



# GOING 'ROUND

Front Range Woodturners Newsletter

Vol. 22, No. 5 May 2022

Editor: Brenda Blaesing

## MAY DEMONSTRATOR – Curt Theobald Tuesday, May 3rd– Live /Zoom Hybrid

Ed Sonny Jones - [edsonnyjones333@gmail.com](mailto:edsonnyjones333@gmail.com)

This piece, *Lightning on the Horizon*, is just one of many inspired pieces by our May demonstrator Curt Theobald. On his website, Curt explains that he lives in an environment that is open, wild, brutal, calming, violent and yet strangely beautiful. During inclement weather, he can witness the fury and beauty in the shapes and colors created by lightning off in the distance, inspiring his art.



Curt's artist statement further explains: "My current body of work utilizes the passion for assembly I learned at an early age. The technical challenges I create for myself in working from vision to object provide great satisfaction. My goal is to speak to the viewer of my work through the intricacies of the wood grain. The emotion the wood can convey through the use of the grain of the material as it works in harmony with the shape of the forms is compelling".

Curt's father was a general contractor and a wheat farmer who relied on his abilities to repair anything broken. Curt grew up watching his father build, fix and create whatever was needed. This showed him what was possible with creativity and determination. He discovered early in childhood that he loved to assemble things. When, at 8 or 9, he was no longer satisfied making airplanes out of toothpicks, his father relinquished the use of his electric jigsaw. After a few minutes of instruction and a safety comment (Don't cut yourself!) Curt was cutting various patterns in scrap wood. He was hooked, wondering what else could be created from wood.

The skills Curt learned early helped him become a concrete form builder and cement finisher. For several years he made forms and poured hundreds of thousands of yards of concrete. From there, his desire for less concrete and more creative woodwork found him working in a

## WHERE TO FIND US:

Website: [www.frontrangewoodturners.org](http://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	20	Lifetime Members	14
Family Members	32	Roster	40
Individual Members	110	Student Members	1
<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>217 with 33 new members YTD</b>		

## CLUB OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

President: Robyn Herman

Vice President/Program Director: Jay Miller

Secretary: Patrick Crumpton

Treasurer: Larry Abrams

President Emeritus: Ed Sonny Jones

Club Historian: Joe Levy

Coffee Chair: Gary Starritt

Communications Chair: Jim Proud

Group Buy Coordinator: Don Prorak

Internet Chair: Open

Ladies of the Lathe Chair: Debra Higley-Feldman

Librarian: Bob Britt

Membership Chair: Mike Mullen

Mentoring Program Chair: Marty Christensen

Newsletter Editor: Brenda Blaesing

PHEOG Grant Chair: Ken Rollins

Photographer: Jim Record

Publicity Chair: Jay Miller

Shop Tour Chair: Al Murphy

Videographer: Richard Kuivila

Wood Raffle: Lavonne Kaiser

Youth Chair: Don Prorak

production cabinet shop where he soon became shop foreman. While there, he noticed an old Shopsmith lathe. It was the same vintage machine that his dad owned and that he had used during high school. Curt purchased it and became addicted to woodturning. He discovered segmented turning through a magazine article. His passion for gluing wood together and turning consumed every spare moment. After several years of operating his own prosperous custom cabinet business, his love of woodturning took over and with the encouragement of his wife, he became a full-time studio woodturner in January 2002.

Today, Curt is a professional woodturning demonstrator and educator. His work resides in public and private collections worldwide, including the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Honolulu Museum of Art, Franklin G. Burroughs-Simeon B. Chapin Art Museum of Myrtle Beach, Peabody Essex Museum, American Association of Woodturners, and Ivinson Memorial Hospital in Laramie, Wyoming. He is a Wyoming native and enjoys sharing life on the prairie with his wife Wanda and their two daughters.

Curt will be demonstrating segmented turning at our May meeting. You can attend either live or remotely, but do not miss this opportunity. Check out Curt's website at [www.CurtTheobald.com](http://www.CurtTheobald.com).



## FROM THE WEB:

Al Murphy - [ajmurphy1@comcast.net](mailto:ajmurphy1@comcast.net)

Fractal burning creates some amazing designs but is very, very dangerous. Al Murphy, an expert on high-voltage safety, has tried to dissuade folks from doing this. The required safety gear that's needed to increase the safety of dealing with high voltages is very expensive. And no design is worth your life!

Read the below article if you're tempted to try this technique.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/tiktok-electroute-tanya-rodri-guez-james-carolfi-art-fractal-burning-wisconsin/>

## LADIES OF THE LATHE Tuesday, May 3rd

Debra Higley-Feldman -  
debrakhf@gmail.com



The next LOTL class will be Tuesday, May 3rd from 11:00 to 4:00 in the Rockler basement. **Henry Williams** will demonstrate how to make Rode Osolnik style candleholders. Rude Osolnik is considered the Dean of American Woodturners and in his lifetime made more than 150,000 of his Arts and Crafts style candlesticks (see AAW's American Woodturner, December 1994).

At the April class, **Jay Miller** demonstrated how to turn eggs and corresponding jam chucks, partly as thanks for his PHEOG grant. Instruction included turning techniques using various tools and turning a jam chuck. The main advantage of jam chucks is that the egg is more easily finished than if one instead parted it off and sanded the base.



## LIBRARIAN'S CORNER



Bob Britt -  
AsWoodTurns80@yahoo.com

There are several items to note this month. With the introduction of the newly developed website, members now have a choice when submitting requests for the library waitlist. Whichever of the following that you choose to use, requests should be received not later than midnight of the Monday preceding the meeting. Don't wait, as the sooner your request is received the better the chance you have of obtaining the materials you request. You can utilize the form built into the new website. All you will need is the FRW-ID and the medium type for each item submitted (eg DVD, book, magazine, etc). You can also enter that information into an e-mail to FRWLibrarian.

We hope that many members are planning to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> annual FRW Garage/Yard Sale on May 21<sup>st</sup>. This year it will include surplus library items. Books, DVDs and magazines will be available at far below newsstand and bookstore reseller prices. We will even have some giveaways. Through generous contributions over the past several years, we have a number of cartons of items that we just do not need or have space to store. Stop by, say hi, chat and check out the items being offered. If you have not attended a meeting in person recently, this will be another opportunity to return those items that you might have been holding through the many months of the pandemic.

## SWAP MEET -- Saturday, May 21st

Clear your calendar for our 4th annual swap meet/garage sale on Saturday, May 21st, from 9:00am to noon. This is an opportunity to sell those tools you no longer need along with extra wood, bowl blanks, or any item you think a fellow turner can't live without! You'll be responsible for managing your own sales, but you must donate 10% (or more) back to the club for the PHEOG account.

In order to plan how much space is needed, please email Robyn Herman at rtherm@gmail.com if you want to participate.

## 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.

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

## APRIL MENTORING CLASS

Marty Christensen - mecturning@gmail.com

Mentoring classes for the next four months will concentrate on bowl turning. We'll start with the basics in May--mounting as well as dos and don'ts. Some things are never do and some are don't do because of the outcome. The class will be held at Rockler on Monday, May 9th from 5:00 to 7:00pm.

## SHOP TOURS

Kenneth Rollins - colkdr@yahoo.com



Shop tours were suspended as a COVID precaution, but we are now ready to resume them, at least during the warm weather months. Listen for details at the May meeting, but **Keith Motzner** has volunteered to host a shop tour on May 28th at his Centennial shop. We will be soliciting volunteers to host a tour during the summer months, and are particularly interested in those of you who have open airy spaces to satisfy those members with safety concerns. Look for your opportunity to volunteer at the May meeting. If you want to beat the crowd, send an email to Ken Rollins or Keith Motzner and tell us the date you are willing to host a tour. Shop tours are a great way to informally meet members and discover their particular talents or interests. New members are especially encouraged to attend.

## ROCKLER

Patronizing the Rockler store is the best thank you we can give Rockler for their generosity in letting us use their facilities for our meetings. They keep the register open late on meeting nights just for us. but be sure to complete any purchases no later than the mid-meeting break. All FRW members get 10% off all items, except electrical or sale items, all the time. Just present your FRW membership card at time of purchase. Note: This offer is good only at the Denver store and is not valid at other Rockler stores or for online purchases.

## 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](http://www.woodturner.org) for more information.

## PHEOG 2022

Kenneth Rollins - [colkdr@yahoo.com](mailto:colkdr@yahoo.com)

The PHEOG committee work for 2022 is done. Special thanks to **Dale Sherman** and **Suzanne Thompson** for their thoughtful review of all the applications. This year there were four applications for individual grants and one school application. **Jessica Edwards** will be receiving registration fees to attend a Matt Monaco workshop in Utah. She will share her new skills in a LOTL class. **Keith Motzner** received registration fees to check out the woodturners International Symposium in Tennessee. He is going to offer some beginners tutoring focused on various tool use. **Don Prorak** is receiving registration fees to attend a Trent Bosch class and will offer a demonstration of what he learned. **Andy Boudreau** received registration fees to learn embellishing skills from Kirk Deheer. He will share those skills to the club through mentoring and/or a LOTL class. All of these recipients have previously demonstrated their ability to teach woodturning skills. The return on our investment should be very beneficial.

The school grant was requested by **Jeff Hill** on behalf of the Stargate woodturners club. They will receive new equipment and supplies for the students to use and get infected with a love of woodturning. The long-term payoff will be the development of a new generation of turners. In the short term, Jeff Hill and Don Prorak will be encouraging students to attend FRW meetings and bring beginner projects to our show and tell. If you see a Stargate student at one of our meetings be sure to give them some encouragement. Also special thanks to **Larry Abrams** and **Mike Mullen** for their work in verifying and tracking PHEOG grants. Please consider serving on this committee in the future and think about applying for a 2023 grant if you have not received one in the past three years.

## 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 July. Don Prorak 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 Don Prorak  
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 Don Prorak  
Starbond is our cyanoacrylate (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 using the club's ID 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.

### Update on Band Saw Blades Group Order

Our annual Spence bandsaw blade group order will be in May. The order form and current price list are on the club's website. We can now order 1/4, 3/8 and 1/2-inch blades. As long we meet the \$250 minimum for orders, we'll get the discount. Orders must be received by Tuesday, May 10th.

Send orders and checks to:

Don Prorak  
24000 E 155th Way  
Brighton, CO 80603  
303-638-6631

Ted Mellin  
9043 W Coco Dr  
Littleton, CO 80128

### Individual Catalog Orders

Two additional companies, Klingspor and Hartville Tool, offer discounts to members who wish to place individual -5-catalog orders. See the website for more information.

## PHOTO GALLERY

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



Rather than turning this month, **Al Murphy** expanded his lathe tool holder.



**Rick Cantwell** turned his first hollow form at Doug Schneider's workshop earlier this month. Made from green aspen, it's 6" tall.



**Henry Williams** made these owls after participating in Cindy Drozda's interactive remote demonstration.

About 5" tall, they're made of maple with a mother-of-pearl inlay.

**Ron Kaemingk** made these two two open-segment bowls.



**Gordon Dalby** made this multi-axis piece, 10" tall by 2" diameter, of cherry and birch. He also made this 9" diameter x 7" segmented bowl of beetle kill pine from Cortez, CO.



**Larry Fox** made this urn of Bristlecone Pine. It was made for a person who is still alive so he created a screw on top to be used as a flower vase until she needs it as an urn. The flowers were painted by Lana Fox using acrylic paints. The urn top is also a screw-on. As you can see from the back of the urn, the top and bottom fit perfectly when screwed on. In the background on the right is another urn, with a golfer inlaid with turquoise, that Larry made for her deceased husband.



**Kenneth Rollins** made a 13" and 12" platter in butcher block form out of raffle Schacht wood. He gave the larger one away, then made the platter on the right when he ran out of pieces long enough for the butcher block pattern.



Here are a few of **Bear Limvere's** recent minis. The first is buckeye burl, ebony and bronze. Next is a 1.5" tall piece of black palm, Lignum Vitae and copper. The last piece is violet rosewood, bubinga, redheart and brass.



**Dennis Fanning** made these apple bowls. The large one is 12" wide by 5" deep.



**Steve Claycomb** made this natural-edge vase out of locust, as well as a winged bowl from walnut and a natural-edge crotch winged bowl.



**Debra Higley-Feldman** turned a 6" (without finial) maple/purple heart/Schacht maple-acrylic hollowform and an 8" lidded vase of myrtle/cherry/claro walnut/Schacht maple-acrylic. Finishes are a mix of shellac, carnauba, minwax, and lacquer.



**Mike Mullen** made this small urn from American locust with a purple heart lid. Then he made an bowl from an oak burl with a big void in the base. Luckily there was enough good wood to hang on to turn it. It isn't a good popcorn bowl! Last is the latest in his cracked bowl series made from willow and the cracks filled with black CA.

