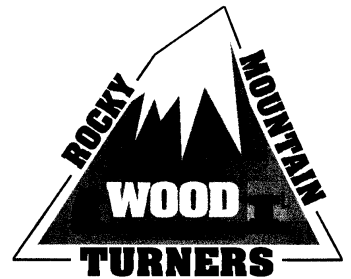




Rocky Mountain Woodturners
A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners
May 2010 Newsletter



Next RMWT Meeting

The next meeting of the RMWT will be on May 13, 2010, 6:30 PM. John Wessels from South Africa will be demonstrating turned objects decorated with metal (e.g. cast pewter, sheet pewter, silver, and copper).

David Nittmann will be doing a one-on-one critique session starting around 6:00-6:10, so come early to gain some valuable artistic feedback!

Shop Tour

No Shop Tour for May.

Misc News

The date of the September meeting has been changed to September 2nd, 2010 to allow for **Stuart Mortimer** to demonstrate for the club. Mark your calendars!

Colorado WoodTurning Exhibit -- May 22 through 30, 2010

By Bruce Perry

The Setup: We have permission to use the "gallery area" in the basement at Rockler, Denver.

AAW members from any Colorado Club are invited to display work, and participate in surrounding events. Most of you will recognize the "instant gallery" format that this show will take.

Primary set up will be on the afternoon and early evening of the 21st of May, with the "final" set being done on May 22 before Noon, which will be the "Official" opening time of the show.

We will have a very informal, and alcohol free, "Artists Reception" beginning at noon on the 22nd.

There are about 50 feet of table, 30 inches wide, some along walls, and some will be set up in center room.

We will have club members in attendance during Rockler store hours to provide information, watch the room, and try to explain to the "non woodturning audience" what they are seeing.

We are planning various demonstrations, both on the downstairs stage, and (the weather gods allowing), outside, or upstairs.

If enough folk are interested we may run an egg cup race, Saturday May 22, just for giggles.

Other clubs (wood turning working carving whatever) are invited and encouraged to bring themselves, literature about their activities

For each piece, you will need to fill out two copies of the registration form, found here: (Also see this web page for the latest info):

<http://www.frontrangewoodturners.org/FRWexhibit.html>

Free Student Admission to RMWT Symposium

Tom Wirsing generously donated his demonstrator fee back to the club for the express purpose of sponsoring scholarships for students to attend this year's symposium. There are eight scholarships available, so register now for the drawing!

Please e-mail Katherine Kowalski katherine@daystarhandworks.com with your name, phone number, and e-mail address to get on the list.

Drawing will be held at the July Meeting, entrants need not be present to win.

Member News

- Interview with Trent Bosch in this month's edition of Woodturning magazine.
- **Allen Jensen** is teaching Bowl Turning at Woodcraft in Loveland. 1 day workshop Sunday May 16 10AM-4PM. \$100.00 Workshop fee. Students will learn to turn bowls from green wood and the process for finish turning dry bowl blanks. We will also discuss sharpening, proper tool technique, sanding, and drying. Contact Woodcraft for more information or to sign up. 970-292-5940

Wood Bank Work Update

By John Giem

On Saturday April 17, 2010, over 20 RMWT members converged on the wood lot located at John Giem's for a work session in support for the RMWT Wood Bank. They went through the wood on hand and separated the good turning wood from the firewood. Turning woods have been reorganized making them easier to access. There were several pickups that left with full loads of firewood. Of course, those that helped with the reorganization took advantage of the turning woods. Many people left with smiles as they took home some choice turning wood.

Plenty of room is now available for additional wood, so keep your eyes open any available trees that are being harvested in our neighborhoods. We have need for most types of wood including; maple, olive, cedar, walnut, aspen, beetle kill pine, fruit woods, etc. Presently we have plenty of ash, spruce and elm. There is a limited amount of hard maple and silver poplar.

If you know about any wood available for the Wood Bank please call Allen Norris at (970) 231-5165, or Jerry Sherman at (970) 631-2984, or John Giem at (970) 223-0844 or (970) 227-6618.

Last Month's Demonstration

By John I. Giem

The turning of an 18" platter was demonstrated by Tom Wirsing at the Rocky Mountain Woodturners meeting on April 8, 2010. Before the demonstration, Tom handed out a set of notes outlining the demo. Those notes will be reproduced at the end of this report. I will try to supplement those notes and will not cover every thing in them but instead will 'fill in the gaps'.



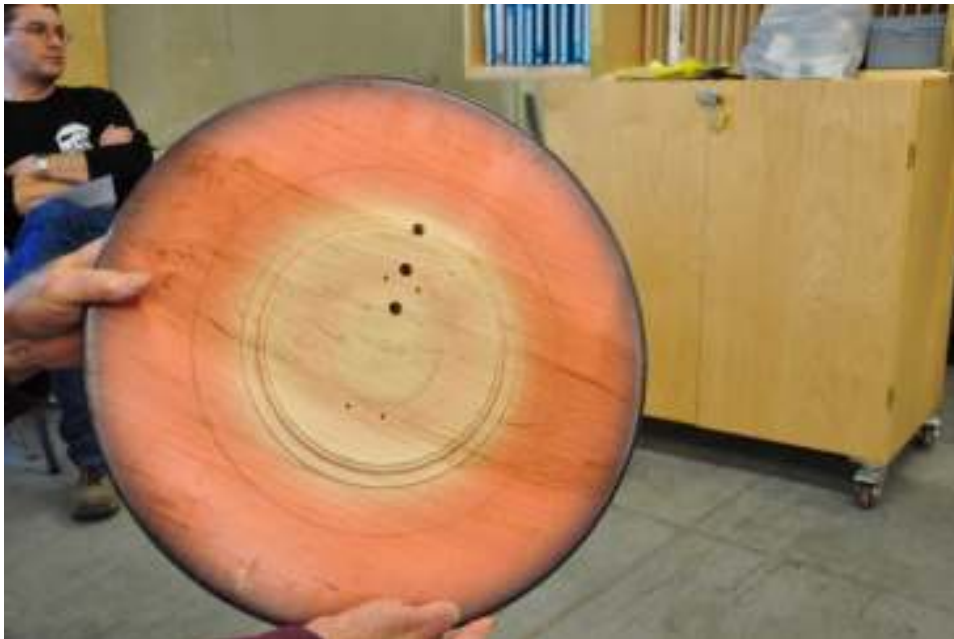
Tom used a maple blank about 2" thick that had been cut into a circular blank. Most blanks of this size are not perfectly flat but will be slightly warped or cupped. A faceplate is mounted on the most concave side. This will be the upper surface of the platter,

consequently the mounting screw holes are in the waste that will be turned away. After mounting the faceplate on the lathe, the mounting of the blank was adjusted or fine tuned. Using the tool rest as a guide, the lowest points on the top of the platter, side toward the headstock, were identified. With the screws of the faceplate loosened, wedges were driven between the faceplate and the wood blank to adjust the identified low points equally spaced from the tool rest. All screws were then retightened for the turning of the platter.



- After mounting, a wide rim was cut on the top surface to establish where it would be. He used pull cuts due to the lack of space between the platter and the headstock.
- The outer rim was cut smooth.
- A recess was cut on the bottom that would be used for mounting on a chuck in an expanding mode. The recess must be as small as possible to just fit over the jaws of his chuck when it is fully closed giving the most holding power.
- A cheater stick (story stick) that matched the size of the jaws was used to gauge the size of the recess.
- A bedan tool that was ground to match the bevel on the outer surface of the jaws was used to carefully cut a tapered wall on the inside of the recess.
- He has never had a platter come off of the lathe when he mounted using a recess cut in the manner.
- Using a pull cut, he shaped the outer surface of the bottom. At this point, tearout was not a concern.
- At the outer edge of the bottom, he slightly under cut the rim to give a slight ridge around the rim so that the platter will be easier for the user to pickup.
- Final shaping was done with a bowl gouge ground to 60 degrees which gives less tearout on silver maple. A 40 degree gouge goes under the fibers and causes more tearout.
- A skew was used to define the foot around the mounting recess.

- Tom does not like to sand. Therefore he uses a negative rake scraper to take light cuts and remove any remaining tearout.
- One of the scrapers was ground using the tool rest set at 20 degrees. Both sides of the scraper were ground at 20 degrees giving an included angle of 40 degrees.
- Tom uses tools ground at different angles for different cuts. At home he has multiple grinders. On each grinder, the tool rest is set to a specified angle and is never changed.
- He is able to start hand sanding at 120 grit paper and goes down to 400 grit.
- After the bottom surface is completely finished, including signing, he seals the bottom with sanding sealer.
- The bottom with multiple thin layers of non-catalyzed furniture lacquer. Each additional layer will fuse with the previous layers yielding a continuous film from top to bottom.
- The bottom of the platter is completely finished and buffed out before taking it off of the lathe and faceplate.
- The outer edge of the top surface is much wider that it will be when finished. This rim is completely sanded to a fine finish before applying the colored dye.
- The dye was applied with an air brush with the platter rotating on the lathe and allowed to dry.
- Uses Transtint dye with alcohol as a carrier. Alcohol dries faster than other carriers.
- After the dye on the rim has dried, he cuts out the center of the platter.
- The center has multiple depth holes for guidance. The depth holes were drilled off the lathe using a drill press for accuracy.



- Care must be taken to avoid marring the dyed surface.

- The edges of the center hollowing cuts through the dyed surface giving a sharp transition between the natural wood and the dye.
- The curved edge of the center hollow is cut with a small gouge that has the heel of the bevel relieved. This allows him to make a smoother cut.
- Very careful to minimize tearout as it is hard to sand out particularly near the edge of the dyed rim.
- Uses a small straight stick to check for flatness in the bottom.
- Uses both flat and round scrapers (negative rake) to smooth out the bottom surface.
- He avoids power sanding, hand sanding only and uses a sanding block as much as possible.
- Uses Sherwin-Williams water white CAB acrylic lacquer.
- He lets the lacquer harden for several days before buffing it out.
- The buffing is done on the lathe using automotive buffing compounds.
- Starts buffing with #9 and goes to #7.





Tom Wirsing's Notes

Platter, 18", Lacquered, with Colored Rim, Process Steps

Following are the process steps to turn an 18" diameter platter with colored rim, finished in lacquer. The platter must be remounted on the lathe after it is completely finished in order to rub out the lacquer finish as the last step in the process.

1. Mount the blank on a faceplate. If the blank is cupped, mount the faceplate on the concave side (the concave side will become the upper face of the platter). Use hardwood wedges if necessary to get the blank to run true. Use plenty of screws to insure the blank is securely mounted. A blank 18" in diameter and 2" thick is heavy and dangerous!
2. Face the outer 3 or 4 inches of the upper face, taking care not to let the gouge contact the wedges. This establishes the position of the upper face of the platter, which you must do before beginning to shape the bottom of the platter.
3. Turn the edge of the blank so it is complete round (no flat spots around the edge of the blank). This establishes the maximum diameter of the blank.
4. Remove some of the excess wood around the outer 4 or 5 inches of the bottom face of the blank to begin to balance the blank.
5. Cut the foot, and the recess by which the platter will be remounted later to turn the face. The foot should be about $3/32$ " tall, and the recess should be about the same depth, so they match. The recess, by which the platter will be remounted later in the process, must be very precisely cut in order that the platter be securely remounted to turn the face. The recess should be just barely greater in diameter than the fully-closed jaws of the chuck, which will expand into the recess, so that when remounted, the contact area between wood and jaws is maximized.

6. Cut the remainder of the bottom of the platter, creating a smooth ogee curve from the foot to the rim, and leaving the rim approximately 'X" thick.
7. Sand the bottom to 400, sign it, lacquer the bottom, and return the platter to the lathe to rub out the lacquer..
8. Remove the platter from the faceplate, drill several guide holes near the center of the platter to within 5/8" of the underside (the holes help establish remaining thickness as the face of the platter is turned) and remount the platter by the recess created in step 5 above.
9. Turn the rim of the face of the platter, leaving it wider than its final width, sand to 400, seal with lacquer sanding sealer, re-sand to 400, and color the rim. Use an airbrush, and Transtint metal complex dyes diluted in ethanol, to apply the colors.
10. Turn the center of the platter, taking care not to scratch or mar the colored rim. When the center is turned, you will remove wood adjacent to the colored rim, producing a very crisp demarcation between the colored rim and the natural wood in the center. The center of the platter should be flat (in a plane).
11. Sand the center to 400, taking care not to let the sandpaper touch the colored rim.

Lacquer the upper side of the platter, then remount the platter for final rub-out of the lacquer.

Clubs and Member's Websites

Rocky Mountain Wood Turners
www.rmwt.org

AAW – American Assoc of Woodturners
www.woodturner.org

Cindy Drozda
www.cindydrozda.com

Curt Theobald
www.curttheobald.com

David Nittmann
www.davidnittmann.com

John Lynch
www.johnlynchwoodworking.com

Katherine Kowalski
www.katherinekowalski.com

Trent Bosch
www.trentbosch.com

Want your Website Listed? Contact 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.

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.

jgiem@comcast.net

(970)223-0844, home phone

(970)227-6618, cell phone

Katherine Kowalski, Woodturner & Contemporary Artist

Offering private/small group instruction in basic and intermediate woodturning, as well as specialized advanced classes in fine spindlework, and color theory/technique.

Classes held at Katherine's shop in Cheyenne, WY.

E-mail: katherine@daystarhandworks.com

Phone: 307-220-0130

Web Site: www.katherinekowalski.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. Seven 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

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

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 see the current schedule here:

<http://www.woodcraft.com/stores/store.aspx?id=566>

10% Guild Discount

Sears Trostel

1500 Riverside Ave
Ft. Collins, CO 80524

Rockler in Denver
You must show your membership card.

3718 Draft Horse Drive
Loveland, CO 80538
970-292-5940
Discounts on day of Club Meeting.

Woodcraft

Wood Emporium
618 N Garfield Ave Loveland, CO

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

6:30 -- Meeting begins, with a 10-15 minute break in between the business meeting and the demonstrator start.

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

2010 Officers, Directors and Committees

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