



# Rocky Mountain Woodturners

*A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners*

**October 2023 Newsletter**

## News & Announcements:



- The October demonstration was a trip around the world. Simon Begg, an Australian woodturning artist, demonstrated the turning of a German Ring. The ring shape, an echidna, was very interesting to see come together. The process looks complicated, but it's an application of the same approach the Egyptians used to lay out the pyramids, and Borglum used to carve Mount Rushmore, cartesian

coordinates. The magic comes in applying the technique and having the skill to execute the turning, which Simon clearly possessed! There were about 35 members in attendance, with 10 or so joining via Zoom. Some great looking blanks were raffled off for the EOG.

- [Youtube video of Simon's Demo](#)
- [October Instant Gallery](#)



- RMWT members will be selling turnings in the December 7th crafts fair in Berthoud. It's an opportunity to make a little extra cash and clear off some shelves. If you are interested, email [Jenni](#) and get on the list for a kick-off meeting call on Thursday, November 2nd at 7 pm.
- Unfortunately, the November demonstration by Rebecca Degroot had to be canceled, along with her hands on class, but Margaret scrambled and found a great replacement, in Jessica Edwards. See the demo announcement later in the newsletter.

- As you may have noticed, the club is trying out a new method for registration and fee payment (hands on classes, Christmas party, etc.) If/when you use the new sign-up process, please feel free to provide feedback on your experience to the [Secretary](#), along with any recommendations for improvement.
- Some local members have expressed interest in attempting to draw the AAW Symposium to the Rocky Mountain Region. If you'd like to see this happen, educate yourself on [past host cities](#) and please reach out the AAW to voice your opinion at: [memberservices@woodturner.org](mailto:memberservices@woodturner.org)
- The King Soopers distribution to our club was nearly \$114 this quarter. That can really add up over a year, so if you've linked your King Soopers card to our club, thank you! If you would like to help out, at no additional cost to you, please see Customer Service and link your Soopers card to [Rocky Mountain WoodTurners \(QW480.\)](#)
- Board of Directors Positions Are Opening Up! The Treasurer and Vice President posts will both be vacated at the end of this year. If you'd like to contribute to the operation and direction of the club, we'd love to have you, so please reach out to a BOD member. If you're not ready for a formal post, that's ok too. We always need more hands with the demo AV operation, manning a camera during a demo, wood bank cutting, transporting the blanks, log pick up, instant gallery photography, club communications, newsletter development, and the list goes on. We can find a place for you, whatever your interests are.
- Annual Ornament Challenge: While at the symposium, I ran into Alan Stratton, of the [As Wood Turns](#) Youtube channel. He asked that I spread the word on his annual (12 years now) Ornament Challenge. The instructions are simple: create an ornament in any media (or up to 5,) and submit a photo with your information anytime during the month of November. For details, check out [this youtube video](#). There are individual prizes, sponsor discounts, and a free demo to the club with the most submissions.
- The October Social Hour topic was "Christmas gift projects." Although the attendance was a bit down, members showed off some very impressive projects including some signature Bricker bowls, Priddle/Engler inspired fern embellishment, and a very classy looking Landers piece that I assume you'll see in a future instant gallery. The next social hour is planned for November 30th.
- Wood Bank - Contact [John](#) if you'd like to arrange a visit to the lot (no gear or experience required,) or [Brandon](#) if you'd like to arrange a log pickup. The blank cutting crew is back to full strength, but could always use a hand...



- The Educational Opportunity Grant (EOG) fund is in great shape. It's never too early to start planning for the AAW Symposium in Portland, May 23-26, 2024.
- Christmas is coming! Don't believe me? Just walk into Lowes. No reason to panic yet, the Club's Christmas Party details and sign up are below. We will close down the sign up at the end of the month so we can provide the venue a hard # to plan for.
  - **When:** Thursday, December 7th, 6-8ish pm.
  - **Where:** Palomino Mexican Restaurant in Loveland-just SW from Nordy's across Crossroads Blvd.
  - **Cost:** \$30/person in advance, all drinks are paid for with cash or credit card separately. Cost includes meal, tip and tax. [Sign Up and Pay Here](#).
  - **Menu:** Fajita Bar with Grilled Marinated Steak & Chicken / Grilled Onions & Peppers / Refried Beans / Spanish Rice / Cheese / Lettuce / Pico de Gallo / Flour Tortillas. Sour cream & guacamole. Each table will have chips and salsa. Food will be served buffet style and seconds are available so no one leaves hungry!
  - **Auction:** Same as prior years, members can bring turnings to donate and auction off for the club.

- Pen Turners Update: Warren demonstrated turning a game call.



- Reminder: You can renew your 2024 membership now, and the earlier you renew, the more chances you have to win a free membership!
- Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium: **Write it down, September 27-29, 2024!**
- The winner of the unannounced pumpkin carving contest was the anonymous artist that carved this RMWT logo beauty.



## November Demonstrator - *Jessica Edwards:*

Jessica started woodturning in 2014 after spending time in her grandfather's shop in Minnesota. He has always been an avid woodworker and woodturner and she was so enamored by what he would create on the lathe. One day she asked him if she could make something with him and he, of course, said yes. Using 5 tools and 3 hours later, she made a candlestick and was hooked! She had found an exciting new passion within the world of woodturning.



So, in 2019, Jessica left her day job to pursue woodturning full time and since then has been creating and exploring boundaries of the things she can make on the lathe.

Jessica has been a club member of Front Range Woodturners since 2019, attended several of their hands-on woodturning classes, as well been a club demonstrator and teacher for Ladies of the Lathe. Her demonstrations have included

Woodturners Worldwide Online Symposium as well as Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium. She has also been active with AAW Women in Turning Virtual exchange the past few years.



Jessica will be demonstrating German Smokers, or smoking men which date back to the 1600s. In Germany, Christmas lasts for twelve days, 12/25-1/6. Each of the Twelve Days of Christmas has a special meaning with the final day celebrating the gifts of the Three Wise Men; gold, frankincense, and myrrh. On this day, many people celebrate by lighting incense and placing them in their German smokers to mark the end of the Christmas season. Generally, these smokers were carved to represent the everyday working man; carpenters, shepherds and farmers just to name a few. Instead of creating the working man, Jessica's inspiration for these smokers comes from her Norwegian

heritage, which is why she chose to create Viking soldiers. Each piece of the Viking soldier is turned on the lathe, sanded to shape, textured, burned, and carved before paint is applied. The pieces are then all put together and the accessories are added to bring the character to life.

## Twirling Sisters Update:

The Twirling Sisters October meeting was held on 10/25 at Woodcraft as a turning session on making Finish Jars that was given by Raleigh Lockhart. We had a wonderful time and had some great figured maple to use for the jar lids. We got to try out tools that most of us don't have in our "personal collection" and gained insights on tool technique and control.



The November 28th meeting will be held at Jenni Elke's shop and Jim Bessette will be showing the second part embellishing-dry brushing.

## Blast from the Past:

Continuing our club history lesson, you might recognize some names in this article about the second occurrence of our Rocky Mountain Symposium. One thing that hasn't changed is that a ton of work goes into the Symposium. Maybe two tons went into this year's symposium, as smooth as it went. We should all extend a heartfelt thank you to those that organized and volunteered.

This article appeared in the Winter of 2000 issue of American Woodturner Magazine and is reprinted here with permission from the AAW.

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN WOODTURNERS HOLD 2ND SYMPOSIUM

The Rocky Mountain Woodturners (RMWT) second annual turning symposium was another smash hit last September with local turners and several not so local turners from as far away as Michigan, Tennessee, and California.

This journey began with 1994 AAW National Symposium in Ft. Collins, CO. That event sparked the formation of the Rocky Mountain Woodturners with notables such as Dr. Lee Carter, David Nittmann, Trent Bosch, and five other dedicated woodturners. Over the next 4 years the club continued to expand and evolve. David had a dream of doing a "mini symposium" in October, but it never went beyond the discussion stage until 1999. The timing, the mix of people with the time, motivation and energy was finally all present.

The first symposium was planned for almost a year, with lots of meetings and a \$1000.00 Educational Grant from the AAW as seed money. Several club members had been to the AAW and Provo, UT, Symposiums, and with their experience and the advice in the AAW's Symposium Guide and a wonderful write up sent to us by the Central New England Woodturners, we jumped in with both feet. Our 1999 October Symposium was held at the Industrial Arts shops, labs and classrooms in two buildings at Colorado State University. We had everything the big symposiums have: six demos going simultaneously with a mix of professional and local turners, with four rotations, a trade show/tool sale area, a Beginners Room, Instant Gallery, lunches and tee shirts and even snow! Our first symposium, generated enough money for us to make a significant payment on our first club lathe.

The first symposium really drained the club's energy. Most people involved had to postpone other

things in their lives to work on the committees, and needed to get back to their families, lives, jobs and of course woodturning. I had started on one of the 1999 symposium committees but ended up dropping off due to the load of college classes, family responsibilities and a full-time job. I did volunteer to staff the Beginners Room for the entire day. It was truly a remarkable event to stand with a person who had never held a turning tool and guide them into making a top, goblet or bowl.

After months of vacillation, in April I finally committed and told the club President, Jon Fosse, that I would volunteer to be the Symposium Chairman. Curt Theobald, a self-employed cabinetmaker, wanted to do the Program. Dick Moody, one of our always busy retirees, took on the Registration and Publicity committees for a second year. I went to work recruiting the rest of the committee chairmen, and was told "no" more than once. David Gillespie, a dynamo of youthful energy and caffeine, who works a full and a part-time job, and is selling work in several local galleries, agreed to head the Staging Committee. I needed two more and was able to get Kevin Dunn, who on top of being involved in several other clubs and a family works at a retail lumber yard, to take on the Show committee, which handles the business of lunch, coffee, pop, donuts and tee shirts. He recruited his wife, Rene to help out at the symposium.

Of special interest to me was the Beginners Room, which we decided to call the Hands On Learning Center. After carefully considering who might have time for this important job, I contacted Dick Branecki, another of our club's retirees and original club members. I knew he was busy, donating time to Habitat For Humanity, selling turnings and carvings at several local galleries and

shows, and with the help of his wife Vicki, is building a new home up in the mountains. I lucked out when he said he would.

Also working with us was the club's President, Jon Fosse. When Jon is not working on club business, he is a self-employed production spindle turner and family man. Along with Jon, Nancy Quick-Brewer, our Secretary/Newsletter Editor was there as well. Another retiree with disabilities, and a terminally ill daughter, she worked on mailing lists, creating info sheets, getting copies, and running errands and delivering brochures. I structured the committee the way I run projects at work; each individual was empowered to make decisions for their respective areas, coordinating as needed with the other committee members. At our regular meetings, each explained where they were in completing their tasks.

The first hurdle was the site selection. To avoid spreading out in two buildings again, we booked the Chilson Community Recreation Center, in Loveland, CO, a wonderful facility containing a senior and recreation center located less than an hours drive up into the beautiful Estes and Rocky Mountain National Parks. We agreed on a program consisting of 5 demos with 4 rotations, two internationally known turners and the rest from the area. The entire program had to be diverse enough to attract both the experienced turners and people who were seeing woodturning for the first time. Curt had to work out a well rounded program, working out the equipment and room requirements of each demonstrator. Once this was done, the Program plan was given to Staging. Dave and his assistant Dale Ketchner, had to borrow, rent and transport the equipment needed to make the demonstrations happen.

Inviting known turners with mail-

## TURNERS MEET IN THE ROCKIES



Cindy Drozda showed how to turn an earring stand. Photo by Lorraine Burrows.

ing labels provided by the AAW was easy enough; getting the mailing list from the other two area clubs was also needed so brochures could be sent to them as well. There are turners that are not members of the AAW that we needed to notify. From the beginning one of our points of focus was on reaching out to students and teachers in the high schools and local colleges. A mailing list for schools statewide was purchased from the State Department of Education. After hours of culling through the list of over 1400 schools, a run of 472 mailing labels was printed that covered Colorado schools grades 9-12, that included public, private, parochial, alternative, and even schools for disabled children. Using the Internet several more schools in southern Wyoming were added to the mailing list. Nancy also started placing brochures in the arts buildings and student centers of the local colleges and in lumber yards, woodworking stores and a few selected restaurants, and sending symposium information to our Webmaster, Bruno Melli to be placed on our website.

The last Saturday in September finally arrived. At 7:00 AM the doors opened and we began bringing in all the equipment and setting up. A pleasant surprise, through Dr. Carter, his friend Dale Nish had arrived with a load of turning items and was setting up in the Hands On Learning Center. Dale brought some new spindle tools to show us. The assortment of lathes in the Hands On Learning Center was impressive. Anyone could take a Bonnie Klein, Record, Vicmarc, Woodfast, Jet, and a Delta for a spin. By the time we thought of contacting Oneway for some casters, they couldn't get them to us in time to drag in a 950 pound 2436. The Instant Gallery was set up; the demonstrators had been getting ready for the first rotation. By 9:00 the rooms were milling with anxious attendees. The 2000 symposium was kicked off with opening ceremonies and introductions of all the demonstrators, complete with slides of their work. Once the first rotation started a few of us got to sit down with a big sigh and some coffee; it was finally going! But, soon we were back up and checking atten-

dance of the different demonstrations, which is great information for planning next year's program.

Mike Mahoney from Utah and Dick Sing from Illinois worked hard doing different demonstrations for each of their three rotations. Mike did production bowls, urns with threaded lids and hollow forms, while Dick did platters, ornaments and of course his signature pens. Both were able to demonstrate awe inspiring work with such ease and humor. Colorado area demonstrators included Joe Aquila doing lace bobbins and Steve DeJong with two rotations turning goblets and micro and miniature turnings. Both are members of the Pike's Peak Woodturners club located in Colorado Springs. From the Front Range Woodturners club in Denver, Keith Gotschall turned natural edge bowls and Pete Holtus, with two rotations, made birdhouses and boxes.

And from our club, David Nittmann did an informative presentation on sharpening. Dr. Lee Carter showed goblets with a twist and wooden cases for pocket measuring tapes. Cindy Drozda made a Rowley styled earring stand, while David Gillespie showed a square edged bowl. Doug Schneiter made wooden pebbles, Doc Thode demonstrated his thread chasing techniques. Don Deatherage went through an assortment of homemade jigs, fixtures and tools. And lastly, the symposium Program Chairman, Curt Theobald demonstrated segmented turning jigs and fixtures. We were surprised that a process that requires great patience, time, attention to detail and what can be tedious repetition was the demonstration with the highest attendance. In the Hand On Learning Center, Dick Branecki demonstrated ornaments, John Schefick made candle sticks and tops, Allen Jensen made bowls and hollow vessels. And finally Roger Hughs

## MORE REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM REPORTS

turned weed pots.

As the day progressed several things stood out. First, the Hands On Learning Center had anywhere from 4 to 15 people in it all day long. The Instant Gallery, which was in the lobby and open to the public, attracted a steady stream of people not attending the symposium. This is an amazingly social event. There were 15 minute breaks and a 1 hour lunch between the rotations and everyone was busy talking. The day went by far too quickly; many asked if we had contemplated a two-day event. We ended with a closing ceremony,

raffling off donated items from the AAW, Craft Supply, The Wood Emporium, BMC West, Starbond, the demonstrators and an attendee.

Of the notable attendees, the AAW was well represented by Dick Burrows and his wife Loraine who drove from Tennessee and Norm Hinman from California. It was great to discuss our symposium with them. Dick Sing's wife Cindy's ever-present smile and outgoing personality made everyone feel at ease and welcome.

Some interesting statistics about attendance: not counting demonstra-

tors, 143 people were paying attendees. Of those 143 attending, 62 are locals attending their first symposium and are not members of the local chapters or the AAW. Four high school students spent much of the day in the Learning Center.

We are looking forward to our 3rd annual symposium in 2001. Mark your calendars for the last Saturday in September. Watch our website for information. We are posting photos of the 2000 event: [www.verinet.com/~drmelli/rmwt.html](http://www.verinet.com/~drmelli/rmwt.html).

— Wayne Van Every, Eaton, CO

## Luxembourg's First International Woodturning Seminar

It was more than a challenge to organize a woodturning seminar and an exhibition in Luxembourg as there is no woodturning association here, no clubs, and no professionals. Woodturning is nearly unknown to the public, except for the presentation of the US collection "Out of the Woods" in 1995.

How many unknown woodturners might be working in their shops? Would the public be interested? These questions could not stop four amateur-woodturners, who convinced the National Craft Council to set up the country's first woodturning seminar by submitting the very best publications on the subject as well as selling our art with the most beautiful pictures. Finding the demonstrators was no problem, as there were: Melvyn Firmager and Albert Harrison (GB); Alain Mailland (F); and Paul Peeters (B)

The seminar took place in a beautifully restored medieval castle in a village east of Luxembourg-City. The first two days saw 85 delegates attending, coming from Luxembourg, Belgium, the Netherlands, France and even Great-Britain. An unexpected



French turner Alain Mailland demonstrates.

positive surprise was the fact that almost 50% came from Luxembourg. The third day open to the general public knew a real big success. The first visitors entered the site before opening time and continued to flow in all day long. Permanent demonstrations in-and-outside the castle, a bright shining sun, flying ribbons of shavings delighted hundreds of spectators. Not to

forget the public's enthusiasm for the splendid exhibition (with good sales) of the demonstrators' work as well as for a choice of turnings created by a few Luxembourg amateurs. The success of the event could be measured by the media coverage: A TV report, several radio interviews, articles in two national magazines and newspapers.

— Edgar Back, Luxembourg