



GOING 'ROUND

Front Range Woodturners Newsletter

Vol. 26, No. 10 October 2026

Editor: Brenda Blaesing

OCTOBER DEMONSTRATOR – J. PAUL FENNEL

Tuesday, October 6th—In Person and via Zoom

Greg Broughton - frw.vicpres@gmail.com

J. Paul Fennell has focused primarily on turning hollow forms for over 30 years of his 55+ years as a woodturner. He was first exposed to woodturning in 1970 through an adult education woodworking class at a local high school, intending to improve his skills at furniture making. However, that idea ceased immediately when he began working with the woodturning lathes there, and he's never looked back. He is basically self-taught, and with an extensive engineering background, learned successful techniques, how to make his own tools as necessary, and has remained passionate about the field throughout his career. His work has been featured in nearly every major woodturning magazine and book. His art resides in major private collections nationally and internationally, and in many museum collections, including: the Smithsonian, Detroit Institute of Arts, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Cincinnati Art Museum, Museum of Art & Design, New York, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA, Carnegie Museum of Art and the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

He has been a member of AAW since its inception, a featured demonstrator at their annual symposium numerous times, and a workshop teacher and demonstrator for schools and local clubs nationally and internationally for many years. In 2023, Paul was the recipient of the AAW's Professional Program Merit Award. Paul's nomination was supported by the POP Committee because his work exemplifies the highest standards of artistic quality, craftsmanship and dedication; and his support of the field through writing, presentations and teaching has added immeasurably to the field.

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	46	Lifetime Members	21
Family Members	28	Roster	26
Individual Members	152	Student, Online	2, 3

Total Membership 278 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

Paul's artist statement: "The vessel form is intriguing to me in that it is a common artifact of humanity, timeless and ubiquitous culturally. When these artifacts are discovered or unearthed, we learn much from societies of the past because of their particular form and unpretentious embellishment of cultural symbols, sacred icons and images that were important to them in their everyday lives. It seems natural to me to follow this path of creating work, through form and embellishment, that relates similarly but individually to my own experiences, relationships, beliefs and things that are personally significant."

Demo Description: Creating Hollow Forms

J. Paul Fennell will fairly quickly show how to create elegant hollow forms, with an emphasis on developing a sense of how subtle changes in a vessel's line shape and proportion can dramatically change its appearance. Also covered will be exploring the hollowing process using home-made tools, turning in reverse to minimize body fatigue and simple solutions for finishing the bottom of the piece.

Class Description: Piercing

Always wanted to try piercing work, but didn't have the high speed tools or equipment? This is your chance! J. Paul Fennell will be conducting a class on piercing thin walled pieces (or sample boards). Unique to this class is that the high-speed pneumatic handpieces, burs, sample boards, patterns, and pattern transfer materials will be supplied. You are welcome to bring pieces to pierce but note that the wall thickness can be no thicker than 3/16"

TURNING CHALLENGE / PERPETUAL TURNING

The project for last month's turning challenge was a sphere. The winners were:

Intermediate: **Al Murphy**

Advanced: **Bob Franklin**

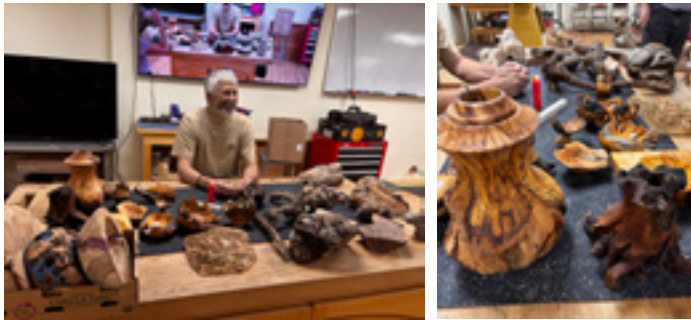
Perpetual Turning:

Dale Sherman's pen was won by **Scott Longberry**, 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

For September's demo, **Les Stern** brought in a lot of odd-shaped pieces and talked about what he did with them. He discussed different ways of mounting, always keeping safety in mind. Some cool pieces of wood could just be hung on the wall without turning, for a unique piece of art.



Our October BBD will feature **Don Prorak** demonstrating tri-corner forms. These all start from a cube mounted diagonally on the lathe from point to point. Don will demonstrate both single and double triple-corner pieces, including captive rings on the double. He will show how they can be used to create small bowls, lidded boxes, tea light holders, clocks, napkin rings, and more. Dust off your tri-corner hat, and join us on October 13th from 11 am - 2 pm.



H.O.W. CLASS

Keith Motzner - keithmotzner@gmail.com

In September, **Matt Coupas** showed how to make baby rattles from three pieces of wood. Some will be donated to the annual toy drive.

On October 20th, **Jay Miller** will teach a class on making inside-out Christmas ornaments.



LADIES OF THE LATHE

Marcee Morris -

marcee.morris@gmail.com



On September 22 we had a fantastic lesson taught by **Greg Broughton** on turning with pewter. He put together a very detailed and well laid out handout on making an elegant lidded box with a pewter finial. He supplied each of us with a pre-turned walnut box so we could spend most of our time concentrating on making a lid and the multiple ways of casting pewter.

Key points to know about turning pewter:

- pewter has no grain and responds well to both HSS tools or carbide
- use oil to lubricate the surface and use light passes.
- if you hear chatter, adjust your tool, lubricate to smooth the cut or scrape.
- pewter is very soft and deforms easily
- pay attention to shavings, they can get wrapped around the chuck and whip back at you.
- when you are happy with your final shape, wet sand with oil to remove any scratches then buff with Dialux paste for a final shine.
- If you're not happy with it, no worries, just melt it down again and start over!
- keep and reuse any shavings.



On October 27th, **Raleigh Lockhart** will teach a fun Halloween project. He'll show how to cut out spooky pumpkin faces using a scroll saw, then guide participants through turning the pumpkin on the lathe.

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

FRW members visited **Les Stern** for September's shop tour. Shop tours are a great way to get to know other members and forge deeper connections with those you already know. Contact Al if you're interested in hosting one.



PRESIDENT'S SERVICE AWARD

Raleigh Lockhart

In September, I had the distinct honor of presenting Marty Christensen with the President's Service Award. There is so much to celebrate when it comes to Marty ... and his steadfast support of the Front Range Woodturners. A dedicated member since 2003, Marty has stepped up into numerous leadership roles over the years, including leading our Publicity & Social Media and Shop Tour groups. Today, he continues to serve as the Assistant Group Chair of Videography and has spent the last 11 years as our Mentoring Chair.

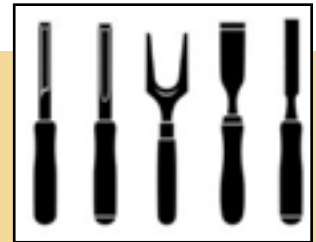
Marty is a Lifetime Member who truly embodies my added name, "Mighty Marty." Thank you, Marty, for your incredible dedication and for everything you do to keep our club thriving.



USED TOOL SALE / SWAP MEET

Mark your calendar for our annual used tool sale and swap meet on Saturday, October 24th from 10:00 to 2:00 at Rockler. Discover a wide variety of tools and equipment available from Rockler (upstairs), or FRW members (downstairs). It's a great opportunity to find something new for your workshop and connect with other woodworking enthusiasts.

If you'd like a table, contact Raleigh at frwtpresident@gmail.com. Set up is from 9:00 to 10:00. Used tools and wood only.



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 H2Orr@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, October 12th** from 5:00 to 7:00pm at Rockler. The subject will be Finishing, part two. We will be trying CA finish, Shine Juice finish, wax finishes and buffing.

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. 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.



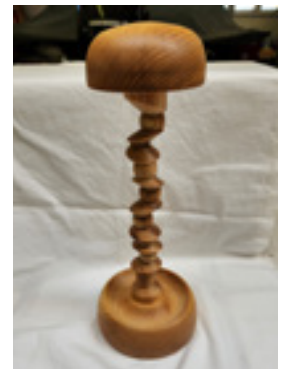
Pat Scott made this set of 9" mahogany plates for a repeat customer. They were finished with Odie's Super Penetrating Oil and Odie's Wood Butter.



Debra Higley made this 7x12" lidded box of sapele, bubinga and African mahogany. The finial is Schacht maple/India ink/acrylic/lacquer. It was finished with Odie's Oil.



Russell Dewey made some unique pieces this month. First is a bowl with sloping sides made from pink flame, a rare wood from Peru. Measuring 10" x 8" x 2-3/4", finished on the Beale Buffing System. Second is a wig stand, one of many we have made for the local cancer centers. About 4" x 14", it was finished with Mahoney's Walnut Oil. Last is a yellow epoxy star platter, maple and walnut star and maple segmented ring. It measures 13" x 2" and was finished with wipe-on poly.



Jason Matisheck went to Handworks in Amana Iowa. There was a treadle lathe made by Gramercy Tools. It folds up

for storage as shown in the picture. He discovered the trick is modulating your foot power as the gouge takes deeper or lighter cuts. Fun to try, but Jason will stick with electric.



Here's another segmented bowl from the woodshop at Covenant Living. This one was made by **Don August**. Measuring 5-1/2" x 7-3/4", it's composed of blood wood, teak, maple, African ebony, cherry, purple heart and dyed black veneer.



New member **Tim Mueller** just finished his first bowl. He turned it on his new 12"x18" midi lathe. It's 7" diameter, made of soft maple and finished with four coats of tung oil.



Pictured are the birdhouse ornaments **Todd Bowen** will teach in the November H.O.W. class. Along with teaching this specific style of birdhouse ornament, Todd will share tips and tricks for making these



on a production basis, plus teach one other style of birdhouse ornament, so you can complete them in a timely manner for everyone on your holiday list.



Friends of **Blaine Blaesing** gave him an 8' long x16" wide poplar bench from the 1800s that they no longer had room for. They thought he might like to make something from it. He cut six bowl blanks and enough finial/

pen blanks to last a lifetime. This is the first platter he made.

Florence Beck joined FRW last month. After the demo of the winged box which she had never made before, she decided to give it a shot. She definitely learned a lot. The box is a sugar gum and the lid is made of purple heart. She looks forward to more meetings and learning from other members.



Curt Vogt decided to make some finger tops for the annual Colorado Woodworker's Guild Holiday Toy Drive. He dug out his



Decorating Elf texturing tool and gave it a workout. He was pleased with the easy and consistent results in the end grain of the maple tops. There is a mixture of woods for the stem of each top except for the one top that is entirely of canary wood. He made a baker's dozen for the toy drive.

But wait! There is more! Curt was smitten by the dramatic colors of Cathie McLean's bowl she shared in last month's FRW newsletter. He emailed her and asked what her method was. Cathie did not disappoint! She provided very clear instructions and listed the materials she used. Very briefly, here is the way; Turn, sand to 400, pyrography, Prismacolor premier pencils, spray can shellac to set colors (multiple coats), scuff sand with 400, spray can top coat (multiple coats). Here is Curt's first attempt on a finger top intended as a gift for a special little girl, of maple and walnut, just under 2" across.



FROM THE WEB:

Al Murphy - ajmuphy1@comcast.net

For an engineer's approach to woodturning, check out the below link:

<https://www.youtube.com/@Matthiaswandel/search>

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.