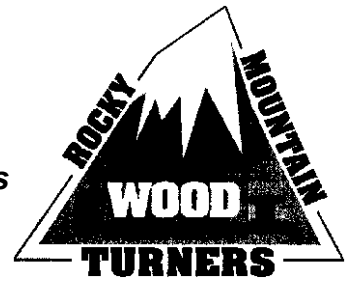




Rocky Mountain Woodturners
A chapter of the American Association of Woodturners
July 2011 Newsletter



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Next RMWT Meeting

The next meeting of the Rocky Mountain Woodturners will be on June 7, 2011, at the Loveland Woodcraft store. The demonstrator will be Stu Batty. He will be helping us to understand the differences in the many types of tool steel used in woodturning.

RMWT Activities

RMWT Board Meeting

The Board meeting was held on June 13, 2011, at the Wild Boar Coffee Shop. Present were Pete Herman, Drew Nichols, Frank Amigo and John Giem.

- It is recognized that we need to send copies of the RMWT Newsletter to each sponsor providing support to the Chapter. John is responsible.
- We do not have up-to-date knowledge of the activities from the Audio-Video Committee. Pete to follow-up. [Since the Board meeting a lot was learned at the AAW Symposium in Saint Paul. As of late there has been a flurry of activity.]
- Frank has learned that the local Potters Guild has their own permanent facility where they have their equipment set up for usage. They also hold their meetings there. Frank will follow-up to get more details.
- The **Wood Bank needs a Volunteer** to help maintain a steady supply of wood. The Volunteer would build relations with the local Tree Surgeons to help us to obtain woods that are less commonly available. Other sources are welcome also. Contact John Giem or any Board member for more details and of course to volunteer to help.
- Masood Garahi has agreed to act as Publicity Chairman. He is to help raise the awareness of woodturning within the local community. He will be supporting both the RMWT and the RMWT Symposium.
- The Board is planning on obtaining 501(3)c nonprofit designation for RMWT. Hoyle Curtis is helping out with the filing details. In support of this effort, we need a complete inventory of the RMWT assets. **We need a person(s)** to step forward to organize and accomplish this task. John Giem has agreed to help this volunteer plan and organize the inventory. Since most of our equipment will be

collected and used during the Symposium, we want the Inventory Person(s) to be able to take advantage of this event since it will make things a lot easier.

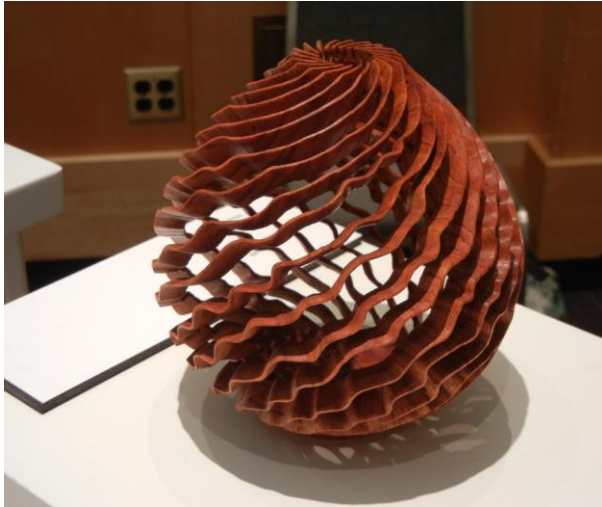
- The Board will gather the information on the benefits associated with being 501(3)c qualified and present it to the membership.
- There is an Art Show coming up with several of our members participating. Frank will give the information to John to be distributed to our membership.
- The By-laws Committee is very nearly finished. The Board discussed the 'loose ends' and will work with the Committee to clean them up. The objective is to have the By-Laws approved by the membership before the next election of officers.

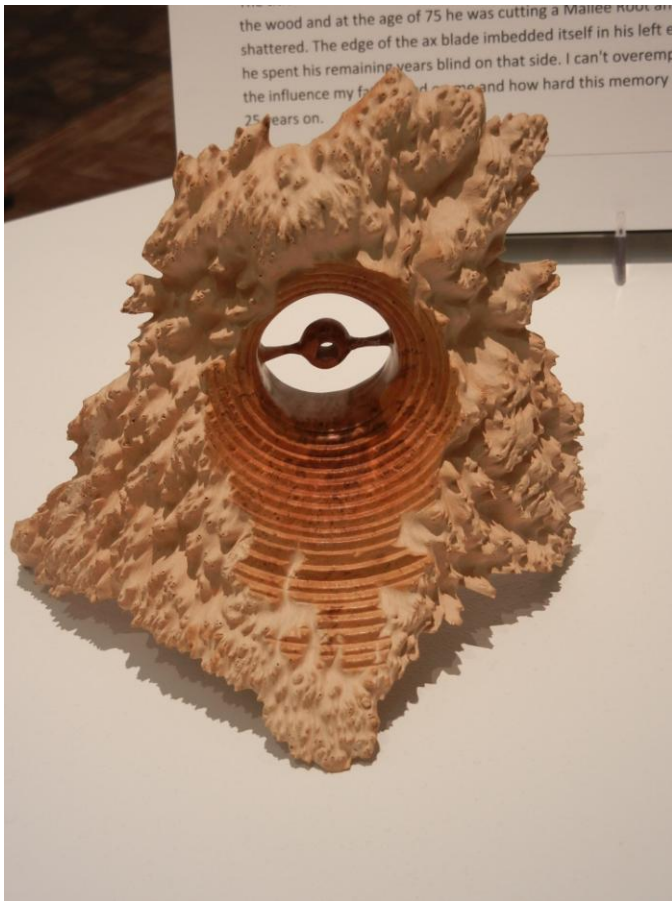
Editor/Secretary's Note: I have been active with the RMWT Board and RMWT activities for around four or five years. For some reason the present Board and the Membership have come together and accomplished more in the last six months than any other time since I joined RMWT. It may not be obvious to you but many have stepped up behind the scenes to make this happen. There are several opportunities identified within where more of you can contribute. Remember that you get a whole lot more out when you put a little in. Besides, we have a great bunch of guys and gals to work with.

AAW Symposium in Saint Paul – John Giem

I was fortunate to be able go to the Symposium this year for the first time. RMWT has a good representation with all of the Board members and many others. I do not have an exact count but I think that we had over 10 members attending. The quality and variety of art in the Instant Gallery was mind boggling plus there were many other venues where the talent really shown. I was working on the videographer crew helping during the demos. Meeting the Demonstrators and working up close with them was very educating. I picked up a lot of new information on boxes, both techniques and designs. One of the demonstrators, like Doug Schneider, likes turning blanks with defects so that he can 'stitch' them and incorporate the defects into his art. I think that most of us were suffering from information overload. I discovered that visiting the Vendor area was just as informative as some of the presentations. At one point I watched Allen Jensen and Mike Mahoney test out a new lathe coming on the market. This was a BIG lathe with a 3 hp motor and they were out to see what it could do. The lathe held up well while they were peeling off large 3/4" ribbons from the bowl which wound up in the aisle making visitors duck. Mike Mahoney then mounted up a McNaughton Center Saver and proceeded to hollow out rough bowl blanks. Standing at Mike's elbow, watching and asking questions was outstanding. I saw a lot of new (to me at least) equipment coming onto the market. Stu Batty had a large display with a lot of new tools. Several of us made significant contributions to the vendors in exchange for new 'toys' for our shops.







Wood Bank

Inventory – This week the Wood Bank received fresh deposits of large blocks of Elm and Cotton Wood. This is in addition to large pieces of poplar and Russian olive we already had. These are well suited for those of you that like to turn large bowls. The Wood Bank still has three large Black Ash burls. To help you to understand the deal this would be for you, these pieces are available at \$1.50 to \$2.00 per pound. In contrast, at the AAW Symposium, similar burl was selling for \$4.00 per pound. John has moved these burls inside out of the weather. You do not have to take a whole piece, John can cut them into manageable sizes for you. Remember the wood (other than the burl) is free to RMWT members. Come and choose the wood to fit your project. Also, the club has end grain sealer at \$9.00 per gallon.

For more information contact John Giem, jgiem@comcast.net, 970 223-0844 – home, 970 227-6618 mobile.

Carving Class in September

Wonderful wood carver Dixie Biggs will do a five day class in the Amigos' studio during the week after the Rocky Mountain Woodturners' symposium in September. See Dixie's work at www.dixiebiggs.com. Cost of the five day class is \$450, and that includes lunch. She is willing to 10 students and is a power carver. Call Frank or Elizabeth at 970-568-3899."

Demonstration June 9, 2011

Turning Difficult Woods.

Presented by Doug Schneider

Reported by John I. Gien

The topic for the demonstration presented by Doug Schneider on June 9, 2011, was Turning Difficult Woods. Within our chapter, Doug has long been associated with creating beautiful and interesting works of art from woods that most of us would have delegated to the firewood pile. He began by telling us a bit about himself, his discovery of woodturning and his experiencing the growth of woodturning. After adventures elsewhere, Doug was hired at Loveland High School where he has been teaching for 18 years. He teaches other shop type classes besides woodturning but woodturning is his main interest.



Doug emphasized that everyone should learn to do spindle turning, the skills learned there are the foundation for all other types of turning.

- His earliest hero was Paul Bunyan with his working in the forest.

- His turning in High School was rather limited compared to what is done today. Large solid bowl blanks were not available, instead they had to glue up blocks using one inch kiln dried lumber. His work at that time is quite different from what he can and does do today.



- In woodturning, there are no mistakes only redesign opportunities.
- When he returned to teaching, he rediscovered woodturning and the massive changes that had taken place while he was 'gone'.
- Classes he took were from David Ellsworth and other experts.
- Take advantage of the turning clubs and symposiums, they are a good source of information.
- Woodturners are the only group that is very open and sharing with information and techniques.
- Attend open shop tours.
- Take advantage of books, videos and libraries.
- Learn from your last piece and your mistakes.

He described Problem or Difficult woods as falling into these general categories:

1. Bark Inclusions, sometimes these can be predicted but are often 'discovered' during the turning process
2. Wormholes – the wormholes are not always empty. It is recommended that a face shield should be worn as the worms are often quite juicy. [This recommendation seemed unnecessary since we always wear face shields anyway.]
3. Punky Wood – this is the natural result of nature's decay process for returning wood back into the soil. This wood is soft to varying degrees and may be quite colorful. The softness makes it difficult to turn without tear outs, requires sharp tools. He sometimes uses a wood hardener or thin CA glue. Doug does not use wood stabilizer. Because of

the softness, care is needed when sanding to avoid removing too much material and causing depressions, etc.

4. Spalting – another result of the decay process. With the right type of microorganisms, streaks of color can form throughout the bulk of the wood. The main concern here is breathing the dust, some people are quite sensitive to spalted wood.
5. Physical shape limitations – it is not necessary for the outside of the turning to be round.



- For hollowing vessels, he uses the Ellsworth style of tools
- Smaller cutting tips are better, the smaller cuts give better cuts.
- Bent or swan neck hollowing tools keep the cutter in line with the shaft to reduce torque.
- He makes his own tool handles, triangular in shape which give better grip and help with tool orientation.
- If a blank has a crack in it but does not go all the way to the center then it is probably OK. If the crack goes all the way to the center then it will be too weak.
- Mark the centers of the blank in preparation for the first mounting.
- Start by mounting your blank between centers using a 2 or 4 prong spur center.
- In the tail stock use a cup center without the center pin to minimize damage to the wood.
- Generally, what he thinks will be the bottom is placed toward the headstock.
- When asked 'Have you given any thought about the shape?' He replied, 'Yes, it will be round outside'.
- Design consideration, the widest point in the final shape will have the widest point about 1/3 up from the bottom or 1/3 down from the top.
- For the piece being used for the demo, he takes into account the bark inclusions versus the widest part.
- He likes the tool rests made by Robust.

- The tool rest is set at the center of rotation of the wood. A collar around the tool post below the tool rest is too restrictive.
- The quill in the tail stock is not locked but left free so that he can adjust it as needed.
- Speed? He turns it up until it is a little scary and backs off a bit.
- He uses gouges of all different shapes. Sharpens using the Ellsworth sharpening jig but shapes his gouges a bit differently.
- When starting with rough wood, he locks his 'tool rest' hand in position and uses it as a pivot while taking a series of sweeping cuts ratcheting down the shape.
- When the blank is roughed down to a 'round' shape, its grain and features are better defined.
- After examination, he reorients the blank to take advantage of its best features. The objective is to have solid wood across the top opening so that it will stay together during the turning.
- After finishing shaping the body, a tenon is turned on what will become the base. It is important to size the tenon so that the chuck jaws will be almost closed to achieve the maximum gripping power.
- Before hollowing, the outside of the vessel is completed and finish sanded.
- To ensure that this 'problem wood' stays together while it is hollowed out and shaped, it is necessary to reinforce it. To keep the strapping tape from leaving adhesive residue on the wood, first wrap it with a plastic wrap such as that used in bundling items for shipping.
- Wrap the vessel with 3/4" fiber reinforced strapping or shipping tape. Wrap thoroughly and crisscross as appropriate.
- If you cannot find 3/4" tape, get 2" tape and split it using a bandsaw. Mount the spools of tape on a chuck on the lathe and turn the rough sides smooth.
- Using the tenon, mount the blank in the chuck.
- Turn a small cone in the center of the top for starting the depth drill. He used a pair of Vice-Grips to hold the drill bit.
- Started with a small straight hollowing tool and later switched to a larger one.
- Chips are cleared using compressed air. If not available use a bendable straw being careful to keep ejected chips out of your face.
- A large, wide tool rest a larger swing with the hollowing tool.
- The hollowing tool should not push out against the inside surface of the vessel but should stroke along the inside roughly following the shape of the outside surface.
- If the tenon is broken off of a turning there are several options:
 - a. If there is enough wood, cut a new tenon in place of the original one.
 - b. Cut a thin dovetail ring around the base for the jaws to grasp.

- c. Smooth off the base and glue on scrap wood and cut a tenon in it for completing the project.
- To reverse chuck the vessel to finish off the base:
 - a. If the vessel has a solid opening, put a piece of scrap in the chuck and turn it into a cone larger than the opening. Place the opening of the vessel over the cone and hold the base in place with a live center in the tailstock, then finish off the base.
 - b. Mount a section of PVC pipe in the chuck that is large enough to fit over the top of the vessel. Use foam padding around the edges of the PVC and hold the vessel in place using a live center in the tailstock.
- A scraper is mounted on a bent hollowing tool shaft for smoothing up and finishing the inside of the vessel.

Subj: woodworking tools for sale

- 4" jointer on stand
- miketa 12" thickness planner
- hundreds of wood working books every thing from woodturning to fine wood working
- 1/4" router with dove tail jigs
- biscuit jointer with biscuits
- delta rockwell lathe 16" 42"bed 1hp
- work bench 24"-84" 1"maple top 4 drawers plus 4 doors for storage
- router table on wheels with 1/2" freud router and exhaust hook up
- chop saw
- 20 plus feet of 4" black exhaust hose
- various electric motors

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RMWT Meetings and information

The Rocky Mountain Woodturners meet at Woodcraft of Loveland, located at 3718 Draft Horse Drive, Loveland , Colorado. We meet on the first Thursday after the first Tuesday each month.

President: Pete Herman
(970) 663-1951 home
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Treasurer: Frank Amigo
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Secretary & Newsletter: John Giem
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970 227-6618 mobile
jgiem@cocmcast.net

Wood Bank
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(see above)
Jerry Sherman
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(970) 484-2619 home

RMWT Program Director
David Nittmann
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david@davidnittmann.com

RMWT Webmaster: Hoyle Curtis
Hoyle.curtis@gmail.com

RMWT Symposium

General Coordinator: Allen Jensen
970 663-1868 work
970 776-6452 mobile

Vendor Coordinator: Mide Davis
Mikeldaviasllc@msn.com,

Program Coordinator: Trent Bosch
trent@trentbosch.com

Registration Coordinator: John Giem
970 223-0844 -- home
970 227-6618 -- mobile
jgiem@comcast.net

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

John Lynch
www.johnlynchwoodworking.com

Curt Theobald
www.curttheobald.com

Katherine Kowalski
www.KatherineKowalski.com

Want your Website Listed? Contact
John Giem, Editor.

Learn From the Best...

Our Club, RMWT, is known around the nation because we have some of the best turners, nationally known demonstrators and best teachers of Basic, Intermediate, 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. Seven 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, Woodturner

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 studio in Fort Collins, CO, which is equipped with a complete set of woodworking tools. Contact John to discuss your interests and needs.

jgiem@comcast.net

(970)223-0844, home phone
(970)227-6618, cell phone

Katherine Kowalski is a Woodturner & Contemporary Artist, offering private/small group instruction in woodturning technique, as well as specialized classes in hollow forms, bowl, fine spindlework, and color theory/technique. (All levels of

instruction are available). Classes are held at Katherine's studio in Cheyenne, WY.

Email:

katherine@daystarhandworks.com

Cell Phone: 307 220-0130

Web site: www.katherinekowalski.com

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

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