



GOING 'ROUND

Front Range Woodturners Newsletter

Vol. 23, No. 1 January 2023

Editor: Brenda Blaesing

JANUARY DEMONSTRATOR –Don Prorak Tuesday, January 3rd–In Person and via Zoom

Ed Sonny Jones - edsonnyjones333@gmail.com

What better way to kick off our first FRW meeting in the new year than with a cocktail! Alright, that is not going to happen, but we can start the new year with a demonstration on how to turn a cocktail smoker! Our demonstrator for the January meeting is our own Don Prorak who will show us how to make one. Drinks will have to be made at home.

Don joined our club in 2014 and has been an active member. He has chaired the Youth Mentoring program for the past five years. He was Vice President for two years. This past year he took on Group Buy and has agreed to return to his role as VP for next year. The excellent job he did as vice president, guiding those early Zoom meetings during Covid, deservedly earned him the Perkins Award in 2021.

Don bought his first house in 1980 and managed many of the needed projects with a variety of cheap hand tools kept in his small garage workshop. He added a Shopsmith to his arsenal and tried to learn to turn using the Shopsmith manual. In 2008, Don built his barn with a bigger work space. He liked turning and attended a class taught by Bruce Perry. After many conversations, Bruce welcomed Don into his shop and mentored him. Don joined the FRW and AAW and bought a Jet 12/36 and has since moved up to a Laguna 18/36. He also improved his sharpening technique over the Shopsmith disk sander once used. He confessed that in the beginning he worried he would ruin that nice factory edge on the gouge by sharpening!

WHERE TO FIND US:

Website: www.frontrangewoodturners.org

Facebook: <https://tinyurl.com/yacakdwa>

Ladies of the Lathe: <https://tinyurl.com/yap8m6x4>

YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/yxem4vw9>

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CLUB INFORMATION

Front Range Woodturners is the Denver-area chapter of the AAW (American Association of Woodturners), serving woodturners throughout Colorado's Front Range. We help woodturners gain experience by providing monthly demonstrations with professional turners, mentoring, a ladies group (Ladies of the Lathe) and youth mentoring.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Everyone is welcome to check out one of our monthly meetings. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at Rockler Woodworking, 2553 S Colorado Blvd. #108 in Denver. Meetings start at 6:15pm.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Individual - \$45, Couple - \$50, Student - \$22.50.

FRW members consist of the following:

Co-Club Members	24	Lifetime Members	14
Family Members	36	Roster	47
Individual Members	132	Student Members	1
Total Membership	254		

CLUB OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

President: Robyn Herman

Vice President/Program Director: Don Prorak

Secretary: Patrick Crumpton

Treasurer: Larry Abrams

President Emeritus: Ed Sonny Jones

Club Historian: Ed Sonny Jones

Coffee Chair: Gary Starritt

Communications Chair: Pat Scott

Group Buy Coordinator: Jay Miller

Internet Chair: Pat Scott

Ladies of the Lathe Chair: Debra Higley-Feldman

Librarian: Brian Tooker

Membership Chair: Scott Schlapkohl

Mentoring Program Chair: Marty Christensen

Newsletter Editor: Brenda Blaesing

PHEOG Grant Chair: Pat Scott

Photographer: Jim Record

Publicity Chair: Robyn Herman

Shop Tour Chair: Keith Motzner

Videographer: Marty Christensen & Larry Abrams

Wood Raffle: Lavonne Kaiser

Youth Chair: Don Prorak

Don, semi-retired now, earned his living as a professional musician. His career of performing and teaching music is a natural segue into his desire now to perform woodturning demonstrations and teach newer turners the craft. Don explained that he is indebted to many turners for sharing their knowledge. Mentoring others is his way of giving back to those who taught him. One thing he is adamant about is that all turners should JOIN A CLUB! Don continues taking classes, and attends every symposium he can.

Don still enjoys the simplicity of roughing out green bowls. But as his skill set improved, so has the complexity of his art. Today Don likes to make winged pieces and multi-axis items that are inspired by Barbara Dill, Cindy Drozda, Rudy Lopez, and others. He recently made several multi-axis tap handles for some local brewing enthusiasts. He has made many off-center bowls (sometimes intentionally!). Some of his bowls and lidded boxes feature double tri-corner with a captive ring. Don will soon attempt a handle for a ring box that is double tri-corner with a captive ring from a 1" cube of wood. Inspired by his recent workshop with Trent Bosch & Laurent Niclot, Don is experimenting with pyrography, power carving, and other surface enhancements in his work. This demo is in return for the PHEOG grant he received in 2022 to attend that workshop.

Don has also agreed to teach our second HOW (Hands On Woodturning) class on January 10th from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Anyone interested in attending the HOW to make a cocktail smoker should email Sonny at edsonnyjones333@gmail.com.



MENTORS

Marty Christensen -
mecturning@gmail.com



Some FRW members have volunteered to be one-on-one mentors to help other members. No matter what skill level you are, a few hours of personalized instruction may be all you need to master a new tool or technique. Check out who is available in your area. If you're interested in being a mentor, contact Marty.

LOCATION OF MENTOR	NAME/ CONTACT INFO	AREA OF EXPERTISE
Arvada	Dennis Fanning dcfanning@aol.com	General
Boulder	Dave Hawley Dbh001@gmail.com	Beginner/ General
Brighton	Don Prorak donprorak@comcast.net	Beginner/ Youth
Centennial	Keith Motzner knotzner@me.com	Firewood into Art/ Wood Prep
Centennial	Les Stern sternsclass@hotmail.com	General
Central Park	Ed Sonny Jones edsonnyjones333@gmail.com	General/ Segmenting
Denver SW	Henry Williams williamshenrya@gmail.com	Spindles/ Bowls
Denver SW	Phil Houck houckpc@comcast.net	General/ Spindles
Denver- Rockler store	Larry Abrams laabrams.51@me.com	General
Hudson	Marty Christensen mecturning@gmail.com	General
Lakewood	Debra Higley debrakhf@gmail.com	General
Littleton	Jay Miller jaymiller9637@comcast.net	General
Louisville	Roger Holmes roger_holmes@comcast.net	Beginner
Thornton	Bob Franklin Btheb66@gmail.com	General/ Stabilizing

JANUARY MENTORING CLASS

Marty Christensen - mecturning@gmail.com

The first mentoring class of 2023 will be held on Monday, January 9th from 5:00 to 7:00pm at Rockler. The topic will be Beads and Coves.

QUARTERLY GROUP BUYS

FRW places group buys once a quarter-in January, April, July and October-to obtain discounted pricing from the below manufacturers. Our next group buy will be in January. Jay Miller is the group buy coordinator and Ted Mellin is his assistant. See the FRW website for more info, price lists and order forms.



Industrial Abrasives - send orders to Jay Miller

Industrial Abrasives is our principal vendor for sanding supplies. Prices for hook & loop mandrels and discs remain the lowest in the marketplace and their backing is a heavier weight than the competition.

Starbond - send orders to Jay Miller

Starbond is our CA glue supplier. Our minimum order is \$100, but we receive an additional discount at \$200, making shipping and handling essentially free.

Craft Supplies - send orders to Ted Mellin

Craft Supplies sells a very wide range of products. Our minimum group purchase is \$1000. Members may not place individual orders to get a discount.

Spence Industrial Supply - send orders to Ted Mellin

We will be purchasing band saw blades from Spence once a year, in April, unless a member can meet the minimum order in another quarter. All blades are carbon steel flexback in 1/4" (4 tpi), 3/8"(3 tpi), or 1/2" (4 tpi) width, hook tooth, and .025"thick. Our minimum buy is 20 blades for each width in any length.

Send orders and checks to:

Jay Miller	Ted Mellin
9637 W. Vandeventor Dr	9043 W Coco Dr
Littleton, CO 80128	Littleton, CO 80128
303-945-4306	

Individual Catalog Orders

Two additional companies, Klingspor and Hartville Tool, offer discounts to members who wish to place individual catalog orders. See the website for more information.

FRONT RANGE WOODTURNERS HALL OF FAME

Ed Sonny Jones - edsonnyjones333@gmail.com

Front Range Woodturners of Denver, Colorado inducted three new members into their Hall of Fame at their annual holiday party on December 9th, 2022.

Front Range Woodturners recognizes the significant value of each member and has decided to honor every active member who has diligently paid their membership dues for a period of twenty years or more. For this, members are rewarded with a small placard that includes their name and the year they joined.

Since we are woodturners, the small placards are made from wood and presented on a live-edge wooden slab. And since we are the Front Range Woodturners, the placards are shaped with the outline of the Rocky Mountains. The Hall of Fame board is proudly displayed in the meeting room at Rockler Woodworking and Hardware in Denver.



With the help of many “old timers,” Ed Sonny Jones, club historian, was able to research names of those eligible and was able to locate and give tribute to the 18 founding fathers responsible for initiating the club. Thus far, 26 members who have been active for 20 years or longer have been inducted. The club also paid tribute in memoriam to Bruce Perry, a member who recently passed, and will honor all active members who pass going forward. Though this board is almost full, the club has a book-matched slab to hold many more inductees going forward.

The three new “old” members inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2022 are:

- Grove Brown
- Robin Luther
- Ric Romano



Seven Hall of Fame members attended the holiday party. From left to right: Lavonne Kaiser, Les Stern, Steve Claycomb, Chuck Kubin, Dennis Fanning, Bear Limvere, Alisa Limvere.

Ed “Sonny” Jones, of Denver, Colorado, was the president of the Front Range Woodturners in 2020 and 2021. He is now the Presidential Advisor and Club Historian. Sonny has been turning for twenty years and has been a member of three turning clubs as well as the AAW. For more information on the FRW or the Hall of Fame, contact Sonny at edsonnyjones333@gmail.com.

AAW MEMBERSHIP

Front Range Woodturners is a chapter of the American Association of Woodturners. Club members may become individual members of AAW, if desired. Benefits include resources, weekly emails on various woodturning topics, and the quarterly American Woodturning magazine.

See AAW’s website at www.woodturner.org for more information.

YEAR-END AWARDS

Robyn Herman - rrherm@gmail.com

The Lifetime Member Award is an award given to people who have supported the club for many years. This award is not given out every year, and some years we have given multiple awards. In 2009, the Lifetime Member Award was given to three people. In both 2013 and 2014, there were two recipients. This year again, we have chosen two Lifetime Member recipients, Jim Proud and Larry Abrams.

JIM PROUD

Jim joined the club in 2011 and has been an active member ever since. He was elected to the board as our newsletter chair in 2015. Not only did he write our newsletter every month, he also sent out all our communications for six years. Then we realized that we needed two people to do all that work and he continued on as our communications chair for two more years, before stepping down this year. Jim always has a smile for everyone, and it was my pleasure to award the Lifetime Member Award to him.



LARRY ABRAMS

Larry joined the club in 2014 and became an officer on the board the next year. He has been our treasurer ever since. Larry has been instrumental in helping at least the last three presidents learn what needed to be done to lead the club and how to do it. Speaking for myself, I couldn't have done it without his help, guidance and patience. I can't tell you how many dumb questions I have asked, and he always patiently answers. Larry has also been instrumental in the upgrade of the club video system to allow us to have hybrid meetings. He spent countless hours down in Rockler's basement, setting up cameras, monitors, computers, and rewiring everything so we could have professional-looking videos. Then he



helped build a cabinet to put everything in so the setup and takedown wouldn't take so long. He gets to every meeting at 3:30 and is the last person to leave. I was very honored to present Larry with the Lifetime Member Award.

PERKINS AWARD - SONNY JONES

The Perkins Award is given to one member who has been of above average support for the club and president in the past year. It was my honor this year at the holiday party to present the Perkins Award to Sonny Jones. Sonny is the perfect recipient, having done so much for the club this year:

- At the very beginning of the year, I had a medical issue, and was not able to lead the first board meeting of the year. Sonny stepped up and led it for me.
- Sonny is our historian, and is helping to document the history of our club.
- Sonny created our Founding Fathers board, and did all the research to determine who should be included.
- Sonny also created our Hall of Fame board and researched who was eligible for membership this year.
- It was Sonny's idea to start a Hands On Woodturning (HOW) class and he taught the very first one on cowboy hats. He will also set up future HOW classes.
- Sonny also has instructed several Ladies of the Lathe classes, both at Rockler's and at his home shop.

LADIES OF THE LATHE Tuesday, January 17th

Debra Higley-Feldman -
debrakhf@gmail.com



There was no LOTL class in December. The next class will be on Tuesday, January 17th (new date!) from 10:00 to 4:00 at Rockler. Dave Hawley will be teaching us how to turn magic wands, including info on tool sharpening, embellishments and finishes.

Raleigh Lockhart will be teaching Pears, Apples, and Embellishments on Wednesday, February 8th from 10:00 to 4:00 at Rockler. Classes are open to FRW members and beginning to advanced turners.

PHOTO GALLERY

Here are some projects that members have been working on this month.



Gordon Dalby made gifts for his grandson brothers. Wood was taken from one bowl and placed in the other bowl so they always realize they are connected. With inspiration from John Beaver, the bowls are 9-1/2" x 6-1/2", of zebra and wenge woods.



Debra Higley-Feldman made this 10x5" sycamore salad bowl from a highly warped wet-turned blank. The bowl was multi-axis rotated and turned to less warped; the brown paper is the original outline. She rather likes the warped rim. The finish is walnut oil. Thanks to Pat Scott for the blank.



The 5x2" camphor hollow form has an (India ink/lacquer) Schacht maple finial. The camphor finish is Danish wood oil and carnauba.



The 5x3" elm hollow form was turned and carved as part of Trent Bosch's great November class in his shop.

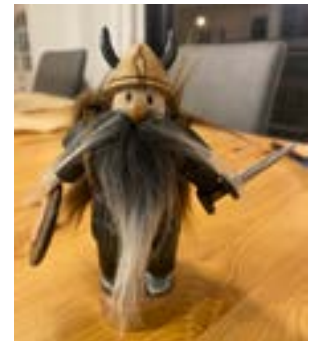
The finish is acrylic, mica, and lacquer.

Here are two doggie urns for Bernese Mountain Dogs made by **Larry Hughes**. Each urn contains 396 segments of sapele, maple and burned poplar. The upper and lower parts of the urns have been ebonized, then sanded to different degrees and finished with many layers of polyurethane.



Beginning turner **Viki Lawrence** just turned her first bowl. She had lots of guidance from her friend Mike Paulson from Fort Collins.

Jessica Edwards took some time off from gnomes and trees to make a Viking-themed German incense smoker for her husband's birthday. It's mostly made from maple and all parts were turned on the lathe and then textured, burned and colored. Her 7-year-old daughter helped with the coloring and beard, too!



Ron Kaemingk made all these peppermills and thanks Pat Scott for a great demo!

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Brenda Blaesing - b.frezeman@yahoo.com

Articles and photos for the monthly newsletter are always welcome. Please email your submissions by the 26th of the month for inclusion in the next issue.

Don Prorak had a craft show booth at the Adams County Fairgrounds and also made these multi-axis twisted tap handles for home brewer gifts.



Kim Komitor made this 6x4" lidded hollow form of box elder burl, walnut, ebony, turquoise bead and lots of CA glue! He had roughed it out around five years

ago, then started to work on it recently. But when he saw all the potential problems, it sat for another three or four months before a lot of CA glue and giving it a try.

Henry Williams

made these gnomes based on Jessica Edwards' demonstration. They're

appropriately 6" tall, of walnut, maple, and

bubinga. He also made a couple more owls based on Cindy Drozda's IRD, approximately 8" tall using maple and mother of pearl.



Santa's workshop (at **Craig Choun's**) has been busy turning bowls, bottle stoppers and ornaments. The woods included ash, maple, elm and cherry. Finishes included General Finishes Wood Bowl Finish,

Mahoney's Walnut Oil and Wax, spray lacquer and Myland's Friction Polish.

After **Scott DeWeese** and his wife returned from a recent trip to Ireland and Scotland, he decided to make some 12" maple bowls and platters with Celtic designs. These are maple wide-rimmed bowls and platters with carving, pyrography, India ink and/or paint. They are finished with either walnut oil, Waterlox or spray satin lacquer.

