



GOING 'ROUND

Front Range Woodturners Newsletter

Vol. 24, No. 11 November 2024

Editor: Brenda Blaesing

NOVEMBER DEMONSTRATOR – Bear Limvere Tuesday, November 5th – In Person and via Zoom

Jessica Edwards - edwardsjessica625@gmail.com

Bear has been working with wood for as long as he can remember, and turning since 1996. When he and Alisa were moving in to their new house he found an odd-looking piece of equipment in Alisa's shop tools. It was an OLD Craftsman lathe and some badly abused (not by Alisa) spindle gouges.



With some clean up, reading, and advice from Pete Holtus, Bear was hooked on turning.

Bear soon outgrew the old Craftsman and Alisa gave him a Grizzly lathe for his birthday. The following winter solstice brought a Kelton Eccentric Chuck that was a touch too big for the Grizzly so a new bigger lathe came home. And so on; you know how that goes. Their shop is at six regular lathes, one ornamental lathe, one jewelers lathe, and counting.

By accident he and Alisa fell into turning miniatures and it has become a large portion of their business. Involvement with the SCA and other medieval reenactors led to turning treenware and carving spoons in addition to turning non-functional artworks. Jewelry is the next direction he is adding.

Bear feels very fortunate to count turners like David Nittmann, Cindy Drozda, Keith Gotschall, and many others as turning mentors, and folks like Peter Follensbee, Jögge Sundqvist, Jarrod Dahl, and Roy Underhill as carving teachers. He feels it is very important to keep these skills alive and pass them on to the future generations.

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>

THIS MONTH'S NEWS:

November Presenter.....	1-2
Club Information & Officers	2
Ladies of the Lathe	3
Brown Bag Demo	3
Shop Tours	3
Mentors.....	4
Group Buys	4
Keith Gotschall Workshop	5
Visiting Hawaii.....	6-7
Photo Gallery	8-9
Turning Challenge / Perpetual Turning	9



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	44	Lifetime Members	18
Family Members	33	Roster	30
Individual Members	132		

Total Membership 258 paid for 2024

CLUB OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

President: Don Prorak

Vice President/Program Director: Jessica Edwards

Secretary: Patrick Crumpton

Treasurer: Larry Abrams

President Emeritus: Robyn Herman

Club Historian: Rick Orr

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: Marty Christensen

Photographer: Jim Record

Publicity Chair: Robyn Herman

Shop Tour Chair: Keith Motzner

Videographer: Larry Abrams

Wood Raffle: Lavonne Kaiser

Youth Chair: Don Prorak

Bear's Artistic Statement:

"The objective, and challenge, of my artistry is to discover and reveal the beauty and essence of wood. In my teens I studied cabinet-making with an elderly carpintero, who always talked to his woods, asking if they wanted to be part of the project. I ask, too. I craft each piece to bring out the beauty of the material and honor the "Standing Person" that gave the wood. I continuously hone my technique and sense of form to best expose the beauty and spirit of the tree. Incorporating features such as natural edges, bark, and voids in a sensually pleasing form is one way of honoring the infinite variety that nature creates."

The Demo:

The demo is a two-handled drinking bowl. The Scottish version of this bowl is called a quaiche, but the form is quite common throughout medieval Europe. It also makes a great baby bowl. Among the topics I cover is turning with finesse, but not timidity. I also try to give a historical perspective of where this bowl might have been made and how, who would be its owner, and how it would be used.

Technically, I cover initial mounting and outside turning, reversing and calculating where the inside begins, turning the inside, cutting the handles, and the carving involved in finishing the piece. I'll show different methods of holding the piece for cutting and carving.



LADIES OF THE LATHE

Debra Higley-Feldman -
debrakhf@gmail.com



LOTL and Twirling Sisters (the RMWT women's group) got together on Oct 13th for a wonderful BBQ and texturing demo by **Merryl Saylan** at her shop and home. Along with great food, Merryl showed an amazing variety of texturing techniques using pistachio shells, gels, pastes, and epoxy with glass beads, pumice, acrylic/milk paint, and more.



The last LOTL class of 2024 will be **Raleigh Lockhart** demonstrating Shaker Boxes on the afternoons of November 5th and 6th at Rockler.

On Jan. 7th, **Jessica Edwards** will teach us how to turn jewelry using an elliptical chuck that she made from wood. This Rockler class is almost full with five people.

BROWN BAG DEMO

Over 20 FRW members attended the October Brown Bag Demo taught by **Raleigh Lockhart**. He showed us how to make friction-fit acorn boxes using woodturners' double-sided tape to hold the wood on the lathe. That's much faster/easier than using a chuck and works great.



Raleigh will also be teaching the next class on November 12th. He'll show how to use mandrels to make miniature birdhouses and gnomes. Watch your email for the sign-up form.

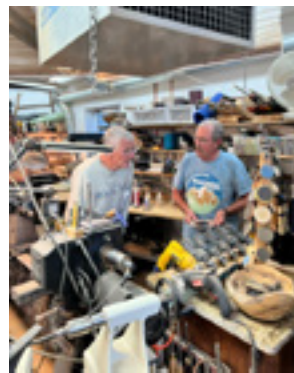


SHOP TOURS

Keith Motzner -
frw.shoptour@gmail.com



The October shop tour (and the last one for 2024) was held at **Larry Fox's** shop in Castle Rock. There were about a dozen people and everyone really enjoyed seeing Larry's well-organized, multiple-lathe shop. We had sloppy Joe's for lunch, made by **Jerry Gallagher** who helped Larry put on the tour.



Shop tours are a great way for both old and new members to get better acquainted and to see how the other half turns, as well as seeing other members tools and equipment. You

may even pick up some new ideas or techniques for your own shop. Contact frw.shoptour@gmail.com if you'd like to schedule a tour of your shop in 2025.

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 kmotzner@me.com	Wood Gathering & Prep/ Sharpening/Tool Skills
Centennial	Les Stern sternsclass@hotmail.com	General
Denver SW	Henry Williams williamshenrya@gmail.com	Spindles/ Bowls
Denver- Rockler store	Larry Abrams laabrams.51@me.com	General
Highlands Ranch	Rick Orr rickorr.1848@yahoo.com	Boxes/Inlay/ Thread Cutting
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

NOVEMBER MENTORING CLASS

Marty Christensen - mecturning@gmail.com

The November mentoring class will be held on Monday, November 11th from 5:00 to 7:00pm at Rockler. The topic will Hollow Globe Ornaments.

QUARTERLY GROUP BUYS



FRW places group buys once a quarter-in January, April, July and October-to get discounted pricing from the below manufacturers. The 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 free. Sign up for Starbond's newsletter to be notified of sales that beat our wholesale prices.

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
9637 W. Vandeventor Dr
Littleton, CO 80128
303-945-4306

Ted Mellin
9043 W Coco Dr
Littleton, CO 80128

Individual Catalog Orders

Two additional companies, Klingspor and Penn State Industries, offer discounts to members who wish to place individual catalog orders. To take advantage of these discounts, you must be on their list of FRW members. To be placed on the list, please sign up at a meeting or send an e-mail to Jay Miller (jaymiller9637@comcast.net).

KEITH GOTSCHALL CLASS

Jim Sledz

Recently I attended a three-day class as part of the club's PHEOG grant. It was taught by Keith Gotschall on general woodturning in his shop in Salida. There were only three of us in attendance (me, Dave Hawley and his son) and we each had our own lathe and tools to use. It was an excellent hands-on class that met from 9-5 with a lunch break where a great meal was provided. Being a beginner, I wanted to report on some of the things that I learned during the session. We did many projects, first watching Keith quickly producing great results and then trying to duplicate the techniques with his assistance as needed.



We started out with spindle turning, using the spindle roughing gouge and spindle gouge. I have not done a lot of spindle turning as I never knew what to make. I found out that I was not using the roughing gouge optimally (no surprise) and learned that if you move from the left (headstock) to the tail stock and ride the bevel, you can get a surface that is super smooth. I learned that you have to increase the lathe speed and go slow, which was different from watching others in the demos. We then worked with the spindle gouge and entry cuts which I initially treated like a bowl gouge but learned that I had to take the tool straight in with the bevel at 90 degrees. We practiced beads and coves until we felt pretty confident. The first "project" was to make an egg which I have done before with varied success. This time we had to also make a chuck to put it in as we turned the base. I was pretty pleased with the results and my sudden competence with the spindle gouge. Keith was walking around and assisting us during the entire time.

We used the skew chisel and it seemed like I was getting the hang of that as well, just lifting the handle up and using more of the body as he instructed. On another note, when I returned home I purchased the Alan Laser skew chisel thinking that I could carry on with my newfound expertise. After getting a number of catches, run-ups and cutting into my chuck jaws, I

decided that it was not as easy to use without assistance. I can do nice "v" grooves with it, just not sure when I will need that.

We then had a square of kiln-dried lumber with the goal of making a round cutting board. Since I am better at bowl turning, that was easier to do. The learning was in making a series of beads using the bowl or spindle gouge. I normally would use a beading tool which works okay but not that smooth. Just lifting up the handle and rolling it using your body was easy and very clean.

Spent time with sharpening with a few tricks (like knocking the corners off of the spindle roughing gouge and how to sharpen a bottom bowl gouge) and how to start with a log and end up with a bowl blank. I have never been able to mount a bowl blank onto a screw chuck and have it hold well (I was using the wrong size drill bit for the Vicmarc screw chuck) and I never had the nerve to mount it with the lathe running. It is still pretty stressful to push it on to the screw then let it go at the right time but very effective.

I thought that I was pretty good using the bowl gouge to turn bowls but never got that really smooth cut and always had trouble picking up the cut again after I lost it. Well, I had a real revelation that was pretty exciting. Turners always talk about riding the bevel while using the push cut and I thought that I was doing it. Nope! I learned how to just push the handle of the gouge with my right hand and guide with the left. Makes one beautiful smooth cut. Very exciting! Another technique with the bowl gouge was to be sure to swing the handle a full 180° to get a smooth continuous surface inside the bowl.

We used the techniques to practice on various bowls, boxes, and the famous manhole cover. In general, we didn't finish many of the projects but enough to practice the techniques that we learned. It was definitely an extremely helpful class for me and Keith is a wonderful teacher. Having such of a small class with him always available was essential. I thank the club for giving me the opportunity to attend it.



VISITING HAWAII -- A WOODWORKING JOURNEY

Patrick Crumpton

I recently had the very fortunate opportunity to visit the island of Oahu in the Hawaiian island chain. Lounging around on the beach for six days isn't my idea of fun and the standard tourist attractions of Pearl Harbor, Dole Pineapple Farm, and Polynesian Cultural Center along with the quintessential Luau would really only occupy three or so days, so I found that I would need to figure out some interesting way to occupy the rest of my time.

About three weeks or so before I left for Hawaii, I decided to take advantage of the unique opportunity presented to me and reach out to the local Hawaiian Woodturning Club. With the power of Google at my fingertips, I researched their organization; finding out unfortunately, their club only meets six times per year in the odd months. Slightly discouraged, I emailed the president of the club and asked him to pass my email address on to the membership, with the parameters of being in Hawaii from 10/5 - 10-12, but that realistically I could only meet on Monday, 10/7, Tuesday 10/8, or Friday 10/11. Patiently I waited...over the next couple of weeks before my trip, three kind individuals reached out with their contact information. Emailing them back, I let them know more precise details on my availability and gathered their phone numbers. I set up reminders in my phone to contact them upon arrival.

Arriving in Hawaii late Saturday evening, I spent Sunday relaxing and getting to know the area around the place we were staying, did some shopping and reached out to the three kind individuals.

Bright and early on Tuesday, October 8th, I entered Eric LeBuse's address into the car's GPS and traveled about 30 minutes to his lovely home. Perched near the top of a very steep and long driveway sat Eric's home. He invited me in and offered me a cup of local Hawaiian coffee, we then proceeded to his living room where displayed were numerous items, most of them turned by Eric, but there were



also items caved by his father, a famous local carver. He also had on display items he collected from other turners and artists. One of more recent items Eric turned was a large piece of Norfolk Island Pine. It was a wonderful piece. The wood had come from a tree in Eric's neighbor's yard, and had come down in a storm. The large tree missed everyone's house fortunately.

Eric's shop space was in a converted area beneath his home, being that the home was perched on a steep hill, the front area provided a very adequate shop area, with lots of storage. Eric set me up on one of his smaller lathes. I had turned a small box (actually three) as gifts for the local turners. I did not turn lids for the box, rather I decided that it would be a wonderful opportunity to turn the lid while I was in Hawaii from local wood in the local turner's shop. After I finished the lid for the box, Eric had roughed out a small natural edge piece of local Hawaiian cedar. I chucked it up and turned a fine thin walled, natural edge bowl. I applied a friction polish to the outside, but left the inside natural.



Once I finished turning, we chatted for a bit more and Eric showed me some more of his work. It was all phenomenal and I wished I had more time to spend. Eric gifted me some small pieces of beautiful Hawaiian wood.

I had a minor miscommunication with one of the other turners who agreed to meet with me and let me turn in his shop. Reginold Perry and I finally got in contact and decided to connect on Friday. Once again, I met him around 9:00 at his home. I knew right away we'd get along...after all he has a new

GMC Duramax Diesel, very similar to mine - his is white and is the Denali Ultimate trim, but otherwise both trucks have four doors and an eight-foot bed. We sat out on his back porch and even though his home sits high in the hills of Hawaii, he has an unobstructed view of the ocean. We chatted about all thing's woodturning.

Reggie is a newer turner and had lots of questions about all aspects of turning, from chucking, to casting to stabilizing and everything in between. We then moved into his shop, which is situated in the two-car garage. I also presented him with another of the boxes I had made in Colorado, we chucked up a piece of walnut that he had, ironically enough, I believe it was a piece of Claro Walnut from the local Woodcraft, and once the lid was completed, there was a near grain match for part of the box. I turned the lid as Reggie watched, he wanted to observe my technique and tool holding. After finishing the lid, I showed him some different techniques with carbide on a piece of faux ivory. He'd been getting chip-out and poor finish and was ready to toss the piece in the trash. I showed him that carbide turned up on edge with the handle angled down at a 45-degree angle would produce ribbons and a wonderful finish. Then, I showed him that you could also do with a spindle gouge, I believe he was pretty impressed.



We parted ways and he gave me a small "head mounted" flash light and a couple pieces of beautiful Koa wood. I think the light will come in quite handy in the garage and I have plans for the Koa.

After departing from Reggie's place, I traveled to meet Luther Bjorsen. Luther's home sat on seven acres in the foothills. He told me all about the tree

work and maintenance of the place as we checked out his turnings in a small office near one end of his shop. Luther has all sorts of wonderful wood, as did Eric and Reggie. The sheer variety of wood species in Hawaii is something to be in awe of.

Luther found a small piece of Monkey Pod, which we trimmed down to make the last remaining lid for the boxes. He then gave me three wonderful pieces of wood to take home.



I wish I had more time to spend with each of these gentlemen, but the one consistency with vacations--they are usually too short and end too soon; maybe that's two consistencies...

Overall, I had a wonderful time. I offer this advice, "When the opportunity to visit another woodturner in another state arises, take it, and should the opportunity present itself to open your shop to someone from another state, take it. You just may have the opportunity to develop a lasting friendship with someone you may otherwise have never met." I plan on keeping in touch with all three gentlemen and hope they are willing and able to keep in touch with me.

PHOTO GALLERY

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



Debra Higley-Feldman made this 6" bowl of diseased aspen with acrylic paint on the rim; the base is myrtle. The finish is walnut oil/carnauba. This, plus the polymer clay puppy and heart and the purple heart/mica heart were part of her team's 2024 WIT eXchange creation. WIT (Women in Turning) is part of AAW.



This photo is one of the two quilted maple bowls that **Curt Vogt** donated to the Dripping Springs, TX Empty Bowls fundraiser. Curt showed it in last month's newsletter. But before it left the shop, he turned a

claro walnut lid with a curly mango handle for it. Curt said he just couldn't resist adding a little extra to the completed project.



Scott DeWeese finished three platters/wall pieces this week. All three are about 15" diameter maple platters with pyrography and India ink colorings and all are finished with spray satin lacquer.



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.

Inspired by Raleigh's brown bag demo, **Blaine Blaesing** made three acorn boxes from remnants of cedar fence posts. He used Deft lacquer to finish the bases. The tops will get some woodburned texture before the finish is added.



Mark Story made this deer antler pen with a Woodcraft lever-action pen kit.



Richard Kuivila sent this image of some wood for pen blanks.



TURNING CHALLENGE / PERPETUAL TURNING

Don Prorak

Our Turning Challenge for November is Spinning Tops: Novice/Beginner - simple top; Intermediate - one captive ring; Advanced: two (or more?) captive rings. Please place your entries in the appropriate areas (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced/Experienced) to make it easier for everyone to vote. We will have a separate area for Gallery Only entries. Please print your entry forms from the web site so that we can read them! https://www.frontrangewoodturners.org/?page_id=6431

The Turning Challenge for October was vessels with a cork fit lid. We only had two entries, both intermediate.

Novice: No Entries

Intermediate: Scott Schlapkohl

Advanced: No Entries

Scott will receive a \$15 Rockler gift card at the next meeting.



Perpetual Turning: Robyn Herman's beautiful pierced vessel was awarded to Matt Coupes, who will contribute a piece in November. Remember that the Perpetual Turning is not a competition; it is an opportunity to share our work. If you win the piece, the only expectation is that you replace it with something you are proud of and enjoyed making.

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.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Brenda Blaesing - b.frezeman@yahoo.com

Articles and photos for the monthly newsletter are always welcome. Please email your submissions by the 25th of the month for inclusion in the next issue.