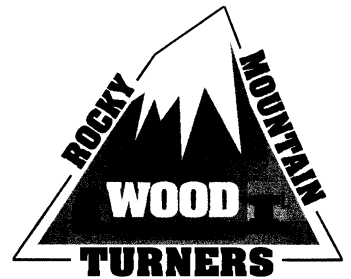




Rocky Mountain Woodturners  
A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners  
August 2010 Newsletter



### **Next RMWT Meeting**

The next meeting of the RMWT will be on August 5, 2010, 6:30 PM.



### **Something Strange by Bruce Perry**

Known for his eccentric turnings, Bruce Perry will be demonstrating at our next meeting.

**David Nittmann** will conduct a one-on-one critique session before the meeting around 6:00-6:15.

### **AAW News**

It is critical that the AAW Board receives every proxy vote available. If you are a member of the AAW, please go to <http://www.supporttheaaw.com/> to register your vote. If you are not yet a member, please consider joining at this critical juncture, and be part of one of the largest craft organizations in the world, (and receive 6 issues per year of a *fantastic* woodturning magazine!).

### **Shop Tour**

No shop tour for August. Katherine Kowalski will host a shop tour in September, date to be announced.

### **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!

## Member News

- Sculpture in the Park and the Loveland Sculpture Invitational will be going on this weekend in Loveland, CO. **Cindy Drozda**, **David Nittmann**, **Curt Theobald**, and **Travis Bauer** will all be participating. This is an incredible show to see – look for flyers at the meeting!
- **Bruce Perry** was the Featured Artist in *Woodturning* magazine this month. Congratulations Bruce!
- **Cindy Drozda** and **Katherine Kowalski** are pictured in the most recent issue of *American Woodturner*, photographed in the trade show at the AAW Symposium in Hartford this year.
- E-mail Katherine ([Katherine@DaystarHandworks.com](mailto:Katherine@DaystarHandworks.com)) if you have a news item to report: awards, art shows, demonstrations, etc. in which you are participating.

## Last Month's Demonstration

Notes by Katherine Kowalski

Supplier list on my web site: <http://www.katherinekowalski.com>

Katherine began by demonstrating spindlework technique, reviewing the movements and tool positions to properly make beads, coves, and vee-grooves with a Cindy Drozda grind spindle gouge. While there are many tools that can be used to make these cuts, using one primarily is more efficient in production woodturning because one doesn't waste time changing tools. Keep the tool rest as close to the work as possible, making sure that the tool is positioned back *far* enough that the contact with the rest occurs on the unbeveled portion of the tool. Height of the tool rest should be such that the point of the tool is at the center of the spindle when the tool is held parallel to the ground.

## Is decoration right for this piece?

An important question to answer. Make sure your decoration is well away from the “holdable” parts of a pen or crochet hook, or the “grabbable” part of a bottlestopper. Not only is it uncomfortable to the hand, but it has a chance of damaging your decoration – sharp gemstones dig into the hand, paint might rub off, or rings break.



## Making captured rings on a fine spindle:

- Begin by planing a cylinder of wood.
- Always make more rings than you think you need – some will inevitably break. Hard, brittle woods like Dymondwood™ are especially prone to breakage and take a very fine touch to create successful rings. It is *much* easier to make rings on softer domestics, or flexible, oily woods like Cocobolo or Bocote.
- Mark out the ring positions, making vee-grooves on either side.
- Round off the corners of the tops of the rings with a spindle gouge.

- Using the ring-cutting/mini-parting tool, cut in from each side of the rings at a 45' angle toward the center of the ring. **Do not part off the rings at this stage.**
- Sand & finish the rings.
- Now part off each ring, gently entering each parting groove, making sure not to scratch the top-side of the rings.
- Carefully pare down each containing side to desired diameter, *making sure not to go thinly enough that the rings fall off.*
- Making a half-bead on each side allows for easier sanding of the underside of the rings, which can be done with some 320 grit sandpaper wrapped around each side, and gently turning the rings over the top.
- Adding a turned design underneath the rings is desirable – the more diameter available, the easier it is to work with. A straight/cylindrical design tends to look boring on an otherwise ornate piece.
- Rings are complete!



Katherine's Signature Ornate Crochet hooks are created using a combination of fine turning, pyrography, painting with metallic acrylics, and inset with precious gemstones.

### **Pyrography:**

- Use a high-quality pyrography system for best results and finest details.
- Domestic natural woods are MUCH easier to burn than Dymondwood™ or dense exotics.
- Katherine uses a stippling technique with a “writing tip” style pyrography pen, and signs the piece with a “skew” shaped pen.
- Start out with a simple design in whatever motif pleases you: flowers, leaves, swirls, geometrics, etc.
- Control the heat setting carefully. Light-colored or softer woods will have overburn marks with too much heat.
- There are a variety of special tips for the pyrography pens – experiment to find your own style!

### **Painting:**

- For consumable products, Katherine uses metallic acrylic paints which can be purchased from craft stores. (Do not use these paints on fine art pieces unless you have researched the archivability of same).
- Metallic paints have a special glitter and shine that brings life and a jewel-like texture to the design.

- Make a color card for easy reference. Katherine paints the first letter of each color name on a white card, organizing the colors by family, (reds together, blues together, etc.)
- Coordinate paints with your gemstone (if you choose to inset one). Choose colors from a palette that compliments the color of the wood.
- Paint in layers, allowing colors in one section to dry as you paint another part. (Paint all the flower petals first, then paint the vines, etc. before adding a second layer to the petals).
- Paint multiple layers of color to achieve a jewel-like effect. E.g. add lighter purple swashes over a dark purple petal to add depth.
- Katherine's love of Indonesian art, especially *batik* hand-painted fabrics, inspired her to use layers of dots of color to create the distinct look her signature pieces have.



### **Gemstone Setting:**

- Using Snap-Set™ silver and gold settings allows you to set almost any type of gemstone you wish. These can be purchased as flat-bottomed, or with a post, (as in an earring setting).
- Buy gemstones that coordinate with the sizes of settings you've chosen.
- These settings allow for a countersink that gives the stone a chance to sparkle wildly!
- Drill a hole of appropriate size in your spindle; this should result in a **jam fit**; the setting should not be loose in the hole. Secure with epoxy or Titebond glue. **Make absolutely sure that no adhesive touches the surface of the stone; otherwise it will not sparkle.**

### **Finishing:**

- Because the painting is done in tiny indentations, there is little need for a top-coat.
- If you wish to top-coat the piece, **do so before adhering the gemstone.** (Otherwise, *cover* the stone. A finish will eliminate the sparkle of the gemstone). A coat of spray lacquer is recommended for top-coating the acrylic paint.

**One final note:** Katherine always recommends learning from a professional turner – the experience they teach is invaluable!

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

Rocky Mountain Wood Turners  
[www.rmwt.org](http://www.rmwt.org)

Cindy Drozda  
[www.cindydrozda.com](http://www.cindydrozda.com)

AAW – American Assoc of Woodturners  
[www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org)

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

David Nittmann  
[www.davidnittmann.com](http://www.davidnittmann.com)

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

Katherine Kowalski  
[www.katherinekowalski.com](http://www.katherinekowalski.com)

Trent Bosch  
[www.trentbosch.com](http://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](mailto:cwtheobald@wyoming.com)

Website is [www.curttheobald.com](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:katherine@daystarhandworks.com)

Phone: 307-220-0130

Web Site: [www.katherinekowalski.com](http://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](mailto: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](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

**Woodcraft** has classes for beginners in woodworking, shop safety, intro to 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.

### **Woodcraft**

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

### **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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