



# GOING 'ROUND

Front Range Woodturners Newsletter

Vol. 25, No. 12 December 2025

Editor: Brenda Blaesing

## HOLIDAY PARTY

**Friday, December 12th**

Our holiday party will be held on Friday, December 12th at a new location--St. Phillip Lutheran Church, 7531 S Kendall Blvd, Littleton. The social hour will start at 5:30, dinner at 6:30 and the program will run from 7:30 to 9:00. The club will provide turkey, ham, mashed potatoes and drinks. Members are encouraged to bring a side dish, salad or dessert. The main event of the evening will be an auction to raise funds for the Pete Holtus Educational Opportunity Grant program. Bring your generous spirits and your wallets. The RSVP deadline is Friday, 12/5. Use this web signup form:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E054BA5A72CA5FF2-59267786-frwcwg>

If you have any problems, contact Bear:  
bear@bearlimvere.com

## ORNAMENT EXCHANGE

One of the traditions of the party is the Ornament Exchange. Bring your turned ornament and exchange it with a fellow ornament enthusiast. When you arrive at the party, you will get a raffle ticket and a tag for each ornament you bring. On the tag, you will put your name and material(s) of construction. The ornaments will be on display until the ornament exchange begins. Then they'll be placed in brown paper bags for a random drawing. As each number from the raffle tickets is called, the called ticket holder will pick a random bag. This will continue until all ornaments have been exchanged.

## CENTERPIECES

For those who signed up to create centerpieces, the club will provide tealight candles to incorporate into your piece. Tealight dimensions are:

Diameter: 1-7/16"

Height: 23/32" base only, 1-3/8" with light

## 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>

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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	26	Roster	28
Individual Members	153		
<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>paid for 2025</b>	

### 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

## TURNING CHALLENGE / PERPETUAL TURNING

Our Turning Challenge for January is anything spherical. It can just be a sphere, or feature a sphere in any way you choose. And no, we will not be checking your work with calipers! Although we are judging for the challenge, remember that the only person you need to be better than is the woodturner you were yesterday!

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 November Turning challenge was an ornament. Winners were:

Novice: (no entries)

Intermediate: Robyn Herman

Advanced: Don Maloney

**Perpetual Turning:** Rick Orr's goblet was won by Scott Schlapkohl, who will bring something wonderful for the January 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](mailto:marcee.morris@gmail.com)



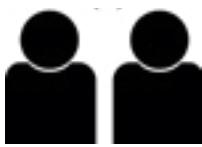
The Ladies of the Lathe are putting together their 2026 monthly demonstration schedule and are putting out a plea for those who are willing to teach. Suggested topics include:

Lamps (including the wiring)  
Tagua nut turning  
Pepper mills  
Tops/captive rings  
Plates part 2  
Tool sharpening  
Kitchen utensils  
Fruit

If anyone is interested in doing a day of demonstration/ teaching, please contact Marcee Morris.

## 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
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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> williamshenry@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

## MENTORING CLASS

Marty Christensen - mecturning@gmail.com

The December mentoring class will be held on Monday, December 8th from 5:00 to 7:00pm at Rockler. The topic is a mystery at this point. Come and be surprised!

## 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.

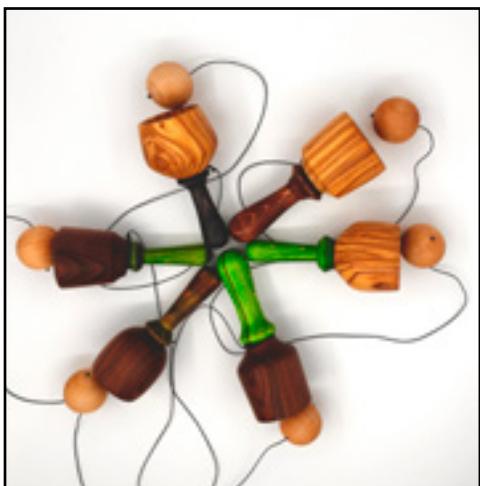


**Dave Brooks** and his wife **Melissa Hunter** partnered with Children's Hospital in Aurora to make 400 Christmas tree ornaments for the children who will be in the hospital around Christmastime. All ornaments were hand-cut on a scroll saw; the project took almost 200 hours to complete (most of the time was spent on sanding). The ornaments are unfinished so the kids can decorate them. All ornaments were made with 1/4" Baltic birch plywood, ranging from 3-1/2" to 6-1/4".

The ornaments will be delivered to Children's Hospital on December 15th. Dave and Melissa are hoping to get photos of the ornaments after they're decorated by the children.



**Todd Bowen** turned a few ball and cups for the grandkids. The balls were 1-1/8", the woods include olive wood, cocobola and "dyed raffle wood." They were finished with Odies Oil.



**Aaron Crane** picked up some large pieces of wet hickory in Illinois last April, rough turned them, then sealed and bagged them. Upon inspection, he found several cracks that were pretty large. Inspired by Pat Scott's demo on butterfly joints, he ordered a number of Koa butterfly pieces along with the template and applied them to three long cracks and one short one. The bowl is 12-13" in diameter (it warped a bit) and 5.5" high, finished with Tried and True. After learning a lot in the process, Aaron will gift the bowl to a friend who hails from Hawaii.

**Melissa Hunter** has been busy turning gnomes. Here are four of the completed ones. They stand 3" to 4" tall, made with walnut and curly maple. The noses were the hardest part.



Juniper roots make beautiful turnings. **Gordon Dalby** turned these four items on the lathe. The weird one in back was a challenge to keep attached. He also made this 8" dia x 7 1/2" tall segmented bowl of red heart, maple, bubinga, lace, and cherry.



**Debra Higley** turned, carved and watercolor/mica painted these strawberries from tulipwood. The finish is polyurethane. She also made these eggs from crabapple and spalted maple branchwood. The Odie's finish needs a coat of wax. The small maple egg was turned by Bruce Perry.



## 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.

## 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** completed two maple boxes this month. Both are about 2-1/2" tall. The lids are a little loose so they can be opened with one hand and also allow for wood movement, although they shouldn't move much as they are end-grain boxes. The little handle on the one is walnut.

