



GOING 'ROUND

Front Range Woodturners Newsletter

Vol. 25, No. 9 September 2025

Editor: Brenda Blaesing

SEPTEMBER DEMONSTRATOR –Raleigh Lockhart Tuesday, September 2nd–In Person and via Zoom

Jessica Edwards - frw.vicepres@gmail.com

It's often in the most unexpected places that true passions are cultivated. For **Raleigh Lockhart**, his life-long career with the Coca-Cola system helped fuel his passion for woodturning. The nature of his work required transfers, moving him to different cities across the country, each contributing to his woodturning journey.



It was during his prolonged moves to Seattle, Washington, and Salt Lake City, Utah, that he gained significant momentum and direction. These two locations became critical hubs for his development, providing fertile ground for learning and inspiration. Spanning a period of three decades, these transfers were instrumental in exposing Raleigh to a vast network of impressive professional woodturners. He gained insight into their techniques, artistic expressions, and dedication to the craft. More specifically, his time allowed him to regularly attend hands-on classes offered at Craft Supplies USA. This educational experience, combined with the influence of seasoned club professionals, honed his skills and enriched his artistic vision, laying the foundation as a woodturner.

Raleigh now brings that wealth of experience to his craft and his teaching. For over two and a half decades, he's been a monthly woodturning instructor at Woodcraft. His dedication to sharing knowledge is evident in his demonstrations, including appearances at the Utah Symposium (twice), Super Wednesday at Craft Supplies, Woodturners Worldwide Sympo-

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	147		

Total Membership 269 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

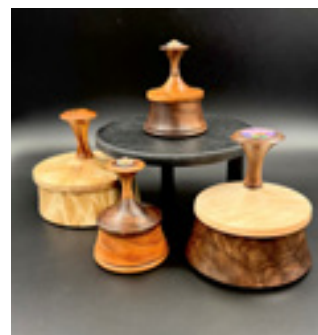
Wood Raffle: Lavonne Kaiser

Youth Chair: Don Prorak

sium, and many woodturning clubs—even frequently demonstrating for a club in the United Kingdom of which he is a proud member. Raleigh's passion for teaching the art of woodturning, combined with his love of working with wood, truly defines his journey as a maker.

At our September demo, you'll learn how to create beautiful Nested Lidded Boxes. Raleigh will walk us through his process, including a chucking technique to turn the nested lid. Plus, get inspired by the many ways you can embellish your finished pieces. This demonstration is designed for all skill levels, from beginner to advanced.

Follow Raleigh on instagram @RaleighsJourney



TURNING CHALLENGE / PERPETUAL TURNING

Our turning challenge for September is a bowl with no embellishment. The goal is to do your very best with form and technique, striving for smooth curves and even wall thickness. 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 August turning challenge was a branch project. Winners were:

Novice: Jerry Bill

Intermediate: Don Sheffield

Advanced: Dennis Fanning

Perpetual Turning: Marty Christensen's pen was awarded to Don Prorak, who will contribute a piece for the September 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



The August class was led by **Marcee Morris**. She contributed resin/burl blanks that she had cast and we all started off by making pizza cutters using the Rockler hardware kits. Then, participants made handles for a variety of utensils--cheese planes, peelers, knife sharpeners, etc. Marcee buys old utensils at thrift stores and yard sales, then gives them new life with new handles. It was a great class!



In September, Pat Scott will be teaching an already full class about making plates and platters. He'll demo different mounting techniques and show how he uses custom homemade wooden jumbo jaws for secure, reliable reversing. We'll discuss different foot designs and how to balance stability with a clean, elegant look.

BROWN BAG DEMO

Robyn Herman - rrherm@gmail.com

In August, **Robin Luther** demonstrated how to do a Celtic knot in which all the lines match, with no shift

in the lines. He uses this technique on rolling pins and pepper grinders.

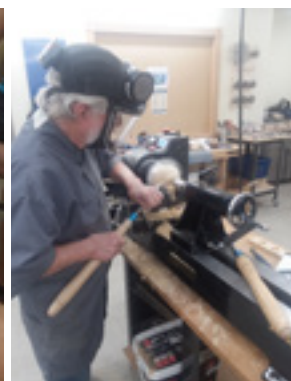
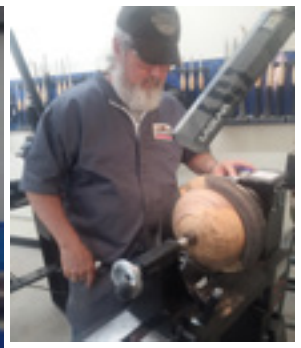
Larry Fox will present the next BBD, on September 9th. He'll make two different types of ornaments, one out of bristlecone and one out of aspen.



H.O.W. CLASS

Jay Miller - jaymiller9637@comcast.net

For our August HOW class, **Don Prorak** brought some of **Bruce Perry's** unfinished turnings for all to work on. Many of the pieces just needed to have the tenon removed, but sanding, coloring, carving, and burning were all options as a way of collaborating with Bruce. Some pieces were kept by the participants; others were donated for the annual holiday party auction.



The September 16th class will be Woodturning 102 (Bowls), a continuation of Woodturning 101 from the spring. We'll focus specifically on turning cross grain projects, such as a simple bowl. Instructor **Keith Motzner** will cover safety, wood anatomy, mounting and chucking, turning tool basics, science of sharpening, spindle turning vs bowl turning, proper tool selection, cutting vs scraping, high speed steel vs carbide, and hands-on practicing and coaching to help you build the foundational skills and muscle memory you need to safely and confidently create your next project at the lathe.

Initial sign up will close on September 4th. Sign up using this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040C44AFAB2CA1FF2-58053943-how>

SHOP TOURS

Keith Motzner -
frw.shoptour@gmail.com

There was no tour in August as **Don Prorak** had to postpone the visit to his shop. On September 6th, we'll be visiting **Debra Higley** in Lakewood.

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. If you're interested in hosting a tour, contact Keith Motzner. Don't worry about having a perfectly clean space. What really matters is connecting with one another, sharing ideas, and building community.

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.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN WOODTURNING SYMPOSIUM

The Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium has always existed to energize and provide opportunities for the local woodturning community. It's coming up soon!



The 23rd annual RMWT Symposium will be held September 19-21 in Loveland. There's 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



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

MENTORING CLASS

Marty Christensen - mecturning@gmail.com

The next mentoring class will be held on **Monday, September 8th** from 5:00 to 7:00pm at Rockler. We'll be making plates. Come check it out.

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

There is no longer a minimum order amount, we now get 25% off retail prices on ALL products. There is a flat \$4.99 shipping fee and no tax. The order forms have been updated, go to the website for the current price and enter the quantity, size, description, and price on the order form. The eForm will do all of the calculations for you.

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	Ted Mellin
9637 W. Vandeventor Dr	9043 W Coco Dr
Littleton, CO 80128	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. You must be on their list of FRW members to get the discount. To get on the list, please sign up at a meeting or send an e-mail to Jay Miller (jaymiller9637@comcast.net).

PHOTO GALLERY

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



Pat Hannon

decided it was time to turn over a new leaf. So he made this box of mahogany-zebrawood-walnut- ebony- maple- olivewood - burl- briar burl - Antler brass. It measures 5" x 3" x 2" and he finished it with Tru-Oil carnuba wax.



Curt Vogt was busy in the shop again this month with projects at the lathe and also a "straight cut" project to go with one of the turning projects. First up was turning a Kallenshaan laser-cut pen kit in the form of a pool cue. The pen was mostly maple, but also included ebonized wood, abalone shell, and padouk. The instructions from Kallenshaan were top-notch but Curt found the kit kind of stressful as time was short because the gift recipient was leaving soon and he only had one shot at getting it made right. It turned out great, but Curt was reminded how much he dislikes turning padouk with that orange dust getting into the maple. The straight cut project was a desk box for the cue rollerball pen made of curly maple and claro walnut.



Ken Rollins made a 4"x4" lidded jar out of juniper that he cut into irregular end-grain pieces. It has a rim from Schacht scrap plywood and is finished with Danish oil.



Curt also made another batch of magic wands and cleared some of the wood scraps that were floating around the benchtop by turning some spinning tops.

Blaine Blaesing made this 6" diameter x 4" high end-grain bowl out of a fabulous piece of juniper obtained at the last wood raffle. (Thanks, **Ken Rollins!**) He also made a 6" diameter x 2" bowl of Tasmanian eucalyptus burl that was purchased at the last estate sale.



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.

FROM THE WEB:

Al Murphy -
ajmurphy1@comcast.net



This is an updated website from David Lindow's group. Some awesome stuff.

<https://plumier.org/>

Debra Higley turned a 6" by 10" enclosed form of walnut, camphor, elm (dark rim), maple burl, and Schacht maple (India ink, lacquer). The outside finish is mostly walnut oil and carnauba.



Brenda Blaesing is still having fun making mushrooms with woodburned gills. This one, made from some kind of fruit wood, is 9" tall and was finished with walnut oil and walnut wax. She also made a 4" x 2-3/4" honey locust pillar candle holder like those made at a recent LOTL class taught by **Henry Williams**. That was finished with the same walnut oil/wax combination.

