



# GOING 'ROUND

Front Range Woodturners Newsletter

Vol. 26, No. 1 January 2026

Editor: Brenda Blaesing

## JANUARY DEMONSTRATOR – BOB FRANKLIN

Tuesday, January 6th – In Person and via Zoom

Greg Broughton - [frw.vicepres@gmail.com](mailto:frw.vicepres@gmail.com)

Growing up in New Mexico, Bob has been involved in some form of woodworking since he was a teenager. He moved to Colorado in 1989 following work. Somewhere around 2009, Bob picked up an old 1930s lathe at a garage sale, refurbished it and started learning how to turn. Over the course of the next few years, in his off time, he slowly started teaching himself with the help of youtube and lots of research. He really fell in love with turning.



A few years later, Bob realized there were two local woodturning clubs and a pen club within 45 minutes of him. He joined all of them and has been a member of them all since then. He has been the PHEOG chair for Front Range Woodturners and has been president of Rocky Mountain Woodturners.

He and his wife Cindy also fell in love with resin casting. They made and sold thousands of hybrid blanks to woodturners all over the world over the course of about five years. Their blanks could be found at our local Woodcraft in Loveland and were also available online at [turnerswarehouse.com](http://turnerswarehouse.com) and [ringsupplies.com](http://ringsupplies.com). While this was a thriving business, a few years ago the Franklins quit making blanks to regain focus on woodturning as a hobby.

Bob has demonstrated for all three clubs on multiple occasions and also been a regional demonstrator at

## 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	25	Roster	27
Individual Members	147		

**Total Membership 269 paid for 2025**

## CLUB OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

- President: Raleigh Lockhart
- Vice President/Program Director: Greg Broughton
- Secretary: Patrick Crumpton
- Treasurer: Larry Abrams
- President Emeritus: Don Prorak
- 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: Ken Rollins
- Photographer: Jim Record
- Publicity Chair: Robyn Herman & Raleigh Lockhart
- Shop Tour Chair: Al Murphy
- Videographer: Larry Abrams
- Wood Drawing: Lavonne Kaiser
- Youth Chair: Don Prorak

the Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium on a variety of topics.

In this demo, Bob will demonstrate how he creates winged bowls with carved feet. Bob was inspired to make these after watching a few different turners make them, and since then has adapted his own methods of creating these fun bowls and will share that with you.



Find more of Bob's work on his Instagram page: <https://www.instagram.com/franklinscreativecorner/>

## 2025 YEAR-END AWARDS

### Don Prorak

As the year draws to a close I'd like to thank everyone for letting me serve as FRW president. It has been a rewarding, educational, and sometimes challenging experience, and I plan to continue my active involvement in this great organization.

Of course, it is not a solo endeavor. It is the combined effort of the officers and board members that drives the club. At our annual holiday party we recognize two individuals who have gone above and beyond for FRW. The John Perkins "Most Valuable Member" award is given for outstanding contribution and service, and I was pleased to present it to our 2026 President, **Raleigh Lockhart**. Raleigh established the Brown Bag Demos and has been a valuable educational resource to our members. For the



Lifetime Achievement award **Robyn Herman** was an obvious choice. She has served as president, LOTL chair, publicity and social media chair, and has contributed immeasurable time and energy to the success of FRW. It was a great honor to present these awards to

such deserving people. Congratulations and happy turning!

## LADIES OF THE LATHE

Marcee Morris -  
marcee.morris@gmail.com

The Ladies of the Lathe hope to have an educational and fun 2026. In January, **Debra Higley** will be demonstrating inside-out hot air balloon ornaments.

**Dave Hawley** will show us how to make Scottish spurtles for our February get together.

Also on the yet-to-be-determined schedule will be turning tagua nuts and pepper mills.

We will be using Sign-Up Genius from hence forth to schedule all upcoming events. If you are not getting these invites please let Marcee know so the mailing list is accurate.

## BROWN BAG DEMO

Robyn Herman - rrherm@gmail.cpm

Have you ever considered getting a laser engraver? If the answer is yes, or even “maybe,” this demonstration is for you!

Join Raleigh for a Brown Bag session where he will:

- Demonstrate his small, portable laser engraver
- Share his process for building engraving graphics
- Lead a group Best Practice Sharing discussion.

Whether you're curious about buying one or already own a laser, come ready to learn, share your tips, and ask questions!

## H.O.W. CLASS

Keith Motzner -keithmotzner@gmail.com

**Jay Miller** taught the October class, showing participants how to make an ocarina, a small flute.



## PHEOG PROGRAM

Ken Rollins

The Pete Holtus Educational Opportunity Grant program provides grant money to FRW members to further their woodturning education through an application process. Examples of grant requests include attending a symposium, workshop, or training class. Those FRW members awarded grants do not repay the club with money, but must complete a return benefit to the club no later than one year from the grant award. Examples include giving a demo at club meetings, brown-bag demos, or mentoring sessions. Some past recipients have written an article for the newsletter or taught a Hands-on Woodturning or Ladies of the Lathe class. Be sure to be very specific about your payback plan; this is the primary basis for evaluating the overall value to the club. There are many creative ways to pay the learning forward to the club, and the committee will consider any useful idea. In addition to individual training, grants to schools teaching woodturning are also available.

See complete rules and application on the FRW website (<https://www.frontrangewoodturners.org/>) located in the “Education” tab under “PHEOG” subheading. You must be a FRW member who joined before March 15, 2025. To be a member in good standing, make sure your 2026 dues are paid before submitting an application. FRW members can apply for grants more than once, but only once every three years.

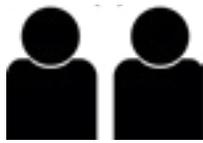
This year the PHEOG grant committee is composed of Ken Rollins, Todd Bowen, and Erika Meeske. These members are not eligible for a grant this year.

Your completed grant application must be completed and submitted electronically by the March 15, 2026 deadline. Applying ahead of time will enable the committee to review the application and make sure it is clearly understood before the deadline. The committee will forward their report to the Executive Committee after the March 15 deadline, and the results will be announced at the FRW general meeting in April.

In the past the maximum individual grant limit has been set at \$1250, and only registration, tuition, or workshop fees have been reimbursed. If you receive a grant of \$600 or more you will receive a IRS 1099 form showing the amount for the 2026 tax year. Grants of \$599 or less do not generate a IRS 1099 form.

## 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	<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> williamshenrya@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 next mentoring class will be held on **Monday, January 12th** from 5:00 to 7:00pm at Rockler. The subject will be Sharpening, part one of a two-part series.

## 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  
9637 W. Vandeventor Dr  
Littleton, CO 80128

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. 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.



**Jill Rice** made pill plates for vitamins and Rx from bubinga. She saw the technique for the canary wood plate a couple decades ago at a symposium in Utah.



Measuring 6" by 8", the bowl is composed of jatoba, red heart, maple, yellow heart, teak, and padauk.

Here are a few of **John Petersen's** Christmas gnomes. They're basically scrap wood. The beards are handmade by sanding.



**Curt Vogt** managed to work in a little turning recently and completed four new Sierra / Wall Street II pens. The photo was taken just before the final polishing steps were taken at the buffing wheel. He was also experimenting with shapes for some mini Christmas trees out of some construction pine. Curt decided afterwards that this tree style would probably fit well in a Dr. Seuss children's book illustration.

**Raleigh Lockhart** recently taught a Woodturning 101 class at Woodcraft. These were the projects worked on. He also made some acorn boxes for holiday gifts.



**Carl Fulbright** made a few special wig stands for the cancer center. The snowmen are aspen and walnut with maple top and bottom and airbrush painted. The patriotic ones are turned from a wide variety of woods and airbrush painted. Carl also has a bag of miscellaneous



**Gordon Dalby** sent this photo of the first segmented bowl turned by his new student, Tom Thorp, at Covenant Living of Colorado. Great to be learning at 80!

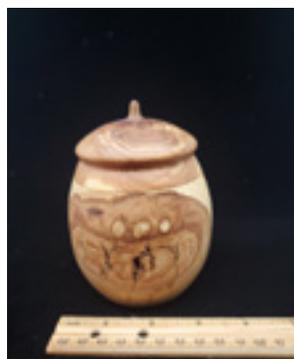
wooden toys he has made. When he happens across a kid who looks like they need one, he gives them one and shows them how to use it. Just kind of a fun thing to do.



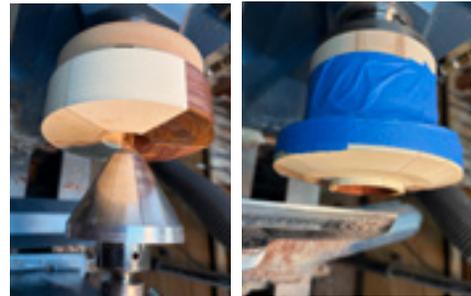
**Bill Leigher** made a couple of pecan bowls. The wood came from his wintertime club in Florida and the symmetry is really nice.



**Mark Tanzyus** recently turned a small vase out of worm hole aspen and a small box out of ash.



**Henry Williams** completed the chess set by turning the knights as a ring turning, weighting the holly pieces close to the cocobolo pieces, felting the bottoms, and turning signed leather disks for the bottom of the kings only. It's based on a 1940's design by Man Ray. The finish is EEE Ultrashine and Renaissance Wax. The kings are 3 3/8" tall, and it's a 34 piece set with an extra queen for pawn promotion.



**Debra Higley** made an 8x3.5" bowl of big leaf maple. The outside finish is Danish wood oil and carnauba, inside is Odie's Oil.



**Todd Bowen** made this ash bowl finished with India ink dye and white embellishing wax. It was finished with Tried and True original. He also made this Claro walnut platter with turquoise, finished with Waterlox. This material had so much silica in it that he basically had to keep his sharpener running



to get through the material. Thanks, Roper, for this beautiful piece of wood.

Having been turning for about a year, **Roger Boss** made quite a few items for holiday gifts. He made



two coffee scoops, one from wenge and one from maple, finished with



Yorkshire Grit Black and topped with two coats of Mylands friction polish. He also made two ice cream scoops, one from wenge and one from coffeewood, finished the same way as the coffee scoops. The salt



and pepper shakers are from an oak log, about 4" high. The seam ripper, from coffeewood, has a 3" long handle and was finished with friction



polish. The walnut bottle stopper for a double magnum wine bottle used the original cork for the stopper. It's about 3.5" tall and 2.25" wide.



Last was an oak bottle opener with a 5.5" long handle.

## 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.

## FROM THE WEB:

Al Murphy -  
[ajmurphy1@comcast.net](mailto:ajmurphy1@comcast.net)



Here is a link from Jason Matischeck on how to sharpen everything:

<https://www.sharpeninghandbook.info/index.html>

## 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.

## 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](http://www.woodturner.org) for more information.