

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association

# GCWA Newsletter

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association

December 1999 Issue

GCWA Web Site:

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

## President's Corner

Well it's December, a time of much celebration and good cheer. Also, it is time to get those gifts turned for all those "nice" people on Santa's list. There was not the turnout of toys I had hoped to see at the November meeting; but, the toys that were there were nicely turned and a lot of fun to play with. I want to thank all that turned a toy and donated it for a needy family. I feel certain these gifts will bring joy to those who receive them.

There seemed to be some quandary regarding my article on the TTT in the last newsletter. For clarification, we did have two people from our club (David Berry and Bill Berry) presenting in our sponsored area. We did not fill **all** of the available slots with people from our club. I hope this clears up any confusion.

There were quite a number of finely turned items on the project table last month that we did not get to judge. I hope all of these and more will show up at the meeting this month. Those of you who were at the November meeting got to see the new ribbons up close and personal. The competition for these ribbons is getting fierce so bring in your projects. The more turnings you bring in, the better your chances are of receiving a ribbon.

Enough people have expressed interest in buying wood to make it pos-

sible for the club members to get a quantity of wood at a discount. If you want to buy wood we need:

- (a) A check payable to GCWA in the amount you want to spend.
- (b) A list of the sizes you would like, i.e. Thickness" by Length" by Width" - (2" X 6" X 6")
- (c) A list of the species you would like. Maple Burl, etc.
- (d) The Quality of the wood. Use A; B; C. (A = Museum quality, B = Above average, C = Average) NOTE: The higher the quality the lower the quantity.

The wood may or may not come in the specific sizes you request; however, it will be close.

We need to have the money in hand to order the wood. Please bring this information to the December meeting so we can order the wood ASAP. If you can't make the meeting and you want some wood, send the above information to Helen Young. The deadline for this is Jan. 4, 2000.

Thomas Irven

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

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.

**December Meeting  
December 18, 1999  
The Cutting Edge Wood-  
worker's and Tool Supply  
7123 Southwest Freeway**

May Your Christmas  
and New Year  
Holidays be Safe  
and Happy!

## Show & Tell

The November meeting Show & Tell at Woodwright was limited to toys only so all entries were judged equally within the same category. The Winners were:

1st Place — **Jack Hanley** for a Toy Train Locomotive.

2nd Place — **Kip Powers** for a Trapped Ring Rattle.

3rd Place — **Boyce Gahagan** for a Spinning Top.

Special thanks to our Judges

## Bring Back

Bring Back Items Raffle Winners:

**Jeff Schroder, David White, Mack DeBose, Carl Blair, Don Philpot, Marta Gifford**

## Membership

Please welcome our new members, **William Cox, Wayne Stanfield, David Wright, Rodney Fontenot and Chuck Hale** who joined us in November.

## Announcements

**The Gulf Coast Woodturners membership will be participating in the National Tool Show which is to be held April 14 thru 16 at the Houston Astro Arena. Volunteers are needed to provide setup and take-down labor as well as turning demonstrations during the show. There will be 4 lathes in operation. Please contact Carl Blair at 713-946-6344 or email cblair@orbitworld.net.**

**Volunteers are also needed for the Annual GCWA Retreat to be held on May 20 & 21. Please contact Murray Powell at 713-682-2810 or email mpowell@wantabe.com.**

## Coming Events

### December Meeting

For our December meeting, Dec. 18 at Cutting Edge, we will have a demonstration by Steve LeGrue on the ways to "decorate" your turnings, both on and off the lathe.

Steve writes: "Woodturning has come a long way in the past decade. A well turned vessel is no longer enough to set your work apart or give it the artistic boost to make it stand out from the crowd. Anyone who has gone to an AAW national symposium recognizes that the work done on weekends by av-

erage turners is equal to gallery-level turnings of 5 to 10 years ago. Surface decoration is the area of woodturning that has seen the most interest in the past few years: The turned form as canvas for the next level of artistic expression. In my session I will discuss various ways to achieve visual interest in turned forms, including: Carving, Texturing, Coloring, Piercing, Patinizing, Burning."

I will bring in a bowl that Steve did as a practice piece two years ago, where he has carved, colored and textured the piece. I'll also have my second attempt at a music stand, which uses "add-on items." Come see!

*Editor's Note: This article appears on the Tidewater Turners of Virginia Web site at [www.esva.net/~woodturner](http://www.esva.net/~woodturner).*

## On Tools & Results, Thoughts to Ponder

By Bob Vallaster

Discussion at a recent meeting advanced a notion: *better tools yield better turnings*.

Stated differently, the difference between my turning and another's can be compensated by better tools. The idea deserves notice.

Although I have made sawdust all my adult life, I did not start making shavings until 10 years ago. My wanderings took me to a Tidewater Turners' meeting. The contagion of turning was instant: I got the bug, and I've been infected ever since.

Initiation in the mysteries of turning consisted of visits to club members' garages, shops, or whatever place they worked their magic. I watched a lot, cut a little and asked questions. I came away with two lasting impressions.

One. I was amazed that my mentors were capable of doing much with little. Humble materials and minimal equipment. The essence of their equipment consisted of three things: a means (the lathe) to spin the rough object, some means (spur & center, faceplate, or chuck) to

grip the object securely, and something with a keen edge to remove unwanted wood hiding beauty or utility within.

Elegant work can be produced on basic machines with simple holding devices and rustic cutters. More features make good advertising copy, but poor investments unless you need and use them. Cutters of space-age alloys with handles of exotic wood are nice, but anything that holds an edge will cut the mustard. Wood doesn't know or respond to equipment's pedigree or price.

Two. What distinguished their work from mine was the knowledge stored behind their eyes and the skill in their hands. Various of them came to their knowledge by different routes. Some learned from books, some from others, some from trial and error. No matter; they knew methods, materials, finishes...and form. They didn't find skill packaged like vitamin pills; all acquired it through practice. I recognized I was a tall

*(Continued on page 3)*



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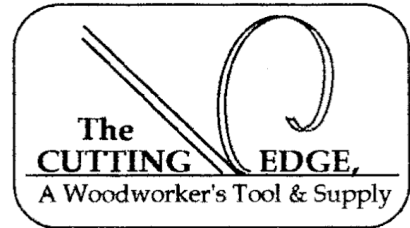
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# Calendar of Events

## Scheduled Meetings & Events

**December 13, 1999** ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Thomas Irven home, 5202 Willow St., Bellaire, 713-666-6881

**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, 713-666-6881

**January 15, 2000** ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ Pro-Tool & Supply, 222 W. 225 Frwy., Pasadena, 713-472-5588

**February 7, 2000** ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., 713-981-9228

**February 14, 2000** ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Thomas Irven home, 5202 Willow St., Bellaire, 713-666-6881

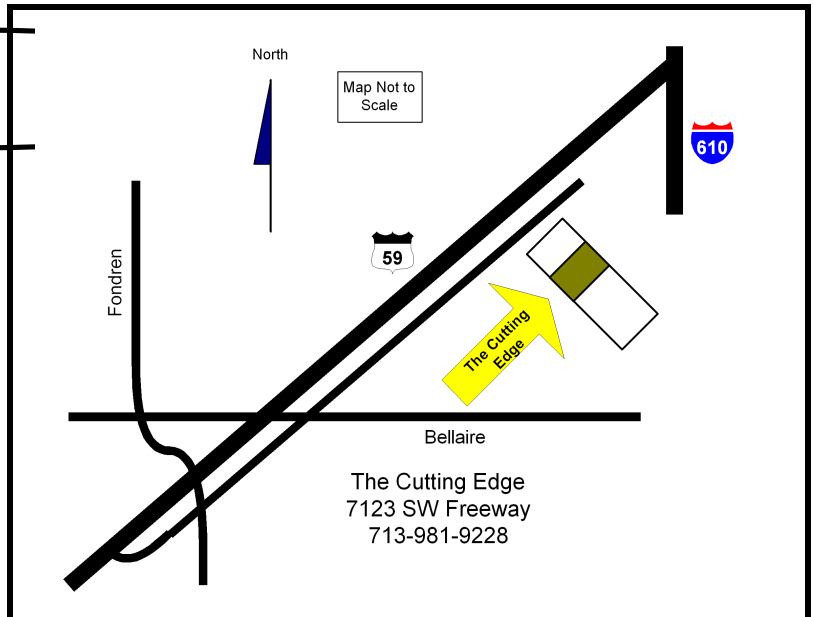
**February 19, 2000** ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ Deer Park High School, North Campus, 402 Ivy Ave., Deer Park, 281-930-4816

**March 6, 2000** ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., 713-981-9228

**March 20, 2000** ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Thomas Irven home, 5202 Willow St., Bellaire, 713-666-6881

**March 25, 2000 (4th Saturday)** ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ Deer Park High School, North Campus, 402 Ivy Ave., Deer Park, 281-930-4816

**April 14-16, 2000** ~ National Tool Show ~ Astro Arena



## This Month

**December 18 - 9:00 AM** ~ GCWA Meeting at The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Freeway, 713-981-9228

## Program

**Pre Meeting ~ Don Fluker, Ralph Hecht, Kip Powers** — Operating a lathe for hands on help for anybody interested.

**Main Program ~ Steve Legrue** — Coloring and Texturing

## Executive Committee

President	Thomas Irven	713-666-6881	kirven@tenet.edu
Vice President	Murray Powell	713-682-2810	mpowell@wantabe.com
Secretary	Carl Blair	713-946-6344	cblair@orbitworld.net
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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/>  
Tidewater Turners of Virginia: <http://www.exva.net/~woodturner/>  
North Carolina Woodturners Association: <http://www.charweb.org/ncwa/>



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Association**