

Rocky Mountain Woodturners

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

March Newsletter

Vol. 8 - No. 03

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Events Calendar

March 7 **Multi Axis Bowl turning - Ron Bentall**

April 4 **Metal Spinning - Chuck Everett**

May 9 **Digital Photograph - Panel**

June 6 **Chris Stott**

June 12 **Super Wednesday @ Craft Supply**

June 13 - 15 **Provo Woodturning Symposium**

June 28-30 **AAW Symposium - Providence, RI**

July 11

August 8

September 5

October 3

November 7

December 6 **Christmas Dinner Party**

MARCH MEETING

Thursday – March 7th @7 PM
Industrial Science Building
Room 105
Colorado State University
Ft. Collins, CO

Officers meeting beginning at 5:00
at the downtown Perkins

Agenda:

- Announcements
- Show and tell & Challenge
- Wood raffle
- Break
- Demo

Demo:

Multi Axis Bowl turning—
Ron Bental

FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

Nancy Quick-Brewer

There was an officers meeting was not held as planned prior to the general meeting. Due to Doug's absence, vice president Wayne Van Every filled in for him calling the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Wayne reminded everyone that their 2002 yearly dues are now due, and if not received by March 1st, sad to say, you will be dropped from the March newsletter, so please make sure your dues are paid, or this will be the last one you receive until your dues are again current. Your dues can be mailed in if you'd like. Just make your check or money order out to Rocky Mountain Woodturners and mail to:

Rocky Mountain Woodturners
P.O. Box 39
Lucerne, CO 80646

The club dues shall remain at \$20.00 regular membership and \$12.00 for students of age 18 or younger.

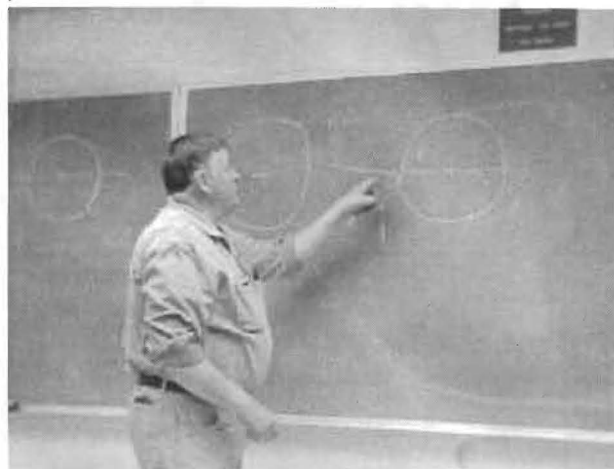
Wayne did the critiquing of the show and tell. There were a few very interesting pieces brought in this time. Thanks Wayne!

We had a nice turn out for our February meeting. We had one visitor, Tom Burger of Ft. Collins and one person join the club and that is Michael Daley of Loveland. I am sure everyone joins me in welcoming you to our club Michael. If you ever have any questions, please be sure to ask anyone, and Tom we hope to see you back real soon!

Our club received a gift certificate for \$150.00 from Craft Supplies at the 3rd annual RMWT symposium. The club has decided to purchase a chuck for the clubs new Delta midi lathe with it, this is in the works.

Challenge Winner: Once again, Don Deatherage won the \$15.00 gift certificate for The Wood Emporium in Loveland, CO.

Demonstration: Chuck Everitt held a great discussion on tools and steel chemistry. The questions just kept coming so the rest of the attendees didn't get a chance to show their favorite tools or jigs. Thanks Chuck for a very good discussion!



Here Chucks shows the cutting area of metal tools.



With a hollowing tool of his own manufacture, Chuck listens to question from one of the audience members.

FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES (cont.)

March Challenge: The Challenge for March is "Nature inspiration from nature, eggs, flowers, mushrooms, etc."

Treasure's Report: Allen Jensen reports that as of the time of printing we now have a current balance of \$5,622.66 in the clubs account.

Show & Tell:



Above is a small open vessel of Don Deatherage's, turned out of aspen with turquoise and white marble inlay that he turned on his Delta lathe. Extremely nice job Don!



Phil Lackey turned this rather interesting open vessel. I apologize for not being able to reach him to find out what kind of wood he used for it.



Bob McConaughy does the beautiful piece above. The egg is of cocobolo just polished with no finish, the base is of maple burl and is finished with Seal-a-Cel. Bob said he turned this on his Woodfast.



This interesting piece is made of eucalyptus burl and was turned by John Martin on his Stubby lathe.

THE INTERNET

Nancy Quick – Brewer

<http://www.verinet.com/~drmelli/rmw.html>

<http://www.lylejamieson.com/>

<http://www.homestead.com/ppwnews/>

<http://www.maxkrimmel.com/index.html>

BULK GREEN WOOD SEALER PURCHASE

Wayne Van Every

The Anchorseal Winterized Clear greenwood sealer has arrived. This is a winterized version of the U.C. Coating Corporation's water based wax emulsion. They claim it will tolerate freezing without turning into a dough consistency. You can furnish your own containers; bring them to me at a meeting, or call to arrange transportation. If you have milk jugs, make sure they have screw on lids, I doubt you'll want this stuff all over the inside of your vehicle. The cost for the sealer is \$5.75 per gallon. Or, I am providing containers from Home Depot filled for;

2 gallon (plastic pail with lid) - \$15.10

5 gallon (plastic pail with lid) - \$33.70

Call 970/378-8815 leave messages or send an email to vaneasy200@aol.com. Orders from Front Range and Pikes Peak Woodturning Club members are welcome.

Stronger Than Ever



This piece was made for the Collectors of Wood Art Symposium Banquet in Minnesota, Oct 2001 by Lyle Jamieson of Michigan. It was donated for the auction with all proceeds going to the Red Cross Relief Fund for victims of 9/11.

MEMBER INFO EXCHANGE

Nancy Quick-Brewer

If you have sold your listed item, please let me know so that I can remove it.

For Sale: Delta Midi Lathe bed extensions. Delta part # 46-855, for Midi Lathe 46-250. \$30. Two available in original Delta cartons, never opened. (Don't ask why, it's a long story!). Even if you don't need an extension right now these are a super investment for the future. Ed Tucker at 970/221-0797

For Sale: 3rd annual RMWT Symposium cd's are still available for \$25.00.

Contact Ray Kowrach @ (307) 634-9882.

For Sale: Pharmaceutical grade cyanoacrylate glue. Stronger than standard woodturning CA glue. 99.8% pure!

CA-thin-----2oz----- \$5.00

CA-medium-----2oz----- \$5.00

CA-750-----4oz-----\$9.00

CA-thick-----2oz-----\$5.00

CA-gel-----20gm-----\$4.00

CA-flexible-----1oz-----\$5.00

Activator-----2oz-----\$3.00

Debonder-----2oz-----\$4.50

Aerosol activator 6oz-----\$6.00

Call Dennis Liggett, 719-481-8754,

liggy@mindspring.com

For Sale: Powermatic dust collector 1½ hp with 1 micron felt bags \$150.00. Bench grinder 6", 3450 rpm - \$30, Ulery/Nichols Bowl/Spindle lathe combination, 1-1/4"x8 spindle, 1½ hp variable speed DC, 3 sets of ways 22" to 96", 80" swing (26" for spindles), used but not abused! Great deal for large capacity bowl lathe \$2000 takes all (you move it). I'm buying a new Nichols.

Ongoing great deal on sanding disks: 2" disks are 10 for \$1, grits from 100 to 400, velcro back (we always have these available - call if you don't see us at the meeting)

-Free to a good home!! Pink Ivory branch pieces, good hard wood that's very nice to turn but not very pink, most are 3"-4" diameter and have one radial crack full length. Let us know if you want some and we'll bring them to the meeting.

Call David or Cindy @ 303/449-7170 (leave a message anytime), or email them at: cdrozda@nyx.net, or rotoemotion@earthlink.net.

For Sale: Brand new Jet 14" bandsaw rip fence \$130.00 value, will sell for \$100.00. Call John Loftus @ 970/586 - 6961.

For Sale: Alltrade scroll saw, perfect condition, \$100.00; with quick blade and access \$125.00. Call Chuck Kubin @ 303/733-0254

For Sale: 12" Rockwell Delta Lathe, variable speed, heavy duty model. Excellent condition. \$950.00 o.b.o., call Jim Olson @ 303/771-9869

For Sale: Big lathe, 24" over throat, 220v, 1 ¼" shaft, 4 speed with safety slip clutch, 2½" Vicmarc chuck, 8" faceplate, 7 chisels. \$2,000.00 takes all. Call Gary @ 970/593-1901.

For Sale: Mint Condition! Not one board has been run through this! Delta 14 band saw, with enclosed base and all the goodies. Purchase new in 4/96 and never ran a board through it! He has a \$1000 invested, but would sell for \$700. Includes mobile base, rip fence, riser block (12" capacity), 3/4 hp motor, cool blocks, 2 ea solid surface blades, Duginski book and video. All manuals and original sales receipts included! This is a rare find! Call Brook Alexander at 484-8766.

As you noticed, I have removed some of the items that have been in for quite some time. I don't know if you have sold them or not. If you haven't and wish to have them put back in just let me know what all you have and I will put it back in for 3 more months.

FRONT RANGE (FRWT) CLUB

President: John Montague - (303) 794 - 01679

JaMont312@aol.com

<http://www.harrispress.com/frw/>

Meetings are held at Schlosser Tool and Machinery, 301 Bryant in Denver. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM.

PIKES PEAK (PPW) CLUB

President: Tommy Keeton - (719) 392 - 7473

jeddix@msn.com

<http://www.homestead.com/ppwnews/>

Meeting at Woodcraft Supply on North Academy and Vickers in Colorado Springs Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 7 PM.

Bandsaws - tips for the would-be buyer

By Jim Manley, Technical Editor

This month I thought I would look at a piece of Equipment that falls into the "Can't do Without" bracket in a woodturner's arsenal. I refer to the Band saw. The unsung hero of the woodturner's tool dept. It makes round wood out of square; it breaks down wood into turning blanks and spindle wood from off-cuts. In this first article I will look at what is required in a bandsaw to help the would-be buyer and in later articles I will cover Safety, Care and Maintenance and Tricks of the Trade.

What to look for in a Band saw

There are basically two types of band saw, 2 and 3 wheel. When buying a saw for the first time, the three wheel saw appears to be the best bet. It gives heaps of throat (distance of cut between the down traveling cutting side and the upward return side of the blade) for cutting larger widths of wood.

Disadvantages of the 3-wheel Band saw

The three-wheel saw has some disadvantages. Because it has three wheels, the blade has to change direction 3 times in one revolution thus increasing wear and causing premature breaking of the blade due to work hardening. The wheels are much smaller and this makes the blade turn in a tighter circle and again this causes premature blade breaking due to metal fatigue. The smaller diameter wheels provide less contact area for drive and slippage can occur during heavy cutting. Lastly because of the smaller wheels the flywheel effect is lost and there is no self run-on, again causing the saw to stall easily.

Advantages of a 2-wheel Band saw

The 2-wheel saw has the opposite effect of above, the blade only changes direction twice and blade life is 1/3 longer than a 3-wheel model. Larger wheels produce the flywheel effect and provide more drive surface area. As a rule of thumb the longer a band saw runs on after it is switched off the better it is, it has keep-going ability. However take note that some larger band saws have a break to stop the blade when it has been shut down. Remember the down side to the 2-wheel saw is that it has much less throat. The first piece of valuable advice here is look to the 2-wheel bandsaws as your best buying option.

Motors:

The main reason a woodturner buys a band saw is to cut round turning blanks and rip down billets from logs. Ripping especially requires horsepower (kilowatts for you young fellas). A saw with less than a 1hp (750 watts) is going to struggle with green hard wood blanks. I have re-powered my small Taiwanese saw with a one horse motor and it is still barely adequate. Second bit of advice look for more than 1hp if possible. Some band saws have a series of pulleys to allow different ratios. This can increase the power of the saw but this is at the expense of cutting speed. I am unable to recommend a cutting speed but the speed suggested by the manufacturer for cutting aluminum is about right for hardwood.

Cutting Height

This is the distance from the saw table upwards to the top guide when it is fully extended and this determines the size of the blank that can be cut. Six inches (150mm) would be the bare minimum for a woodturner. However with motors of less than 1hp cutting 6" blanks may not be within the capability of the saw.

Blade Guides and Rollers

This is a really important part of the saw. There are two reactions to cutting. There is rearward movement of the blade as a reaction the forward movement of the wood during cutting. If the blade was allowed to move too far rearward it would fall off the driving wheels. The sideways movement of the blade is a reaction to cutting around a circle forcing the blade to try and twist, uncontrolled blades have a habit of not cutting very straight. Each movement is counter-acted with guides and ball bearing races, above and below the cutting area. Backward blade movement is usually countered with a ball bearing that allows the saw blade to rub on it and the bearing rotates to prevent friction. The smaller this bearing is the faster it rotates and the quicker it wears out. The twisting forces are countered with guides. These can be either solid thrust plates or ball bearings. More expensive saws are usually fitted with ball bearings but either method is acceptable. For a saw to behave correctly these guides must be firm with no end play in any direction and be adjusted correctly. These settings will be discussed at length in a later episode.

Band saws - tips for the would-be buyer (cont.)

Blades:

The average woodturner is usually either ripping down or cutting circles for turning blanks. It is my experience to suggest that course-cutting blades are probably the best. Band saw blades are still classed in imperial measure. Teeth are classified in teeth per inch (TPI) or points per inch (PPI), see diagram for clarification. TPI is the most common method here in NZ. As a rule of thumb 3TPI is really good for woodturners. It will handle green wood and carry away the sawdust without excessive clogging. There is also a type of blade that has recently hit the market called "Extra-set". As the name suggests this blade has comes with much more set on the teeth than average and allows for tighter circles to be cut and really good sawdust clearing. Most band saw blade suppliers will know of this and will be able to supply Extra-set in 3TPI, I can really recommend this blade.

CHECKLIST: Buying a Band saw

To summarize let's look at the requirements for your new band saw.

1. A 2-wheel saw is your best bet
2. Look for a saw fitted with at least a 1 hp motor.
3. Anything less than 6" (150mm) in cutting height is not really going to be adequate.
4. Guides and rollers should be firm and have no play.
5. 3TPI in Extra-set will be a good blade for a woodturner.

The New Zealand Woodturner . Thank you Simon.

FOOD SAFE FINISHES

Wayne Van Every

I have had several requests to reprint this information regarding food safe finishes, and finishing wood so it is safe to prep food and eat off of. This is from a thread on the woodturning discussion group.

Subject: Re: Non-toxic finish for eating plates and bowls

From: "jim mcnamara" <csi_jimm@coopserv.com>

Date: Fri, 02 July 1999 01:48 PM EDT

Message-id: <7litjq\$1lo\$1@sloth.swcp.com>

This is a LONG post. Sorry, but you guys got too wound up for me to be brief.

First point: RAW wood is okay for dishes and cutting boards. I posted in an article from 1993 Science News article If you don't want to read it - says that wood kills bacteria.

Wood wins, Plastic Trashed for Cutting Meat

From Science News, February 6, 1993

By J. Raloff

Reprinted from the Central Coast Agricultural Society, April 1993

Reprinted from the San Diego Bird Breeders Journal

For several years we've been encouraged to use plastic or other nonporous materials as cutting boards by leading veterinarians. This article argues against that practice.

Chefs know that, any way you slice it, wooden surfaces are kinder to knife blades than either plastic or glass. But in recent years, everyone from kitchen suppliers to the Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) has urged cooks to cut on non-porous materials, typically plastic. Supposedly, plastic boards give bacteria, such as Salmonella in chicken, less chance of escaping rigorous cleaning, thus reducing the chance that such bugs will survive to contaminate other foods.

If such arguments have frightened you away from slicing, dicing, or boning on wood, you may be able to bring your butcher block out of retirement. New research indicates that the safety advocates were wrong: Pathogens prefer plastic.

FOOD SAFE FINISHES (cont.)

No one was more surprised by this than Dean O. Cliver and Nese O. Ak, two microbiologists at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. They began studying cutting boards in hopes of identifying decontamination techniques that might render wood as safe as plastic. But the pair quickly found that within three minutes of inoculating wooden boards with cultures of common food-poisoning agents -- up to 10,000 cells of *Salmonella*, *Listeria*, or *Escherichia coli* -- 99% of the bacteria were unrecoverable and presumed dead. Under similar conditions, none of the bugs on plastic died.

Indeed, when the researchers maintained plastic boards overnight at high humidity and room temperature, microbe populations grew; the researchers recovered no live bacteria from wood the next morning.

The scientific literature suggests that the number of *Salmonella* cells that might wash off a chicken carcass probably will not exceed about 1,000, Cliver notes. "We can get less than 99.9 percent kills [on the wooden boards in three minutes] if we go to inordinately high levels of inoculation -- such as 1 million or more bacterial cells," he says. In those instances, he and Ak had to wait about two hours before achieving a 99.9 percent reduction in the bugs they recovered.

"While the wooden boards appear to kill bacteria, we've not recovered the little critters' dead bodies," Cliver acknowledges. "So all we know is that by the best available means, we can't get them back after they go onto a board. The big concern is whether bacteria hiding deep within the wood might subsequently surface to contaminate the foods on the chopping block. As best as we can tell, that isn't going to happen," Cliver says.

The same is not true of knife-scored plastic cutting boards. The scientists found that bacteria lodged in the plastic's cut grooves not only survived a hot water-and-soap wash, but also could later surface to contaminate foods. By contrast, Cliver says, with wood "a good wipe will do fine - and if you forget to wipe the board, you probably won't be too bad off."

At one point, the Wisconsin researchers inoculated wood and plastic on three successive days, maintaining each board without cleaning - at room temperatures and high humidity. By that time, "the plastic boards were downright disgustingly" Cliver says, "while the wood boards had about 99.9 percent fewer bacteria than Ak had put on them."

"Wood is more forgiving - and perhaps user-friendly - than plastic is once it's been cut some," Cliver says.

Boards sold to homeowners typically come from the factory treated with mineral oil. "That treatment is intended to make the wood more impermeable - like plastic," Cliver says. The bad news is that it does make wood more like plastic.... In every one of our tests, if the wood had been treated to retard the penetration of moisture, the bacteria survived longer."

Wood's presumed bactericidal activity does not depend on whether it is new -- nor, apparently, on species. Cliver and Ak have already tested boards from hard maple, birch, black cherry, basswood, butternut and American black walnut. Tests on oak and ash are pending.

The microbiologists hope to submit their findings for publication within the next few months. One weakness, Cliver notes, is their inability to nail down the mechanism or agent responsible for wood's antibacterial properties.

Although no laws prohibit commercial establishments from using wooden cutting boards, the Food and Drug Administration's model codes for state agencies call for using only "Non-absorbent" and easily cleaned materials for surfaces that food contacts. The USDA also recommends acrylic or other nonporous materials to consumers asking about preferred cutting boards, according to Bessie Berry with its Meat and Poultry Hotline in Washington, D.C.

Cooks should never cut on glass, she says because minute shards may chip off and become embedded in food.

Microbiologist Pricilla Levine of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service says she knows of no scientific studies demonstrating the advantages of one cutting-board material over another in inhibiting bacterial contamination. She told Science News that her agency based its recommendations on "common sense."

Like state and local inspectors, these federal agencies have bought the myths that plastic is safer than wood, says food scientist O. Peter Snyder, a St. Paul, Minn. based consultant to the retail food industry. For at least two decades, he says, "sanitarians [Sanitation inspectors] out there have been telling us to use plastic cutting boards, even though they had no evidence that plastic was better."

FOOD SAFE FINISHES (cont.)

Indeed, Snyder contends, the little research done on the subject has failed to demonstrate plastic's superiority. He cited one study conducted about 25 years ago that showed wooden cutting boards were at least as good as plastic when it comes to cleaning off microbial contamination.

If others confirm the Wisconsin data, Snyder says, sanitarians may have to alter their advocacy in favor of wood. But, he adds, considering how slowly practices change in the food business, 10 years after such confirmatory data came in "sanitarians would probably still be requiring [retail establishments] using plastic cutting boards."

People get wound around the axle on this food safe finishing more than any other. They worry about allergenesis, metals, toxic wood (like the oleander family), bacteria in the wood, and so on. Of all the problems bandied about in this thread, Salmonella poisoning is far more likely to occur than anything else, from a statistical point of view.

Each person on this group has experienced this several times in his/her lifetime. The number of folks here who are allergic to walnuts, or who have lead poisoning or cobalt poisoning could be counted on one finger, maybe. SO, worrying about food poisoning is probably very understandable, but not necessary.

Nobody seems to want to take finish researchers suggestions; they want to believe in something else. The FPL has worked on this subject and there are publications available. See: <http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/pubs.htm> look for "Wood Finishing". You need Adobe Acrobat Reader to read the files you get.

Basically, they say any FULLY cured film doesn't have bio available metallic ions. Edible. But, some folks don't want to go with this.

So how about -- Some films are used as part of foodstuffs or are used as food coating:
shellac
nc lacquer (cellophane)

Other potential finishing materials that are used routinely in food:
beeswax
carnauba wax (the shiny stuff on M&M's)
paraffin (canning) wax (not kerosene if you are from the UK and get confused by this term)
poppyseed oil
lavender oil. - fastest drying oil there is.

Mineral oil doesn't dry -- creating a very high maintenance finish because it washes off every time you do the dishes. But it can be used, if you don't buy what the scientists in the article above state.

I don't recall seeing anyone mention the use of things we normally think of as food for finishing purposes:
coffee for darkening tea for adding tannins so we can fume the wood or play the darkening game with steel wool and dilute vinegar

Just some thoughts.
jim mcnamara