



GOING 'ROUND

Front Range Woodturners Newsletter

Vol. 26, No. 8 August 2026

Editor: Brenda Blaesing

AUGUST DEMONSTRATOR –MICHAEL ANDERSON **Tuesday, August 4th–In Person and via Zoom**

Greg Broughton - frw.vicepres@gmail.com

Michael Anderson is a woodturner and sculptor based in Chattanooga, Tennessee, known for imaginative, story-driven bowls and sculptural forms. Working under his own name and the moniker Ulmus Woodturning, he creates



pieces that blend traditional turning with carving, pyrography, and painted detail. His work often incorporates narrative elements and interactive surprises, drawing on personal experiences and a deep appreciation for the expressive potential of wood. Anderson primarily uses sustainably sourced domestic hardwoods from storm-fallen or felled trees in the Southeast, occasionally incorporating exotic species for contrast.

A biology instructor at Chattanooga State Community College, Anderson converted his home garage into a dedicated studio in 2021 and has since become an active voice in the woodturning community. His work has been featured in the Best of Tennessee Craft Biennial Exhibition, and he has demonstrated at national symposia including the Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium. Known for his distinctive Shreddies bowls, egg forms, and contemporary interpretations of Hawaiian calabash vessels, Anderson brings together technical skill, creative curiosity, and a commitment to community engagement—earning him recognition as a unique and respected figure in contemporary wood art.

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>

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

Total Membership 250 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

DEMO

For our demo, Michael will create a stylized dragon egg on an offset turned base. The egg and base connect via hidden magnets. Michael will cover techniques for turning a nice egg form, mounting and turning an off-center base from an odd piece of wood, and using carving, pyrography, flamer texturing, and colors to embellish turned objects.



CLASS

Michael will also teach a class at Rockler the day after our meeting on making a spin top box with coin bearing. Let it spin! Boxes are fun pieces of functional art, made even better when the top is more than just a lid. In this class you will create a turned box with a lid that also functions as a spin top. As a fun surprise, the spin top will utilize a coin (penny or dime) as a spin bearing. This class involves turning a classical form box, methods for hollowing with thin walls, using a doming block to shape a piece of metal, as well as turning a finial/stem with fine details.

TURNING CHALLENGE / PERPETUAL TURNING

The project for last month's turning challenge was a piece made from branch wood. The winners were:

Novice: **Frank Bryou**

Intermediate: **Don Sheffield**

Advanced: **Scott Schlapkohl**

Perpetual Turning:

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

BROWN BAG DEMO

Robyn Herman - rrherm@gmail.com

In July's brown bag demo, **Matt Coupas** demonstrated how he makes baby rattles from three pieces of wood, filled with BBs and turned between centers.



Our August Brown Bag Demo will be a special presentation on **Saturday, August 15th** so everyone can come. It's part of our effort to make pens for first responders. **Marty Christensen** will explain and turn a basic pen, then expand into more complex pens and other options in pen turning. If you have never turned a pen, come and see what you've been missing. The demo will run from 11:45 to 3:00.

H.O.W. CLASS

Keith Motzner - keithmotzner@gmail.com

The subject of July's H.O.W. class was pen turning, taught by **Larry Abrams** and **Keith Motzner**. The group of seven students, together with the instructors, turned 40 beautiful pens which will be given to Denver First Responders on October 28th. They had a fantastic day turning pens, learning different methods of turning and finishing, and the atmosphere was most



enjoyable. Six pens from the class were placed in the stairwell cabinet at Rockler, along with signs about the instructors, students, and purpose of the class.

LADIES OF THE LATHE

Marcee Morris -

marcee.morris@gmail.com



Don Prorak demonstrated multi-axis lidded boxes for the July class. He first explained how to create the three different axes for turning off center and advised color coding them for easy reference. Sharp tools and a light touch are key to turning with so much air. After the multi-axis cylinder was done, tenons were made on both ends and the rest of the project was just like turning a regular box--parting off the base from the lid, hollowing the lid, hollowing the base, fitting the lid to the base and making a jam chuck to finish the base. Don also showed some handy tools to make various parts of the project a little easier.



The next LOTL class will be held on Tuesday, August 25th. **Roper** will demonstrate rough turning a bowl blank.

PHEOG PROGRAM

Ken Rollins - colkdr@yahoo.com

Every year 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 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. The payback plan 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.

Read the complete rules for grant applications on the Front Range Woodturners website under the "Education" heading. Start thinking about applying for a grant when the 2027 opportunity is announced.

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

SHOP TOURS

Al Murphy -
ajmurphy1@comcast.net

Dave Brooks and **Melissa**

Hunter will host the FRW shop tour in August. The event will be held on Saturday, August 8th from 10:00 to 3:00. They will provide food/snacks along with water and soda. Their address is 895 Estes St in Lakewood.



PRESIDENT'S SERVICE AWARD

Raleigh Lockhart

What a joy it was this past July to honor **Robyn Herman** with the President's Service Award!



Since joining the Front Range Woodturners in 2015, Robyn has been a cornerstone of our community. By 2016, she stepped up to lead the Ladies of the Lathe as Group Chair, a role she dedicated herself to for six years! Never one to slow down, she serves as Group Chair for both Publicity & Social Media and the Brown Bag Demonstrations. Her tireless dedication hasn't gone unnoticed over the years ... Robyn was honored with the prestigious Perkins Award in 2018 and received the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2025 as well.

On a personal note, her role as one of the President Emeritus, Robyn has been an invaluable source of support, wisdom, and perspective for me. Robyn, thank you for your incredible dedication to the Front Range Woodturners!

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- 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 next mentoring class will be held on **Monday, August 10th** from 5:00 to 7:00pm at Rockler. The subject will be basic bowl turning for new turners with little to no tools and/or chucking options.

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 October. 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.



Debra Higley made this 13"x7" lamp base of Pacific Yew. The finial is sapele. It was wet turned with walnut oil and the finish is Odie's Oil. She has two more lamps to turn due to the "oh, can I have one too" we are so familiar with.



This beer tap handle was made by **Gordon Dalby**. Measuring 11-1/2" x 1-1/4", it was made of red heart, walnut and epoxy.



Ken Rollins made this bowl from a piece of walnut rescued from a firewood pile in Wisconsin. About 2"x6", it's finished with Danish oil.

Dave Brooks made these two pens for the upcoming Pens for First Responders



event. The top pen is a Gatsby Grande pen kit, the blank was an acrylic, camo pen blank. The bottom pen is a slimline kit that was donated to Pens for First Responders by Rick Orr. It was finished with Shellawax.

Pat Hannon made a series of boxes with multiple woods.

- (1) Brazilian cherry, African Blackwood, Abalone and epoxy. The finish was Odie shine juice and wax.
- (2) Banksia pod, African Blackwood and walnut finished with Odie shine juice and wax.
- (3) Tamarind, Mexican ebony, African Blackwood, Russian Olive burl, Mother of Pearl and epoxy; coin. Finish: bleached; black & gold ink; Odie shine juice and wax.
- (4) Tamarind and Pau Rosa. Finish: Bleached; Tru-Oil; waxed and polished.



PENS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

Pens for First Responders is a nonprofit started by **Dave Brooks** and **Melissa Hunter**. They have partnered with FRW and Rockler to host an event on October 28th, which is National First Responders Day. There will be live pen turning demonstrations at Rockler from 10:00 to 3:30. They're hoping to donate 200 pens. If any turners would like to donate pens for this event, contact Dave Brooks at 303-495-4660 or pensforfirstresponders@gmail.com.

This month, **Curt Vogt** completed a Japanese Tea Box style box for the AAW Forum 2026 Box Swap. It is approximately 3-3/4" tall and 3" wide. The box was made from sugar maple for the base, curly maple for the lid, spalted tamarind for the interior tray, and stabilized tree wood for the tray handle. The box will be mailed to the random recipient chosen from the more than thirty folks who signed up for the swap in June.



Blaine Blaesing made these two rustic trees from old fence posts obtained from a ranch in Wyoming. The taller tree (16") is cedar, the other (11") is pine. Both were finished with Danish oil.

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



Below is a link to the August 2020 issue of *American Woodturner*. See page 26 for something new to try--Gilding for Woodturners 101. It looks really fun, and you can buy a bunch of new tools and equipment!

<https://www.woodturner.org/common/Uploaded%20files/AmericanWoodturner/AW2020s/AW3504-2020.pdf>

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.