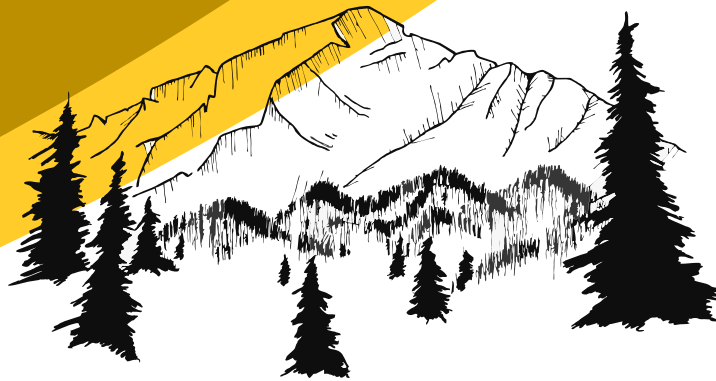


# PIKES PEAK WOODTURNERS

Founded in 1988



A chapter of American Association of Woodturners

<http://ppwoodturners.org>

April 2026

Volume 31 Issue 4

The club will meet at Bill Roland's wood shop, 8464 Bohleen Rd. Falcon, this month. Generally, the PPW meets on the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm, at Scott Longberry's shop, 12470 Lazy E Rd. Falcon. For more information contact Paul by email at [pmhartman@fastmail.fm](mailto:pmhartman@fastmail.fm).

## April meeting: 2 April (Thursday)

Bill Roland will demonstrate "Creating Stars".

**The club will meet at Bill Rolands shop, where he will demonstrate the design a creation of stars that can later be used to embellish segmented bowls.**

Additionally, In April, the PPW will hold a tool and wood sale. See additional information pictures below.

- Wood sale at the club meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- The tool sale will be held Bill Roland's Shop on April 11<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 to 2:00 PM

## PPW Internet and Social Media Sites

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

**Facebook:**

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

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)

## March 5th meeting and workshop

Thanks to Paul for demonstrating his method for woodturning earrings. Scott Longberry held a well-attended Lidded box workshop on 21 March. See the pictures below.

### June 2026 Wood Turning Challenge Lidded Box



### Woodturning adage

*"Woodturning solves most of my problems,  
the smell of wood solves the rest"*

## 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				
	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	Lidded Boxes	Don L.		
	TBD	Workshop				
June	6/4	Meeting	Skew Methodology	Scott L.	Lidded Boxes	
	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: Avoiding Wood Turning Mistakes

### Technique & Tool Handling

**Improper Tool Rest Positioning:** The tool rest should be at a height where cutting occurs at or slightly above the center line of the spindle. If it is too low, the wood's rotation can pull the tool away from the rest, leading to dangerous catches or the tool being flung.

**Cutting Against the Grain:** Cutting from "long grain" toward "short grain" results in unsupported fibers that are more likely to tear out than produce a clean cut.

**Neglecting the "Sweet Spot":** For tools like the skew or bowl gouge, cutting with an unsupported part of the edge (the "upper" part) can cause the tool to grab and twist. Success relies on keeping the cut on the lower quarter or "sweet spot" of the edge.

**Death-Grip on the Tool:** Gripping the tool too tightly can cause micro-rolls of the blade, which often lead to catches. A controlled but relaxed grip allows the bevel to "rub" and guide the cut smoothly.

### Lathe Settings & Setup

**Starting at the Wrong Speed:** A common error is starting the lathe at a speed too high for a large, unbalanced, or rough blank. General guidelines suggest keeping larger pieces under 1000 RPM, and always check the speed dial before turning the lathe on.

**Incorrect Tool Choice:** Beginners often use a "spindle roughing gouge" on bowl blanks. These tools have a weak tang not designed for the stresses of cross-grain bowl turning; a dedicated bowl gouge should be used instead.

Choosing the wrong tool for woodturning can lead to poor surface finishes, damaged workpieces, and severe safety hazards like "catches" that may fling tools or wood. Selecting the correct tool depends primarily on whether you are performing spindle turning (grain parallel to the lathe bed) or bowl turning (grain perpendicular to the bed)

**Unstable Lathe Setup:** Failing to weigh down or bolt a lightweight lathe can lead to excessive vibration, making clean cuts nearly impossible and increasing the risk of the workpiece coming loose.

### Maintenance & Finish

**Turning with Dull Tools:** Woodturning dulls tools significantly faster than standard woodworking. Dull tools push and tear fibers rather than shearing them, leading to poor surface finishes and a higher risk of catches.

**Sanding Against the Grain:** While it is easy to sand while the lathe is spinning, this often leaves visible scratches across the grain. You should stop the lathe and sand along the grain before moving to the next grit to erase these marks.

**Failing to Re-tighten the Chuck:** After the initial mounting and a few short spins, the chuck often needs a second tightening as the wood seats itself. Neglecting this can lead to the piece wobbling or flying off the lathe

**Summary:** Even experienced wood turners can make mistakes due to a lack of attention to detail. Always ensure your tools are sharp and your blanks are securely mounted to the lathe. Patience and practice are key in improving your craft.

#### Links

- [Hunter Tool Systems \(Feb-2026\)](#): "Essential Tips to Avoid Woodturning Mistakes"
- [AxMinster Tools \(Jan-2023\)](#): "A beginners Guide to Wood Turning Tools"

## Safety Corner: Safety Essentials

**Neglecting PPE:** Neglecting Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in woodturning, such as failing to wear a face shield and respirator, leads to severe risks including eye injuries from flying wood, severe lung issues from inhaling fine dust, and hearing loss. Consistent use of a full face shield, respiratory protection, and proper attire (no dangling jewelry/long hair) is critical to prevent accidents and long-term health damage. [Woodturners Wonders](#)

**Wearing Dangerous Attire:** Never wear gloves, loose clothing, or jewelry while turning, as they can easily be caught in the spinning machinery and pull the operator into the lathe.

**Lathe Speed:** Starting the lathe at the wrong speed is a common mistake. It's recommended not to exceed 1000 RPM for larger pieces and to start with slower speeds if you're a beginner, gradually finding what feels comfortable for you.

**Improper Tool Rest Position:** The tool rest should be positioned correctly for proper technique, with the tool rest not touching the wood blank and the tool maintaining contact with the rest for even force application.

- **Too Far Away:** Creates excessive leverage, causing the tool to vibrate, skip, or get pulled down between the rest and the wood, according to Hunter Tool Systems and this YouTube video.
- **Too High:** The tool will not cut properly, instead riding on top of the wood and potentially causing a catch.
- **Too Low:** The rotation of the wood can pull the tool down and away from the rest, leading to lost control.

**Grain Direction:** Understanding grain orientation is key. For spindle turning, wood blanks are mounted end-grain, while for bowls, side-grain is usually preferred for strength and stability.

**Using Incorrect Tools:** Beginners may use the wrong tools for the project, such as using a roughing gouge for bowl turning instead of a bowl gouge. Familiarizing oneself with the tools suited to specific projects can prevent errors.

**Cutting Methods:** It's important to "cut with the grain" or make supported cuts, which can result in a cleaner, more precise cut and prevent tearing.

Links

- [Bucks County Woodturners \(Feb-2026\):](#) "Essential Tips to Avoid Woodturning Mistakes"

## March Pictures

### March's Club Meeting: Woodturning Earrings, by Paul Hartman



### March's Workshop: Lidded Bowls, by Scott Longberry



**April's Tool and Wood Sale:** Woodturner's estate sale scheduled for April 11<sup>th</sup>. Hundreds of items will be priced by the PPW Club experts to sell at reasonable prices.

**Tools:** Lathe, Band Saw, Chisels, assorted accessories.

**Wood:** Wood blocks ready for the lathe, wood blocks needing resaw – Maple, Oak, Walnut, Ash, Mulberry, etc.

