

# Rocky Mountain Woodturners

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

## June Newsletter

Vol. 8 - No. 06

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### Events Calendar

- June 6** Chris Stott  
box turning and offset turnings  
There will be a \$10.00 charge at the door.
- June 12** Super Wednesday @ Craft Supply  
Tools sale, all day free demonstrations and  
a great bbq lunch
- June 13 - 15** Provo Woodturning Symposium
- June 17 - 21** Allan Batty & Bill Jones Intermediate  
workshop @ Craft Supply Cost \$695.00
- June 28-30** AAW Symposium - Providence, RI  
For a registration form: <http://www.woodturner.org>
- July 11** Bruce Cohen  
Live edge bowls
- July 15 - 19** Stewart Batty Intermediate workshop @  
Craft Supply Cost \$ 595.00
- August 8**
- September 5**
- September 21** Craft Supply Super Saturday
- October 3**
- November 7**
- December 6** Christmas Dinner Party

## JUNE MEETING

**Thursday – June 6 @7 PM**

**Industrial Science Building**

**Room 105**

**Colorado State University**

**Ft. Collins, CO**

There will not be an officers meeting.

### Agenda:

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

**Demo:** Chris Stott

## MAY MEETING MINUTES

Nancy Quick-Brewer

The May meeting was started at 7:05 p.m. by president Doug Schneider. Doug once again mentioned to everyone going to the Utah and AAW symposiums that it would be nice for all who can to sort of get a block of rooms or at least stay in the same hotels.

Chuck and Julia Burke of Cheyenne have graciously offered to host this years RMWT'S family picnic at their lovely home in north Cheyenne. There will be more information forth coming on this at a later date.

The signup sheet for volunteers for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual RMWT'S symposium was passed around once again. This time with more success of getting enough volunteers to make the event happen! This year it will be held once again at the Chilson Center in Loveland, CO the date will be released at a later time. Anyone who hasn't signed up and would like to help out, please contact this year's symposium chairman Mark Kurzmack at (970) 490-2297. Mark makes note that there is still a position open that he needs to get filled and that is for the Show Committee. Anyone interested in filling this vacancy?

We had two visitors at this meeting. Peter Baker of Bellvue, CO and Catherine Marulli of Sparanese, Italy. Catherine is the daughter of John and Carol Amey. We at the RMWT'S are please to have both of you attend and hope to see you back when ever possible.

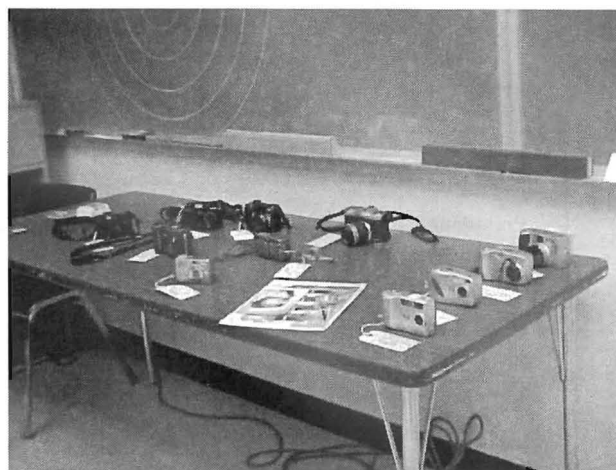
Next came our show and tell and the wood raffle and then a short break before Lisa began her demonstration. Thanks goes out to Brad Tallis for the large amount of wood donated to the raffle. I hear Brad has taken quite an interest to Alabaster turning, so he is slowly cleaning out the wood.

**Treasure's Report:** According to Allen Jensen's most recent report, we currently have \$5706.04 in our clubs treasury.

**June Challenge:** More tops for the Fisher house's and what you are taking to the Utah symposium.

### Demonstration: Photography

Lisa Roberts did a phenomenal demonstration on digital photography. She brought with her many different makes and models of digital cameras, a few printers and handouts for everyone. She also brought with her answers for everyone's questions! So I hope everyone has a digital camera on their Christmas lists.



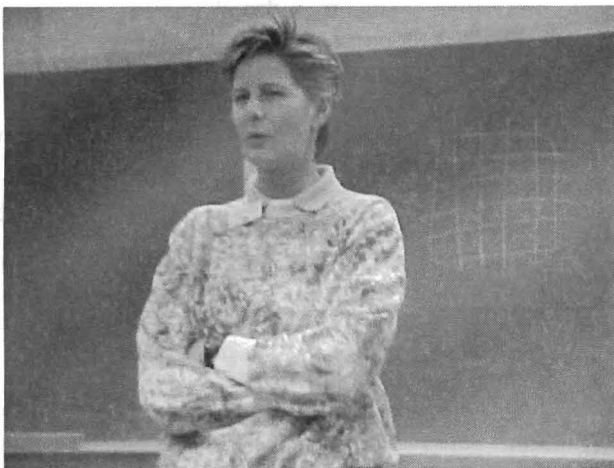
*Hey, where do I put in the flash bulb?*

Megapixels, memory cards, batteries, docks, DPI, optical zoom, digital zoom, macro and more. It was a very informative presentation and the hand outs will help anyone trying to sort out what they are looking for. Thank you Lisa! Now was that a camera with jigawatts or a flux capacitor I wanted....

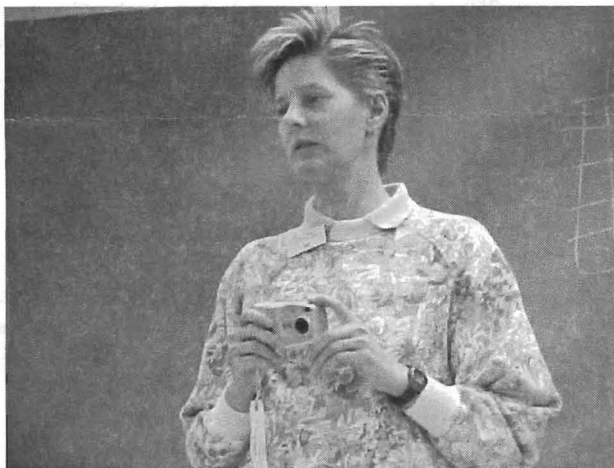
## Editors Choice of Show n Tell



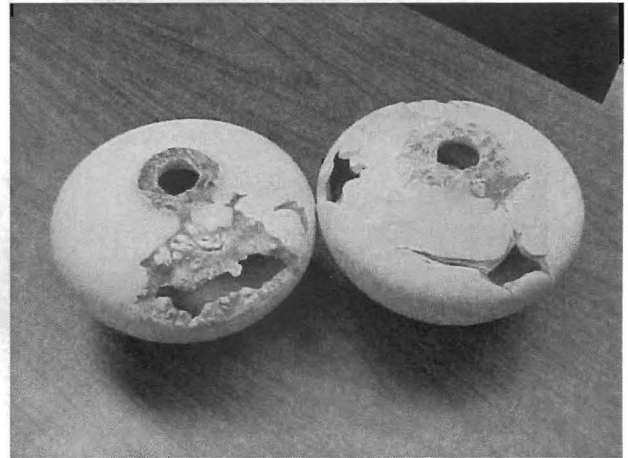
*Here Lisa is describing some of the features of this camera's photo card.*



*Behind Lisa on the blackboard, you can see where she had been showing how to figure the pixels per inch.*



*Here Lisa is listening to one of the member's many interesting questions.*



Both of the hollow forms that Doug Schneider had at the meeting were out of seasoned Wyoming Box Elder Burl. They were cut down 5 or 6 years ago, and have sat on the north side of a shed until Doug started cutting them up and bringing them to Colorado. That is where the grayish patina has come from. The one that didn't have the gray is because the bark was still on the outside of the burl and hence it didn't get the weathering effect that the other one did. The shorter, squattier one (on the left) that has the gray is 4 inches tall and 6 inches in diameter, with a 7/8 inch opening. The other one is 4 1/2 tall and 6 diameter with a 7/8 opening. So far, they have not been finished, but probably will be wiped down with 3 or 4 coats of Minwax wipe-on poly. They are in Doug's Pueblo Series, which he is hoping evokes thoughts of the cave and cliff-dwelling native Americans of long ago, and the rugged Southwest landscape in which they lived. They have been sanded to 400 grit on the outside, but not sanded on the interior.

### Show & Tell:

We didn't have many pieces show up this month for the show and tell, but those that did were quite nice! Don Deatherage did the critique. Thank you Don for a job well done! Although, we did have some very kind hearted people who were willing to open their hearts and busy their hands by taking a few minutes to make a few tops for the Fisher House in Germany. Ramstein is where the wounded and the dead come to first from Afghanistan, Pakistan and most anywhere in that area of the world. Many families go there to meet their wounded family members. The tops made and brought in are very much needed and appreciated! Thank you all!



Please keep in mind how many great service personal we have over seas whose family may need the services of the Fisher Houses in Germany, to be by their loved ones. Now they can use more tops. Come on guys, please help out with this great "war time" effort! Show your support and appreciation of the men and women in uniform that are going in harm's way for us. Just take an hour or two and make a few, they don't need to be a work of art. Get them to me and I will get them all together and Wayne will ship them over to Germany at his own expense!

**Challenge Winner:** Mike Paulson was the winner of the \$15.00 gift certificate to Loren's Wood Emporium in Loveland this month! Way to go Mike.

## THE INTERNET

Nancy Quick - Brewer

<http://www.verinet.com/~drmelli/rmw.html>  
<http://www.woodturning.de>  
<http://members.aol.com/jkarmel381/myhomepage/>  
<http://www.3wave.com/chhome/cha/turnhist.html>  
<http://www.woodturningcenter.org/>

## Shop Tours

Any volunteers to host a few shop tours this spring and summer? I have been hearing that they have been being missed by a lot of the club members. Now that the weather is nicer, there is no reason not to have one. It doesn't take much effort, your going to be out in your shop anyway, so set a date, let me know by email at [woodturns@aol.com](mailto:woodturns@aol.com) or calling me at (970) 302 - 9035 and I'll put it in the newsletter and we'll all plan on coming out and helping you shuffle the dust and shavings around. No reason to clean up the shop, none of us turn in a spotless one.

## 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:** We have a new supplier of hardwoods! Special Orders! Contact Duane Dillow 1120 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> AV Cheyenne, WY 82001 (307) 637-8464 call or go buy and check his supply out.

**Wanted:** Used chuck with 1X8 thread. Call Steve Anderson at 970/586-2787

**For Sale:** 26 inch Woodmaster drum sander 5 hp 1ph motor. \$800 obo, also a Jet 1100 cfm dust collector. It is brand new but not big enough for our shop. \$250 new, make us an offer. Call the Jensen's at (970) 663-1868.

**For Sale:** Made to order shop coat with or without additional sleeves. See Don Deatherage at one of our meetings, or give him a call at 308/ 673-5341

**For Sale:** Powermatic dust collector 1½ hp with 1 micron felt bags \$150.00.

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

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

CA-thin - 2oz \$5.00	CA-med - 2oz \$5.00
CA-750 - 4oz \$9.00	CA-thick - 2oz \$5.00
CA-gel - 20gm \$4.00	CA-flex - 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](mailto:liggy@mindspring.com).

## 3-1/2" VICMARC CHUCK MISSING

The club's 3-1/2" Vicmarc chuck that is used for the club demonstrations is missing from the library cabinet. If anyone has it, or knows where it went please let one of the officers know. It was purchased for the demos.

## DELTA MIDI LATHE

The RMWTs owns a new Delta Midi Lathe that is available to any RMWT member in good standing to be checked out for your use. Contact Doug to arrange to pick it up at the Loveland High School or at the meeting.

## The Wheatbix Finish

By 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 let's 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 too 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 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 Teknatool 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 it's probably best not to make your projects too 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.



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**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 endgrain on it on either side of the bowl. Not great for finishing. If we have sloping sides, say at 45° we can elevate the right angle endgrain 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 to 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.

The above article is from NZ Woodturner. Thanks again Simon!

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### 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.

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### ALLAN BATTY CLASS AT WOODCRAFT

There is one opening in the Allan Batty class being held at the Colorado Springs Woodcraft store the week of July 22<sup>nd</sup>. The cost is \$600.00. Anyone interested in attending contact Wayne Van Every for all the details. 970/356-5842

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### 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.

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### CHRIS STOTT DEMO'S

Lee Carter's Rocky Mountain School of Woodturning,  
June 6 & 7, \$160.00

Pikes Peak at the Woodcraft store in Colorado Springs  
June 1<sup>st</sup>, 0900 - 1200 and 1300 - 1630, \$30.00.

Front Range @ Schlosser's in Denver June 4<sup>th</sup>, afternoon  
and evening sessions, \$10.00 for one or \$15.00 for both.