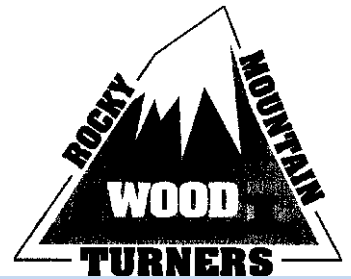




Rocky Mountain Woodturners

A chapter of the American Association of Woodturners
February 2009 Newsletter



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Message from the Editor

Greetings,

As you have probably noticed by now the Newsletter has a different look and includes more information for you. The Newsletter Team (Randy Glecker, Pete Herman, Kevin Dunn and John Giem) has been working on making the Newsletter more useful for you the reader as well as more visually appealing. The Newsletter is a work in progress and will continue to change. We want to know what you like or dislike about it. How can we make it more meaningful and useful to you? Your comments pro or con about the Newsletter will be welcome, just pass them on to one of the Team members.

John Giem

Editor, RMWT Newsletter

Next RMWT Meeting

The next meeting of the RMWT will be held on February 5, 2009, in the rear room of the Woodcraft store in Loveland. The demonstrator at this meeting will be Megan Cain. She will demonstrate how to design, turn, drill, and assemble a 3-legged stool with through wedged tenons.



Megan Caine Biography

In May 2006 I moved to Charleston, SC to pursue woodworking full-time. Advancing my goal to be a full time professional woodturner and furniture maker has been a rewarding

2009 Officers, Directors and Committees

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undertaking. I make custom furniture but the lathe is still my favorite tool in the shop. I've turned a variety of bowls, boxes, and vessels, and I have incorporated turnings into my furniture designs. I am deeply committed to what I do and the process of learning more.

Empty Bowls Dinner and Art Auction The RMWT Board is requesting members to bring art items to the February meeting to be donated to the 12th Annual Empty Bowls Dinner and Silent Auction. Proceeds will benefit the Food Bank of Larimer County. Additional information can be found on the RMWT web site, www.rmwt.org. Note that despite the name 'Empty Bowls', the request is for the donation of art which includes but is not limited to bowls.

RMWT Election of Officers

At the January 8, 2009 meeting of the Rocky Mountain Woodturners, the election was held for selecting Officers to serve for the year 2009. Drew Nichols presented the list of nominations for Officers. Nominations from the floor were opened, there were none. The list of nominees were elected unanimously by a voice vote of the members present.

The RMWT Officers for 2009 are:

President:	Drew Nichols
Vice President:	Katherine Kowalski
Treasurer:	Richard Bailey
Secretary/Newsletter Editor:	John Giem

RMWT Board Meeting

A Board meeting for the Rocky Mountain Woodturners was held the evening of January 22, 2009. Officers present were Drew Nichols, Katherine Kowalski and John Giem. Also represented were the chairmen and members of the various committees. Various topics were discussed, recommendations were made and actions taken or planned. The following is a summary:

1. **Trailer for Storage and Transportation.** The Board approved the purchase of a used enclosed trailer from Frank Amigo to be utilized for the storage and transportation of equipment owned by the RMWT and the Symposium.
2. **EOG Awards.** The Educational Opportunities Grant Committee presented its recommendations to the Board. Since the applications were submitted in 2008 and would have normally been acted upon by

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hoyle.curtis@gmail.com

10% Guild discount

Wood Emporium
618 N Garfield Ave Loveland,

Sears Trostel
1500 Riverside Ave
Ft. Collins, CO 80524

Rockler's in Denver – You have to show your membership card.

Woodcraft
3718 Draft Horse Drive
Loveland, CO 80538
970-292-5940
Discounts on day of Club Meeting.

Clubs and Member's Websites

Rocky Mountain Wood Turners
www.rmwt.org

AAW – American Assoc of Woodturners
www.woodturner.org

Trent Bosch
www.trentbosch.com

David Nittmann
www.davidnittmann.com

Cindy Drozda
www.cindydrozda.com

the 2008 Board, Katherine dismissed herself. Those reviewing the EOG recommendations were the 2008 Board Members present Drew Nichols, John Giem and Kevin Dunn as well as the EOG Committee. All others left the room during the subsequent discussions. After much discussion and tough decisions, the recommendations of the EOG Committee were approved as presented. The awarding of the Grants will be during the RMWT meeting February 5, 2009. All applicants should attend.

3. **Charter Bus.** Drew Nichols has had contact with a charter bus service that we could potentially use to take a group of us to the AAW National Symposium next summer in Albuquerque, June 26-28, 2009. Depending upon the size of the bus and the number signing up to use it, the cost could be \$130 each round trip. If anyone is interested in utilizing this opportunity, contact Drew to let him know.
4. **New Meeting Arrangement.** The orientation of the area for our meetings creates undesirable distractions caused by people needing to enter and exit the room. The primary entrance is almost behind the Demonstrator. The Board is planning on shifting the layout during the meeting by repositioning the 'front' of the meeting. Anyone needing to enter or leave during the meeting or demonstration will be at the side or rear thereby reducing distractions. The Board is also investigating methods for making the lathe more mobile (some sort of wheels) to make it easier to move so that we do not need to use the forklift.
5. **Instant Gallery and Raffles.** There has been a flurry of activity on the RMWT Group concerning how the Instant Gallery and the Raffles should be handled. There have been many good suggestions on how they should be conducted. Everyone agrees that they are good to have. The Board has asked Katherine to organize these two activities to best utilize their potentials.
One of the best learning tools we have is learning from having our works critiqued. We will try to have someone critique those pieces that members want critiqued. We also recognize that some members would prefer a private critique. For those, we suggest that they utilize the time period between

John Lynch

www.johnlynchwoodworking.com

Curt Theobald

www.curttheobald.com

Want your Website Listed? Contact a member of the Newsletter Team!!!

Wood Storage Bank

As we have discussed before, we are collecting wood for our group. There are 3 of us collecting wood. They are Dave Amos, Bruce Pilkington and Kevin Dunn. We are still getting this rolling. But I have a huge box elder tree and a very nice blue spruce trunk that I acquired. Also, I have past blanks and projects available. Whatever doesn't get spoken for, goes to feed my fireplace this winter.

Kevin Dunn

970-420-9691

dnnkk@msn.com

6:00 and 6:30. One of the popular suggestions is that we have separate areas for critique and non-critique. Let Katherine know your wishes.

At the January meeting the raffle raised eighty dollars. To keep the raffle going, we are encouraging members to bring in items for the raffle, wood, turning tools, books, videos, etc. The Wood Bank Committee will be bringing in wood to the meetings on a regular basis. One of the concerns for the raffle is that it should not take up too much of our valuable meeting time.

Katherine will be organizing these activities. Let her know what you like and don't like. One suggestion to her was to vary the formats to keep it fresh and fit in with the available time.

Interview of the Month

Reported by: Randy Gleckler

Name: Drew Nichols

Shop: 2 car garage with Heat and AC. 2 lathes: Vicmarc 300 Short bed Lathe, Duro Lathe. He has standard woodworking tools as well; Table saw, Band saw drill Press, Jointer, etc. Also said he has a ton of wood; some he hasn't seen in 3 years.

How he got into Woodturning; 97-98' found a Duro Lathe at a garage sale. He didn't know how to turn but it looked like fun and thought he'd like to try. He didn't turn for 2 years after that. In Approx 2000 was working on a house where John Fossey was doing the cabinets and John invited him to come to an RMWT meeting.

Philosophy/Thoughts on Woodturning; Enjoys wood turners willingness to share techniques, styles and the why for their inspiration. Many other artistic forms seem to be more secretive in their techniques. Issues the monthly challenges because he wants to see people take an idea and put their own take on the idea. Also believes the Rocky Mountain Wood Turners's is one of the most known woodturning club in the country as a result of our club members. Between the national

Favorite Book: Richard Raffans "Beginning woodturning" & "Woodturning" UK Magazine

Favorite Movie: All of Trent Bosch's DVD's. Believe the DVD's are as good as his live demos, which are very good.

Favorite Wood turner: David Nittman. Believes he works so well with his imagination, and likes his creativity in his work. He's very willing to try new things and has an amazing artistic journal where he sketches out all his ideas and has boxes and boxes of these ideas. Has the ability to teach and communicate with anyone.

Influences in Work: Art, Politics, the Earth, and Demonstrators. Drew did a few Earth pieces because of the Shape and potential with the

earth shape. Also added carving and features to the pieces influenced by Politics at the time.

Favorite Wood to turn: Maple's and Walnut, but loves variations in color. Likes the harder woods for turning.

Favorite Tool to use: 3/8" bowl gouge. Has several so no particular brand, just likes the tool.

Favorite Piece you've turned and why? Flying Saucer forms. He was able to use Several kinds of woods and only limited by your imagination.

Occupation: Owner of Nichols Construction since 1985

Any Other Interest besides woodturning? Likes to Write, and getting into Green Building, using recycled and green friendly construction materials. Also into Blacksmithing; Has been doing since 2000, got a forge in '02, and an anvil shortly after. Is limited as it's an outside hobby for him so is weather dependant. Has been able to work the blacksmithing into some stands for his woodturnings, but mostly making Fireplace tools.

RMWT Library

Your Librarian, Dave Amos, is working hard to maintain and improve the RMWT Library and has great plans for the future. This January, Dave and John Giem submitted an application to the AAW for a grant to support purchasing a large number of new DVDs and books on woodturning. Included in the request were funds for building a second storage cabinet to house the equipment we will be purchasing. You may help the Library through donations of woodturning DVDs, books, money and by returning items that are on loan. Remember that for you to borrow an item, the previous borrower must have returned it.

Also, the Front Range Woodturners, the Denver club, also has a Library and members of RMWT have the privilege of borrowing from it.

Vessels of Illusion

Presented by Trent Bosch

Reported by John Giem

At the January 8, 2009, meeting of the Rocky Mountain Woodturners, the demonstration was presented by Trent Bosch. He showed us how to turn a hollow form with a rim that looks like part of a flower. The finished vessel also has an insert so that it looks like there is a second vessel just inside the first one.

Trent turns mostly green wood. It cuts easier with less dust (and it is more fun). Since the wood is still wet, it will distort while drying. He likes the effects of the distortion, round is boring.

Trent started by mounting his turning blank between centers and roughed it down. This allowed him to look for any flaws and observe the characteristics of the wood. At this time, he could have



Figure 1. Trent holding vessel similar to what will be turned.

repositioned to wood on the lathe to compensate for defects in the wood. A tenon was turned on one end to enable him to mount the piece in a chuck. He emphasized the need to size the tenon correctly for the chuck jaws being used.

Trent supports his work with the tailstock as long as possible while it is mounted in the chuck. The tailstock provides an additional level of safety in case of a catch and helps reduce any vibration. He rides the bevel on the chisel to provide better control and a smoother cut. To see what his cuts are doing, he does not look at the cutting edge but instead looks at the upper edge of the work, the 'horizon'. When possible he places a background of contrasting color behind the work. This makes it easier to see the horizon.

The blank was shaped into the form of a vessel with it tapering toward its bottom. He used the bowl gouge in a shear scraping mode to achieve a smooth surface to the form. A large mass of waste was left at the base. This mass serves a couple of functions, first is to provide solid support and vibration damping while hollowing and second, the sharp transition between the mass and the side of the vessel, 'points' toward the planned shape giving the turner a visual guide while hollowing.

Figure 2 is from one of Trent's previous classes. Looking closely, you can see the shadow of the blank before the mass at the base was turned away and you can see how the slope of the side of the vessel points toward the final shape. It can be seen that if the mass was turned away before hollowing, the thin base would have allowed a lot of vibration

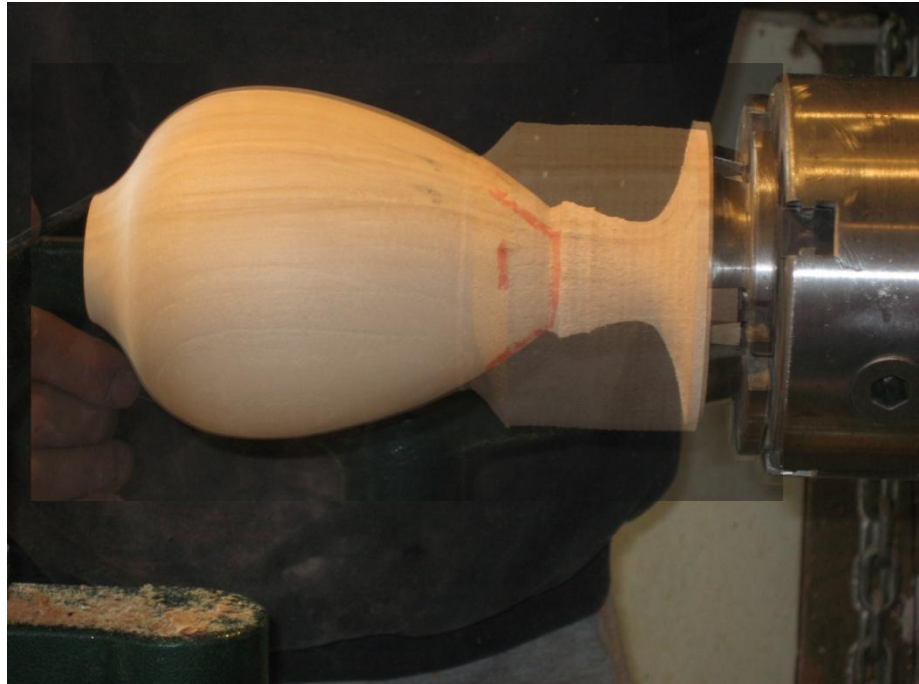


Figure 2. This is two photos merged together showing before and after turning away the mass at the bottom of the vessel.

or even breakage.

Next, Trent removed the tailstock allowing access to the top to form the edges around the future opening of the vessel. The two rings around the opening were shaped so that when he later cuts away portions of them, they will form the basis of flower petals.

He believes in using whatever tool is necessary to get the job done. Cutting tools will yield a better finish but that is no good if you cannot achieve the desired shape. Consequently, Trent used a scraper to form some of the tight areas around the neck of the vessel.

He digressed a bit pointing out that he got into making some of his own tools so that he could make the tool fit his needs not the other way around. Also, in some cases, the tools he needed did not exist so he made them. For example, the carving stand he used is of his design. Most of the tools used during the demonstration were designed and built by him. Trent also spends some time looking at tools outside of the woodworking areas watching for items he could use to make his woodworking and art easier to accomplish.

After shaping the top of the vessel, Trent cut a small vee or cone at the center to aid in starting a depth drill, the first step in hollowing the vessel. Using a gun drill (one of his discoveries, it is hollow allowing air to blow out the wood chips) he drilled a hole to the intended bottom of the interior of the vessel.

Figure 3. Depth drilling, note the two rings around the future opening.

Trent emphasized that whatever hollowing system you use, you should spend a lot of time becoming acquainted with it. For a lot of its usage you will be working blind, i.e. you cannot see what you are doing and must work by using the tool and an extension of your senses to feel what the tool is doing and where it is at. To use the hollowing tools, you pivot it on the tool rest and move the tool with your whole body. Most of the hollowing was done with the straight 5/8 inch bar tool using a scraping action. When the straight tool could no



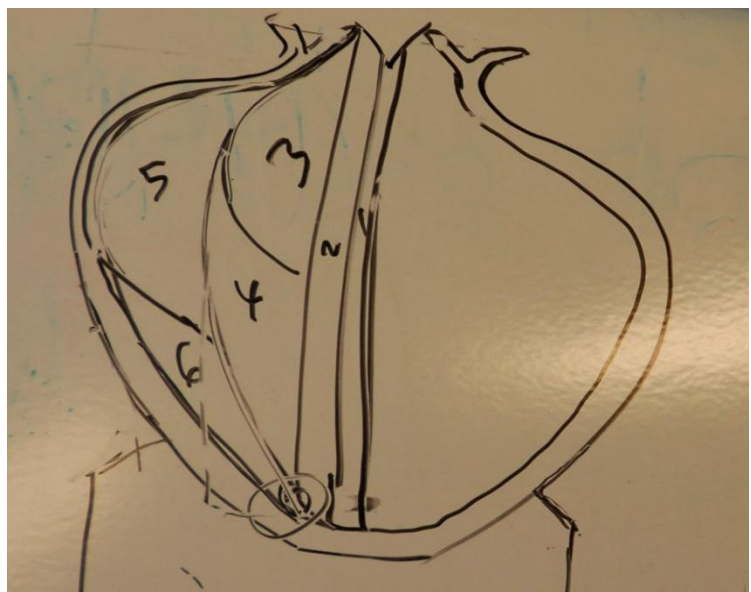
longer reach the material to be removed, he switched to the bent tool, it allows reaching around corners to reach the difficult spots. A properly designed bent tool will have the cutter in direct line with the straight section of the shaft. In usage, move the tool rest back so that only the straight section of the shaft is on the tool rest. If the hollowing tool is supported on the curved section then it will twist out of control.

Figure 4 shows the general sequence used in removing the waste from inside the vessel. Area 1 is removed using the depth drill. Using the straight tool, area 2 is removed making a hole the width of the vessel opening to the bottom of the depth hole. The tool action is a gentle sweeping action moving from the side of the cut to the center hole and back again. This sweeping action allows monitoring the depth of the hollowing via the depth hole.

The loose wood chips are removed using compressed air. Hollowing progress can be monitored using a small flashlight. Area 4 is removed with the straight hollowing tool using the same methods as used before.

Figure 4 Diagram showing the sequence used in hollowing the vessel.

When all of the material from areas 3 and 4 are removed, the straight tool has done its job. The bent hollowing tool is then used to reach around the shoulder of the vessel to remove the wood in section 5 and then section 6. When hollowing out sections 5 and 6, one must be aware of the thickness of the side walls and not go through them. There are several methods to judge the



wall thickness:

- Look, use a flashlight and look inside
- Feel, stick your finger through the opening and feel the wall between your finger and thumb.
- Listen, as the wall gets thinner while hollowing, the pitch of the sound will go up
- Tapping, when the lathe is stopped, tap on the side wall, the thinner, the higher the pitch of the tap
- Measure, using a simple shop made gauge, see figure 5, you can get a good estimate of the wall thickness along the vessel walls. Be sure that the ends of the gauge are perpendicular to the vessel walls to prevent a false measurement.

Figure 5. Trent with wall thickness gauge. Note bend that makes ends perpendicular.



After the hollowing of the interior was completed, Trent returned to the outside to finish shaping it. It is important to spend as much time as necessary to get the shape just right. Over time, the wood grain figure will fade and only the shape will endure. This is why he selects his wood with relatively plain grain so that he can emphasize the form of his works. Leaving the vessel mounted in the chuck, the chuck is removed from the spindle and remounted on a carving stand mounted in the banjo where the tool rest would normally be. The two rings around the opening of the vessel were marked up to indicate the intended shape of the pedals to be carved. Using an air powered body saw, the shape of the pedals were cut out after which an air die grinder was used to sand the pedals into their final shape.

Figure 6. Cutting the leaves, note the inner and outer rows

After finishing the outside of the vessel, the next step is to make a false insert to go inside to give the illusion of a vessel inside. A profile gauge is used to measure the shape of the outside of the exterior vessel. Since the exterior vessel has a uniform thickness (right Trent?), the transferred shape of the profile gauge allows him to shape the insert to be placed inside. The wood for the insert



is selected and mounted such that the grain will run as close to parallel to its surfaces as possible. He tries to get the wall thickness of the insert about one sixteenth of an inch. After shaping the insert, he puts it in a pan of water and boils it until it is pliable, which is when it no longer floats, i.e. it sinks to the bottom of the water.

Figure 7. Inserting the balloon, notice the carved petals around the opening



While the insert is pliable, he quickly removes it from the boiling water, folds it up and inserts it into the vessel. Turning the vessel upside down and the insert is positioned where desired. Inserting a balloon through the openings and inflating it holds the insert in position. The balloon holds the insert in place for three or four days while the insert dries. Unlike your car tires, these balloons leak air and must be checked and re-inflated frequently during the drying process. After drying, the insert is secured in place using epoxy. Trent has found that epoxy is flexible enough to survive the movement of the wood over time. On the other hand, CA glue is too brittle and will fail due to the wood movement.



Figure 8. Inflating the balloon.

The vessel can now be completed using normal finishing techniques.

Figure 9. The balloon is trying to escape!



Web Sites

Remember when a few months back, no one bothered to visit our web site, www.rmwt.org? At that time we didn't have good support for it and it was not always up to date. Well, the times are a changein'. Our new Web Master, Hoyle Curtis, has modernized the site and is making a lot of improvements. Visit the site and you will find the latest information about RMWT. He is posting the newsletter there as soon as it is published. You can also find a lot of the back issues as well as links to the Symposium's site and other sites of interest.

Hoyle also revived the Yahoo RMWT discussion group. There have been many lively discussions within the Group some of which have resulted in action being taken by the RMWT Board. If you haven't joined the Group and read and/or contributed to the discussions, then you are missing out on a great opportunity. This is proving to be an excellent way to ask questions and share your thoughts with other members and the Officers. To help you get started, Hoyle has contributed the following article.

Joining and Using Rocky Mountain Woodturners Yahoo! Groups Discussion Forum

By: Hoyle Curtis

Signing Up with Yahoo! and RMWT

1. Using the internet browser of your choice go to <http://www.yahoo.com/>, click on "**Groups**" in the left hand menu.
2. If you are a new user of Yahoo! Groups click the "**New User? Sign Up**" button in the upper right hand corner. If you have a Yahoo! ID then skip to 3.
 - a. In 1. fill out the form, "**My Name**" and the rest of the required information.
 - b. In 2. create a **Yahoo! ID** name for yourself. This can be cryptic or your actual name (my preference is to use my name so you know who is posting.)
 - c. Create a **password** (6 to 32 characters with no spaces and it cannot contain your name or Yahoo! ID. This password will be required whenever you sign in to the RMWT Group.
 - d. In 3. enter your **normal email address** and select a **security question with your answer**.
 - e. In the "**Type the code shown**" enter the strange letters shown as a security test. If you don't get this correct a new code will be put up to enter. Capitalization counts.
 - f. Check the "**Do you agree?**" box
 - g. Click the "**Create My Account**" button

- h. If everything is accepted you will go to a page with your account details. Save this information as you will need it to sign in.
 - i. You will now be taken to the Groups page.
3. Make sure you are signed in by looking at the upper right corner, if signed in it will show your id name. If not click on the *"Sign In"* button and enter your Yahoo! ID and password.
 4. In the *"Find a Yahoo! Group"* type *"Rocky Mountain Woodturners"* and click *"Search"*. Click on the *"RockyMountainWoodturners"* name and you will be taken to our discussion forum home page.
 5. Click on the *"Join This Group"* and follow the instructions. In particular look under *"Email Address"* and verify that this is the email address that you want to use. Typically this will be defaulted to the @Yahoo.com email that is automatically given to your Yahoo! ID. **Please change this to your preferred email address by clicking on *"(Add new email address)"* then enter the email address you normally use.** This is important so that when you reply to a post as it will only be accepted if it comes from the email address in your profile. Enter your preferred email address and click *"Continue"*.
 6. In the *"Comments to Owner"* box please type in your *name and verify that you are a current member of RMWT*.
 7. Select the type of *"Message Delivery"* you desire.
 8. Enter the text shown in the box as a security measure. Capitalization counts. Then click *"Join"*. This will send an email to the administrator with your request to join.
 9. You will receive an email notifying you of approval to join. This will typically happen within 24 hours.

Using the Rocky Mountain Woodturners Discussion Group

10. Using a standard browser go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockyMountainWoodturners/>
11. On the Rocky Mountain Woodturners home page you will see a menu on the left that moves you to areas of interest. The most recent messages will be displayed lower on the page.
12. Select the area you are interested in visiting.
 - a. *"Messages"* may be of prime interest since this area allows you to view all the discussions that have occurred in the past as well as post new ones. These messages may be on any relevant topic and also can include *"Announcements"*, *"For Sale"* or *"Wanted"* messages as long as they are appropriate to the group.

You may also start a new Topic here by clicking on the *"Start Topic"* words in the upper right corner. It's important to type a clear subject in as this is what attracts others to

contribute and keeps topics separated. A tools discussion should not be part of a thread on glues. Then enter your question or comments.

To make it easy to follow a topic click on the **"(Group by Topic)"** button at the top of the list. This displays all contributions to a particular topic.

There is also a **"Search"** box at the top of the messages to put key words in and have all messages containing those words shown.

If you are reading a message you may reply to that message and topic by clicking on the **"Reply"** button at the top left of the message. Type in the response and use the **"Send"** button to distribute to the whole group. Try to keep the message concise and on topic. Also sign with your name if you do not use your name in your Yahoo! ID.

If you desire a private conversation please use another email system.

b. **"Files"** is an area where any member can post files for viewing or retrieval by others. As an example the RMWT monthly newsletters will be placed here.

c. **"Photos"** is a place where any member may upload photos of their work or other relevant photos. Please use **"Create Album"** to create an area for your own work or for photos about a topic (i.e. tools.)

d. **"Links"**, any member may place relevant internet links in this area. These will be reviewed by the moderator for appropriateness.

e. **"Members"** contains information in users profiles.

f. **"Calendar"** is an area where any member may add a calendar event that's relevant to the group. Examples would be a demonstrator visiting the area offering classes. These will be reviewed for appropriateness.

Using your own email system.

If you elect to have the emails forwarded to your own email system for reading you can just **"Reply"** to have the message attached to the topic and rebroadcast to all members. It is important that the message come from the email account in your Yahoo! Groups profile. Otherwise it will be rejected. See 5. above on how to modify your profile email address.

Also to keep it readable please don't include the prior text in your message. Since the subject will be the same as the topic it will be correctly placed in the message area and linked to the topic that appears in the subject line. It's therefore also important not to change the subject.

If you want to start a new topic please go to the RMWT Group message area and use "[Start Topic](#)".

Should you have further questions contact Hoyle Curtis, 970-613-1415 or email at hoyle.curtis@gmail.com.

Learn From the Best...

Our Club, RMWT, is becoming known around the nation because we have some of the best turners, nationally known demonstrators and best teachers of Basic Turning, Intermediate, and Advanced and Specialty turning right here in our own back yard.

Trent Bosch Woodturning Workshops

Workshops are held in Trent's studio in Fort Collins, Colorado. There is a maximum of four people in each class which allows for lots of individualized instruction. The cost is \$500 for the 3-day intensive workshop and \$650 for the 4-day. Meals are also provided at no extra charge. His studio is also equipped with the highest quality equipment available for your use. For detailed information on workshops visit www.trentbosch.com or contact Trent via email or phone.

Trent Bosch

Trent Bosch Studios Inc.

trent@trentbosch.com

970 568 3299

Lee Carter operates the **Rocky Mountain School of Woodturning** in LaPorte, Colorado. He offers classes in Basics, Intermediate and Advanced. Lee also offers private tutoring. 7 different brands of lathes are available.

Call Lee Carter at 970-221-4382 to sign up or have him answer any questions.

e-mail LLJTC4X4149@CS.COM

Curt Theobald offers three-day workshops in Segmented Woodturning in his studio in Pine Bluffs, Wyoming.

Call Curt Theobald at 307.245.3310

E-mail cwtheobald@wyoming.com

Website is www.curttheobald.com

John Giem, Woodworker

Individual or small group woodworking instruction customized to the needs of the student. Offering both woodworking on the lathe and combined with regular power tools. Classes are held in John's workshop in Fort Collins, CO, which is equipped with a complete set of woodworking tools. Contact John to discuss rates along with your interests and needs.

jgiem@comcast.net

(970)223-0844, home phone

(970)227-6618, cell phone

Woodcraft has classes for beginners in woodworking, shop safety, intro to the machines, bowl turning, pen and pencil turning, hollow forms, Christmas tree ornaments, tool sharpening, etc. Please check out the class being offered at web page

www.woodcraft.com/stores/store.aspx?id=56