

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association

GCWA Newsletter

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association

January 2000 Issue

President's Corner

I hope everyone made it through the Y2K trauma without any problems. The only issue I have is listening to the news people that want the scare to continue until March. It is the year 2000 and I hope it will be a healthy and happy year for all.

The beginning of each year always brings with it the holiday season. A time to gather with friends and family and celebrate. This holiday season my wife, Krystal, and I drove to Indiana to visit our families. I saw lots of great wood along the way, but resisted the urge to collect. We had gifts and luggage with which to deal.

For Christmas I turned 3 small pieces for my aunts and cousins out of apple. Two years ago the family farm was sold, and this was wood that I gathered from the property before the sale. It is extra special to turn objects out of significant wood for those we love.

I received some new tool news from my father-in-law. He told me about a new type of tape measure he saw highlighted on a television show. This measuring tape does not bend like the metal ones usually do when you extend them to a certain length. Has anyone else heard of these?

Krystal and I left our home state on December 30, 1999 and went to Fayetteville, Arkansas to spend New Years with friends. We met many woodworkers and artists from the area.

These days passed too quickly and on

**January Meeting
Jan. 15, 2000
Pro-Tool & Supply
222 W. Pasadena Frwy.
Pasadena, TX
713-472-5588**

Coming Events

By Murray Powell

January Program: Mushrooms and More

For our January meeting (January 15, at Pasadena Industrial/ProTool), Ralph Hecht will again head up our "opening act," inviting you to step up and make chips at the lathe. Then, after our business meeting, our featured program will be Making Mushrooms, as demonstrated by By Reed .

According to By, "The fun of turning is the exploration of new ways of turning or better yet doing more complex turning is a simple way. That is the subject for this month's demonstration; How to make semi-hollow forms between centers. Mushrooms are a type of hollow form that can easily be turned between centers. They may look quite complex, but don't let that fool you. Using almost any size of wood, in almost any grain orientation, one can turn a simple mushroom in a matter of minutes. Come to the January meeting (with a chunk of your favorite wood) and try your hand at the art of mushrooms. (The ones you make won't be edible)."

In addition to these formal programs, don't forget that there is a wealth of knowledge and experience around you at every meeting. Need help on a particular project? Stumped on how to chuck up or hold a particular piece of wood? Looking to try a new technique? Then all you need to do is buttonhole one of us and ask away! We have an amazing amount of talent at our meetings, and woodturners are the most "sharing" people I know. Chances are excellent that you can easily invite yourself over to someone's shop for further help and advice. Again, all you have to do is ask.

PS - don't forget to bring a chunk of wood (2"x8" or so) for your mushroom.

GCWA Web Site:

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

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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.

Show & Tell

Winners at the December meeting at The Cutting Edge were:

Beginning Category:

1st Place — **Ralph Hecht** for a Pecan Platter.

2nd Place — **Johathan Bartz** for 3 Redwood Bells.

3rd Place — **Gene Stewart** for a Mesquite Brandy Sniffer.

Intermediate Category:

1st Place — **Don Fluker** for a Natural

Advanced Category:

One Piece Turning:

1st Place — **By Reed** for a Norfolk Pine Tray/Bowl.

2nd Place — **Luna Ford** for a Pecan Bowl.

3rd Place — **By Reed** for a Norfolk Pine Vase.

Multiple Piece Turning:

1st Place — **Richard Chambless** for a Cherry and Holly Inlay Bowl.

2nd Place — **Richard Chambless** for a Cherry and Walnut Chip Tray.

Special Award

Murray Powell for a Giant Replica Clarinet Music Stand.

Jim Miller for a Flinstone's Spare Wheel.

Special thanks to our Judges, **Chuck Garrett** and **Don Philpott**.

Membership

Please welcome our new members; **Dave Obenland, Ivy & Marty Kamin-sky, Frank Graham, David Dutschman, Sid Fransen, Greg Kennedy, Bruce Dolen, Jackson Cotton, Paul Millo, Carol Hinkley, Larry Zarra, Sid Fransen, John Riggs** and **Michel Dotloff** that joined in December.

Bring Back

Bring Back Items Raffle Winners:

Larry Thurston, John Riggs, Don Philpott, Richard Chambless, and **Paul Millo.**

President's Corner

(Continued from page 1)

Jan. 2, 2000 we were back home in Houston playing with our cats. Looking back on our trip, it was great to see all of our families and to spend time with our friends. It was also good to get back to our home and my shop and my lathes. I really do think they missed me while I was away, but, I did bring them a present - some nice blackwood and a couple pieces of cherry from Arkansas.

Speaking of wood, the group order was submitted and should be on its way soon. If you did not get your order by the deadline,

there will be another opportunity.

I will have a Texas Turn or Two report for the next meeting. On January 15th there is a planning meeting in Temple, Texas which I will attend. Begin thinking about demonstrations you would like to present in October 2000!

Happy New Year!
Thomas Irven

Editor's Note: This article was obtained from Fred Holder's "More Woodturning" website, www.fholder.com/woodturning.

Making a Hook Tool

By Darrell Feltmate

Hook tools have been around a long time in turning and have often been made by the people who used them. Most of the making is straight forward and some like myself would say all is straightforward.

Turn a handle about eighteen inches long and comfortable to your hand. Drill about 4" to 6" for ½" rod. Cut a piece of ½" diameter steel rod to about 18". The cutting bits fit into the end of the steel rod. Drill a hole 5/8" deep and about 3/16" diameter into the end of the rod. I used a hand drill with the rod in a vise but a drill press is easier. If you have not drilled into steel before, begin with a small diameter bit to establish the hole and gradually widen with successive drilling.

Now on the side of the steel shaft and at right angles to the first hole, drill into the hole and tap for a set screw to hold the bit in place. You can opt to omit this step and use CA to glue the bits in place, but they

are then a pain to replace and awkward to sharpen. Super glue the shaft into the handle.

I use a 2 ½" concrete or masonry nail to make the cutter. You can buy a box of a hundred or so for a couple of dollars at the hardware store. Masonry nails are a higher carbon steel than regular bright nails and worth the buying for tool making. When I need a specialty carving tool I grab a masonry nail and make one. Decision time is upon you. To forge or not to forge.

It sure saves time in grinding. Cut or grind off the head. Hold about ½" of the head end of the nail in a pair of pliers and heat the rest red hot in the flame of a propane or similar torch. When it is good and red, flatten it by pounding with a hammer on an anvil. I have a small shop anvil of about 20 pounds. If you do not have such a thing, use the back part of a ma-

(Continued on page 3)



Announcements

There will be Woodturning Demonstration at The Houston Arboretum on Jan. 22, 2000 from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM presented by Luna Ford, Carl Blair and Larry Thurston.

The February GCWA meeting will host a Tool Swap for members and guests. Please limit to only woodworking or woodturning tools.

The March GCWA meeting will host a Wood Swap for members and guests and will be held on the 4th Saturday.

Classified

For Sale

A private sale of woodturning equipment to be held on Sunday 16, 2000 from 1:00 PM until 3:00 PM for GCWA members only. Includes long bed Woodfast lathe and accessories, other shop equipment, tools and wood.

Jose Luis Berrios,
10323 Piping Rock, Houston,
TX 77042, (713)-975-0585
Jose_Berrios@valic.com

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

Club News

- ◆ Club members Bill Berry, Luna Ford and Carl Blair were demonstrators at Pro-Tool in Pasadena on Dec. 2nd and 3rd. All went well even with the inclement weather. A couple of new members were recruited.
- ◆ The new GCWA Website is under way but still under construction. There is still a lot of work remaining to make it a first class website. Now that the Holidays are over with, that work can proceed much more effectively.
- ◆ A request was made at the December General Meeting by the President for members to submit woodturning tips for publication in the Newsletter. The tips chosen for publication would win \$5

worth of free raffle tickets for the next General Meeting raffle. So far, no one has taken advantage of this great program. Please send those tips in. We really do want to present those tickets.

Making a Hook Tool

(Continued from page 2)

chinists vise, the anvil. You will have a flat area about 1" long and 1/8" thick. Do not bother to be precise. Heat the flat to red hot and bend into a hook with a pair of needle nose pliers. The curve is to the left and the opening is to the right. It will bend like plastic when hot.

I like a hook from 1/8" to 1/4" diameter. At this stage the steel is fairly soft. The proper term is annealed. It has been heated to red hot and allowed to cool fairly slowly. This is the time to grind the cutting edge. Grind to an angle of 45 to 60 degrees. Cut the shaft of the cutter to 5/8" long and make sure it fits in the tool shaft by grinding to fit.

It is too soft yet to hold an edge and must be hardened. Heat the hook in your torch to red hot and plunge it into a gallon of water to cool. Use lots of water. It will heat fast and a small container is poor economy. Polish the hook with sand paper and very slowly reheat it. Place it in the torch flame and pull it out. Place it in and pull it out. Place it in and pull it out. Keep this up until you see heat oxides in the side of the metal racing

for the cutting edge. When straw colour hits the edge, immediately plunge it into the water. The edge is now hard.

If you miss the colour, go back and heat to red hot, polish with sand paper and start the heat dance over.

Now the tool is hard enough to sharpen and hold an edge. I find it great for cutting end grain as in clearing boxes and vases. Little shavings come out instead of powder. Even in a piece of spalted pine that I was turning, I got chips from broken shavings instead of powder. Incidentally, I cleared the inside of a spalted pine vase 7 1/2" deep and going from a base of 3" to a top of 2" in about 45 minutes. I have no idea if this is fast or slow but it is fun.

None of this is hard. It takes longer to read about it than it does to make the tool. I know it would be handier with line drawings and such, but pictures take forever to download. My first hook tool only cost about five dollars including the box of nails, so what have you got to lose?

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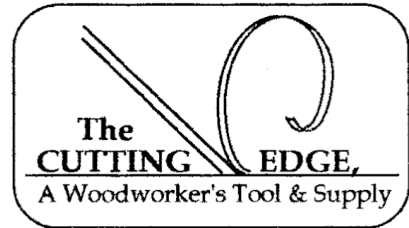
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Calendar of Events

Scheduled Meetings & Events

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

January 22, 2000 ~ Woodturning Demonstration at The Houston Arboretum ~ 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM ~ 4501 Woodway Dr., 713-681-8433

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

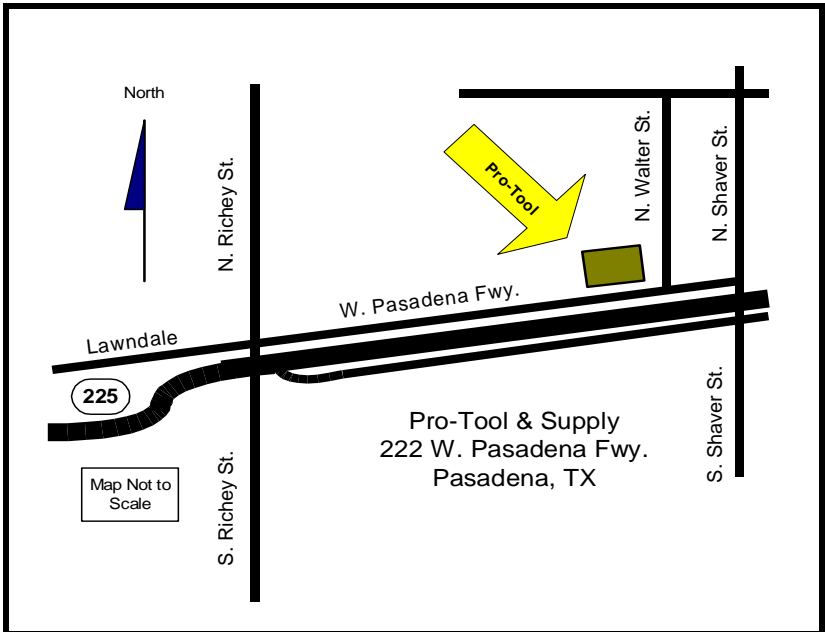
March 25, 2000 (4th Saturday) ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ Deer Park High School, North Campus, 402 Ivy Ave., Deer Park, 281-930-481

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

May 1, 2000 ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., 713-981-9228

May 8, 2000 ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Thomas Irven home, 5202 Willow St., Bellaire, 713-666-6881

May 20 & 21, 2000 ~ GCWA Turning Retreat ~ 9:00 AM ~ Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Conroe, TX



This Month

January 15 - 9:00 AM ~ GCWA Meeting at Pro-Tool & Supply, 222 West 225 Freeway, Pasadena, TX

Program

Pre Meeting ~ Ralph Hecht — Operating a lathe for hands on help for anybody interested.

Main Program ~ By Reed — "Mushrooms and More", How to make semi-hollow forms between centers.

Executive Committee

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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/>
Fred Holder's More Woodturning: <http://www.fholder.com/woodturning/>



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Association**