



GOING 'ROUND

Front Range Woodturners Newsletter

Vol. 25, No. 11 November 2025

Editor: Brenda Blaesing

NOVEMBER DEMONSTRATOR –Laurent Niclot Tuesday, November 4th–In Person and via Zoom

Jessica Edwards - frw.vicepres@gmail.com

Originally from Toulon in the south of France,

Laurent Niclot now lives and works in Fort Collins. Having always loved wood, it was natural for him to study woodworking, woodcarving, cabinet-making, furniture making, and design.

His passion for woodturning began when he discovered the craft through Jean-François Escoulen – and he instantly knew it was what he wanted to pursue as a career.



In 2015, at the age of 20, Laurent completed the six-month woodturning course at the Escoulen School in Aiguines, France, under the guidance of Jean-François Escoulen and Yann Marot. Following his studies, he was hired by the school as an assistant and translator for three years. During that time, he was provided with a studio and a lathe, allowing him to refine his craft, explore his artistic voice, and connect with many inspiring artists and woodturners.

Laurent has since shared his passion for woodturning by teaching and demonstrating in France, Belgium, Canada, and throughout the United States. He offers both in-person and remote demonstrations, as well as one-day to week-long workshops, all while continuing to develop his own artistic practice. His work ranges from traditional woodturning to woodburning, carving, multi-axis forms, coloring, and texturing.

Laurent's approach to woodturning is highly experimental. He enjoys exploring new textures, colors, tools, and techniques, often giving new life to wood

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

that others might overlook due to cracks or imperfections. Using rotary tools and gouges, he creates sculptural, decorative pieces that carry strong messages or stories. Collaboration is also central to his practice—working with other artists allows him to blend materials, exchange ideas, and view his own work through new perspectives.

For our meeting, Laurent will be demonstrating Sphere Turning and Hollowing: Roughing out and turning a perfect sphere between centers and remounting for the finishing using a jam chuck made out of green wood. Hollowing the sphere using small hollowing tools in a homemade chuck for a precise and safe method of hollowing. The sphere is a very pure shape but is also one of the most complicated. It is a great canvas for carving and texturing as well as a pleasant shape that will put forward the beauty of the wood grain. Level—something for everybody!



Follow Laurent on Instagram: @laurent_niclot

TURNING CHALLENGE / PERPETUAL TURNING

Our Turning Challenge for November is an ornament. You can use a banksia pod, but it is not required. It's an opportunity to create something for the holiday party ornament exchange. 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 October Turning challenge was a lidded box, preferably cross-grain. Winners were:

Novice: Steve Winkleman

Intermediate: Don Sheffield

Advanced: Don Mahoney

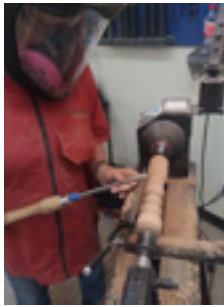
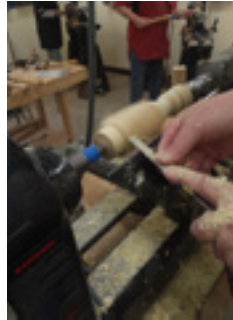
Perpetual Turning: We're not sure who got the perpetual turning in October. Guess we'll find out at the next meeting! Remember that the Perpetual Turning is not a competition; it is an opportunity to share our work. If you win the piece, the only expectation is that you replace it with something you are proud of and enjoyed making.

LADIES OF THE LATHE

Marcee Morris -
marcee.morris@gmail.com



For the October class, **Larry Abrams** taught the proper use of the skew chisel. He demonstrated the planing cut and peeling cut, along with making V grooves and pommels. Participants got lots of practice in making beads and coves, getting much more comfortable with using the skew in the process.

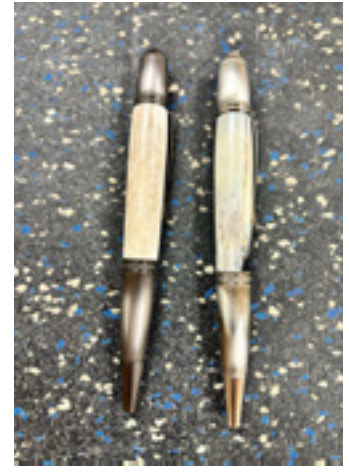
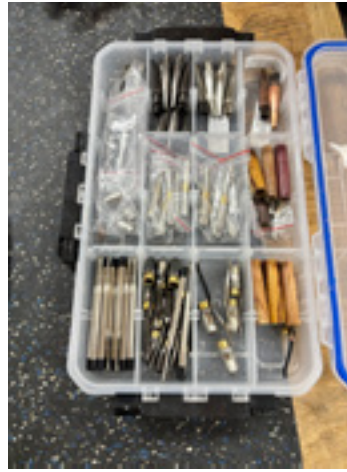


There won't be a LOTL class in November or December. Our next session will be in January, when **Debra Higley** will show us how to make inside-out ornaments.

BROWN BAG DEMO

Robyn Herman - rrherm@gmail.cpm

In October, **Todd Bowen** showed how to make a pen out of antler. Not being a straight material and sometimes having varying densities, antler creates challenges in sawing, drilling and turning.



On November 11th, **Bob Franklin** will demonstrate how he makes snow families. He turns the bodies and hats separately, applies a sealer and then embellishes them. They're fairly easy to make, fun and can be made in any size--from earrings to tealight holders. Whatever the size they are a great way to use up smaller scrap pieces.



TOOL SALE / SWAP MEET

Our annual tool sale and swap meet is coming up soon. Gather any tools you no longer use or make a list of what you need. The sale will be held in Rockler's basement on **Saturday, November 8th from 11:00 to 2:00.**

FROM SAWDUST TO SHAVINGS: My Journey into Woodturning

I guess you could say I was born into sawdust. My dad was a master carpenter, and from the time I could walk, I was pounding nails and breathing in that sweet, earthy scent of fresh-cut wood. Together, we built custom kitchen cabinets and tackled all sorts of construction projects. Somewhere between sanding oak doors and sweeping up shavings, I developed a deep love for wood—especially its unique grain patterns, each piece with its own story to tell.

Years later, when my parents downsized, my dad's old 50- to 70-year-old Delta lathe ended up in my garage. That vintage beauty had a few spins left in it. That's when I truly caught the woodturning bug—about four years ago. Before long, though, the old Delta decided it had turned its last bowl, and I upgraded to my current Jet 16-40. That machine quickly became my new best friend.

Joining the Front Range Woodturners (FRW) club opened my eyes to just how creative and inspiring the world of woodturning can be. I learned that there's always another technique to master, another form to explore, and another piece of wood waiting to surprise you. Then, receiving a PHEOG (Pete Holtus Educational Opportunity Grant) gave me the chance to spend an unforgettable week at Stuart Batty's shop. That experience was a turning point—pun intended! My understanding, skill, and confidence all took a huge leap forward, and my enjoyment of turning deepened in ways I couldn't have imagined.

Along the way, I've been lucky to pick up a couple of tips from fellow turners:

- From Stu: Grain, Grind, and Skill.
- From Rudi: instead of lifting the tool off the work and restarting a cut, slide the tool back to easily find the bevel again.
- From Greg: remove the jaws from the chuck and use the togs to hold small pieces.
- Respect the lathe's power, but don't be afraid of it. Fear causes hesitation, and hesitation causes accidents.

Experiment boldly. If something doesn't work out, hey—you've just made kindling!

And here's one lesson I've observed: you don't need to buy every tool you see. Find the one that makes sense to you, learn it inside and out, and master it. A skilled hand with a well-understood tool will always outperform a cluttered bench full of unused gadgets.

Most importantly, enjoy the process. Turning isn't just about creating bowls or pens; it's a meditative, satisfying escape from life's daily grind—and one that results in heartfelt gifts for friends and family.

Every time I step into my shop, I feel that same spark of curiosity and craftsmanship that I saw in my dad. The rhythm of the lathe, the scent of wood, the satisfaction of a smooth curve—all remind me that creating with our hands connects us to something timeless.

Creating man glitter,
Don Sheffield



FROM THE WEB:

Al Murphy –
ajmurphy1@comcast.net



Check out this link to see steam-powered machining, like it was done in 1925:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u-JM-B3QAQYI>

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.

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, November 10th** from 5:00 to 7:00pm at Rockler. The subject will be tea light candle holders, which can be made as centerpieces for the holiday party.

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

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.



Debra Higley

made these apples from beetle-killed ash. The finish is acrylic, lacquer, and wax. Note: as a result of this turning, live apples were damaged (yum!). The inside-out balloons are Schacht maple with watercolor, acrylic, and mica spray lacquer finish.



He also made this bowl that looks like a burl but is actually live oak, where the tree had healed over a pruned limb. Resin was required as the

center was not stable and it was a commissioned piece. It was his first time working with resin in the context of a bowl. He finished it with Odies Oil.

Henry Williams has been working on a chess set, though it's not complete as yet. It's based on a 1940s design by Man Ray. One aspect that appealed to him is that even the knights are turned - all four will be done all at the same time as a ring turning. Both the holly and cocobolo polish up so well when sanded to 1000 grit that he's just used EEE Ultrashine and Renaissance Wax as a finish. The kings are 3-3/8" tall, and it'll be a 34-piece set with an extra queen for pawn promotion.



Carl Fulbright

worked on some fairly simple and fun projects last month. The small 6" beech captive ring goblet was finished with carnauba wax, The 10" aspen snowman has a walnut hat and was finished with Mohawk acrylic.

The 7" lighthouse was made from apple and finished with Mohawk acrylic.

Todd Bowen recently turned his first gavel, which he found to be very fun. Someone wanted something special for a friend. Turns (LOL) out that cocobola and ebony both give off a great courtroom sound. Stippling was added to the gavel hammer and base plate for a custom feel with better grip. It was finished with Odie's oil.

Mickey Jackson has been working on a variety of projects. The three paddles in the center were made for the captains of his grandson's high school soccer team (his grandson Rien is one of the captains). They are made of ambrosia maple, and the lettering and logo for Silver Creek were done with a laser engraver. The two lidded segmented bowls are of mixed woods. The finial on the one on the left was turned from some leftover Alumilite from another project. The bowl on the right has an inlaid pewter feature covered in Alumilite.



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.

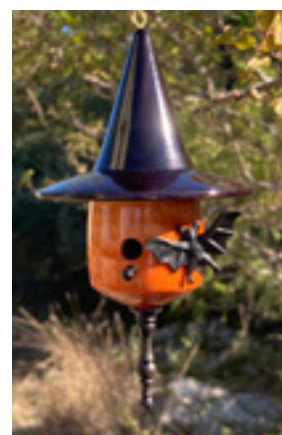
ROCKLER

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 was busy in the shop recently, making magic wand displays for his many magic wands. They're made of white oak and red oak scraps, stained before applying spray semi-gloss finish.



October found him making very seasonal Halloween witch ornament bat houses following a design from Dale Nish. He used black and orange dyes over maple and cherry; the average size is 4 1/2" tall.



Blaine Blaesing has been working on holiday gifts. For his three nieces, he made three nearly identical walnut boxes with a little bark remaining. The lids are made of aspen with small labradorite cabochon inserts.

