



# GOING 'ROUND

Front Range Woodturners Newsletter

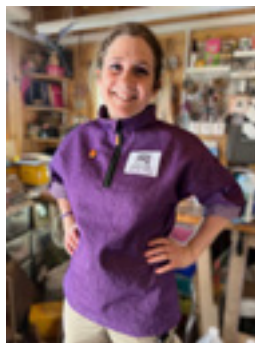
Vol. 25, No. 6 June 2025

Editor: Brenda Blaesing

## **JUNE DEMONSTRATOR –Emma Cook** **Tuesday, June 3rd–In Person and via Zoom**

Jessica Edwards - [frw.vicpres@gmail.com](mailto:frw.vicpres@gmail.com)

Emma Cook (known within the woodturning community as The Tiny Turner) has been involved with the craft since she was 16. Now, 24 years later, Emma is the youngest Chair of the Register of Professional Turners in the UK. In addition she runs her own woodturning business selling kits and supplies to woodturners and crafters ([www.thetinyturner.co.uk](http://www.thetinyturner.co.uk)) as well as demonstrating throughout the UK, Europe and now America and Australia.



Emma is a popular demonstrator and is regularly invited back to clubs where she teaches people how to make the various projects using the kits she has developed. Over the years, she has taught woodturning to hundreds of people with her laid-back and accommodating style.

As well as woodturning, Emma had an apprenticeship in traditional wood carving for many years and enjoys combining the two disciplines. Her proudest piece of work is 'Errol' - a dragon she carved based on a drawing by Paul Kidby of the Discworld novel character (created by Sir Terry Pratchett). It took her over six years to complete but sadly she does not have much time to carve these days. However, by combining the turning and carving together, Emma is able to keep her skill set active and this is something she loves to pass on where she can.

Emma has also ventured into working with resin over the last few years and works mainly with ure-

## **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>

## **THIS MONTH'S NEWS:**

Meeting Demonstrator .....	1-2
Club Information & Officers .....	2
Turning Challenge / Perpetual Turning .....	2
Ladies of the Lathe .....	3
From the Web .....	3
Brown Bag Demo .....	3
Mentors.....	4
Group Buys .....	4
Schacht Appreciation.....	5
Summer Barbeque.....	5
Shop Tours .....	5
Photo Gallery .....	6-7
A Plea from a Mentor.....	7



## 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	46	Lifetime Members	18
Family Members	23	Roster	26
Individual Members	129		

**Total Membership 243 paid for 2025**

## 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: Marcee Morris

Librarian: Brian Tooker

Membership Chair: Scott Schlapkohl

Mentoring Program Chair: Marty Christensen

Newsletter Editor: Brenda Blaesing

PHEOG Grant Chair: Greg Broughton

Photographer: Jim Record

Publicity Chair: Open

Shop Tour Chair: Keith Motzner

Videographer: Larry Abrams

Wood Raffle: Lavonne Kaiser

Youth Chair: Don Prorak

thane resin combined with Australian burls to create beautiful pendants which you may see if you are able to attend Emma's demonstration at our club.



During her stay with us, if signed up for the class, you'll be able to have a try at hand-carved texture yourself with Emma taking you step-by-step through creating one of her signature, banded bowls. You will be guided under her relaxed and positive method of teaching in how to turn these small, deep bowls; to carve the texture and to use her colouring system she developed a few years ago using her Chameleon and Ethereal products.



## TURNING CHALLENGE / PERPETUAL TURNING

Our Turning Challenge for June is anything with basket illusion. In voting, try to look first for good form. 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 website so that we can read them!

[https://www.frontrangewoodturners.org/?page\\_id=6431](https://www.frontrangewoodturners.org/?page_id=6431)

Our May turning challenge was a bowl with an ogee curve. Winners were:

Novice: Tom Fremgen

Intermediate: (Tie) Don Sheffield & Brian LeFevre

Advanced: (Tie) Scott DeWeese & Raleigh Lockhart

Perpetual Turning: Ed Cypher's pen was awarded to Jerry Gallagher, who will contribute a piece for the June meeting. 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.

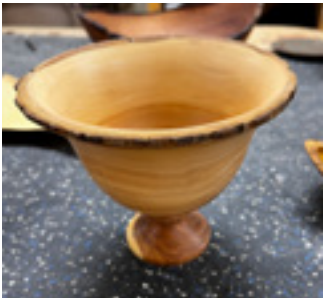


## LADIES OF THE LATHE

Marcee Morris -  
marcee.morris@gmail.com



In May, **Dennis Fanning** demonstrated how to make live-edge bowls. We had a full class who had blanks of wet apple, Russian olive, maple, aspen and walnut to choose from. Dennis prefers to start the bowl without rounding the corners on the bandsaw, but also demonstrated how to do so using round templates. He showed how to mount the blank between centers at first, to frequently adjust the center of the piece to make sure the edges are even, especially important in elongated bowls. Once length and width are symmetrical we made a tenon for the bowl. We truly appreciate Dennis's teaching skills and individual attention to all who attended.



## FROM THE WEB:

Al Murphy -  
ajmurphy1@comcast.net



Here's a link to some great online info for those who haven't visited this site before:  
<https://woodworkersinstitute.com/wood-turning/>

## BROWN BAG DEMO

Robyn Herman - rrherm@gmail.cpm

In May, **Raleigh Lockhart** discussed hand thread chasing--the process, tools and supplies needed.



On Tuesday, June 10th, **Don Prorak** will present concepts and techniques for multi-axis turning. He will include information gleaned from Barbara Dill, Cindy Drozda, Jean Francois Escoulen and others. The presentation will cover twisted spindles, the Escoulen Eccentric Chuck (of course you can buy more tools!), and maybe a multi axis bowl as well! The presentation will run from 11:00 to 2:00 in the Rockler basement.



## 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	<b>Dennis Fanning</b> dcfanning@aol.com	General
Aurora	Robin Luther robin.luther@ymail.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> kmotzner@me.com	Wood Gathering & Prep/ Sharpening/Tool Skills
Centennial	<b>Les Stern</b> sternsclass@hotmail.com	General
Denver SW	<b>Henry Williams</b> williamshenrya@gmail.com	Spindles/ Bowls
Denver- Rockler store	<b>Larry Abrams</b> laabrams.51@me.com	General
Highlands Ranch	<b>Rick Orr</b> rickorr.1848@yahoo.com	Boxes/Inlay/ Thread Cutting
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

## JUNE MENTORING CLASS

Marty Christensen - mecturning@gmail.com

The next mentoring class will be held on **Monday, June 9th** from 5:00 to 7:00pm at Rockler. We'll talk about making rolling pins.

## 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 July. 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).

## SCHACHT APPRECIATION

by Ken Rollins

Remember to bring any turned item you are willing to donate to the Schacht employees to the June meeting. They will be delivered on June 5th. This is our chance to show appreciation for the scrap that gets donated to our club at every meeting. Any useful or artistic item that contains Schacht scrap will be appreciated.

## SUMMER BARBEQUE

[bear@bearlimvere.com](mailto:bear@bearlimvere.com)

Front Range Woodturners will partner with the Colorado Woodworkers Guild on a summer BBQ. It will be held on Sunday, June 20th from 11:30 to 3:30 at deKoevend Park, Shelter C, 6301 S University Blvd in Centennial. Lunch will be around noon.



The club will be supplying burgers, brats, dogs, chips, and drinks. Feel free to bring an appetizer, side, or dessert. Help is needed in a few areas:

Set-up: 4-6 people to arrive by 10:00 to help set up canopies and move chairs and tables.

Food Prep: 2 grill masters and 2 people to help cut and prep.

Clean-up: 4-6 people to help pack and haul to parking lot.

There is a great shelter with lots of tables. We have space for 80 attendees. If you want a comfy (camp) chair, you may want to bring it along.

Please RSVP by Friday, July 11th. Include the number of attendees, your club affiliation, and if you want to help with one of the areas above.

Web Signup:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E054BA5A72CA5FF2-56722017-front>

## SHOP TOURS

Keith Motzner -

[frw.shoptour@gmail.com](mailto:frw.shoptour@gmail.com)



Our shop tours for 2025 began in April with a tour of **Robin Luther's** shop. Attendees had a great time seeing all the massive amounts of Robin's wood collection and even had a chance to take some choice pieces home for their own shop projects. Robin also gave a demo on how he takes rustic pieces of Colorado hardwood and creates multi colored wood and resin platter blanks.

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. While the shop tours have been a great way to see how members set up their spaces and get inspired, I've noticed that the focus on having a "tour-ready" shop might make some members hesitant to host. I'd like to gently move the emphasis away from showcasing perfect workshops and encourage members to focus more on what really matters—connecting with one another, sharing ideas, and building community. See you at the next event!

### Shop Tour Schedule:

June Coventry Living of Colorado  
June 14, 10:00 - 2:00

Dennis Edmonds shop (CWG & FRW)  
June 21, 10:00 - 12:00 and 1:00 - 3:00

July Available

Aug Don Prorak  
August 9, 10:00 - 2:00

Sept Debra Higley-Feldman  
September 6, 10:00 - 2:00 lunch and snacks

Oct Available

Please contact Keith Motzner at [frw.shoptour@gmail.com](mailto:frw.shoptour@gmail.com) if you'd like to host a tour of your shop.



## PHOTO GALLERY

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

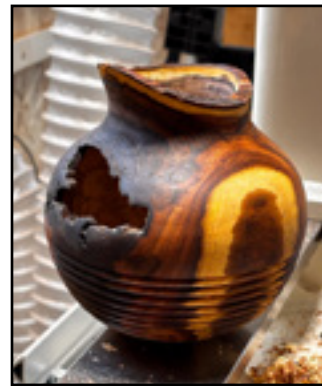


**Debra Higley** made this 3x6" lidded box of cherry and walnut with an agate inlay, inspired by Raleigh Lockhart's great LOTL

class in April. The finish is mostly tung oil and carnauba/Minwax. The 3x7" stand of redheart, walnut, and dogwood burl and 5" redheart weed pot are finished with Danish wood oil and carnauba.



**Carl Fulbright** made a few more wig stands for our club donations to the local cancer center. They're made from a variety of miscellaneous woods, approximately 12" tall, 6" in diameter, airbrushed with acrylic and finished with spray-on polyurethane.



**Todd Bowen** made this ash hollow form from a tree limb that reportedly was a victim of Emerald Ash Bore Beetle. He found no evidence of the bug in the cambium layer. The wood threw very little moisture when turning green. It was finished with Tried and True original. He also made a 5x6" hollow form of desert ironwood. He was going for a basket illusion effect but cut the beads larger than he felt necessary for the illusion. Also, he just liked the way it looked.

That was also finished with Tried and True Original.

## 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.

**Curt Vogt** did a bit of turning this month on some magic wands. He left the wands unfinished so he could practice using his pyrography burner to embellish them. The wood was recovered from old bed mattress supports and is a little soft to take the burn lines evenly. But they finish nicely with a wipe-on poly to show the grain.

In last month's FRW newsletter, there was a call for donations to show our thanks to Schacht Spindle Co. for their years of support of our club. Curt completed a couple globe ornaments, some icicle ornaments and a couple magic wands to show his appreciation to the folks at Schacht. Even though Curt is in Texas now, he still had Schacht wood in his stash to use in a couple of the projects! He also wanted to thank **Dave Hawley** and many others that work to go over to Schacht and collect the wood to bring to the FRW wood exchange.



**Gordon Dalby** recently turned some juniper (pfizter) root, a beautiful wood. The bowl is about 5" in diameter and the unfinished vase is 8" tall.

## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Brenda Blaesing - [b.frezeman@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

## A PLEA FROM A WOODTURNING MENTOR

By Dave Hawley, a mentor for FRW & RMWT

For years I have been mentoring new turners, and I am normally stunned by how much purchasing has taken place before new turners have decided to seek out mentors. It's not like a FRW member must pay mentors - it's free! And there are no limitations on how many mentors can be consulted! Yes - mentors have differing opinions - so seek information from more than one mentor before making purchasing decisions!

So...this is a plea - you can save a lot of money, and time, by consulting with / listening to multiple mentors (not just me) BEFORE spending that hard-earned cash. Spending big bucks on a lathe that is poorly made and won't last very long, tools that won't sharpen well, and sets of tools made from "junk" steel may all be avoided. Spending big bucks on handles when they are easily made on the lathe (from almost free wood) is too common. And...the best tool steel is often the same cost (sometimes maybe 10% more, sometimes less) than the total junk. Data is readily available to enable good decisionmaking!

Seeking out information, and purchasing one or two tools at a time, with a focus on turning what you want to turn, is my plea. I believe you will be happier, and your wallet / pocketbook will definitely be happier!

**Took me all day yesterday but finally finished. A pallet I made from an old coffee table.**



seen by Gordon Dalby on Facebook