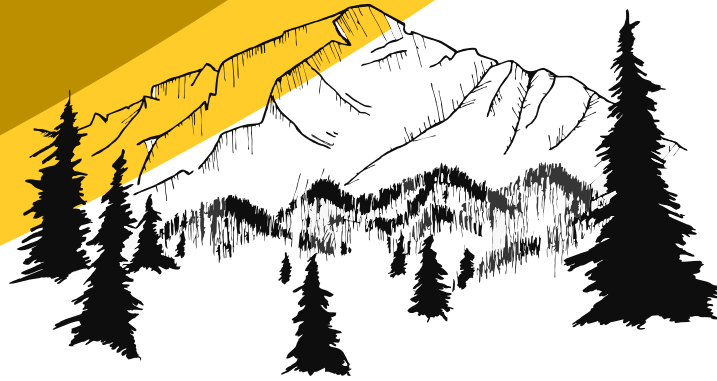


PIKES PEAK WOODTURNERS

Founded in 1988



A chapter of American Association of Woodturners

<http://ppwoodturners.org>

May 2026

Volume 31 Issue 5

The PPW meets on the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm, at Scott Longberry's wood turning shop, 12470 Lazy E Rd. Falcon. The club will host a social event at 5:30, prior to the meeting. For more information contact Paul by email at pmhartman@fastmail.fm.

May's PPW meeting: 7 May (Thursday)

The club will meet at Scott Longberry's shop where he will demonstrate the various uses and best practices for skewers.

PPW Internet and Social Media Sites

Web Site: <https://ppwoodturners.org/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/191168840924000>

April's Wood Turning Activities

April was a busy month. Bill Roland gave a live demonstration on his methods for making stars.

Scott Longberry led a workshop on turning finials.

The club held a successful wood turning tool sale. See additional information pictures below.

Several members attended wood turning club meetings in Denver and Pueblo. Carpooling is available.

Pikes Peak Woodturners (PPW) is the Colorado Springs chapter of the American Association of Woodturners (AAW), serving woodturners throughout El Paso County. We help woodturners gain experience by providing monthly demonstrations with professional turners and mentoring. PPW dues are \$30/year per member and \$50 for family and paid by March. Dues are used for guest demonstrators, purchase and maintain club equipment, and to expand the library inventory. Your first two meetings are free. If you would like to attend a meeting, contact any of the Club Officers listed below.

2026 Club officers

President - Paul Hartman, pmhartman@fastmail.fm

Vice President/Programs - Charles House,
howscats@msn.com

Secretary - Don Laucirica, lauciricad@gmail.com

Treasurer - Jill Smarr, smarrjill@gmail.com

Woodturning adage

"Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe." – Abraham Lincoln

PPW 2026 Calendar

Month	Date	Event	Topic / Demo	Demo Lead	Challenge	Misc
January	1/5	Leadership Mtg				
	1/8	Meeting	Chisel handles	Charles H		Leadership Meeting Notes, Annual Dues Collection
February	2/5	Meeting	Trent- Bosch Hollowing system	Jill S		
	2/21	Workshop	Spindle Turning Techniques	Scott L		Scott's Workshop
March	3/5	Meeting	Earrings	Paul H	Segmented Bowl - Judge Bill R	
	TBD	Workshop	Lidded Bowls			
	TBD	Shop Tour				
April	4/2	Meeting	Designing and building Star Patterns	Bill R		Social, tool, and wood sale viewing at 5:30pm
	4/11	Tool and Wood Sale: 12:00 – 2:00 PM Bill Roland's wood shop, 8464 Bohleen Rd. Falcon,				
	TBD	Workshop				
May	5/7	Meeting	Skew Methodology	Scott L	Lidded Boxes using the white silicon blanks handed out at April's club meeting.	
	TBD	Workshop				
June	6/4	Meeting	Lidded Boxes	Don L		
	TBD	Workshop				
	TBD	Shop Tour				
July	TBD	Leadership Mtg				
	7/9	Meeting	TBD			
August	8/6	Meeting				
	TBD	Workshop				
September	9/3	Meeting	TBD		TBD	
	TBD	Workshop				
	TBD	Shop Tour				
October	10/1	Meeting	TBD			
	TBD	Workshop				
November	11/5	Meeting	TBD			
	TBD	Workshop				
December	12/3	Meeting	Pot Luck			

- Monthly meetings are held of the first Thursday of the month, at 6:00 PM, at Scott L.'s shop at 12470 Lazy E Road out in Falcon.
- Workshop are project-oriented events, held later in the month, date, time, and place TBD. Limited by the limited number of club lathes.
- Challenges are held quarterly.
- Shop Tours will occur at a club member's house/shop, place, and date TBD.

Shop Talk: Ebonizing Wood

Ebony is one of the world's most expensive woods, typically ranging from \$100 to over \$200 per board foot for high-quality, solid black Gabon ebony. Prices vary based on density, color (pure black vs. striped), and size, with smaller pieces or turning blanks starting around \$35–\$50.



Ebonizing wood saves money by transforming inexpensive, high-tannin woods like oak, walnut, or cherry into a deep, rich black that mimics expensive ebony, often costing only pennies for **vinegar and steel wool**. This chemical process creates a permanent, durable finish rather than a surface coating, reducing the need for costly stains.

Cost-Effective Ebonizing Methods

- **Vinegar and Steel Wool (Iron Acetate):** The most common, cheapest method. Dissolve #0000 steel wool in white vinegar for 1–2 weeks (or 24 hours if boiled) to create a solution that reacts with wood tannins, turning them black.
- **Tannin Boosters:** For low-tannin woods (pine, maple), apply **strong black tea** or tannic acid first to ensure the iron solution turns the wood truly black rather than gray.
- **Dyes and Stains.** India ink, or black stains are cheap, consistent alternatives to the chemical method.
- **Black Markers, and Acrylic Paints:** Black felt markers and acrylic paints and pens are also a low cost and simple method for darkening wood.

Why is Tannin Important? Tannic acid reacts with ferrous metals (iron or steel tools, chucks, or screws) to create a dark blue-black stain.

Tips for Success and Savings

- **Best Woods:** Maple, Oak, Walnut, Mahogany, and Cherry, as they have high natural tannin content.
- **Application:** Apply with foam brushes and consider using denatured alcohol to open pores for deeper penetration.
- **Finish:** Once dry, seal with wax or oil to bring out a high-sheen, luxurious look.

Links

- [Sawmill Creek Wood Turners Blog](#): “Ebonizing wood.”
- [Turn A Wood Bowl](#) “Five Magical Ebonizing Wood Tricks (how-to, techniques, formula)”

Shop Test: April 25-28, 2026: Conduct an in-shop test using maple.

Tested Mixtures, Stains, Inks and Paints

1. Vinegar and Wool // Vinegar/Wool Apple Cider: The two vinegar and wool mixtures cured for 72 hours.
2. Minwax True Black Stain
3. India Ink
4. Felt Pen (Sharpie), Acrylic Pen (Black)

Results (Initial) – will have results a May’s PPW meeting



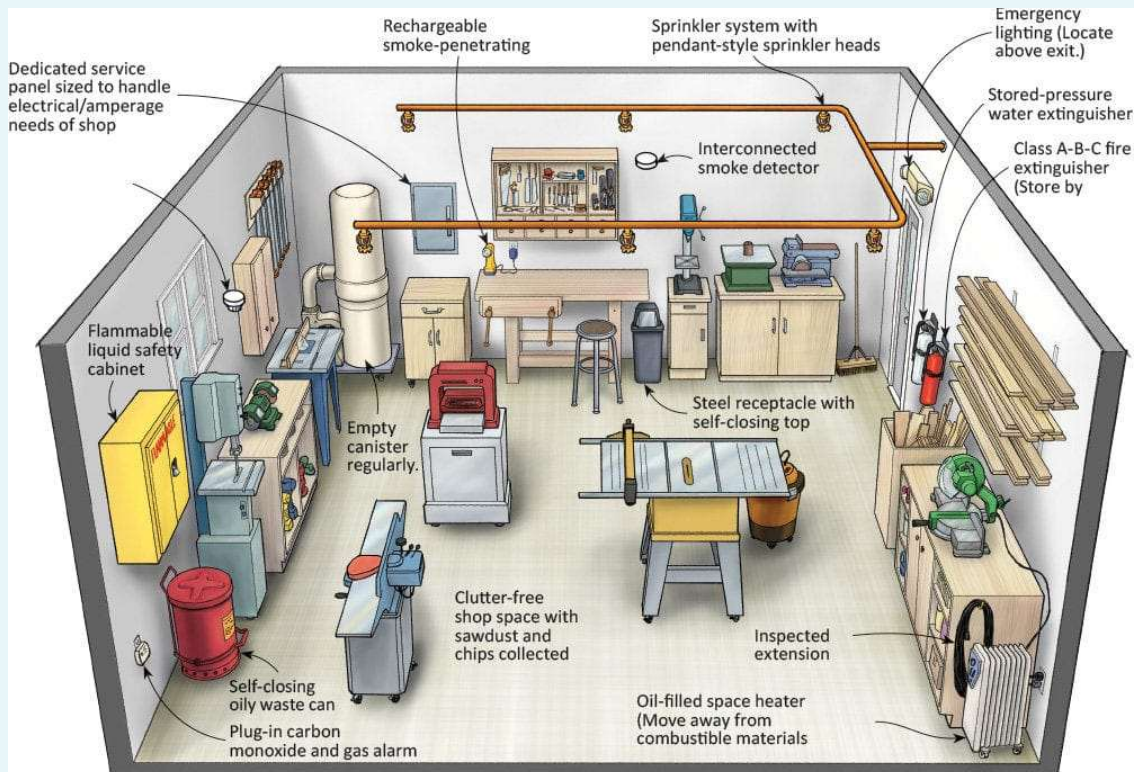
India Ink and Stain were the best. Vinegar and Wool mixtures inconclusive.

Next: Test Vinegar and Wool mixtures after two weeks curing

Safety Corner: Woodworking Shop Fire Hazards

Woodworking shops face severe fire risks from accumulated sawdust, flammable finishing materials, and electrical faults, requiring regular cleaning and proper ventilation. Key hazards include spontaneous combustion of oily rags, dust explosions, and improper electrical setups. Implement rigorous safety protocols by consulting OSHA's woodworking safety guide.

- **Combustible Wood Dust:** Fine sawdust is highly flammable and can cause massive explosions, especially if accumulated on high surfaces or inside machinery. Never use compressed air to blow off dust.
- **Spontaneous Combustion:** Rags soaked in oil-based stains, finishes, or linseed oil can catch fire on their own if left crumpled in a pile.
- **Flammable Liquids:** Storing paints, solvents, adhesives, and thinners near heat sources or in poorly ventilated areas increases risk.
- **Electrical Hazards:** Overloaded circuits, damaged cords, or improper electrical boxes (not rated for dust-heavy environments) can cause sparks.
- **Heating Equipment:** Portable, electric, or kerosene heaters can ignite nearby sawdust or fumes.



Insure Your Investment: Over time you may have accumulated thousands of dollars in tools, lumber, storage units, jigs, and accessories. And that is saying nothing about the building itself. Should you lose it all by fire, the loss could be devastating, particularly if you failed to insure your investment. For the hobbyist, your homeowner's insurance policy can be expanded to cover your shop. For the full-time woodworker whose shop is a dedicated business place, you will need a separate policy.

Document everything of value. Note the brands, model numbers, and prices, and keep receipts of purchases. Take a photo or video record of your tools and shop. Store these at a separate location and share your shop's value (and records) with your agent to make sure you are covered for the replacement of all losses. Update the coverage as your investment grows.

For the details go to [Woodcraft Blog Link](https://www.woodcraft.com/blogs/shop-knowledge-guides/fire-safety-for-the-home-shop) "Fire Safety for the Home Shop"
(<https://www.woodcraft.com/blogs/shop-knowledge-guides/fire-safety-for-the-home-shop>)

April 2026 Pictures

April's Club Meeting: Designing and building stars, demonstrated by Bill Roland



April's Workshop: Turning Finials demonstrated by Scott Longberry



April's Tool and Wood Sale: PPW Club sponsored a woodturner's estate sale held on April 11th. The club assisted a widow, selling her husband's turning tools and wood stock. Also helping her prepare her home for sale. The club sold a Lathe, Band Saw, chisels, assorted accessories and Maple, Oak, Walnut, Ash, Mulberry blanks. Hundreds of items were sold.

Thanks! – to all the volunteers assisting with this event.

