

Rocky Mountain Woodturners

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

January 2001 Newsletter

Vol. 7 - No. 1

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January Events Calendar

January 4	Keith Gotschall: Beaded Edge Bowl and Platters
February 8	Mike Paulson: Refined Tool Control
March 8	Jerry Smith and Gordon DeKray: Sharing ideas on Segmented turning, emphasis on beginning the process
April 5	Gene Wentworth
May 3	Guilio Marcolongo: from Australia (There will be a charge at the door)
June 7	Pete Holtus:
July 5	TBA
August 9	TBA
September 6	David Ellsworth: from Quakertown, PA (There will be a charge at the door)
September 29	2001 RMWT Symposium
October 4	TBA Officer Nominations
November 8	Dr. Lee Carter: Perforated hollow forms. Elections
December 6	Christmas Party
January 3	TBA

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Thursday – 1/4/01, at 7 PM
Industrial Science Building
Room 105
Colorado State University
Ft. Collins, CO
Officers meeting beginning at 5:30
at Avo's

JANUARY MEETING

Agenda:

- Announcements
- Show & Tell
- Wood Raffle
- Monthly Challenge:

Demo:

- Keith Gotschall:
- Platters and beaded bowls?

DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Nancy Quick-Brewer

The December meeting was our annual Christmas party held at the Mummy Range Community Center, there for there was no actually club meeting other than many members from our club and the Front Range club meeting each other and I believe having a fun and relaxing evening with a lot of extremely good food!

The tops wars took place, this year, David Nittmann took Top Top with his beautiful carved apricot and pink ivory top. Woody won the Purest Class with 1:26 on a finger spun top, didn't catch his last name though. Chuck Burke won the Open Class with a 1:01. There were no entrants in the Unlimited Class. Paul Bailey showed up late with his Corian Open Class entry and it spun for 1:57, he was awarded the last of the 4 gift certificates to the Wood Emporium. Looks like we are all going to have to sharpen up on our tops skills for the up coming tops wars this coming December! And, we are asking that everyone follow Doc Thode's lead and make a name tag, and wear it to the meetings and next Christmas Party

I would like to thank everyone who came and shared the evening and especially the members from the Front Range club for coming up! It was very nice to get acquainted with them. I believe there was somewhere between 75 and 100 in attendance. We truly missed those who could not attend for one reason or another.

I sincerely hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season, and wishing you all a happy, healthy and prosperous new year!

Announcements: It saddens me to let everyone know that one of our rather new club member's Sam Barclay of Platteville has passed on. Sam joined the RMWT club in the spring of 2000. I had the honor of meeting and getting to know Sam at one of Lee Carter's woodshop classes, and the meetings he was able to attend. For those of us who had the chance to meet and get to know him, Sam will be missed.

Treasure's Report: Mike O'Dell reports that there is presently \$4,397.66 in our clubs bank account.

DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES (cont)

Up Coming Shop Tours: None scheduled.

January Challenge: Baby rattles

SHOP TOURS

Nancy Quick-Brewer

Volunteers are needed, if you want to hold a tour contact Nancy with the date and a map. Anyone wanting to see and try a Oneway 2436 contact Wayne at 970/392-9035.

FUND RAISERS

Nancy Quick-Brewer

We are always looking for any good ideas for fund raisers! If you have any thoughts on this, please contact one of the committee members, Wayne Van Every or Nancy Quick-Brewer.

WOOD RAFFLE

Nancy Quick-Brewer

There will be a wood and anything you care to donate raffle at the up coming meeting.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Nancy Quick-Brewer

The deadline for submitting articles and information for the Rocky Mountain Woodturners newsletter is the 20th of each month.

LIBRARY & VIDEO NOTICE

Nancy Quick-Brewer

Please check your shelves for any books or videos belonging to the RMWT library and return at the January meeting so a current inventory can be taken of all materials. PLEASE return any material you have borrowed so others may read and or watch it.

BRING A GUEST TO THE MEETING

Nancy Quick-Brewer

If you bring a guest, be sure that they fill out an information form and leave it with Nancy Quick-Brewer so they can receive their complimentary copies of the newsletter. As you know, without their names and addresses, I can't send them a newsletter!

THE INTERNET

Nancy Quick-Brewer

Be sure you check out the Rocky Mountain Woodturners Web site! Bruno has been doing a fantastic job adding new things for us!

<http://www.verinet.com/~drmelli/rmwt.htm>

Other sites to check out:

www.lathes.co.uk

www.woodworkingbasics.com

www.treelineusa.com

www.woodturnerscatalog.com

www.Kestrel Creek Gallery

www.Choice Woods.com

MEMBER INFO EXCHANGE

Nancy Quick-Brewer

If you have sold your listed item, please let me know so that I can remove it, but please let me know if you have something you'd like to buy, sell or trade, or maybe consider donating to the club.

Wanted: Two or three sections of locust branches, about 4 inches in diameter, and one or two sections suitable for bowls. Contact Dave Kahne @307/745-9352 or email at dskwo@fiberpipe.net

For Sale: Power Matic Lathe 45 asking \$800.00. Contact George Adams @ 303/452-5650

For Sale: Delta 10" table saw, newer model 34-760, Used very little, has a dust collector chute underneath \$240.00 call Wayne Van Every 970/378-8815.

For Sale: Nice Lathe Stand. Was used for a Jet lathe. Selling for \$20.00. Call Bill Hall @ 970- 663-4967 or email at blhall@juno.com.

For Sale: Electric motors 3 each, 1/3 HP / 1725 RPM electric motor and 1 each 3/4 HP/ 1735 RPM electric motor, will trade for 1 Hp / 3450 RPM. Have an old lathe for sale? Email dittie@aol.com or fax 970-568-0760.

For Sale: Bowl Lathe: Large H.D. no tailstock. Call Dick @ 303/841-1198

For Sale: Klingspor Velcro-backed 2" disks. These will be available at the FRWT and RMWT meetings (until they are gone) for \$1.00 per pack of 10. Grits are: 80, 100, 120, 150, 180, 220, 320, & 400. also, Eagle brand Velcro backed 2" disks for \$1.50 per pack of 10 disks. These come in 320 grit only.

Pen Supplies 2- acrylic pen display stands, CSUSA part # 034-0700, 2- pen storage cases, CSUA #050-8300 & # 050-8480 (or similar), Several pen boxes like CSUA #s 050-3203, 3401, 3201, 3601, etc. Velvet pen sleeves from Woodcraft, some pen blanks, etc. Will trade for wood (burls, Russian olive, fruit woods, interesting pieces, exotics,) or make an offer! These are items she no longer uses. These items will be brought to the FRWT & RMWT club meetings See Cindy Drozda at the meetings or contact her @ 303/449-7170, or email her at cdrozda@nyx.net

For Sale: Deep hollowing tools. Hagner duplicator attachment model LKH 950. This is a rear mount which allows you to copy a pattern and do regular turning without removing the duplicator \$1500.00, original cost approx \$3000.00. 10 inch Craftsman radial arm saw on stand \$125.00. Also some stainless steel carts with casters approx 24 x 36 and 36 high, \$30.00 each. Dick Breckon @719-597-9718 evenings or weekends are best

JANUARY'S MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Jerry Smith

A Woodturner-Chipcarver Extrordinaire

Earl was born in Pottstown, Pennsylvania in 1922 where he graduated from Pottstown Vocational High School with major emphasis in vocational education, machine shop and mechanics. His first job out of high school was a tool and cutter grinder with Jacobs Aircraft Engine Co. He later joined the Navy in 1942 and served four years in World War II on the South Pacific on a Destroyer Escort as a refrigeration and diesel mechanics specialist.

As a hobby, Earl built his own ham radio station, received his ham radio license in 1954 and put the station on the air. Professional photography was another hobby that Earl undertook when he had time. He photographed weddings, family groups, and many babies then processed the film in his own photography lab which he built from scratch. His entire professional work career was spent working with his hands. He worked 15 years as a die casting specialist and the last 18 years with IBM as an electronics test laboratory technician. Upon his retirement in 1987, Earl continued his interest in mechanics and electronics by building and flying his own aircraft. His interests, however, eventually led to his artistic talents in the form of woodturning and carving.

Earl trained and studied under two premier world class woodturners. Dr. Lee Carter of Colorado State University and Dr. Dale Nish of Brigham Young University have provided training, inspiration and encouragement in the development of Earl's artistic talents and skills. He has taken numerous classes in woodcarving, most notably from Gene Steinman where he learned woodcarving in the round. His first lathe was an inexpensive AMT which he used to turn bases for his woodcarvings.



Earl is a regular participant at the annual international Woodturning Symposium in Provo, Utah. He has sold or given away gifts over 250 of his classic hollow turned aspen bowls with the gemstone inlay, chipcarving design and segmented wood rim.

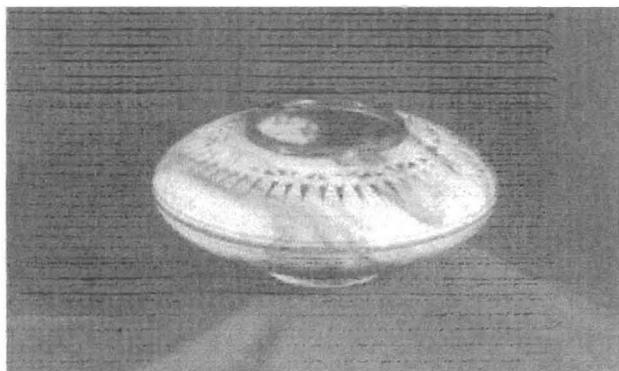


Earle's skills and interest in woodturning very quickly demanded better equipment. He first moved up to a full sized Grizzly lathe, then later to a Woodfast which he still uses today. In addition, Earl has a Viciarc mini lathe on which he turns tops, boxes, and many other smaller projects.

Earl is well known and recognized for his unique Aspen woodturnings with the Southwestern Indian chipcarving designs. He is noted for his gemstone inlay and segmented rosewood rim. As a recognized authority in this unique field of woodturning and chipcarving, Earl is often asked to demonstrate and provide training and information.

JANUARY'S MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT (cont)

Earl and his wife, Grace were married in August, 1948. They have two grown married children and 4 grandchildren, 2 boys and 2 girls. Grace enjoys playing the accordion and plays with an accordion group who performs each year at the Octoberfest in Denver and at various other occasions.



At the age of 78, Earl is still going strong. Though his eyesight is failing, he still enjoys his shop and "entertains" anyone and everyone who will listen to his many stories and excellent demonstrations. For he is, without doubt, one - WOODTURNER - CHIPCARVER EXTRAORDINAIRE!!!

I wish to extend my sincerest thanks to Jerry for taking the time to author this article for use in the club's newsletter -- Nancy.

THE 2000 CHRISTMAS PARTY

Wayne Van Every

This year's party was another great success, thank you for your efforts Nancy, Dale and others that put it all together and cleaned up. This was a good chance for everyone wanting to talk about everything from woodturning to the memorable 2000 Presidential Election. This was our first social event in which the other two Colorado woodturning club's were invited. Pike's Peak Club meets on Thursdays like we do, so that eliminated any of them from attending, but 22 members from the Denver club joined us. Any suggestions or ideas for next year let Nancy or an officer know. Also, any ideas about a summer social event with the other clubs let one of the officers know.



Greetings!



Just add turnings and POOF...an Instant Gallery!

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THE 2000 CHRISTMAS PARTY (cont.)



The Plate Loading Zone!



Eating and talking!



Seconds on eating and talking!



One of many couples that attended Drew and Martha Nichols.



Pete Holtus from Denver was there.

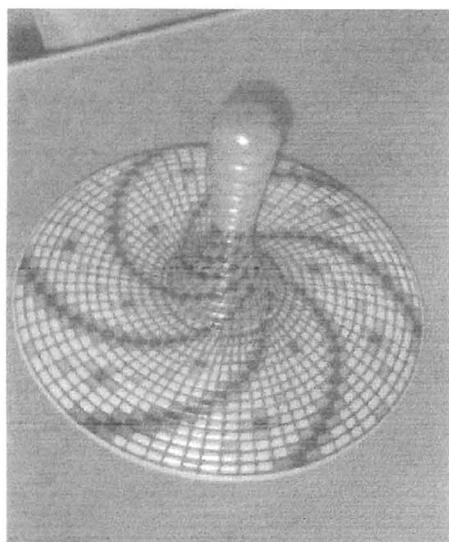


Earl heads for more, while others continue to visit.

The editor apologizes for the b&w photos for those of you getting this via email and viewing or printing in color. The photographer grabbed a roll of b&w out of the refrigerator on the way out the door.

THE "TOP TOP"!

Wayne Van Every



The picture left is of David Nittmann's European Apricot and Pink Ivory top he created for the Christmas Party. He has invested over 6 hours into the piece of art which has his signature basket design carved into the top and bottom of the disk element. At this size, no one has the finger strength to impart enough umph into the top to make it spin for any real length of time, though several just had try! If you are a top collector or which to own a piece of David's work this one can be purchased for \$500.00. Many will remember that David also made a giant top to the 1998 Christmas Party, it is in the Gallery in Timnath.

Everyone has another year to come up with new ideas in tops, there are lots of ideas out there, only limited by imagination. Spindles, platters, bowels, hollow forms, boxes, segmented pieces, carved, and colored are ideas that can easily be used in top construction.

It was a lot of fun and next year we want to see some of the more high powered string powered models demonstrated. Thanks everyone who took the time to make one of these little, or not so little jewels.

THE "WHEATBIX FINISH"

Jim Manley

A couple of years ago student of mine coined the phrase "Wheatbix Finish" to explain his ability with the gouge. I find this an excellent way to describe the unfortunate result of torn end grain on a gouge-finished bowl. I find that the predominant subject for discussion in turning circles is torn end grain. The hardest lesson to teach is how to get a good finish on your work. The average novice turner believes that the secret to good finish is sandpaper and magic potions. This I am afraid this is a fallacy.

Let's have a look at what it takes to beat the Wheatbix finish. When it comes to getting a good finish the best thing you can do to start off with is to leave the sand paper in the cupboard for a while and try to understand why your piece looks like it does. It is my belief that the biggest causes of bad finish are rules, tools, skills and technique, bowl shapes and angle of grain, moisture content and wood types, so lets have a look at these individually.

Rules - Although the purest will tell you that there are no rules to turning there are a couple of rules we should follow very religiously. These are:

Rule 1 - Rub the Bevel,

Rule 2 - Sharp tools are Paramount.

Rule 3 - Speed Kills,

Rule 4 - Cut in the Right Direction.

Rule 1 - Rub the Bevel. If the bevel of the gouge does not stay in contact with the wood being cut the tool is being used as a scraper and it leaves a very bad finish.

Rule 2 - Sharp tools are Paramount. This one is very straightforward. When it comes to your final pass with the gouge, insure your cutting tip is sharp. Many professionals have a gouge they use solely for doing their finishing cuts with. If you don't have a chosen finishing gouge, give the tool a quick lick on the grinder before you do the last cut.

Rule 3 - Speed Kills - Here I am referring to the speed of travel of the tool as it shapes the bowl. Let's call it assent rate. If the tool travels to fast up the wood, you don't give the bevel time to do its work and tear out the wood instead of cutting it. Please don't confuse this with bowl rpm; the speed of the bowl revolving is not what we are after. It is the time it takes for you to cut from the foot of the bowl to the rim. The advice is, on your last pass; slow your assent rate right down, for the best finish.

Rule 4 - Cut in the Right Direction. Believe it or not there is a right and a wrong direction to cut wood. Face work - You should always cut from the smallest diameter to the largest on the outside of a bowl, call it uphill if you like. On the inside you should cut down hill from the largest diameter to the smallest. This might help explain why when we make a bowl we start with the outside

THE "WHEATBIX FINISH" (cont)

first, because it helps us attain a better finish off the gouge.

Spindle Work- Cutting rules for spindle work are exactly opposite to face work. Here you should cut from the largest diameter to the smallest or down hill.

Tools - When it comes to tools rule 2 is a biggie. Sharp tools cut wood blunt tools butcher wood. For the beginner tool sharpening is more important than anything else. There is no short cut to sharpening. The novice is best advised to invest in a sharpening jig. The Teknatoool sharpening centre is as good as any and there are plenty of people around who can show you how to drive one. The other thing with tools is quality. High-speed steel will keep its edge much longer than carbon steel. If you are not keen on sharpening get yourself into better quality steel. But remember even high-speed steel still needs sharpening, just less often.

Skills and Technique - Skills are something that is gained with practice. There is only one way to gain tools skills and that is to cut wood. All my beginners want to make something with the first piece of wood they put on the lathe. My advice is to make shavings and use the whole bowl to practice with. If you are having problems with your finishing cut, you have the whole bowl to practice with. While you are shaping the outside get the feel of how this particular piece of wood performs in the finishing cut while you are still shaping it. If you are experiencing problems in attaining a decent finish off the tool, I can thoroughly recommend putting pieces of wood on the lathe and wasting them away to nothing all in the name of skills. Until you can master the gouge its probably best not to make your projects to complicated. Technique is another matter. In time you will probably come up with a technique that works okay. My advice is to get someone to show you how to do it. If there is someone in the area offering classes, go to the professionals. It will take a lot less time for you to learn the techniques and possible years off the time in becoming proficient.

Bowl Shapes and Angle of Grain - Often the shape of the bowl can be the problem with the finish. Have you noticed that it is very hard to sand the end of a piece of

4x2 to make it look good? This is because the straws that carried the trees nutrients are exposed like the end of a pipe and fall inwards on them selves when cut at right angles. Now take your average bowl, if it has perpendicular sides the whole of the side of the bowl has right angle cut end grain on it on either side of the bowl. Not great for finishing. If we have sloping sides, say at 45(deg.) we can elevate the right angle end grain problem and make finishing much easier. So the advice here is stay away from flat-sided bowls when we are learning the business.

Moisture Content - Here is a problem that is cropping up more and more as we strive to recycle the timbers that are pulled out of old houses and the like. For wood to cut easy it needs a certain amount of moisture in it. To confirm this try a piece of green wood, it cuts like cheese. Now imagine a piece of wood that has sat in the ceiling of an old house for a hundred years, it has very little moisture in it at all. Instead of pieces being cut from wood like this it tends to break off, this is due it being brittle because it is dry and hard. There is no real answer to old dry wood other than patience. You might like to try turning at one speed slower and keeping the assent rate slow. Rule 2, as in sharp tools is really important as well.

Wood Types - This one could take a week of Sundays to write. Please realize that not all woods are equal in finishing ability. Most Kiwis want to make a Rimu bowl, fairly early in their turning careers. This wood, especially recycled Rimu is one of the worst to get a good finish on. The following list would be my choice for the easiest woods to turn and achieve a good finish off the tool with. Sycamore, Walnut, Ash, Silky oak, Elm, Chestnut and Hawthorn, to name a few. You will notice they are mostly English timbers and they are removed from many backyards throughout the country every weekend. Well I think I have covered quite a few points that need to be considered when you are not achieving the "off the tool" finish you want. Consider all of them, they will help.

This article reprinted from the New Zealand Woodturners website.