

Rocky Mountain Woodturners

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

February Newsletter

Vol. 8 - No. 02

Officers, Directors & Committees

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Events Calendar

February 7 Tool Discussion - Chuck Everitt

March 7

April 4

May 9

June 6

July 11

August 8

September 5

October 3

November 7

December 6 **Christmas Dinner Party**

FEBRUARY MEETING

Thursday – Feb. 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: Tools – Chuck Everitt
will lead off a discussion of tools
he makes. Everyone bring a tool,
 jig or fixture that you have made,
 and be ready to show and explain
 it to everyone.

JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

Nancy Quick-Brewer

There was an officers meeting held prior to the general meeting. Officers attending were: Doug Schneider, Jon Fosse, Wayne Van Every and Nancy Quick Brewer. Jon said that due to work and family, he wasn't going to be able to be the treasure this year. President Doug Schneider called the general meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. At the beginning of the general meeting, Doug announced that Jon was not going to be able to be the clubs treasure this year, so asked for nominations for the position. A nomination was made and voted on by the club that Allen Jenson become the treasure for 2002, and he graciously accepted. Thank you Allen!

Doug 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 once 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 .

Ray Kowrach made a donation of \$125.00 to the club from his making and selling the cd's from the RMWT's 3rd annual symposium. These can still be purchased from Ray. There is more info further into the newsletter. These are very enjoyable to own and the price is only \$25.00 and you get approximately 500 photo's on one! The members of the RMWT's thank you Ray!

The officers have once again chosen one of our club members to receive the honor of receiving a lifetime membership to the Rocky Mountain Woodturners. The 2002 Honorary Member is none other than Paul (Doc) Thode! Doc will receive his plaque of honor at the next meeting! CONGRATULATIONS Doc!

We had a great turn out at our January meeting. We had 5 visitors, 3 of which joined the club! Please welcome the new members, they are: Abigail Hartley of Ft. Collins, David Bailey of Boulder and Bryon Caldwell of

JANUARY MEETING MINUTES (cont.)

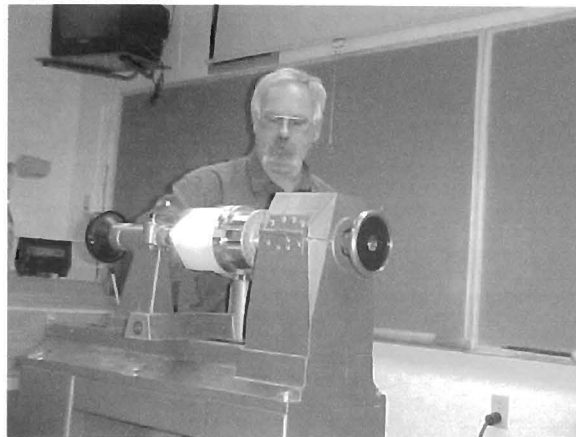
Loveland! We hope you enjoy the club, and if there is anything any of us can do to help you out, please don't hesitate to ask!

It is time once again for the channel 6 PBS art auction. By club vote, it was decided not to contribute this year.

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.

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

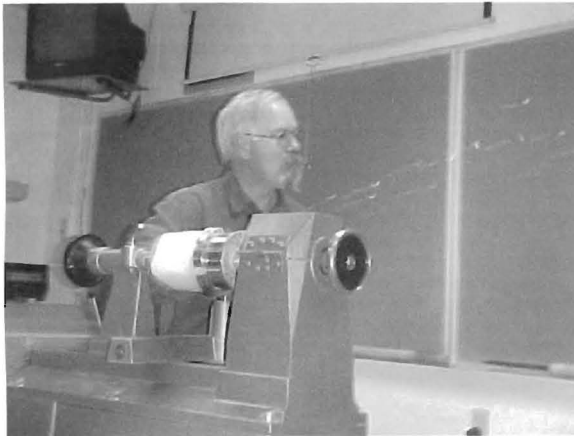
Demonstration:



What better way to start out a new year than to have the president give the demonstration! Doug showed some of his chosen tools, and then got right into his demonstration of turning high-density polyurethane.

March Challenge: The Challenge for March is "Nature Takes a Turn." Turn an object that derives it's inspiration from nature. Eggs, flowers, mushrooms, etc.

JANUARY MEETING MINUTES (cont.)



I believe Doug was trying to figure out how long he can make the plastic shaving before it breaks. Looks like it might be something different to try if one ever gets tired of turning wood or just wants to try something different.

Show & Tell:



There were some pretty nice pieces brought in for show and tell at the January meeting. Doug Schneider critiqued the turnings.

LIBRARY & VIDEO NOTICE

John Reed

If it has been a while since you looked at the videos in the library, you might take another look.

One tape that is getting particular attention right now is the AAW tape "Fundamentals of Sharpening." Grinders, stones, tool rests, techniques and jigs are covered by Bonnie Klein, John Jordan, Alan Lacer, and Bill Johnston. Sharpening and use of scrapers, bowl gouges, spindle gouges with a fingernail grind, and tooling inserts are covered in detail.

LIBRARY & VIDEO NOTICE (cont.)

Also covered is a technique for balancing grinder wheels. This is a very good tape, with very specific information; if you haven't seen it, you've missed a tip or two.

The AAW produces summary tapes of the National Symposium each year, and we have just placed in the library the AAW tapes for 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001.

Each year has three tapes:

Instant Gallery – video overview of the Instant Gallery that year, showing good close-up views of a wide variety of turnings. Included are critiques by well-known artists, sharing why a design concept works, and where a good idea can be improved. If you are looking for inspiration, ideas, and a rapid look at many different turnings, these tapes are hard to beat.

Techniques I and II – these are the presentations by featured turners at the Symposium that year. Each videotape features three or four different turners with an in-depth, hands-on approach to their topic. Missed a specific individual's presentation? These videotapes are your source. Everything from making your own tools to making bagpipes...(yes, he wears a kilt while turning!) The face label on the video itself lists the presenters. Look carefully; you might see a few familiar names....

The next goal for the library is to purchase some additional video tapes. If you have seen one you feel is particularly well done that is not yet in the library, please let me know or write it on the "want list" page, located in the back of the library index.

All you need to check these tapes out from the library is your 2002 library card, which is created by Nancy when you pay your dues. Dues paid in advance of the meeting will have a library card available; dues paid at the meeting will have to wait until the next meeting to receive their card (we can't print them at the meeting...)

Thanks...enjoy your library!

John Reed, RMWT Librarian

THE INTERNET

Nancy Quick – Brewer

<http://www.verinet.com/~drmeli/rmwt.html>
www.thuyawood.com
www.olandcraft.com
www.womeninwoodworking.com
[www.rec.crafts.woodturning\(unread\)](http://www.rec.crafts.woodturning(unread))
http://talk.woodmagazine.com/default.sph/woodTalk.class?FNC=goToSubjectList_AWOODindex_html_9

FRONT RANGE (FRWT) CLUB

President: John Montague - (303) 794 - 01679

JaMont312@aol.com

Meetings are held at Schlosser Tool and Machinery, 301 Bryant in Denver. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 7 PM.

PIKES PEAK (PPW) CLUB

President: Tommy Keeton - (719) 392 - 7473

jeddix@msn.com

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

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: Craftsman 10" table saw. It has a 1 HP motor, belt drive. It's approximately a '91 or '92 model #113.298032; all steel, no fiberglass, 42" top surface, metal stand and my dad made a "self-moving system" for it so you can easily move it around a room without help or breaking your back. There's a few 10" blades included with it: "Master Combination blade", "Molding Head Set", "Dadoing blade- 7"x32 tooth" to be included with it or can be sold separately. (There may be another blade or two, also) Some of these blades have never been used; also a set of 3 wooden saw horses. They are approx. 36" long and stand about that same height. They are rated to 300lbs. I'm asking \$350.00 for the saw including all blades, and \$30.00 for the set of three saw horses. I can help with the delivery too if need be for someone outside of the Ft. Collins area. Price is always negotiable. Call 970-226-3949, and ask for Rich.

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

For Sale: 16" diameter by 10-foot long lathe with Vega Duplicator. Contact Dennis Korth on behalf of Norm Bailey @ (719) 634-1260

For Sale: Carb-a-Tec lathe, mounted on plywood base, 2 faceplates 1/2 hp motor revolving tailstock. Asking \$250.00 Call Carl @ (307) 634-9083.

MEMBER INFO EXCHANGE (cont.)

For Sale: Walnut bowl blanks, 4" thick by 8" square, sealed, \$10.00 each. Also Ash blanks and other woods becoming available. Call Dennis Korth @ (719) 634-1260

For Sale: Big lathe 24" over throat, 220V, 1 1/4" shaft, 4 speed w/safety slip clutch, 2 1/2" Vic marc chuck, 8" face plate, 4" face-plate, 7 chisels. \$2000.00 takes all. Call Gary @ (970) 593-1901

For Sale: 12" Rockwell Delta Lathe, Variable speed, heavy-duty model, excellent condition. Call Jim Olson (303) 771-9869.

For Sale: Alltrade scroll saw, perfect, \$100.00, with quick blade & access \$125.00. Call Chuck Kubin @ (303) 733-0254.

For Sale: Conover lathe, 16" swing, 30 inches between centers, 1 HP variable speed motor, 4 face plates, live center, steel legs and ash bed. \$1400 or best offer. Contact Tony Bevis 719-783-9682 or asawyerb@ris.net

SYMPOSIUM CD AVAILABLE

Ray Kowrach

If you are still interested in purchasing one of the cd's with approximately 500 photos of the 3rd annual RMWT symposium, they may still be purchased for \$25.00 including packaging and postage. Checks and cash only, no credit cards. Make checks payable to Ray Kowrach.

RMWT CD

Ray Kowrach

1808 Newton Dr.

Cheyenne, WY 82001

(307) 634-9882

mesquiteitwy@juno.com

BULK GREEN WOOD SEALER PURCHASE

Wayne Van Every

The drum of Anchorseal Clear is heading this way from Wisconsin. You can furnish your own containers; bring them to me at a meeting. If you have milk jugs, make sure they have screw on lids. I can furnish containers from Home Depot and can get 3 sizes they cost as follows:

1 gallon (new metal paint can) - \$2.96 plus tax

2 gallon (plastic pail with lid) - \$3.58 plus tax

5 gallon (plastic pail with lid) - \$3.90 plus tax

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

Reverse Turning, Making a Temporary Chuck

An article in the March 1994 TWNC newsletter by Roger Austin

Reverse Turning, Making a Temporary Chuck. Some of the members haven't had a lot of experience in reverse chucking their pieces on a jam chuck. This is a method of reversing a piece on another piece of wood with the bottom of the vessel toward the tail stock.

First you turn your vessel (big shock, eh?). Your vessel would be attached to your faceplate (or expandable chuck) and you should complete all sanding on the piece down to the bottom. You remove the piece from faceplate set it aside.

Now, mount a waste block on the faceplate that is big enough to jam the bowl or vessel on. For bowls, I have a series of jam chucks that I have accumulated that I use for this purpose. For hollow forms, you will wish to turn a bowl-like piece so that the top of the piece fits in the hole. Caution: on hollow forms make sure that the outer rim of the form touches the waste block not the weaker top!

Next, place the piece on the jam chuck with a piece of foam, leather, etc. between the pieces and bring up the tail-stock to hold your vessel. Eyeball the piece so that it looks like it turns without a wobble and tighten the tail-stock. Hint: use one end of tool rest brought up near your piece (~1/8") and rotate the piece by hand to see how far off you are. Now adjust the tail-stock position on the bottom of your piece to a near-perfect position (a cup center on the tail-stock works best). This is sometimes a very tedious operation, but you really don't have to be perfect. Ellsworth uses a pencil held up to the side of the bottom to mark the high spot. I have found this important mostly for hollow forms since they are normally deeper than bowls.

After you have the piece centered, put the tool rest perpendicular to the lathe bed at the bottom of your vessel and turn away the bottom of the piece. Leave about a 1/4" inch stub on the bottom of the piece (i.e., don't push your luck!). At this point you can decorate your bottom with any type of beads, etc. If you will look on the bottom of most of my pieces you will see a series of little beads that I make using a micro-skew in a scraping fashion. Be careful and don't put too much pressure on your piece since you only have 1/4" of wood to hold everything together.

Valuable Hints: Always turn the stub that attaches your piece to the faceplate cylindrical before dismounting your piece. It is valuable to finish sand the piece down to the bottom before dismounting the piece. This way you don't have to turn the side of the vessel where a wobble would matter. You will only have to turn on the bottom of the piece where a wobble will be turned away anyway. Leave yourself plenty of wood on the bottom of your

Making a Temporary Chuck (cont.)

piece, or attach a waste block on the piece and attach the faceplate to it.

You don't have to have a perfect fit for the jam chuck. A padded cylinder that hits the bottom of the bowl is all you really need. Rodger Jacobs showed a series of padded, fist shaped, cylinders at a NCW meeting that he uses for his "sneaky bowl's that only hit the bottom 6"-8" of a 24" bowl.

You don't need to tighten the heck out of the tail-stock. A firm fit is all that is necessary to turn away the bottom.

Your jam chucks for bowls can be made into jam chucks for hollow forms by hollowing a crater in the chuck. This part doesn't usually touch the bowl anyway and you have two chucks in one.

I use plywood circles padded with carpet backing for bowls with flat tops. I mark concentric circles on the spinning chuck, then mount the bowl on the best circle. This is very quick.

Extremely Valuable Hint:

Always mark with a pencil the inside depth of your piece BEFORE mounting on the jam chuck. Not doing this (as I have found out a number of times) will cause one of four situations: you turn through the bottom of your piece and feel totally disgusted; you leave a very noticeable thick bottom (which you claim was intentional); you hit it just right (yeah right!) and keep your mouth shut; or you dismount the piece, mark the depth, and try to get the piece back on the same way (DO THIS!).

This article first appeared in the TWNC newsletter in March 1994. Roger Austin.

SANDPAPER

Nancy Quick-Brewer

I have recently been contacted by a sandpaper company that some of you have possibly already heard of. They are known as **Royce Sales "The Sandpaper Specialist"**. Hopefully by the February meeting I will have some of their catalogs to pass out. If you have heard of them and would like to contact them for prices etc. before the meeting, their toll free number is 1-800-684-9262, and for those of you with access to the internet, their internet address is WWW.SANDPAPER.CA

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 endgrain on a gouge-finished bowl. I find that the predominant subject for discussion in turning circles is torn endgrain. 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 its 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.

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° we can elevate the right angle end grain problem and

The Wheatbix Finish (cont.)

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.

The above article was reprinted from the New Zealand Woodturners.

Burl Supplier

Nor Pac is located in grants Pass, Oregon. They can supply you with Madrone, Maple, Pepperwood (Myrtle wood), Walnut and Locus Burls, Maple quilt, fiddle back and cluster logs. Also have Madrone burl blocks that have been boiled. If you are interested in purchasing or have any questions, please email at wparmenter@north-pacific.com or call toll free 877/265-8172.

Madrone Burl	\$1.00/lb	Any Size
Boiled Madrone Burl	\$1.50/lb	Any Size
Maple Burl	\$1.00/lb	Any Size
Maple Quilt	\$1.00/lb	Any Size
Maple Fiddleback	\$1.00/lb	Any Size
Myrtle Burl	\$1.00/lb	Any Size
Walnut Burl	\$1.00/lb	Any Size
Locust Fiddleback	\$1.00/lb	Any Size
Redwood Burl	\$1.00/lb	Any Size