Front Range Woodturners Newsletter

Vol. 21, No. 1 January 2021

Editor: Brenda Blaesing

JANUARY DEMONSTRATOR — KEITH GOTSCHALL Tuesday, January 5th via Zoom

Joe Levy - jelevy.1977@gmail.com
Our January demonstrator will
be the incomparable Keith
Gotschall. Many in our club already
know Keith as he is a former
FRW member and has been a
professional woodturner for over
two decades. He has also been a



featured artist on the Discovery Channel, authored numerous articles for magazines, demonstrated at AAW symposiums, and taught courses at woodworking schools.

Keith was introduced to woodworking in junior high school where he got his first taste of woodturning. Having enjoyed his experiences, Keith continued with woodshop in high school and, after graduation, began his career as a furniture maker in Boulder, CO. In 1989, with the knowledge and skills developed while working for others, Keith broke out on his own and opened a studio, working primarily on commission; while on his own, he crafted some notable pieces that were displayed in art shows and galleries. During this time, Keith also began sculpting with marble and alabaster. He realized that the grain of stone and the similarities in woodvs stone-working tools enabled him to apply his woodworking knowledge to this new medium.

In the late 90s, Keith was reintroduced to turning during a visit with a woodturner friend. After spending some time at the lathe, he recalled that it was turning which had sparked his initial interest in woodworking. Since that day, Keith has pursued mastery of the art of woodturning and there's been no turning back (pun intended). After a spell of

WHERE TO FIND US:

Website: www.frontrangewoodturners.org

Facebook: goo.gl/oYd7FV

Ladies of the Lathe Facebook: goo.gl/5AxmWU

YouTube: www.youtube.com/channel/UCfYpnMy8U22UeD5IIsBEB2A

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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

Once we're back to live meetings again, everyone is welcome to check out one of our monthy 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 11 Lifetime Members 11
Family Members 34 Roster 49
Individual Members 137 Student Members 2
Total Membership 244

CLUB OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

President: Ed Sonny Jones

Vice President/Program Director: Don Prorak

Secretary: Patrick Crumpton Treasurer: Larry Abrams President Emeritus: Pat Scott

Club Historian: Joe Levy Coffee Chair: Gary Starritt

Communications Chair: Jim Proud Group Buy Coordinator: Jay Miller Internet Chair: Amelia Gentile

Ladies of the Lathe Chair: Robyn Herman

Librarian: Bob Britt

Membership Chair: Mike Mullen

Mentoring Program Chair: Marty Christensen

Newsletter Editor: Brenda Blaesing PHEOG Grant Chair: Bob Franklin

Photographer: Jim Record Publicity Chair: Jay Miller Shop Tour Chair: Al Murphy Videographer: Richard Kuivila Wood Raffle: Lavonne Kaiser Youth Chair: Don Prorak being self-taught, he had the privilege of learning from such notables as Richard Raffan, Mike Mahoney and Stuart Batty through their books, videos and classes. Keith readily admits his time at the lathe as a production turner has been his best teacher.

I interviewed Keith and found him to have a friendly and likeable character, accessible and helpful to a novice turner like myself. Through our email exchange and phone conversation, I asked Keith about his woodturning style and journey:

Q: What are your favorite lathes or tools?

A: My favorite tool is the pencil. "So much work gets done before the lathe is turned on." Careful planning and measuring are a top priority.

Q: Are any of your turnings displayed in prominent/public places?

A: Two of my pieces can be seen locally. I turned the giant handles that are part of the Old Town Churn Ice Cream building in Fort Collins and also turned the bar rail molding at the Wesley & Rose in Buena Vista's Surf Hotel.

Q: Did any crazy things ever happen during a demo?

A: I don't recall any but I did proctor an egg cup turning race at a symposium where some top turners made an absolute disaster out of perfectly good wood.

Q: What do you think about the future of wood-turning-will it grow in popularity or is it a dying art?

A: I certainly hope there's a growing interest in woodturning. Despite the steel vs carbide debate, carbide tools are an easier method to introduce people to turning; traditional steel tools add a richness to the art that a new turner can pursue later.

Q: What advice would you give to new turners?

A: Just do it. Don't worry about the results; turn stuff and get good hands-on instruction.

Q: Why do you love woodturning?

A: I love the ability to produce beautiful objects relatively quickly (both for form and function) and for the opportunity (project permitting) to let a "real time inspiration" take shape.

In January, Keith will demonstrate his signature Holly & Blackwood Bowl. While



largely straightforward, it requires close attention during the assembly and when mounting to the lathe. Keith has spent numerous days recording his process and, with live narration of the recording, will tailor the demo for time and be able to replay key moments, giving us all that oft-desired second look. Keith is excited to field all our questions-quite literally, the more the merrier. Even though he is no longer an FRW member, he continues to be ever grateful to our club.

Keith's personal website (www.keithgotschall.com) contains many photos of both turned and sculpted pieces. Be sure to check out his beautiful work; his artistry isn't confined only to woodturning.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Mike Mullen - mikemullen.denver@gmail.com

2020 memberships expire at the end of February, so it's time to renew for 2021. Currently, 21% of members have renewed.. Since we're not meeting live right now, please mail a check or money order made out to Front Range Woodturners. Include your name, spouse name (if joining as a couple), address, phone and email address. Send it to: Front Range Woodturners PO Box 620605
Littleton, CO 80162

Membership benefits include but are not limited to the following:

- Monthly newsletter
- Library privileges check out videos and books from our extensive collection
- Discounts on bulk orders of various supplies
- Discounts at stores in the Denver area, including the 10% discount at our Rockler store
- Monthly demonstrations by locally and internationally known woodturners
- Ability to participate in free mentoring classes All club events are funded by dues and donations such as the monthly wood raffle.

If you are a member in good standing of Rocky Mountain Woodturners in Loveland or Pike's Peak Woodturners Club in Colorado Springs, you may join Front Range Woodturners for half price. Likewise if you are a member here, you may join RMW and PPW for half price.

ONLINE DEMOS AVAILABLE

Trent Bosch is presenting weekly virtual demos with some bigname turners: Trent Bosch, Rudy Lopez, Laurent Niclot, Eric Lofstrom, Phil Irons, Michael Alguire and Art Liestman to name a few. Watch a professional demo from the comfort of your home. The cost is \$`10 per demo and Trent is offering 5- and 10-demo package deals.

www.virtualwoodturningdemos.com

Glenn Lucas is doing remote demos and then making the demos available as high-quality DVD downloads on his website. Glenn has a great camera setup with closeup shots. The cost is 15 euros per download which is \$16.83 US. Once you download the DVD demo, it's yours forever. Look under the SHOP tab at www.glennclucaswoodturning.com

Cindy Drozda, an FRW member, has presented several virtual demos in recent months and has another one scheduled for January 16th. Visit her website to register for the event where she'll be making a waterfall burl lidded bowl. While you're there, check out her youtube posts and find lots of other helpful information.

www.cindydrozda.com

LADIES OF THE LATHE

Robyn Herman - rrherm@gmail.com

While we haven't been able to meet live, Ladies of the Lathe had a zoom demo in October by FRW member **Leanne Stember**. She showed us how to make polymer clay designs (canes) for pen blanks.

Here is a photo of the pen and bowl **Cathie McLean** made from the triangular cane.



Robyn is looking for volunteers who are set up to do remote demos. If you're interested in teaching an LOTL class, please email her.

2020 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Ed Sonny Jones - edsonnyjones333@gmail.com President Ed Sonny Jones announced the following award recipients at our holiday party in December.

JOHN W. PERKINS AWARD

One of the privileges and honors of being president of the FRW is awarding the John W. Perkins Most Valuable Member Award. Being a relatively new member of this club (only two years) I needed to understand the history and



significance of the award. John W. Perkins was a member in the early days of our club and was very active until sadly he passed away from cancer. John Montague, who was president from 2003 to 2004, wanted to honor his friend. He established the John W. Perkins Most Valuable Member Award to recognize the member who has greatly contributed to the club, in the tradition of his friend, John Perkins.

I also needed to understand the contributions of the past recipients. And that list is impressive! Since 2002, 18 members have been awarded the Perkins Award, and tonight we will honor the 19th. The member who receives the award receives a plaque made by John Montague and will have their dues forgiven for the upcoming year.

Traditionally, the president picks the Perkins recipient, because the president is in a unique position to best gauge who has contributed the most toward the benefit of the club. The president can ask other officers and/or John Montague for their opinions. Being new to the club, I took full advantage of this option. I met via telephone, or from a very safe distance with my fellow officers, and with John. Everyone, except this year's recipient, unanimously endorsed this choice.

When it was suggested that I run for president I had in the back of my mind that I would ask the board if we could create a new position, Advisor to the Incoming President. The board agreed and I must tell you that without his help, 2020 would have been even more dire. This person not only paved the way for a smooth transition, but even though no longer president, worked tirelessly to benefit the club in many ways. You all know him, you all love his jokes, I present to you this year's John W. Perkins Most Valuable Member Award recipient, **Pat Scott.**

LIFETIME MEMBER AWARD

Whereas the Perkins Award recognizes a person who has contributed the most over the past year or two, the Lifetime Member Award recognizes a member who has surpassed expected contributions and support to the club over many years.

Again, I asked the officers for a list of names worthy of consideration. And again, I researched the contributions of those who have been awarded the Lifetime Member Award in the past. Like the Perkins, this list is very impressive, and rightly so. This is the highest honor that we bestow upon one of our own, and it cannot be given lightly. The award must be earned over a length of time equal to the prestige and honor of the award. But length of time alone does not earn the award. The person who receives this award must contribute above and beyond, and exemplify the meaning of this honor. The recipient is awarded a lifetime membership, presented with an engraved name badge recognizing this honor, and membership dues are forgiven for life.

This year's Lifetime Award is presented to a member whose recognition has long been past due. This person gets things done. When everyone else gets to mill about and socialize at the



meetings (remember when we were able to do that!) this person is busy with the task at hand. A member for 27 years, since 1993, she has been available to help whenever needed. She has manned the wood raffle for the past nine years. 2021 will be her 10th year. She was instrumental in planning our first holiday party and every holiday party since. While others had thoughts of how it "should be done," I am told she stepped up and did what was necessary. She is a quiet, reserved person who doesn't blow her own horn. She is probably the most surprised person to receive the Lifetime Member Award. Congratulations, **Lavonne Kaiser!**

HALL OF FAME

John Montague implemented the Perkins Award in 2002 and the Lifetime Member Award began in 2009. I am pleased to begin a new FRW tradition in 2020. Tonight, we unveil our FRW Hall of Fame which recognizes the 18 founding fathers responsible for initiating our club, and the 23 members who have been active for 20 years or longer.

I will begin by thanking the board for endorsing this endeavor. I would also like to thank John Montague,

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BEADS OF COURAGE

The mission of Beads of Courage is to provide Arts-in-Medicine Programs for children coping with serious illness, their families and the clinicians who care for them.

Rick Fleming and Ed Cypher collect bowls for the organization. While we're not meeting live, contact Rick or Ed about taking a contribution to them. Rick: turningadget@yahoo.com Ed: cypher4691@msn.com



Henry Williams, James Olson, Bear and Alyssa, Mike Mullen and Larry Abrams for sending me old membership rosters for research. I want to thank all of the members who verified dates. I want to thank Pat Scott for generously donating the live edge slab of wood for this plaque, and most importantly, I want to thank Jeff Burke for designing and producing the placards imprinted with the Hall of Fame names. The new plague will hang in the Rockler basement. I also



want to thank our new Club Historian, Joe Levy, who will take over further research and add Hall of Fame names in the coming years.

We tried to err on the side of being too inclusive, rather than being too exclusive. If we missed anyone, I apologize. If you know of someone you believe is eligible for the FRW Hall of Fame, please contact me or Joe Levy.

Lastly, I would like to extend my gratitude to the chair people who have agreed to continue in their current positions through 2021. I'd also like to congratulate three new chair people:

Joe Levy - Club Historian Brenda Blaesing - Newsletter Editor Jim Proud - Communications Chair

I would be remiss if I didn't thank all members of the FRW for hanging in there during this pandemic. Next year will be better!

LIBRARIAN'S CORNER



Bob Britt - bob.britt@q.com

From your librarian and all of our faithful librarian assistants, we wish everyone a very happy and healthy new year. Hopefully the year ahead will begin to more closely resemble what we will look back at as being more normal than that of the last nine months of 2020. I didn't realize how much seeing and greeting you each and every month meant to me. Getting to know you and your particular areas of interest is a great help when directing you to library resources.

As we move closer to in-person meetings once again at some undetermined date in the future, this column will list new library additions of the past year. If you have questions about your library please email FRWLibrarian and we will get a reply for you. If you have absorbed the materials you signed out last March and find yourself headed to Rockler you are encouraged to return those items to the "Red Drop Box" on the lower level.

Again, wishing everyone a very happy new year.

Bob Britt for Mike Busse, Ed Cypher and Bill Smith

MENTORS

Marty Christensen - mecturning@gmail.com

Quite a few FRW members have volunteered to be one-on-one mentors to help other club members. No matter what skill level you are, from new turner to advanced, 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. And if you'd like to volunteer as 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 Fire kmotzner@me.com	ewood into Art/ Wood Prep
Centennial	Les Stern sternsclass@hotmail.com	General
Centennial	Scott Thomsen Harmonic thomsen-s@comcast.net	and-Threading/ Segmenting
Central Park	Ed Sonny Jones edsonnyjones333@gmail.co	General/ om 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
Littleton	Jay Miller jaymiller9637@comcast.net	General
Louisville	Roger Holmes roger_holmes@comcast.net	Beginner
Thornton	Bob Franklin Btheb66@gmail.com	General/ Stabilizing
Westminster	Mike Skiba mrpsmj@gmail.com	General

SHOP TOUR CHALLENGE

Al Murphy - ajmurphy1@comcast.net

In the spirit of renewal brought about by the start of a new year, I would like to invite all FRW turners to submit a photo of their messy postholiday shop then clean up their shop and take another photo of the results.

As many woodturners have mentioned, the yearly shop tour is a strong motivator to clean up their space. My dad taught me that a clean shop is a safer shop (he'd be surprised that I listened to him).

So please take some before and after photos and send them to Brenda Blaesing (b.frezeman@ yahoo.com) for the next newsletter. Add 'shop tour challenge' to the subject line.

We'll resume our shop tours once it's safe to have in-person gatherings again.

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.

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.

UPCOMING CLUB DEMOS

Don Prorak - donprorak@comcast.net

Happy New Year! We all look forward to the day we can resume our in-person meetings, but unfortunately that is still a distance down the road. I am planning remote demos via Zoom at least through April. Our January demonstrator is Keith Gotschall, who you can read about elsewhere in this issue, and Tod Raines is on board for February.

Please reach out if you have questions about participating on Zoom or if you have suggestions to help us improve the virtual meetings. I hope we'll see you online for these demos and that everyone is staying safe and healthy, and making huge piles of shavings!

PROGRAMS ON HOLD

Many of our usual club programs are on hold due to the pandemic. They will resume as soon as it's safe to meet in person again.

MENTORING PROGRAM

Marty Christensen runs the monthly meetings which are suspended until further notice.

YOUTH MENTORING

Don Prorak hopes to resume this program sometime in 2021.

TURNING CHALLENGE

The turning challenges have been suspended until we can resume our in-person meetings.

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.

OUARTERLY GROUP BUYS

FRW places group buys once a quarter-in January, April, July and October-to obtain



discounted pricing from the below manufacturers. For January group buys, orders and payment must be received by January 12th. Jay Miller and Ted Mellin are the group buy coordinators. See the FRW website for more information, 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 cyanoacrylate (CA) glue supplier. Our minimum order is \$100, but we receive an additional discount at \$200, making shipping and handling essentially free.

Wood Carvers Supply - send orders to Jay Miller All types of woodworking tools are available from this company. We receive a discount on everything in their catalog.

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 in April and October only, 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 9637 W. Vandeventor Dr Littleton, CO 80128 303-945-4306 Ted Mellin 9343 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 catalog orders. See the website for more information.

PHOTO GALLERY

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

ORNAMENT EXCHANGE

In the spirit of the holidays, many FRW members made ornaments for the holiday ornament exchange. Great work by all! And thanks to **Robyn Herman** for organizing the exchange.



by Amanda Matthew



by Bob Britt



by Dale Sherman





by Jim Proud



by Debra Higley-Feldman



by John Montague



by Mickey Jackson



by Mike Mullen



by Pat Scott



by Mike Skiba



by Rick Cantwell



by Suzanne Thompson -8-



by Robyn Herman



by Ron Ainge

Steve Cipolla wanted to show his appreciation of the items he won in the auction at our holiday party. His wife already had them dressed up for the holidays

before he got up the next morning.

Robyn Herman has been making platters for all her kids for Christmas this year. Here is one made out of a black walnut blank that she got from club member Robin Luther.





Michael Roper

has been working on Christmas trees for the holiday season. These are turned. woodburned for texture and then hand-painted with acrylic paints.





Bob Franklin created some happy little snowpeople for

the holidays.











Above are two recent turnings from **Tom Wirsing**. The salad bowl is made of silver maple and the platter is big leaf maple.



Iim Proud and his wife collaborated on these snowmen. He did the cutting and sanding; she did the painting.

Stephen Pegler created bottle stoppers from pine cones and resin. He also worked on some projects unrelated to turning-making a cedar resin table and building a DaVinci power



hammer for blacksmithing.





Ryan Custer worked on a project for his son Tanner, who is a huge fan of the Star Wars Mandalorian series. The object inside is a 3-D printed 'Mythosaur' skull, which is the Mandalorian clan symbol. The skull was cast and then turned. The base is walnut and aspen with a red LED light installed.



Larry Fox made this bowl for a Christmas present. It's beetle-kill Ponderosa Pine, 17" in diameter by 5" tall and inlayed and "out-layed" with Cripple Creek turquoise.







Alex Bradley says, "The shop is done and the lathe plugged in. Now working off the rust of not turning since leaving Roper's Red Rocks instruction back in March. Spurtles...everyone is getting spurtles for Christmas. Big thanks to Dave Hawley for his continued mentorship/shop design/kindness."



Kim Komitor made a maple bowl with turquoise inlay, 10.5" diameter by 6" high. Here are before and after photos.





Steve Claycomb made these miniature birdhouses from a birch tree.

Jessica Edwards has been incredibly busy on lots of projects. She turned 37 gnomes in one week, so got pretty good at production





Lavonne Kaiser recently finished this very shallow red oak bowl.



included

building an

a coffee table.













Like many others, Steve Cipolla dabbled in holiday items this month. The small is a maple tree ornament with offset carving, the medium is aspen and the large tree is cedar.





Ed Sonny Jones made these four ash bowls with wood he purchased at the club wood sale on December 12th.

Dave Hawley just finished these two bowls-the smaller cored from the larger. They're made of

"Swamp" Kauri wood, over 1,000-yearold wood, which was a gift from a woodturning club member in Christchurch. New Zealand, during a visit there in 2017. Beautiful wood indeed!





Don Prorak made this large honey locust platter (16" diameter) with a blank from Robin Luther.



Al Murphy is working on a tiger maple naturaledge slab desk.







Mike Mullen made two salad bowls of cayote, one from urban



American Locust and one from willow.







For the Great Frame Up's Walnut Wonders exhibition, Chuck **Kubin** made this of Fractured Ramey Homestead black walnut, offset chatter turned with gilt and enamel paint, mounted on weathered