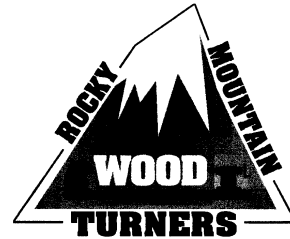




www.woodturner.org

Rocky Mountain Woodturners

Newsletter
March 2008



A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

Next Meeting at the Loveland Woodcraft.

Next to The Merchantile, off the Crossroads Exit

>>> March 6, **6:30 pm** Thursday <<<
3718 Draft Horse Drive
Loveland, CO 80538

Bruce Perry is the March Demonstrator

Subject: Winged Vessels, or Wave Form

Hopefully the picture below will help to explain what I generally call a "wave form", or a pod form, I am working toward creating an organic feel, inspired primarily by the floral images of Miss Georgia O'Keefe.



A winged vessel by Bruce Perry

Short Bio: About 10 years ago, I needed some wedding tables. That is when I came into woodturning. I have taken a few classes, (Cindy's finial box and Pete Holtus's bowl class) and paid attention at three years worth of local club meetings, your symposium (RMWT), and the 2007 AAW symposium in Portland.

In an effort to develop skills, I have turned nearly daily for the last three years. Turnings include bowls, hollow vessels, boxes, and finally the winged vessel. Our editor calls it a "Hobbit cupboard" as a derivative of conventional turning, and also the flat winged bowl that Stuart Batty demonstrates.

Upcoming Demonstrators!

April – Frank Amigo

May – David Nittmann and Cindy Drozda

!!!! Meeting Format Changes !!!!

Beginning for the March meeting we will be implementing the following format.

6:00 – 6:30 – John Giem will be hosting a Q&A on any topic. Come early!

6:30 – 7:00 – The general business meeting.

7:00 – 8:30 – Demonstrator time slot

8:30 – 9:00 – Clean up and out by 9 pm sharp!

2008 Membership Dues Are Due

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

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 Drew Nichols, our president.

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

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

February Demonstration Enclosed Form with Voids

Presented by: Doug Schneider
Reported by: John I. Giem

On February 7, 2008, Doug Schneider, our newest Life Member and a local Teacher, provided the Rocky Mountain Woodturners with an informative demonstration on hollow forms containing voids.



Doug holding a mesquite burl.

Doug started out talking to the Club giving us helpful information on wood turning and how to improve our work.

- Do a series of turnings, not just one, to explore a design.
- Look at the series and do a self critique. Why do you like some better than others?
- Share your work with others.
- Seek critiques on your work.

- Do the turnings that makes you happy and you'll do better work and enjoy it more.

Doug does a lot of hollow forms using hand held tools. He does not use a trap system to hold the tools to keep them from rotating.

He likes the natural colors and figures of the wood and does not use dyes and paints.

At home, he uses Vicmarc lathes and Ellsworth gouges. Ninety-five percent of his work on the outside of his turnings is done with a one-half inch gouge. For the interior of the hollow forms, he uses the Trent Bosch hollowing system.

For this demo, Doug is using a mesquite burl, a really ugly thing (see photo above). [He seems to enjoy taking an ugly piece of wood and turning it into a fine piece of art.]

During his turning, Doug was continuously tossing out jewels of information:

- Don't be afraid. It's only a piece of wood. (It is no big deal if it does not turn out the way you wanted.)
- Buy good tools, they will last longer and work better.
- Always use the right tool for the job. (As he said this, he was using the handle of a gouge to hammer the drive center into the work. LOL)
- Start by using a bandsaw to cut the burl into a 'sort of round' shape.
- Mount the piece between centers. At this point, he does not know which will be the top or bottom, just wants to turn it down a bit to see what we have.
- Prefers a One-Way curved tool rest. The curved tool rest curves around the work keeping tool support close to the turning. This is much better than a conventional straight tool rest.
- In the tailstock, he typically uses a cup center with center pin rather than a cone. It holds better and does less 'damage'.
- For large pieces, he wears a full face shield and hard hat. You never know when a chunk will fly off of the work and hit you.
- At times, Doug will wear gloves to protect his hands from injury from flying chips. [Be careful not to get the gloves caught in the work or you could loose something.]
- To see the shape of what you are turning, don't look at the wood where the tool is

making contact but instead look at the 'horizon', the top profile of the turning. [In some cases, I have seen Turners place a contrasting background behind the piece to better see it.]

- Normally, when turning we try to cut downhill with regard to the wood grain. With burl, the grain runs in all directions so there is not an identifiable downhill cutting direction.
- After the blank is partly turned, you can get a feel for where the top and bottom of the vessel should be placed. He delays this decision as long as possible. Generally, the voids look better when placed in the upper portion of the vessel.
- Don't let the size of the blank fix the size of the turned piece. Sometimes 'less is more' and you can improve the finished product by uncovering the inner jewels.
- After determining where you want the top and bottom, remount the blank accordingly so that you can turn a tenon on it for mounting in a chuck.
- It is better not to use the chuck jaws in a fully open position. Size the tenon accordingly.
- It is imperative that the base of the tenon where it joins the main body has a sharp corner to provide good mounting. A rounded corner is dangerous and can cause launching of the work.
- With this type of burl or wood, there may be inclusions intersecting the mounting tenon. When placing in the jaws of the chuck, try to span the inclusions without placing the ends of the jaw segments within an inclusion. Use the tailstock to provide additional support as long as possible.
- Most of Doug's hollow forms are influenced by the shapes of Southwest Pottery.
- When considering the shape of your hollow form, flatter tops are harder to hollow out and the rounder shapes are easier.
- Typically, you don't want the largest diameter of your form centered between the top and bottom. It will look better if it is offset toward the top or bottom. Consider using the rule of thirds or the Golden Ratio.
- He prefers to turn green wood as opposed to dry, since green wood cuts easier and has less dust.

- On the outside, he uses the gouge to do a lot of shear cutting.
- If you use your hand to feel the surface of your vessel while it is turning, BE CAREFUL! Remember it has voids and you risk getting your finger caught in one. [Don't do this while wearing gloves, it would be asking for an injury.]



Ready to start hollowing

- After finishing the shaping of the outside, Doug uses a tool to define the center of the top. This consists of a cut making a 'funnel' to center the drill bit to keep it from wandering.
- Slow down the lathe when drilling out the center. Use masking tape on the drill bit to mark the desired depth. Doug used a Jacobs chuck mounted in the tailstock to hold the bit for drilling. Using a drill is not cheating.
- To hollow the interior, he removed the tailstock to give more accessibility.
- Using a cutter on a straight tool that is about 1/4 inch wide works OK. For a bent tool, for reaching around the neck of the opening, he prefers a cutter from 3/16 to 1/8 inch wide because it is less aggressive and easier to control.
- For bent tools, Doug likes tool handles with an adjustable arm brace and handle.
- The tool must always contact the tool rest on the straight portion of the shaft of the tool. Otherwise, it will be difficult to control.
- For better support and control with the straight tool, set the tool rest at a 45 degree angle to the axis of rotation.
- Start at the top opening of the vessel and set the wall thickness as you go. The further

down you go, the less stability in the top wall making it difficult to come back and fine tune it.

- With this piece of burl, there are voids in the interior as well as the outside walls making tool control a challenge.
- When doing the hollowing, one can not see the cutting, so much of it is done by feel. Doug admits that when hollowing, he will often close his eyes so that he can concentrate better on the feel. [There are some systems out there that provide mechanical guides or lasers to help the turner judge cutting progress.]
- There are advantages to turning with voids:
 - o The voids give the chips a place to go so you don't need to stop and clean them out as often.
 - o With proper lighting, you can see through the voids and observe the cutting progress including wall thickness.
- When the entry hole is irregular, there is the risk of catching the edge with the cutting tool shaft and causing damage. Two solutions, first, keep the tool centered in the hole and be very careful. Second, drill a hole the size of the entry of the vessel in a piece of scrap wood. Glue the wood with the hole over the entry giving protection against snags. When finished, turn the scrap off and finish up the entry hole.
- With the thinning of the side walls and the many voids in those walls, there is some concern about it exploding or flying apart. The risk can be reduced by reinforcing the wood by wrapping it with "plastic twine" (plastic shipping wrap) and then over wrapping with fiber reinforced shipping tape. Be sure to wrap the tape in the direction such that the rotation of the lathe does not unwrap the tape.



Form reinforced with tape

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- The tip of the internal cutter is at or below center to minimize risk of catches.
- Try to use good tool techniques to minimize tool marks that need to be sanded out. You want to be able to start with 150 or finer grit sandpaper.
- The first pass at sanding is the most important, as this is when you remove all tool marks. The following sanding are with finer grits for removing the sanding scratches left by the previous grade of sandpaper.
- To remove the mounting tenon, he reverse mounts using a plastic pipe coupling with padding with the tailstock to holding it in place. The piece is centered on the tailstock using the center mark left earlier. If the center is no longer marked, use a centering jig through the chuck or use trial and error.
- For finishes, Doug likes gel varnish, wipe-on poly and wax.
- Be proud of your work and sign it when finished.

Due to time constraints, Doug was not able to finish the turning. I expect that he will bring the finished hollow form to the next meeting.

Challenge Turning

Try out Doug's techniques yourself and bring to the next meeting a hollow-form with a void. We would like to see it in the instant gallery.

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**FOR SALE:**

Email me and your item will appear here to over 200 woodturners!

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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.

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

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

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. Due to space limitations, register early! Here is the upcoming schedule.
Mar 11,12,13 – Turning Basic/Novelty Boxes using Inlays / Threaded Lids \$285

Mar 25,26,27 – Basic Woodturning \$285

Call Lee Carter at 970-221-4382 to sign up or have him answer any questions.
e-mail LLJTC4X4149@CS.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 class being offered at web page www.woodcraft.com/stores/store.aspx?id=56

Here are upcoming Woodcraft classes related to woodturning!

- 3/1 Spindle Turning Techniques, Dennis Ross
- 3/15 Sharpening Lathe Tools, Dennis Ross
- 3/27 Offset Spindle Turning on the Lathe, John Giem
- 3/29 Turning Hollow Forms, Dennis Ross
- 4/5 Introduction to the Wood Lathe, Dave Wilson
- 4/19 Skew Chisels – Demo and Hands On, Dennis Ross
- 4/26 Weed Pots on the Lathe, Dave Wilson
- 5/4 Turning Wooden Pens on the Lathe, Dave Wilson
- 5/15 Table Building (uses turned legs), John Giem
- 5/25 Turning Wooden Bowls, Dave Wilson

Details on these classes can be obtained by contacting Woodcraft, looking on the web or contacting the Instructor.

Wood Suppliers

Woodcraft

3718 Draft Horse Drive, Loveland
Woodcraft offers 10% to woodturners, on the night of the meeting. Discount applies to wood and equipment, excluding major power tools

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.



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*Copying of this newsletter is strictly advised.
Please do and pass on to another fellow
woodworker or woodturner!*