

# PIKES PEAK WOODTURNERS

Founded in 1988



A chapter of American Association of Woodturners

<http://ppwoodturners.org>

February 2026

Volume 31 Issue 2

The club meets at Scott Longberry's shop on the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm. For more information contact Paul by email at [pmhartman@fastmail.fm](mailto:pmhartman@fastmail.fm).

## February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting

The PPW leadership needs you to demonstrate wood turning techniques, and to lead workshops.

Please come prepared to discuss how we can increase our numbers. We look forward to your suggestions and comments. Jill will demonstrate the Trent- Bosch Hollowing system.

**December 2025 meeting:** The club took the month off.

## PPW Internet and Social Media Sites

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

**Facebook:**

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

## January 2026 meeting

Paul Hartman led a discussion proposing ideas quarterly challenges, woodshop tours, mentor volunteers.

Thanks go to Charles House for demonstrating how to design and customize chisel handles.

## March 2026 Wood Turning Challenge Segmented Bowl



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](mailto:pmhartman@fastmail.fm)

Vice President/Program - Charles House,  
[howscats@msn.com](mailto:howscats@msn.com)

Secretary - Don Laucirica, [lauciricad@gmail.com](mailto:lauciricad@gmail.com)

Treasurer - Jill Smarr, [smarrjill@gmail.com](mailto:smarrjill@gmail.com)

### Woodturning adage

*"Wood reveals what we cannot see;  
patience shapes both the carver and  
carving"*

## 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.		
	TBD	Workshop				
March	3/5	Meeting	Earrings	Paul H.	Segmented Bowl - Judge Bill R.	
	TBD	Workshop				
	TBD	Shop Tour				
April	4/2	Meeting	Skew Methodology	Scott L.		
	TBD	Workshop				
May	5/7	Meeting	Lidded Boxes	Don L.		
	TBD	Workshop				
June	6/4	Meeting	Designing and building Star Patterns	Bill R.	TBD	
	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 generally 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: Wood Turning Exotics

Woodturning with exotic woods involves using dense, colorful species like Padauk, Zebrawood, Purpleheart, Wenge, and Bocote. All are popular for their unique grain, vibrant colors, and hardness, creating pens, bowls, and decorative items. Common choices range from richly colored Cocobolo and Bloodwood to dark Ebony and Kingwood, offering diverse textures and finishes for experienced turners.

**Note:** Their density often produces dust instead of shavings and requires sharp tools.

### Popular Exotic Woods for Turning

- **Padauk:** Bright orange-red, deepens with age.
- **Zebrawood:** Distinctive dark stripes on a light background.
- **Purpleheart:** Deep purple, becomes darker over time.
- **Wenge:** Dark brown with black streaks, coarse texture.
- **Bocote:** Golden to dark brown with irregular dark streaks.
- **Cocobolo:** Rich reds and oranges with dark figuring, very dense.
- **Leopardwood:** Spotted appearance, often reddish-brown.
- **Bloodwood:** Deep red color, very dense.
- **Pink Ivory:** Rare, vibrant pink to reddish-pink.
- **Gaboon Ebony:** Deep black, excellent for fine detail.
- **Olivewood:** Beautiful swirling grain, often from old olive trees

The **Janka scale** is used to determine the relative hardness of domestic or exotic wood species. The Janka test measures the amount of force required to embed a 0.444" steel ball into the wood to half of its diameter. Woods with a higher rating are harder than woods with a lower rating.

#### What is the Janka Scale?

<https://www.woodco.com/blog/wood-wisdom-13/understanding-the-janka-wood-hardness-scale-14>



Brazilian Cherry (Jatoba)

Brazilian Cherry (Jatoba) wood turning is popular for its stunning, dense, reddish-brown color that deepens with age, creating beautiful bowls, spindles, and handles, but its extreme hardness (high Janka rating) requires sharp tools and careful technique to prevent tear-out and excessive wear on cutters, with good results achievable by taking light cuts and using thin CA glue (cyanoacrylate) for cracks, as it glues, stains, and finishes exceptionally well despite its challenges.

**Turning a Brazilian Cherry (Jatoba) Bowl with Sam Angelo:** <https://youtu.be/8kBXYpvvGbE?si=xgDzpHTIjoKQJeIS>

## Safety Corner: Wood dust may have a nice aroma, but for some is a potential killer!

### Is wood dust a carcinogen, fact or fiction?

**Fact:** Wood dust and formaldehyde are classified as Group 1 carcinogens by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).

- When wood products are worked on, dust and formaldehyde are released into the air. Prolonged exposure and inhalation of these products may cause cancer of the nasal cavity, sinuses and nasopharynx, as well as leukemia.
- It is estimated that around 16% of cancers of the nose and nasal sinuses in men and 2% in women could be due to exposure to wood dust. Strong and consistent associations with cancers of the paranasal sinuses and nasal cavity have been observed both in studies of people whose occupations were associated with wood-dust exposure and in studies that directly estimated wood-dust exposure.

### Does a wood turning mask by itself protect you from dust, fact or fiction?

**Fiction:** A simple dust mask can offer basic protection for low dust levels, but it's often insufficient for woodturning because it needs a perfect seal.

- NIOSH-Rated Respirator: An N95 or P100 respirator offers at least 95% filtration and is good for general work
- Full Face Shield + Respirator: The most common recommendation, combining a shield for impact/eye protection with a respirator underneath
- Powered Air-Purifying Respirator (PAPR): The best option for comfort and protection, filtering air and blowing it into a helmet/shield, preventing fogging and leaks

**Key Takeaway:** Don't rely on basic dust masks alone; invest in quality respiratory protection for significant, long-term health benefits

### Notes/Links:

- **Toxic Wood Chart (PDF):** [https://www.mountainwoodworker.com/articles/toxic\\_woods.pdf](https://www.mountainwoodworker.com/articles/toxic_woods.pdf)
- **Wood Dust (OSHA.Gov):** <https://www.osha.gov/wood-dust/hazards>
- **National Cancer Institute: (Wood Dust)** <https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes-prevention/risk/substances/wood-dust>
- **Wood Dust (Cancer.Gov):** <https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes-prevention/risk/substances/wood-dust>
- **Wood Toxicity: Symptoms, Species, and Solutions**  
<https://www.woodturner.org/Woodturner/Woodturner/Gregory/-DiscoverWTWoodTox.aspx>
- **Dust control at the lathe. What works best?:** <https://turnedwoodenbowls.co.uk/2017/02/27/effective-dust-control/>