

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association

GCWA Newsletter

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association

December 2000 Issue

President's Corner

I would like to thank WoodWright for allowing us to invade their space last month. I was in Arkansas and was unable to attend the meeting. Thanks to all of the Board members for helping out in my absence

The Gulf Coast Woodturners Association has been in existence since 1987 and I believe it is about time we had a set of bylaws that ratified by our club members. We will be voting at our meeting this month to ratify a set of bylaws establishing points of order for our organization. The board and I encourage all members to vote for these bylaws so our club will have a set of guidelines to follow. These bylaws were established from a sample set provided to us by our parent organization, the AAW. Not everything in their guidelines pertained to our club so the board modified them slightly to come up with our final set of bylaws which are posted on our bulletin board. One example of a change is; the AAW would like all of their clubs to require its members to become members of the AAW. We did not feel anyone should be forced to join the AAW to belong to our club, so we dropped that guideline. Membership in the AAW does have its benefits and I encourage all to join even if it is only for its quarterly journal, the *American Woodturner*.

Bill Hubbard is our election chairperson this year. If you have an interest in being a member of your board or an officer in your club, let Bill know right away. Elected officers serve for a one year term. Your board has established that the Vice President should become the new President in order to give that person time to get use to the duties they will perform. The Past President will remain on the Board for one year as well to help with the transition. We are looking for an interested person to become the new Vice President. Again, let Bill



**December Meeting
December 16, 2000
The Cutting Edge Woodworker's
and Tool Supply
7123 Southwest Fwy.
713-981-9228**

know as soon as possible if you are interested. By the way, all votes are hand counted to ensure fairness.

Yes, we are definitely going to out do ourselves at the spring retreat. We will have **new signs** indicating the proper entrance to the retreat building. There has been some confusion in the past but, hopefully, the new signs will help. The GCWA spring retreat will also 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. 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. 1st 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)

Inside this issue:

President's Corner	1
Show & Tell	2
Soren Berger's Visit	2
Membership	2
Website Update!	2
Club News	3
Exotic Hardwoods	3
Christmas Ornament Exchg.	3
Classified	3
Advertisements	4
Calendar of Events	5
This Month	5
Program	5
Executive Committee	5
Internet Website URL's	6

This will be your last newsletter if your membership dues expired on October 31, 2000.

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 **November** meeting at Pro-Tool were:

Beginner Category

1st Place — Wayne Stanfill for a Mahogany Lidded Box

Intermediate Category

1st Place — **Bill Metzger** for a Small Hickory Vessel
2nd Place — **Tom Enloe** for an Ambrozia Maple Bowl

Advanced Category:

One Piece Turning:

1st Place — **Brian Laing** for a small Congola Alves Lidded Box
2nd Place — **Brian Laing** for a small Mesquite Bowl
3rd Place — **Ric Taylor** for a Sweet Gum Music Box

Multiple Piece Turning:

1st Place & Best of Show — **Andy Chen** for a Segmented Bowl of Maple, Walnut, Mahogany, Ebony & Zircote
2nd Place — **Don Fluker** for a Ash and Walnut Christmas Ornament

Special Award

Chuck Garrett for a Turned and Carved Walnut Candle Holder

Special thanks to our Judges:
Jim McEwen and Jonathan Bartz

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

Membership

Please welcome our new members who joined in November.

Gary Barnes, Jim Cusack, Michael P Garner, Craig Langstaff, Gordon Nix, and John Pritchett

Soren Berger's Visit

By: Murray Powell

Back in October we had the great fortune of having New Zealand turner Soren Berger in Houston for a week-end demonstration and hands-on class. I didn't really know a great deal about him before, but was entirely pleased with the experience of both meeting him and learning new techniques. GCWA scored a major deal by bringing him here, and I'm truly surprised –if not embarrassed– that so few of us took advantage of this golden opportunity.

Being from New Zealand, Soren explained that tools were few and far between when he first took up turning 24 years ago. Coming from a "can do" family of Swedish immigrants, it was his natural way to start making his own. Steve LeGrue says that Soren was one of the first to utilize round bar stock to make gouges, seeing the potential within the material for greater efficiency and finer effects. This was a time when the usual way of producing tools was hand or drop forging. It would also seem that, by the necessity of making and understanding his own turning tools, he also developed a connection and sensitivity to the wood: he quickly gets spectacular results with minimal effort.

I was already familiar with Soren's Viking Hollower, which is a strange little tool which I'd previously tried during a First Monday meeting at Cutting Edge. It seems especially suited for the hollowing of small and mid-sized pieces, and does a wonderful job at creating flat bottoms for boxes.

What was "new" for me was his near-exclusive use of a square-ground gouge. I'm not even sure that he owns either a gouge with a swept-back grind, or a spindle gouge. By rolling the square-ground gouge he can instantly go from spindle to face work, and from hogging to precision modes. Again, it was fascinating to see him get rapid results with so little effort. At one point the thought came to me that his precision is darn near

surgical.

The Saturday demonstration was held at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, where I'm the Rector, and I was relieved that the Sunday Hands-On class was already filled. This saved me from the temptation of skipping Church, though I still wish I could've spent another day with Soren. In addition to being a masterful turner, what a nice guy! It was also noted that, while our demo was scheduled for four hours, he gave us nearly 5 ½.

I'm still surprised that not more of you took advantage of this Guest Turner program. Did we fail you on advance notice? Is our GCWA membership non-accepting of outside demonstrators — do we see ourselves as being too far above or beneath the skill levels of these professionals? Was this merely an inconvenient weekend? My personal hope is that our Club can establish additional, stronger ties with the larger world of woodturning, helping us to strive for excellence in our own work. How about you?

Website Updated!

By: Bruce Dolen

Our GCWA website has a new look. I recently took over Webmaster duties from Mack DeBose. The first order of business was to update the look of the site. I have also added a page of links to various places that might be of interest to GCWA members. If you have a link that you think is worthy of inclusion please email me. My email is bdolen@tydemandolen.com

I am currently looking for a couple of things. First off, I would like to receive input from the members about what features we can implement to make the web site more than a repository of photos and links. I would also like to increase the number of articles that are

(Continued on page 3)

Club News

- ◆ There was no Woodturning Tip submitted this month, so no free raffle tickets will be awarded.
- ◆ At the GCWA Spring Retreat in 1999, **Jonathan Bartz** won a certificate for a 3 Day Woodturning Workshop at Craft Supply in Provo, Utah. He was unable to take the trip to utilize the certificate. He has generously offered to donate the certificate to the winner of a raffle to be conducted at the December meeting. He asks only that whomsoever enters the raffle be prepared to take advantage of the offer. The retail value of the workshop is \$295. The workshop can be upgraded to a 5 day workshop for an additional \$230. The costs covered by the Certificate do not include transportation to and from Provo nor do they include lodging and meal expenses. It only covers the course tuition. The workshop will have to be reserved from the current schedule; some dates are already full and closed. The raffle will be separate from our normal raffle for which different tickets will be sold. Ticket prices will be \$5.00 per ticket. The winner of the raffle will receive the total intake from the raffle to help cover the expense of the trip. The workshop schedules will be posted on the bulletin board. These schedules are also available on the Craft USA website at <http://www.woodturnerscatalog.com/workshops.html>.
- ◆ We have a new Webmaster! **Bruce Dolen** has not only agreed to take over the Webmaster duties but is also providing the server and the service to host our website. I am sure he will do a much better job than our previous Webmaster. Thanks Bruce!!

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

Exotic Hardwoods: African Ebony

Name: African Ebony (Diospyros spp.)

Type: Hardwood

Other Names: Includes varieties from Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroon, Kribi, Gaboon, Madagascar, and Zaire.

Sources: Grows primarily in central to southern Africa.

Appearance: Very fine texture with an indistinct grain and metallic luster. Uniformly black heartwood and yellowish white sapwood.

Physical Props: Very heavy, hard, strong, and stiff with high shock and decay resistance. Steam-bends reasonably well. Requires pre-drilling to nail or screw.

Working Props: Works with some difficulty - tends to chip and quickly dulls cutting edges. Turns well. Finishes to a naturally dark polished surface.

Uses: Used for piano keys, musical instruments, turnery, inlay, novelties, billiard cues, brush backs, and cutlery handles.

Website Updated!

(Continued from page 2)

available for our members. I am hoping that when we have demos the materials provided as handouts can be archived on the website. We could also use improved logo graphics. If you have the skills, or know of someone that is skilled in creating graphics, and would like to help out by overhauling our logo please let me know. What would you like to see on the website? Let me know.

Christmas Ornament Exchange

By: Johathan Bartz

At the October meeting, we decided to have a Christmas ornament exchange at the December meeting. Those who want to participate will turn an ornament and bring it to the December meeting. I will try to have a small Charlie Brown tree set up on which to hang your ornaments. You must sign and print your name on the exchange sheet. Then tear off one of the numbers next to your name. We will then draw numbers out of a hat to see who picks an ornament first. Each person will pick one ornament off of the tree as his/her number is drawn. If the last ornament on the tree was turned by the last person to draw, then that person may exchange his ornament with any other person.

Guide Lines:

- A person may turn as many ornaments as they are willing to exchange. For each ornament you get a number.
- Ornaments must be turned, if possible signed and dated.
- To be fair to those who put a lot of time into turning a large or elaborate ornament, those turning small ones which take only a short time should turn a set of them. How many to a set should depend upon the size and completion time, which is left up to the maker.

Remember, this is a gift to someone else. Some of us are beginners and others are advanced.

These rules are open to change by those participating and the Executive Committee.

Classified

For Sale

5/4 Walnut boards. FAS from 4" to 8" widths. Surfaced on two sides. \$3.50 per bd.ft.
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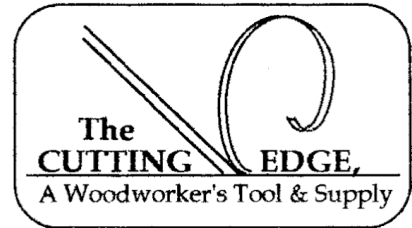
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Calendar of Events

Scheduled Meetings & Events

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

January 15, 2001 ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Thomas Irven home, 5202 Willow St., Bellaire, 713-666-6881

January 20, 2001 ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ Pro-Tool & Supply, 222 W. Hwy. 225, Pasadena, TX, 713-472-5588

February 5, 2001 ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., 713-981-9228

February 12, 2001 ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Thomas Irven home, 5202 Willow St., Bellaire, 713-666-6881

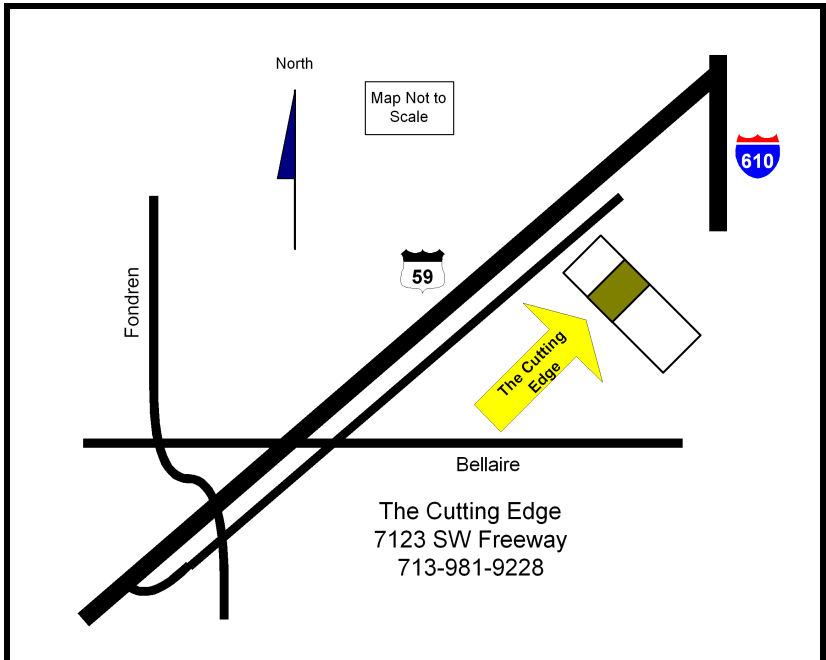
February 17, 2001 ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 1613 W. 43rd, 713-681-6422

March 5, 2001 ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., 713-981-9228

March 12, 2001 ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Thomas Irven home, 5202 Willow St., Bellaire, 713-666-6881

March 17, 2001 ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., 713-981-9228

April 2, 2001 ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., 713-981-9228



Meeting Location This Month

December 16 - 9:00 AM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., 713-981-9228

Program

Andy Chen will demonstrate multi-axis turning to produce a three-legged bowl.

Executive Committee

President	Thomas Irven	713-666-6881	kirven@tenet.edu
Vice President	Murray Powell	713-682-2810	mpowell@wantabe.com
Treasurer	Helen Young	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>
Robert Spragg: <http://users.mwci.net/~rspragg/>

GCWA Web Sites:

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



**Gulf Coast Woodturners
Association**