

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association

# GCWA Newsletter

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association

October 2000 Issue

## President's Corner

The TTT # 9 has come and gone.

I would like to thank all those who helped with this years symposium: **Vic Vucinovich** for the use of his trailer, **Murray Powell** for the use of his lathe and accessories in the GCWA sponsored tent, and **The Cutting Edge** for the use of a lathe and accessories for the hands-on area. Thanks also to **Don Philpot** and **Greg Gonsalves** for their instruction and guidance as well as lathes, tools, and equipment, in the hands-on area, and **Luna Ford** for his instructional assistance in the hands-on area. I am grateful to **Jim Keller** for artistically representing our club well as a workshop presenter on how to turn his thin stemmed flower forms. There were many random acts of kindness and support by various people in our club that helped to make the TTT a success. Special thanks must go to **Greg Gonsalves** for his conduct above and beyond the call of duty in picking up, transporting, unloading, reloading, and delivering a trailer full of equipment in the cold and rain.

**Soren Berger** will be demonstrating for only 25 of our members on Saturday Oct, 21 from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM at St. Michael's Episcopal Church. This event follows our meeting and it should give you time to eat lunch on the way from the meeting to the demonstration. A map is included in this newsletter. The cost is \$20.00 which is more than reasonable to see a world class turner. Mail your checks to **Helen Young** to make sure to get a seat.

It looks like we are going to out do ourselves again. The GCWA spring retreat will have vendors and **Christian Burchard**. Christian will be one of our hands on instructors and will also be doing a demonstration. There will also be a chance for 4 or 5 people to spend a day with Christian as the instructor.

## Coming Events

By Bill Hubbard

**Bill Berry** will be conducting the program for the October General Meeting.

He will be demonstrating how to turn "Closed Forms." Closed forms are like bowls that "close in" near the top, but unlike bowls the inside can't be turned completely with a bowl gouge.

Bill will be showing the various options for tools that can be used to accomplish this type of turning. He plans to use a Jet mini lathe to demonstrate turning closed forms.

Bill will use the time before the announcement and during "Show and Tell" to turn a closed form, and the time afterwards for hollowing with the use of different types of tools.

**October Meeting  
October 21, 2000  
ProTool and Supply  
222 West 225 Fwy.  
Pasadena, TX  
713-472-5588**

**This will be your last newsletter if your membership dues expired August 31, 2000.**

This will be an additional day, and it will cost somewhere in the area of \$140.00. These spots will go fast so if you want to sign up now you can. Payment in full will reserve you a spot. The cost will not be more than \$140.00 if you pay before Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> of 2001. If the cost turns out to be less than \$140.00, you will be reimbursed.

Thomas Irven

GCWA Web Sites:

[Http://www.gulfcoastwoodturners.org](http://www.gulfcoastwoodturners.org)

[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 Osteen, 2502 Esther Ave., Pasadena, TX 77502-3239. Make your check payable to GCWA or Gulf Coast Woodturners Assn.

## Show & Tell

Winners at the **August** meeting at Woodwright were:

### Beginning Category:

1st Place — **Grady Whiddon** for a Mahogany and Ash Bowl

### Advanced Category:

### One Piece Turning:

1st Place — **Carl Blair** for a Rosewood Bowl

2nd Place — **Bill Hubbard** for a Natural Edge Hollow Vessel of Hackberry

### Multiple Piece Turning:

1st Place — **Francis Pate** for a Purple Heart and Mesquite Ornamental Box

2nd Place — **Howard Moore** for a Segmented Covered Bowl of Black Walnut

### Special Award

**Carl Blair** for a Mesquite Bowl

Special thanks to our Judges, **Boyce Gahagan and Steve Russell**.

Winners at the **September** meeting at The Cutting Edge were:

### Beginning Category:

1st Place — **Darrell Corcoran** for a Multi Axis Oak Goblet

2nd Place — **Gene Stewart** for a Segmented Bowl

### Advanced Category:

### One Piece Turning:

1st Place — **Chuck Garrett** for a Mesquite Bowl

2nd Place — **Dave Barrick** for an Elm Bowl

3rd Place — **Murray Powell** for a Mulberry Hollow Form

### Multiple Piece Turning:

1st Place — **Thoma Irven** for a Mesquite and Walnut Box

2nd Place — **Thomas Irven** for a Bubinga and Ebony Box

### Special Award

**Murray Powell**

Special thanks to our Judges, **Jim Keller and Don Philpott**.

*Editor's Note: This article is being repeated from last month's Newsletter because of schedule timing.*

## Soren Berger

By Steve LeGrue

Soren Berger will be demonstrating for GCWA on Saturday, October 21 from 1 to 6 pm at St Michael's Episcopal Church, 1613 W 43rd St, Houston.

Soren is from New Zealand, where he is a professional turner and instructor. He is the inventor of the Berger Viking Tool, which is used for both end grain and face grain turning.

Soren will be demonstrating tool sharpening and tool use, large and small hollow forms, and multi-axis turning. Attendance is limited to 25 persons and the cost for this unique opportunity is \$20.

On Sunday, October 22, Soren will be available for a hands-on workshop at The Cutting Edge from 12 to 6 pm. He will provide individualized instruction for each turner, focusing on proper tool use and technique. Tuition will be \$140. Call the Cutting Edge to sign up.

Sign up with Helen at the meeting, or call Steve LeGrue at The Cutting Edge (713/981-9228).

## Classified

### For Sale

No listings for this month!

**Our apologies to Marty Kaminsky for the July Show & Tell listing which somehow got confused. Marty had all three winners in the Intermediate category.**

**Pictures of these turnings can be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.gulfcoastwoodturners.org> and <http://get.to/gcwa>**

## Club News

- ◆ The Woodturning Tip this month was submitted by Carl Blair. So he will be awarded six free raffle tickets for this month's meeting. There is bound to be a wealth of informative ideas floating around and within the membership. So how about sharing some of them with the rest of the members as monthly tips?
- ◆ Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will find a **Retreat Planning Survey** form. **Boyce Gahagan**, our Retreat Chairman, has requested that we fill out this form and give it to him or Helen or any Board member at the next General Meeting. If you are unable to attend, you can mail the form to Helen at the address shown on the front page of the Newsletter or email the completed form to Boyce at: **Boycegahagan@aol.com**. The information provided by this form is important for planning the next Retreat to best comply with the interests of the membership.

## Announcements

◆ There are still openings available for Soren Berger's demonstration at St. Michael's Episcopal Church on Saturday, October 21, 2000 from 1 to 6 PM. Ticket price is only \$ 20. This promises to be a very worthwhile demonstration and is highly recommended for its content and presentation.

## Membership

Please welcome the new members who have joined since August.

**Chuck Darling**  
**Johneborah Francis**

## Texas Turn or Two #9, My Perspective

By Mack DeBose

This year's Texas Turn or Two was a great event in spite of the inclement weather. I am sure that it would have been even better if the participants had not had to employ umbrellas and ponchos between sessions and to bundle up in winter clothing to attend the open tent sessions. Obviously, those sessions inside permanent buildings attracted the highest attendance. But spirits were not dampened, all of the sessions were well attended, and the demonstrators were skilled and interesting.

I am sure that the vendors would have been a lot happier with dryer weather. It was very disheartening to see so much great wood and some product unprotected from the almost constant rain

The food was excellent and a local church group provided snacks and soft drinks at very reasonable prices. The only criticism, not a complaint, that can be applied here was for the lack of sufficient table seating for lunches and having to stand in line in the rain, which obviously could not be helped or predicted.

GCWA was well represented. I would estimate that we had 25 to 30 members present. It was interesting to see some of our local expert turners, who were probably as well or better qualified in the particular process, setting in on sessions with rapt attention. It illustrates how even experts are always ready to learn from someone else's experience with the continuing effort to improve their own skills.

Raffle participation was heavy, probably because there were 4 Jet Mini Lathes given away along with a lot of other highly desirable items such as chucks and grinding jigs. Unfortunately none of the numbers drawn favored us.

Some of the sessions that I attended can be briefly summarized as follows:

◆ **Paul Judkins'** "Segmentation Made Simple" was extremely enlightening. To me, the most difficult part of the segmented turning process has been the method, or lack thereof, for establishing the most accurate miter angle or blade angle for cutting the segments on the table saw. Judkins method completely eliminates this problem by using a framing square and simple trigonometry. If I had not attended another session, this one would have more than justified the entire trip.

◆ **Lyle Jamieson's** sessions provided an insight into the proper use and function of the Ellsworth gouge, which I have been struggling to master. I am looking forward to putting his instructions to work and, hopefully, improve my limited skill with this tool.

◆ **Raul Pena's** demonstration of the proper use of skewers and hook tools is the best that I have seen on these two tools. He leaves no questions unanswered as to how they work and what it takes to make them perform properly. His visual aids are extraordinarily effective.

◆ **Bob Edwards'** session on "Tricks That You Can Use" was invaluable for offering simple solutions to many turning problems and better approaches to existing procedures.

There was something to be learned at every session regardless as to whether the main subject was applicable to my primary interests. All of the demonstrators had plenty to offer and presented it very well. It was always difficult to decide which session to attend at a particular time, especially if one of the choices was not going to be repeated on the other day. And there were some sessions that I would have liked to attend that I did not make. Hopefully, they will be repeated next year and the weather will be a little more cooperative.

# Something on Proportion

By Thomas Irven

Proportion, as it relates to design, has to do with a designed or planned relationship of measurements. A measure of width can be proportional to a measure of length or height. There are ideal proportions, and there are designs that must use less than perfect relationships. It is wise to know the proper rules so that it is possible to vary from those ideals and stay within a good use of them although the measurements may stray from perfection.

Proportion can be described as a balance of parts as the parts are viewed as a whole. A relationship of sizes so that each part exhibits the proper size to suit its intended purpose. All of the parts are so related that the object has the appearance of wholeness.

Proportion in design is the art of relating or unifying contrasting elements, bringing them together to create pleasing ratios of shapes as well as satisfying sizes of the whole unit. Within this frame of reference, the best possible proportional division of any surface or shape is that which satisfies the basic principles of good design.

Rules of proportion

1. The shape of an object will be more pleasing when the optical appearance is either vertical or horizontal.
2. Ratios of width to height should be kept pleasing. A few ratios to try are 1 to 3, 3 to 4, 5 to 8 or the Golden Mean of 1 to 1.618.
3. A vertical division should divide a unit equally on either side of a center line.
4. An object divided into three vertical parts should have a dominant center and equal spaces on each side.

Editor's Note: This article was obtained from the Hibdon Hardwood website @ <http://www.hibdonhardwood.com/>

## Exotic Hardwoods: Cocobolo

**Common Name:** Cocobolo

**Other Common Names:**

**Botanical Name:** Dalbergia retusa

**Family:** Leguminosae

**Mature Tree Height:** 45-68 ft.

**Mature Tree Diameter:** 2 ft.

**Weight @ 12% M/C:** 62-76 lbs./ft.<sup>3</sup>

**Working Properties:** Excellent machining characteristics, natural oils give good polish.

**Growing Regions:** Southwestern Mexico to Panama

**General Characteristics:** Deep rich orange red with black striping, texture fine, oily, grain straight to interlocked, fine dust may cause skin rash.

**Uses:** Handles, inlay work, brush backs, musical and scientific instruments, jewelry boxes, chessmen and other specialty items.

**Acceptable Substitutes:** various Rosewoods, Granadillo

**References:** "Tropical Timbers of the World", USDA Handbook #607, Sept. 1984, p. 66

**Discussion:** This is considered by some to be the most attractive of all the exotic woods -- the supply is limited.

5. If an object is divided into more than three vertical sections, they should be equally divided by a center line, or there should be a dominant center and each side formally balanced.
6. When an object is divided into two horizontal sections, the dominance should appear to be in the upper or

## Woodturning Tips

### Hollow Vessel Shavings Removal

By Carl Blair

To remove shavings from the inside of small to medium size hollow vessels try using a long handled, metal ice tea spoon. The shape of the spoon fits the contour of the inside of the vessel and easily scoops out the shavings.



the lower section.

7. If an object is divided into three horizontal sections, the center section should be dominant. The other sections should be unequal.

**GULF COAST WOODTURNERS RETREAT PLANNING SURVEY**

I AM INTERESTED IN A **HANDS ON** SESSION FOR: *Circle your Choice*

Lidded Boxes	Yes	Some	No
Basic Skew Techniques	Yes	Some	No
Bowl Turning	Yes	Some	No
Turning Pens	Yes	Some	No
Spindle Turning	Yes	Some	No
Basic Turning Design	Yes	Some	No
Finishing Methods	Yes	Some	No
Segmented Turning	Yes	Some	No
Natural Edged Bowls	Yes	Some	No
Tool Sharpening	Yes	Some	No
Goblets	Yes	Some	No
Toys	Yes	Some	No

Other:

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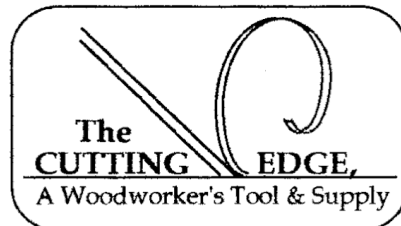
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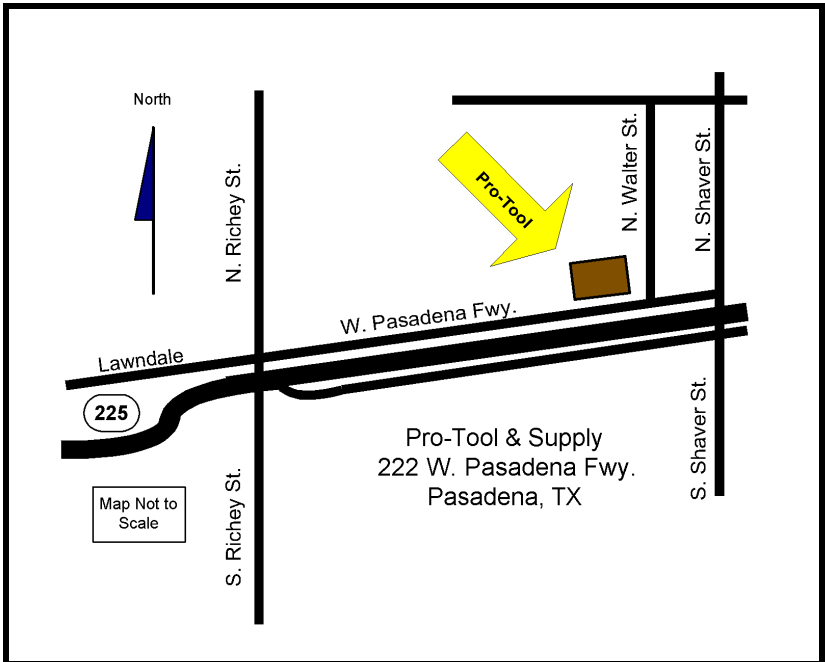
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Spring, TX 77388

# Calendar of Events

## Scheduled Meetings & Events

- October 16, 2000** ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Thomas Irven home, 5202 Willow St., Bellaire, 713-666-6881
- October 21, 2000** ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ Pro-Tool and Supply, 222 W. 225 Fwy, Pasadena, 713-472-5588
- October 21, 2000** ~ Soren Berger Demonstration ~ 1:00 pm ~ St Michael's Episcopal Church, 1613 W 43rd St, Houston.
- November 6, 2000** ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., 713-981-9228
- November 13, 2000** ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Thomas Irven home, 5202 Willow St., Bellaire, 713-666-6881
- November 18, 2000** ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ Woodwright Woodworking ~ 1407 Spring Cypress, Spring, TX
- December 4, 2000** ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., 713-981-9228
- December 11, 2000** ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Thomas Irven home, 5202 Willow St., Bellaire, 713-666-6881
- December 16, 2000** ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., 713-981-9228



## This Month

**October 21 - 9:00 AM ~ Pro Tool and Supply, 222 West Pasadena Fwy (225), Pasadena, TX 713-472-5588**

## Program

**Bill Berry - Demonstrating the turning of "Closed Forms"**

## Executive Committee

President	Thomas Irven	713-666-6881	kirven@tenet.edu
Vice President	Murray Powell	713-682-2810	mpowell@wantabe.com
Treasurer	Helen Osteen	713-475-2940	helen@osteenjewelry.com
Past President	Bobby Bridges	713-473-6491	wwbob@AOL.com
Board Member	Boyce Gahagan	281-446-1590	Boycegahagan@aol.com
Board Member	Greg Gonsalves	281-998-8662	
Board Member	Bill Hubbard	713-529-3161	
Board Member	Vic Vucinovich	713-923-6254	
Board Member	Mack DeBose	281-537-1814	Lmdebose@swbell.net
Editor/Webmaster	Mack DeBose	281-863-5565	Lmdebose@swbell.net
Librarian	Ernie Bahr	713-534-0559	

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association  
Newsletter Editor  
Phone: 281-537-1814  
Fax: 281-537-1814  
Email: lmdebose@swbell.net

Program Chairman  
Bill Hubbard  
Phone: 713-529-3161  
Email: N/A

## Internet Web Sites of Interest

American Association of Woodturners: <http://www.woodturner.org>  
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>  
Craft Supply: <http://www.woodturnerscatalog.com/index.html>  
Triangle Woodturners of North Carolina: <http://www.rtpnet.org/~twnc>  
Tidewater Turners of Virginia: <http://www.esva.net/~woodturner>  
North Carolina Woodturners Association: <http://www.charweb.org/organizations/hobbies/woodworking/ncwa>  
Fred Holder's More Woodturning: <http://www.fholder.com>  
Exotic Burl: <http://www.exoticburl.com>  
San Diego WoodTurning Center, Inc.: <http://www.sdwoodturning.com>  
Kestrel Creek Gallery: <http://www.kestrelcreek.com>  
Hibdon Hardwoods: <http://www.hibdonhardwood.com>  
Dallas Area Woodturners: <http://www.turningwood.com>

## GCWA Web Sites:

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