

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association

GCWA Newsletter

October 1998

President's Corner

Well, we had another fine meeting at The Cutting Edge store, with a good crowd who showed up to participate in the goings-on of the Club. Thank you, Steve and Teri LeGrue, for hosting the meeting. We had a very good demonstration there, with Bill Hubbard showing us how to turn a ball (sphere). Bill is a little on the quiet side, so you don't realize the talent that he has. We will be turning to him again in the future. Bill, thank you for the fine work and demo.

I would like to take a little space here to talk about a handful of people who really bring things together. I am referring to the Executive Committee, and I have called on them many times in the past. These people are the backbone of the Club, with their hard work and dedication to the Club. Their names are listed on the back page of the Newsletter, and their effect is felt in every part of the Club.

It is the Executive Committee who works hard in setting up the meetings, demos, refreshments and equipment. These same folks get other members involved in general operations such as the raffle, Show and Tell judges and demonstrators. And I would be crazy not to specially mention our Treasurer, Helen Young, as she keeps us all in line!

Thank you all very much, and keep up the good work. Please, take a second to stop and tell these people "thanks!" – they deserve it.

Spring Retreat

At the last Board Meeting we made a couple of changes for the '99 Spring Retreat. The biggest news is that we've voted to reduce the registration to a flat-rate of \$25. This is for one day or both, including lunches and all. We will be back in Conroe, in the air conditioning, and the emphasis will be even more on hands-on turning. With this in mind, we'll be looking for more lathes to go in

each work station. We have so many people that work together to bring this event to what it is today, we feel this is the thing to do for the Club. We are looking forward to seeing all of the members participate in 1999.

The Club is for the members – it is the members that make the Club. With this in mind, we can have the best Retreat yet.

With all the holidays just around the corner, I hope to see a bunch of holiday turnings at the meetings. These are always good to see and are good projects to do.

Keep up the good turning, all, and happy Halloween. Be safe on spook night! Thank you,

-- Bobby Bridges

October Program

The program for the October meeting will include two features. Luna Ford will be showing you how to make power sanding disks, both 3" and 6". If you are new to power sanding you will need several of these disks, and the best ones are the ones you make yourself. Luna has made a number of these disks and has experimented with different types of materials for construction. He will be sharing and showing for your benefit.

Secondly, for those of you interested in making a "Wobble Chuck", I will be showing how to construct one of those. (See article on Wobble Chuck)

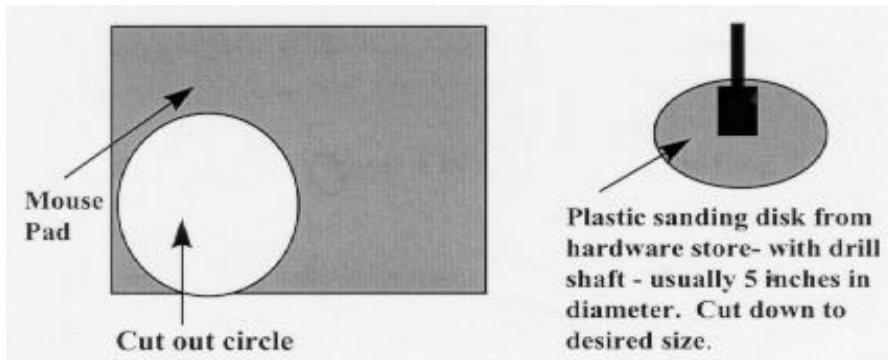
The project for the November meeting will be a turning of your choice. I know a lot of folks will be going to TTT and getting a lot of new ideas and inspiration. With your renewed interest in turning, please bring your work and show and share with us.

-- Bill Berry

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GCWA is affiliated with the American Association of Woodturners. GCWA meetings are usually held at 9:00 a.m. on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Check the last page for our Calendar of Events. Annual dues are \$18. Dues may be mailed to Helen Young, 2502 Esther Ave., Pasadena TX 77502-3239. Make your check payable to GCWA or Gulf Coast Woodturners Association.



How to Make Your Own Power Sanding Disks

1. Find an old mouse pad (one out of about 1/4" of foam with a fiber/cloth surface). Really thin ones with a hard plastic surface probably won't work. If you can't find a foam rubber type mouse pad, you could also use an old wet suit. Semi-firm rubber is the key.
2. Get an old sanding disk (the ones you can chuck in a drill and which also take stick on sandpaper). These are available at the hardware store for about \$4 to \$5.
3. Decide what diameter sanding disk you want. It is a good idea to have both a small one (about 2") and a larger one (4" or 5"). Use a compass and cut out the mouse pad and sanding disk as close to the desired size as possible (but about 1/16" larger).
4. Get some Velcro. This is available at your local sewing store or at Walmart, and 2" strips are available for a couple of bucks. (My wife already had some - I stole it out of her sewing bag.) Depending on the size of your disk(s), you may need several pieces. *** You will be using Velcro backed sandpaper for your disks, so be sure to glue the correct side of the Velcro to the foam disk.

5. Using 2-part epoxy, glue the pad onto the disk, and then glue the Velcro strip(s) onto the pad. Clamp very tightly and let dry (preferably for 24 hours). After epoxy is completely dry & hard, chuck it in your drill and spin lightly against some sandpaper. This is to take off any rough edges from trimming and to make the sanding disk perfectly round.

6. Sources for sandpaper disks: small precut sizes are available from catalogs, or at The Cutting Edge or from Woodcraft Supply. However, they can get expensive. If you have a hook and loop orbital sander, you've already got it made because you can just slap one of these disks on your sanding disk and then trim off any excess (custom made disks).

-- Scott Luhnau

Future Programs

I need your input for topics for future programs. The demos and programs are to benefit you as a member please tell me what you want to see. E-mail BBERRY2301@AOL.COM, call me 281-479-8073, or talk to me at the meeting.

-- Bill Berry

For Sale

6-1/2 x 21 lathe. Includes shop-built stand, 4-speed pulley, and motor, \$65. Located in Southwest Houston. Jacob Schulzinger. Call 713.776.9063.

Secretary's Report

Show and Tell winners for the September meeting were: Beginners category, first place went to Kevin Keener for a maple burl hollow vessel. Second place went to Frank Massaro for a mesquite "vahz." Third place went to Jerry Murrey for a spalted hackberry deep bowl.

Intermediate Category, 1st place, Marta Gifford, walnut tier box; 2nd place, Mason LeGrue, Claro walnut bowl; 3rd place, Marta Gifford, cedar mushroom box.

Advanced category, single piece of wood, 1st place, Bill Berry, large vessel of ash; 2nd place, Dale Barrack, large ash bowl painted black with white design around outside; 3rd place, Steve LeGrue, a vessel of silver maple burl.

Projects turned of multiple pieces of wood, 1st place, Jim Keller flower child #9; 2nd place, Steve LeGrue, candle holder with copper insert, 3rd place; Jim Keller, flower child #8.

Special award went to Bill Hubbard for a mesquite bowling ball without holes, and a large oak bowl with bark inclusions.

Congratulations to all the winners and a BIG THANKS to Don Philpot and Tom Irvn for judging this month's show.

Since I was not at the meeting, I do not have the names of the winners of the bring back pieces.... But you know who you are so don't forget to bring them to the next meeting.

-- Carl Blair

- Tools by Henry Taylor, Dennis Stewart
Jerry Glaser, OneWay & Robt. Sorby.
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- Pen Supplies & DymondWood.
- Lathes by JET, Sherline & CARBA-TEC.

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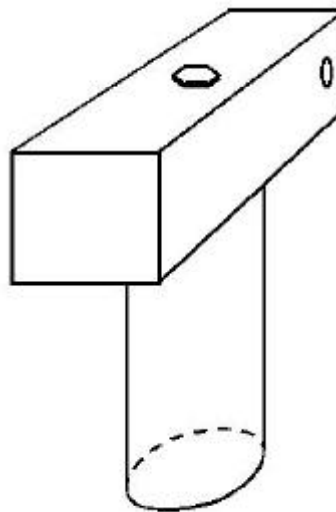
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Boring System

One of the fun things with turning is the endless variations one can have on a seemingly simple form. As I thumbed through the Woodcraft catalog mindlessly a couple of months ago, the picture of a decorated goblet caught my eye. This is the picture showing a Sorby precision boring system and some of the possibilities with the system. Working in conjunction with an indexing system, the boring jig can add very attractive patterns to a turning. This is not a new item in the catalog. I just noticed it because with my old "lathe", i.e., the Shopsmith, it would not have been possible to mount the entire system on it. Even if it were possible to adapt the system to the Shopsmith, the cost of \$135.00 to outfit it (\$80 for the indexing system and \$55 for the boring system) would have kept this frugal guy from getting it, thus the reason for not noticing it in the catalog in the past. However with my newly acquired Oneway 2036 the picture changed completely because the Oneway comes equipped with an indexing ring and the tool rest has a standard 1" post. If I wanted to, I could have just spent \$55 on the boring system and start having fun. But being a cheapskate and a guy always enjoying engineering challenges, I decided to construct the boring system myself. (It is really an over-exaggeration to call this an engineering challenge.) So I proceeded to make a system and then turned a Corian bowl with decorative patterns created with the boring system (Figure 1). I showed this piece at the August meeting and the judges awarded me a blue ribbon. (The fact of the matter is, mine was the only entry in the "turning-of-more-than-one-piece" category and they did not want to embarrass me by not awarding a ribbon.) The editor of the newsletter (you know, the mimosa guy) was so impressed that he asked me

to write up this article to share with the membership. (The truth of the matter is that he is trying to fill up the 8 pages of the newsletter.) If money is no object to you, you can skip this article.



If you did not come to the August meeting, let me briefly describe what this system does. With this system, you bore equally spaced holes evenly distributed around the turning. You then glue dowels of the same size in these holes. When you turn the blank with these dowels of contrasting colors embedded in it, these dowels become interesting patterns depending upon where they are located and how they are embedded in the blank. I will try to explain how this is done.

First, the construction of the boring system (Figure 2). As I said, it is a joke to call this system an engineering challenge. All one has to have is a suitably sized steel rod for a post that will fit in the shaft of the tool rest of your particular lathe and a block of metal or hard thermal plastic (I had a piece of Delrin laying

around) approximately 1" square and 1" to 3" long. Drill a 1/4" hole in the middle of the square rod on one side for mounting on the round rod. On one end of a side perpendicular to the mounting hole, ca. 1/4" from the end, drill another hole. The diameter of this hole is determined by the size of dowels that you are going to use for the decoration. For example, if you are using 1/4" dowels, drill a hole with a size F bit. This will create a hole that is slightly oversized for the 1/4" bit that will provide precision, but in the meantime will not cause binding with the bit as you drill. For versatility, you can drill more holes of differing sizes on the same side for different size dowels. Drill a hole on one end of the round rod (with either a No. 7 or 13/64" bit) as close to the center as possible and tap 1/4-20 threads. It helps if you have access to a metal lathe, and if you do, I recommend truing up the surface first. Mount the square on the round rod through the mounting hole in the center of the square rod with a 1/4-20 screw. I use a "socket head" screw because you can really torque it down with an Allen wrench; but a hex head will work as well. Mount the jig in the tool rest holder and you are ready to go.



The placement of the holes is limited only by your imagination. Some basics: a dowel mounted parallel to the axis of the turning will create largely spindle (or cigar) shapes. Those perpendicular to the axis are going to end up mostly round. But of course those parallel to the

Boring System, continued

axis in the base of a goblet will be round or oval depending on the curvature of the surface. Therefore, the planning requires a little perspective visualization in your mind. In the simplest form, you can have, say, 8 cigar shapes on the largest diameter of a bowl. In this case, mount the boring jig such that the square bar is perpendicular to the spindle and the guide hole is at the same height as the center and close to the edge of the blank and as close to the blank as possible. Drill 8 evenly spaced holes with the aid of the indexing ring (every 6 indexing holes if you have a 48 place ring and every 3 holes with a 24 place ring). Glue dowels in place, making sure that there is glue all around the dowels. If the dowels you select are "off-the-shelf", great. Otherwise, you have to do some spindle turning. The selection of the glue depends on the material. With my Corian bowl, I used the medium viscosity cyanoacrylate glue. With wood, Titebond II would work well and I would not recommend CA glue. Turn the bowl to shape when the glue is set and finish as you would with any mixed wood turnings.

I enjoyed my first bowl with decorative dowel. I am sure that you will see more of them in the future. Like any other woodturning techniques, you have to do it to learn how. I hope you will enjoy it as much as I did.

-- Andy Chen

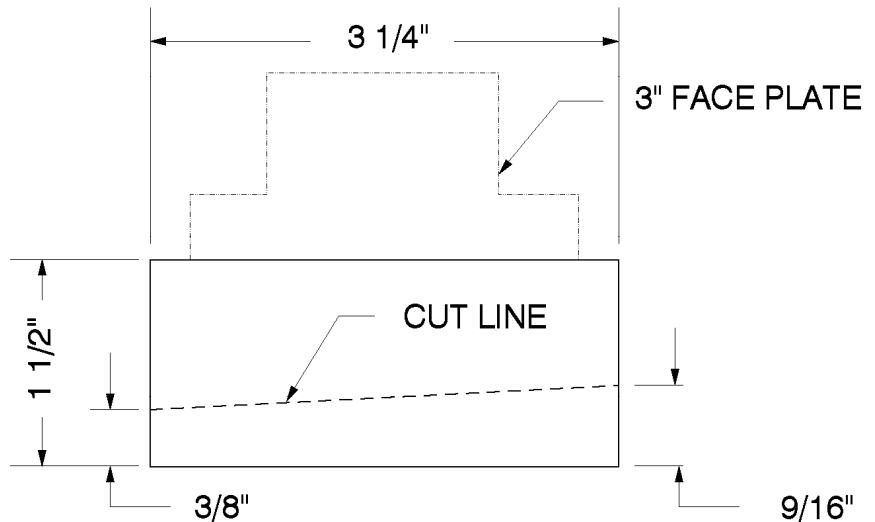
Wobble Chuck

At the recent demonstration by Jean-Francois Escoulen for GCWA, I was increasingly attracted to the offset (eccentric) turnings that are produced when using a Wobble Chuck. In order to experiment with the different shapes and sizes, I designed a very simple chuck to hold and rotate a small turning blank. The type of turning produced by this chuck may not appeal to everyone, but I have found it very intriguing and challenging. Hopefully, you will also.

(Editor's Note: Bill Berry will be showing us his Wobble Chuck at our October meeting. If you have questions or comments about this, join us on October 17.)

Fabrication

Refer to "Drawing A" and mark a line to be cut on the edge of the 3 1/4" x 3 1/4" block. (A list of materials appears below.) The mark for cutting will be on the 1 1/2"



— Drawing " A " —

wide edge and will be measured from the same side on both edges. Measure 3/8" on one side and 9/16" on the other edge. The result will be a cut line that is approximately 3 degrees of slope.

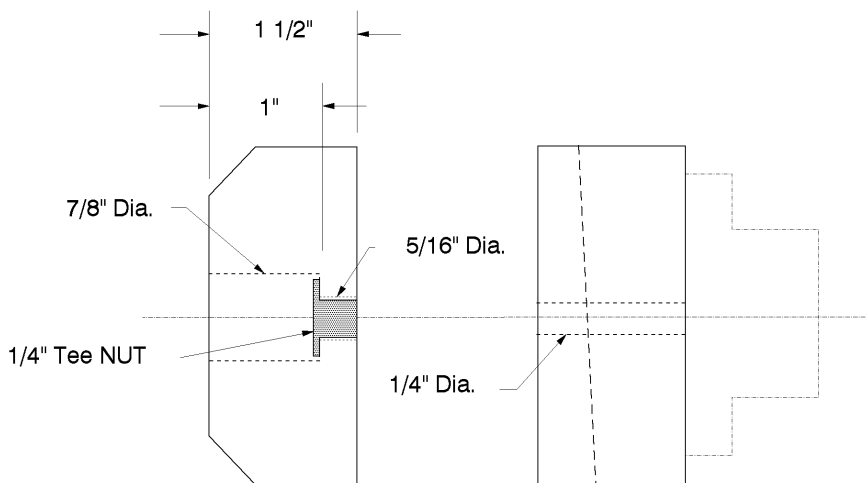
After marking, stand the block up on the 1 1/2" side and very carefully cut the line on the band saw. The two sloping sides that have just been cut will then need to be sanded smooth to remove saw marks. The two surfaces must fit together true. Using the thin double stick tape, very carefully stick the pieces back together again as they were before they were cut apart.

Mark a line in the middle of the edge on the side of the thickest and thinnest

piece, perpendicular to the cut line. This is a very important step for proper alignment of the chuck.

Attach the 3" face plate to the reassembled block. It is advisable to stick the face plate on with double stick tape until all the screws are secured in the face plate. Transfer the line from the previous step onto the face plate.

The second piece of 3 1/4" x 3 1/4" x 1 1/2" block now needs to be attached to the above assembly, as shown in "Drawing B". You should now have the blocks stuck together and attached to the face plate. To ensure a good bond with the double stick tape, clamp or apply firm pressure for at least 10 minutes.



— Drawing " B " —

Wobble Chuck, continued

Drilling Process

Mount the face plate with blocks attached onto your lathe. You are now ready to start the drilling process with a drill chuck in the tail stock. The drilling must be done very carefully to ensure proper operation of the completed chuck. "Drawing B" shows the details of the drilling process. First: Drill the 7/8" hole to a depth of one inch (1"). Next, drill a 5/16" hole from the bottom of the 7/8" hole to a depth of 1/2" max. The final drilling process is with a 1/4" bit. Using the center of the 5/16" hole as a guide, drill 1/4" hole all the way through both blocks.

Assembly

Use the 1/4 - 20 Internal Hex. Bolt x 2" long w/ washer and insert it into 1/4" hole in the middle of the face plate. The end of the bolt should protrude into the 7/8" hole. Thread the 1/4 - 20 Tee Nut onto the bolt protruding into the 7/8" hole. Tighten the bolt to pull the tee nut down flush into the wood.

Turning

Make sure that alignment marks are transferred to face plate before turning. With the bolt still in place, holding all of the assembly together, turn the wood pieces down to the final diameter –approximately 3". Chamfer (round over) the outside edge of the assembly for clearance, as in "Drawing B".

After turning is complete you must transfer the alignment mark, from the face plate, back onto the body of the chuck. A black ball-point pen works well – get a black line all the way to the chamfer.. If your lathe has indexing holes, use a red pen and trace along the tool rest at about 30 degree increments all around the chuck. Label each index mark with the black line being "0". These marks and labels are essential for reference when using the chuck. The next step is to super glue the piece of 3/4" copper pipe into the 7/8" hole. The copper pipe can then be trimmed flush with the face, using a high speed steel parting tool with very light cuts.

Final Assembly

Remove the 1/4 - 20 Internal Hex bolt from the chuck. With a small knife, taking care not to cut yourself, very carefully plunge into the taped surfaces

and pry them apart with slow, steady pressure. After the pieces are apart, scrape the double-stick tape and residue from wood surfaces. Wax may be put on surfaces for smoother operation. Now you can screw the bolt back in place.

Operation

As you may have already figured out, the copper pipe is essentially a jam chuck, so the next step is very important – take your time and get it right. To prepare a blank for offset turning, cut a piece of wood about 1 1/4" x 1 1/4" x 6" long. Turn it round, and then turn a slight taper on one end. Slope the taper 3/4" from the end of the blank, and of a diameter that will very tightly fit into the copper pipe. Again, this step is very important. After the tenon is properly sized and before it is driven into the copper pipe, place a penny in the bottom of the 7/8" hole. It could be for good luck, but it has a very important role, later.

If your lathe is heavy duty enough, use the force of the tail stock to "jam" the tenon in place – or it can be driven in with a mallet. Insert it the full 3/4" – it must be tight. If it is too loose, try wetting it before inserting. The black alignment marks should all be lined up, (set to "0"), and the bolt running through the middle should be tight.. At this point, when you start the lathe (if you did everything right!) the turning blank should be running straight and true.

Eccentric Turning

The Internal Hex bolt can now be loosen and tightened with a long 3/16" Allen wrench running through the head stock. Without a long wrench, you will have to remove the chuck from the lathe to adjust the wobble and orientation. The "wobble" is increased by rotating the middle disk, and the "orientation" is changed by rotating the outer disk. The maximum amount of wobble for this chuck is about 7 degrees, which is more than enough for most applications.

When your turning masterpiece is complete and you part it off, you now have a piece of wood jammed very tightly into the chuck. To remove it, loosen the internal hex bolt and unscrew the outer disk off of the bolt. Use a bolt (I use an eye bolt) to screw into the tee nut, and hopefully –if you put your penny in the hole before you jammed in the tenon–

the remaining piece of wood will be forced out of the chuck as you screw the eye bolt in. If you didn't remember to put a penny in you may have to "turn" the stub out. You will remember the next time. I did.

Commentary

Again, the type of turning produced by this chuck will not appeal to everyone. But for the price of a face plate and some simple materials, you can enter a whole new realm of woodturning. Just don't expect this to be an easy technique, with quick results. Practice and patience are required.

-- Bill Berry

List of Materials

3" Face Plate with at least 1/4" hole in center
(2) 1 1/2" x 3 1/4" x 3 1/4" Hardwood Blocks
1/4 - 20 Tee Nut
1/4 - 20 Internal Hex. Bolt x 2" long w/ washer
3/4" Copper Pipe x 1" long (7/8" O.D.)
1/4 - 20 Eye Bolt x 2" long
Double Stick Tape (Thin)
7/8" Forstener bit
5/16" Drill bit
1/4" Drill bit

Membership News

Please welcome our new members, Bahram Aghili, Michael Cobb, Michael Drez, Ralph Hecht, Hal Jay, Randy Kellum, and Larry Purswell.

Andy Chen was in Taiwan when we had the September meeting. Steve LeGrue expressed his appreciation for Andy's trip when he won second place for a project turned of multiple pieces of wood.

Jack Hanley sent me pictures taken at the Escoulen demonstration, in hopes I could include them with this newsletter. He later sent me pictures of the September Show and Tell table. I have not been able to satisfactorily reprint pictures in the newsletter. However, I shall include them in a GCWA photo CD I am working on -- a digital scrapbook.

What about you? Do you have some pictures, slides, or negatives you would like to LOAN to me? I would like pictures of past members we have lost through the years.

-- Helen Young

Calendar of Events

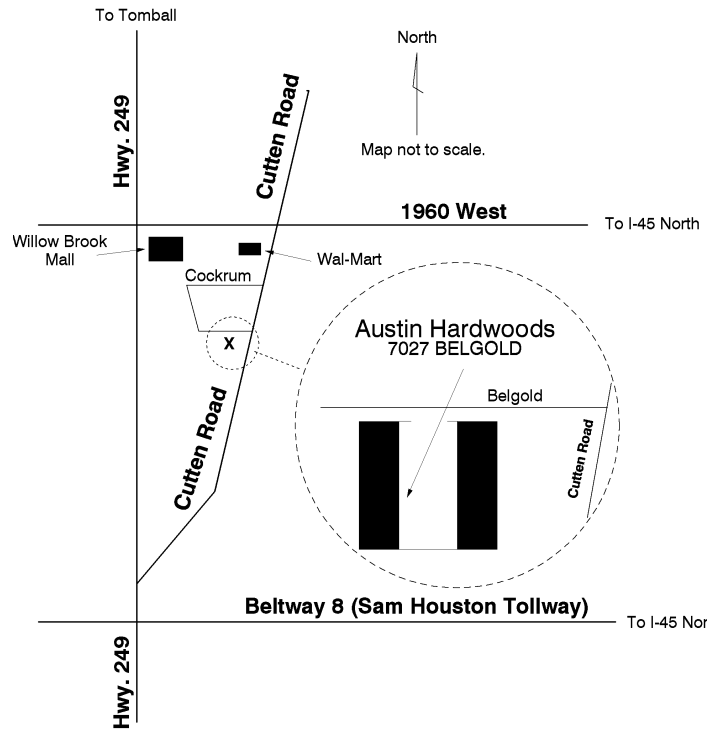
October 10-11, 1998 ~ Texas Turn or Two VII, Maricopa Ranch.


October 17, 1998 ~ 9:00 AM ~ GCWA meeting, Austin Hardwoods, 7027 Belgold, Houston.

November 2, 1998 ~ 7 PM. First Monday @ The Cutting Edge, 7123 Southwest Fwy, 713-981-9228. (First Monday gatherings are sponsored by GCWA to promote woodturning. Unlike our Saturday meetings, there is no "formal" program or judging of pieces -- just turning. -MRP)

November 21, 1998 ~ 9:00 AM ~ Woodcraft, Hollister Pointe Center, 13155 Northwest Freeway, Houston TX 77040. Phone 713-690-8508.

December 19, 1998 ~ 9:00 AM ~ Deer Park High School, North Campus (David Berry)





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This Month

October 17, 1998 ~ 9:00 AM ~ GCWA meeting, Austin Hardwoods, 7027 Belgold, Houston. GCWA has not met at this location before, so make it a point to attend the meeting and check it out.

Executive Committee

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