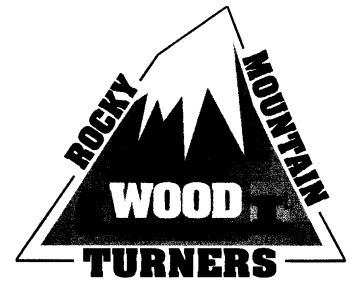




Rocky Mountain Woodturners
A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners
October 2010 Newsletter

Editor: Katherine Kowalski



Next RMWT Meeting

The next meeting of the RMWT will be on October 7, 2010, 6:30 PM.

Merryll Saylan is a full-time studio artist who has taught design at the University of California in Berkeley and numerous woodturning workshops. She recently received a Merit Award from the American Association of Woodturners and her work is in many public and private collections such as the Museum of Arts and Design in New York City and the Renwick Gallery in the Smithsonian



Texturing, coloring and finishing

For the evening session, Merryll will show slides, then demonstrate a couple of texture tools and the different finishes she would use based on those. Images are important for what she does because she has done such a variety of work and can discuss what she's used and why.

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

Shop Tour

Thanks to everyone for coming to Katherine Kowalski's shop tour last month! We had a lot of fun. Please see [Katherine's blog post](#) for details, or check out the Front Range Woodturner's Newsletter for Ken Miller's report!

(http://www.frontrangewoodturners.org/newsletters/frw2010_10.pdf)

The next Shop Tour will be announced soon. If you would like to volunteer to host a Shop Tour, please contact Drew Nichols . dcnichols2004@msn.com , 970-566-4662

Member News

- Katherine Kowalski's piece "La Petite Fleur" was pictured in this month's issue of *American Woodturner*, page 5, in the "24th Annual AAW Symposium" article.
- David Ellsworth's works "Vessel" and "Untitled" were pictured on pages 43 and 49, respectively, in "The Art of Contemplation" articles, also in *American Woodturner*.

- E-mail Katherine (Katherine@DaystarHandworks.com) if you have a news item to report: awards, art shows, demonstrations, etc. in which you are participating.

Club News

It's that time again – time to start thinking about serving the club as an officer or on a committee! We need **YOU!** Our Board of Directors & their duties includes:

President – Ambassador from the club to the community

VP – Signs up new members, prints name tags & membership cards, calls the wood raffle

Treasurer – Receives monies, makes deposits & disperses funds via checks

Secretary – Takes minutes at the meetings

Volunteering only takes a few hours per month, and is a great way to get to know the turning community better. **PLEASE**, if you've been a member of the club for a long time, or if you are new, please consider helping the club in this essential way. Katherine Kowalski will help transitioning volunteers for any of the Board positions. Elections are coming up soon!

Wood Bank News

1. Over the summer, we have accumulated a lot of firewood from cut-offs and other sources. Come visit the Wood Bank and stock up on free firewood for the winter.
2. We still have some good turning wood. Stock up on wood for turning during those cold winter days. Any wood not claimed for turning will turn itself into firewood for somebody else to use.
3. The Wood Bank is still interested in freshly cut trees so that you can have wood in the coming months. If you know of any wood that is available, call John Giem or Jerry Sherman. (contact information at end of Newsletter.)

If you need some wood or other questions, call John Giem, 970 223-0844 – home, 970 227-6618 – mobile.

Last Month's Demonstration

Reported by: John I. Giem

Additional details & edit by:

Katherine Kowalski

At the September meeting of the Rocky Mountain Woodturners, Stuart Mortimer demonstrated how he cuts twists into several turned projects. He first demonstrated the basic technique on a spindle turning and then extended to a goblet with a twisted stem and finished up with a hollow form with twisted sides.



The following is a summary of the processes used and words of wisdom:

- For spindle turning softer woods up to 4", he uses a skew for roughing down his spindle turnings. (For roughing hard woods, he uses a bowl gouge).
- He does not use a roughing gouge because they can break in the case of knots in the timber.
- There are three basic cuts; straight, convex and concave. All shapes can be formed using combinations of these cuts.
- When using the skew, the nose is used for profiling and the lower point is used for shaping.
- The lower point is **not** the "heel" — the "heel" is on the bevel, which should be relieved as with a gouge to limit the concavity of the edge, allowing easier cutting.
- Point the skew in the direction you are cutting.
- When traversing the turning, move the body not the arms. The arms should be held close to the body and locked in place.
- After turning the blank down to a cylinder, he drilled a hole into the tailstock end of the turning blank.
- Start the hole by cutting a small counter sink at the center to aid to starting the drilling process.
- The hole was drilled using a small spindle gouge. The gouge was pushed straight into the blank with frequent removal to extract the shavings. For larger hole, follow up with the larger 1/2" spindle gouge.
- The free end of the turning was supported using a cone live center.
- For a single twist, with the lathe running, draw a series of lines around the cylinder with spacing between them equal to the diameter. In this case, the marks were scribed with a pencil about every two inches. The space between the lines was divided into four equally spaced sections. The final spacing of the circumscribed lines was about 1/2".



- The lathe was stopped and four horizontal lines were drawn equally spaced around the cylinder thus constructing a 'grid' on the surface. The end of each line was numbered; 1, 2, 3, and 4.
- Next freehand, he drew a spiral around the cylinder by progressing from intersection to intersection. For a complete twist, if it starts at one end on line 1, then at the other end it should stop on line 1. By starting a spiral at each of the four horizontal lines, this resulted in four spirals around the cylinder. The process was repeated at the headstock end of the cylinder only with a tighter twist.
- There are many methods for cutting grooves following the spirals; saw, manually with a gouge, a cutting burr mounted in a rotary tool and using a handheld angle grinder. The grinder he used was fitted with a tungsten carbide disc. **DO NOT** use the "Lancelot" type blades or any of those with chainsaw-like teeth.
- Safety tip for angle grinders: **DO NOT** place them on the lathe where they can fall. After the blade has stopped spinning, place the grinder on the floor.
- Stuart cut the grooves holding the cutter in one hand while rotating the spindle with the other. The spiral groove was gradually cut down to and intersected with the hole previously drilled in the cylinder.
- The resulting square spiral was shaped using a variety of tools. A chainsaw file/rasp was held at an angle so that it touched the flutes on each side of the groove. It was used to knock off the corners and start the conversion of the square spirals into round twists. The shaping of the inside surfaces of the spiral was accomplished by twisting a cloth sanding strip until it formed a thick round flexible sanding string, which Stuart calls "special tools." The "special tool" was then fed through and encircled each twist in turn and sanded them into a round shape. With the lathe running at slow speed, the "special tools" were also passed over the twists to further finish them.
- Next he demonstrated the turning of a goblet. After roughing the blank to a cylinder, he marked off the positions of the various parts, the cup, the stem and the base.
- The end next to the tailstock was faced off, counter sunk and a hole was drilled using a spindle gouge.
- For the hollowing, he uses a shorter stiffer spindle gouge. Holding the tool at about the 9:30 position, the interior was hollowed out. He started at the bottom and worked toward



the top of the cup leaving a ring of wood around the top edge, for reinforcement, until the interior was finished. When making the final cuts, he backed up the cup with a handheld paper towel held on the outside of the cup. (Be careful: using cloth on a turning risks the cloth getting caught pulling it and the turner into the lathe resulting in injury.)



- Slow down the lathe, sand the inside of the cup starting at the bottom and working outward. The outside of the cup was manually supported with a handheld paper towel.

- Bring up the tailstock with a live cone center, or equivalent. Stuff wadded up toilet paper into the cup for the live center to bear against thus avoiding scratching the finished interior. With this support, finish turning the exterior of the cup while establishing the thickness of the sides.

- Normally, he forms the stem and base from separate pieces to conserve wood.

- The base was shaped with a bead formed where it met the stem. The bead at the base of the cup is slightly smaller than the bead at the top of the base for esthetic purposes.

- The stem was turned down to the desired thickness, marked as before, and the grooves were cut using a chainsaw file. Further sanding and shaping created a twisted stem.

- Stuart next mounted a blank for turning a twisted hollow form.

- The outside of the form was shaped, and marked with 12 equally spaced horizontal lines.

- For the hollowing, he uses a series of three spindle gouges. For the shallowest hollowing, a regular spindle gouge; mid-



way: a gouge with a short flute and longer solid bar; and for the deepest areas: a gouge with a short flute and very long solid bar to control tool flex.

- To hollow, Stuart started at the bottom, with the flute of the tool pointing at the 11:00 position, and as he pivoted the tool around toward the side, the flute was rotated closed to the 9:00-9:30 position.
- Time permitting, the interior would have been cleaned up using a hollowing tool.
- For good appearance, the form was marked with a variable pitch, 3, 4 and 5 to match the changing diameter of the form. The guidelines for constructing the spirals were placed on the vessel. The locations for the grooves were sketched onto the sanded form and the spirals were cut.
- In addition to the other tools used above, he will also use a hand plane to round off the corners and to shape the twists.



Clubs and Member's Websites

Rocky Mountain Wood Turners
www.rmwt.org

Cindy Drozda
www.cindydrozda.com

David Nittmann
www.davidnittmann.com

Katherine Kowalski
www.katherinekowalski.com

AAW – American Assoc of Woodturners
www.woodturner.org

Curt Theobald
www.curttheobald.com

John Lynch
www.johnlynchwoodworking.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.

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. 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

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 is a Woodturner & Contemporary Artist, offering private/small group instruction in woodturning technique, as well as specialized classes in hollow forms, bowls, fine spindlework, and color theory/technique. (All levels of instruction are available). Classes are held at Katherine's shop in Cheyenne, WY.
E-mail: katherine@daystarhandworks.com
Cell Phone: 307-220-0130
Web Site: www.katherinekowalski.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

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!

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