



Rocky Mountain Woodturners
A Chapter of the American Association of
Woodturners

December 2019 Newsletter



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Future RMWT Meeting:

The next meeting of the Rocky Mountain Woodturners is going to be held on Thursday January 9th. Kirk DeHeer will be the demonstrator for the night. The title to his demonstration is 'Demystifying cuts and catches'

Future demonstrators:

February 6th: Have not found anyone 0/4, if you have any ideas please share

March 5th: Allen Jensen - Demo will be about starting from a green bowl blank, roughing it out, letting it dry, then finish turning. Don't know the title, just the subject.

April 9th: Matt Monaco - Have not selected a demo yet from his list

November Meeting: Our demonstrators were Marty Christiansen and Ed Cypher and Robert Franklin Their demonstration was on laser engraving. Several different laser machines were demonstrated, and a lot of information was passed on to the club. The video is available to anyone interested in reviewing that information.

Pen- turners Meeting: November 21, 2019

WE don't normally video the pen-turners meeting, so we have a relatively larger content for the pen turners club. We had a GREAT demonstration by Robert Franklin on stabilization. I took copious notes, at the speed of talk, which when I looked at them later, realized that there MAY be some mistakes!! (perish the thought!) Anyway, Bob was kind enough to edit the notes, so they really represent what was said instead of what I took down. Enjoy!

Turn-Tex.com

Turntex.com is the maker of Cactus Juice stabilizing resin - it's NOT really cactus Juice, but it is one of the finest stabilizing resins on the market.

If using dye with it -no water base dyes can be used with it. Turntex makes dyes specifically for stabilizing that are more vibrant than anything else on the market or Alumilite dyes work well. There are other products like Cactus Juice, but cactus juice is the original for home stabilizing and the customer service that comes with it is the best you will find.

There are 2 processes that can be used --one requires vacuum and is the recommended process for best results and for dying. The 2nd is the soak method - If you use the "soak" method, you will get about 75% stabilization which works well on punky wood or soft spots that will be used for things like bowl blanks or vase blanks were 100% stabilization isn't necessary.

This process is time consuming.

1. You can't use green wood, and you will need to give it time to dried out- down to about 15-18% moisture.
2. If you try to dry out too fast, you will get cracking etc. Use a moisture meter to get the moisture content down to begin with. May take 6 months or more to get to this dryness.
3. After it has air dried -He uses an electric smoker to dry to 0% MC or you can use a convection oven. At this point, moisture meters are not sufficient to use to measure MC as they are not accurate below 4 or 5%. But we must get it to 0% MC to get 100% stabilization.
4. He puts in an electric smoker. Can't contact the burner. Middle of an oven would be better. Heat to about 220 degrees -needs to be over boiling point. Shouldn't get over 250 degrees or it may break down the molecular fibers in the wood. He likes to keep in to about 220 degrees.
5. He uses a postal scale. Weigh the piece you want to put in the smoker, run it for 24 hours at the temp above - remove the piece, if it lost weight, it still had moisture. write the new weight and put it back in, after a minimum of a few hours, weigh it again, repeat this until it doesn't lose weight, (no moisture left to lose).
6. Once it's dry, immediately put in zip-lock bags while hot so they don't gain more moisture from the air. DOUBLE bag if possible. Fire-proof totes are also moisture and water-proof and can be used in conjunction with bags.
7. Once it is cooled off (and only after it has cooled), you can use the soak method or vacuum chamber process.
8. Chamber method- Turn-Tex makes one of the best chambers on the market. They are clear to be able to see what's inside (important). A 4X 12 chamber will cost you about \$100.00. The bigger the chamber- the more they will cost. Note that PLEXIGLASS is NOT compatible with Cactus Juice or other stabilizing resins and some chambers have plexiglass lids that will craze and crack.
9. You will need a vacuum pump. Oil vacuum pumps are generally better because you will get vapors into the pump from the chamber. With an oil pump you can flush out the pump when you change the oil. Moisture traps tend not to work so well, because the vapor tends to pass the trap.
10. You can make a chamber out of PVC pipe. It's kind of a pain to make, and you will end up having so much into the chamber, you will end up paying more. You will need a tempered glass top to

be able to see inside the chamber if you go this route and that means all your fittings must be drilled and tapped through the side of the pipe.

11. Single or 2-stage pump makes no difference. Altitude does matter. You can get altitude charts on the internet that will tell you what perfect vacuum is at your altitude. Perfect vacuum at sea level is 29.7 -and at my altitude it is 25 -use the chart so you know what you should be pulling or at least getting as close as possible.
12. Gauges- They come dry or oil filled. Pull the plug to equalize. Not all vacuum gauges read the same. If you get a harbor freight pump, get the warranty. It will not last very well doing this. With oil pumps, change regularly. The Harbor Freight pumps, change every 3-4 times you use. With other oil pumps, they may go 10 uses between oil changes.
13. He uses Eliminator brand pumps. This is what is recommended by Turn-Tex
14. Leave 6 inches of "head-space" in your chamber, (air space between the juice and the lid).
15. BE sure to remove any bark from the blank. It will not stabilize well. And remove any dust or debris as well.
16. Place the blanks in the chamber, and place a "Float-plate over the blanks. Or weigh them down to keep them submerged.
17. Add the Cactus juice enough to completely cover the blanks. You can re-use the cactus juice that it not drawn into the wood blanks for your next batch.
18. As the vacuum starts- you will get a lot of foam right at first. You may have to "burp" the chamber if the foam gets too high. Don't let it get to the top of your chamber or it will get sucked into your pump. The pump must remain running throughout this whole process.
19. You will need to be able to see into the chamber to see when the bubbling stops. When you get to where the bubbling is just a few "champagne bubbles" (Just a few bubbles), you are probably good. If he has a lot of wood in the chamber, this process may be 12 hours or more. When the bubbles are down to only a few small champagne bubbles you can release the vacuum and then you can turn the pump off.
20. Then the wood sits in the soak stage for twice as long as he had it in the vacuum stage. Example -if it was under vac for 12 hours, then it will need to soak for 24 hours.
21. Really large items may go as long as 36 hours in the vacuum stage. You would need to soak 2X that long after that stage.
22. The vacuum chamber MUST be kept under 85 degrees whenever it has CJ in it. Over 85 degrees and you take the chance of it curing in your chamber and ruining your chamber. On real hot days, you may even need to put the chamber into an ice chest with ice to keep it below 85.
23. After the soaking time, pour out the excess Cactus Juice back into the Juice container, and remove your pcs.
24. Once it is at this stage, you can let it sit for weeks or months, before curing or you can cure right away.
25. To Cure - you need to cook it in an oven and the internal temp of the blanks must get above 180 degrees. if the pcs do not contain a natural burl edge you may want to wrap each blank in foil, and that will help catch any bleed out and allow you to stack pcs. The draw-back is that the foil will be somewhat left on the blanks and need clean up with a sander or saw. IF you have a natural edge, DON'T wrap. Put natural edges on their side on a wire rack. This helps to avoid drips etc. being stuck to the natural burl edge. Don't allow them to touch each other or you will need to break them apart. Make sure you have a catch pan below that rack to catch the runoff

during Curing. Now we need to set the oven to around 190 degrees, He recommends using oven gauge inside to double check your temp and adjust if necessary. The blanks need to reach an internal temp of around 180 --this may take a few hours or may take half the day depending on the size of the blanks. To check to see if they are cured open the oven and if there is any liquid on the outside, it is not cured, and you must immediately shut the door and either turn up the heat some or run longer.

26. Curing is typically 2-4 hours. He runs his oven at 180 degrees for the curing process. (ideally - under 200 degrees)
27. If you need to clean the chamber- use cold water and soap. NOT hot water!!!

Now for dying- You can add die to the jug. Turn-Tex will tell you how much die you can put into the cactus Juice. Dense woods won't die all the way through like the softer woods. Oily woods like redwoods, rosewoods etc. will benefit for an extended soak. He may soak them as much as a whole week. The piece you select will determine how dark or light a piece is when it is done. You can do double or triple dies by just soaking (no vacuum) and curing before doing the next color -but the final color must be done under vacuum and it will be your primary color.

The Soak method --dry your blank (see above) then submerge in a bucket and weight it down -keep the liquid level above the blank and allow to soak for at least a few weeks --the longer the better. Then cure like normal. -This method will work well for items that are punky or soft and will make them usable for woodturning , but is not the best method for items that will have hardware in them such as pens or knife scales or pistol grips where we are also concerned with wood movement from expansion and contraction and or adding dye or casting in resin-- the vac method should be used in those situations.

Also note that using the oven you cook food in is not advisable for curing and that the fumes coming off the curing process are very smelly and its best that part of the process outside.

Board of Directors Meeting December 23, 2019

Officer Reports:

President: Clarence Sitzman - Remind members and announce the membership rebate drawing for 2020. PLEASE GET YOUR DUES IN!! At the April meeting we will draw a name for dues refund for the year.

The Beyond the Bark show at the CCC was a great success again this year. We had 80 large pieces on display on pedestals, and another 80 small items such as pens, bird houses, and other beehives and other assorted pieces. It is always fun talking to the people who come in to look at our work. Some of the pieces on display from our club were nothing short of phenomenal. Good work turners!!

As a side note- for next years' show- While attending the CCC show this year, Larry Tucci and I were looking into next years' show, and both November and December First Friday's shows were already booked! In talking to Debbie who is there a lot of the time for the CCC, she suggested that we go ahead and book the CCC for weeks 3 and 4 in November. Her thinking was that there is really not that much of a drop-off in attendance for those two weeks as opposed to First Friday and the next week. We at least tentatively booked next years' show for weeks 3 and 4 of November.

When discussing the issue of show attendance, Russ Skinner suggested that we look into the idea of having each of the exhibitors supply the show organizers with a list of 10-15 names that we could use to send out personal invitations to the show. We had, I think, 15 exhibitors this year. If each invited personally 10 people, that would be 150 personal invitations for the show. This idea was talked about, and felt that this may be a much better way of promoting the show instead of using the poster people to put up posters at random coffee shops or other sites and just hoping people would see it and come to the show.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS- At our January meeting we will be having the election for two of the 4 officers. Because of the rotation system established several years back, this year we will be electing a new secretary and treasurer. We have one person who has expressed interest in the vice-president spot, but no one has come forth as of yet for the secretary spot. Please think about the possibility of serving for a 2-year term for one of these spots.

Vice President: Jim Felton - Membership Status, we already have 10 members that have paid their dues for 2020. It's nice to see that someone wants their dues refunded!!

Treasurer: Dave Amos - Account Balances Checking – \$5,5340.17 Savings - \$4,847.66. Final report for the Beyond the Bark show at the Community Creative Center- Total sales \$426.00, the club commission \$63.90. Dave brought up the point that prior to this we had thought of having a special T-shirt made for the 25th anniversary of our club being in existence. He thought that possibly of T-shirt fatigue (if there is such a thing). Since we are all turners, he thought it might be better to have a special anniversary bowl gouge made with the club sponsoring \$10.00 for each person wanting an anniversary gouge. I have talked to Bob at Woodcraft about this possibility of having the gouges engraved at Woodcraft. There was a motion that we look into having these gouges made, and that the club sponsor the \$10.00 for each gouge ordered by a member. MSP.

Secretary Report: Michael Mroz -absent because of illness.

Youth Education: CS has had several Utes (or is that youths) come to his shop for demonstrations and helping the turn their own pens, key chains etc. At least one of them now has a lathe, and is turning pens and now wants to start other turned items. We all need to be showing the young people that turning is really a fun thing to do, and you don't need to wait until you are old and retired (speaking for myself!) before you start.

I also have been talking to one of the Fort Collins middle school art teachers, who may be interested in getting in some way or another a lathe for the kids to use as an extension of art. I may be bringing in the future a request for EOG funds for purchasing this as a semi-permanent loan of equipment for the school.

Pen Group Director: Harry Farmer -No pen meeting in December. November meeting was Bob Franklin demonstration. (Notes from that demo above in the newsletter)

EOG Committee: Nothing new requests this month.

Christmas Party 2019: Nordy's BBQ-We normally have the party on the Thursday of our regular meeting date, but this date was already booked at Nordy's. We had a vote of the BOD, and it was decided to have the meeting on the day before instead of Thursday the week after. We had 28 people in attendance, and a good time was had by all. Dave Amos gave the report that money from the auction raised \$605.00 for the general fund.

Program: Camille has asked to step down from her one-person demonstrator acquisition committee. Camille has done an absolutely marvelous job for quite a few years now. She would still like to work with the Symposium committee to acquire demonstrators for the Symposium. I would like to extend my personal thanks for all the hard work that this Camille has done for us in the past, and an extra thanks for continuing to do this job for the Symposium.

We do have a volunteer to take over her responsibilities for booking our monthly demonstrators. Russ Skinner will be taking over this job, and will be addressing the club at our meeting in January. If you have any suggestions for demonstrators, or demonstration topics, please bring these thoughts to the club meeting in January.

Special Club Projects: Wig-stands- A quick update on wig-stands, we have given 59 wig-stands to the American Cancer Society. 6 additional pcs are being painted by the Art Dept at U of Northern Colorado and the Artists Collective delivered 12 painted stands and still has another 4 or 5 pcs to be painted. A member of the Collectives Associate is receiving Chemotherapy to treat Lupus and they are having one of the stands painted to give to this person. The Cancer Society has 23 stands in their inventory so they are in good shape.

As an FYI, my wife has completed her chemotherapy last month and will complete her 4 weeks of daily radiation therapy tomorrow! She is receiving herceptan injections every 3 weeks to keep the cancer away and we are optimistic that she is beating this disease! Joe Lesko

Additional request: Hi, I work for Colorado Rocky Mountain School here in Carbondale CO. Though I am very new to CO as I come from NC. I loved wood turning in NC where I learned and taught some woodturning. The headmaster here at CRMS was an avid woodworker and is excited about the possibility of adding woodturning here at the school for students to get involved with as a part of the work crew program here. I am reaching out to see if there is any grant or just any spare tools or materials you all would be able to donate to the school to help get the program started. Right now we have an old Delta Lathe, a faceplate, bowl chuck, a bunch of spindle tools. If there is someone else we should be reaching out to please let me know!

If anyone out there has tools they don't need anymore, please get hold of Tristan Kurer-Ahrens <tkurer-ahrens@crms.org>

[Colorado Rocky Mountain School](http://ColoradoRockyMountainSchool.com) | 500 Holden Way | Carbondale, CO 81623 | 970.963.2562

Today's Trivia: ABC's of Wood, A and B

G-*Ginkgo biloba* is also commonly known in English as **gingko** and as the **Maidenhair Tree**. This species is unique in that it has no close living relatives within the plant kingdom. ***Ginkgo biloba*** is the only living species left within the ***Ginkgo Genus***, thus making it the only **extant** (opposite of extinct) species of the *Ginkgo Genus*.

The species part of the name, "*Ginkgo biloba*" (specifically the epithet "*biloba*") is derived from the Latin words "*bis*" (two) and "*loba*" (lobed), referring to the two lobed shape of the leaves. This tree was first officially described and named by Linnaeus in 1771, who gave this species its Latin name.

The ***Ginkgo biloba* tree** is widely dispersed around the world and well cultivated, as in many cultures it has uses as a traditional medicine and food source. ***Ginkgo biloba*** has long been cultivated in China (its native area) for medicinal purposes among others. This tree is also widely planted in Korea and parts of Japan, however in both areas some naturalization has occurred producing natural forests from the *Ginkgo biloba*'s seeding habits.

Ginkgos are also popular subjects for growing as penjing and bonsai; they can be kept artificially small and tended over centuries. Furthermore, the trees are easy to propagate from seed.

H- *Carya* trees, commonly known as **Hickory trees** are deciduous trees, rarely shrubs, 3m to 52m in height. There are 23 taxa of trees in the genus *Carya* and 9 [Hickory hybrids](#). The name *Carya* is from the Ancient Greek word κάρυον for "nut". **The wood of Hickory tree species** is extremely tough and flexible, and is used for golf club shafts, walking sticks, drumsticks, tool handles, bows, wheel spokes, carts, ski bottoms, lacrosse stick handles, sometimes still called a Hickory stick, even though made of steel or graphite. Hickory is sometimes used for wood flooring because of its characteristics and strength. **Hickory wood** is also preferably used for wood burning stoves, because of its high energy (heat) content. Hickory wood is also used for smoke curing meats, like Hickory smoked bacon, or beef. In the United States, Hickory is used in barbecue cooking because the smoke from the burning wood adds the popular "Hickory" flavor to the meat.

Hickory or Pecan Nuts: The nuts of some Hickory species are edible, while others are bitter in taste, and used only for animal feed. The Shagbark, Pecan and Shellbark Hickory trees produce nuts that are widely eaten. When propagating Hickory trees for their fruit, or nuts, two (2) or more cultivars must be planted together for successful pollination. This is due to their self-incompatibility, and so cloned or grafted trees of the same cultivar cannot pollinate each other. Seedlings grown from Hickory nuts will usually have sufficient genetic variation to cross pollinate each other.

Wood Bank News:

Wood Bank News: All RMWT members are encouraged to come check it out. First come, first served. Please call first, (970) 227-6618, just to be sure I am home (and to get directions). Wood Bank addition We have had some excellent support from many of our members that have resulted significant additions to the Wood Bank the last several weeks. As a result, this weeks' wood raffle will have some

new varieties to offer; silver maple, Osage orange, walnut and others. Many thanks to John Harpold and Gary Quakenbush for the leads to the new woods. Ray and Mike have cut a nice selection for the raffle

John I. Giem: (970) 227-6618, mobile and text, jgiem@comcast.net .

Items For Sale:

If you have any wood shop or woodturning tools and/or equipment for sale, please send your information to the Newsletter Editor and keep the Editor updated if items are sold. We are playing “catch-up” with the newsletter, and don’t have current information as to what is for sale by or for any of the club members. If you want an ad placed in this newsletter, please contact me (Clarence Sitzman) at seesitzman@aol.com and I will try to get that information in the upcoming editions of the newsletter.

Air Shield Pro Air circulating face shield Includes 2nd battery, 10 Visor overlays, ear protector:
PRICE \$275.00 Bruce Pilkington 970 396 0372

From Evan Larson- This next notice was sent as an addendum to the December newsletter. It was received the day after I printed the last newsletter. This was from Evan Larson. (What you see here is the compilation of 4 emails back and forth with information you might be interested in.)

Clarence, I have a scale chair I’d like to sell. I was hoping you could connect me with a member that may be interested in it. If no one comes to mind, that’s ok too. My mom passed away & I believe she bought the chair when she lived in Fort Collins. I’m hesitant of putting it on eBay & having it not going to the right caretaker. I did a little checking against full size rocking chairs. It’s apparently 1/5 scale. Looks like Paul normally did 1/3 scale miniatures.

Here’s the dimensions: 8-1/8” tall, 5-1/4” wide, 7-3/4” deep

There’s a little discussion about his scaled furniture and another chair/dresser shown on this page:

<https://www.woodworkersinstitute.com/wood-turning/features/profiles/north-america/doc-thode-an-american-national-treasure/>

Pics attached. Thank you, Evan Larson (805) 748-1691

Here are the pictures that he had attached. If you are interested in this chair, please contact Evan personally at the number above.



Editor's note: Sale ads will run for three months unless notified to stop sooner or to continue longer. Please call or e-mail your ad to the Newsletter Editor at the address below.

RMWT Contact Information:

President: Clarence Sitzman
970-9080-8403

seesitzman@aol.com

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jpfelton@gmail.com

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michaelamroz@hotmail.com

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Chairman and Wood Lot Manager

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970 227-6618 mobile

jgiem@comcast.net

Wood Lot Collection: Jerry Sherman

970-631-2984 mobile

970-484-2619 home

RMWT Webmaster: Hoyle Curtis

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Hoyle.Curtis@gmail.com

Pen-turners Group Director

Harry R. Farmer

Mobile: 970-218-0297

harryfarmer@g.com

RMWT Symposium:

General Coordinator: Allen Jensen

970 663-1868 work

970 776-6452 mobile

Program Coordinator and

Vendor Coordinator: Cindy Drozda

P.O. Box 19065

Boulder, CO 80308

303-449-7170

cindy@cindydrozda.com

<http://cindydrozda.blogspot.com>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/condydrozda>

Facebook business page:

<http://tinyurl.com/44prp3n>

Facebook Profile: <http://tinyurl.com/3vy5ld5>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/cindydrozda>

Symposium Registration Coordinators: Jim and Pam Felton

307-634-9103 home

jpfelton@gmail.com

10% RMWT Member Discounts (with some exceptions):

Wood Emporium

618 N Garfield Ave

Loveland, CO

970-667-5621 Phone

970-667-5621 Fax

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

970-292-5940 Phone

970-292-5939 Fax

loveland@woodcraft.com

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

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

Cindy Drozda

www.cindydrozda.com

<http://cindydrozda.blogspot.com>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/condydrozda>

Facebook business page:

<http://tinyurl.com/44prp3n>

Facebook Profile: <http://tinyurl.com/3vy5ld5>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/cindydrozda>

John Lynch

www.johnlynchwoodworking.com

Curt Theobald

www.curttheobald.com

Don Maul

www.bighornwoodart.com

Harry R. Farmer

harryfarmer@q.com

Want your Website Listed? Contact Clarence Sitzman, Newsletter Editor – 970-980-8403
seesitzman@aol.com

Learn From the Best...

The Rocky Mountain Woodturners Club, RMWT, is well known around the nation because we have some of the best national and internationally 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

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

(970)227-6618, cell

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 check out the classes being offered at web page:

www.woodcraft.com/stores/store.aspx?id=56

Doug Schneiter is scheduled to teach several woodturning classes at Woodcraft - Loveland in 2019. See the class schedules at Woodcraft. Doug also teaches specialized one on one classes on turning at his studio in Loveland. Contact at dougschneiter@gmail.com

From: Harry Farmer: I have taken over Dan Bailey's CA glue business from him. I can be reached by calling my cell phone (970)218-0297 or home phone (970) 484-5448. My address is 2112 Springfield Ct., Ft. Collins. Email address is harryfarmer@q.com. I am available most times but would be better to call ahead to be sure I am home.