



Rocky Mountain  
Woodturners

Newsletter  
December 2008

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

A Chapter of the American  
Association of Woodturners

## Christmas Party Meeting!

>>> Dec 4th, **6:00 pm** Thursday <<<  
Mountain Range Shadow Club House  
Fort Collins, CO (near Windsor Exit)

Here is the mapquest link. Cut and paste into your browser if necessary.

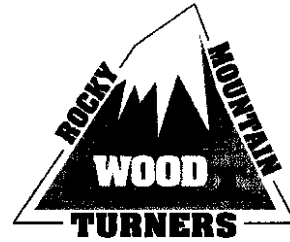
[www.mapquest.com/maps?city=Fort+Collins&state=CO&address=8401+Mummy+Range+Drive](http://www.mapquest.com/maps?city=Fort+Collins&state=CO&address=8401+Mummy+Range+Drive)

*I-25 to exit 262- the Windsor Exit.  
Take the Southwest frontage road South to Peak View Drive (entrance to Mountain Range Shadow Subdivision. Then West one block to Mummy Range Drive, then South to the Club House.*

1. Last names beginning with:  
A-H to bring Desserts,  
I-Q to bring Entrees,  
R-Z to bring Side dishes.
2. Bring your own plates and utensils.
3. Bring a turned ornament and spinning top!

Demonstration this month  
**Bring your turned  
Christmas Ornaments  
And turned spinning tops!**

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



## Upcoming Meeting Schedule!

Dec 4<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Party @ Mountain Range  
Shadows Club House  
Jan 4<sup>th</sup> – Election of Officers, Demonstrator ??

### Meeting Format (Not December)

6:00 – 6:30 – Setup and Social Time, come visit,  
share ideas and ask questions  
6:30 – 7:00 – The general business meeting.  
7:00 – 8:30 – Demonstrator time.  
8:30 – 9:00 – Clean up and out by 9 pm sharp!

## What's Happening in the RMWT?

Yes, the Board is doing something useful (at least we think so). The RMWT Officers Board held a meeting on October 14, 2008, and laid out several activities and changes that should improve your Chapter of the AAW.

A Newsletter Team was formed to help Kevin. The team members are Kevin Dunn, Pete Herman, Randy Gleckler and John Giem. John was asked to become Editor of the Newsletter.

Dave Amos is working on a Grant Proposal to the AAW to improve our audio – visual capability. Aaron Reeves is assisting and has identified some improved sound equipment.

The Board is taking action to improve the websites. Hoyle Cutis has volunteered to be the Web Master. Improvements are being investigated and are expected to be implemented early next year. Details to follow.

We are working on getting an on-line discussion group set up to ask questions and exchange ideas.

We are taking a comprehensive inventory of all of the equipment owned by RMWT and the Symposium. If you have any RMWT equipment, make sure that Mike Davis is informed about it.

# Christmas Ornaments

Presented by: Pete Holtus

Reported by: John Giem

The November 6, 2008, meeting of the Rocky Mountain Woodturners was privileged to have Pete Holtus demonstrate his methods for turning Christmas Ornaments.



The ornaments are composed of three pieces, a globe in the middle with finials top and bottom. It is best if the wood used for the globe and the finials are contrasting colors.

**The Globe.** Pete began with a dry piece of Aspen for the globe. (He emphasized that the wood must be dry to prevent movement that would ruin the ornament.) He roughed it out and turned a tenon on one end. After remounting the blank in a chuck, using the tenon, he trued it up into the desired shape of the globe. The globe was not spherical but was slightly flattened on the two ends. This not only looks better but it also helps in making the finials easier to fit later.

At this point we had a solid sphere attached to the waste which was mounted in the chuck. After slowing the lathe down to prevent burning, a Forstner bit was used to drill a hole all the way through the sphere into the waste wood. Depending upon the size of the sphere, Pete uses a 3/4 inch or 7/8 inch bit.

Raising the speed back up to around 2500 RPM, he hollowed out the inside of the globe using shop made hollowing tools and thickness gauge. He was shooting for a wall thickness around 1/8 to 3/16 of an inch. The objective is to make the ornament light not to get a perfect wall thickness nor interior wall finish. Remember that after the finials are in place, no other Turners will be sticking their fingers inside to check it out.



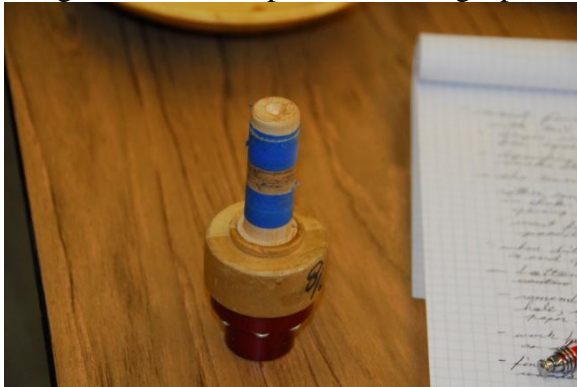
**Hollowing Tools**



**Shop made thickness gauge.** Note that the distance between the pivot pin and each of the two ends must be equal for proper usage.

After the globe was hollowed out, it was parted off next to the chuck and then remounted on the lathe,

using a mandrel to permit cleaning up the cut-off.



The mandrel was the same size as the hole previously drilled in the sphere. Masking tape was used as needed to compensate for any mismatch between the hole and the diameter of the mandrel due to wood movement.

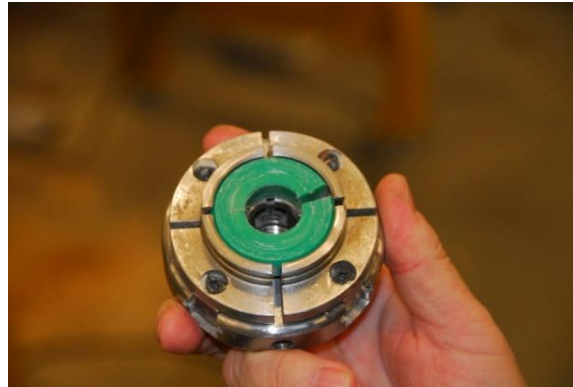
Sanding was done using floating sandpaper. (A strip of sandpaper held between two hands and stretched across the surface being sanded.) If one were to sand by backing up the sandpaper using a finger, then he would risk making flat spots on the globe. A mixture of 50/50 sanding sealer and lacquer thinner was used to seal and strengthen to globe.

**The Finials.** Using straight grained wood to prevent breakage, a piece of wood was mounted between centers for turning a finial. A long tenon was turned on one end and then mounted in a chuck on the lathe. This is a straight tenon, not dove tailed, and is needed to give adequate support for later mounting in the jaws of the chuck. The diameter of the tenon provides a snug fit within the hole in the globe. The tenon's shoulder was undercut to allow a good fit against the globe. The finial was supported by the tailstock during it's turning. The hole left in the end of the first finial, the top one, was used to orient the small drill for the pilot hole for the screw eye (for hanging).

For the demonstration, we did not have a bandsaw available for Pete to use. At home, he would have shortened the length of the tenon on the finial to reduce weight before gluing it to the globe. He uses a 'vee' block to safely hold the finial while cutting on the bandsaw.

For this demo, the tenon on the finial was 7/8 inch in diameter. Pete used a chuck with jaws that could grasp that diameter. If one does not have the appropriate set of jaws, then a shop made collet can

be used.



The green collet in the photo was fabricated on the lathe to fit the object being turned and then the slit was cut on a bandsaw.

*(From Doug Schneiter:*

*I have made some of the plastic chuck inserts for clamping smaller diameters in the chucks than what they were designed, and will have these for sale at the Christmas Party. They are designed to fit in the small Vicmarc and other 3 1/2" chucks. They come 4 to a set, 1/2", 3/4", 1", and a solid one that they can drill to their own specifications. I'll be offering them for \$10 a set.*

*Doug Schneiter.)*

When making the collet, you should take advantage of the fact that the jaws have a taper (dovetail) on their inside surface. By putting a corresponding chamfer (tapered edge) on the outside edges of the collet, it can be better retained in the jaws while holding the work being turned. Most plastics can be used to make these collets. When using wood for the collet, be sure to use it as end grain.

When turning the finials, start at the end farthest from the headstock and work back towards the headstock. For the finial that will go on the bottom, remember that the live center makes a hole in the end of the finial. Allow for this and remove the waste before finishing. By using a live center with a hollow cone, the end of the finial can still be supported while being turned. Use tissue paper to pad the end preventing damage while finishing up.

With these thin, fragile turnings, you can support the work with a finger riding on the piece just opposite where the lathe tool makes contact.



Pete also makes ornaments using other ready made round objects such as golf balls. Using a pink golf ball, he demonstrated how to hold and hollow it.

The ball was mounted in a jam chuck for hollowing. The hole in the jam chuck should be sized for a tight fit around the ball but should not allow the ball to go past its' center when being held. This assures a tight fit and prevents the ball from shifting while being hollowed.

For the demo, Pete used a pink ball. He drilled the through hole in two stages. The first pass used a drill smaller than the desired final size. The second drilling used a bit for the desired final size.

As before, one wants to minimize weight by making the shell of the ball thin. For this ball, the interior was white while the shell was pink. During the hollowing, when the shavings went from white to pink, Pete knew he reached the inner surface of the shell and that he had gone far enough.

### **The Library is a Great Asset!**

Are you taking advantage of your RMWT Library? We have a large selection of videos, and other reference materials. Dave Amos is in charge of the Library and is planning purchasing more material over the next year. Don't forget to check for information to use in your next project. Be sure to return the videos in a timely manner so that the next person can check them out. After all it is only common courtesy to your fellow RMWT member.

### **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.

### **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.

## **WOODCRAFT**

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 John Giem.

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### **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](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

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**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](mailto:LLJTC4X4149@CS.COM)

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**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](mailto:cwtheobald@wyoming.com)

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

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## **John Giem, Woodworker**

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](mailto:jgiem@comcast.net)

(970)223-0844, home phone

(970)227-6618, cell phone

**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](http://www.woodcraft.com/stores/store.aspx?id=56)

## **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.

## **2008 Officers, Directors and Committees**

President: Drew Nichols

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## **Clubs and Member's Websites**

Rocky Mountain Wood Turners

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

AAW – American Assoc of Woodturners

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

Trent Bosch

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

David Nittmann

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Cindy Drozda

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John Lynch

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

Curt Theobald

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

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

***Happy Holidays to all!***