

# Rocky Mountain Woodturners

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

November 1998  
Newsletter  
Vol. 4 - No. 11

## Officers & Committees

**President**  
Doug Schneiter 970/663-7887

**President Elect**  
Lloyd Jenkins 970/226-1166  
lloydjenk@aol.com

**Treasure**  
Ray Kowrach 307/634-9882  
mesquite@cheyenneweb.com

**Secretary**  
Wayne Van Every 970/346-8711  
vaneasy200@aol.com  
970/304-9637 (fax)

**Program Director**  
David Nittmann 970/493-0851

**Media Director**  
Dick Branecki 970/587-2561  
Rbranecki@compuserve.com

## Events Calendar

**November 3** Front Range Woodturners Meeting

**November 12** Mark Baker Demo @ Woodcraft

**November 14** Shop Tour 1 PM @ David Nittman's

**November 19** RMWT Monthly Meeting

**December 5-6** Denver Woodworkers Show  
@ the Merchandise Mart

**December 17** Christmas Dinner Party

**January 21** Monthly Meeting

**February 2** Johannes Michelson  
@ Front Range Woodturners

**February 18** Monthly Meeting

**March 18** Monthly Meeting

**April 15** Monthly Meeting

**May 21** Monthly Meeting

**June 18-20** AAW Tacoma Symposium

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## NOVEMBER MEETING

**Thursday – 11/19/98**

**7:00 PM**

**Jonathan's Wood Turnings  
204 Commerce Drive "F"  
Ft. Collins, Colorado  
Bring Your Own Chair!**

**Officers and Coordinators meet  
at the tavern at 6:00 PM.**

**Agenda:**

- Earl Ellis will demonstrate chip carving.

- Business Meeting to follow the demonstration
- 1999 Officer Elections
- Monthly Challenge:
- Bring in wood to raffle, and you will get a free raffle ticket.

## CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Ray Kowrach

The club membership dues are \$20.00 and \$12.00 for students. Dues are half for new members joining after June. Fill out the Member Information Form, include it with your funds and turn it in to Ray Kowrach.

If you bring a guest please make sure they fill out an information card and leave it 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.

## NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Nancy Quick - Brewer

Guests were introduced, Lisa Roberts, Wendy Warren, Darryl Hunt and John Mason all from Ft. Collins, welcome.

Pete Holtus donated a turned box that will be auctioned off at the Christmas Party, thank you Pete!

**Old Business:** Greeley Mall Fund Raiser, discussion with the Greeley Mall it was learned the liability insurance would be required even for a show and sale, and it must be provided by the Club. Lloyd volunteered to check with an insurance company and them talk to the board members and make the discussion.

## NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES (cont.)

Follow up since the meeting on the Greeley Mall show, the cost for insurance would be \$500.00 for two days. The consensus of the board was to not go forward with the Greeley Mall Show & Sale. Wayne is contacting the AAW to get a copy of the 3<sup>rd</sup> party liability insurance the club can buy through the AAW. It was thought the cost was \$75.00 per year, the Club has previously voted down buying this insurance.

**Christmas Party:** Nancy is coordinating the event. She is still needing volunteers to make the party a success. It will be a family event for those wanting to bring their families. The party will be at the Mountain Range Shadows Clubhouse, from 6 PM to 9 PM. The Club could provide a couple of trays. It will be a "pitch in" event.

**Club Shirts:** are on sale through Doug. \$5.00 dollars will be added to the cost of each which will go to the Club treasury. See the info on the shirts on the next page.

**New Business:** The Johannes Michelsen demonstration has been rescheduled from November to the last week in January. The details will be forth coming.

Nominations were held for the 1999 Club Officers. Last year the new idea was implemented, electing a president elect, treasure elect and a secretary elect. The idea being these people would assume the duties of the position this year.

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## NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES(cont.)

Nominations for the 1999 Officers:

President – Lloyd Jenkins (1998 Pres. elect)

President Elect – Jon Fosse

Treasure – Ray Kowrach (repeating 2<sup>nd</sup> term)

Treasure Elect – Jim Ferry

Secretary – Wayne Van Every (repeating 2<sup>nd</sup> term)

Secretary Elect – Kevin Dunn

Program Director – Trent Bosch & Jon Fosse

Library – Jack King ????

Anyone wanting to volunteer and please come forward.

No new officer positions were created.

Doug offered the possibility of doing a demonstration of the school's laser engraver. He also gave Lloyd a RMWT plaque that he made before the meeting. He offered the possibility of making plaques for those who serve the Club for the cost of the wood.

**Treasures Report:** There is approximately \$600.00 dollars in the account. We need to get started on the annual membership renewals.

**Library Report:** The Richard Raffin material has been received.

Several of the club members met to discuss making a presentation to the AAW for an educational grant. They have several subjects they are working on and will prepare a letter to the AAW.

The collaborative turning group needs to meet and begin work for the Club's collaborative entry into the 1999 AAW Tacoma Symposium. A date and time needs to be established at the November meeting.

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.

## NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES(cont.)

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

October Challenge Winner: Charley Crammer (again)

### **Reminders:**

- The USAF Academy is going to sponsor a fine arts show during the month of December. Bring your work to the November meeting for Trent Bosch. The requirements are as follows:
  1. Each piece must be signed.
  2. Each piece must be tagged and numbered (1 of 3, 2 of 3, 3 of 3, etc.)
  3. Each piece must have a 3 x 5 card with a description of the process, type of wood, price if for sale, or marked "not for sale"
  4. 3 copies on 8.5 x 11 sheet of your card(s) information.
  5. Must be packed in a UPS approved box with a light packing material, e.g. popcorn.
  6. Each piece in the box(s) must have a 3 x 5 card packed in the box with it.
  7. Label the box with shipping labels made with the sender and receiver being yourself.
  8. On small pieces it may be acceptable to hot glue them to a piece of mat board or place them into a acrylic display box.

- Shop Tours, Trent is leading the shop tour program. If you are interested in having a tour in your shop please let Trent 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 volunteers.
- Possibility of a charter bus trip to the 99 Tacoma AAW Symposium. Contact Wayne if you want to discuss this or volunteer to help research the trip.

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## RWMT SHIRTS

Doug Schneiter

The club is raising money by selling shirts with the Rocky Mountain Woodturner's logo stitched onto the shirt. \$5.00 from each shirt will be given to the Club's treasury. So do your Christmas shopping and get high quality shirts and contribute the Club. Price includes \$7.00 for embroidered logo. Order your shirts from Doug. Make checks payable to the Rocky Mountain Woodturners and give them to Ray Kowrach.

Regular Polo - (Small – XX Large) \$25.00

(Add \$2.00 for XX Large)

Colors: Red, Royal, Gold, Light Blue, Maize, Natural, Silver Grey, White, Black, Hunter Green, Jade, Kelly Green, Maroon, Navy and Purple.

Heavy Duty Polo - (Small – XX Large) \$30.15  
(Add \$2.00 for XX Large)

Colors: White, Light Blue, Royal, Red, Hunter Green, Kelly Green, Navy, Ash, Jade, Black, Raspberry, Grape and Turquoise

Haines T-Shirts - (Small – XX Large) \$18.25  
(Add \$1.00 for XX Large)

Colors: Ash, Natural, White, Honey, Stone Washed Blue, stone Washed Green, Black Espresso, Light Steel, Navy, Oceana, Purple, Red, Royal, Sage, Willow, Cardinal, Jade, Teal and Forest Green.

Denims - (Small – XX Large) \$35.00  
(Add \$2.00 for XX Large)

Colors: White, Blue, Natural and Khaki

## SHOP TOUR AT DAVID NITTMAN'S

November 14th at 1:00 PM

This tour includes a demonstration on how to cut segmented pieces on a table saw.

Directions: 287 north through LaPorte, turn left (west) at Vern's tavern. Go west approximately 7 miles into Rist Canyon. On the left (south) side of the road there will be 75 mailboxes. Turn left (south) just after the mailboxes on Davis Ranch Road. Go exactly 1 mile on Davis Ranch road. 100 yards past the second cattle guard (autogate) is David's driveway. If you get to the switchbacks you have gone to far.

## 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, 2 hp. 12" swing 36" between centers. Lots of accessories. Great machine!! \$1000.00 Trent - 970/493-6476

FOR SALE: Jim Ferry has a friend with a Shopsmith for sale. Contact Jim for further information at 970/482-4695.

FOR SALE: Compact Hobbyist Lathe (metal) with all accessories, retail \$4100.00, selling for \$2100.00  
Contact Al Cummins at 303/466-7912

## FRONT RANGE (FRWT) CLUB NEWS

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

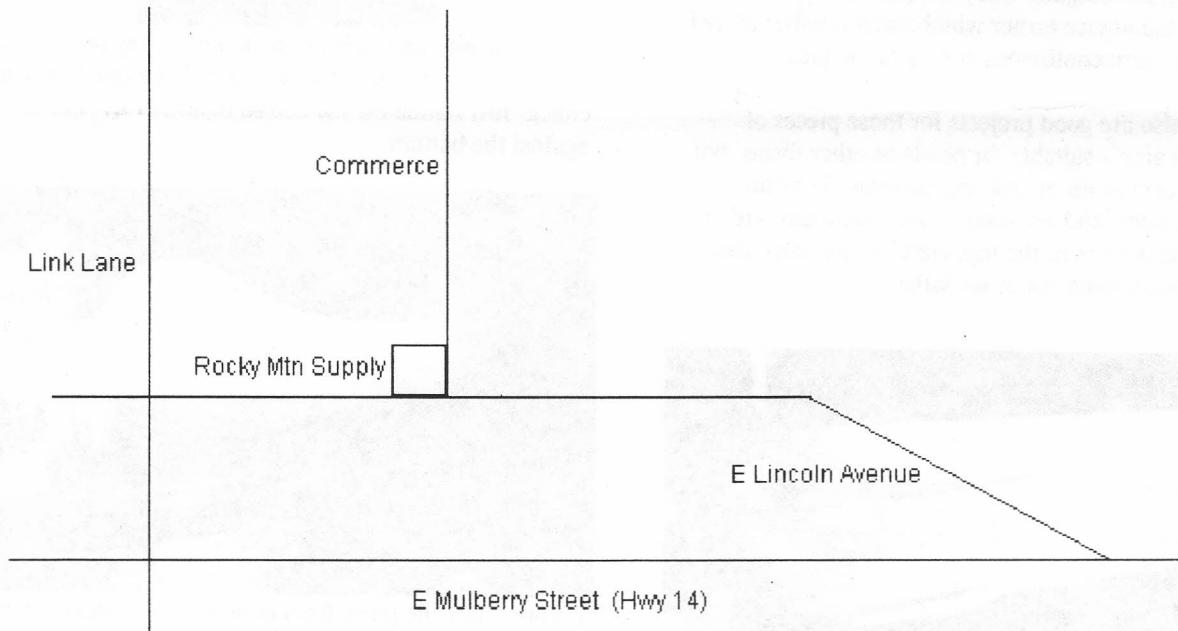
## Robert Sorby Demo at Woodcraft

Wayne Van Every

The demonstrations will be carried out by Mark Baker, Product Manager of Robert Sorby, who will focus on many of Robert Sorby's new and unique turning products - metal spinning, hollowing tools, shear scrapers, texturing and spiraling systems.

**DON'T FORGET THE MEETING IS AT  
JONATHAN'S WOOD TURNINGS!!!  
204 Commerce Drive Unit – F  
Ft. Collins, Colorado**

**BRING A CHAIR TO SIT ON!!**



## FROM THE INTERNET

Wayne Van Every

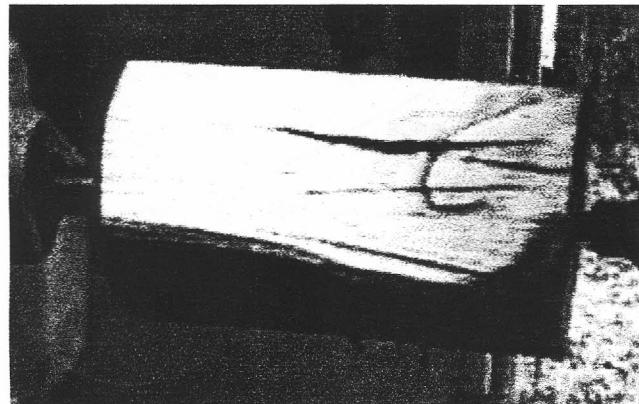
Two more in a series of project articles from off of the Internet. Please enjoy.

### Turning A Weed Pot

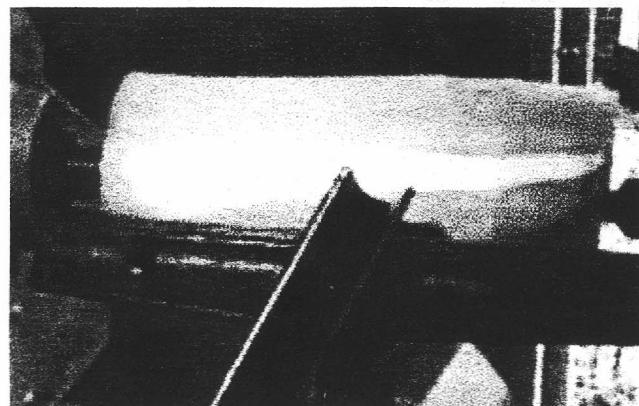
By Roger Austin

**Turning A Weed Pot.** Weed pots are good projects which can be very simple craft items or very sophisticated and elegant. They are also very good projects for the novice turner which use a number of tool techniques to turn continuous curves in the pieces.

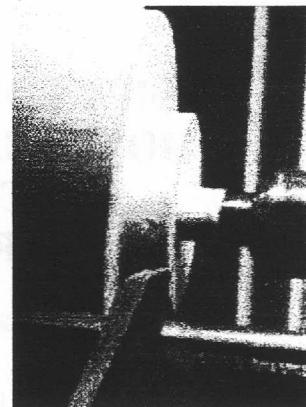
Weed pots also are good projects for those pieces of wood which aren't suitable for bowls or other forms, but have significant grain or spalting patterns. They are popular gift items and are used to decorate areas with a wisp of dried flowers in the top. Here are the steps that I use in making a weed pot at my lathe.



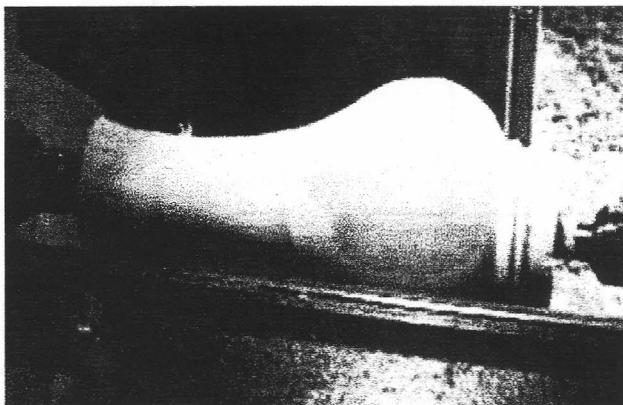
First, I chuck a billet between a spur drive center and my live center.



I use a roughing gouge to get the piece round.



I use a parting tool to form the tenon for my mechanical chuck. You can also use a faceplate if you don't have a chuck. Just flatten off the end so that the faceplate is flat against the bottom.



Before I take the piece from between the centers, I rough out a shape. This allows me to really hog off the wood being very aggressive with the tools. After you fasten the piece in the chuck or with the faceplate, you can't be as aggressive as you can between centers.

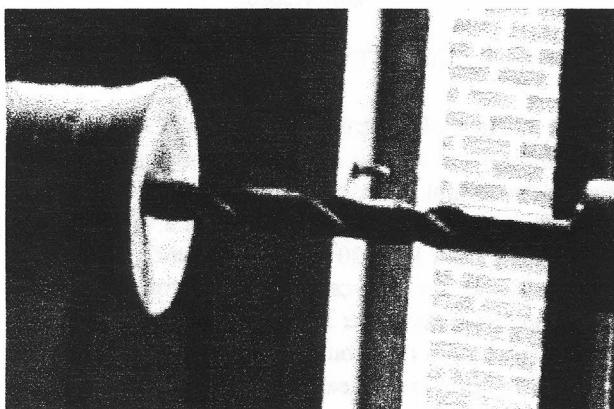


I reverse the piece into my chuck and bring up the tail stock for support. I can refine the shape a little and prepare to turn the top of the piece.

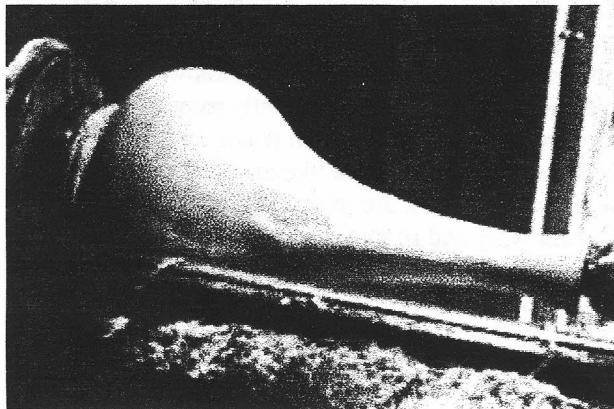
## Turning A Weed Pot (cont.)



I make the depression in the top of the weed pot concave and get ready to drill the hole in the pot.

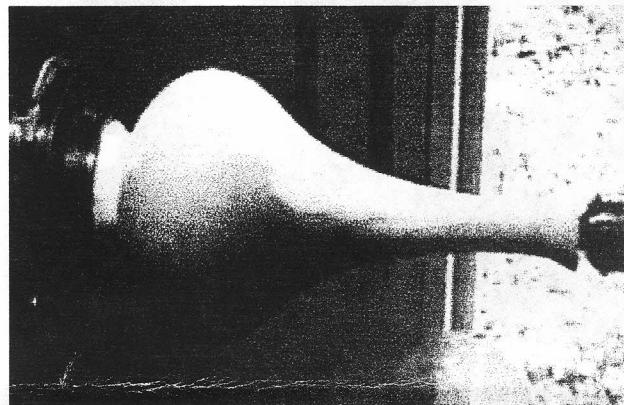


I use a 3/8" drill bit with a #2 Morse taper. I got this from a mail order machinist catalog called MSC in New Jersey (see the Sources page). The MT drill bits are normal items and I am sure that they are available across the planet from machinists. After I drill the hole, I use a small 1/4" gouge to clean up the hole and taper the piece out to the side.

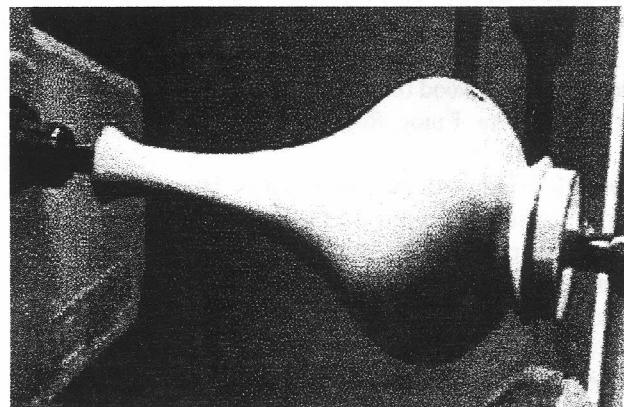


I bring up the tail stock to steady the piece using a live center and refine the shape with a 1/2" spindle gouge. This is a great place to refine your eye for curves. The

serpentine shape is a good example of the turner learning to recognize grain changing and getting rid of flats on their pieces.

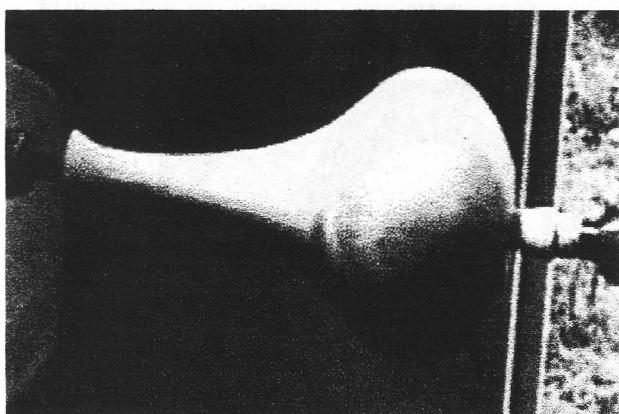


Finally, I sand the piece using cloth backed abrasives from the Sanding Catalog people. I start with 150 and proceed 180, 240, 400. I usually end with an abrasive pad to burnish the wood to a sheen.



I reverse turn the piece on the #2 MT drill bit that I used above to drill the hole. It is a very convenient way and I don't have to turn a temporary chuck for this. I can get to the bottom of the piece except for a tiny little bit that I have to cut off manually.

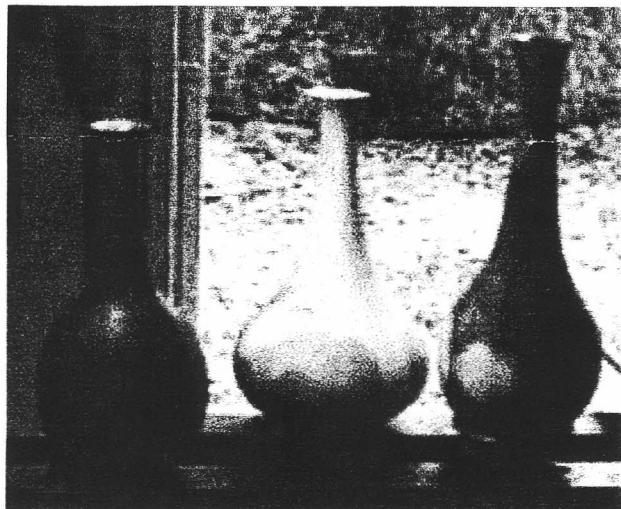
## Turning A Weed Pot (cont.)



Here I am down to the last little bit. I sand the bottom smooth and get ready to dismount the piece. It comes right off the drill bit.

These are some of the shapes that I turn. I like the serpentine shape that resembles a genie bottle. (I have a thing for Barbara Eden, I guess!) Please turn a few of these pots and practice some of the tool techniques. They make very nice gifts and nice decorative items from pieces of wood that aren't really suitable for a bowl or hollow form. Enjoy, Roger

I usually finish with lacquer and wax, but oil finish could be used depending on the finish you prefer. I have found that this is a very popular decorative item in my family and friends. It allows me to make an easy project when I don't have a lot of shop time. If I am away from the lathe for a week or two, it is a good project to get the juices flowing again.



There are many shapes that you can use. This shape is one that I like, but you can use about any. I have seen Al Basham and Rodger Jacobs use old fence rail, leaving the weathered section exposed. I have seen exotic burls made into weed pots and they have been very attractive. Try one at your lathe.

Tools: Roughing Gouge,  $\frac{1}{4}$ " Parting tool,  $\frac{1}{2}$ " spindle gouge,  $\frac{3}{8}$ " #2 MT drill bit (from MSC).

Roger Austin is President of the Triangle Woodturners of North Carolina, as well as the Webmaster for the AAW, and in his spare time turns.  
<http://rtpnet.org/~twnc/basics/weedpot/>

## "THE STORY OF THE "TAGUA NUT"

By Robert Spragg Sr.

### PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

A palm like tree which grows to a height of 20 to 30 feet in several tropical regions of South America produce a vegetable ivory nut. They range in size from a cherry to a grapefruit and average about the size of a walnut. It usually takes from 15 to 20 to make a pound.

Chemically they are pure cellulose and before the nut mature have a milky sweet liquid in the center. When ripe the nuts fall to the ground and are gathered and dried from four to eight weeks after which they become extremely hard. The nut is not toxic. Color varies from blue-white to amber with most nuts ivory-amber.

The ivory nut is close grain and very hard. The cellular structure and grain is similar to that of elephant ivory, but is more dense and resilient. It resembles the finest ivory in texture and color and is slightly softer than mammal ivory and usually contains a void in the center of the nut. There are several names for this vegetable ivory nut, but the most common is the "Tagua Nut". Its similarity to elephant ivory has been known by craftsman for years and is frequently passed as elephant ivory on objects fashioned from it and can be very deceptive. It being so much like mammal ivory that pieces carved from it are sold at the same price as elephant ivory and in some carvings much more.

## "THE STORY OF THE "TAGUA NUT"(cont.)

For over two hundred years vegetable ivory has been used by ivory carvers in the making of netsukes, dice, dominoes, and chess pieces. Other uses found were cane and umbrella handles, pipes, mah-jongg tiles, sewing needle cases and the fine art of scrimshaw. Religious figurines were carved as were many toys. In the late eighteen hundreds up through World War II this ivory nut was used to make some of the finest buttons in the clothing industry. Some were even used on United States Army uniforms.

For close to eighty years the ivory nut was a commodity of global importance and factories on three continents used to manufacture articles of utility and luxury. The coming of synthetics killed the world ivory nut market.

The vegetable ivory nut has began a come back because of the slaughter and near extinction of mammal ivory, e.g., elephant, whales, walrus and other species.

The Vegetable Ivory Nut is called a Tagua Nut. Some times it is called:

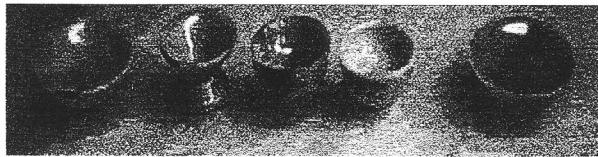
Corozo Nut: (British)(Spelled Corrozzo sometimes)

Binroji Nut:(Japanese)

Coquilla Nut:

Steinnuss:(German)

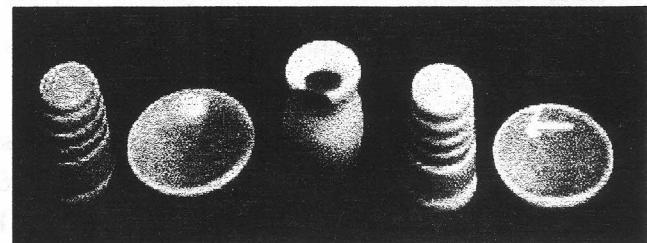
It has several different names in the different countries were it grows. It grows in Southern Panama, Columbia, Ecuador, and Peru. The Botanical name is: Phytelephas Macrocarpa Palmae. Their are several sub species of palms that produce similar nuts. Columbia produces the most, and even plantations have been planted to produce a viable product. The Indians of Columbia along the Magdalena River gave the name "Tagua". In the coastal area they are called "Anta". In Peru its called "Pullipunta" and, also sometimes "Homero". The palm tree is found in damp and moist locations along the coastal region. The palm tree is also found at elevations above sea level in the Andes. The palm tree grows to about 30 to 40 feet. Size of nut: Small chicken egg to as large as a grapefruit,(Rare). Average about 1 1/2" to 2" in diameter. The above information has been compiled from several sources over the past 20 years. Robert Spragg Sr.



## Here's Some Tips On Turning Tagua Nuts

Select the so called bottom of the nut, other end is pointed in most cases. I then grind the bottom flat (using a belt sander) to about the size of a dime, but you can position the nut any way you want by studying the character of the nut for optimum usage for what you are trying to turn. I then use a hot glue gun. Using Hi Temp glue sticks, not the low temp craft type sticks. I have several small cheap face plates made from a nut(the size of your arbor thread, mine is 3/4 x 16 and a large washer. I find large washers (2 - 2 1/2" dia.) with a hole large enough for the nut to fit the hole. Then tack braze or weld the nut to the washer. Drill 4 holes in the outer washer and screw it to a piece of two by four and mount it on the lathe and turn it round. Even if your face plates are a little off round or wobble some, the end with the wood surface will be true. I then squirt hot glue on the wood face plate and press the Tagua nut into it. Let it cool or dry for a couple of minutes. Then screw the face plate on the lathe. I turn these nuts at about 2500-3000 rpms. Lets say I start out to make a small vase. I break through the center void and now the vase is ruined. Don't give up, just continue on for a small bowl, if this don't work, I still have a small piece left on the face plate, I make a dish out of it. I cut the wood down just a little and re-use the face plate over and over. I don't think I have ever had two items alike in the hundreds of turnings I have made, because of the center void is the main factor you have to work around and contend with. I finish the vegetable ivory with sand paper and polish on a cotton wheel with any white polish compound. Making miniatures in vegetable ivory is a rewarding experience. Bob Spragg Sr.

Tagua nuts are available locally as well as by mail order.



Robert Spragg Sr.

<http://users.mwci.net/~rspragg/Tagua.html>

## Rocky Mountain School of Woodturning

The fall schedule also includes a special "two day workshop to be conducted by Johannes Michelsen , a turner from Vermont who is well know for turning wooden hats, both miniature and full size.

Due to current space limitations, you are encouraged to register early for the classes and workshops you desire to attend. Classes taught at Rocky Mountain School of Woodturning during the week start at 8:15 a.m. -4:30 p.m. Workshops scheduled on Saturdays start at 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. All classes/workshops basically involve "hands on" activities. Each turner will have a lathe, tools, and accessories to use during the class. A wide variety of woodturning books, magazines and videos are available for student use.

### 1998 Fall Schedule of Classes/Workshops

Date	Activity	Cost
November 1st week	"Special Woodturning Workshop" by Johannes Michelsen, Manchester Center, Vermont "Turning Hats - Large and Small" two day workshop dates to be determined	\$120.00
November 9,10 & 11	Beginning Woodturning	\$150.00
November 17-18	Turning Boxes	\$100.00
November 23	Turned Pens, Pencils, flashlights, Perfume Pens, etc.	\$50.00
December 1	Turned Christmas Tree Ornaments and Accessories. A variety of turned ornaments & other Christmas Decorations will be demonstrated.	\$50.00
December 5	"Quickie Christmas gifts and Stocking Stuffers	\$50.00

\*Course outlines available for classes listed on request.

\*Special tutored woodturning classes can be arranged on an individual bases.

Please complete registration for one or more of the classes or workshops listed by returning the attached form to:

Rocky Mountain School of Woodturning  
4625 Kiva Drive  
Laporte, Colorado 80535  
Attention: Lee Carter

The RMSW reserves the right to cancel any class if registration does not exceed two students.