

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association

GCWA Newsletter

August 1999

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

President's Corner

I would like to thank the folks at **Woodwright** for hosting our meeting last month. We had a good turnout and a collection of great turnings. We did lack entries in the intermediate category. Let's add some quantity to our quality. Our judges, **Luna Ford** and **Max Wohl-gemuth**, worked together well in selecting winners.

I enjoyed the format of the hands-on spindle session with **Don Fluker**. Hopefully, he answered many of the questions our group has about spindle work. Good work, Don. The program on vacuum chucking with **Murray Powell** and **Eddie James** was wonderful. I like to see turners try something new.

Lately, I have been trying out new bleaching techniques on certain turned pieces. It is interesting to see what wood bleach does to different woods. Use the liquid, two-part type wood bleach. Parks is one manufacturer's product that I found at The Home Depot. It is in a red and white box with mixing instructions that should be followed. BE CAREFUL when using this bleach. It is recommended that you wear eye protection, rubber gloves, and a rubber apron when using wood bleach.

Raised or indented sections of wood are easier to bleach without making a mess of the rest of the turning. If you bleach the turning before you remove it from the lathe it is easy to clean up any stray bleached areas by re-turning. Masking off an area does not work well, because the bleach is thin and will run under the tape. Small pieces can be dipped and set aside to dry. Many woods will need more than one or two coats. Allow the previous coat dry before applying the second one. Use a cotton swab to apply the bleach to the targeted areas. The bleach does NOT have to be neutralized before finishing. This is contrary to the package instructions, and it works!

I learned a few of these bleaching hints in Provo, Utah from **Betty Scarpino**, an excellent turner, teacher, and an International Turning Exchange resident this year. She is also a fellow Hoosier: a person born or living in the state of Indiana.

- Thomas Irven

First Monday (Night) at The Cutting Edge

Editors note: I am repeating this article from a previous issue of the newsletter for our many new members.

Free beer & everyone who comes gets \$100! OK, not really. But we do have a good time turning. This is a hands-on experience that happens on the 1st Monday of each month. If you have a question or a problem, this is the time and place to get the answer. If no one knows the answer, then we'll make up one. Well, probably not, but someone will be able to at least point you in the right direction, and we'll have an answer by the next meeting. I guarantee it!

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to use a certain tool? It is most likely to be available for use at the 1st Monday meetings. It is also a good time to see what it is like to turn on a Oneway lathe. But, be careful; if you turn on one, you will have to have one of your own. (Yes, there is a Oneway lathe for under \$1.500. It is not as large as the 2036 but it is every bit a Oneway).

Our Club members have a wealth of knowledge and experiences to share, and some of us do this on the 1st Monday of each month. If you would like to learn more about woodturning and / or would like to share your knowledge with others, this is a great time to just do it.

- Thomas Irven

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August Meeting

Woodcraft

Hollister Pointe Center

13155 Northwest Freeway

713 690-8508

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 \$15. 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.

Membership News

Please welcome our new members, **George Grieder**, and **Doug Hollingsworth** who joined us in July. Make yourselves at home George and Doug. If you have any questions about woodturning, don't hesitate to ask anyone. GCWA is a mutual help organization and everyone likes to talk about woodturning.

The name tags are right by the donuts. Wear one, and it will help us get to know one another. Introduce yourself to some of the members you don't know.

-- Helen Young

Willie Hooper Donates Pictures

Willie Hooper donated over a hundred pictures he took at the AAW meeting at Tacoma. They are exceptional pictures of the turned objects on display. The "historian" has them mounted and will bring them to the August meeting. Check them out.

Show & Tell

Winners at the July meeting at **Woodwright Woodworking** were:

Beginning Category: 1st **Ralph Heckt**, Sycamore bowl; 2nd **Eddie James**, Pecan bowl; 3rd **Pete Gallagos**, weed pot.

Intermediate Category: 1st **Jack Hanley**, Maple bowl.

Advanced Category: 1st **Steve Russell**, Box Elder platter; 2nd **By Reed**, Large bowl; 3rd **Dale Bar-rack**, Large Pecan bowl.

Special Award **Chuck Garrett**, Large closed form turning.

Honorable Mention **Carl Blair**, Burl like Mesquite bowl.

Once again we would like to thank the Judges **Luna Ford** and **Max Wohlgemuth** for a fine job...they

had to make some tough decisions because of so many fine turnings. The Judges are selected at random at each meeting, so if you would like to be a judge, let our President **Tom Irven** know.

The Raffle Corner

A number of members have agreed to donate a turning to be used during the monthly raffle. These include **Richard Chambless** for the July meeting, **Howard Moore** for August; **Bill Hubbard** for September; **Thomas Irven** for October and **Chuck Garrett** for November. These turnings will be considered 'bring back' items; that is, if you win one of these turnings then we would like you to bring one of your turnings in the following month to also be included in the raffle. This will continue to help support the refreshments that are furnished each meeting and perpetuate and encourage turnings from all members. Donations from other members for future meetings are also being solicited at this time. We look forward to continued participation in this area. Help support the club and be the proud owner of a turning from one of your fellow members. Our appreciation goes out to these members and to each of you for your past support.

- **Chuck Garrett**

T-shirt Sales

Sales of Club T-shirts and hats is going well. This past month, most of the new members that joined the past three months were contacted and a total of eleven shirts and 4 caps were sold. Prices of T-shirts range from \$10 to \$12 with an extra \$2 for inclusion of your name. Hats with the club logo are \$10 and polo shirts range from \$25 to \$28. If you are interested, contact **Chuck Garrett** either during a meeting or by phone @ 281 980-3367. Our continued thanks to club member **Billie Tinnin** for her work in both the procurement of and embroidery of club logo and names on these items.

Classified

Old Delta 10² Bandsaw Needs a motor.

FREE

Call **Don Fluker**

281-855-8230

1999 Utah Woodturning Symposium

A CD in PC format showing over 850 high quality digital images of virtually every aspect of the 1999 Utah Woodturning Symposium is available for purchase. Included is most all of the demonstrators, the Friday evening barbecue, the swap meet, Instant Gallery, as well as opening and closing ceremonies. Additionally, there is nearly 500 megabytes of video and sound of the demonstrators as they teach and turn.

The price of the CD is \$30 which includes jewel case, color front and back cover art, packaging and shipping costs. Order from **Chuck Herrick**, CD-ROM Editor, 2553 West 4700 South, Roy, UT 84067. Phone 801 773-3099. E-mail: utahbear@xmission.com

E-mail Addresses

If you haven't sent in your e-mail address, why not do that today? This is a wonderful way to communicate with other GCWA members. You will get your newsletter somewhat faster, too!

While you're surfing the Internet, if you see something you think would interest other members, send me the web site information so we can pass it along.

-**helen@orbitworld.net**

This will be your last newsletter if your membership dues expired **July 31, 1999**.

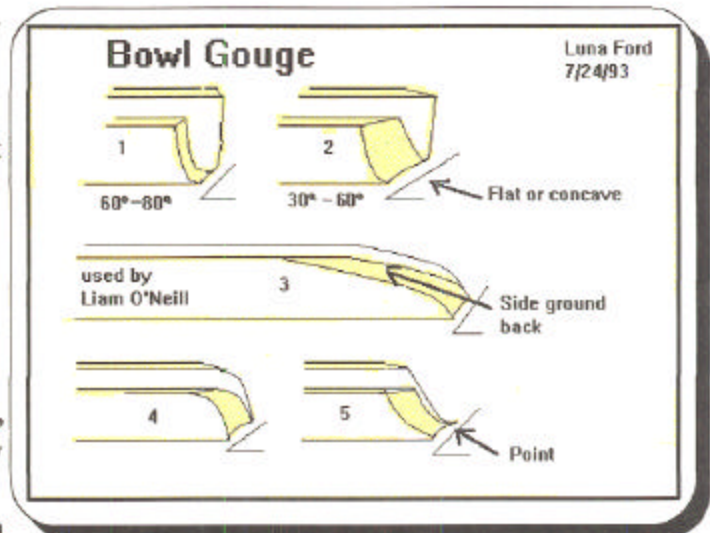
Sharpening Lathe Tools

by Luna Ford

Sharpening The Bowl Gouge

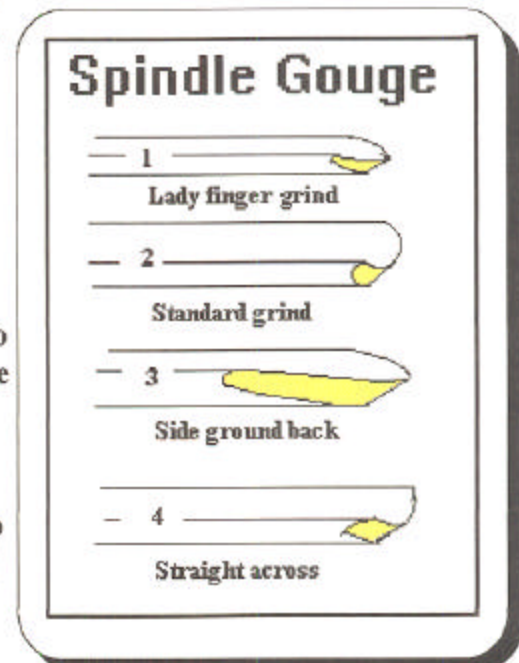
The most important thing about sharpening bowl gouges, is to have a flat or concave bevel. The angle is determined by the type of cut you want to make. The steep angle on (#1) will allow you to get a flat bottom in a fairly deep bowl – if the bevel does not maintain contact with the wood surface, grabbing and hang-ups will occur. View (#2) is typical of the factory grind when the gouge is purchased - this is usually a flat ground bevel at approximately 45 degree angle and square across the end. A hollow grind is usually preferred and is done on the grinder with a straight rolling action. I use all my gouges straight from the grinder without honing.

The grind used by Liam O'Neill is a very versatile tool and may be used in many ways. The grind angle of the cutting edge varies from approximately 30 degree on the side to 60 degree on the end. Grinding requires a 90 degree swing and rotation from both left and right. If you do not purchase one already ground, starting with a grind like (#4) is a good beginning. Grinding back the corners more each time you sharpen, allows you to use the steel before grinding it away. View (#5) is a grind used by Melvyn Firmager from England. It is ground on each side, leaving a point in the center. I tried this grind and found it very useful.



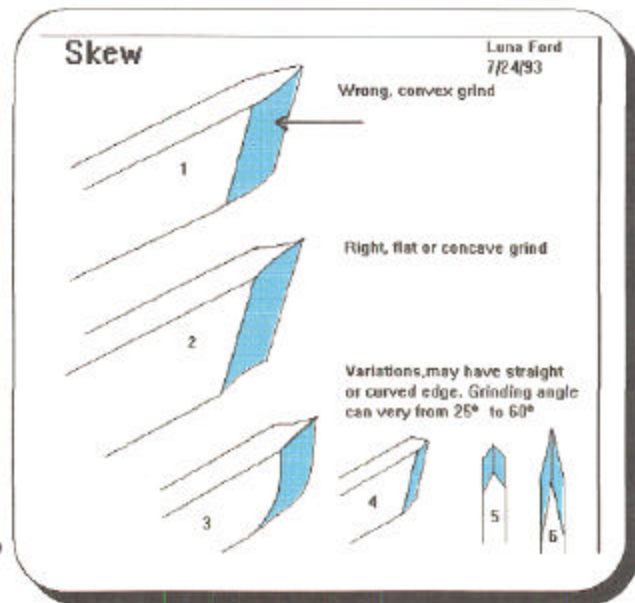
Sharpening The Spindle Gouge

Spindle gouges are shallow and shorter than the bowl gouge, however sharpening is similar. The lady finger grind (#1) is used in shearing cuts with the bevel in contact with the wood. A bevel from 30 to 60 degree is common. The standard grind (#2) may be used as a shearing or roughing gouge. The bevel is ground from 45 to 75 degree. The custom grind shown in (#3) was influenced by Ray Key. The grind on (#4) is ground straight across with a bevel of 30 to 45 degree, and is used in shearing cuts with the bevel in contact with the wood.



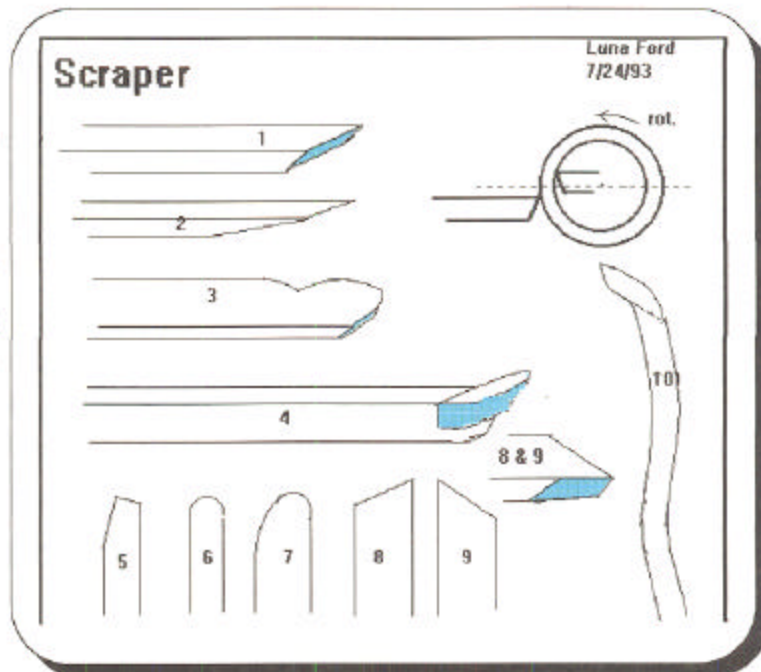
Sharpening The Skew

The skew is the only tool that I hone an edge on. Like the gouge, it must have a flat, or hollow grind because the bevel is used to control the cut. Sharper angles are used for soft woods, and obtuse angles for hardwoods. Most skews come from the factory with a straight edge. With the first sharpening I start modifying them to a curved edge like #3 below. I find it much easier to control with the curved edge. The amount of curve or slant is determined by the way you like to hold the tool. There is no right or wrong, if it works for you.



Sharpening The Scraper

Sharpening scrapers is easier than sharpening shearing tools. The bevel is not used to control the cut, so the grind may be flat, convex or concave. A light pass on the grinder will leave a small burr on the cutting edge, and is all that is needed. The scraper is used below center on the outside, and above center on the inside. The shapes are ground to suit the job at hand. View #8 & 9 are sharpened on the side and end to create a sharp point. View #4 and 10 are commonly called bent tools, and are for use inside of hollow vessels. I custom make them to suit the job at hand. The tips are high speed steel, silver soldered to key stock of various sizes - usually 3/8" to 1/2" X 12" long.



Luna R. Ford (713)476-4159
1809 Meadowlark
Deer Park, Tx 77536

Local Woods for Turning

If a hurricane comes through Houston this summer, what will you do? Well, once you're sure the family and dog are OK, you'll probably throw the chain saw in the back of the biggest vehicle you own and go looking for turning wood – of course! What if space (or spouse) limit how much wood you can store? What woods would you gather first? I posed this question to several club members to see what they would say.

Bill Berry would look first for Sycamore, ash or large virgin pecans. Also on the list would be Silverleaf Maple, Mimosa, Sweetgum, Black Elm, Hackberry, and Fruitless Mulberry. Bill would pass on the Oak trees since they tend to check badly while drying.

Luna Ford's favorites are pecan, sycamore, ash, mimosa, and hackberry. Luna likes the beautiful wood found in all types of fruit trees. He avoids pine because of the sap and oak due to checking. Luna would hesitate to collect Chinese Tallow since the dust from it is toxic.

By Reed doesn't seem to have found too many wood

varieties without some redeeming qualities. By looks for good solid hardwoods without structural defects. Larger pieces that contain crotch figure are favorites. Ash can be pretty but is prone to bugs. Magnolia is a plain white wood that is good for decorative effects. Pecan is often plain but can spalt nicely. Elms are beautiful but move quite a bit while they dry. By would also hesitate on oak since it is pretty common and it takes a bit of patience to work with (slow to cure out and moves quite a bit when turned green).

Jim Keller will probably watch for a hurricane that hits somewhere West of Houston – he prefers to work with woods growing somewhat outside of Loop 610 – such as Mesquite and Bodark (Osage Orange). Jim usually has a design in mind and looks for suitable pieces of wood. Jim looks for crotch wood or twisted irregular bark which might indicate some interesting grain. Jim uses Hackberry for his flower forms which he says spalts nicely. Sycamore turns nicely, frequently has fiddleback grain, and also spalts readily. Other woods mentioned included Holly for its white fine grain, Ash, Pear, Black Gum, Pecan, and Mimosa. Jim has done some very interesting pieces from Oak but they are time consuming and a lot of work.

Max Wohlgenuth also likes to work with South Texas woods. Mesquite is dense, has nice grain lines, and does not move much after turning. Max cautions that Mesquite will dull tools quickly due to its high mineral content and sometimes it has internal wind checks. Hackberry has few faults since it spalts well and cuts cleanly. Maple is not as frequently available in Houston, but does turn well and spalts easily. Max uses green Arizona Ash for turning demonstrations but he doesn't use it for gallery pieces since it tends to lack character. Pecan, Sycamore, and Elm are also favorites. Max does turn a lot of Christmas tree wood but says it isn't the best material – Christmas trees tend to be sappy and you have to shear all the cuts.

So there are five opinions on some of the best local, or almost local, woods to turn. If you asked five more of the experienced turners in our club, the list would only get longer. In future newsletter issues, we'll take a closer look at some of these woods and others. If you have a favorite wood for turning, let me know what it is and why. Meanwhile, I need to go tune-up my chainsaw!

-Jim Bennett 713-868-6979

TEXAS TURN OR TWO

DEMONSTRATION LOCATIONS AND TIMES

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

SITE	LILLY BLDG. <small>CTWA</small>	MARICOPA <small>WINT</small>	A	MARICOPA <small>AWA</small>	B
9:00 TO 10:15	RON HAMPTON BARLEY TWIST ON GOBLET STEMS	JUDY DITMER TURNING JEWELRY		R. JENKINS TAMING THE SKEW	
10:30 TO 11:45	PHIL BRENNION TRADITIONAL PUEBLO VESSELS	JOHN HORN SANTA CLAUS NUT CRACKERS		BOB ROSAND ROSAND SYTLE HODGE PODGE	
12:1 LUNCH					
1:30 TO 2:45	BILL HAMMOCK LARGE SPIN TOPS	LARRY ROBERTS BASIC BOWLS FOR BEGINNERS		STEVE RUSSELL THE McNAUGHTON BOWL SAVER SYSTEM	
3:00 TO 4:15	JOHNNY TOLLY HOW TO USE THE ESCOULEN CHUCK	JUDY DITMER TURNING JEWELRY BOXES		BOB ROSAND ROSAND SYTLE ORNAMENTS	

NOTES

The SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS meet at at the Lunch Tent at the Back 40. Be sure to bring pencil and paper for taking notes.

9:00 a.m. BUILDING YOUR OWN LATHE, Mr. James Johnson, moderator.
1:30 p.m. INTRODUCTION TO SEGMENTED TURNING, Mr. Ken Mays, moderator

(Remember the Auction at 5:00 p.m. at the Maricopa Building!)

DEMONSTRATION LOCATIONS AND TIMES

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

SITE	BACK 40 <small>DAWA</small>	TENT 1 <small>GCWT</small>	TENT 2 <small>HCT</small>
9:00 TO 10:15	BILL SULLIVAN WHAT THE BEGINNING TURNER NEEDS TO KNOW	BILL BERRY TECHNIQUES FOR GOUGE SHARPENING	BILL HUSSY WAYS TO CHUCK AND TURN BOTTLE STOPPERS
10:30 TO 11:45	BILL KING USING COMPOUND MITERS IN SEGMENTED WORK	DAVID BERRY MAKING JIGS FOR TEA LAMPS	JOE MILLSAP OPEN SIDED, CLOSED VESSELS
12:1 LUNCH			
1:30 TO 2:45	E. SHOWALTER HOW TO MAKE VACUUM CHUCK SYSTEMS	PLEAS McKEE HOW TO FINISH BOWL BOTTOMS	RAUL PENNA MAKING AND USING THE HOOK TOOL
3:00 TO 4:15	DAN MORENO HOW TO MAKE 'SQUARE' BOWLS	DON FARRIS CONSTRUCTION OF FEATURES IN SEGMENTED RINGS	ROGER FELPS MAKING RATTLES FOR THE BABY

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SUNDAY SCHEDULE

SITE	LILLY BLDG. <small>CTWA</small>	MARICOPA <small>WINT</small>	A	MARICOPA <small>AWA</small>	B
9:00 TO 10:15	RON HAMPTON BARLEY TWISTS ON GOBLET STEMS	JUDY DITMER TURNING JEWELRY		R. JENKINS TAMING THE SKEW	
10:30 TO 11:45	PHIL BRENNION TRADITIONAL PUEBLO VESSELS	JOHN HORN SANTA CLAUS NUT CRACKERS		BOB ROSAND ROSAND SYTLE HODGE PODGE	
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10:30 TO 11:45	BILL KING USING COMPOUND MITERS IN SEGMENTED WORK	DAVID BERRY MAKING JIGS FOR TEA LAMPS	JOE MILLSAP OPEN SIDED, CLOSED VESSELS
12:1 LUNCH			
1:30 TO 2:45	E. SHOWALTER HOW TO MAKE VACUUM CHUCK SYSTEMS	JUDY WILLIAMS HOW TO DO LACE BOBBINS	RAUL PENNA MAKING AND USING THE HOOK TOOL
3:00 TO 4:15	DAN MORENO HOW TO MAKE 'SQUARE' BOWLS	DON FARRIS CONSTRUCTION OF FEATURES IN SEGMENTED RINGS	ROGER FELPS MAKING RATTLES FOR THE BABY

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PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

CUT HERE

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Need something other than pens engraved? Call me for a quote.

Calendar of Events

August 16, 1999 ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Thomas Irven home, 5202 Willow St., Bellaire, 713 666-6681

August 21, 1999 ~ GCWA meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ Woodcraft 13155 Northwest Freeway (290) at Hollister, 713 690-8508

No First Monday meeting in September (Labor Day)

September 13, 1999 ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Thomas Irven home, 5202 Willow St., Bellaire, 713 666-6681

September 18, 1999 ~ GCWA meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy, 713-981-9228

October 4, 1999 ~ First Monday ~ 7 PM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy, 713-981-9228

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 13155 Northwest Freeway (290) at Hollister, 713 690-8508

November 1, 1999 ~ First Monday ~ 7 PM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy, 713-981-9228

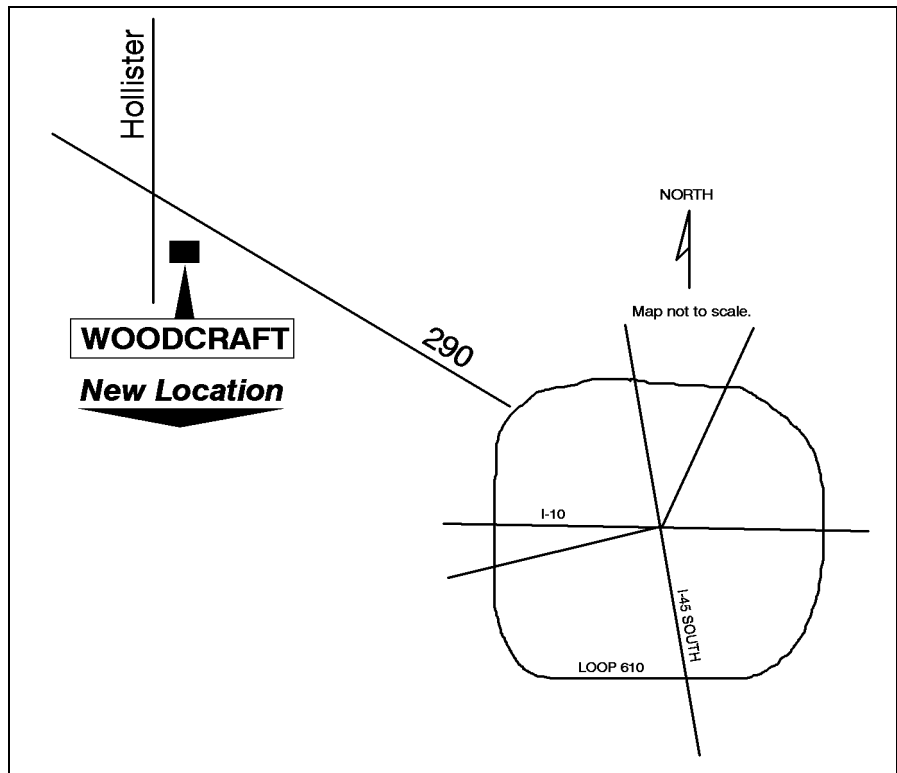
November 15, 1999 ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Thomas Irven home, 5202 Willow St., Bellaire, 713 666-6681

November 20, 1999 ~ GCWA meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ Woodwright Woodworking 1407 Spring Cypress, 281 651-9663

December 6, 1999 ~ First Monday ~ 7 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, 1998 ~ GCWA meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy, 713-981-9228



This Month

9:00 AM - GCWA meeting @ Woodcraft, Hollister Pointe Center, 13155 Northwest Freeway, Houston TX 77040. Phone 713-690-8508.

Program

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

Main Program ~ **Luna Ford** ~ Demonstrating basic tool usage for beginners then proceeding to turning small hollow vessels with holes.

Demonstration ~ **Greg Bell**, IDM Controls, 3-phase ac motor controllers.

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	
Treasurer	Helen Young	713.475.2940	helen@orbitworld.net
Past President	Bobby Bridges	713.473.6491	WWBOB@AOL.com
Board Member	Boyce Gahagan	713.256.4938	
Board Member	Chuck Garrett	281.980.3367	
Editor	Robert Frost	281.333.9520	Frosttax@Orbitworld.net
Librarian	Ernie Bahr	713.534.0559	