

Rocky Mountain Woodturners

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

July 1998
Newsletter
Vol. 4 - No. 6

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Events Calendar

July 16 Monthly Meeting

August 14-16 The Turning Point Workshops

August 22-23 11th Annual T.A.W. Symposium

August 20 Monthly Meeting

September 17 Monthly Meeting

October 24 Mini Symposium Dave Nittmann

November 19 Monthly Meeting

December 17 Monthly Meeting

January 21 Monthly Meeting

February 18 Monthly Meeting

March 18 Monthly Meeting

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JULY MEETING

**Thursday – 7/16/98
7:00 PM
Room 105
Industrial Sciences
Building
Colorado State University
Ft. Collins, Colorado**

Agenda:

- October Symposium
- Newsletter Software
- Fund Raisers / Club Costs
- Tacoma 99 Road Trip

- Monthly Challenge:
Anything turned.
- Bring in wood to raffle, and
you will get a free raffle
ticket.
- This month's demonstration:
David Nittmann will lead a
discussion reviewing the
Akron and Provo
Symposiums. If you attended
either symposium, please
prepare a list of ten things you
learned to share with the club.

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Ray Kowrach

The club membership dues are \$20.00, and \$12.00 for students. Fill out the Member Information Form and include it with your funds. Please turn in your form and funds to Ray Kowrach..

If you bring a guest please make sure they leave there name and address with Wayne Van Every so they can receive two copies of the newsletter.

LIBRARY

Dick Branecki

Since the beginning of the club, the library policy has been, each member may check out one book or video for one month.

This allows other members the opportunity to use the library materials.

Please check your bookshelves for club books, videos and back issues of woodturning magazines so we can get them back into circulation.

JUNE MEETING MINUTES (cont.)

Wayne Van Every

Guests were introduced.

Dean Martin of Loveland has donated three books on mechanical manipulation and decorating to the club. The books shall be placed into the library. Thank you Dean Martin of Loveland for the generous contribution!

Secretary Report: Information was circulated from Farris Machinery on The Turning Point Workshops for weekend classes in July and August in Grain Valley, Missouri. 1-800-872-5489

Wayne informed the club of the Adobe software that is used to translate documents into a file that could be transmitted electronically to club members with Internet access. The cost for the complete package is around \$250.00. A limited version is available for \$30.00 if we want to try it out and see if it works for the club.

The Chicago Woodturners Club won the 97 Akron Symposium collaborative challenge by turning a bicycle in which 31 club members participated. It was auctioned off and sold for \$3000.00! (A great fund raising idea!!)

Ray suggested a survey to see what kind of commitment from the club there was on the getting electronic newsletters due to the cost of the software.

Treasure's Report: Ray reported the club is hovering around \$850.00 in the checking account. We had some new members joining, and the cost of the monthly newsletter was running around \$60.00 to \$80.00.

Media Center Report: Dick ordered the seven tape artist series videos from The Turning Point. They offered us a discount and will place the club on their mailing list. Thank you!! The gift Certificate from Craft Supplies will be used to purchase a Richard Raffin video and more books. Thank you!

JUNE MEETING MINUTES(cont.)

Wayne Van Every

Media Center Report: Dick indicated that the note in the newsletter requesting books to be returned was working that that books that have been out of circulation for over a year were being returned and mailed back.

Old Business: Provo Symposium, Doug indicated the, RMWT was well represented. Everyone that attended was very impressed and surprised at the range of turners who attended. There is uncertainty whether there will be another one next summer, we are keeping our fingers crossed. Doug won a Gift Certificate for "Fastest Egg Cup Turned by an AAW Chapter President" Many of our own RMWT club members had pieces in the Instant Gallery. Earl has a copy of the CD-ROM that has photographs of the Instant Gallery and other interesting subjects. The CD-ROM may be available soon through the AAW.

AAW Akron Ohio Symposium, Lee and Trent both went and Trent also demonstrated. Congratulations Trent on being selected to demonstrate at the National Symposium! Both Lee and Trent mentioned the highlights of the symposium and had a great time and learned a lot. The AAW Symposium in 1999 will be in Tacoma Washington, a nice scenic drive from here. (1272 miles each way from Ft. Collins)

Shop Tours, Trent inquired about leading off the shop tours. After a discussion it was decided that the first in the series of shop tours will be at Trent's September 12 at 2 PM. If you are interested on having a tour in your shop please let Trent or Wayne know so we can get the information and a map into the newsletter. The dates are open and we can probably accommodate one tour a month, so we need someone for October.

Fall Symposium, David was going to come up with a list of tasks for people to do, I was unable to reach David prior to his departure for the Akron. The Sears facility is out. Anyone having any ideas as to where a facility would be that we could have this please let us know. Because of the time and resources needed to organize such an event we are fast approaching the point when we must commit and make it happen or not.

New Business: John Fossy has offered the use of his shop as a meeting place.

Harold Jammers of Unique Mesquite in Texas has contacted Doug about some good deals on figured Mesquite. 830/256-4414

Tennessee Association of Woodturners contacted Doug regarding August 22nd and 23rd about a Symposium at Arrowmont in Gatlinburg, TN. Cost is \$89.00 for the two days.

Kevin Kyhl of Kyhl Wood has contacted Doug regarding wood for sale, this is northwestern Iowa lumber. 970/493-8613 or 319/346-1948.

We had an excellent Show and Tell. Please bring in your turnings and share them with the club. We all enjoy seeing each other's successes and failures as we all continue to learn about woodturning. Thank you.

We had the wood auction. Please bring in your bits and pieces that you do not want. The proceeds go to the club.

April Challenge Winner: Allen Jensen
May Challenge Winner: David Nittmann
June Challenge Winner: Bruce St. Peter

The meeting was completed and Dr. Lee Carter took the floor, thank you Lee for an excellent demonstration.

MEMBER EXCHANGE

FOR SALE: Malachite or Blue Lapis for inlay work.
Jerry Smith - 303/466-7912 or Earl Ellis - 303/426-7130

FOR SALE: Delta/Rockwell Model 46-450 heavy duty lathe, 1 hp, 12" swing 36" between centers. Lots of accessories. Great machine!! \$1000.00 Trent - 970/493-6476

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FRONT RANGE (FRWT) CLUB NEWS

Gene Kirkus

Meetings are held at Schlosser Tool and Machinery
301 Bryant in Denver 303/922-8244. Contact
Abe Flexer at 303/604-0605

PIKES PEAK CLUB NEWS

Dick Breckon

Meeting at Woodcraft Supply on North Academy and
Vickers in Colorado Springs Meetings are held the last
Thursday of each month at 7 PM. Contact Dick
Breckon evenings at 719/597-9718

CLASSES

Wayne Van Every

The Turning Point Workshops

1-800-872-5489

August 14th, 15th, and 16th

\$125.00 includes a barbecue dinner.

There are 3 class rooms and a wood yard for stock prep
and a Toy Store with tool grinding demos, You can get
hands on experience with Sorby, One-Way and
Powermatic lathes.

Classes will include;

- Basic Bowl Turning
- Introduction to Closed Forms
- Natural Edge Bowls
- Harvesting and Selecting Bowl Blanks
- Decorative Techniques
- Vacuum Chucking
- Christmas Tree Ornaments
- Lidded Boxes
- Plates and Platters
- Small Gift Items
- Miniatures
- Metal Spinning
- Alternative Materials
- Pens and Pencils

Instructors are;

- Nick Cook
- Howard Lewen
- Robert Rosand
- David Hout

The Turning Point Workshops are presented by Farris
Machinery located at 1206 Pavilion Drive, Grain Valley,
MO 64029, which is just east of Kansas City.

SYMPOSIUM

Wayne Van Every

The Tennessee Association of Woodturners presents

The T.A.W. Eleventh Annual Symposium

August 22nd and 23rd

\$89.00 per person, (spouse \$25.00 for both days)

The symposium will be held at the fabulous
Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts.

P.O. Box 567
Gatlinburg, TN 37738-0567
423/436-5860
423/430-4101 (fax)

Housing and food package plans are available, ranging
from cottages at \$62.00 per person includes room and
meals, to Hughes Hall \$130.00 per person and it
includes a room, with a bath, and meals.

Demonstrators include;

- Rude Osolnik – Berea, KY
- Al Stirt – Enosburg Falls, VT
- Willard Baxter – Gainesville, GA
- Larry Hasiak – Tarpon Springs, FL
- Robert Vaughn – Roanoke, VA

The Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts is the one of
the prominent schools for artisans and crafts people east
of the Mississippi. If you are heading east on vacation
or need a vacation this would be a very worth while
stop!

They have registration forms that I can fax you if you
have a fax machine available. Call or email me.

You can contact

Pete Schutt – T.A.W. Treasure
5235 Williamsburg Road
Brentwood, TN 37027
615/373-5016

FROM THE INTERNET

Wayne Van Every

This is a first in what I plan to be a regular monthly series on articles from off of the Internet.

Platitudes for Platters

June 1997 - Platters have a lot going for them. The large diameter works function well either in utilitarian or decorative form. The platter form also offers an open, flat surface on which to present both added embellishment and natural grain figure very effectively. And as Faceplate project editors Ann and Bob Phillips discuss making them is only half the fun.

Let us begin with the turning procedure. The tools which we suggest for this project are a medium (say 3/8in /10mm) deep fluted gouge and 1/4 in / 6 mm detailing gouge. You'll also need a parting tool, and scrapers too, if you like to use them.

• Preparation

Ensure blanks are well seasoned and examine for any small cracks. They will be cut away during the shaping of the back if you ensure during marking out that they are on the platter base. Alternatively flaws can be made a feature - a project in itself!

• Size Guidelines

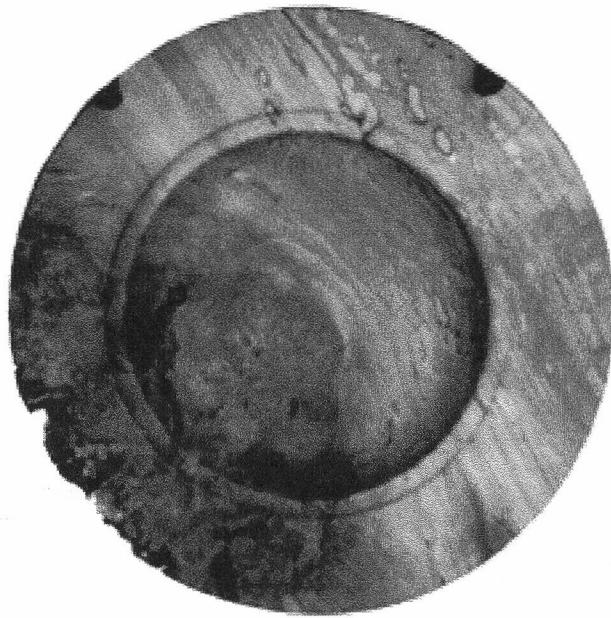
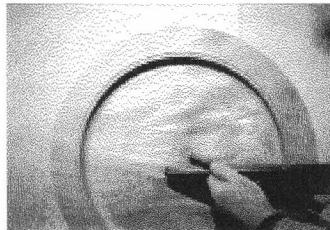
Platter blanks 20 in / 350 mm or over in diameter we use at 2 in / 50 mm thickness.

Platter blanks 14 in to 20 in (350 mm to 500 mm) in diameter we use

at 1½ in / 38 mm thickness. Lathe speed will be determined by the scale of the piece and by the inclination of the turner.

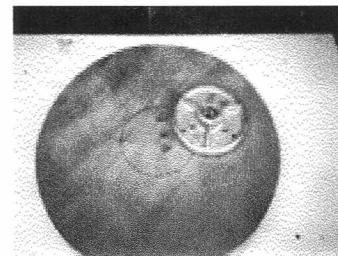
• Cutting the blank

We set our bandsaw table to approximately 15° tilt position so that we start turning from a roughly shaped blank. Huge platter blanks may exceed bandsaw capacity, and need to be precut using chainsaw or circular saw.



• Securing the blank to the Lathe

For mounting large platters a 6in / 150mm faceplate which is usually provided as standard with lathes is a secure method. Attach the faceplate using wood screws (we use just three quite short (3/8 in / 10 mm) wood screws even on huge platters).



TIP

Mark the center compass mark using a nail punch. Or, mark a 6 in / 150mm circle on the same center to locate the faceplate accurately, so that you start with the blank well balanced.

• Turning the back of the platter

First "true" the surface. Then to shape the base, start off your cut a little way from the center and cut outwards to the rim. Remember to keep the bevel of the gouge rubbing on the work surface and to keep the toolrest as close as possible to your work. The toolrest starting position is altered little when making a platter as so little material is removed. Next you can move to a smaller gouge to make finishing cuts, or a light touch will enable you to complete the refining cuts with the same medium gouge.

Platitudes for Platters (cont.)

TIP

Does your platter have a flat base? If you find this stage troublesome and find that some of your platters won't 'sit well', overcompensate by cutting a very slight concave base.

The base size hinges both on how large the overall platter diameter is to be and the intended end use. To produce a very stable platter make the flat area about a third of the overall

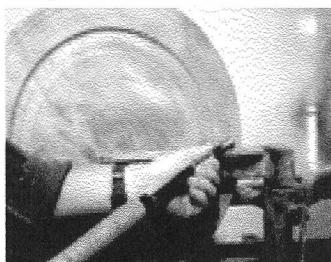
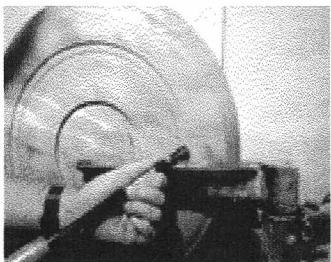
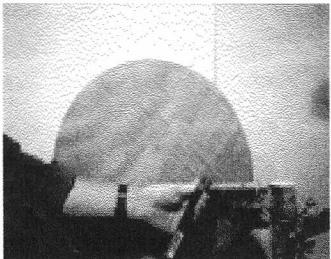
diameter of your platter. If you are going to remount the platter on a chuck when you turn the platter front, you will need to create a central recess. Use a parting tool and if you wish, use the point of a skew chisel to dovetail the recess. Sand to finish using progressively finer grit papers sequentially until the desired level of finish is achieved. Use hand or power sanding according to your equipment and your preferences. Reverse mount the blank by

your favored method and you are ready to turn the front of the platter. If you are 'chuckless' just reattach the faceplate to the completed base in the same way as the initial fixing of the blank. Glue chucking is another option here.

- Turning the front of the platter

There are many possible turning procedures. The following is a 'safe' sequence which gives maximum support for as long as possible and so avoids vibration problems.

The front must be 'trued up' first. Using the medium gouge start a little in from the rim and work towards the outer edge. With the same gouge and still working towards the rim, take cuts which start progressively nearer to the center. Stop when you are about 2 in / 50 mm from the center. The spigot this leaves is now removed by gently cutting towards the center of the platter. A flat disc that is perfectly in balance remains.



SAFETY TIP

If your blank now has a razor sharp edge, remove it at once! If confident use the gouge for the job, otherwise use sandpaper.

The extent of the intended rim can now be indicated by marking in a groove with the small gouge. Then you have a starting point for hollowing cuts and also don't lose sight of the final design. Next, to cut away the waste in the platter center we use the medium 3/8in / 10mm gouge to make repeated light cuts working towards the center. Start from the groove marking the rim and take a series of cuts to the required depth for the platter. As a guideline, about 2/3 of the starting thickness is a safe proportion. The final refining cut made with either the 3/8 in / 10mm gouge or its smaller cousin, sweeps from the rim to the center. Check for flatness and refine any bumps with either gouge or flat scraper to remove any annoying irregularities. Carry on to sand as for the base and finish with your preferred finish.

FROM PRACTICALITIES TO DESIGN

Having covered the methodology its time to put some thought into the whys and wherefores. Keep in mind that good design needs to reflect the intended use. Thus a platter made as a serving tray for drinks must be absolutely level in order to work. Where flatness is not the most vital feature, a gently curved profile can be incorporated in a design.

- Using grain and figure

Woodturners are often able to creatively use wood that other woodworkers might reject. Spalted wood is a case in point. This is wood in which incipient fungal decay has attractively (to some eyes at least!) discolored the wood. Do remember the health risks that fungal spores present though, and take all appropriate precautions when turning spalted wood. Attractive figuring does not have to be a 'defect' with beautiful patterns inherent in different timbers. Some of these need to be revealed by careful milling. By quarter sawing Oak with its pronounced ray structure a characteristic fleck is revealed. One persons 'flaw' is another person's 'feature'. Reaction wood is the term for wood that is laid down under stressed growth conditions and the abnormal growth patterns which result can be quite beautiful. More homely terms such as 'fiddleback' 'flame figure', 'quilting' are good descriptors of rippling patterns in the highly figured wood.

Platitudes for Platters (cont.)

- **Burrs**

Burrs or burls are a specialized case where the cambium layer of the tree is involved. (The cambium is that thin layer beneath the bark where active cell division occurs). Interruption or disturbance in the cambium can trigger a repair mechanism. In some instances the repair produces mass of partly developed buds which appear as 'blister' type of formation. The unpredictable irregularities of burrs appeal to the woodturner as the burr mass of confused and interlocking grain is a world away from straight grained timber.

- **Variations on a rim**

Altering rim design of platters enables the woodturner to create widely differing 'looks' to the platter form. You can trial a range of choices during the turning, by delineating the intended rim with a chalk or pencil line or a shallow gouge mark. This is a useful exercise to check on the overall look before the die is cast. You can take more wood off but you can't put it back! For a functional platter a useful ratio of rim size to overall diameter is 1:9. Say a 2 inch rim for a 18 in diameter (50 mm : 450 mm) although many successful designs result from departures from these familiar proportions. An interesting rim adaptation is a deep undercut which enables the platter to be hung on a peg to display the reverse. We have for e.g. made shields in this style for battle re-enactment's. It makes an interesting departure to have the usually neglected platter underside become the primary focus.

- **Rim texturing and carving**

Never entertain hopes that rim carving or texturing will hide tool marks. Quite the reverse is true. A well

finished surface is best for effective detailing. To begin with, we recommend that you start with a flat rim, rather than more difficult curved surface work. If a decorated rim is to be an important design feature, consider a wider than usual rim. One that is overlarge for a functional piece, can look stunning on the purely decorative piece.

There are many ways to carve and texture rims either on or off the lathe. The texturing effect can be further enhanced by choosing a wood with distinct winter/summer growth so that the softer summer wood is preferentially removed. Textured or carved effect can be further highlighted by staining or using some form of grain filling such as a liming paste. A starting experiment in texturing can be as easy as a handheld wire brush applied to the rotating piece. It is not easy to deliberately 'rough up' a beautifully smooth surface on the first attempt. Do though, avoid the common trap of lowering your finishing quality when preparing a surface that you intend to texture. Any decoration, must be obviously meant rather than look as though it's a cover up for an inept finish.

- **In conclusion**

We hope some of these suggestions for design changes will prove useful so that, like us, you find that platters are always fun to make. Platters never seem to become boring so much variation is possible. And they always sell readily too. In fact platters are such good 'all rounders' that we wonder why we ever make anything else!

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Artweb*

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTERS

Wayne Van Every

The technology existed to distribute the RMWT monthly newsletters via email. The advantage of this would be reducing costs to the club, allowing us to further expand the newsletter. We would be utilizing the Adobe PDF format to accomplish this. This will require you to go onto the Internet and download Adobe Acrobat Reader. This will allow you to open, read and print any PDF files. You must have enough room on your hard drive for Acrobat. You should visit

<http://www.crx.org/acrobat.html> and download the correct version for your particular machine. Also consider I will be starting to include pictures in the newsletters, how they appear and print out will be a

function of your equipment. After you have downloaded Acrobat visit the Triangle Woodturners of North Carolina's website, <http://rtpnet.org/~twnc/>. Download a PDF newsletter from their club and try to view and print it. If you're happy with the results, then the electronic newsletter would work for you. If you are not happy with the quality of the print or screen image then you would probably need to continue getting the hard copy through the snail mail. We would not send an electronic AND a hard copy in the snail mail as it would not be cost effective.

I must hear from all those that would take an electronic newsletter by the July meeting, either by email, phone, fax, or at the meeting by vote. If you are not interested in the electronic newsletter do not contact me.