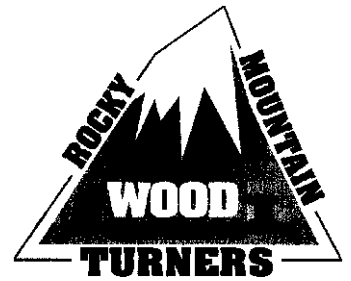




Rocky Mountain Woodturners

A chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

May 2009 Newsletter



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Next RMWT Meeting

The next meeting of the RMWT will be on May 7, 2009. The demonstrator will be David Nittmann, He will be demonstrating Airbrushing techniques.

Special Election for Treasurer

At the April 9, 2009, Meeting of the RMWT a special election for Treasurer was held. The two nominees were Allen Norris and Pete Herman. Pete Herman was elected to serve as Treasurer.

RMWT Activities

Wood Bank:

Kevin Dunn resigned as chairman of the Wood Bank due to time constraints of his new job. Allen Norris and Jerry Sherman have agreed to co-chair the Wood Bank. Jerry can be reached at 484-2619, home, or 631-2984, mobile.

At the last RMWT Symposium, we had an attendee from Oklahoma, Virgil Young. Virgil saw some work in the Instant Gallery that was turned from Russian Olive. He loved it. Virgil talked with Lee Carter and later sent him a letter asking if it would be possible to get some Russian Olive from us. Lee contacted John Giem and a proposal was made to Virgil that we trade some Colorado wood for some Oklahoma wood. Virgil is a member of the Central Oklahoma Woodturners Association. It was determined

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

- May 7, David Nittmann, airbrushing
- June 4, Dennis Liggett , Turning a Twisted Laminated Goblet
<http://dennisliggettwoodturner.com/>
- July 9, John Giem, How to make a Cryptex.

2009 Officers, Directors and Committees

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what varieties of wood they wanted and many of our members pulled together and added them to the stockpile at John Giem's. On Monday, April 27, the OK club arrived at John's with two pickups loaded with OK wood. They brought with them; pecan, mimosa, mulberry, hackberry, sweet gum and eastern cedar. We filled their pickups with Russian olive, aspen, birch and beetle kill pine. On Wednesday, John received a call from Virgil thanking the RMWT for all of the support. The wood is greatly appreciated by their members.

All of these woods, and more, are available to RMWT members free of charge. In addition to the wood that is raffled off at each meeting, you may also visit the Wood Bank to select that special piece to turn your next project. To access the Wood Bank, contact John Giem, (970)223-0844 or (970)227-6618, Jerry, Allen, or any RMWT Officer. Also, if you know of wood that is available to the Club, contact one of these people.

Woods currently available from the RMWT Wood Bank include;

pecan, mimosa, mulberry, hackberry, sweet gum, eastern cedar, Russian olive, aspen, birch, beetle kill pine, elm, walnut, locust, maple and mystery wood. Some of these woods have some nice burl.

Newsletter

- All members, in particular our Professionals, are invited to submit a short paragraph to inform the rest of the Club about what is happening in their world of woodturning.
- The Newsletter Team would like to have one or more volunteers to assist in gathering information and publishing the Newsletter. If interested, contact John Giem.

Summer Picnic vs. Christmas Party

Since the last meeting there has been a lot of discussion as to whether to have a Summer Picnic versus having a Christmas Party. The Board would like to know the desires of the Membership. Let your Officers know what you would prefer.

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Letter to the Editor

Hi John

I thought you might like to know our club has four members that are demonstrators at the 30th annual Utah Woodturning Symposium this May 14-16. That is a pretty cool thing. Cindy Drozda, David Nittmann, Doug Schneiter and Curt Theobald. Any person who has ever attended this event will tell you it is well worth the travel to Utah to attend the longest running Woodturning Symposium. You can learn more particulars about the event if you Google Utah Woodturning Symposium

Take care

Curt Theobald

AAW Symposium Charter Bus

The proposed charter bus to the AAW Symposium in Albuquerque has been canceled due to lack of participation. It has been suggested that if you are planning on going, that you organize yourselves car pools to cut expenses.

Fine Line Turquoise Inlay

Presented by Larry Fox

Reported by John Giem

At the April 9, 2009, Rocky Mountain Woodturners meeting, the demonstration was presented by Larry Fox on how to do fine line turquoise inlays in wooden bowls. This is a natural next step to the demonstration presented at the January, 2008 meeting when he demonstrated how to put turquoise rims on bowls (see February 2008 RMWT Newsletter). Larry started by handing out notes on how he uses a seven step process to do the inlays. The handout is included at the end of this report. Some of the unique sanding tools are available from The Sanding Glove, www.TheSandingGlove.com.



Larry started his demo with a piece of Bristle Cone Pine, which had several cracks and a void.

227-6618, mobile

RMWT Symposium

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Hovle Curtis



He likes to use pine for inlay work because of its uniform grain and rather bland texture and color and that it lends itself well to doing inlays. There were several cracks in the wood that were surrounded by brown stains. He wanted to start by filling these cracks but needed to avoid staining the surrounding wood with the CA glue that is to be used. His solution is to use a 50/50 mix of lacquer sanding sealer and lacquer thinner. The sealer was applied to a pad, cloth or paper towel, and was then wiped across the surface of the wood. This technique seals the surface of the wood but does not go down into the crack which would adversely affect the CA adhesion. Next, the cracks were filled with dry walnut powder. Thin CA glue was then applied to the powder followed with a light spray with CA accelerator. (Larry commented that too much accelerator will cause the CA glue to cloud up and turn white.) After the thin glue had setup, he backfilled with medium viscosity CA glue to fill in all of the voids.

To fill the deep void in the center, he packed it with a small piece of paper towel and then saturated it with thin CA followed by accelerator. After hardening, Larry used a rotary tool to carve back the hardened paper towel to just below the surface of the wood. Powdered turquoise was then used to fill the void and then set with thin CA and accelerator. This technique allows one to fill deep voids without using a lot of expensive crushed stone.

The next step is to sand the inlaid stone down flush with the surface of the wood. The key to being able to do this is recognizing that aluminum oxide is harder than turquoise. With the piece mounted on the lathe and the lathe off, he power sanded the surface smooth using aluminum oxide sandpaper.

For the next demonstration, Larry used a 1/8 inch dual burr (he has them available for purchase) mounted in a rotary tool to carve grooves into the surface of a wooden bowl forming a tree like design. He makes multiple passes in both directions to cleanup all of the roughness in the groove. The surface of the wood is sealed, the groove backfilled with turquoise, set with thin CA and accelerator and then backfilled with medium CA.

Now for a couple of side notes. Larry prefers to use Cripple Creek turquoise because of its coloring. On the Mohs scale of relative hardness, turquoise is rated at 6 or 7, aluminum oxide is rated at 9 and

diamond is rated at 10. Any stone can be used for doing inlay work as long as your sandpaper is harder than the inlay stone. Although aluminum oxide sandpaper can be used, as above, to smooth down the turquoise, it will dull rapidly. So, sand the softer wood areas first and sand the turquoise last. Another solution Larry has found is a sandpaper that uses diamond as the abrasive. It is available from The Sanding Glove.

Now back to the inlay. Using a diamond sandpaper disk (around \$20.00 each) he sanded down the bowl using diamond coated sandpaper powered with an electric drill. Since the diamond paper sands the wood and the turquoise at the same rates, the sanding process is easier and requires less skill. With the aluminum oxide sanding disks, there is a tendency to sand down the soft wood leaving turquoise ridges thus requiring more diligence and skill. One potential problem is getting the diamond sandpaper too hot while sanding which would soften all of the adhesives. Larry resolves this concern by cooling the area being sanded with a continuous flow of air from a compressed air hose. He starts sanding using a diamond 70 grit disk followed by a 120 diamond disk. Further sanding can be accomplished using aluminum oxide paper. The power sanding mandrel uses a soft sponge disk to backup the sandpaper to help minimize the risk of sanding the wood down below the turquoise.

In his shop, Larry wears a full face shield over a gas mask for protection against the rock dust and the chemicals in the glues.



In this photo, it can be seen that the figure contains multiple parallel lines. This is very difficult to do inside this curved surface with conventional tools, the tools keep hitting sides of the bowls. Larry solved this problem by using a Dremmel rotary tool equipped with a right angle adapter. In the chuck of the adapter, he mounts a special cutting tool. He has three versions of this tool; one cutting disk, two

cutting disks and three disks. He makes these cutting tools by mounting the disks on a mandrel with spacers between the disks.



He starts by using the three disk cutter to make the lower portion of the figure and then switches to the two and one disk cutters to finish out the upper portions. After the grooves are cut, they are filled with powdered turquoise. Larry packs the turquoise into the grooves using his finger moving perpendicular to the axis of the groove. CA glue is used to set the turquoise using the same techniques as above. The surfaces were then sanded starting with the coarse diamond sandpaper and worked down as above.

Follow up discussions:

- In his previous demos, Larry used epoxy and now is using CA, why? In the previous demos, he was doing the large rims of bowls and used epoxy. Epoxy is a better match for the rims due to the cost of using a large amount of the adhesive. Also the rims are exposed to potential damage from impacts and epoxy is much less brittle than CA glue.
- Larry uses aluminum oxide sandpaper on the outsides of the bowls and diamond sandpaper on the insides. It is a function of convenience and functionality.
- Larry finishes his bowls using sanding sealer with sanding with fine sandpaper between coats. After drying he uses the Beal Buffing System but does not use carnauba wax. Instead he uses Renaissance wax, it shows less effects from fingerprints.
- When filling small cracks, it is useful to widen the cracks before filling. It makes the process easier and usually looks better.
- When widening the cracks for filling, consider being artistic and incorporate the enlarged grooves into an interesting design.

7 step process for inlaying Turquoise

-First cut a groove or determine which cracks to fill, then:

1. Make a mixture of ½ sanding sealer and ½ lacquer thinner—any brand
 - coat the area around the groove or crack with this mixture using a paper towel
 - this will seal the wood around the inlay so that the CA glue doesn't stain the wood
2. Put the appropriate size chips or powder into the crack or groove
 - insert inlay material for as long a distance as you can—1"-2" or more
 - have chips or powder protrude above the top of the crack or groove
 - if you have a deep crack, fill it with a wadded paper towel and coat with thin CA glue, then put the chips or powder in on top of the hardened paper towel
3. Thin CA glue
 - coat chips or powder with thin CA glue until entire crack or groove is filled
 - any CA glue brand will work, I prefer Star Bond at www.starbond.com
4. Recoat with Thin or Medium CA glue
 - if you are using powder, recoat entire area using thin CA glue
 - if you are using chips, recoat entire area using medium CA glue—the medium will fill in between the chips without running all over your bowl as thin CA would
5. Sand with 70 grit 2" diamond sand paper using a firm mandrel
 - this is a 3M product sold by The Sanding Glove at www.thesandingglove.com
 - diamond sand paper will sand the hard stone at the same rate as the softer wood
6. Refill divots with medium CA glue, regardless of using powder or chips
 - recoat around inlay with sanding sealer/lacquer thinner mixture using paper towel
 - get bowl at the right angle and light to see the divots or voids in the inlay
 - if some areas are large, 1/16" or more, use some powder and thin CA glue as fill
7. Sand with 2" or 3" 120 grit diamond sand paper using a firm mandrel
 - note of caution: if you have a lot of refilled divots or voids you may want to sand again with the 2", 70 grit diamond paper before doing the following
 - sand with 2" or 3" 120 grit diamond paper to smooth the additional glued area and take the 70 grit scratches out of the wood without removing the wood faster than the inlay which would leave hump from the wood to the inlay
 - now finish your bowl in your usual fashion being careful not to press too hard on the sanding mandrel when going over the inlay with subsequent sanding grits



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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

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

Katherine Kowalski

Fine Hand-made Crochet Hooks, Hair Ornaments, Spinning Tools, and more:
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Want your Website Listed? Contact a member of the Newsletter Team!!!

Learn From the Best...

Our Club, RMWT, is 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

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

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 your interests and needs.

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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