



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

Facebook: <https://tinyurl.com/yacakdwa>

Ladies of the Lathe: <https://tinyurl.com/yap8m6x4>

YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/yxem4vw9>

THIS MONTH'S NEWS:

| | |
|---|-----|
| Holiday Party | 1 |
| Club Information & Officers | 2 |
| Turning Challenge / Perpetual Turning | 2 |
| Ladies of the Lathe | 2 |
| Mentors..... | 3 |
| Group Buys | 3 |
| Photo Gallery | 4-5 |



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 | | |

Total Membership 279 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

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

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



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 |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| 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 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 balls and cups for the grandkids. The balls were 1-1/8", the woods include olive wood, cocobola and "dye 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.



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.



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.



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.

