



GOING 'ROUND

Front Range Woodturners Newsletter

Vol. 26, No. 7 July 2026

Editor: Brenda Blaesing

JULY DEMONSTRATOR –RICK ORR

Tuesday, July 7th–In Person and via Zoom

Greg Broughton – frw.vicepres@gmail.com

Rick is a past president of the Front Range Woodturners. This will be his 10th time demonstrating for the club, not including various Brown Bag Demonstrations. He has also demonstrated at the Rocky Mountain Woodturn-ers in Loveland, the Pueblo Woodturners Club in Pueblo, the Pikes Peak Woodturn-ers in Colorado Springs, as well as the Yellowstone Woodturners out of Billings, MT.



He is a frequent demonstrator at the Rocky Mountain Turning Symposium. Rick was also featured on the back cover of *American Woodturner* magazine in February 2018 featuring his bamboo fly rod tubes.

Demo Description: Turning a Perfect Sphere Rick's demonstration will cover using the Carter Perfect Sphere Tool to turn a rough blank into a sphere. The demo will include preparation of the blank into a cylinder mounted on a scroll chuck. The



WHERE TO FIND US :

Website: www.fronrangewoodturners.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, 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	45	Lifetime Members	21
Family Members	22	Roster	19
Individual Members	140	Student, Online	2, 3

Total Membership 252 paid for 2026

CLUB OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

President: Raleigh Lockhart

Vice President/Program Director: Greg Broughton

Secretary: Patrick Crumpton

Treasurer: Larry Abrams

President Emeritus: Don Prorak

Brown Bag Demo Chair: Robyn Herman

Club Historian: Rick Orr

Coffee Chair: Gary Starritt

Communications Chair: Pat Scott

Group Buy Coordinator: Jay Miller

Hands On Woodturning Chair: Keith Motzner

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 Exchange: Ron Ainge

Youth Chair: Don Prorak

blank sphere pattern is then laid out to shape a turnable sphere. The set up of the Carter tool will be discussed in detail as well as the safety aspects of the entire operation. While this project normally requires a considerable amount of sanding, there will be no sanding done in the demo. Rick will also have several completed examples of his work from many different wood species on display and for discussion.

TURNING CHALLENGE / PERPETUAL TURNING

The project for last month's turning challenge was a beaded trinket box. The winners were:

Intermediate: **Mickey Jackson**

Advanced: **Scott Schlapkohl**

Perpetual Turning:

Ed Cypher's beautiful pen was won by **Ron Ainge**, who will contribute a piece for the July raffle. Remember that the Perpetual Turning is not a competition; it is an opportunity to share our work.

PRESIDENT'S SERVICE AWARD

Raleigh Lockhart

This past month, I had the pleasure of recognizing

Marcee Morris for her exceptional

efforts and unwavering dedication to Front Range Woodturners.

Marcee joined the club in 2023, and right from the start, she dove headfirst into supporting it. Her

passion and willingness to step up is always a priority for Marcee. By

2025, she took on the vital role of Chair for the Ladies of the Lathe, and she has worked tirelessly ever since to champion, grow, and support the group.



Whether it is organizing events, mentoring others, or helping out behind the scenes, Marcee is always among the first to volunteer. She is someone the club and I personally can always count on to bring energy, reliability, and a helping hand.

Marcee, thank you so much for your outstanding dedication and for everything you do to make the Front Range Woodturners club AMAZING!

LADIES OF THE LATHE

Marcee Morris –
marcee.morris@gmail.com



In the June class, **Dennis Fanning** demonstrated how to turn yarn bowls, leaving the base a bit thicker for weight at the bottom. Then he showed how to carve the curlique where the yarn exits the bowl.



LOTL classes will change to the fourth Tuesday of the month, starting in July. The next class will be Tuesday, July 28th when **Don Prorak** will be demonstrating a twisted multi-axis lidded box.



BROWN BAG DEMO

Robyn Herman - rrherm@gmail.com

Al Murphy gave a very informative presentation on



tool making for the June demo. He uses O1 oil-hardened steel and showed what tools to use to cut and form the steel. Then he discussed heat treating/hardening, tempering and sharpening.

Matt Coupas will be demonstrating baby rattles on July 14th. Made from three pieces of wood, filled with BBs and turned between centers, these rattles are a relatively simple project that offers some unique challenges. These rattles make a great gift for a baby shower or 1st birthday and were a big hit with the Anchor Center for



Blind Children, who received a donation of a dozen rattles as part of the Colorado Woodworkers Guild's annual toy drive last year. Matt is planning on donating to the CWG toy drive again this year, and is hoping to recruit some FRW members to help in that effort.

H.O.W. CLASS

Keith Motzner - keithmotzner@gmail.com

The focus of June's H.O.W. class was making a three-legged stool. The next class will be July 21st when the subject will be pen turning.

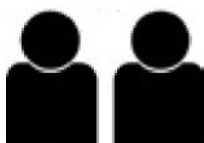
SHOP TOURS

Al Murphy -
ajmurphy1@comcast.net July's shop tour will be held at **Al Murphy's** shop on July 12th from 10:00 to 2:00. Find out more details at the meeting next week.



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 Wood Gathering & Prep. kmotzner@me.com 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
Thornton	Bob Franklin Btheb66@gmail.com	General/ Stabilizing

MENTORING CLASS

Marty Christensen – mecturning@gmail.com
 The next mentoring class will be held on **Monday, July 13th** from 5:00 to 7:00pm at Rockler. The subject will be Unusual Chucking Methods.

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 July. 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

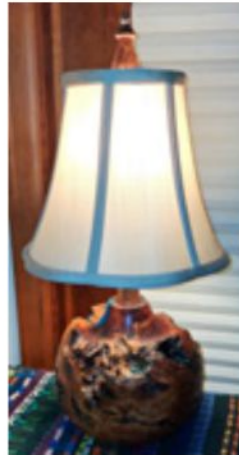
Two additional companies, Klingspor and Penn State Industries, offer discounts to members who wish to place individual catalog orders. You must be on their list of FRW members to get the discount. To get on the list, please sign up at a meeting or send an e-mail to Jay Miller (jaymiller9637@comcast.net).

PHOTO GALLERY

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



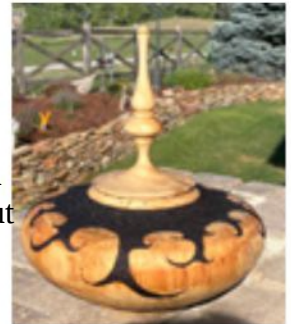
Joe Callahan recently got some hollowing tools and a video from Trent Bosch, and has made time to turn some forms in the past few weeks—including his first carved feet. That one was twice turned silver maple with some spalting from around the block, about 6 x 4.5" for referencing the others. Then there's ash crotchwood from the last snow storm, finished green and it warped quite a bit. Lastly, a box elder burl turned dry, and the cracks were inlaid with crushed opal. Joe typically turns utility items like bowls so all are finished with Odie's Oil he purchased after last month's demo. He's only been turning a bit over a year, but Trent's videos (and tools) were extremely helpful in working through a hollow form. Joe is happy to pass the "Revelations in Hollowing" dvd to anyone who would like to borrow it.



Debra Higley turned a lamp last month. The base of the lamp is an 8" x 8" root burl from a manzanita tree. It has some blue mica resin and was finished with Odie's Oil. The finial is redwood burl and lace agate.

Blaine Blaesing

made this 8" diameter by 9" tall hollow form with finial lid about two years ago from a piece of aspen from a neighbor's tree. The wood was unremarkable so he decided that some sort of embellishment was needed. The piece lay dormant until recently when the wood-burned swirls were added as a finishing touch. The piece was finished with walnut oil.



Todd Bowen is finishing up a study on ornaments. The birdhouse ornaments were an opportunity to practice and refine spindle turning, embellishing and using alcohol dyes. Each ornament is unique--different woods, different

spindle shapes, bark-edged roofs, bark on branches hollowed out. Most were finished with Doctors Workshop, Pens Plus. Preparing for an upcoming show, Todd made 41 birdhouse ornaments and 16 urchin ones.

PHEOG PROGRAM

Ken Rollins - colkdr@yahoo.com

Congratulations to the 2026 recipients of PHEOG grants.

Pat Scott will attend the SWAT symposium in Waco and continue teaching LOTL and HOW classes for his payback.

Marty Christensen will also attend the SWAT symposium and share new skills or tool ideas through the mentoring program.

Michael Roper will attend the Rocky Mountain symposium and will prepare a demonstration on Multi-axis turning.

Cathie McLean will attend a one week class on embellishment at the Marc Adams school in Indiana and teach a LOTL class.

Think ahead about what opportunity you might have for learning in 2027 and your chance to share skills with the FRW.

Curt Vogt got to do a wide variety of turnings this past month but at least part of that he can blame on Pat Scott's great demo last month. There were a couple small bowls done. Shocking! OK, they don't match in size and shape, but they are bowls. Curt does however have a few more bowl blanks ready to start making a matched spice bowl set. Other projects Curt completed were magic wands and four hollowed out Christmas ornaments with sturdy finials for homes with pets or little helper elves. To get



the color on the red oak magic wands, he smooshed (technical term) inexpensive acrylic hobby paint into the pores. Bright colors that kids might like are best. The one red oak ornament also has blue acrylic paint in the pores.



Then he turned six little finger tops of maple and started trying to make a set of curly maple little dishes per Pat's technique. He did one for practice of his methods in a smaller size and then did the bottoms of three of the five done. The diam-

eter is very close but the shape consistency leaves a bit to be desired. Not as easy as Pat makes it look!



Marcee Morris made a 15" tall lighthouse from cedar. The metal railing is from a tapered roller bearing assembly and the top is a glass insulator with a puck light inside. Then she made another one from a piece of found wood, probably from a fruit tree,



and used the basket illusion technique to create bricks.

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



If you like carving, check out this link for some inspiration. Aleph Geddis creates spindly, playful, vaguely alien wooden sculptures.

<https://www.thisiscolossal.com/2026/04/aleph-geddis-chiseled-wood-sculptures/>

NEWSLETTER

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.