

# Rocky Mountain Woodturners

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

## April 2000 Newsletter

Vol. 6 - No. 4

### Officers & Committees

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**President Elect**

Dick Moody 307/632-4405  
[Rmoody1266@aol.com](mailto:Rmoody1266@aol.com)

### Events Calendar

All following events are tentative.

**April 6th** John Loftus: making tools, jigs, and fixtures  
David Gillespie: Flower Vessel

**May 4** Giulio Marcolongo from Australia  
There will be a \$10.00 fee taken at the door.

**June 8** Ken Sager from New Zealand: Slide presentation  
and ? There will be a charge at the door.

**July 6** Paul Bailey

**August 4** David Kahne: Inlay and decorating bowls  
with turquoise.

**September 7** Stewart Mortimer from England: Spirals  
There will be a charge at the door.

**October 5** Trent Bosch: Enclosed vessels

**November 9** Lloyd Jenkins: Bowl turning

**December 7** Christmas Party

**January 4** Monthly Meeting

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## APRIL MEETING

**Thursday – 4/6/2000**

**7:00 PM**

**Room 105**

**Industrial Science Building  
Colorado State University  
Ft. Collins**

### Agenda:

- Announcements
- Giulio Marcolongo
- Show & Tell
- Wood Raffle
- Monthly Challenge is the-  
fund raiser
- Donation of bowls & vases for

### Committees:

- Symposium Committee  
Chairman: Wayne Van Every
- Non-Profit & Charter Committee  
Chairman: Dick Moody
- Fund Raising Committee  
Chairman: Dale Ketchner
- Collaboration Committee:  
Chairman: Bruno Melli

## MARCH MEETING MINUTES

Nancy Quick-Brewer

There was no officers meeting prior to the general meeting this month.

The March meeting got under way with the announcement of the first newsletter being put out online with the new Adobe Acrobat that the club now has! This has been a while in coming, but is going to be very beneficial to the club. Anyone who has an email address that is current will be receiving their April newsletter via the internet now, plus it is also being put on the R.M.W.T.'s website thanks to web master Bruno Melli. All others will be receiving their newsletter via the U.S. mail as usual. If you are not sure if I have your current email address, please just drop me a note at [Woodturns@aol.com](mailto:Woodturns@aol.com), so you don't miss out. I am told that if you have not paid your dues for the year by March 1, you will not continue to receive your monthly newsletter.

Jon has ordered the base for the Clubs lathe, should be arriving in about another 4-5 weeks. It was ordered through Sears Trostel. We still have an open balance of \$1,035.00 owed to Craft Supplies for the lathe. Also, he has ordered the wood and parts for the library cabinet, and hopes to have them by the next meeting.

It was brought to the attention of the club that Trent Bosch is resigning as program director. Thank you Trent for everything you have succeeded in doing during your time as program director! It has been greatly appreciated!

**Reminder!!** The collaborative challenge for the year 2000, a turned item is to be 2 ft. sq. and weigh 20 lb. or less. Anyone with an idea for this, pass it on to Jon Fosse, or Bruno Melli. We have had one suggestion, but need more ideas!! Bruno was graciously volunteered to be the head chairman for this great event! Thanks Bruno!!

## MARCH MEETING MINUTES cont.

**AAW symposium:** The AAW symposium is being held in Charlotte, N.C. from June 30- July 2, 2000. Our own Trent Bosch will be a demonstrator this year! Congratulations Trent!

**Rocky Mountain Woodturners Symposium 2000/2001:** Wayne Van Every has volunteered to be the chairman for this super event! Thank you Wayne for offering your time and talent! We may be having another in 2000!!! Let's work hard to do this again this year! Last year we made \$2,400.00 on the symposium, after paying all expenses. This does include the \$1,000.00 "seed" money from the AAW.

**Fund Raisers:** It was brought to the attention of all attending club members that we as a club need to come up with some good ideas for fund raisers. Anyone with any ideas, please mention it to any of the officers. The fund raising committee members are Dale Ketcher, Wayne Van Every and Nancy Quick-Brewer. Thanks to those of you who offered your time and efforts for this worthwhile cause! The time you give of yourself is greatly helping out our club.

**Demonstration:** Curt Theobold gave a great demonstration on making a ball box, a difficult undertaking. Thank you for sharing your time and talent. Well done!!

**Show & Tell:** March's \$15.00 gift certificate went to Jim Ferry. The certificate is for Loren's Wood Emporium at 618 N. Garfield Ave. Loveland, CO.

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## MARCH MEETING MINUTES cont.

**April Challenge: Donation of bowls and vases for find raiser,** To be included in the chance of winning the \$15.00 gift certificate, you must bring a turning of what the challenge is for the month. If you bring more than one item for the challenge, you will still only receive one ticket for the drawing of the gift certificate at the Wood Emporium in Loveland.

**Wood Raffle: Bring wood!** Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each. We are in need of more wood being donated. I'd like to see every member bring at least one piece each this up coming meeting!

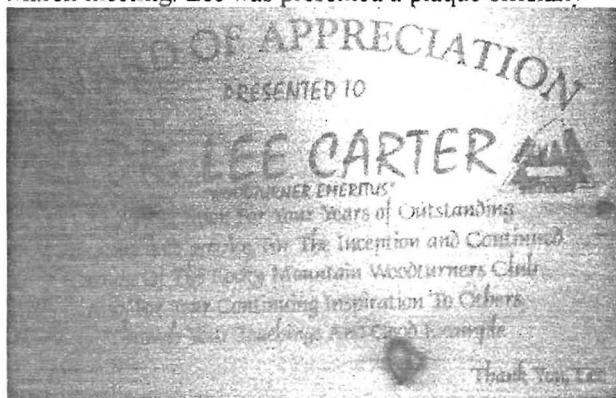
**Membership:** The club dues shall remain at \$20.00 for non-students and \$12.00 for students. After July 1 dues are 50% for the remainder of the year.

**New Members and Visitors:** At the March meeting we were joined by two new members to the club! A big welcome goes out to Sam Barclay of Platteville and Keith Long of Ft. Collins. We were pleased to have joined us as visitors, Denise Raffel-Melli wife of Bruno Melli our web master, and a return visitor Cindy Drozda of Boulder. Hope to see you both as new members of our club in the near future!

**Welcome Back!:** Glad to have David Nittman back with us! Hope all is going well, and that the surgery was a success.

**Tips or Tricks:** Anyone with Tips or Trick's that you would be willing to share with the other members of the club, please send them to me or give them to me at one of the meetings, so they may be shared with everyone!

**Our 1<sup>st</sup> Honorary Life Time Member:** I believe the R.M.W.T.'s gave Dr. Lee Carter a bit of a surprise at the March meeting. Lee was presented a plaque officially



The plaque was laser engraved by Doug, the wood was donated by Jon Fosse

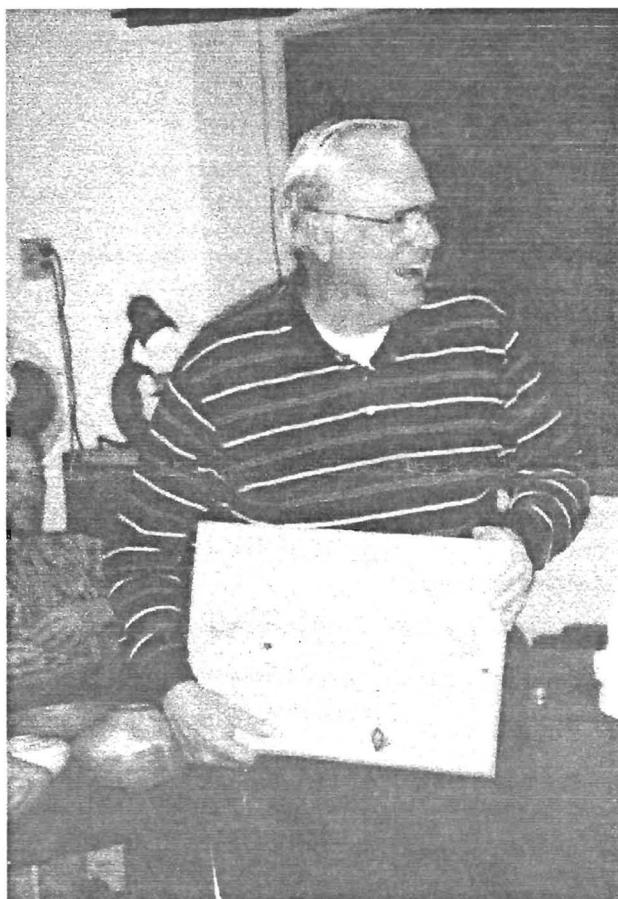
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## MARCH MEETING MINUTES cont.

making him the first honorary lifetime member of the club! Congratulations Lee greatly deserved. The idea coming from the AAW's lifetime achievement award, recognizes Lee for his active support of the club, and promotion of woodturning.



Doug Schneiter presenting Dr. Lee Carter with a plaque and lifetime honorary membership from the R.M.W.T.'s club.



Lee showing the club his new plaque.

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## DUES

Jim Ferry

**Dues:** Everyone's RMWT Club dues are due, if you know of anyone who is still wanting to receive a monthly newsletter, please have them contact Jim Ferry @ 970.482-4695 or email him at [jferri@frii.com](mailto:jferri@frii.com).

## FUND RAISING

Wayne Van Every

**A call for bowl donations:** I have been using a gallery in Sacramento to sell my turnings for me. The owner has agreed to take a consignment of bowls to sell for the Club. If you have bowls that you would like to donate to the Club, bring them to the meetings, or contact me (970/378-8815) and we will make arrangements to pick them up. Please sign the bottom and price your work on a slip of paper. If you have any fund raising ideas please let one of us, Dale, Nancy or myself know. It was decided to focus on doing some fundraisers this year to pay the balance of our lathe, get some money for the 2001 Symposium next year. There is a Non-Profit Committee working on getting the Club established as a non-profit organization. Once this is done, the Club will be able to provide receipts for donations that are tax deductible.

## ADOBE ACROBAT SOFTWARE

Nancy Quick-Brewer

Be sure you have downloaded the Acrobat Reader as All members with current emails will be getting the newsletter via a PDF format this requires that you have Adobe Acrobat reader loaded on your computer. The reader software is free and can be downloaded from the Club's webpage located along with the newsletter at: <http://www.verinet.com/~drmelli/rmwt.html> If by chance you have changed your email address and not updated it with me, please drop me a quick note, so you can receive your newsletter! Dave and Jack let your members know also.

## RMWT SYMPOSIUM 2001

Wayne Van Every

Anyone interested in serving on a committee or serving as a committee chairperson, please let me know. We need to get the Facility Committee up and running so the site search can begin. We will be having a meeting soon to decide on committees and a theme. It is a lot of work but as everyone involved with the 1999 Symposium will tell you, it is well worth the effort.

## FRONT RANGE (FRWT) CLUB NEWS

Dave Sifer

Meetings are held at Schlosser Tool and Machinery 301 Bryant in Denver 303/922-8244. Contact Pete Holtus at 303/364-5365

## PIKES PEAK (PPW) CLUB NEWS

Jack Chick

Meeting at Woodcraft Supply on North Academy and Vickers in Colorado Springs Meetings are held the last Thursday of each month at 7 PM. Contact Bob Kerr evenings at 719/593-9641

## SHOP TOURS

We need someone to volunteer to be in charge of lining up shop tours for us, as Trent has resigned and there are no scheduled up coming tours. Anyone interested in this duty, please contact any of the clubs officers immediately.

There was a great suggestion made by Kevin Dunn. He suggested that as a token of thank you to the hosts of the shop tours, each member attending bring a piece of wood to be given to the host. Next shop tour, don't forget to bring a "token of thanks" with you.

Anyone interested in hosting a shop tour and pitch in later this spring or summer? The Christmas Parties have been such a success that a summer event was suggested and should be a fun time as well.

## MEMBER INFO EXCHANGE

If you have sold your listed item, please let me know so that I can remove it.

FOR SALE: Malachite for inlay work.

Jerry Smith - 303/466-7912 or Earl Ellis - 303/426-7130 See attached page of Info Exchange. Wayne has a list of things for sale.

FOR SALE: Dick Breckon of the Pikes Peak Club has some deep hollowing tools for sale. If interested give him a call @ 719/597-9718.

FOR SALE: Walnut bowl blanks 4" thick, 8" square, sealed. \$10.00 each. Other blanks becoming available. Call Dennis Korth @ 719/634-1260.

FOR SALE: 12" Delta Lathe With stand. E.L. Jacobs, Woodland Park 719 687-9581.

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## MEMBER INFO EXCHANGE cont.

FOR SALE: Delta 10" table saw, model 34-760, used very little, \$240.00 Call Wayne 970/378-8815

One only 8" grinder with friable wheels, practically new. Papa Joe will sacrifice for \$60.00. Call him at 719/584-9908.

HELP: The AAW does not have any photographs of the 1994 AAW Ft. Collins symposium. Would anyone happen to have any photo's laying around or stuck away in a box somewhere they would be willing to share with them, if so please contact Nancy Quick-Brewer as soon as possible.

## THE INTERNET

Nancy Quick - Brewer

Just incase you haven't updated your woodturning sites lately, the new update web address for AAW Home Page  
<http://www.woodturner.org/>

Be sure you check out OUR own woodturning site Thanks to Bruno Mell! Bruno has been spending a lot of his time working on this lately! Just go to <http://www.verinet.com/~drmelli/rmw.html> You might just be surprised on what and who you see on there! Thank you Bruno for all of you time and efforts!

<<http://members.sia.net.au/dispatch/turning.htm>>  
Thanks Bruno.

[www.w-u.com](http://www.w-u.com) this is Shop Smith Woodturning. it also has links to many sources for ideas, tools, wood, and many sites showing turners work.

[www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org) this is the Association of American Woodturners. You can spend all day looking at the work of different clubs and individuals in those clubs.

[www.wcinet/~gbuckjr/redwood\\_frame/redwood\\_frameset1.htm](http://www.wcinet/~gbuckjr/redwood_frame/redwood_frameset1.htm) Check this site for Redwood, Maple, Myrtle, and Madrone. Big ad small pieces...good prices also.

[www.taigtools.com/](http://www.taigtools.com/) This is an interesting site of very small lathes Milling machines and accessories for them.

## CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Jim Ferry

The club membership dues are \$20.00 and \$12.00 for students. Dues are half for new CLUB

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## MEMBERSHIP cont.

members joining after June. Fill out the Member Information Form, include it with your funds and turn it in to Jim Ferry.

If you bring a guest please make sure they fill out an information card and leave it with Nancy Quick - Brewer so they can receive their complimentary copies of the newsletter.

As of this newsletter, we have 71 paid up members!

Jim Ferry stated at the March meeting that the clubs bank account now stands at \$2,042.58. This balance does not include the membership enrollment of that night.

## Tips And Tricks

Jack Chick (Pikes Peak Club)

### Sand Paper Project:

Here's is a good project to help organize all of those little pieces of sandpaper that we all have lying around as we are trying to finish our turnings.

Start with a piece of 2 X 4 about 16 inches long. Saw slots with a wide saw blade. The slots are about an inch apart and at a slight angle so that the paper will not fall out when it is standing up on its end. Mark each slot with the grit of paper it is to hold with a felt tip pen/marker. Drill  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch hole in the top that will be used to hang it on a pegboard close to your lathe or it may stand on the bottom. (Unable to produce image)

Store a piece of paper in the slot according to its grit. You will now be able to remove a piece, sand, and replace it before removing the next piece. You will always know the grit pf each piece and finishing will be faster and more accurate.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Nancy Quick-Brewer

This bit of info is from Jack Chick, our neighbor from down at the Pikes Peak club. A little something he learned while on his trip last month to Costa Rica. Costa Rica has a law that if you wish to cut down one of the following exotic trees you must first plant 10 others to receive permission:

Rosewood	Iron Wood
Purple Heart	Mora
Tempisque	Cristobal

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## DID YOU KNOW? cont.

Corteza	Ron Ron
Gueainol	Monkey Wood
Cenizaro	Nispero

Thanks for this bit of information Jack!

## LIBRARY

Dale Ketcher

The library policy has been, each Club member may check out one book or video for one month. This allows other members the opportunity to use the library materials.

Thank you goes to David Gillespie for donating the book entitled: Woodturning. It is a welcome addition to our library!

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Nancy Quick - Brewer

The deadline for submitting articles and information for the Rocky Mountain Woodturners newsletter is the 20th of each month. Anyone interested in trying their hand at authoring an article is encouraged to do so, also send your for sale or trade items. Send it to me email, or give me a call!

## RMWT SHIRTS

Doug Schneiter

The club is raising money by selling shirts with the Rocky Mountain Woodturner's logo stitched onto the shirt. \$5.00 from each shirt will be given to the Club's treasury. Order your shirts from Doug Schneiter. Make checks payable to the Rocky Mountain Woodturners and give the money or check to Jim Ferry You can still order your shirt from Doug. There are quite a variety of colors and styles to choose from!

## The 2000 PROVO WOODTURNING SYMPOSIUM

Lee Carter

The 2000 Utah Woodturning Symposium will be held June 1, 2, and 3rd at Brigham Young University, Provo. Utah. Participants can choose from 100 demonstrations

given by some of the best woodturners in the world. These include Richard Raffan and Vic Wood from Australia, Hans Weissflog from Germany, Johannes Reiber from Norway, and Stuart Batty, Ray Key, and Stuart Mortimer from England. American woodturners include. Kip Christensen, Virginia Dotson, Tom Fortenberry, Mark Gardner, Mike Mahoney, William Moore, Dale Nish, Lane Phillips, Robert Rosand, and Joe Wagner. Demonstrations are 1 hour 45 minutes, and you can choose those you would like to attend. Register by completing the form to the right or write for more detailed information to:

### Utah woodturning Symposium

P.O. Box 50196, Provo, Utah, 84605-0196 or call (801) 378-2021.

*Enrollment is limited, so early registration is advised.*

Please register me for the:

### UTAH WOODTURNING SYMPOSIUM

(Please type or print in ink only)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check or money order in the amount  
of \$: \_\_\_\_\_

### TUITION:

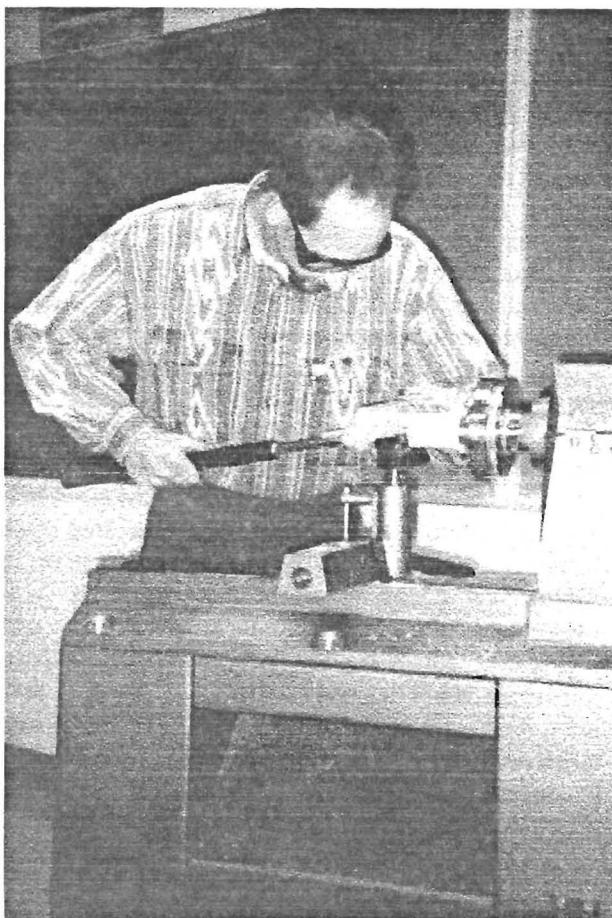
On or before May 10, 2000	\$220.00
After May 10	\$230.00
• Single Day Registration	\$100.00
• Spouse Registration	\$110.00

### Send checks or money orders to:

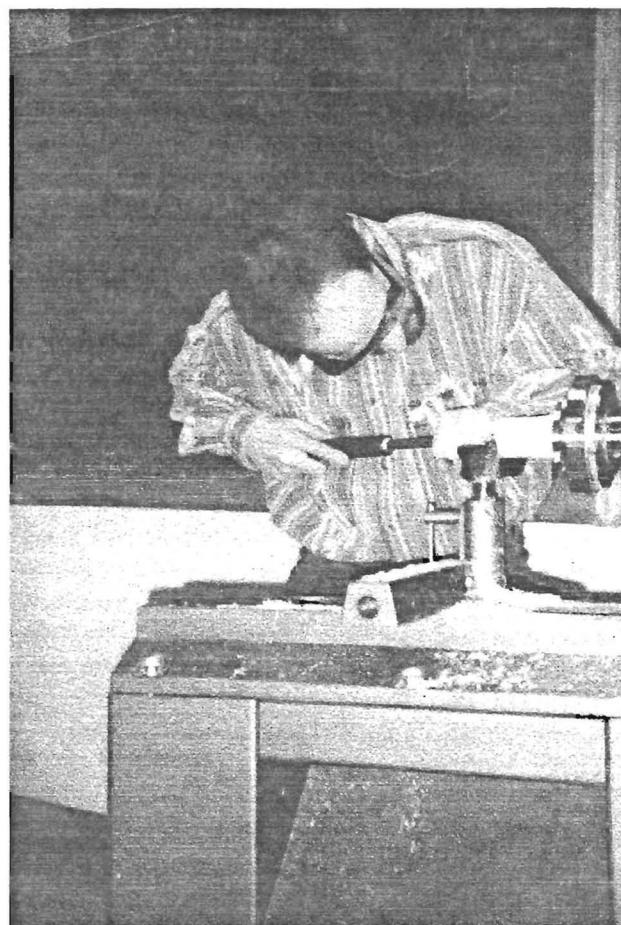
### UTAH WOODTURNING SYMPOSIUM

P.O. BOX 50196

PROVO, UT 84605-0196 PHONE: (801) 378-2021



Curt hollowing out one side of the ball box.



This is what I call concentration!!

## KORU BOWLS & OTHER "DISASTERS"

By Rob Waanders

In the mid 1980's I obtained a 500 x 45 Rimu woodturning blank from Brian Massey's woodturning shop and rough turned it into a flat edge bowl and left it, unfinished in hot weather on my workbench for a few days. This of course, no matter how dry the wood is, resulted in a nasty open crack at the edge of the bowl and the piece ended up with all my other rejects somewhere in the pile of junk under my workbench. It taught me a lesson, always protect unfinished work even if it is only for the time when you have a cuppa! In 1993 I stumbled onto the piece again, yeah yeah I had a long overdue clean-up of my workshop and was just about to send the cracked bowl via the bandsaw to the firewood basket when I thought I would have a crack at cutting the crack out and design something around it. Well I put my thinking cap on made some pencil scribbles followed by a drastic bandsaw cut around the crack, something I would never have done with a good bit of wood, after all

## KORU BOWLS & OTHER "DISASTERS" cont.

I am from Dutch origin.

After some cutting, shaping, carving, changing my mind as I went along and lots of hand sanding I decided that the bowl was allowed to stay out of the firewood basket, in fact I was quite pleased with the end result so I decided to exhibit the finished untitled carved edge bowl at my solo exhibition in March/April 1994 at Page 90 gallery, now "Pataka Porirua museum of Arts and Cultures". The official opening of Page 90 was by the then Governor General Dame Catherine Tizard who promptly bought the spiral carved edge bowl at the opening and when Dame Cath spoke to me she kept referring to "The Koru Bowl", so that is how the name koru bowl came about. I made some 150 of them over the years for 2 Governors General, Government Departments, City Councils, Corporate offices, Ambassadors, and private buyers.

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## KORU BOWLS & OTHER "DISASTERS" cont.

So where did I get the design from? Well foremost I must say I certainly did not copy it from anybody. Regretfully there are those who copy designs without acknowledging the source. While the koru is widely recognized in New Zealand the spiral motif design does not belong to one particular culture. Many cultures worldwide have developed this centuries-old spiral motive to suit their particular cultures. The reality is that I have developed the spiral carved edge bowl design and other carved and sculptured designs through observing, experimenting, developing, researching and above all being patient. I had become frustrated by the restrictions of round things. When I was a member of a potters co-operative gallery I thought the potters are lucky because after they finish turning a pot on a vertical lathe they can shape it in any form they like including adding and taking bits off. No such luck for woodturners I thought. How wrong I was. I now often carve and or sculpture work which is purely based on my woodturning experience and use in addition to the woodlathe a chainsaw, arbortech and carving chisels. When you see something new, original and innovative you may think of why you did not think of that, as often the design is so simple. You must not forget that people come up with new things and ideas all the time. There is no reason that you can not come up with something new also. Look at shapes and forms in detail ranging from the coffee pot handle to dramatic cloud formations to interesting shapes formed by windblown sand to the minute detailed pattern on a dog's nose to hub caps of car wheels to fine detail of seed pods of plants and trees. Well I can go on and on and on.

Many years ago I used to work for Architect Jack Barnes, a keen water color artist who is now retired and is a member of the Wellington Guild of Woodworkers. He asked me after I finished a perspective of a collage for him if I would like to have a go at coloring the perspective including surrounding trees. He set me going with a set of 68 different color pencils and I thought why so many different colors - green is green for colouring trees. Wrong! Jack took me to the window facing the bush clad hills of Tinakori hill in Wellington and asked me what colors I could see. My answer, green. Wrong. Look again he said and then it suddenly clicked, dozens and dozens of shades of green which I never noticed before. That is what I mean when I say "observe". When experimenting and developing it is okay to copy other work if necessary, but only in the confinement of your workshop with curtains closed and door locked! Change it drastically and make it unrecognizable before you open the curtains and unlock the door again. Better still, pick up that piece that was

## KORU BOWLS & OTHER "DISASTERS" cont.

destined for the firewood bin or the piece you worked on many years ago and gave up on or that piece of wood which seems impossible to use for anything because of the defects, cracks, knots etc, then chop and change it. You have nothing to lose and the firewood bin will still be there.

My designs are developed from some of the following observations: Architectural study in the Netherlands with building history as one of my favorite subjects; Observing my brother restoring and preserving intricate historic ceilings in palaces, parliament and other very old historic buildings in The Netherlands often showing distinctive spiral based design motifs; Spiral motif based paintings and woodcarvings dating back to 1847, 1781, 1654, and older on Dutch windmills; Spiral motif based designs in stone, wrought Iron and Cast Iron dating back to 1522 and older on historic buildings in The Netherlands and Europe; Seeing traditional Maori woodcarver Paki Harrison carving a Meeting house and taking time out to explain the cultural background in every fine detail he was carving; Seeing experienced multi media contemporary Maori art designers at work, using the spiral. "NZ Koru", a typical design motif used for centuries all over the world by many cultures to suit their particular cultures; Observations I made from my son's Celtic Art exhibition catalogue of wood, bronze, gold, stone artifacts dating back as far as 1st c BC. He worked for several years as a conservator technician at the National Scottish museum and was part of a team conserving valuable and very old Celtic artifacts and set up a 235-piece exhibition in Tokyo in 1998. In this catalogue I noticed 45 very old artifacts with very distinct spiral motif based designs included on glass gaming counters dating back to 1st c BC. The exhibition logo for the catalogue called "Treasures of Celtic Art, A European Heritage", is based on the traditional Celtic spiral motif design and looks very similar to the NZ Koru. I have also drawn design inspiration from the influence of ex woodturner Paul Mason who is, and has always been, my major influence and who always challenged me to be innovative and meticulous. Paul Mason I suggest was NZ's most influential woodturning artist. He laid the foundations in NZ when it came to modern artistic woodturning design. It is sad that a lot of woodturners in my opinion do not recognize or acknowledge that or do not even know who he is. He is well known for his inlaid work using a variety of materials besides contrasting woods including silver and broken chicken egg shell! When I was invited in the early 1980's to the opening of his solo exhibition in the Dowse Art Gallery I was blown away, pieces he showed then would even today win major prizes here and

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## KORU BOWLS & OTHER "DISASTERS" cont.

overseas. Some years after his exhibition he established himself as a very successful artist using other media. American Al Stirt's attitude of combining woodturning and carving appeals very much to me so does Del Stubbs' fun loving and easy going and perhaps hippie-like attitude towards artistic woodturning.

These observations and experiences, including a life long interest in ornithology, seashells, photography and tramping I find very useful in developing my designs. I suggest that it is perhaps not a good idea to copy traditional art from cultures other than your own but I can not see a problem with being influenced by any culture and developing your own contemporary designs. This article was gratefully reprinted from the New Zealand Woodturners.

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## A TEST OF MICROWAVING

Dick Veitch

Recently I took three small bowls along to our club meeting. I had microwave dried these from fresh-cut wood in the previous couple of weeks. Comments on microwave drying in this manner were readily forthcoming: "You will kill your microwave"; "You can't dry wood without a fire brick in the oven"; "I did a bit recently and it took far less time" and, from Faceplate of September 1994, "air dry to 22% moisture before microwaving". As I had done none of these things in the course of producing perfectly good bowls I decided a little research and experimentation was in order to gain a bit more definitive information on the subject.

As drying wood from fresh to dry can take from 40 to 90 'cooks' per bowl there could have been some truth in the "You will kill your microwave" comment. I therefore checked out the operation of microwave ovens with two electronics experts, one of who has a doctorate in microwave technology. The answer: "Cooking wood like this is exactly what a microwave oven is designed to do." But if you turn your microwave on without using the timer and leave it for too long then the wood may catch fire and thus burn the microwave and possibly your house!

While talking to these experts I asked about the fire brick theory. A microwave works on meat, vegetables, cold coffee, wet wood, and all other things, by agitating the water molecules and this produces heat. If the brick in the oven contains no water molecules to agitate then it is just a 'nothing' as far as the microwave is concerned. So a dry fire brick will have no effect on the

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## A TEST OF MICROWAVING cont.

drying of wood but if the brick is wet then it will absorb some microwave energy and hence slow the drying of the wood.

With those two comments set aside I began my experiments. My microwave oven has a full power of 700 watts and a defrost power of 245 watts. My series of test bowls were 100 to 130mm diameter and all turned to about 15mm thick. I weighed each bowl to start with and then after each five 'cooks' and recorded the weight. When ten cooks passed with no weight change the bowl was declared dry. For greatest efficiency in weighing I suggest you use scales which will consistently detect a 1% change in the weight of the wood.

The first obvious difference was the number of cooks needed to dry and the rate of weight loss of different woods and different cuts from the same tree containing more or less heart (Figure 1).

My starting thickness of 15mm was generous for some woods, notably puriri, but not so for others like pohutukawa and casuarina. The swamp kauri barely moved but note that it never leveled out in weight. Indeed, towards the end of the experiment its weight loss increased and I think it was beginning to break down (burn) internally.

The time that each piece of wood is cooked for is determined by the temperature of the wood at the end of each 'cook'. All previous reports recommended use of the defrost setting on the microwave, cooking the wood until it is 'comfortably warm' and then allowing it to cool completely. I saw no reason to change this and found that a good starting point is 1/2 a minute on defrost for each 100 grams of wood. As the bowl dries it may get hotter so keep checking. If the wood gets too hot it can crack but if it does not get hot enough it will not dry. To test this I reduced the 'cook' time for some bowls to half that of others. When taken from the oven the half-time bowls could be described as "comfortably warm" (this may be likened to the cat on your knee or the cup when the soup is nearly gone) and the full-time bowls as "toasty warm" (which really warms the hands but can continue to be held). When the half-time bowls were apparently dry (Figure 2) I began to cook them at the full-time (toasty warm) rate. They lost a further four to six percent in weight.

I then returned to question the person who said "I did a bit recently and it took far less time" and the outcome was that his one bowl may have started dryer and really taken a similar number of cooks. All the bowls I cooked

## A TEST OF MICROWAVING cont.

were from fresh green wood and now look just as good as air-dried wood. Air drying to 22% (Faceplate September 1994) would reduce the microwaving time but I have seen nothing to suggest a better bowl would result. Some microwave ovens operate on the lower power settings by reducing the total power while others use pulses of the full power. These differences may cause differing times and results. Turning the bowl upside down for every second cook (which I did not do) is reported to reduce the number of cooks needed.

I rough turned my bowls to 15mm thick which, if the 25mm per year air drying time is true, would equate to seven months of air drying. In all my microwave oven did 845 'cooks' during this experiment and still mulls wine perfectly well. I did more than 56 hours of microwaving and mulled over the thought of doing more. Even my Great Aunt Liz can surely wait seven months for a bowl.

This article was gratefully reprinted from the New Zealand Woodturners.

## A TEST OF MICROWAVING cont.

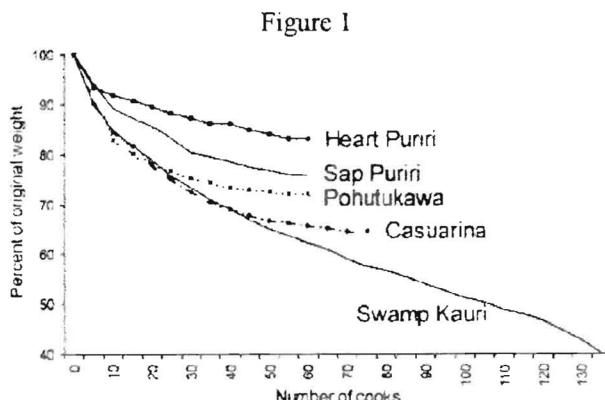


Figure 1: The percentage weight loss of a variety of woods when microwave dried.

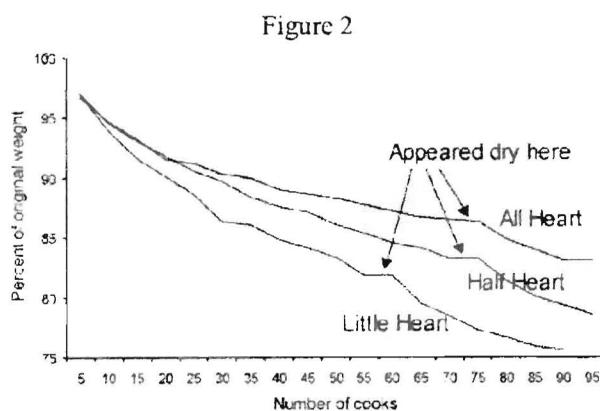


Figure 2: Three bits of puriri gently microwaved and then given some longer cooking.

## Rocky Mountain Woodturners Member Information for 2000

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment      Cash: \_\_\_\_\_ Check: \_\_\_\_\_ Money Order: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a 2000 Member of the AAW?      Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_

Please PRINT clearly and turn form into Jim Ferry with your money, or Mail it to:  
Jim Ferry 700 Dellwood Fort Collins, CO 80524

# **Rocky Mountain Woodturners**

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

April 2000

**Rocky Mountain School of Woodturning**  
**4625 Kiva Drive**  
**LaPorte, CO 80535**  
**970/221-4382**

Due to current space limitations, you are encouraged to register early for the classes you desire to attend during the spring session. Week day classes start at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 4:45 p.m. All classes are based on "hands on" activities. Each participant will have a lathe, tools, and accessories to use during the class. A wide variety of woodturning books, videos, and magazines will be available as references. A number of turnings made by world class turners will be on display during the classes.

A map to Rocky Mountain School of Woodturning will be sent to you prior to the class in which you enroll

2000 Spring Schedule of Classes

Date	Activity	Cost
April 11, 12, 13	Beginning Woodturning	\$170.00
April 18, 19, 20	Turning Unique Bowls/Vases/Miniatures Using Talc/Alabaster	
	Designing Unusual Display Stands	\$170.00
April 25, 26, 27	Intermediate Woodturning	\$170.00
May 9, 10, 11	Advanced Woodturning	\$170.00
May 16, 17, 18	Beginning Woodturning	\$170.00
May 23 & 24	Design/Construct Woodturning Tools & Accessories	\$120.00
June 6 & 7	Turning Full/Full Sized Staved Constructed Birdhouses	\$120.00
June 13 & 14	Turning Small Production Items For Craft Fairs	\$120.00
June 20, 21, 22	Turning Two/Three Piece Hollow Forms Multi-Axis Turnings	\$170.00

Please fill out the following form and return it to:

Rocky Mountain School of Woodturning  
ATTN: Lee Carter  
4625 Kiva Drive  
LaPorte, CO 80535

SPRING 2000 Woodturning Class Registration

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Woodturning Class or Classes: \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment: Check: \_\_\_\_\_ Money Order: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Please make all checks out to Lee Carter -Thanks

If you should have any questions please give me a call at 970-221-4382 or send an E-mail to LLJTC4X4@AOL.COM

The following note was received from Dr. Lee Carter, with a request to place it in the Newsletter:

To Members of the Rocky Mountain Woodturning Club:

I was very surprised and deeply moved by the outstanding plaque the club presented to me at our last club meeting. It certainly caught me off guard but I want you to know how much I appreciated your generosity. The plaque is displayed in a very prominent place in my workshop for everyone to see. I can not say in words how much your thoughtfulness means to me. I still feel there are many members in the club who are more deserving of this plaque than I.

Again, thank you one and all for the very lovely plaque and I trust our club will continue to grow and improve in the years ahead  
Happy Turning, I remain

Your Friend Always,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee Carter".