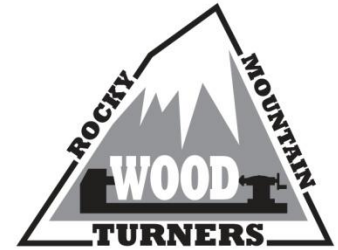




**Rocky Mountain Woodturners**  
*A chapter of the American Association of Woodturners*



*June 2012 Newsletter*

**Contents of Newsletter**

- Next RMWT Meeting, Demonstrators
- What's Happening
- Report on May 2012 Demonstration
- RMWT information, Member's web sites, sources of woodturning Instruction and discounts.

**Next RMWT Meeting**

The next meeting of the Rocky Mountain Woodturners will be Thursday, June 21, 2012, at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be at the Loveland Woodcraft store. The shift from the normal meeting date is due to scheduling around the AAW Symposium in San Jose.

The Demonstration will be presented by Phil Lackey. He will be showing how to turn a thin walled, natural edge bowl in preparation for piercing. He then will show how to pierce the rim of the bowl and discuss the tools that he uses and the methods followed. His burning and texturing process will be shown and discussed.

The July meeting will be on July 5. Several of the youth woodturners will be showing us their skills.

**RMWT Activities**

**Wood Bank News**

The wood bank currently has available: walnut, ash, hickory, elm, locust, maple, hackberry and Russian Olive along with a few others I can't think of right now. There is still a lot of firewood available. For more information or to pick up some wood, call John Giem 970 227-6618.

**Tools for Sale** We have been contacted by Pat Mahlam, (307)630-3256, Cheyenne, asking for assistance in selling her late husband's woodturning equipment. She has a nearly new JET 1642EVS lathe and a bunch of other stuff, more than can be listed here. Bill Turner helped document her equipment. All the information we have is in the documents that was sent out with this Newsletter. You may call Pat for directions to her home.



**Publications** The June 2012 issue of the American Woodturner contains the article 'Compliant Vacuum Chucking System' by John Giem.

## Rocky Mountain Woodturners Demonstration, May 3, 2012

Reported by John Giem



On May 3, 2012, David Nittmann and Curt Theobald gave a joint presentation on *How to Perform a Critique*.

These is a saying that if you tell me how an individual will be evaluated then I can tell you how he will perform on the job. The idea behind this discussion of critiques is that by our understanding the process of critiques, we will be able evaluate our own work during our journey to becoming better woodturners. During the presentation, many interesting ideas, suggestions and guidelines were presented.



- Critiques are composed of two parts, the facts and the meaning.
- Like many other endeavors, critiques need a vocabulary of terms to aid in the discussion.
- Do self critiques, you need to understand why you do or do not like a particular piece, either of your own or someone else's work.
- The last piece you made is a good indicator of what to do for your next project. Keep refining your design toward your version of perfection.
- Look around you, notice the different shapes and forms in nature and other objects.

Go to galleries. Observe what you do and do not like. Ask your self why?

- Don't let your wood blank dictate your design.
- Keep a notebook recording your ideas, take notes, make sketches. Everyone can do designs.
- Be aware of the visual impact of your work. Don't put everything you know into one piece.
- Proportions - use the Golden Ratio as much as possible. (Google it.)
- Pay attention to the wall thickness, want it uniform.

- Blowing up projects on the lathe is part of the learning process.
- Curves - look at nature and observe how she does it.
- The inside of an object should mirror the outside.
- Take into account the movement of wood.
- The sense of touch is more effective than sight in identifying ridges, facets, flat spots, etc.
- A good design will look good both upright and inverted.
- Pay attention to the wood features; grain, voids, colors, etc. and use them in your design.
- The first step in getting a good finish is a good sanding job.
- Coarse sanding is not a substitute for good tool work.
- The Meaning is the most difficult part of a critique.
- Criticism is subjective and is an art form itself.
- To be able to critique woodturning, one must understand woodturning.
- You need to understand the work to be able to talk about it.
- The Critic should not be influenced by personal likes and dislikes.
- The Critic sets up himself to describe excellence.
- He must be aware of the environment and culture.
- The Artist must be able to evaluate the worth of the critique.
- There is a lot of interaction between art and physics.
- 'Anything said is good'. The Artist needs to be able to learn from both the favorable and unfavorable comments.
- To improve our own work, we must be able to separate ourselves from our work and look at it objectively.
- We need the 'at-a-boys' but we also need to hear the other real evaluations so that we can learn where we can improve.
- Don't take short cuts, get it done right.
- When finished with a piece, take it off of the lathe and let it sit on the shelf for awhile. Over time, look at it, think about it and ask what can I do to improve on it?
- You should be advancing in your work and enjoying the adventure.
- In all of our work, we should strive for perfection not just 'good enough'.
- By critiquing our own work, we are trying to see our work through the eyes of others.
- Be honest to yourself. You know if you are cheating when playing solitaire.
- When doing a critique, you don't need input from the Artist initially, you can state what you think and follow-up later with the Artist if appropriate.
- Treat each piece with respect. The care in handling and body language is very important.
- To a good critique the person doing the critique must have a much broader knowledge than just the item being evaluated.

May 3, 2012  
David Nittmann & Curt Theobald  
The "How" of critique for RMWT May 3, 2012

The critique has two distinct parts

- 1) The facts : form, balance, color etc---objective
- 2) The meaning : what is the artist trying to say---subjective

Why do critique?

- 1) Develop awareness of factors that determine "quality"
- 2) Enhance ability to perceive subtle elements of shape, form & design
- 3) Expand range of thought-awareness of options, possibilities & directions of work
- 4) Better ways to produce work
- 5) Develop ideas for self-critique

The Facts

1. Design Process  
Directing the design, Conceptualizing the work
2. Visual Impact  
Composition, Proportion, Weight vs. size, Wall thickness
3. Form  
Crisp flowing lines and curves, Lift: positive/negative/nonexistent
4. Use of Material  
Grain orientation, Use of natural features – burls, natural edges, spalting, etc.
5. Surface Decorations  
a. Color, Texture – carving, burning, stippling, etc., Ornamentation
6. Quality of Finish  
Sanding quality, Tear out/scratches, Sheen, Smooth vs. rough – drips, particulate in finish, etc.
7. Was this piece really worth doing?  
Yes) – Did you self-critique honestly? If not, go back to #1  
No) – Why not?

The Meaning

the job of the critic, criticism is an art.

- 1) Understand : specific work on an individual basis & the public viewing the work
- 2) Explain : communicate, we cannot judge without knowing what the work says. Visual work is designed to reach deep levels of awareness
- 3) Guide : acceptance or rejection, self knowledge know what we like and dislike, separate self, know what we don't know, ability to share insights (we may not need or want guidance)
- 4) Establish standards of excellence : these vary with time place & culture
- 5) Clarify aesthetics : describe & discuss differences in taste, judgment & cultural policy

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## RMWT Meetings and information

President: Pete Herman  
(970) 663-1951 home  
(585) 259-9486 mobile  
[Peter\\_Herman@comcast.net](mailto:Peter_Herman@comcast.net)

Vice President: Drew Nichols  
Shop Tours  
(970) 566-4662 home  
(970) 224-4850 mobile  
[dcnichols2004@msn.com](mailto:dcnichols2004@msn.com)

Treasurer: Frank Amigo  
[efamigo@msn.com](mailto:efamigo@msn.com)

Secretary & Newsletter: John Giem  
970 223-0844 home  
970 227-6618 mobile  
[jgiem@comcast.net](mailto:jgiem@comcast.net)

Wood Bank  
John Giem, Chairman and Wood Lot  
Manager  
(see above)

Vince Wilson, Scout & Liaison with Tree  
Surgeons, (970) 430-0961,  
[vwildonco@msn.com](mailto:vwildonco@msn.com)

Jerry Sherman, Collection  
(970) 631-2984 mobile  
(970) 484-2619 home

RMWT Program Director  
David Nittmann  
303 579-6744  
[david@davidnittmann.com](mailto:david@davidnittmann.com)

RMWT Webmaster: Hoyle Curtis  
[Hoyle.curtis@gmail.com](mailto:Hoyle.curtis@gmail.com)

## RMWT Symposium

General Coordinator: Allen Jensen  
970 663-1868 work  
970 776-6452 mobile

Vendor Coordinator: Cindy Drozda  
[cindy@cindydrozda.com](mailto:cindy@cindydrozda.com)

Program Coordinator: Trent Bosch  
[trent@trentbosch.com](mailto:trent@trentbosch.com)

Registration Coordinator: John Giem  
970 223-0844 -- home  
970 227-6618 -- mobile  
[jgiem@comcast.net](mailto:jgiem@comcast.net)

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## 10% RMWT Member discount with some exceptions

Wood Emporium  
618 N Garfield Ave  
Loveland, CO

Sears Trostel Lumber & Millwork  
1500 Riverside Ave  
Ft. Collins, CO 80524  
970-482-1928  
970-482-9895 Fax

Woodcraft – Loveland  
3718 Draft Horse Drive  
Loveland, CO 80538  
Phone: (970) 292-5940  
Fax: (970) 292-5939  
[Loveland@woodcraft.com](mailto:Loveland@woodcraft.com)

Rockler's in Denver – You have to show  
your membership card.



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## Clubs and Member's Websites

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

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

Trent Bosch  
[www.trentbosch.com](http://www.trentbosch.com)

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

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

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

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

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

Want your Website Listed? Contact John Giem, Editor.

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### 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, Intermediate, 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](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

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**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)

**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)

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#### **John Giem, Woodturner**

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 studio in Fort Collins, CO, which is equipped with a complete set of woodworking tools. Contact John to discuss your interests and needs.

[jpgiem@comcast.net](mailto:jpgiem@comcast.net)

(970)223-0844, home phone

(970)227-6618, cell phone

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**Katherine Kowalski** is a Woodturner & Contemporary Artist, offering private/small

group instruction in woodturning technique, as well as specialized classes in hollow forms, bowl, fine spindlework, and color theory/technique. (All levels of instruction are available). Classes are held at Katherine's studio in Cheyenne, WY.

Email: [katherine@daystarhandworks.com](mailto:katherine@daystarhandworks.com)

Cell Phone: 307 220-0130

Web site: [www.katherinekowalski.com](http://www.katherinekowalski.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 check out the classes being offered at web page

[www.woodcraft.com/stores/store.aspx?id=56](http://www.woodcraft.com/stores/store.aspx?id=56)