



Rocky Mountain Woodturners
A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners
CLUB WEBSITE www.rmwt.org
April 2023 Newsletter

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The April demonstration was by club member Margaret Stiles, covering the process for turning gnomes. Although this was her first demo, Margaret presented like a seasoned pro. The demo was accompanied by a very informative and thorough hand-out as well as tips for where to find gnome hair and accessories. Margaret incorporated some information from previous demo's for streamlining the process, so that the gnomes can be batch produced for the holidays. Go big, or go Gnome! Margaret's April demo is here: [▶ Margaret Stiles - Gnomes](#)



- Jim Bessette was the membership raffle winner for this year. A well deserved thank you to someone who helps the club in several ways at our meetings. Thank you all for renewing and keeping our club going!
- In an effort to pack more content into a smaller newsletter, I'm leaning heavily on hyperlinks. Remember, every [blue underlined text](#) has an embedded link.



- Stay tuned for logo-gear availability! Raleigh is working hard to locate a supplier for hats and turning smocks. Based on the informal survey Chris conducted at the April meeting there are lots of folks interested in these quality smocks! There will be a smock on hand at the May meeting if you're interested in inspecting the goods.

- The club lathe maintenance day was a success! The workday was organized by Laurent Nicolet and held at Trent Bosch's place. The volunteers managed to condense all the work into a single day. A great big thank you to all those that lent a hand!
- Wood Bank Infusion!! We are well stocked after receiving some beautiful Ash and Walnut. The club owes a great big thank you to ArborCo for the Ash donation.



They kindly offered to deliver the WHOLE tree, directly to the wood-lot. If you (or anyone you know) need an arborist, please call [ArborCo](https://www.arborco.com) (970-413-3443.) They have great reviews, and I can personally attest to their professionalism, having witnessed their operation first hand. Any member can contact John Giem (Wood Bank Manager, 970-227-6618,) to arrange a visit to the woodlot. There are some great crotch sections available for the taking and John can give you some tips on how to get the most out of them.

- Volunteers Needed:
 - o Woodbank Helper - The woodbank is in need of some additional help, particularly with cutting the monthly EOG raffle blanks. In warmer weather the cutting typically happens on the Thursday of the meeting. If you're interested but don't have a chainsaw, safety gear, or experience, John has you covered. This role has the added fringe benefit of getting first crack at some choice blanks for yourself..
 - o Workspace Coordinator - The club is looking for a volunteer to identify partnerships and coordinate with venues to facilitate more hands-on turning opportunities. If this sounds like you, please reach out to any BOD member!
 - o Demonstration Coordinator - Raleigh Lockhart has been doing an amazing job, and has demonstrations (and several follow-on classes) scheduled through the middle of 2024. However, it's time to start looking for his successor, so if you're interested, please grab Raleigh at a meeting and get some insight into what that role involves.

- Summer Picnic: Mark your calendars, our President is hosting the summer picnic on July 15th. More details to come.

- Christmas Party: Do you have a favorite Mexican restaurant to recommend? Is it able to accommodate 40+ folks and located in Loveland, Longmont, Berthoud or Johnstown? If so, contact [Jenni](#), and start turning your auction items now!

- Reminder: If you have completed wig stands, Joe Lesko collects them at the general meetings. The club is also trying to set up a wigstand and pattern skills turning day for mid to late May. Watch your email for any announcements.

- Club President, Chris Van Woerkom has been working on an addendum to the club bylaws. The goal of this addendum is to remove insurance coverage loopholes, by clearly defining activities that are part of our Rocky Mountain Woodturners (think penturners, twirling sisters, woodbank etc.) Any changes to the bylaws will have to be voted on by the members. Be watching your email for the opportunity to review those proposed changes and vote.

MAY DEMONSTRATOR:

For May 2023 ... we are pleased to have **Allen Jensen** as our featured demonstrator!

Allen will be demonstrating the finish turning of a bowl. He will show you the process he uses to finish-turn a dry roughed out bowl blank, the same techniques would apply to a solid block of dry wood. Allen will cover:

- mounting methods to true up the tenon for a proper hold in the chuck
- clean cutting techniques to reduce sanding and improve surface quality
- proper sharpening to get really clean cuts
- shape, design, embellishments
- methods to get a fair clean curve inside the bowl
- sanding techniques to improve the finish
- reverse mounting methods to turn off the bottom
- finish options for food safe bowls.

Allen began turning wood in 1994 in high school. His woodshop teacher was none other than Doug Schneider. Allen spent four years in his woodshop, and Doug was always excited to show his students the latest tools and techniques and to see what they could do with them. Allen quickly developed a passion for work turned on a lathe over traditional woodworking projects.



Shortly after his exposure to woodturning, Allen started attending club meetings and was hooked. Allen continued to feed his passion by studying under Trent Bosch, David Nittmann, Cindy Drozda, and Doug Schneider. He also learned from several other club members as well as demonstrators that visited our club. Allen has demonstrated for regional clubs many times, and has the privilege of being invited to demonstrate at the AAW symposiums in Louisville, KY, and St. Paul, MN. He has also demonstrated in North Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin, Yellowstone Woodturning Symposiums and our own Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium. Allen has taught hands-on classes for over 10 years. Since joining our club in 1995, he has served as the Treasurer, the President, and more recently as the coordinator for the Rocky Mountain

Woodturning Symposium. Allen has found this to be a great way to give back to the community that has given him so much.

In recent years, Allen has focused on improving his technique to produce cleaner work with less sanding. He enjoys the process, and exploring new woods, textures, and forms. Even though he doesn't turn a large volume of pieces, he still works in batches to utilize the rhythm gained from production turning techniques.

Allen believes as makers of whatever objects we create, we have a responsibility to the resources used. He turns almost all of his work from locally harvested urban timber and his work [shows](#) us that some of the best wood in the world is what grows in your own backyard.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS (April 25TH ZOOM Meeting):

Balances: Checking = \$10,944; Savings = \$4850; EOG = \$3994;

The BOD's April meeting covered scheduled demonstrators, hands on opportunities, logo gear ordering, and identified some volunteer positions that need to be filled. The Twirling Sisters are pursuing a summer art show opportunity in Greeley that may give members a chance to turn their efforts into cash, not to mention provide some great exposure for the club. The schedule is always subject to change, but have a look at what's coming:

Rocky Mountain Woodturner 2023 Demonstrators		
Month	Demonstrator	Subject
MAY	Allen Jensen	Bowls
JUN	Pat Carroll	Beaded Trinket Box
JUL	Summer Picnic	none
AUG	Emma Cook	Use of Color - IRD
SEP	Ernie Conover	Thread Chasing - IRD
OCT	Bob Franklin	Segmented Turning
NOV	Rebecca DeGroot	Walking Turnings
DEC	Holiday Party	none

Rocky Mountain Woodturner 2024 Demonstrators		
Month	Demonstrator	Subject
JAN	Jessica Edwards	Smokers
FEB	Kailee Bosch	Brushes
MAR	Chris Hoehle	Wooden Box
APR	Keith Gotschall	Spindle Work
MAY	Matt Monaco	Bowls / Skews
JUN	Sonny Jones	Cowboy Hats

Everyone is welcome, so if you'd like to attend future BOD meetings, please reach out to [Brandon](#) for the zoom link.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN WOODTURNING SYMPOSIUM:

The price jumps June 1st!

Learn more, sign up, or get involved here!: [Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium](https://www.rmwoodturningsymposium.com)



Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium Demonstrator Spotlight

Yann Marot

From: Aups, France



Demo Topics:

Roped Bowl
Raindrop Box
Achieving a Good Cut
Pebble Box
Ronde



Fun Fact: Yann teaches the 6 month Turning Intensive at the Escoulen School in Aiguines, France. The only program of its kind.

David Ellsworth



From: Weaverville, North Carolina

Demo Topics:

Cut Rim Bowl from Half Log
Natural Edge Bowl from Half Log
Hollow Form from Whole Log



Fun Fact: David is the founding member of the American Association of Woodturners (AAW)

Pat Scott



From: Lakewood, Colorado

Demo Topics:

The Perfect Peppermill
Dinner Plates



Fun Fact: Pat was president of the Front Range Woodturners

September 15-17, 2023 • Loveland, CO

Register by June 1st for best price! • \$195 Individual / \$365 Couple

Learn more and Register: [rmwoodturningsymposium.com](https://www.rmwoodturningsymposium.com)

PEN TURNERS UPDATE:

The April demonstration was given by Marty Christensen, and covered two different turning approaches to craft knives. There were 11 of the usual suspects on hand, to hear Harry Farmer's update on the group's performance for the Honor Flight event. The Pen Turners fulfilled their third donation (123 pens) and plan to take part in their fourth (and possible fifth) flight in 2024. If you're interested in getting involved, please reach out to Harry.

Marty's demonstration was very engaging, and included sourcing the knives and kits, tips for better peeling cuts, applying autobody fairing techniques, as well as a healthy dose of on-the-fly design and workholding approaches. A few links to items discussed:

- [PersonMakeObject kits](#)
- [Yorkshire Grit](#)
- [Unique shape magnet source](#)



The May gathering will be a Show & Tell with the topic being "a pen made from something you don't typically use to make a pen out of". As always beginner turners are welcome to join us on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:15 at Woodcraft. We have lots of excellent mentors to help you out.

TWIRLING SISTERS UPDATE:



The April meeting was held at Jenni's farm where the group spent part of the time reviewing turnings for the Firestone library display case in May. The case will include a diverse set of pieces, a wooden plaque with our new RMWT logo, a symposium announcement card, and some information about the Twirling Sisters. Please stop by to take a look or watch the May Newsletter for some photos.

After a nice lunch of pizza, salad and homemade pecan-oatmeal-chocolate-chip cookies, Jenni showed the Wagner knurling tools and the Sorby spiralizer tool and illustrated the possible patterns on spin tops for kids. The group then took turns putting them into action. Everyone brought a piece of wood for an exchange and we set a goal of completing the turnings by the July meeting.

Our upcoming meetings include the following events:

- Tuesday, May 23rd-at Meryll's studio for part 2 of embellishing pieces
- Thursday, June 29th-at Jenni's, rescheduled Raleigh Lockhart demo on airbrushing
- Tuesday, July 25th-at Jenni's, Jim Bessette demo on learn to burn
- Tuesday, Aug. 29th at Jenni's, Jim Bessette on power tool embellishments and dry brushing

The group is looking for other demonstrators to round out the remainder of the 2023 year, so if you're interested, please contact [Jenni.](#) Margaret submitted the application for two RMWT booths at the Greeley Art in the Park (7/29-30 at Lincoln Park) and a response is expected in early May.



APRIL SOCIAL HOUR:

Almost a dozen souls zoomed their way into the April Social Hour. The discussion focused on embellishment and the tools/techniques used to achieve them. Turnings included: hollowforms, bowls, ridiculously thin bowls, tops, moon forms, branch forms, naked gnomes, eggs, trees, and bud vases. The attendees discussed the value of hands-on classes, pyrography, left hand turning for righty's, microcarver shaft size, spiralizers, dry brushing a 30 layer finish, roaming charges in Israel, cup burrs, and how much "vision" we each have at the onset of a project. The May topic is hollowforms.

Other Tidbits:

- Boring piece of wood? Give it some texture with a torch, sandblasting or wire wheel (or any combination thereof)
- Want an interesting "Damascus" look? Finish with layers of gold, silver, and bronze wax.
- Looking for a unique chemical reaction pattern? Copper paint and acid to the rescue.
- Need bud-vase "test tubes?" You can sometimes pick them up at CSU surplus (hopefully not used in the Level 4 lab.) Or also Hobby Lobby, Micheals, or [Amazon](#).
- In the market for an airbrush? [This](#) is the unit Raleigh recommended during the Apple demo, or grab a Harbor Freight unit and upgrade the gun later.
- What is the Cosmic Cloud technique?: [Cosmic Clouds Platter](#)
- Looking for an embellishment challenge? Channel your inner [Jacques Vesery](#)
- Quote of the Night was a tie:
 - "You're doomed from the start." J.E.
 - "Throw anything in the lathe, and see what happens." D.Q.

MEET YOUR MENTORS:

Meet **John Giem!** Lifetime member, mentor, demonstrator, author, instructor, wood-lot manager, and all around good guy!

John's involvement in woodturning began while working with his Dad back in Oklahoma. Junior and High School shop classes fed his interests, which continued through his University days, a military career, and a 30+ year industry career. John started taking woodworking classes at Sears-Trostel, when he retired in 2003. He continued on with classes from Cindy Drozda covering spindle turning, bowls and boxes. *He was hooked!*



Since then, he has taken many more woodturning classes and continues to learn through reading, self-study and experimentation. When the local Woodcraft was opening up, he was hired to outfit the store and setup classrooms. That led to teaching several classes. John joined our club in 2007, served as VP in 2008, and Secretary/Newsletter Editor in 2009, 2011, and 2012. He has also played an integral role in past symposiums. Just this last year, RMWT presented John with a Lifetime Achievement Award, Woodturner Emeritus, and designated him a Lifetime Member.

John established the Wood Bank in 2008, and was motivated by the desire to get access to good turning stock and share it with the membership. During that year, an Open Shop Tour was held at his shop, where John was convinced to start teaching woodturning. He discovered that he enjoyed it, and has continued to this day.

Acting as a substitute reporter, John found his demonstration write-up to be well received, and was encouraged to submit articles to some of the woodturning magazines and journals. Since then, John has had several articles published in American Woodturner and Woodworker's Journal magazines. John uses his

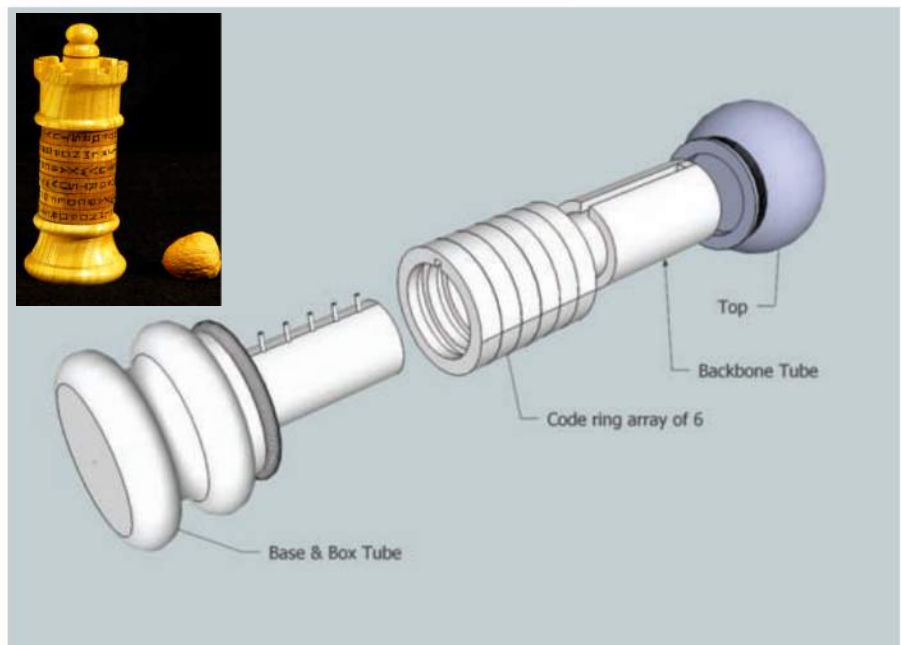


Figure A. Exploded view of cryptex parts.

engineering background to explain the “why” and hopes to inspire turners to expand their capability through increased understanding. This approach led to John becoming the Editorial Advisor for American Woodturner in 2011.

HOW TO GET THE MOST FROM YOUR VACUUM CHUCKING SYSTEM

John I. Giem

After I published my first article on vacuum chucking systems (AW, Vol 26, no 1), I learned that many turners still had questions: How well is my system actually working? What size vacuum pump do I need? Can I use an old pump? What

all the air leaking into the system through the workpiece, from the seal between the workpiece and the chuck, and from within the plumbing. The vacuum generated at the pump depends upon the amount of air being pulled out of the system. With



One of the areas that caught John’s attention was vacuum chucking. By applying his engineering experience, he developed methods needed to evaluate a vacuum system, leading to improvements based on those results. John has leveraged this experience into several published articles in American Woodturner. During the process of publishing these articles, he had to improve his

photography skills to meet the magazine’s standards. Often, progress in one area leads to progress in a related area.

Life comes with challenges, and John has had to slow down some since 2014. However, it is tough to tell, as John continues to stay busy writing woodturning articles, teaching, experimenting, and demonstrating.

John is a great mentor and very willing to help with: technical writing, photography of woodturning processes and objects, basic woodturning, offset turning, inside-out turning, bowls and hollow forms, vacuum chucking systems, chip carving embellishments, power carving embellishments, sanding, and finishing.

A sampling of John’s demo’s:

- ▶ Offset Inlay Turning by John Giem
- ▶ John Giem - Vacuum Chucking II
- ▶ John Giem - Turning Offset Tool Handles
- ▶ John Giem - Inside Out Turning



You can also see John’s talents on display during an offset inlay demonstration this Fall at the 2023 Rocky Mountain Symposium.

MONTHLY MEETING **INSTANT GALLERY**

RMWT RENEWAL

RMWT CONTACTS

RMWT MENTORS

MEMBER DISCOUNTS **(10% W/ EXCEPTIONS)**

CLUBS & MEMBER'S **WEBSITES:**

Rocky Mountain Woodturners
www.rmwt.org

AAW – American Assoc. of
Woodturners
www.woodturner.org

Front Range Woodturners
www.frontrangewoodturners.org

Pikes Peak Woodturners
ppwoodturners.org

Pueblo Wood Turners
www.puebloturners.com

Montrose Area Woodturners
www.montrosewoodturners.com

Trent Bosch
www.trentbosch.com

John Lynch
www.johnlynchwoodworking.com

Don Maul
www.bighornwoodart.com

NEVER STOP LEARNING....

The Rocky Mountain Woodturners Club is well known around the nation because our members include some of the best national and internationally known demonstrators and teachers. World class instruction, including Basic, Intermediate, Advanced and Specialty turning is available right here in our own backyard.

LOCAL INSTRUCTION

Or, maybe you're willing to travel a little further afield for classes.

REGIONAL INSTRUCTION

The David Nittmann Educational Opportunity Grant (EOG) is available to all members with at least a year of membership under their belts.

EOG GUIDELINES

EOG APPLICATION