



GOING 'ROUND

Front Range Woodturners Newsletter

Vol. 25, No. 8 August 2025

Editor: Brenda Blaesing

AUGUST DEMONSTRATOR –Kirk DeHeer **Tuesday, August 5th–In Person and via Zoom**

Jessica Edwards - frw.vicepres@gmail.com

Kirk DeHeer, a devoted artisan, draws inspiration from the masters as he has refined his woodturning expertise. The unique position he held at Craft Supplies USA has granted him the opportunity to, as he likes to say, "stand on the shoulders of giants." Having learned from the masters and gleaned invaluable lessons from these luminaries, Kirk generously imparts his own journey of learning to the eager students under his tutelage.



Guiding beginners from the basic dilemma of discerning which end of the tool faces the wood to molding them into skilled craftspeople, Kirk's efficiency and finesse have been honed to a razor-sharp precision. He's leaving a legacy of refined woodturners in his own wake.

Whether processing bowl blanks on a massive, fine-tuned scale of efficiency and form or delicately crafting intricate threaded boxes, his mastery is evident. Kirk's profound love for the craft extends to his students. He creates a nurturing environment where passion and skill intertwine, elevating woodturning to the status of fine art at his highly skilled fingertips. Kirk's sense of humor and limitless commitment to honoring the past is unsurpassed by his many achievements in paying it forward.

At our meeting, join Kirk for an inspiring bowl-turning demonstration designed for both beginners and seasoned woodturners. Kirk will share his

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	52	Lifetime Members	18
Family Members	25	Roster	27
Individual Members	143		

Total Membership 265 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

proven techniques for creating beautifully balanced bowls that not only look stunning but also feel great in the hand. Learn how to work efficiently without sacrificing quality as he walks you through every step—from essential safety practices and the principles of good design to proper mounting methods, tool control, and expert finishing techniques. This is your chance to elevate your skills and create bowls that are as functional as they are artistic.



TURNING CHALLENGE / PERPETUAL TURNING

Our Turning Challenge for August is a branch project. It could be a bud vase like Josh's, or a candle holder, or whatever strikes your fancy. Try to leave some natural edge (with or without bark). 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

Our July Turning challenge was a pendant, inspired by Emma Cook. Winners were:

Novice: Joe Kramer

Intermediate: Don Sheffield

Advanced: Raleigh Lockhart

Perpetual Turning: Patrick Crumpton's pen was awarded to Marty Christensen, who will contribute a piece for the July 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



We had a full capacity attendance for July's LOTL class, taught by **Henry Williams**. The topic was pillar candle holders. Henry discussed the advantage of using a story stick for spindle turning such as this. He was kind enough to supply every participant with a story stick, wood blanks and copper disks to inlay into the base for greater safety where wax meets



wood. Many thanks to Henry!



For our August 5th LOTL get together, the theme will be kitchen gadgets. We'll primarily focus on pizza cutter handles with a hybrid of resin/burl blanks. Then we'll also play around with making handles for bottle openers, wisps, potato mashers, knife sharpeners, and assorted other gizmos.

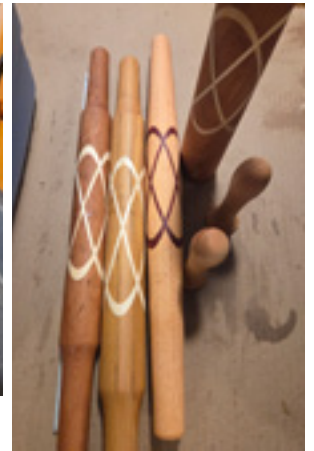
BROWN BAG DEMO

Robyn Herman - rrherm@gmail.cpm

In July, **Rick Orr** demonstrated how to turn a small goblet with a captured and textured ring, along with some texturing on the goblet cup and chatter work on the base. He showed his homemade ring-making tools made from allen wrenches.



On August 12th, **Robin Luther** will be demonstrating how to do a Celtic knot in which all the lines match, with no shift in the lines. He'll show how to do this on rolling pins and pepper grinders.



H.O.W. CLASS

Jay Miller - jaymiller9637@comcast.net

Larry Abrams gave a great class in July on proper use of the skew (not as a can opener!). He focused on the two primary cuts, the planing cut and the peeling cut. Participants didn't make a specific project but got lots of bead, cove and V-cut practice. By using a light touch and being cognizant of the tool position, they all were much more comfortable with the skew by the end of the class.

Bruce Perry was a long time FRW member, as well as a mentor and friend. For our August HOW class, **Don Prorak** will be bringing some of his unfinished turnings for all of us to work on. Many of the pieces just need to have the tenon removed, but we can also sand, color, carve, and burn as a way of collaborating with Bruce. Participants can choose to keep the piece or donate it to our annual Holiday Party auction. We won't be limited to the number of lathes available, as we will also be working on embellishments. It should be a fun session, as well as a way to honor a member who has passed.



FRW Club Member Symposium Discount

The Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium has always existed to energize and provide opportunities for the local woodturning community. With that in mind, we are offering any member of a Colorado Woodturning Club the early bird registration rate now through August 15th.* To get the discount you must register through this link: <https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/local-registration-discount-2025>



We hope to see you September 19-21 in Loveland, CO for the 23rd Annual RMWT Symposium featuring a fantastic lineup of 15 demonstrators and 45 rotations. Demonstration topics range from bowls to split turning, photography, wood bending, articulated arms and joints, coloring, carving, and more! Visit the website to learn more:

www.rmwoodturningsymposium.com



*If you registered at the standard rate between June 20th and July 31st, and did not get the early bird discount, please contact us for a refund of the price difference: rmwsymposium@gmail.com

FROM THE WEB:

Al Murphy -
ajmurphy1@comcast.net



Here's a giant woodturning project from way back, all done by hand. The turning starts at about 14:15 but the preliminary work is interesting, too. The workers' comments seem to be in a German dialect.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtN-cCF-gGVE>

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
Aurora	Robin Luther robin.luther@ymail.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

AUGUST MENTORING CLASS

Marty Christensen - mecturning@gmail.com

The next mentoring class will be held on **Monday, August 11th** from 5:00 to 7:00pm at Rockler. We'll be making scoops. Come join in the fun!

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 October. 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. Vandeventer 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).

SUMMER BARBEQUE

bear@bearlimvere.com

In partnership with Colorado Woodworkers Guild, FRW held its annual summer barbecue on Sunday, July 20th. It was a great day, with wonderful food and camaraderie.



SHOP TOURS

Keith Motzner -

frw.shoptour@gmail.com



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.

Don Prorak has to reschedule his planned August shop tour. Stay tuned for the new date. In September, we'll be visiting **Debra Higley** in Lakewood. Some months are still open. Please contact Keith Motzner at frw.shoptour@gmail.com if you'd like to host a visit to your shop.

FRW LIBRARY

Brian Tooker



The Front Range Woodturners' library will be closed during the August meeting. If you have items that are due in August, please deposit them in the red return box at the rear of the room next to the library cabinets. Thank you.

Also, I would like to thank the members who volunteered to help catalog the library duplicates. Please hold on to the items that you were given after the July meeting and bring them to the September meeting.

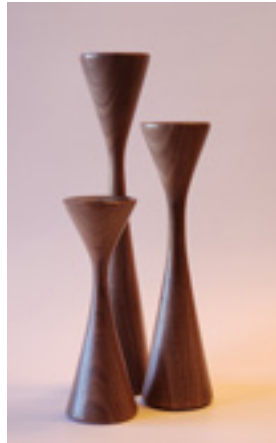
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

PHOTO GALLERY

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



Paul Cetti made this set of walnut candleholders and then finished them with walnut oil and beeswax. He also made this bowl from a piece of elm he found by the side of the road, finished with walnut oil.



Todd Bowen has been experimenting with embellishments. For this 8" hackberry bowl (from the last wood

raffle). he carved the rim and painted it with black milk paint. The top coat is made of pure tung oil. We don't see much hackberry in Denver, but he says it's a lovely wood to both turn and carve.



Carl Fulbright turned a couple of small "tall boxes" using walnut and maple. They're about 10" to 11" tall by 4" diameter. He's also working on thumb tops for giveaways at the Pueblo Woodturners State Fair booth, on Aug. 23rd and 24th. Of pine, the tops are about 2-1/4" in diameter.

Ken Rollins made this lidded jar from Schacht scrap cherry and maple. About 3.5" x 2", it's finished with Danish oil. He made it as a birthday gift for a woman he knows who is a Vietnam veteran; there were not many of them.



Debra Higley turned a myrtle burl end cap into a 9"x2" whatever this is. The finish is Wood Wax.



To beat the heat, **Blaine Blaesing** made a pair of tall Christmas trees from a long piece of birch. One is 16" tall and the other is 18". Both pieces have some nice spalting, along with some bark at the base. They were finished with satin lacquer.

Gordon Dalby made this 8.75" x 7" tall hollow vessel of coco bolo, maple, red heart, cherry and padua.



Here are some bottle stoppers and a small box that **Jason Matisheck**



made from a stick of walnut. He used CA finish on the stoppers and friction polish on the box. A side



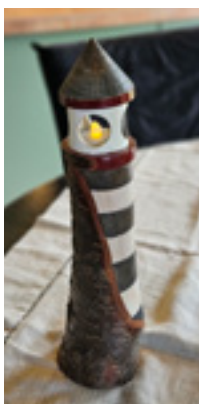
note: Jason was in Tanzania last month and saw a lot of ebony items at souvenir shops. These bowls are carved, not turned. When he examined them closely he could see flat spots. Jason never saw any evidence of lathe work on the trip.

Patrick

Crumpton

did some skew practice last month, making spatulas. He made three of maple, one of cherry and one hickory. They're all finished with Odie's Oil.

The maple and cherry are from Schacht. The hickory is from Phil Houck's estate sale.



Brian LeFevre decided to knock out two challenges with one piece: a lighthouse AND the August turning challenge.



Cathie McLean turned this shallow birch bowl and then woodburned an intricate mandala design on the side and bottom. Displaying it on an easel showcases the design.



Brad Patton

made this bowl of post oak (in the white oak family). It was a hollow tree thus the live edge is the inside of the hollow. You

will note some bark remaining on the bottom of the bowl. It measures 16.5" x 5" at crest. He finished it with a satin water-based poly to maintain

the true wood colors. He likes the texture of the live edge, but adds some refinement to the large open areas as well. A little rustic, a little refined.



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.

This month, **Curt Vogt** has several big turning projects to share. In June, the AAW Turning Challenge was to turn a magic wand. Well, readers here know Curt has turned more than just a few in his day and he could not resist giving it a go. He fired up the lathe and turned one of his ultimate magic wands. It is approximately 13-1/2" long (34 cm), has a cocobolo handle and curly maple shaft. Some of the interior components were turned of ebony as well as the pommel where a threaded brass coupler allows access to the user's magical core. There are a total of ten components to make the wand and all of its contents. The wand was finished with CA because of the high oil content of the cocobolo. He can't give away his wandmaker secrets, but inside there are threaded brass fittings turned smaller to fit the wand, brass tubes, priceless jewels, and dragon scales. He was fresh out of dragon heart strings... ;-)

It will be up to the wand's witch or wizard to add their own spells or magical treasures to the customizable wand core.



Curt also participated in the July 2025 AAW Online Forum Box Swap. He turned a Japanese style tea box of maple burl, curly maple and embellishments of dyed maple burl. The finish was a hand-rubbed wipe-on poly with Renaissance Wax.



Don Prorak has been busy with a lot of "flat work." This cabinet for his chucks, centers, etc. includes some club history: the plywood came from Gene Wentworth's shop sale, and the drawer fronts are oak milled from some of Bruce Perry's wood.



He also recently completed this grill cart which features redwood repurposed from a picnic table he built in 1983.



Since returning from the AAW symposium in St. Paul, **Brenda Blaesing** has been working on the lathe several times a week. She made two mushrooms from wood garnered from a tree trimming in her neighborhood, one of which was carved with a rotary carver to get a curved stem. They have woodburned gills under the cap and were finished with Odie's Oil.



She also made this 7" tall vase from a piece of juniper, finished with satin lacquer. The cattails were made from Schacht scrap and colored with milk paint.

