



GOING 'ROUND

Front Range Woodturners Newsletter

Vol. 26, No. 9 September 2026

Editor: Brenda Blaesing

SEPTEMBER DEMONSTRATOR –STEVE NEWBERRY Tuesday, September 1st–In Person and via Zoom

Greg Broughton - frw.vicpres@gmail.com

Steve Newberry comes to us from the Rocky Mountain Woodturners club. A long-time woodturner, he originally hails from the Portland, Oregon area and brings a wealth of experience with him. Once he was hooked on woodturning, he found the social aspects of woodturning as important as the technical ones.



On the topic of these technical challenges of woodturning, he is known for his multi-axis pieces both in spindle and faceplate orientations, especially his teapots and kuksas - and his interests have included tool making, traditional and multiaxis spindle turning, bowls, boxes, vases, burial urns. Part of the appeal of woodturning for Steve is thinking about how to solve the problems we all encounter, which is certainly a feature of his September demonstration.

Demo Description: Winged Box

Steve will be demonstrating his approach to a winged box using a custom chucking system that enables him to complete this multi-axis faceplate

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



based project. The start of the project is similar to other winged boxes or volcano bowls, but Steve will show us how he takes it to another level. Through use of creative chucking, he is able to add additional curves to the wings that make for

a very complex and elegant form. This is a lesson in reducing complexity through understanding and then simplifying the problem of shaping the faces of the wings, a process that has evolved over time.

Class Description: Multi-Axis Box

For those experienced in multiaxis turning and those who are just dipping your toes in the water, Steve will be teaching a class on turning a small box with a multi-axis body. As an expert in all things multi-axis, you will learn from a master to create this stylized box featuring rough turning, multi-axis spindle turning and end-grain hollowing.

TURNING CHALLENGE / PERPETUAL TURNING

The project for last month's turning challenge was multiple spice bowls. The winners were:

Novice: **Aaron Crane**

Intermediate: **Don Sheffield**

Advanced: **Bob Franklin**

Perpetual Turning:

Ed Cypher's pen was won by **Dale Sherman**, 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

August's Brown Bag Demo was a special Saturday presentation. **Marty Christensen** demonstrated pen turning, starting with basic pens and then moving on to more complex ones.

In September, we'll be back to the second Tuesday of the month. **Les Stern** will be the demonstrator on Tuesday, September 8th, starting at 11:00. The title is "What the Heck Am I Supposed to Do with This?" This demo isn't going to have any live turning involved but will be more of a group discussion about what Les does and how he does it, in regards to his stranger pieces that most people shy away from. It will include selecting and figuring out what to do with the odder shaped pieces and how to mount them. Les will bring some finished pieces as well as pieces of weird wood for examples, and he would like to encourage anyone attending to bring a couple odd pieces that they are not sure what to do with or how to do it. Cool tree trimmings and burls are great examples, or oddly shaped cut-offs from larger projects that are just too cool to throw away.

H.O.W. CLASS

Keith Motzner - keithmotzner@gmail.com

The August HOW class was cancelled due to a scheduling conflict. The September 15th class will be Making Baby Rattles, taught by **Matt Coupas**. Three pieces of wood are used, with holes drilled into the center piece. The holes will be filled with BBs and the rattles will be turned between centers.



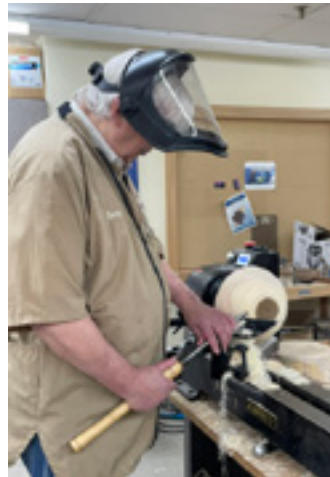
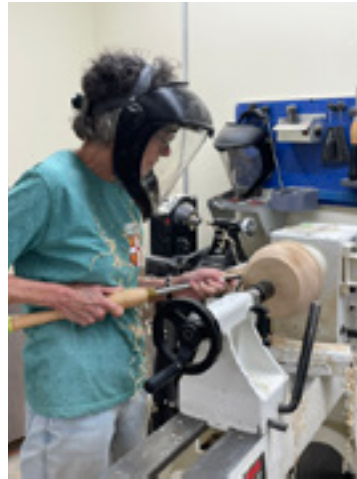
LADIES OF THE LATHE

Marcee Morris -

marcee.morris@gmail.com



Michael Roper demonstrated rough turning a green bowl for the August class. With blanks from a tree that had been cut down only four days before, long streams of shavings were flying from all the lathes. Roper covered shaping the exterior, creating a good tenon, turning the interior, using a back cut to get past the end grain and getting an even wall thickness. Then he talked about how to store the bowl to dry it.



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

The August shop tour was hosted by **Dave Brooks** and **Melissa Hunter**.



Les Stern will host a shop tour on September 5th from 10:00 to 2:00 at 6331 S Olathe St in Centennial. Use the second (north) driveway decorated with the license plates. The shop is in the lower carriage house.

PRESIDENT'S SERVICE AWARD

Raleigh Lockhart

In August, I had the honor of presenting **Brian Tooker** with the President's Service Award. Brian joined Front Range Woodturners back in 2022 and quickly became an indispensable part of our club, taking on the role of Club Librarian and Group Chair in 2023. Since stepping into this position, he has done an outstanding job of cataloging and organizing our entire collection of books, DVDs, and magazines, ensuring that this member benefit runs seamlessly. Brian is a steady, dependable presence at our meetings ... always showing up, lending a hand, and supporting his fellow club members.

Brian, thank you for your dedication and for everything you do to support FRW!



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, September 7th** from 5:00 to 7:00pm at Rockler. The subject will be Finishing 101, part one of two.

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	Ted Mellin
9637 W. Vandeventer Dr	9043 W Coco Dr
Littleton, CO 80128	Littleton, CO 80128

Individual Catalog Orders

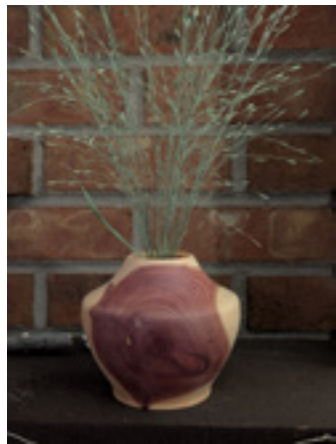
Two additional companies, Klingspor and Penn State Industries, offer discounts to members who wish to place individual catalog orders. You must be on their list of FRW members to get the discount. To get on the list, please sign up at a meeting or send an e-mail to Jay Miller (jaymiller9637@comcast.net).

PHOTO GALLERY

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



Debra Higley made this 5.5" x 6.5" pedestal bowl of offset turned myrtle with a Schacht maple/walnut laminate base. The pizza cutter handle is cherry with walnut and maple. Both are wet turned with walnut oil and finished with Odie's oil.



Tyler Johnson made this vase from a red cedar branch that fell in a storm two years ago. It's about 6" tall and 6" wide, finished with carnauba wax. This was the first piece he's made from green wood that he rough turned and sealed. He had pretty much forgotten about it (he has two young boys)

and was surprised when he opened a box full of cedar shavings and found that it hadn't checked.

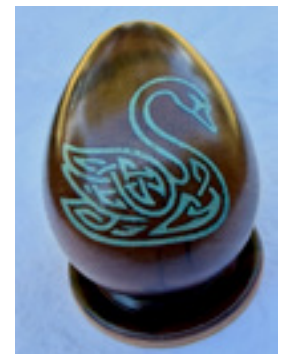
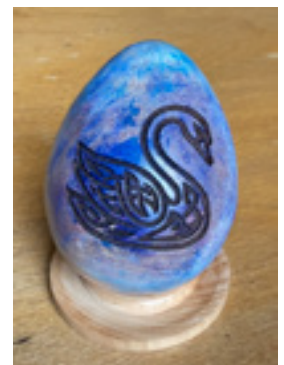
Keith Motzner and **John Cowan** made a couple batches of pens. Most will be donated to Pens for First Responders. Keith also finished a couple hollow forms that he had started in a class last spring. In the back is one from Bruce Perry's collection that was probably a demo piece and was never finished. All Keith needed to do was sand it and put the oil and wax on.



Greg Barkley made two segmented pieces. The first one is segmented oak with textured copper leaf and braided leather. The second is segmented maple with purple heart maple and padauk pattern.



In preparation for this month's turning challenge, **Rick Cantwell** tried a couple of embellished eggs. One is apple and acrylic paint, the other is walnut and turquoise. Both eggs are about 3" tall and finished with spray lacquer. He did the pyrography using a laser engraver.



Cathie McLean

made a pen to gift her dad for his 80th birthday. She used the American Patriot kit, given that it's the country's birthday this year, too. The kit has a Stars and Stripes wood inlay barrel that had to be pieced together and glued. She also turned, woodburned and colored a decorative bowl for her aunt, who is a music lover and plays piano. The quote around it is "Music is life, that's why hearts have beats." The piano keys on the bottom were the most surprising and commented on feature. Made from birch, Cathie used colored pencils, shellac and Rustoleum clear.



Marcee Morris made three sets of salt and pepper shakers. For the first set, she used elm burl and resin, the second was walnut and maple with a laser-engraved sun design and the third set was spalted maple.



Todd Bowen has been working on a challenging project that's been in the works for over nine months. The lamp base is persimmon finished in Watco

oil; lampshade turned to 3/16-inch green and finished with polymerized tung oil; lamp finial is African black wood. He's in need of giant aspen as a sidenote to this project to try a few more of these.

Curt Vogt completed the lid for a box that has been sitting around forever without one. The base was plain sugar maple so he decided to jazz up the top with some very curly maple. The box stands 3" tall and 3.5" wide. It was purposely made a little beefy and sturdy for the young recipient. Of course, Curt could not leave the undersides plain. He also completed six magic wands. They are from sipi mahogany, curly maple, oak, and jatoba.



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.