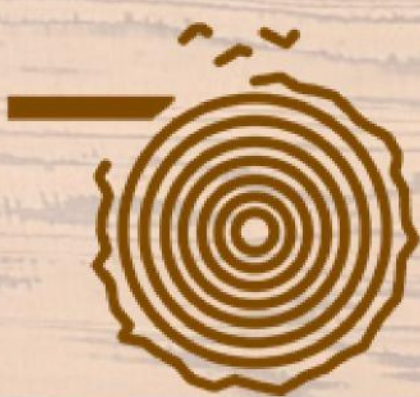




GOING 'ROUND

Front Range Woodturners Newsletter

Vol. 26, No. 5 May 2026

Editor: Brenda Blaesing

MAY DEMONSTRATOR –MICHAEL ROPER

Tuesday, May 5th–In Person and via Zoom

Greg Broughton – frw.vicepres@gmail.com

Michael Roper is a third generation carpenter/ woodworker who fell in love with woodturning while studying in the Fine Woodworking program at Red Rocks Community College. He has been practicing



carpentry since he was a teenager, working with his grandfather and uncle. From exterior framing to installing hardwood floors, custom interior beam work and timber framing to building and installing built-in furniture, he has a diverse range of experiences working in the medium of wood.

This diversity has only expanded during his years of studying at Red Rocks Community College, where he earned his Craftsman Certificate in Spring 2010, his Woodturning Certificate in Fall 2010, and graduated with honors and his AAS degree in Fine Woodworking in Spring 2011. Along with learning how to spin wood on the lathe, he has learned how to lay out and cut joinery by hand, how to take a standing tree down to useable material, and the crucial elements of design that interact with the way he approaches wood.

Roper lives in the mountains above Denver, where the forests, mountains, and animals inspire him to leave his pieces as natural as possible, to focus on the inner beauty of the wood. He uses local and sustainable wood and all-natural finishes whenever possible. Because many people have never seen wood turned before, Roper takes a portable lathe

WHERE TO FIND US :

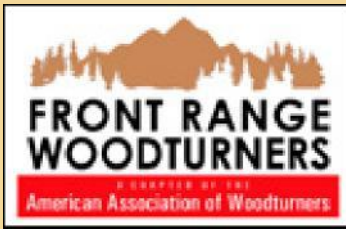
Website: www.fronrangewoodturners.org

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

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

THIS MONTH'S NEWS:

Meeting Demonstrator	1-2
Club Information & Officers	2
Turning Challenge / Perpetual Turning	2
Ladies of the Lathe	3
Brown Bag Demo	3
H.O.W. Class	3
Shop Tours	3
PHEOG Program	4
President's Service Award	4
Mentors	5
Group Buys	5
Photo Gallery	6-7



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	38	Lifetime Members	21
Family Members	22	Roster	19
Individual Members	140	Student, Online	2, 3

Total Membership 245 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

with him to craft shows and farmer's markets. He finds people are fascinated by the simplicity of the process of transformation that wood goes through. His toys, pens, bowls, furniture, and wood processing can be seen on social media. Roper recently had one of his pieces, *It Came from the Mountains*, accepted into the permanent collection of the Kirkland Museum in Denver.

As well as being an award-winning woodturner, Roper is eager to share his experience with others. He has taught Ladies of the Lathe classes and performed demos at the Id Gallery and FRW meetings. Additionally, he teaches private lessons in his shop or on customer's own lathes, including lathe set-up and repair.

Roper is a master of taking local felled trees and turning them into material suitable for fine woodworking and woodturning projects. He will demonstrate how to approach working with rough materials (logs/branches), sharing his knowledge of evaluating material (what to look out for, what to avoid), preparing blanks, and safely turning rough blanks. If you've ever been looking at a log in your shop, and thought "where do I start," this is the demo for you.

TURNING CHALLENGE / PERPETUAL TURNING

The project for last month's turning challenge was a multi-sided box. The winners were:

Intermediate: **Blake Ives**

Advanced: **Bob Franklin**

Perpetual Turning:

Don Prorak's square-to-round box was won by **Jay Miller**, who will contribute a piece for the May meeting. Remember that the Perpetual Turning is not a competition; it is an opportunity to share our work.

LADIES OF THE LATHE

Marcee Morris –
marcee.morris@gmail.com



In the April class, **Dave Hawley** demonstrated a variety of spindle turning projects, starting with the Scottish spurtle, a cooking utensil dating back to the 15th century. He then showed how to make traditional Shaker furniture knobs as well as miniature baseball bats. The basics of hand-turned threads, the Tormek sharpening system and making your own tools/handles were also discussed.



On May 5th, **Les Stern** will demonstrate how to turn gamba nuts for finials and other small items.

BROWN BAG DEMO

Robyn Herman - rrherm@gmail.com

At the April BBD, **Rick Orr** demonstrated a variety of surface embellishments including wire burning, coloring, chatter work, texturing with a rotary carver and woodburning. He showed his process for making baseballs, along with how he personalizes them with logos.



Todd Bowen will be the presenter for our next Brown Bag Demo on May 12th. He will be demonstrating how he creates inlays.

H.O.W. CLASS

Keith Motzner - keithmotzner@gmail.com

April's H.O.W. class was Woodturning 101.



The May 19th class will be Woodturning 201.

SHOP TOURS

Al Murphy -
ajmurphy1@comcast.net

John Cowan hosted the FRW shop tour in April. What a well-organized shop!



Todd Bowen will host the next shop tour, on May 9th from 10:00 to 2:00. Get more details at our May meeting.

PHEOG PROGRAM

Ken Rollins - colkdr@yahoo.com

If you have been waiting for the last minute to apply for a PHEOG grant...good news! The time has come, again. The Board of Directors extended the deadline until May 15 to better fit the published schedules for prominent woodturning classes.

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 of payback include giving a demo at a club meeting, brown-bag demo, or mentoring session. 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. FRW wants to make sure that you receive useful training and plan to share that learning at whatever skill level you possess. 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.

You must be a FRW member who joined before May 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.

Read and make sure you understand the rules found on the FRW web page (<https://www.frontrangewoodturners.org/>) located in the "Education" tab under "PHEOG" subheading. Fill out the application online at the same page (frontrangewoodturners) located in the "Education" tab under "PHEOG" subheading.

When you have submitted your application you should receive an email acknowledgement within a day or so. If you don't, then use the PHEOG chair email link to check the status of your application. The application deadline is May 15, 2026. 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 May 15 deadline, and the results will be announced at the FRW general meeting in June. 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.

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.

PRESIDENT'S SERVICE AWARD

Raleigh Lockhart

I truly believe that the heart of the Front Range Woodturners lies in our volunteers. Recently, I was thrilled to present the President's Service Award to one of the pillars of our community, **Larry Abrams**. Since joining us in 2014, Larry has been a constant source of support. Whether he is balancing the books as our treasurer (a role he's held since 2015) or leading the AV Team to make sure our demonstrations and visual broadcast look and sound professional, Larry is always working to improve the FRW Club! I often run into him at Rockler working on our AV Equipment; his commitment goes far beyond our monthly meetings. And having someone we can trust with our budget makes our FRW club run so much easier! Larry, we are a better club because of you ... thank you for your years of service!



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-	Larry Abrams laabrams.51@me.com	General Rockler store
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, May 11th** from 5:00 to 7:00pm at Rockler. The subject will be Off-Center Turning, Part 1.

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. Vandeventer 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 20" massage sticks of Schacht cherry and maple with a 1/2" wooden dowel down the middle. The (Rockler) pizza cutter has a Schacht cherry handle. All were wet turned with walnut oil and finished with Odie's oil.



2000 grit and then polished on the Beale polishing wheels.



Blaine Blaesing made this live-edge 'banana' bowl from a beautiful piece of honey locust. It's 11" long, 6" wide and 6" high. He finished it with walnut oil.



Pat Hannon made these three pieces which all contain pink ivory, African blackwood and holly. The first one also has mother of pearl in the top. The second one has black

palm and deer antler in the top. The last piece which I have had here before has pau rosa on the bottom and tagua nut with a decorative pin made of brass and copper on the top. They have all been sanded to

NEW PAT CARROLL CLASS

Last month's demonstrator, Pat Carroll, will be giving a class at Creede Woodcarvers Rendezvous Colorado on July 10th to 15th. The links below are for his and Christine Smith's classes. Christine carves full-size raptors among other things. She is also an accomplished turner whose demand is increasing for club demonstrations and classes.

[https://www.creedewoodcarvers.com/store/p209/PowerCarve a Cogs and Gears Bowl.html](https://www.creedewoodcarvers.com/store/p209/PowerCarve+a+Cogs+and+Gears+Bowl.html)



[https://www.creedewoodcarvers.com/store/p205/PowerCarve a Red-tailed Hawk.html](https://www.creedewoodcarvers.com/store/p205/PowerCarve+a+Red-tailed+Hawk.html)

Four LOTL members are featured in an art installation at Denver International Airport. The show, entitled *A Cut Above*, showcases Colorado artists working in wood. LOTL was invited to participate as women are underrepresented in the world of woodworking. **Debra Higley, Robyn Herman, Marcee Morris** and **Brenda Blaesing** have work on display. Other well-known turners include Cindy Drozda, Trent Bosch and Laurent Niclot, each with their own case of work. Many pieces of furniture and sculpture are also featured.

Twenty artists are participating in the show, which will be on display until August 31st. It's located on the walking bridge leading to the A Concourse. If you're flying anywhere in the next few months, go to the airport a little early to check out the show.



Curt Vogt made a seasonal inspired maple egg-shaped box the day before Easter. It worked out rather nice and was a very consistent thickness, about 1/8". After the poly finish dried, he had to tweak the tenon a little bit with a sanding stick to adjust the fit but everything went great. It's more of a peacock egg size than a chicken



egg. Curt also made a new batch of magic wands of various woods. There are a dozen in the photo here but a few more still on the drying rack out in the shop.



Mickey Jackson decided to see what he could do with the turning challenge after Pat Carroll's demo last month. The first photo shows left to right, one of sugar maple

and two of cherry in the order he turned them. On the final one, he decided to only put two beads on

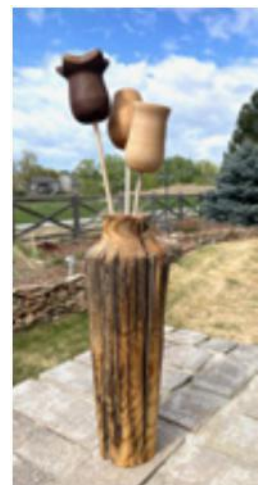
ROCKLER

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.



each side of the joint. He just got a 3D printer and included a photo of what he's printed so far. The best thing he did was the threaded chuck holder (purple, front right). He's putting six of those on a board attached to his lathe to keep his chucks handy. There's also a picture of the printer itself. After looking at many reviews, the printer Rick Orr talked about at the BBD and thinking it over, he settled on the Bambu Labs P2S Combo, which included the 4 spool AMS. He loves it!

Brenda Blaesing made this vase from an old, cracked and weathered pine fence post. It's 12" tall by 4" diameter and was finished with walnut oil. Then she made some wood flowers to display in it. The flowers are walnut, maple and ash.



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.