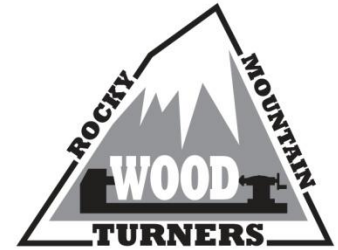




Rocky Mountain Woodturners
*A chapter of the American Association of
Woodturners*
December 2012 Newsletter



Contents of Newsletter

- Next RMWT Meeting
- RMWT Activities
- RMWT information, Member's web sites, sources of woodturning instruction and discounts.

Next RMWT Meeting

The annual Christmas Party is being held on December 6, 2012, at the Pulliam community building in Loveland. The address is 545 N. Cleveland Ave., Loveland. The entrance we are to use is on the South side of the building. The doors will be open at 5:30 and we plan on starting to eat at 6:00 PM. To recover our deposit, we will need to clean up the room before we leave. We expect to be finished by 9:00.

The RMWT will furnish the meats, soft drinks paper plates and eating utensils. The members attending are requested to bring a side dish to share. Those with last names starting with A through M, are to bring a desert and those starting with N through Z are to bring a non-desert side dish. You are encouraged to bring your own wooden plate(s) if you wish.

There will be an Instant Gallery and auction of donated items. Christmas ornaments for the auction are always appreciated. Several items collected from the demonstrations will also be in the auction.

Please RSVP to John Giem, jgiem@comcast.net, by Tuesday, December 4, so that we will know how many will be coming enabling us to have an adequate amount of meats and soft drinks.

Rocky Mountain Woodturners Regular Membership Meeting

During the month before the October 15, 2012, regular membership meeting, copies of the revised By-Laws for the Rocky Mountain Woodturners were sent out to all members via email. The membership was also informed that at the October 15 meeting a vote would be held to approve or disapprove the revised By-Laws. At the meeting, it was stated that David Nittmann needed to be added as one of the founders of the RMWT. According to the 'old' By-Laws, the membership attendance was sufficient to be a quorum.

A motion was made to approve the By-Laws with the addition of David Nittmann. The motion was seconded, voted upon and approved. A copy of the official RMWT By-Laws will be available on the RMWT web site.

The January 3, 2012, meeting will be the election of officers for the year. John Giem has announced that he will not be running for Secretary but will be devoting his time to helping Allen Jensen with the documentation needed to operate the Symposium. Pete Herman, President; Drew Nichols, Vice President and Frank Amigo have agreed to run for another term for each of their offices. This will allow

them to complete process of completing obtaining federal non-profit classification. Members are encouraged to look for people to nominate for the officer positions for the next year.

Educational Opportunity Grants

Several happy Rocky Mountain woodturners received Educational Opportunity Grants for a variety of classes in 2012. Applications for grants in 2013 will be due by January 15, but if a class opens up later in the year, you may still apply at that time. The application form is on the website. Start thinking now about what you might like to learn or what skill you might like to improve. We can help make it affordable!

The primary source of funding the EOGs come from the proceeds of the auction at the Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium we put on each September.

Wood Bank

At the Christmas Party there will not be any wood brought in from the Wood Bank. As always, you can call John Giem to come up to the Wood Bank, select and take home all of the wood you need or desire. Presently, we have a good selection of elm, maple, locust and walnut with a limited amount of Russian Olive.

John can be reached at 970 223-0844 - home, or 970 227-6618, mobile.

November 15, 2012, Demonstration by Mike Mahoney

Reported by: John I Giem



Mike Mahoney started his demonstration with a question and answer session. When he entered studies at a university, he was majoring in engineering. One day he observed a woodturning demonstration using a faceplate for mounting the wood. He was fascinated; he was hooked. The techniques used were new to him and he discovered that one could get a degree in industrial arts. He switched majors. After graduation, he worked with several professional woodturners and received a lot of good advice. Mike organized his profession around making bowls for the wholesale market at a relatively high volume. He admitted that he keeps the better items back for direct sales to his customers via the internet. The retail outlets get the good but average items.

After some interesting discussions, Mike proceeded to demonstrate the turning of a small burial urn, about the size that would be used for a cat. Many facts and

tidbits of information were gleaned from the demo and the explanations. [Note: I also attended the Friday Demonstration and the Saturday workshop. I may 'accidently' include some information that was not presented in the demo Thursday evening. JIG]

- Burial urns would probably be a good market for someone to investigate and develop.
- The wood blank he used for the demo was a 4inch cube. When mounted, the grain ran parallel to the axis of rotation.
- He used a two pronged spur drive center. He feels that it holds better than a four prong center and causes less damage to the wood.

- The tailstock should always be used to support all blanks as long as it is not in the way.
- For the urn, it is a hollow form with a threaded lid. He uses the rule of thirds and places the largest diameter of the turning in the upper third of the form.
- His designs have a base diameter about the same as or a little smaller than the top of the urn.
- The base gives the form some lift off of the surface it is on, i.e. it looks better..
- After the blank has been roughed out to the basic desired shape, he makes a thin, shallow continuous cut from the middle, largest diameter, down to the base. A similar cut is made from the middle of the form down to the top of the form.



- At one point, he had a problem with torn grain on the urn. After making sure the gouge was sharp, he lubricated the area with the same oil he will use later for finishing. He then cleaned up the area by using shear scraping with the bowl gouge.
- When the outside of the form is completed, do not sand it until the form is hollowed out. The solid form is believed to not get rid of heat from the sanding and will create checking. Wait until the form is hollowed out and then perform the sanding
- After the form is rechucked and the top cleaned off, a spindle gouge is used to bore out a depth hole down through what will be the top of the form.
- A spindle gouge is used for the detail work.
- Mike is left handed, so he does a lot of the bowl turning while standing on the backside of the lathe.
- When making cuts on the urn, he 'locks his hands and arms' and moves his whole body to guide the gouge.
- Mike listened to the sounds while he was hollowing out the urn. The sounds from the wood tell him a lot about the wall thickness. Also, thumping the urn with his finger was utilized; I don't recall seeing him use any callipers or other tools to measure the wall thickness of the urn.
- He finished up the inside of the urn by making one final pass inside by making a final pass from the bottom to the top.
- Before chasing the threads on the opening of the vessel, he chamfered the entry edge first. Since the wood at the entry of the vessel was end grain (the grain runs parallel to the axis of rotation, the threads formed are not as clean and strong as would be achieved using side grain.
- When asked about carbide tipped turning tools, he was thoughtful and chose his words carefully. The carbide tipped tools cannot achieve an edge as sharp as the tool steel or carbon steel tools. Carbide tipped tools do not really belong in woodturning tools. They will hold what edge they have for a longer period on time.



- As for finishing, he prefers a penetrating oil for utility pieces that are going to be used with food and washed. Penetrating oil finishes are easily 'repaired' as opposed to a film finish. For art pieces, using a film finish is OK since it will not be subject to scratches and water.
- Mike prefers a spray gun as opposed to an aerosol can when applying finishes to his work.
- Mike makes his own Danish oil finish, it is much cheaper than the commercial Danish oil. His home made Danish oil contains 1/3 polyurethane, 1/3 linseed oil and 1/3 mineral spirits, preferably the deodorized variety.

- 3M has come out with a ceramic sand paper the holds up better than the other varieties of sand paper, it is purple in colour. Craft Supplies carries it.
- Mike sharpens the thread chasers by lightly touching the top surface to the grinder.
- The top piece to be screwed into the threaded opening in the urn is to be made from African Blackwood.

- The African Blackwood blank is mounted in a scroll chuck and a tenon is turned on the end. The tenon is to be threaded so that it will screw into the urn's top. The tenon is slightly larger in diameter than the urn's opening. Also, next to the shoulder, there is a relief cut into the tenon. The relief is to allow some space at the end of the threads. Without this space, the thread chaser would crash into the shoulder causing damage to the threads.

- The leading corner of the tenon is bevelled to make it easier to start the threads. The speed of the lathe is



- about 400 rpm. As the thread chaser is stroked over the leading edge and the surface of the tenon, threads are cut into tenon. Tip: at the correct speed, without a chuck mounted, you should be able look at the spindle and follow the threads with your eye.

- Since the tenon was cut oversized, it is too large to screw into the opening of the urn. By repeatability stroking the thread chaser over the threads on the tenon, the diameter is reduced enough to screw into the urn.

- As a final step, the sharp points of the threads are removed.

- Almost any of the rose woods can be used successfully used for threading; holly, boxwood, mahogany ...

- using a scrap block of wood mounted in the chuck, a

recess is cut into it and threaded. The top piece is then threaded into the recess and the upper part of the lid is completed.

- End grain does not thread well, the ridges break off. Side grain threads better but end grain is more stable.

One should practice on side grain.

- Softer woods can be strengthened by using CA glue. Also, a lubricant can also help. A lubricant could be one of the penetrating oils that would be used for finishing the piece.

- When working with the hard African Blackwood, a negative rake scraper would work well.



RMWT Contact Information

President: Pete Herman
(970) 663-1951 home

(585) 259-9486 mobile
Peter_Herman@comcast.net

Vice President: Drew Nichols
Shop Tours, membership
(970) 566-4662 home

(970) 224-4850 mobile
dcnichols2004@msn.com

Treasurer: Frank Amigo
efamigo@msn.com

Secretary & Newsletter: John Giem
970 223-0844 home
970 227-6618 mobile
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

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

RMWT Program Director
David Nittmann
303 579-6744
david@davidnittmann.com

RMWT Webmaster: Hoyle Curtis
Hoyle.curtis@gmail.com

RMWT Symposium

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

Coordinator: Dale Bonertz
970 218-1576
dbonertz@comcast.net

Vendor Coordinator: Cindy Drozda
cindy@cindydrozda.com

Program Coordinator: Trent Bosch
trent@trentbosch.com

Registration Coordinator: John Giem
970 223-0844 -- home
970 227-6618 -- mobile
jgiem@comcast.net

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

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

Airbrush-On-Wood

David Nittmann now provides a resource for all of your airbrush needs. You may now Order On-Line at www.davidnittmann.com/airbrush.php

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
www.KatherineKowalski.com

Want your Website Listed? Contact John Giem,
Editor.

Learn From the Best...

Our Club, RMWT, is well 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 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

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, Woodturner

Custom woodworking and Individual or small group woodworking instruction tailored 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.

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, 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

Cell Phone: 307 220-0130

Web site: 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