

Demonstrators and Rotations

Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium

September 12, 13 & 14, 2014

Loveland, Colorado

David Ellsworth - Ellsworth Studios

Over the past thirty years, David Ellsworth has become known as one of the premier designers of turned wooden vessel forms. His work is included in the permanent collections of thirty-six museums and numerous private collections. He is a Fellow and former Trustee of the American Craft Council and has received fellowship awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Pennsylvania Council for the Arts, and the PEW Fellowship for the Arts. In 2009 he was elected by the James A. Renwick Alliance of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. to receive the prestigious "Master of the Medium" award in wood. He is the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Collectors of Wood Art and the Lifetime Membership Award from the American Association of Woodturners. He runs his own private school of woodturning at his home and studio in Buck's County, Pennsylvania.

Natural Top Open Bowl

Making natural edge bowls is one of my most enjoyable demonstrations. It combines working from raw logs, between center mounting tips, a bit of design illusion, some unique cuts for entering the outside and inside of the rim (did I say going the wrong direction and with the wrong part of the edge of the gouge?) I'll explain rough cuts, slicing cuts, shear-scraping cuts, and the use of jam chucks to finish off the bottom.

Hollow form

My classic method of turning a hollow form from a log using both my Signature gouge and handmade hollowing tools. Features include: Manipulating the log between centers, orientating grain, rough cuts, slicing cuts, shear-scraping cuts, a lot of stories while I turn out the inside where nobody can see what I'm doing and finishing the base by reverse turning using a jam chuck.

Kip Christensen - Learning and Turning

Kip Christensen, PhD, is a Professor in the School of Technology at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. His primary teaching areas include furniture design, wood prototyping, manufacturing, and

supervising student teachers in Technology and Engineering Education. Dozens of his students have received national recognition for having furniture they designed and built accepted into juried exhibitions and published in books featuring exceptional furniture designs.

Kip is also a well-known woodturner. He has co-authored three books and co-produced eight instructional DVDs about woodturning. His work has been published in over two dozen books and he has authored several articles regarding woodworking and technology education. His work is housed in numerous collections both public and private.

Kip is a versatile and efficient turner whose work is characterized by clean lines and fine detail. He is known for his clear and energetic instruction, his turned lidded containers, and for pioneering the use of antler for artistic turning. As an educator, Kip has a particular interest in woodturning education and is often involved in teaching turners about techniques and projects used in teaching others how to turn.

Ten Projects Fast and Fun

This demonstration is the furious five, times two. Kip will demonstrate how to turn ten projects that are fast to turn and fun to make. In the process he will show how to work with a variety of materials, chucking methods, turning techniques, and tools.

Christmas Ornament & Chatter Tool Techniques

Kip will show how to turn and decorate a simple Christmas ornament. Decorations techniques will include wire burning, coloring with markers, bleaching, and using a pyrography pen. On a separate topic he will cover techniques of Chatter Tool use.

Inlaid Box with Chatterwork

While showing how to turn an inlaid box with chatterwork, Kip will cover a variety of topics including, material selection, box design, preparing an inlay, rough turning and drying a box blank, finish turning a box, spigot design, fitting a lid, inserting an inlay, applying chatterwork, finishing the interior and exterior, and chucking methods.

Kirk DeHeer - kirkdeheer.com

Kirk DeHeer is a professional woodturner and long-time resident instructor at Craft Supplies USA in Provo, Utah. He has an extensive knowledge of woodturning tools, equipment and turning technique, and regularly demonstrates at woodworking shows and demonstrated and clubs throughout the country. Drawing on his studies with some of the best woodturners in the world, Kirk has developed his own style of instruction and turning that will enhance any woodworker's ability level. Additionally, Kirk is considered one of the best woodturning tool sharpeners around and has produced a video on sharpening woodturning tools.

Jason Schneider - Schneider Furniture

Jason received his BFA degree in Furniture Design from William Paterson University in Wayne, NJ. He continued to study furniture design at San Diego State University in San Diego, CA where he received his MFA degree. While working on his MFA, Jason began to show work in many furniture exhibitions throughout the country. He is currently the Studio Coordinator of the Furniture Design and Woodworking program at the Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Snowmass Village, CO.

I create three-dimensional objects with subtle hints that will make someone want to explore. In my current body of work the subtle feature is the unsophisticated material used, corrugated cardboard. At first glance the color of cardboard disguises itself as a solid wood material. Further investigation will display a rich undulating texture of stacked corrugated flutes.

My exploration into the use and function of this low-status and commonly overlooked material is what drives me. Creating furniture, sculpture and two-dimensional artwork with corrugated cardboard is an exciting challenge that often results in a surprisingly elegant, and sometimes whimsical, surface and form.

Turning a Corrugated Cardboard Bowl

For this demonstration I will use a prepared corrugated cardboard turning blank and explain the process of turning an open bowl. The laminating process, tools and techniques will be discussed/demonstrated.

Turning Out Cardboard Furniture

In this demonstration I will go over the design and planning process when designing a functional piece of furniture made/turned out of corrugated cardboard. Special considerations need to be made when working on a larger scale and when the corrugations are laminated in different directions.

Slide Presentation of My Work

This will be a chronological presentation of my work. It will conclude with a short presentation on the Anderson Ranch Arts Center – where I currently run the woodshop.

Choosing the Right Materials and the Laminating Process

Getting started with corrugated cardboard begins with selecting the right material, knowing how to laminate, proper clamping (with reinforcements if necessary) and what tools work best after a blank has been created. I may do a slide show of how others work with cardboard.

Michael Blankenship - Turning Blind

Michael Blankenship is a completely blind woodturner. He became blind from a very rare disease in 2003. He was a woodworker all of his life but NEVER turned wood until he became blind. Michael taught

himself to turn wood by listening to videos. He belongs to two woodturning clubs to help him learn new techniques and skills. These clubs give him the opportunity to learn from other turners and try new styles of turning. His love for turning has given him a new purpose and keeps him very busy.

Three Piece Hollow Christmas Ornament

The Christmas ornament consists of a hollowed globe with a small finial top and a long finial bottom. This ornament can be simple or complex but the technique that I made-up can be used for mass production.

Simple Bowl with Crock Style Rim

This bowl is the second turning of a twice turned bowl with an old crock style rim.

Loose Lid Box

This box is the second turning of a twice turned box. It is often used for jewelry and trinket storage.

Rick Orr - Fishtail Fly Rod Tubes

Rick Orr is a member of AAW, a member of the RMWT (Rocky Mountain Woodturners), and past President of the FRW (Front Range Woodturners) based in Denver, CO. He is most recognized for both his Rainsticks and his bamboo Fly Rod Tubes, demonstrating both of those items at the 2011 Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium. He has demonstrated for the RMWT (Loveland, CO), FRW (Denver, CO), Pueblo Woodturners (Pueblo, CO), and the Yellowstone Woodturners (Billings, MT). This will be Rick's second visit as a demonstrator to the Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium. Rick is a retired Montana State University Chemical Engineer, having worked most of his adult career for General Electric. Rick resides in the Denver, CO metro area. He can be contacted at rickorr.1848@yahoo.com.

Small Lidded Boxes

In this rotation, Rick will demonstrate all the steps necessary to complete a small lidded box from a single piece of wood. He will walk you through the selection of the wood, the decision for which end becomes the top and the bottom, set up, and mounting on the lathe. The making of the tenon for holding in a chuck, dividing the piece in two for the base and the lid, and jam chucking for holding and finish turning each piece will also be covered. Some fine details will be added, sanding, and initial finishing will be also on the agenda. The session will also include some finished examples of his many small boxes. Each tool used in the process will be covered in detail. This session is especially suited with the beginner to intermediate turner in mind, but might point out some useful ideas to even the advanced craftsman.

Elk Antler Boxes

Inspired by Pete Holtus, with further input captured from Kip Christensen and Kirk DeHeer, Rick will take you through the process of making a small, simple box from elk antler with contrasting top and bottom made from wood. This simple process will start with obtaining the raw antler (how, where, how much \$\$\$), the preparation of the antler (stabilization), centering, and the addition of a tenon for a chuck. The antler will be turned, sanded, and polished – and the tops and bottoms turned, using jam chucks, with contrasting hard wood. Examples of several finished boxes will be provided, as well as ideas for more complicated projects out of elk antler (other boxes, napkin rings). This session provides some insight to the use of other turning materials besides wood.

Shop Hammers

Rick was inspired to start making various sized shop hammers after picking up one of his old ones in his shop and realizing how beat up and ugly it really was. In this session, meant for beginning to intermediate turners, Rick will demonstrate all of the steps necessary to produce a decorative, yet very functional shop hammer. Turning is started between centers for the basic pieces. Some chuck work is used for producing mortises, while turning between centers is used for making tenons. Glue up of various pieces will be done followed by final turning and finishing. Some light sanding is used, and the finish is a simple application of oil. The finished product can be used daily in the shop, until it ultimately becomes beat up and ugly – and the process starts all over.

John Giem

Vacuum Chucking Basics

The vacuum chuck can be utilized for much more than finishing off the bottoms of bowls. The techniques for mounting items on a vacuum chuck will be demonstrated along with a bit of troubleshooting. A couple of complete projects will be presented using only vacuum chucking and a live center in the tailstock. My objective is to expand your knowledge and usage of your vacuum chucking systems. Questions and discussions are welcome.

Get the Most from Vacuum Chucking

The article 'How to get the most from your Vacuum Chucking System' will be published in the October 2014 issue of the American Woodturner. The demonstration will be based on the information contained in this article, a limited number will be available as preprint handouts. In this rotation, we will go through the various parts of a vacuum chucking system, how to assemble a system, trouble shooting and performance testing. Much of the testing is simple using items you readily have in your shop or garage. Using these techniques, you may be able to improve your system to get more out of its usage. Questions and discussions are welcome since they will only enhance your experience.

Spinning Tops

This Hands-On workshop is designed for kids of all ages and skills. Be prepared to enjoy yourself and have some fun making these basic examples of High Tech. We will explore the basic woodturning skills used to make a spinning top. There should be time to make more than one top and to compare its performance. There will be an arena where you can spin your tops and compete against the others. Time permitting, we will see who creates the 'Top-Top'.

Dale Bonertz - Rough Out Bowls

For the past 20 years, Dale Bonertz has been self-employed as a remodeling contractor. He has an extensive background in wood window and door manufacturing and production projects through his remodeling business. He has been wood turning for eleven years and is a member of the AAW and Rocky Mountain Woodturners. He is most recognized through his involvement with roughing out bowls with his mentor and friend, Dan Bailey. His interest in production is constantly being refined and updated with the goal of becoming more efficient, quicker, and more effective with his turning.

McNaughton Coring Tool

The coring demonstration will help both beginners and more experienced users understand and become more proficient with coring.

Everything You Need to Know, You Learn Through Roughing

This demonstration is a tool/equipment heavy demonstration with a fresh look at techniques and ways to practice them through roughing out bowls and other vessels.

Allen Jensen

Hollow Forms for everyone

In this rotation participants will turn a simple hollow form.

Tom Wirsing - thomaswirsing.com

Tom Wirsing was born in Roanoke, Virginia, in the Shenandoah Valley, an historic center of American woodturning.

Tom began turning wood as a young boy. After graduating from Roanoke College with a degree in Physics, Tom began traveling extensively. He lived in Europe, Asia, and 9 US States. The lathe in his dad's workshop became distant memory.

About 20 years ago Tom found himself working for the Hewlett-Packard Company in Chicago, and living in a house with a spacious basement. He bought a lathe, and began turning wood again. At first he made mostly furniture, but almost by chance, he attended a demonstration by Richard Raffan, a very well-known Australian woodturner, who specializes in turning beautiful wooden bowls. Richard took a rough piece of American black cherry timber and turned it into a wonderful bowl. Tom was hooked.

Thus began Tom's interest in creating art pieces on the lathe. He now turns primarily bowls and platters from a variety of woods. His favorite is figured maple.

Tom is a member of the American Association of Woodturners. Tom has served as two-term president of the Denver chapter of the AAW, and has served two terms as president of the AAW.

Tom resides with his wife Melinda on a small ranch in north Boulder County, Colorado where he grazes Angus cattle and turns wood in his studio overlooking the Colorado Front Range.

You Can Turn a Perfect Platter. Here's How.

I will demonstrate the process steps by which a woodturner, even of modest skills, can turn a beautiful platter and can, through the use of bowl gouges and scrapers of several shapes, produce precisely the desired shape (form) with almost no tear-out and requiring very little sanding. Although the demonstration will not focus on grinding, I will grind frequently during the demonstration and will explain why sharp tools, ground to the right shapes, can easily and quickly produce the desired results.

Everyone Can Turn a Perfect Bowl

The purpose of this demonstration is twofold:

1. To demonstrate techniques for turning a "perfect bowl" using a combination of gouges and scrapers.
2. To focus especially on easily-mastered techniques for the use of negative-rake scrapers to fine-tune shapes and curves and eliminating all irregularities and tear-out, even on difficult, highly-figured hardwoods.

Rudolph Lopez - Photographer Turned Wood Artist

Although he is a relatively new wood artist, Rudolph Lopez has always had a love of natural objects and the environment in which they flourish. Growing up on a cattle ranch in Florida with his father and uncles who spent most of their time in the woods, he grew to love the outdoors... trees, water and all things relating to nature. To this day, Rudy's greatest pleasures come from mountain-biking, canoeing, kayaking, hiking and just being in the woods.

Rudy began working with his hands at a very young age and began to develop his creative eye through photography—his first artistic pursuit. With an education in drafting and design, he drew inspiration from the surroundings of his youth, Rudy began his relationship with wood as a craftsman of fine furniture and cabinetry. His desire to explore wood-turning began to develop when he received a natural-edge turned bowl as a Christmas gift from his best friend two years ago. Since that time, Rudy's natural sense of curiosity has led him to explore the techniques necessary to transform wood from a simple rough chunk into an piece of aesthetic beauty. He has the ability to look at an object, understand how it is made, and recreate it with very little effort. It is as if his brain is linked to his hands by some arcane memory.

When asked what kind of wood he most likes to turn, Rudy's response was, "imperfect wood, wood with knots, voids, worm holes, decay or any other flaw or defect. To me this is the beauty that God and nature has provided me with as a starting point, and then it becomes a challenge for me to continue this and create something of beauty for others to enjoy". Rudy's turned pieces have been featured in the "Rounding The Four Corners" exhibit 2008 and "Restful Places-Cremation Urns and Objects" 2009 at the AAW Gallery of Wood Art in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Natural Edge Wing Bowl from a log or crotch section

I will be turning a thin natural edge wing bowl from a green log or crotch section. Design and layout considerations regarding limb orientation, crotch figure, keeping or eliminating features or flaws in the wood will be covered. I will explain and demonstrate the technique I use for turning thin on interrupted cuts. Turning thin allows the wood to warp and move which influences the final piece and helps avoid cracking. Explanations on using and sharpening Negative Rake scrapers and sanding wet wood both on and off of the lathe.

Square to round Bowls, Vases and Hollow Forms

I will explain and demonstrate the process I use to create vase which is square on top and tapers to round at the bottom. Starting with a rectangular blank that has been prepared on the band saw to taper the sides, the remaining exterior corners will be turned away leaving a square top and the four tapered sides. The interior of the vase will then be turned into the square top. Techniques for sanding and/or embellishing the different surfaces of the forms will also be discussed. I will show a variety of ways blanks can be cut on the band saw which will start you thinking about how many different design possibilities there are for square to round bowls, vases and hollow forms.

Thin Stem Natural Edge Goblet

I will be turning a natural edge thin stem goblet from a green limb using mostly a 5/8" side ground bowl gouge. I will explain limb selection, pith orientation, drying to help avoid cracking and some discussion on using and sharpening negative rake scrapers. Emphasis on tool control, improving skill with the bowl gouge and learning the technique and finesse needed for turning thin stems on goblets.

Hands-on class: Natural Edge Wing Platter from a half log

We will be turning a natural edge wing platter from a green half log section. You will improve your tool control while learning the technique and finesse needed for turning thin on interrupted cuts. Using and sharpening Negative Rake scrapers and sanding wet wood both on and off of the lathe will be covered.

Hands-on class: Thin Stem Natural Edge Goblet

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Trent Bosch - Bosch Studios

Trent Bosch has been woodturning professionally for the past 18years. He began exploring the art of woodturning while pursuing a Fine Arts degree from Colorado State University. Since graduating, he has fully devoted his efforts into creating one of a kind sculptural woodturnings. He also has a love for teaching, sharing the knowledge and techniques he has developed freely with others. His work is displayed in numerous fine art galleries, the permanent collections of museums and craft centers as well as in many private collections worldwide. Trent has taught and demonstrated his techniques for turning and sculpting wood throughout the United States and abroad.

Kids Hands-on session

In this session, designed specifically for the young woodturner, we will turn a fun and simple project that will give woodturners of all levels confidence on the lathe.

Hollow Forms for everyone

In this rotation participants will turn a simple hollow form.