

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association

GCWA Newsletter

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association

October 1999 Issue

GCWA Web Site:

[Http://get.to/gcwa](http://get.to/gcwa)

President's Corner

Please remember to bring lots of nicely turned toys to the November meeting for us to donate to a worthy cause. I must emphasize **the nicely turned** part of the previous statement. We are a turning club so it stands to reason that our club's toy donation be turned. If you need assistance turning your toys, please call someone in the club and ask for help. This is a great way for the teacher and the student to gain knowledge and you can get to know another turner a little better. These toys do not have to be fancy or the most elaborate toys ever made, just do your best. The judges for the November meeting will only be judging the turned toys, so if you are after an award you will have to turn a toy.

Well, the T.T.T. is over for another year (it will probably be over by the time you get the newsletter) and I had a great time. I'll tell you about it sometime. There was a great deal of turning to see and the hands-on area was hopping. The instant gallery had some incredible pieces displayed and the food was as good as ever. I hope to see more of our club members attending the T.T.T. next year.

Thomas Irven

Coming Events

By Murray Powell

October Meeting:

We will feature **Boyce Gahagan** on the topic of finishing, and also have a rescheduled presentation by **Gregg Bell** on motors for the lathe and shop.

Later Events:

November -- Steve LeGrue will show us that a good woodturning can be just the starting point toward a work of art. Steve will demonstrate some of the ways to carve, cut and/or color a piece after it is off the lathe.

Do you have an idea or need for a future demonstration? Please contact me, **Murray Powell**, with your suggestions -- my phone number and email address are on the back page of this Newsletter.

Inside this issue:

<i>President's Corner</i>	1
<i>Coming Events</i>	1
<i>Show & Tell</i>	2
<i>Bring Back</i>	2
<i>Local Woods for Turning</i>	2
<i>Classified</i>	3
<i>Trading Wood</i>	3
<i>Membership</i>	3
<i>209 Finish</i>	3
<i>Fast & Effective Finish</i>	3
<i>Advertisements</i>	4
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	5
<i>This Month</i>	5
<i>Program</i>	5
<i>Executive Committee</i>	5

GCWA is affiliated with the American Association of Woodturners. GCWA meetings are usually held at 9:00 AM on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Check the Calendar of Events page. 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 Assn.

Request for Articles

Do you have some special interests related to woodturning? Do you have some unique knowledge of woodturning practices, tooling, machines, woods, finishes, or other subjects that others would be interested in? Can you impartially critique a shop machine, tooling, finishes, etc.? We need articles on these subjects written by you or with your assistance to fill our monthly newsletter. Let us hear from you.

See the back page of the Newsletter for contact information.

October Meeting

Oct. 16, 1999

Woodcraft

12155 Northwest Fwy. (290) at Hollister

Be sure and check out the excellent pictures of the woodturnings entered in the monthly contests on the GCWA Web Site. See the front or back pages for the URL address.

Show & Tell

Winners at the September meeting at Woodcraft were:

Beginning Category:

1st Place — **Ric Taylor** for a Natural Edge Bowl

2nd Place — **Jim McEwen** for a Mushroom Sculpture which was raffled off later.

Intermediate Category:

1st Place — **Jim Bennett** for a bowl made from she-oak

2nd Place — **Don Fluker** for a Bodark vase.

Advanced Category:

One Piece Turning:

1st Place — **Bill Hubbard** for a Camphor Crotch Platter

2nd Place — **Dale Barrack** for a Elm Bowl

3rd Place — **Ervie Jenkins** for a Willow Vase.

Multiple Piece Turning:

1st Place — **Steve LeGrue** for 3 small vases

2nd Place — **Howard Moore** for a Covered Bowl in a Chip Tray.

Special thanks to our Judges, **Steven Russell and Bruno Wesolek**

JUST A NOTE!!! When you bring your turnings to the meeting, please make sure you put them in the proper category. The judges have no way of knowing where they belong.

Bring Back

Bring Back Items Raffle Winners:

Jim Keller, Kip Powers, Bruno Wesolek, Bob Miller, Ralph Hecht, Earl Rogers, Don Fluker, and Bob Bullock.

The items won are to be worked on, either finished or partially completed, and brought back to the next meeting to be raffled again.

Local Woods for Turning

By Jim Bennett - (713) 868-6979
Jim.Bennett@pdq.net

Hackberry (Celtis...)

Hackberry is both cursed and loved, depending on who is talking. Many homeowners tire of digging up volunteer trees and cleaning up after the mature trees. However, when asked about favorite local woods for turning, four out of six of our club members surveyed mentioned Hackberry.

The name Hackberry comes from hagberry – which means marsh berry and was a name used in Scotland for cherry. Songbirds favor the small sweetish fruit of this tree, which helps spread the seed.

There are four Hackberry species in North America and all of them can be found in parts of Texas. The Lindheimer Hackberry (*Celtis lindheimeri*), Nettleleaf Hackberry (*Celtis reticulata*), and Georgia Hackberry (*Celtis tennifolia*) are all shrubs and small trees that probably aren't turned very often. The common Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) is the most widespread but its native range doesn't quite make it as far south as Houston. The Sugarberry (*Celtis laevigata*) is probably what most of us are turning and the most used commercially of the Hackberry species. Sugarberry has a natural range from Texas to the East Coast and as far north as central Illinois.

Hackberry prefers moist soils in river bottoms and is usually found in mixed hardwood stands. Trees 4' in diameter and 120' tall have been documented but most are closer to 18" diameter and 80' tall at maturity. Hackberry is easy to recognize due to its distinctive bark – light gray, thin, and smooth, with prominent corky warts.

Hackberry looks much like ash. The sapwood is a light straw yellow while the heartwood is a light gray-

ish brown to yellowish brown. Hackberry tends to develop a bluish-gray stain unless it is harvested in the winter when the sap is down. Hackberry is fairly stable with a tangential shrinkage (8.9%) to radial shrinkage (4.8%) from green to oven dry of 1.9%. This similar to Pecan (1.8%) and much better than Southern Red Oak (2.4%). Hackberry has little resistance to decay.

Ethan Beeson, a landscape designer for the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) thinks Hackberrys are under-rated. These trees grow well on highway right-of-ways in what are often poor conditions. While TxDOT may buy hundreds of Hackberrys each year, the biggest use is for land reclamation projects by coal mining and similar industries. One nursery near Tyler sells over 5000 Hackberry trees each year.

So why do GCWA members like turning Hackberry? Max Wohlge-muth says that the wood spalts easily, cuts well without tearing, and has few faults. Jim Keller uses Hackberry for his flower forms and also likes its spalting tendency. I like the fact that the price is right. Hackberry is plentiful in older neighborhoods so go out and find some and start throwing some shavings in the shop.



Classified

Do you have anything pertaining to Woodturning that you wish to buy or sell? List it here. The ad is free!

Editor's Note: The following is a compilation of excerpts from email messages from Kim Blatt, a Pennsylvania resident and GCWA member which may be of interest to club members.

Trading Wood

By Kim Blatt

I recently tied up with a gentleman from the Fort Worth area, who actively seeks out highly figured woods. I made an arrangement with him to trade some large pieces of Mesquite Burl for some Pennsylvania Wood including Maple Burl, Cherry, Box Elder, and Black Walnut. We also have an abundant supply of Locust (Honey and Black), Spalted Maple, Osage Orange, Holly and many other woods that are native to our area with lots of burls available in most species.

Does your group have any interest in expanding this wood exchange with our group?

The way I've handled shipment in the past is to ship C.O.D. This way you pay for what you receive and vice versa. I do have relatives in the Dallas area and they do visit PA frequently. If we have material ready to ship in either direction when they are planning a trip, they will be happy to bring it along.

Let me know what your group thinks.

kblatt@slocumblatt.com
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Editor's Note: The following article has been published several times in the past but it is well worth reviewing.

209 Finish

By Luna Ford

1. Power sand with 240 & 320 grit Mirca Gold on a foam disk. Make sure all the tool marks & bruised spots are removed.
2. Coat liberally with Minwax wood finish #209 (Natural). Any other light oil finish may be used. After a few minutes, wipe off the excess.
3. Using 400 grit wet or dry sandpaper and a small amount of thinner, wet sand by hand with the lathe turning slow until the surface of the wood is filled. Follow with 600 grit in the same manner.
4. Stop the lathe and wipe on another generous coat of Minwax 209. Watco oil or thinned polyurethane may be used at this time.
5. Allow a few minutes, then turn on the lathe and buff dry with a soft cotton rag (old T-shirt) or paper towels. Higher speeds may be required to generate enough heat to evaporate the solvents in the oils and varnish. Continue adding finish and buffing dry until you are satisfied with the finish.
6. Buff with Tripoli or white rouge and cotton buffer.
7. Waxes may be added after sufficient drying time. It may take weeks for oil finishes to cure even though it is dry to the touch.

Membership

Please welcome our new members, **Joe Bryan** and **John Gay** who joined us in September.

This will be your last newsletter if your membership dues expired September 30, 1999.

A Fast and Effective Finish for Woodturnings

by Thomas Iven

The one finish I often use is a lacquer sanding sealer undercoat followed by a wax with a high carnuba content. The lacquer sanding sealer is reduced with lacquer thinner in a ratio of 2 parts sealer to 1 part thinner. This mixture is kept in a tall glass jar that can accommodate a brush inside with the lid closed.

Before applying the sealer, put a paper towel under the turning to protect the lathe bed.

Use the brush to first stir the sealer.

Brush on a very wet coat as quickly as possible, and immediately wipe off the excess sealer with a dry paper towel. Do not turn on the lathe at this point to friction dry the sealer. Lacquer sanding sealer is not a friction polish. The sealer is used to fill the pores in the wood and create a smooth surface on which a topcoat is applied. It is meant to be sanded smooth when dry and top coated with a lacquer finish.

It is not necessary to wait for the sealer to fully dry to cut it back. Use 0000 steel wool dipped in paste wax to sand the sealer coat. Dip the wool into the wax and with the lathe running, apply the wax filled steel wool to the turning. Be sure to use wax or another lubricant when doing this step if the sealer is not dry. If you use a dry abrasive on your turning before the sealer has dried, the heat will cause the sealer to be pulled from its position making nasty streaks all over the turning.

Use a paper towel to wipe off the excess wax and buff the turning.

The topcoat of wax can now be applied. This can be a paste wax or a wax stick that has a high percentage of carnuba wax. Apply the wax to the turning while it is on the lathe and buff with a piece of terry cloth. If the piece is removed from the lathe, apply the wax with a buffing wheel. Do not use a paste wax on a buffing wheel, because it can get messy.

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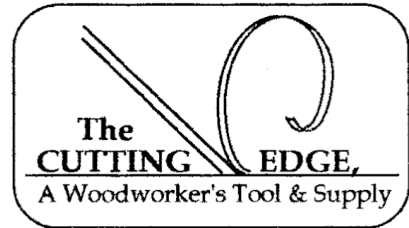
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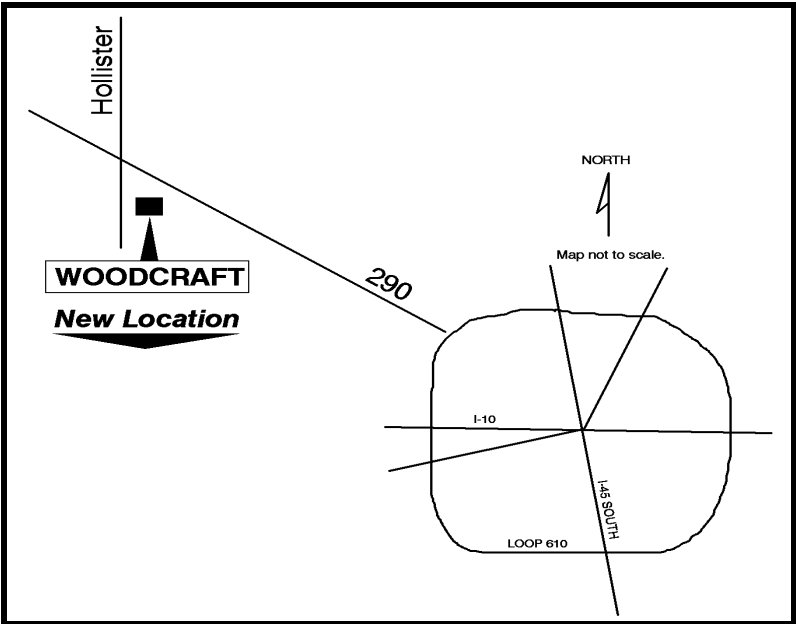
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Calendar of Events

Scheduled Meetings & Events

- October 9-10, 1999** ~ Texas Turn or Two VIII, Maricopa Ranch
- October 11, 1999** ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Thomas Irven home, 5202 Willow St., Bellaire, 713-666-6681
- October 16, 1999** ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ Woodcraft, 12155 Northwest Fwy. (290) at Hollister, 713-690-8508
- November 1, 1999** ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., 713-981-9228
- November 15, 1999** ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Thomas Irven home, 5202 Willow St., Bellaire, 713-666-6681
- November 20, 1999** ~ Woodwright Woodworking, 1407 Spring Cypress, 281-651-9663
- December 6, 1999** ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., 713-981-9228
- December 13, 1999** ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Thomas Irven home, 5202 Willow St., Bellaire, 713-666-6681
- December 18, 1999** ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., 713-981-9228
- January 3, 2000** ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., 713-981-9228
- January 10, 2000** ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Thomas Irven home, 5202 Willow St., Bellaire, 713-666-6681
- January 15, 2000** ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ Meeting place to be determined



This Month

October 16 - 9:00 AM ~ GCWA Meeting at Woodcraft, 12155 Northwest Freeway (290) at Hollister, 713-690-8508

Program

Pre Meeting ~ Don Fluker — Operating a lathe for hands on help for anybody interested.

Main Program ~ Boyce Gahagan — Finishing

Executive Committee

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Secretary	Carl Blair	713-946-6344	
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GCWA Web Site:
[Http://get.to/gcwa](http://get.to/gcwa)

Internet Web Sites of Interest

American Association of Woodturners: <http://rtpnet.org/~aaw>
Robert Sorby: <http://www.robert-sorby.co.uk/turning.htm>
Woodturning Supply Sources: <http://www.rtpnet.org/~twnc/sources.html>
Wood Magazine: <http://www.woodmagazine.com>
The Cutting Edge: <http://www.cuttingedgetools.com>
Woodcraft: <http://www.woodcraft.com>
Triangle Woodturners of North Carolina: <http://www.rtpnet.org/~twnc/>



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