



Rocky Mountain Woodturners

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

Winter (November & December) 2023 Newsletter

News & Announcements:

- The November demonstration by Jessica Andrews was on turning German Smokers. The club was very thankful that she was able to step in on short notice, and put on such a great demo. Each smoker consists of 17 individual pieces and is a great opportunity to employ batch processing. The smokers also present a great opportunity to practice your embellishment techniques, which Jessica employed for her Viking Smokers. This was a well attended meeting, with over 50 members in person and on zoom, and a great cross section of turnings in the [Instant Gallery](#). [Youtube video of Jessica's Demo](#)
- If you're interested in more information on German Smokers, Colwin Way has some great information [here](#) and in his [video](#).
- Don't miss the January meeting! In addition to having a national demonstrator, Linda Ferber, there will be two Officer positions up for election. Take the opportunity to make your vote count, renew your 2024 membership, and pick up some winter project stock. The rest of Bob Ball's generous wood donation will be available in the wood raffle at \$5 per ticket. Don't miss it!
- John Giem, Jenni Elke, and Brandon Luster inventoried the generous wood donation by Robert "Bob" Ball. Several very nice pieces were auctioned off at the Christmas Party and the **rest of the donated wood will be in the general meeting wood raffle**



on January 4th. These pieces are dry and are much nicer than the normal raffle wood, so the raffle ticket price will be \$5/ticket. As always, the proceeds from the donation go directly to the EOG fund.

- Help draw the AAW Symposium to the Rocky Mountain Region! A list of [past host cities](#) makes it clear that Rocky Mountain Region is due, so please reach out the AAW and let them know: memberservices@woodturner.org



- John Giem will be presenting vacuum chucking to the Twirling Sisters in January. He has also graciously offered to present the same topic to anyone else that is interested. It would likely be January 23rd or 30th, if there is enough interest. Please contact John (jgiem@comcast.net) if you're interested.

- The November Social Hour topic was "Christmas gift projects." Members showed off boxes, carved ornaments, a horsetooth bowl, urchin ornaments, and wine stoppers. Discussions covered the upcoming Berthoud Craft Show,

how to price work, Dave Landers new shop and sharpening gear, using and sourcing antler, and the availability (or lack thereof) of good mineral spirits in Colorado. The next social hour is planned for December 28th, and the topic will be "Trying Something New for the New Year."

- Wood Bank - Contact John (jgiem@comcast.net) if you'd like to arrange a visit to the lot (no gear or experience required.) The blank cutting crew is looking for someone with a long bar chainsaw to help tackle a few very interesting logs/crotches in the yard. The picture to the right is of ArborCo recently taking down a couple of dead pines on John's property.



- The Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium is scheduled for **September 27-29, 2024.** [Demonstrators](#) are already being lined up.

The image shows the logo for the Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium, which features a mountain range and trees. To the right of the logo is a list of demonstrators: Jean François Escoulen, Dale Larson, Rudy Lopez, Jacques Vesery, and Kimberly Winkle. Below the list is the text "+ REGIONAL DEMONSTRATORS". To the right of the list are several woodturning projects, including a blue bowl, a wooden bowl, a wooden spoon, a wooden bowl with a hole, and a green bowl. To the right of the projects is the text "SEPTEMBER 27 - 29 2024 LOVELAND COLORADO".

ROCKY MOUNTAIN WOODTURNING SYMPOSIUM

Jean François Escoulen
Dale Larson
Rudy Lopez
Jacques Vesery
Kimberly Winkle

+ REGIONAL DEMONSTRATORS

SEPTEMBER 27 - 29 2024 LOVELAND COLORADO

January Demonstrator -

Linda Ferber - Wobbler Top Embellishments:

In her own words: *I have been turning for more than 20 years and enjoy the creative possibilities and personal challenges that woodturning provides. The opportunity to try woodturning presented itself back when my dad auctioned his shop equipment and I purchased his lathe, thinking that with this one piece of equipment I could create with wood. With no previous experience with a lathe, I took a bowl turning class and found the local chapter of the AAW. Looking back, that one impulse purchase at an auction has made a big impact on my life.*



My early memories of working on craft projects mostly revolved around spending time with family. I enjoy making items that capture a moment or emotion. The first part of the process is the material and shape, selecting the wood, and turning the shape. The final step is applying color to bowls and pin jewelry. Inspiration is drawn from



my surroundings and memories, making a connection to these experiences and attempting to interpret them through the shape and color of a piece.

Several of my project articles have been published in American Woodturner and Woodturning FUNdamentals. Two most recent include a 2-part "Inlaid Whimsical Hand Mirror" (Aug 2021) and "More Fun with Button Inlay: Jewelry, Magnets, & More" (Nov 2021). I have facilitated three Women in Turning Virtual



Exchanges. Two articles describing the events – "Ripples Become a Tsunami" (2021) and "Breaking Boundaries and Removing Limitations" (Apr 2021), were cowritten with Marie Anderson.

I am a member of the Minnesota Woodturners Association and the AAW's Women in Turning (WIT) and Youth Committee.

Alex Bradley's Wood Sale:

Alex Bradley's wood sale on Saturday, November 18th was well attended by both clubs. For those of you that missed the notice, Alex moved 9,000 lbs of her Dad's wood stash from Maryland to Colorado in October ([Phil F. Brown](#)). Phil grew up in Denver (54th and Osceola) before moving to Maryland and becoming a professional woodturner. The



wood had been stored indoors by Phil for 20+ years before getting loaded on a truck and driven to CSWoods vacuum kiln for a heat treat. Alex is selling the wood to help fund moving and storing his rough turned pieces that she is planning on turning into her old age.



Over 26 club members came to check out what was on offer. With 140 bowl blanks/pieces of wood sold, Alex's goal to move out of the smaller storage unit was achieved. There are currently 234 bowl blanks/pieces of wood still available with many of them being burls, walnut and cherry. Alex is still working on pricing out the larger burls and boards and will make those available as soon as they are



ready (the Koa has been unearthed and confirmed but how do you price Koa?). Once we have warmer temperatures in the forecast another "open house" sale date will be announced. In the meantime, please contact Alex directly to set up a private shopping time (best between 9-2:30pm during the week or before 4pm on the weekend). Alex's contact information - fineturnedwood@gmail.com, 303-709-9694



Photos of the pieces available, as well as a pricing list can be found [here](#). Photos of the adventure of getting the wood from Maryland are detailed in Alex's Instagram feed - [@fineturnedwood](#)

Annual Christmas Party:

The annual Christmas Party was a welcome departure from year's past. Around 40 folks met at the Palomino Mexican Restaurant for a fun evening of food, great conversation, lively auction action, and even an accordion serenade. Many people left with some amazing turned pieces, or a special blank, all donated by members and auctioned off for the EOG. The auction raised nearly \$1,500 for the EOG. Speaking of EOG...

EOG Adventure:

Local member, Dave Landers, recently had the opportunity to attend the [North Carolina Woodturning Symposium](#) courtesy of an EOG grant. According to Dave:

I was planning a family visit and noticed that the symposium was not too far away. So I applied for a grant and was able to take time away from family to attend. I learned tips about using a router on the lathe, got more ideas about sharpening, was inspired about embellishment techniques, and saw a cowboy hat being made. I also had the opportunity to meet a few people face-to-face who I had previously only known from online forums. I also got some insight into how North Carolina organizes their symposium - a few new ideas, but mostly just validation that we put on a pretty good symposium here.

I'd like to encourage you to try to do something similar. As you travel, check for club meetings in the area (just google something like woodturning and the city, or check the [AAW site - Resources: Find a...](#)). You might get lucky and find a club that is meeting during your stay. If you're really lucky, you might find a symposium to check out. Bringing back new ideas can benefit both you and our club.

The David Nittmann Educational Grant fund is available to any club member and can provide help with tuition for classes, registration for symposiums, etc. Information and application forms are available on the [club website](#). Check it out!

Berthoud Craft Show:

The Twirling Sisters took the lead on getting 2 booths at the Dec. 2nd, Berthoud Recreation Center Craft Show. The facility was very well organized, and 9 members displayed their turnings for sale, generating \$1,800 in holiday sales. Everyone enjoyed interacting with the customers and we believe the club will see a few new faces in the future as a result. There is another show at this location in April and we would welcome any members who are interested in exploring a craft sale event. This Christmas sales event is already waitlisted for next year, but groups that have previously participated will get priority.



The club is looking to form a sub-committee that will coordinate our club's involvement in multiple craft shows during the 2024 calendar year. More details to come..

The Twirling Sisters:

The November meeting was a continuation of the embellishment demo by Jim Bessette. For December, the Twirling Sisters held a Holiday gathering at Merrylls home. The Sisters enjoyed a lovely potluck dinner with lasagna, salad, breads and appetizers as well as some great desserts. Jim Bessette joined since he has demonstrated multiple months on embellishing and dry brushing. Cindy Drozda was a delightful guest and shared her experiences about how to progress in our turning journeys. The evening was topped off by a white elephant exchange that had everyone laughing and grabbing for gifts of wood.



The next meeting will be in late January at John Giem's shop in Fort Collins and focus on vacuum chucking. If you are interested in joining in on the Twirling Sister gatherings, please contact Jenni Elke or Margaret Stiles during the January club meeting.



Possible topics for the coming year include:

- How to take good photos of your turning with your cell phone
- Bowl Coring
- Power Carving
- Form & Design with Jim Bessette and Merrylls + one other panelist TBD
- Turning Jewelry
- Metallic finishing
- 2 pc Hollow Forms
- Butterfly inlays to fix cracks



Never Stop Learning:

We all know the joy of opening the mailbox on the day that our *American Woodturner* magazine arrives. Did you know, AAW puts out another magazine quarterly? Although only available digitally, *Woodturning FUNDamentals* is full of great projects and articles, especially geared toward the beginner.

The following article, by local member John Giem, appeared in the January 2015 issue of *Woodturning FUNDamentals* and is reprinted here with permission from the AAW.

HOW DO YOU LEARN?

How do you learn?

Lee Carter helped establish the Rocky Mountain Woodturners in northern Colorado. He told us that whenever he watches a demonstration, he tries to learn at least one new thing. Here are some tips to help you learn one new thing (or more) from demonstrations, workshops, and reading material.

Ask *why*?

When a statement is made or technique shown, ask *why*? When you know the *why* of a technique, you will be able to successfully internalize and utilize the information in the future, especially if a situation is different from your own experience.

Trust but verify

When you read an article, you can be fairly confident that the author is making statements that are true; however, just because something is published, it does not necessarily mean that it is correct or that it applies to your situation. Verify that the information applies to your goal. How much verification you require will depend on your personal comfort level for safety, materials on hand, time constraints, your equipment, and your level of skill. Verification can take many forms: personal experience, consulting other experts, reading and researching additional articles, and even going to the shop and trying it out. The archives of *American Woodturner* are always available for research and the various online forums are open for consultation.

Transfer techniques

Take workshops and classes to learn new ideas and techniques that can be applied to other projects. When I took a carving class from Dixie Biggs, we used oil for finishing our carvings. She used a small disposable brush to dab the oil into the details of the carving until the oil was absorbed, which avoided applying too much. This helped solve a problem I had with my woodturnings: When finishing turnings that had fine details, oil would puddle in tight areas. Using Dixie's method solved that problem.

What did the demonstrator say?

Sometimes a statement is made that we do not understand or that does not sound right. Ask the demonstrator (or author) to explain in more detail.

When there are time (or space) constraints, sometimes clarity is sacrificed or perhaps your prior knowledge or personal perspective are not considered. Demonstrators appreciate questions and often your questions will help others better understand the information being conveyed.

The Internet provides resources for exchanging ideas and clarifying concepts. The AAW forum at aawforum.org/vbforum/ is a good place to start. There, you can ask questions and get feedback from fellow woodturners. Verify, though!

Take notes

It has been said that the faintest of pens is stronger than the best of memories. Take notes. Don't like to write? Use your smart phone to photograph equipment setups, techniques, and demonstration pieces. Underline passages in books and magazines (or bookmark them in your digital reading device), make sketches, and acquire literature at trade shows to aid you in remembering important details.

Summary

When you learn something, you will be able to boldly create exciting new woodturnings with your newfound insights and knowledge! You don't have to look far to find some rich experience and resources – so explore!

~ John Giem
Fort Collins, Colorado

John Giem is a longtime woodworker and engineer and is active in the Rocky Mountain Woodturners.

WHERE TO TURN FOR WOODTURNING

Selected readings from *American Woodturner*, journal of the American Association of Woodturners

Getting Started in Woodturning



1. Safety for Woodturners
2. Lathes and Turning Tools
3. Learning at the Lathe
4. Practical Woodturning Projects

Elements of Woodturning

1. Turning Holiday Ornaments
2. Making and Using Turning Tools
3. Turning Bowls



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