

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association

GCWA Newsletter

February 1999

President's Corner

We have a very short time: elections are just around the corner. If you or someone you know would like to run for one of the available offices, please get in touch with Jim Keller or Thomas Irven. They will be glad to sign you up. We will be glad to sign you up. We will be glad to publish your candidates in the March newsletter.

We have a couple of shows coming up in the near future. The tool trade show (if all is going well) ~ Carl Blair is trying to get all the dates together. If you would like to work at the tool show get with Carl. The Spring Retreat is just a couple of months after the tool show. We will need a bunch of people to work and play at this event. Mark it on your calendar. We need volunteers for many different things at the Retreat, mostly demonstrators, but also hospitality, setup and general clean up all weekend long.

Texas Turn or Two, TTT, has asked us for some people to demo at the 1999 TTT. We will need the names of four or five people to forward to Pat and Butch Titus. These people are requested to submit what they would like to demo, how long it should take, and a little info on themselves (a paragraph or two). We have a lot of fun at TTT, so do not feel like you are not capable of doing a demo. It is a learning experience for all that comes to the well-known Texas Turn or Two. If you would like to demo there, call me at 713-473-6491 or Bill Berry for more information.

Many thanks to Carl Blair for handling the Houston Arboretum demonstration in January, and thank you to everyone who demonstrated there. The Houston Arboretum has befriended GCWA for years, and this gives us a chance to show our appreciation.

Happy Valentine's to all. Keep up the good work.

-Bobby Bridges

Tool Swap

Back by popular demand, will be our "Turning Tool Swap." If you have any turning tools and turning sundries that you want to SELL or TRADE, please bring them to the February meeting. **(Sorry, no circular saws, electric drills or power screw drivers, please....)** Start digging out all those seldom or never used items that are collecting dust. It could be just the tool someone else "needs." **A table will be set up for all of your items. Please have all tools marked with your name and price.**

-Bill Berry

February Program

The turning presentation for the February meeting will be a demonstration on making and using mandrels for turning applications. The mandrel is a very useful and helpful tool that can simplify many turning operations. I will be sharing with you two different types of mandrels and how you can make and use them effectively. Also, Bill Dyer will be showing and demonstrating a steady rest made for turning long thin spindles. If you have tried turning thin spindles you are aware of the chatter and other "malfunctions" that can result from the lack of support. Bill will be sharing with you a solution to minimize some of these malfunctions.

Future Programs

I have received several good suggestions for topics for future programs. Keep them coming !!! The demos and programs are to benefit you as a member. Please tell me what you want to see. Call me at 281-479-8073, e-mail me at bberry2301@aol.com or talk to me at the meeting.

In this Issue

President's Corner	1
Tool Swap	1
February Program	1
Show & Tell Winners	2
News from Abroad	2
For Sale	3
Want to Purchase	3
Treasurer's Report	3
Executive Committee	5
This Month	5

GCWA Retreat III

Hands-on Learning

Montgomery County Fair-grounds

May 15-16, 1999

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.

Judging Criteria

For those of you who are new members at GCWA, you are encouraged to turn and bring the results to our meetings. As you can see from the categories listed below, there is a place for everyone. The only stipulation is that if your turning is judged to be a "winner" two times, you must move up to next category. There are three categories:

BEGINNING TURNER- The criteria for this group is quite simple. Was the project made on a lathe? Is the project made from wood? Is the project "kinda roundish?" Sanding and finish are optional.

EXPERIENCED TURNER- The criteria for this group is the same that we have published in the past. Is the project pleasing to the eye? Does it have clean lines? Does it have good proportion? Does the wood complement the design? Is the project free of tool marks or heavy sanding scratches? If applicable, is the project free of undulations and smooth to the touch? If the project is a bowl or vessel, is the wall thickness consistent? If the project is a closed form, is the inside smooth? If applicable, has the project been reverse chucked and the bottom "finished"? Has a finish been applied to the turning? Is the finish smooth? Has it been buffed?

NOVICE TURNER- If your turnings fall somewhere between the beginning and experienced turner, then this is your group.

Judging: You may decide which group you wish to enter. If your turnings have been judged as a first place entry two times, you must move up to the next level. The whole idea here is to encourage you to "turn and learn".

-Bill Berry

Show & Tell Winners

Don Fluker won first place in the beginner category for a light colored pecan bowl and second place for a paduak bowl.

Jack Hanley took first place in the intermediate category with his cocobolo cane. Larry Caudill won second place for a mahogany footed bowl. Larry Thurston turned a spalted pecan bowl that took third place.

Dale Barrack won first place in the advanced category for a spalted hackberry bowl. Murray Powell took second place with a maple bowl.

Howard Moore won first place in the advanced category with a lidded container with a handle. Howard also took second place for another lidded container. Needless to say, these were segmented pieces, in the category for projects turned from multiple pieces of wood.

A hearty thanks to Diana Gahagan and Marta Gifford for judging. There were so many pieces on the tables, they really had their work cut out for them.

-Helen Young

News from Abroad

(This came in from our foreign correspondent, Kip Powers. Kip and Ann are looking at the possibility of moving to the Northwest, so have arranged a two-month "look see" trip. Kip reports that they are on their second bottle of "-5 SPF sunscreen," better known as Scotchguard. Here are summaries of visits to two American Association of Woodturners (AAW) chapters. -MRP)

I had the opportunity to attend the Seattle Chapter's January 14th meeting and have a few comments on the similarities and differences to our club that may be of interest.

The overall organizations for the meeting was similar - prior to the opening there was general kibitzing around the "show and tell" table, the coffee pot and wood raffle ticket sales. For the latter, members donate wood, then there is a drawing: the winning ticket holder picks a piece out of the pile. I had snuck a small piece of mesquite past Ann into one of our suitcases, and it attracted some interest. I bought a few tickets and ended up with a piece of yew and a piece of "don't know - neighbor cut it down Saturday." I thought that the show and tell pieces were good, but participation seemed below what we are used to - there were about 60 people in attendance, and perhaps 10-12 turnings. There were no categories - in fact, no judging as such. The immediate past president merely selected a couple of pieces and asked the makers to comment on them.

The Seattle Chapter had just elected new officers and they were introduced. An item of note: the past editor was elected president and there were three volunteers to take over the newsletter. I got a copy of the newsletter for Murray (ours is better!) and like us, e-mail distribution is encouraged. One idea worth

considering - "Free Wood Hotline" utilizing e-mail is being initiated.

The "Sometimes You Don't Know How Lucky You Are" Department:

Like us, the Seattle Club has outgrown members' homes as meeting places. Through some connections, they are able to meet at the Campus Center of an area private school, but it costs the \$500/year in rental fees. Past President Earl Bartell about turned green when I told him about free use of school shops with several lathes.

The "Sometimes They Don't Know How Lucky They Are" Department:

The program for the meeting was a demonstration of making tools using high speed steel reamers picked up from Boeing's surplus outlet (which is open to the public) for \$0.50/lb. The speaker showed several gouges and skewers made using a grinder and an angle grinder that cost less than a couple of bucks each (including copper tubing for the ferrules.)

Northwest Washington Chapter Meeting - January 21, 1999

This group, which meets in Mt. Vernon, Washington, about 70 miles north of Seattle, is smaller and the membership is older. Fred Holder, publisher of the "More Woodturning" tabloid is the president. The meeting format was much the same as the Seattle Chapter - raffle of donated wood, then a show and tell program. It looked to me that there was more participation in the show and tell than I saw at Seattle, and everyone who wished to speak briefly about their piece(s) got to. There was no judging or experienced class division.

This club is working on a large chess set for the Chapter competition at this year's Symposium. The case/board was nicely executed by one of the members who's skills with wood include things other than turning. Relatively few pieces were completed.

The program was conducted by Scott Belway from British Columbia, who demonstrated letter openers (all wood). Scott is a really good spindle turner and did a good job explaining his actions as he went along. In addition to the turning, he went through how he shapes the blade using a disc sander and files.

Bill Smith is Chapter newsletter editor and would like to get ours (e-mail) and would be glad to send one (again, via e-mail) to us. Bill used to live in Corpus and still gets back to Texas every once in a while to load up with mesquite. Bill says that their newsletter usually runs 2-3 pages, but this was a slow month.

-Kip Powers

For Sale

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

Jerry Murrey has power tools for sale. Call 281.286.7727. Jerry told us at the January meeting that he and his wife are moving up north. Seems like a rather cold time of the year to do that.

Pen blanks in Corian, many colors, some solids, segmented made to order, Don Case, 12150 Memory Lane, Conroe TX 77303. Phone: 409-264-1089.

Want to Purchase

16" x 54" inside with 24" outside Delta (DL40) Lathe, model no. 46401 built in 1987 with digital R.P.M. control, 110 volts AC. MUST be in "REASONABLY GOOD CONDITION". Will talk money after I see the lathe. Call Howard D. Moore @ 409-756-1783.

Retreat III

May 15-16, 1999

Montgomery County Fairgrounds
Conroe, Texas

Of all the activities and events that are sponsored by GCWA, I honestly believe that the annual Retreat Weekend is the best and finest thing that we do. Not only is this a giant opportunity to advance and promote turning skills among our members, but this is when we get the chance to get to know one another, and really come together as a Club. My sincere hope is that you have already made plans to be with us in Conroe for May 15-16.

For those of you who may be unfamiliar with the GCWA Retreat, it is two days of hands-on woodturning. There will be a total of five sessions, with small classes for all levels of skill. We'll have one session on Saturday and Sunday mornings (8:30-11:30am); two sessions on Saturday afternoon (12:30-2:30pm, and 3-5pm), then one session on Sunday afternoon (12:30-2:30). Then, after the cleanup is done on Sunday, we'll have the Raffle.

While there will be several demonstrations, the best part of the Retreat is the hands-on classes, where you get the chance to try new techniques and work on new skills. It really is fun and educational, and again, all of this is home-grown – it is for-and-by the Gulf Coast Woodturners. In fact, in addition to paying \$25.00 to help cover expenses, each

participant must be a GCWA member. Lunches and snacks will be provided.

4 areas of great need.

A) We need participants to sign up early. This will dictate how many instructors and lathes we'll require, as well as help us make plans for meals. My personal goal is to have 80 people turning wood.

B) We need willing instructors who will direct one or two classes. We need folks who will share what they've learned. Please note that we're not really looking for "experts" – just willing volunteers. We'll provide you with guidelines about how to use the time effectively. Please don't be coy or shy: volunteer.

C) We need all the lathes we can get hold of. Lathes! More Lathes! Due to restrictions at the Fairgrounds, we are limited to 110volt power (so, no 220v machines). But we need every lathe we can find!

D) We need help with setup on Friday, May 14. Willie Hooper has offered to help, and we can use lots more to get the room ready for the weekend.

For all these needs, we'll have sign-up sheets at the meetings throughout the Spring. Please help us make this the biggest and best! (Did I mention that we need your lathe for the Retreat?)

-Murray Powell

Treasurer's Report

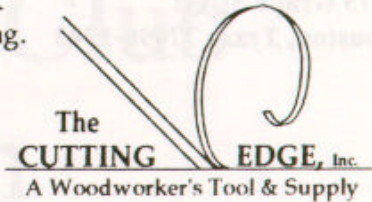
Year Ended December 31, 1998

AAW Chapters Exhibit	18.19
Advertising in Newsletter	420.00
Bring Back, Auction, etc.	642.49
Membership Dues	2,319.75
Spring '98 Retreat	<u>370.97</u>
Total Inflow	3,771.40
Demonstration - Escoulen	12.78
Demonstration - Fant	50.00
Library	362.99
Newsletters & Postage	1,364.29
Office Expense	352.50
Photography Expense	30.00
Refreshments	378.05
Ribbons for Show & Tell	48.39
Storeroom	<u>489.50</u>
Total Outflow	3,088.50
Increase	582.90
Balance @ 1/1/98	<u>5,076.50</u>
Balance @ 12/31/98	5,759.40



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Calendar of Events

February 1, 1999 ~ 7:00 PM ~ First Monday at The Cutting Edge.

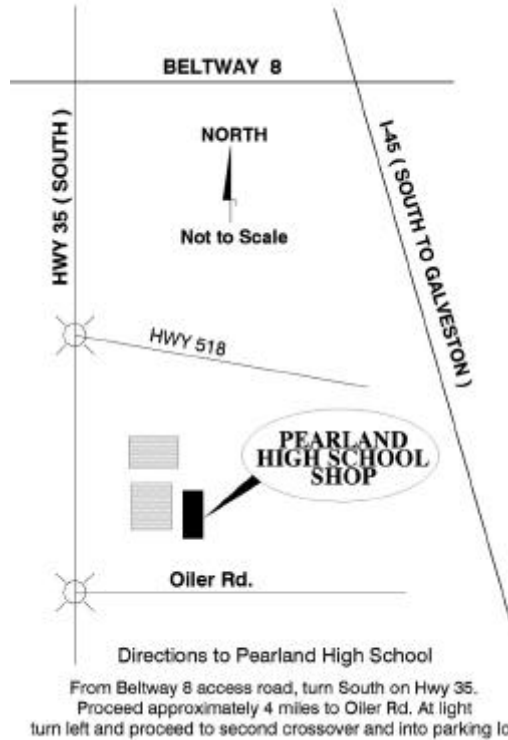
February 20, 1999 ~ 9:00 AM ~ GCWA meeting @ Pearland High School (Gary Rodgers)

March 16, 1999 ~ 7:30 PM ~ Executive Committee meeting @ The Cutting Edge.

March 19-21, 1999 ~ Tool Show, Astro-hall

April 17, 1999 ~ 9:00 AM ~ GCWA meeting @ The Cutting Edge

May 15-16, 1999 ~ GCWA 3rd annual Turning Retreat, Hands-On Learning, Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Conroe, TX.



Many thanks to Bill Berry for coming to my rescue with maps to our meetings. Several years ago he had pity on me (after I ran a horrible hand-drawn map). Thank you, Bill.

--Helen Young

This Month

Gary Rodgers {formerly Milby High School} will host this month's meeting at Pearland High School. This is our first meeting at Pearland, so let's check out his shop.

Bill Berry will share two different types of mandrels and how you can make and use them effectively.

Bill Dyer will be showing and demonstrating a steady rest made for turning long thin spindles. He will be sharing a solution to minimize chatter and other "malfunctions" that can result from lack of support.

The very thing you might "need," could be there. We're having a **Tool Swap**.

Executive Committee

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