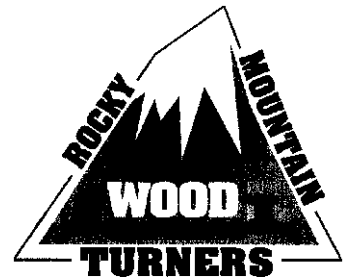




Rocky Mountain Woodturners

A chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

March 2009 Newsletter



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Next RMWT Meeting

The next meeting of the RMWT will be on March 5, 2009. The demonstrator will be Max Krimmel.

Note from Max on his demo;

"I'll be turning alabaster and hopefully complete something of recognizable value, but you never know. The focus will be on ways to turn alabaster with a minimum of tooling but I'll of course answer questions at all levels. If there is time,



and that is usually the case, anyone who wants to can try turning some stone after the demo.

I started turning alabaster in 1986 after seeing a very brief demo by Lee Carter of Ft. Collins. In 1989 I published an article in Fine Woodworking and I still get comments from

RMWT Meetings

Each month 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 of each month.

Meeting Format

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!

Scheduled Meeting Demonstrators

- March 5, Max Krimmel, turning alabaster
- April 9, Larry Fox, inlaying fine line turquoise
- May 7, David Nittman, airbrushing
- June 4, John Giem, How to make a Cryptex.

that article. I've done demos since 1987 all over the country."

The photo above is from the website, <http://www.maxkimmel.com>. Interested members would do well to study the How-To sections of the website before the demo."

Equal Opportunity Grants

At the February meeting the EOG Committee announced the winners of the grants for 2009. Of the many requests submitted, four were selected to receive grants based on the written applications. The recipients are:

- Front Range Woodturners, Denver, Colorado, \$750 to purchase woodturning DVDs for their lending library.
- Doug Schneider, \$650, to purchase lathes and tools to support the woodturning classes he is teaching at his school. Note: an anonymous donor contributed funds in addition to this grant to purchase one lathe.
- Katherine Kowalski, \$1000 to support taking a woodturning class in Utah.
- Bill Turner, \$400 to support taking a woodturning class from Trent Bosch.

It should be noted that in awarding these grants, persons that might have had a conflict of interest did not participate in the voting. If you have any questions, ask one of the RMWT Board Members.

AAW Symposium

A report was given outlining the AAW Symposium being held in Albuquerque, June 26-28, 2009. They are in need of volunteers to staff then Symposium. If one is willing to be a Video Operator for at least six turnings (sessions), free admission to the Symposium is being offered. If interested, send an email to inquiries@woodturner.org.

RMWT Activities

Most of us are looking for ways to exercise our woodturning skills in productive ways to support our Club and our Community. Also, by participating in Club activities outside of the regular meetings, you will enhance your knowledge and skills and you may just meet some neat people. Here are some ways you can participate. Why not pick one that fits within your skills and interests and let Drew, Katherine

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Kevin Dunn

or the appropriate Chairman know that you want to be included.

Wood Bank: The Wood Bank has been quite active over the last couple of months as can be seen by the wood brought in at the last meeting for the raffle. More will be brought in for the next meeting. Unfortunately, Aaron Rees had to resign as Chairman due to medical reasons although he will continue to participate as he is able. Kevin Dunn has agreed to be the new Chairman of the Wood Bank. The Wood Bank storage areas have been expanded to include John Giem's. We now have designated wood storage areas at Kevin Dunn, John Giem and Dave Amos. Presently, wood is stored for Club usage at Kevin Dunn's and John Giem's. There was an impromptu gathering of six members of the RMWT that went out and harvested some very nice maple burl on Saturday, February 21. Some of this maple is being put into the raffle at the March 5 meeting. The remainder of the maple is stored at John's. We have the strong possibility of being able to harvest some Walnut trees in a month or two.

The objective of the Wood Bank is to make turning wood available to RMWT members at no or little cost. If any member needs wood for their wood turning activities, contact any Club Officer or a Wood Bank member (see Kevin Dunn).

Toy Drive: It has come to our attention that several Civic Organizations provide toys to our community children at Christmas time. We need a Committee Chairman to organize the making of toys, with or without using a lathe, to donate to this cause. Most organizations collect toys during November for distribution during December.

Challenge: Use your ingenuity to make one or more toys, any age group, and bring them to the November 5 meeting.

Summer Youth Activities: Many organizations are now planning and organizing activities for our community youth for this next summer. We need volunteers to work with some of these organizations with the goal of our Club Members teaching woodturning to these youth. The vision is to use our newly acquired trailer to transport mini-lathes, tools and supplies to the locations where the youth will be meeting and to put on half-day hands-on classes. The classes could teach the youth the basics of woodturning and enable them to take home a simple completed project.

NEEDED: Volunteers to organize and staff this outreach program to our youth.

RMWT Symposium

Directors:

Mike Davis -

<mailto:mikeldavisllc@msn.com>

Allen Jensen

970-663-1868

Rajconst@aol.com

Registration:

John Giem

970-223-0844

<mailto:jgiem@comcast.net>

RMWT Webmaster

Hoyle Curtis

hoyle.curtis@gmail.com

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

Empty Bowl Silent Art Auction: Many of you donated items to the Empty Bowl fund raiser for the benefit of the Food Bank for Larimer County. John Giem has contacted the Empty Bowl Staff and the preliminary return information looks quite good. There will be a complete report to RMWT Members in the April Newsletter.

Building a Three Legged Stool

Presented by: Megan Cain

Reported by: John I. Giem

At the February 5, 2009, meeting of the Rocky Mountain Woodturners, Megan Cain demonstrated how she makes her three-legged stool. Megan started her project by making a drawing to scale of the stool (See Below). The accuracy of the

Figure 1 Megan showing features of her stool



construction by cutting out a blank for the 13 inch seat out of ash. The locations for the leg holes are carefully marked on both

drawing is critical since it is used to set the leg angles with the sliding bevel. She also makes a full size drawing of the profile of the seat. She starts

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

Want your Website Listed? Contact a member of the Newsletter Team!!!

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.

sides of the blank. One of the challenges of turning the seat is how to mount it on the lathe. She mounted a waste block on a face plate with holes drilled in it positioned to align with the future leg positions. The pilot holes for the mounting screws were drilled all the way through the seat blank using care not to cause a blow out on the opposite side. Using 1/4 inch lag screws, the blank was mounted to the waste block and thus to the faceplate. The outer surface of the seat is trued up before she starts to do any detailing of its final shape.

Figure 2 Seat blank mounted to faceplate.



Note: She intentionally used the knowledge of the design of the seat to 'hide' any damage due to the mounting on the lathe. The leg holes are located exactly 120 degrees apart on a circle centered on the center of the seat. By turning the concave top side of the seat first, the seat can be flipped over and remounted using the same mounting holes. The waste block will fit nicely within the concave surface of the seat. These two features ensure proper mounting of the seat while turning the bottom profile.

The next challenge is to drill the tapered holes in the seat at the proper angle for each leg. Using a little fixturing, Megan makes it look easy. Using the tapered reamer she purchased from Lee Valley, (part No. 05J62.05 or 05J62.01), she made herself a gauge block by drilling a tapered hole in a block of wood and then

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. 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

cutting it in half. This gauge block can then be used turn the tapers on a test leg and the final legs.

Figure 3 Megan shows how gauge block is used to size tenon on test leg.



The angle of the legs was determined and set on a sliding bevel using the scale drawing of the stool. The angle was then transferred or marked on another board for future reference. A test leg had been previously constructed, basically, it is square in cross section with a tapered tenon turned on one end.

Since the turned seat does not have any flat and square reference surfaces, Megan had built a fixture for holding it. The seat was placed in it upside down providing a stable position. The outside corners of the fixture had raised blocks of equal height. By placing a straight board across the blocks, a reference plane parallel to the top surface of the seat is created.

Remember, both surfaces of the seat are curved and cannot be used directly for setting the leg angles. The fixture also provides space below the seat so that the drill reamer and the leg tenons can extend beyond the seat without interfering with the work surface.

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, Woodworker

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 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

(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

Figure 4 Using the sliding bevel to position drill.



The sliding bevel was placed on one of the reference plane boards and used to help set the drill at the proper angle while

Figure 5 The sliding bevel verifying correct angle of test leg.



reaming out the holes for

the legs.

Megan would occasionally stop and place the test leg into the hole.

This allowed her to detect any deviations in the angle of the tapered hole and to make

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

corrections.

To make the three legs, Megan started with 8/4 stock, cut and milled them square. The lower portion of the legs were tapered per the plan using a tapering jig on a table saw. After the legs were mounted on the lathe, the corners were turned off the tapered sections. Later, these sections were finished using a block plane.

She likes to use a bowl gouge to make the pommel since it provides less tearout of the wood. After roughing out the rest of the leg, she used a story stick to mark the details. By starting on the tailstock end of the leg and working toward the headstock, finishing the details as she goes, vibrations of the workpiece are minimized.

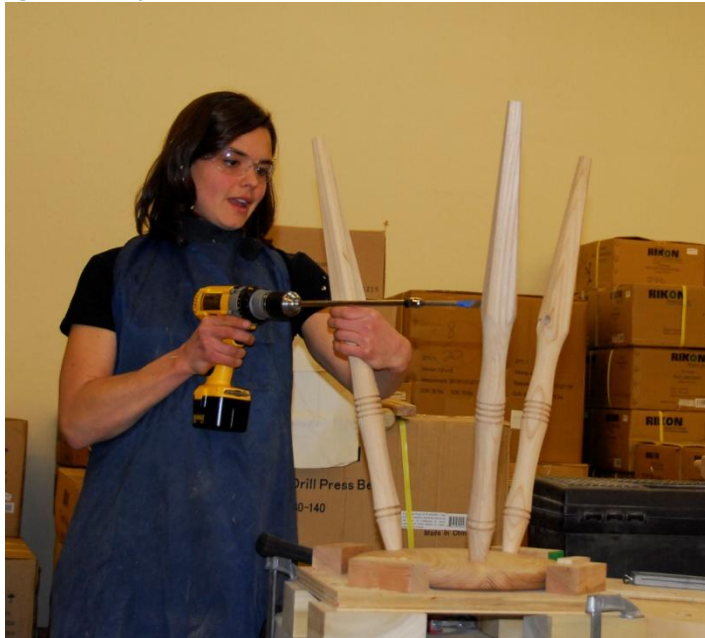
The tapered tenon is turned at the headstock end. The diameters of the two ends of the tenon are sized and then the straight taper between them is turned. The 'fit' of the tapered tenon is measured using the gauge block. It is critical that the tenon is smooth and consistent with no bumps.

The stretchers were turned leaving adequate length for the tenons to insert into the legs.

The seat was placed upside down into the fixture and the legs were inserted into their holes. Taping the legs into their sockets to properly seated them. The leg tenons will protrude about one half inch through the seat. Mark the locations for drilling the holes for the stretchers. Measure the length for each stretcher and allow about 5/8 inch on each end to allow for the tenons.

She uses a long bit extension when drilling the stretcher sockets allowing her to properly align them vertically. Since the leg she is using as a reference prevents properly aligning the hole, the leg being drilled is rotated outward enough to allow alignment of the socket.

Figure 6 Ready to drill the socket for the stretcher tenon.



Cut the

stretchers to length and insert into the legs. At this time, it is a good idea to mark each leg and its fitted position within the stool.

Turn the stool upright and mark the correct orientation of the wedges for the leg tenons. For each leg tenon, the wedge should be oriented perpendicular to the grain in the seat. If the wedges run parallel to the seat grain, then the forces generated could be large enough to split the seat. Megan used African Blackwood for her wedges. Be sure that the wedges are long enough such that when utilized, they extend down into the sockets in the seat.

Disassemble the stool and cut the slots for the wedges. Inspect all pieces and fix any problems. Apply a good wood glue and assemble the stool. With the stool upside down in the fixture and the stretchers installed, drive the legs snugly into their sockets. Turn the stool upright, apply glue to the wedges and drive them into the slots cut into the leg tenons. Set stool aside and let the glue cure.

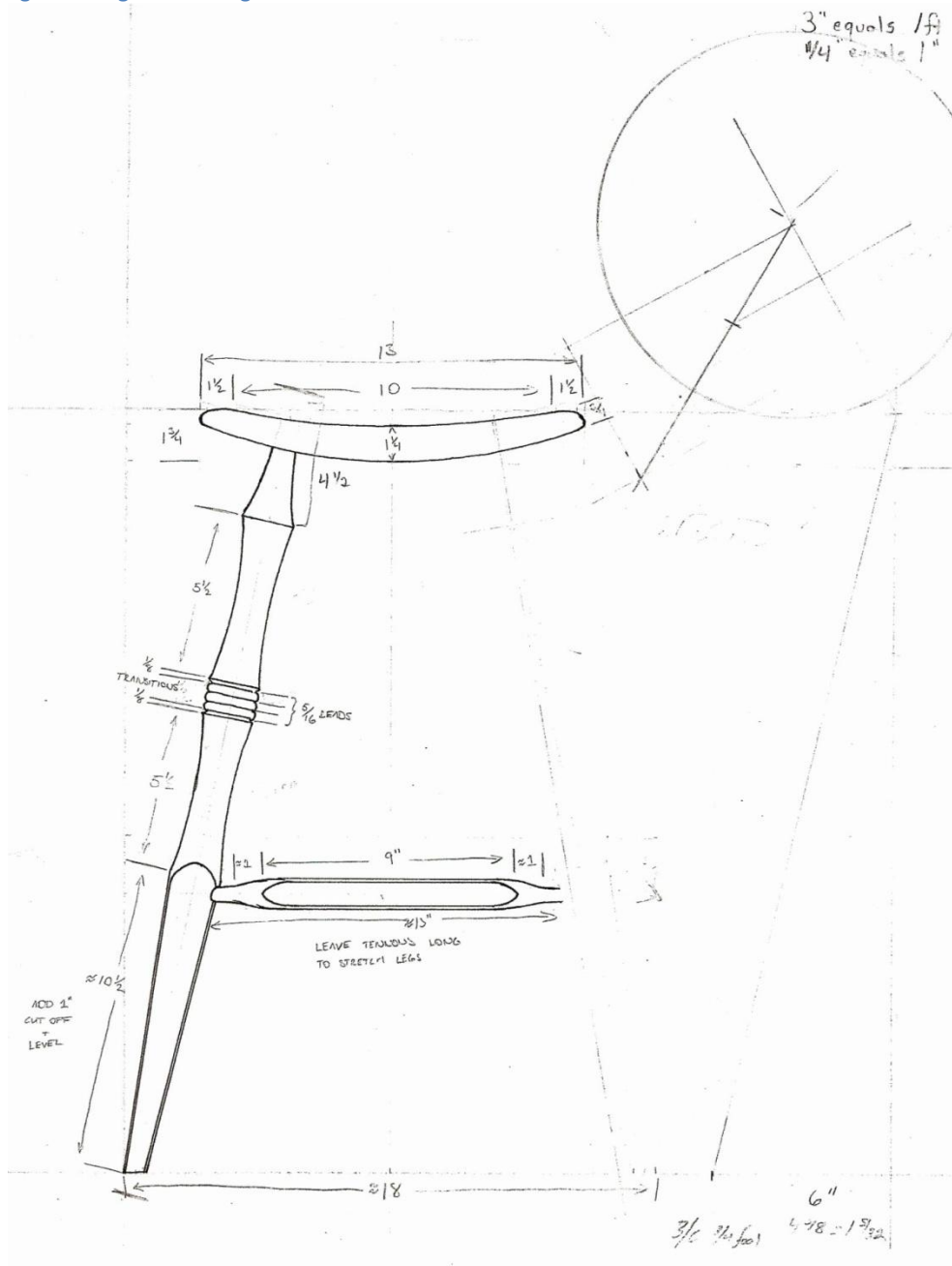
After the glue has cured, trim off the excess of the tenons protruding through the seat with a flush cutting saw. Sand the surfaces smooth. Place the stool on a flat surface such as the top

of your table saw and verify that the seat of the stool is reasonably level.

Since the ends of the bottoms of the legs are cut square, they do not sit flat on the supporting surface but only on one edge. Using a small spacer, place it against the bottom of each leg and use a pencil to mark the leg all the way around. Using a saw, trim off each leg following the pencil mark. Clean up with sandpaper.

Check over the stool, clean it up and finish as desired.

Figure 7 Megan's drawing for her stool.



Letter from the AAW

Dear Drew Nichols and the Rocky Mountain Woodturners,

I recently had the privilege of attending my first ever AAW Board meeting in late January. The meeting was held in Albuquerque, the site of AAW's 23rd Annual National Symposium. The meeting was multi-purpose in that we would be working on the business and strategic planning of AAW and continuing the work needed to produce the annual symposium. Board Members had the opportunity to tour the symposium venue, which is beautiful, spacious, easy to negotiate, and across the street from the host hotels. This year's symposium is going to be a great one! And, it will be great for so many reasons:

- * An amazing slate of 50 demonstrators with 140+ rotations
- * Special exhibits such as 'The Spindle', organized and presented by the Professional Outreach Program
- * 'Spirit of the Southwest', the juried exhibit for AAW members focusing on the Southwest's geography, culture and history
- * Resident's artist program featuring Jean-Francois Escoulen
- * The always popular and fun Food Affair and Auction Gala
- * Lastly, this year's symposium will be great because of it's location...Albuquerque

Albuquerque is a great city thriving with true Southwestern spirit, more than 300 hundred years of history and a unique blend of cultures making it one of the most colorful cities in the United States. It is at once playful and laid back, with a classy bohemian personality resulting from a combination of Latin, Indian and European flavors. It is a modern city of a million residents where both the opera and Old Town are equally celebrated. The downtown area, where the symposium will be held, offers sassy, margarita-filled nightclubs, cool lounges and every corner of the city is bursting with restaurants serving countless variations of the spectacular local cuisine. Albuquerque is home to more than 100 local art galleries, studios and theatres (<http://www.collectorsguide.com>), many of which are within walking distance from the host hotels and convention center. There is even a museum dedicated to celebrating the rattlesnake...Rattlesnake Museum in Old Town. Renowned Santa Fe is just a mere 1.5 hours driving distance, and now Albuquerque hosts the New Mexico Rail Runner Express (<http://www.nmrailrunner.com>) making the trip easier, faster and at \$8 roundtrip, very affordable. So if you haven't yet registered to attend the symposium, do so ASAP, and prepare to immerse yourself in the rich culture and history of Albuquerque where, with 310 days of sunshine, every day is paradise!

The board members also had the privilege to meet with members (John Ellis, Rich McCartney, Tom Cour, Al Mirman and Michael Mocho) of the local club, New Mexico Woodturners (<http://www.nmwoodturners.org>), whose members will in large part be responsible for providing most of the local volunteers and logistics so important for a successful symposium. Charles Swift attended driving from Lubbock Texas, a great commitment. So, NMWT, thank you in advance from AAW and its members for all the

time, energy and back labor to be invested by your members. It cannot happen without you!

Be on alert for the next edition of the American Woodturner Journal. It is the first edition produced by renowned woodturner/sculptor Betty Scarpino. I had the privilege of seeing an advance mock-up, and I can tell you it is wonderful. Be sure to savor each and every page.

The 2008-2009 AAW Resource Directory should be arriving on your doorstep soon. Enclosed with the directory will be your AAW Membership Card. So be sure to look closely to avoid inadvertently missing your membership card.

Lastly, and to reiterate Malcolm Tibbetts advice in last month's Letter...if you haven't yet renewed your AAW membership, then I encourage you to do so as soon as possible. AAW is able to be a significant world-wide organization because of your membership!

Happy Turning!

Cassandra Speier
AAW Board Member