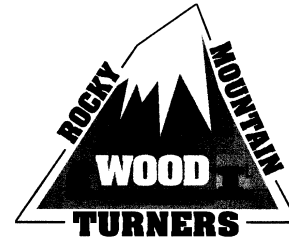




[www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org)

**Rocky Mountain  
Woodturners**

**Newsletter  
Nov. 2007**



## **A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners**

### **Next Meeting at the Loveland Woodcraft.**

Next to The Merchantile, off the Crossroads Exit

>>> Nov 15, 7:00 pm Thursday <<<  
3718 Draft Horse Drive  
Loveland, CO 80538

## **John Jordan! Nov. 15th**

John Jordan is a woodturner from Cane Ridge (Nashville), Tennessee. Known primarily for his textured and carved hollow vessels, John has been featured in nearly every major turning exhibition the past twenty years. His work has received numerous awards, can be found in many corporate and private collections, and is in the permanent collections of over twenty museums, including the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian in Washington, DC, the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, the Museum of Art and Design in New York City, the Hunter Museum of Art in Chattanooga, the White House in Washington, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Mint Museum of Craft + Design in Charlotte, the Fine Arts Museum, Boston, the Detroit Institute of the Arts.

John is in great demand as a demonstrator/teacher, traveling extensively teaching at universities, craft schools, turning groups and trade shows throughout the US, Canada, the UK, France, Japan, New Zealand

and Australia, including an annual week or two at world famous Arrowmont school of Arts and Crafts and Anderson Ranch in Snowmass Village, CO. His work, along with articles he has written, is frequently seen in publications in several countries, and can be found in numerous books on woodturning and craft. He has also produced three instructional woodturning videos, which are very popular.

John's pieces are initially turned on the lathe, from fresh, green logs, using a number of techniques and tools that have evolved over the years. Each piece is then hand carved and textured, using a variety of different hand and small powered tools. This texturing process is very labor intensive, and can take as much as several days to weeks to complete. There is little room for error during this carving- one small slip can ruin the piece. A light lacquer finish is applied to most pieces, including the dyed work. My website is [www.johnjordanwoodturning.com](http://www.johnjordanwoodturning.com)

### **Upcoming events!**

John Jordan – Don't miss this one!  
Nov 15 7:00 RMWT Club Meeting  
Nov 17 All day demo

Christmas Party  
Dec ? date to be announced

Larry Fox  
Jan 3 - 7:00 RMWT Club Meeting

Jan 17 – Cindy Drozda class at  
Woodcraft  
Jan 24 – Cindy Drozda class at  
Woodcraft

Doug Schneider  
Feb 7 - 7:00 RMWT Club Meeting

Frank Amigo  
Mar 6 -7:00 RMWT Club Meeting

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### **Please return all video tapes**

One of our members volunteered to convert our tape library to DVD format. So we need the VCR tapes back for a short period of time. This will be great to have our videos on DVD.

### **Friendly Reminder☺**

A ten minute break allows more time for the demonstrator. Lights will be turned on and off to let us know that the meeting is ready to resume.

## **Attention Members!**

Club members cannot sell videos or other items at Woodcraft during meetings. Woodcraft's sales tax license will not allow this. Any questions should be directed to David Wilson, our president.

Woodcraft does offer 10% discount to all members on RMWT Club meeting nights.

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## **2008 Membership Dues Are Due in January!**

2008 Membership dues are \$35. Dues may be given or sent to Treasurer, Richard Bailey (12519 Locust Pl., Thornton, CO, 80602).

Your membership card will get you a discount at several local turning supply retail stores. You can get your membership card from Drew Nichols,

## **October's Turning Demonstration**

From the October Meeting  
Presented by: Allan Batty  
Reported by: John I. Giem

The demonstrator for the October 25, 2007, was Allan Batty. His presentation concentrated on thread chasing but covered a lot of general turning information also. A small mushroom box with a threaded lid was used to demonstrate the techniques.



*[John Giem: The notes that follow may contain some information that was presented by Allan in the class earlier that day. It is difficult to completely separate the two events.]*

## Thread Chasing Notes:

Note: Thread chasing is the process of cutting internal and external threads into wooden parts so that they can be screwed together.

### *Material Selection:*

- Boxwood is best for chasing threads but you can also cut threads in ivory and many plastics. The wood needs to be dense and close grained to hold the threads. The threads tend to tear out or crumble in a lot of woods.
- Traditionally, when threads were needed in woods other than boxwood, the craftsman would use a boxwood inlay to hold the threads.
- Recently, some people have had some success using epoxy inlays for threading.
- Dennis (Allan's assistant, Monument Colorado) told me that some people claim to have had success threading other woods. They used a solution of 25% Dawn clear dishwashing detergent and 75% denatured alcohol as a lubricant.
- [John Giem: Could CA glue be used to strengthen softer woods for threading?]

### *Material Preparation, cutting the wood:*

- The size of the hole for the female threads is arbitrary and depends only on the needs of the project.
- The depth of the hole should be a little longer than that needed for the threads to allow for making a relief cut at the bottom of the hole. The relief cut or groove is to provide a run out area at the end of the threads for the thread chaser. Without this relief cut, the chaser would bottom out on the bottom of the hole and tear out the threads.
- The opening of the hole should have a rounded, radiused edge to provide smooth entry of the chaser. Allan stated that a chamfer (a flat angled edge) does not work well.
- The sides of the hole should be flat, smooth and parallel. Allen checks this by holding a

short pencil against the inside surface of the hole and comparing the extended end to the bed ways of the lathe. If the pencil and the ways are parallel then the sides of the hole will be parallel.

- In normal operation, it is easier to cut the internal female threads and then cut the male threads to match.
- When learning to chase threads, it is easier to learn to cut the external threads than the internal threads so start learning the tool movements by starting with the male threads.

### *Chasing Threads*

- At first glance, thread chasers look like scrapers with a bad sharpening job. They come in pairs, one for external threads and the other for internal. The teeth on the chasers are uniform along their length. They are not tapered like your taps and dies used for threading in metals.
- The chaser for the external threads have the threads cut into it's nose while the internal chaser has the threads cut on the side adjacent to the nose.
- When buying new chasers, check to verify that the leading tooth is a full tooth and not a half tooth. If you have a half starting tooth (left edge) use your grinder on the side of the chaser to remove it.
- Chasers for threading wood range from 36 threads per inch (tpi) down to 6 tpi. When learning to chase threads, 20 tpi works well for training. For normal, regular usage, 16 or 18 tpi is most commonly used.
- Spindle speeds for chasing range from 150 to 300 rpm. [In that day's class, we chased threads at 20 tpi running at 200 rpm.] If needed for cleaning up the threads, turning the spindle by hand is acceptable and can be quite useful.
- When you think about it, the chasers will be moving along the wood when cutting the threads. The more tpi, the slower the horizontal movement whereas the smaller tpi

will have faster horizontal movement. If the chaser is not moving, then it will just tear up the wood along with any of your threads.

- The chasing process requires multiple passes cutting the threads a little deeper with each pass. When the chaser approaches the cutting area, it should be angled such that the lead tooth does not contact the wood. First contact is with one of the following teeth. After sufficient passes to get the pattern established, then the chaser is allowed to use the first tooth the cleanup the threads up to the relief cut.
- Be sure not to let the chaser hit the bottom of the hole or the shoulder at the end of the threads or the threads will be damaged.
- Allan stated that all tools should be moving in their intended path before making contact with the wood, even chasers.
- To cut the external threads, the tool rest is parallel to the ways about an inch back from the wood. The chaser, the one with the threads on the end, is moved right to left in multiple passes. When done properly, each pass will track in the groves left from previous passes. Early passes do not allow the leading thread of the chaser to touch the wood. After the beginning threads are well established and the wood is scored all of the way to the end threading area, then the leading thread of the chaser is allowed to start contacting the wood to finish them up.
- For the internal threads, the tool rest is in about the same position as for the external threads. Allan does not move the tool rest in front of the hole. He uses an arm tool rest. This is a long handled tool that extends from under the left arm down across the tool rest to in front of the hole to be threaded. The arm tool rest has a flat top and an upward hook on the end. While the left hand controls the arm tool rest, the right hand places the internal thread chaser across the top of the arm tool rest and against the hook at the end. This may sound awkward but it provides a high degree of control of the chaser when cutting the threads. The tool action to cut the threads is just like those used to cut the external threads. Be careful not to bottom out and strip out the threads.



- ***Cutting Internal threads, note usage of hooked arm rest tool to support thread chaser.***
- In the class earlier that day, Allan had us cutting the internal threads on the inside of wooden rings (like a nut). We mounted the rings in chucks such that there was clearance on the inside so that we could chase the threads without worrying about bottoming out.
- **Drunken Threads**: One of the problems that beginners have is called 'drunken threads'. This is caused by incorrect tool movement when entering the threads resulting in inconsistent pitch (spacing) of the threads. When this happens, you get binding when trying to screw the parts together.
- **Broken threads**: When you finish cutting your threads, the tops of the exposed threads should have a very small flat top. Do not try to cut to the full depth of the threads on the thread chaser, it tends to break off the peaks of the wooden threads then they hit the bottom of the cutter.
- When cutting the external threads, start by cutting a short tenon that just fits within the female threads. This will be the bottom depth

of the male threads. Turn down the diameter where the threads will be cut being sure to round over the leading edge and make a relief cut that the end of the threaded area. Chase the threads as needed.

- After the threads are fitting properly, the external threads are buffed using a loose, soft buffing wheel (mop) loaded with a mild abrasive and wax ( Vonax, a silver polish ) thus making the threads to work smoothly.
- Anytime you must use a cutting tool near your threads, run the lathe at a high rpm, otherwise your tool may catch in the threads, follow them and destroy your work.
- To sharpen the thread chaser, lightly grind the top surface, not the threads themselves. Keep the top of the teeth flat and don't let the curved wheel create a hook or catching will occur.

#### **General Turning Notes:**

- Allan likes his tool rests flat, straight, smooth and rigid. Since he slides the tools on the rest, it must be smooth and free of any nicks. He normally uses a six inch rest on most projects. He perceives that most twelve inch rests have too much give or vibration towards the ends.

When making any cut, the tool should be moving in the correct direction before the tool touches the wood. This will minimize imperfections at the beginnings of your cuts.

- Grind off the heel of the bevels on your cutting tools. Leaving the heel on may result in it contacting the wood when going around a curve thus leaving ridges.
- The Turners stance should be such that cut can be completed from start to finish without moving the feet.
- Allan observed that when buying a new turning tool don't assume that just because it is fresh from the factory that it has been correctly shaped and ground. He gave many examples where tool manufactures are shipping tools of Allan's design that do not conform to his style of usage.

Editor's Note. Thank you John for such thorough and informative notes!

## **AAW Chapter Letter By Frank Amigo**

*Every month one of the board members of the AAW writes a letter that goes to the president of each chapter. I did the September letter, but Dave says he didn't get it. This is it:*

I'd like to start this month's letter by addressing diversity in woodturning. This is a subject that comes up over and over. I don't think I have the last word on this subject, but here are my thoughts.

I do not consider diversity a new occurrence. We have had carving, inlay, texturing and painting, among other things going on for many years. One example of carving, besides hand carving, is ornamental turning, which has been around since the late 1700's.

I started turning about thirty years ago when the man I was doing carving for asked me to do five spindles that were missing from an antique cradle. I bought a thirty-five dollar AMT lathe, did the spindles and got hooked on turning. About a year later I purchased a used Delta and taught myself faceplate turning. Almost from the beginning, I added carving to my pieces. I and the people who bought these pieces consider them embellished wood turnings. They were done on the lathe and then finished by hand. I am very interested in any kind of embellishment that can be done to my turnings. I am also a lapidary and goldsmith, and am considering how to use those skills in my turnings.

I have taught woodturning, both spindle and faceplate turning since 1991. I was the founding president of the Chesapeake Woodturners and the founding Vice President of the Mountaintop Turners. The people I have taught are doing all sorts of turning, some plain and some decorative. They all consider themselves wood turners.

My wife, Elizabeth, started turning in the mid 90's and has studied with Bonnie Klein, me, David Ellsworth and Al Stirt. She does beautifully shaped, thin walled delicate pieces reminiscent of Bob Stocksdale. She picks beautiful wood and does a wonderful finish.

What I am trying to say is that I enjoy the diversity of our turning at home and in our clubs, and I can certainly live with it in the AAW and its venues. We are all creating out of our love for turning, and that creating process leads us all in different directions, and rightly so. The need to rigidly define woodturning is unnecessary and harmful to our organization. I hope we can put this behind us and get on with turning, no matter what our style.

On the subject of the AAW, I'd like to touch on the benefits of becoming a member. They are many, and include:

- **American Woodturner** - a quarterly journal packed with a world of woodturning information, including a wide range of articles, pictures, and news.
- **AAW Resource Directory** - complete listing of membership, addresses, local chapters, instructor/demonstrators, woodturning resources, book, video and DVDs.
- **National Symposium** - the largest woodturning event of its kind with three days of extensive demonstrations, exhibits and trade show in a new U.S. location each year.
- **Website** - <http://www.woodturner.org> - extensive online information about events, sources, suppliers, products, forum opinions, and woodturning pictures.
- **Scholarships** - available for classes, workshops, the symposium, youth outreach, school program curriculum development, special projects and chapter library expansion.
- **Local AAW Chapters** - camaraderie, idea and technique sharing with local turners, access to a lending library, plus information about local exhibits and volume purchases.
- **AAW Discounts** - membership discounts on AAW merchandise and symposium registration. Also, be sure to check with your local woodworking store for discounts.

Each Chapter Itself - We sometimes forget that without the AAW there would be no chapters.

(ed. note) *Thank you Frank Amigo!*

## **FOR SALE:**

Delta Q3 18"scroll saw, used for one project, works great \$295 obo.

Magnifier light with flex arm and clamp. \$45 obo.

Oneway Vari-grind Jig for Wolverine system. \$40.

Oneway Skew Grinding Jig for Wolverine system. \$20.

S-curve bowl rest (item108-0200, page 40 in Crafts Supply catalog) with 1"x 3" toolpost. \$40 for the set.

1/2" stub center No. 2 MT (item163-0250 Pg 54). \$52.

Nova Revolving Multi function Center (Item 100-4200 pg 55). \$90.

Apprentice Angle Sander (item 3791600 pg 67). \$25.

Contact Andy Zartman  
[awzartman@gmail.com](mailto:awzartman@gmail.com)

## **Learn from the best...**

Our Club 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.



E-mail [cwtheobald@wyoming.com](mailto:cwtheobald@wyoming.com)  
Website is [www.curttheobald.com](http://www.curttheobald.com)

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**Lee Carter** operates the **Rocky Mountain School of Woodturning** in LaPorte, Colorado. He offers classes in Basics, Intermediate and Advanced.

Call Lee Carter at 970.221.4382 to sign up or have him answer any questions.  
e-mail [LLJTC4X4149@CS.COM](mailto:LLJTC4X4149@CS.COM)

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### **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](http://www.trentbosch.com) or contact Trent via email or phone.

Trent Bosch  
Trent Bosch Studios Inc.  
[trent@trentbosch.com](mailto:trent@trentbosch.com)  
970 568 3299

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

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Call Curt Theobald at 307.245.3310

**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 class being offered at web page [www.woodcraft.com](http://www.woodcraft.com)

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### **Wood Suppliers**

#### **Woodcraft**

3718 Draft Horse Drive, Loveland

#### **10% Guild discount at the following:**

The Wood Emporium  
618 N Garfield Ave Loveland, Co 80537

Sears Trostel  
1500 Riverside Ave Ft. Collins, CO  
80524

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



# **Clubs and Member's Websites**

**Rocky Mountain Wood Turners**  
[www.rmwt.org](http://www.rmwt.org)

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**AAW – American Assoc of Woodturners**  
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**Trent Bosch**  
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**David Nittmann**  
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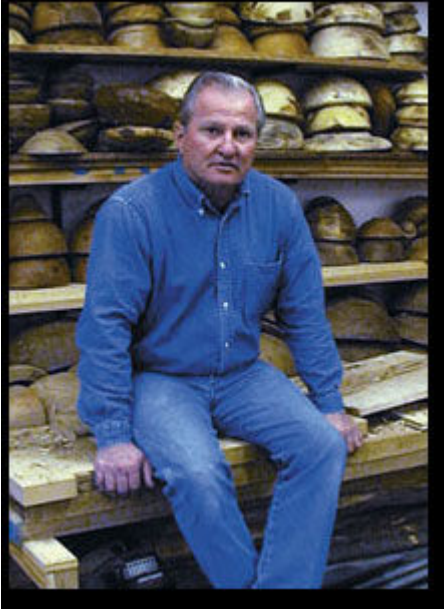
**Cindy Drozda**  
[www.cindydrozda.com](http://www.cindydrozda.com)





**John Lynch**

[www.johnlynchwoodworking.com](http://www.johnlynchwoodworking.com)



***I know there are more. Please email me your website and I will post them here!***

***My home email is [dnnkk@msn.com](mailto:dnnkk@msn.com)  
Attention Kevin***

***Thank you and I hope you have enjoyed some of my shavings and sawdust!***

**Curt Theobald**

[www.curttheobald.com](http://www.curttheobald.com)

