponges. They also work well for wet wood and also can be cleaned and reused.

Vern Leibrant our fourth demonstrator said that he sands wet with water running onto the work piece to keep the grain and sandpaper clear. Vern makes many of his sanding tools and showed an example made of a large dowel wrapped with a strip of sandpaper he uses for sanding curved shapes on the lathe. Vern said he also uses power sanders with quick change discs that are readily available at auto supply stores. Vern said he removes the rubber O rings from his oscillating sanders so they will run faster and just spin, he finds this works better for his sanding needs. His wet sanding progression is 80 up to 180 and then dries sands up to 320. He said you should always sand with the paper oriented so the work is spinning away from you as at the bottom of the piece. Vern said he turns bowls to sell and rarely goes beyond 320 grit and folks who buy bowls are not woodturners and tend not recognize a silky finish, they are mostly concerned with shape, form and end use.

George Way presented the gallery. We had a wide variety of turnings to view this month, each one was unique in wood type and shape. There was a bit of fun and teasing with regard to the size of the base or foot of the pieces. George said that aesthetically a turning usually looks best if the foot is a third of its width.

Jerry Holmes ran the wood raffle and there was a very nice collection of wood won by many of the members who purchased raffle tickets. Remember to bring your extra wood to the meetings; the wood raffle is one of our major fund raisers

*Richard Mabie*

# Coming Events

## Northwest Washington Woodturners

Present a Camping and Turning Rendezvous in the delightful Eastern Washington City of Ellensburg.

Dates: July 8<sup>th</sup> through 24<sup>th</sup> 2011

Location: North RV Lot, Kittitas Valley Event Center (Ellensburg Rodeo Grounds)

Fees: Daily camping fee, \$13 per rig for hookups to power and water, \$8 per rig or tent for dry camping. Dumpsite available nearby

This is an unstructured camping and outdoor turning get together where like minded folk can relax and share experiences.

Bring your own mini lathe and come for as long as you wish during these dates.

Contact Julian Lee - [julian.s@comcast.net](mailto:julian.s@comcast.net) - Telephone 360 299 2900 To confirm your reservation.

Companion event:

For those turners interested in learning to carve, or improve their carving, there are classes available at Northwest Carvers Academy within the Event Center from July 10<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup>. Information on this is available on line at [www.Cascadecarvers.com](http://www.Cascadecarvers.com) and click on "Carving Academy".

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## Wood Available

A fellow in Mount Vernon that is having a Tulip poplar tree taken down by Eager Beaver tree service in the next 2 weeks and he would like the wood to go to good use. Quite large 4.5 ft diameter, 90 ft tall.

For more information contact Dan Gould 360-336-2578 Any one interested should call him direct

## Notes from the Editor

I would like to thank Fred Holder for taking the Gallery Photos for the Month of April.

Good job Fred,  
*Ron Wehde*

Also, We only have two people, Nancy Key and Dennis Shinn signed up on the cookie roster for the month of May. Please contact me if you can help.

ron.wehde@gmail.com

# Coming Events

## Coming on October 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> DOUGLAS FISHER!



Douglas Fisher, from Parksville, B.C. on Vancouver Island is one of the rising stars in woodturning with unique artistry and innovative techniques. After a career that ranges from ironworker to drilling and blasting in underground gold mines to delivering sailboats to the Caribbean and across the Atlantic he became a full time professional artist in 1992 and since 1997 has focused on wood sculptures, primarily made using the lathe. Doug collaborated with a British Columbia First Nation artist for several years and now, since his passing, continues to utilize that art for the visual designs in most of his pieces.



Doug did his very first demo at the AAW Symposium in June to rave reviews. I recently attended his all day demo at the Greater Vancouver Woodturners Guild and although this was only his third demonstration, his presentation was equal to or better than many demonstrators who have been doing demos for years. The day was very educational, focusing on his techniques which have the potential to be applied in many different ways to our own turning. His works make use of multi-center turning techniques while his unique finishing utilizes inks and stains applied in multiple layers to attain an “old wood” patina that is quite wonderful. In between the turning and finishing, he carves, textures and burns.

His finished works are beautiful! Be sure to check out Doug’s work at [www.douglasfisher.com](http://www.douglasfisher.com) You can also see several pieces of Doug’s work on display at The Fairhaven Originals Gallery in the Fairhaven District of Bellingham

Douglas has agreed to present an all day demo next October 22nd! On October 23<sup>rd</sup> Doug will lead a class on his techniques and is willing to lead a second class on October 24<sup>th</sup> if enough turners are interested. Complete details will be developed and presented within the next couple of months so set these dates aside!

For additional information contact: Rick Anderson  
[vicepresident@nwwwt.org](mailto:vicepresident@nwwwt.org)



# Mentoring News

## **MENTORING NEWS**

Don't forget that our Basic Mentoring program is available for beginning turners as well as more experienced turners.

Our Basic Mentoring program was created using the AAW Teaching Woodturning Basics teaching guide. The program focuses on learning spindle turning basics as a way to master tool control which can then be applied to most other modes of turning. Our basic turning mentors are George Way, Lucinda Van Valkenburg, Bob Doop, Fred Holder, Dave Blair, Melanie Mankamyer, Jim Short and Rick Anderson.

In addition to the basic mentoring program, we have developed a list of volunteer mentors with expertise in specialty subjects (such as hollowing, texturing, bowl turning, etc.) as well as more advanced turning skills. These mentors stand ready to assist you.....it is a great opportunity to advance your skills.

Printed copies of our mentor lists and their contact info are available on the membership table at our monthly meetings. Be sure to pick up copies and keep them handy for the next time you want to advance your turning skills.

If you have any questions regarding mentoring or need assistance in being connected with an appropriate mentor please feel welcome to call or email me.

Rick Anderson  
360-671-0532  
VicePresident@NWWT.org

### **!! Raffle Wood !!**

Our wood raffle is an important source of income for the club. Please bring any surplus you can scrounge up but try to limit it to something you would enjoy turning yourself.

### **Useful Website Links**

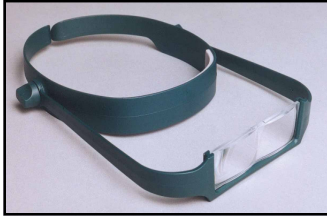
**Note:**  
**Web links have been provided on our website rather than included in the newsletter.**

**Please visit:**  
[www.northwestwashingtonwoodturners.org](http://www.northwestwashingtonwoodturners.org)

# Turning Accessories / Library

## TURNING UP CLOSE

Do you ever wish you could zoom in on small items you are turning? Or when doing detail work on a turned piece? Now you can. MagEyes are here! They are comfortable, light weight and very effective.



We are stocking two styles. The Hobbyist which is open in back (the style that Bonnie Klein touted when she was here last winter).



The 360 which wraps completely around your head w/ Velcro adjustment. Both styles come with two high grade optical quality lenses that provide 1.6X or 2.0X magnification.

Two stronger power lenses ( 2.25X & 2.75X) are also available and we will be stocking a limited number of those. The

stronger the power the closer the focal length. The 1.6X has a focal length of 12-14" and is great for general turning use. The other lenses are more applicable for detail work. It's easy to change from one lens to another.

The MagEyes are very lightweight and comfortable and flip up out of the way in a second. One of the best features is that it is easy to look over them and under them for normal vision without having to move them out of the way. Check them out at [www.mageyes.com](http://www.mageyes.com)

We are able to buy the MagEyes directly at a significant savings to our members. Both styles are priced at \$23 including tax and shipping. Most mail order catalogs charge \$30 plus tax and shipping. The higher powered lenses are \$8 each. Be sure to check them out on the supplies table at the November meeting!

## NEW DVDS IN OUR LIBRARY

We have recently added several new DVDs to our club library. Several will be of particular benefit to our beginning turners while others will be a resource for both beginning and experienced turners. In most cases we ordered 2 copies in order to make these DVDs available to more turners.

Richard Raffan — **TURNING WOOD** (2 copies)

The ideal companion to Raffan's book of the same name. One of the most complete guides to basic turning.

Bonnie Klein — **BASIC TECHNIQUES** (2 copies)

A great guide to basic techniques and their application to some fun projects.

Alan Lacer — **WOODTURNING-GETTING STARTED** (2 copies)

This book talks about all the equipment and tools involved in basic turning. A highly recommended view before starting turning.

Gary Rance — **WOODTURNING TECHNIQUES** (1 copy)

Very well done guide to the basics of woodturning from the perspective of a professional British turner trained in the classical tradition.

Mike Mahoney — **BOWL TURNING BASICS** (2 copies)

Everything you need to know (after mastering basic techniques) to turn beautiful bowls.

AAW's — **FUNDAMENTALS OF SHARPENING** (2 copies)

Features Bonnie Klein, Alan Lacer, John Jordan & Bill Johnston teaching their favorite sharpening techniques.

John Jordan — **AESTHETICS & PROPERTIES OF WOOD** (2 copies)

A 2 DVD set covering properties of wood, preparing wood for the lathe, wood orientation on the lathe and much more. This DVD will be of help to turners at all levels.

Curt Theobald — **INTRODUCTION TO SEGMENTED TURNING**

The title says it all, presented by one of the foremost segmented turners.

Be sure to check these out at our next meeting!

*Les Books*

# Classified Ads

This space is set aside for members to advertise free of charge to sell or purchase tools, wood, etc. Please submit your ad to Ron Wehde (rmwehde@comcast.net) by the last Thursday of the month or submit it to him at the meeting for inclusion in the next months newsletter.

## **MORE WOODTURNING**

The magazine for turners. Published 10 times a year by Fred Holder.

One yr: \$35.00;

Two yrs: \$70.00;

Three yrs \$105.00.

Electronic version \$25/yr. delivered from More Woodturning online at: [www.morewoodturning.net](http://www.morewoodturning.net)  
Lots of great information for your browsing pleasure.

More Woodturning

PO Box 2168

Snohomish WA 98291-2168

Phone: 360-668-0976

email: [fred@morewoodturning.net](mailto:fred@morewoodturning.net)

## **Club Discounts Available:**

Show your Club Membership card and get 10% off at Rockler's and Crosscut Hardwoods

**Targo Woods**  
**1104 C Street Bldg. B**  
**Bellingham, WA**

*Just three blocks south of the old site.*

[www.targowoods.com](http://www.targowoods.com) [or]  
[www.hardwoodstoget.com](http://www.hardwoodstoget.com)

Local Bellingham wood source for your projects. Hard woods, Burls, Veneers. Wood to replace a leg on a chair, make a whole dining room set or turn a bowl, you will find it at Targo.

Oby says: NWWoodturner Club members will get 10% off on their Purchases.

Save on gas buy local.

## **FOR SALE**

For Sale: Jet Mini Lathe Model JW-1220 (low hours) comes with three tool rest, Super Nova2 Chuck ~ pin jaws, 2" jaws and Cole Jaws. I'll even throw in the work mate stand all for \$400. Please contact Jim Breiling at 360-331-4480 (Whidbey Island).

**THOMPSON  
LATHE TOOLS**  
*Powder metal and cryogenics is the future  
of woodturning and finally affordable!*

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

**Fine Woodturnings by Dave**

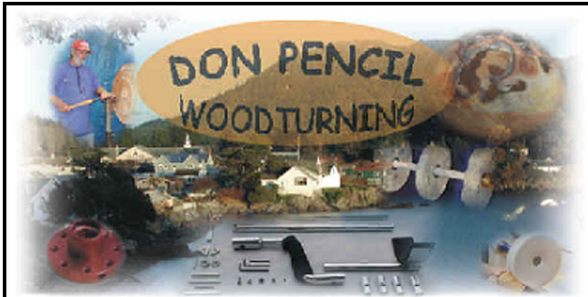
**DWAY TOOLS**  
**Dave Schweitzer**  
Home/Studio 360-432-9509  
Cell 206-940-1922  
e-mail [davelu@hctc.com](mailto:davelu@hctc.com)  
3661 E. Pickering Road Shelton, WA 98584

Member of AAW Imported and Local Hardwoods

**Kerf's Products by ShadowWood Too**  
Kerf's Wood Cream  
Kerf's Lavender Wood Lotion  
Kerf's Lemon Luster for Wood

**Anne Collard**  
owner  
phone: 360.738.3369  
fax: 360.647.6789  
email: [annecollard@earthlink.net](mailto:annecollard@earthlink.net)  
website: [www.kerfs.com](http://www.kerfs.com)

# Classified Ads and Contacts



"WOOD N THINGS" BUFFING SYSTEMS  
SCORPION/STINGER HOLLOW VESSEL  
TRUE TURN FACEPLATES and more.

This is my home club.

Therefore, 25% off everything for NWW members  
Call Don Pencil or use code NWW25ALL

[WWW.DONPENCIL.COM](http://WWW.DONPENCIL.COM)

360-376-4586 EASTSOUND, WA 98245

## **FOR SALE**

### **BELSAW 9103 PLANER/MOLDING CUTTER**

I have a Belsaw 9103 planer/molding cutter that runs fine but needs blades. Blades run about \$40. The manual is available online and I would be glad to print it out if the buyer doesn't have Internet access. I would like **\$150** for it.

Jan Garlington  
360-668-2392

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

## Club Contacts:

### President

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### Membership Chairman

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### Education Chairman

Rick Anderson 360-319-7600  
[rick@gardenarches.com](mailto:rick@gardenarches.com)

### Sawdust Saturday Chairman

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[hdshinn@eskimo.com](mailto:hdshinn@eskimo.com)

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### Newsletter

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[Newsletter@nwwwt.org](mailto:Newsletter@nwwwt.org)