



Gulf Coast Woodturners Association

# GCWA Newsletter

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association

September 2000 Issue

## President's Corner

I have been in touch with Kip Powers regarding the turned wood show at the Beaumont Art League. These are the dates that are open : 1/13/01 to 1/27/01 in conjunction with a portrait show. Or June 9 (or 16) until early July 2001 in conjunction with a photography show. Or 9/8/01 to 9/22/01 in conjunction with a one person show. Bring all of your comments and questions to this months meeting.

Texas Turn or Two is on track but there has been a change. The electricity has grown from 120 to 240V with a 50 amp service. Now we can expand our lathe request to a variable speed lathe with a Stronghold or large Vicmarc chuck. If you would be willing to let us use your lathe, please contact me by phone or at the meeting.

We have a Free registration for the TTT that we will auction off in a separate auction at the September meeting.

If you need a registration form for Texas Turn or Two, call Helen Young, or email [helen@jalepeno.com](mailto:helen@jalepeno.com) and she will send you one. You still have time to register.

## 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).

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

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

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

## Announcements

? Another reminder that the **Texas Turn or Two** will be held on October 6, 7 & 8, 2000 at the Maricopa Ranch. Its time to make your plans to attend.

?

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

## Exotic Hardwoods: Rosewood

**Common Name:** Honduras Rosewood

**Other Common Names:**

**Botanical Name:** Dalbergia stevensonii

**Family:** Leguminosae

**Mature Tree Height:** 50-100 ft. **Diameter:** to 3 ft.

**Weight @ 12% M/C:** 58-68 lbs./ft.<sup>3</sup>

**Working Properties:** Moderately difficult to saw and machine due to hardness, dulls cutting edges, tends to ride over cutters.

**Growing Regions:** Belize

**General Characteristics:** Pinkish brown to purple, texture medium to fine, grain straight to slightly roey, luster low to medium, odor of roses.

**Uses:** Musical instruments, veneer, fine furniture, cabinetry, brush backs, knife handles, and other specialty items.

**Acceptable Substitutes:** Grاندillo

**References:** *"Tropical Timbers of the World"*, USDA Handbook #607, Sept. 1984, p. 67

**Discussion:** Honduras rosewood is the wood-of-choice for marimba keys. The best marimbas are made rosewood, and the best-of-the-best are made from quarter-sawn material. It is frequently used for a number of other types of instruments due to its nearly perfect tonal qualities.

## Woodturning Tips

### Using the Skew

By Thomas Irven

Do not just stick the point of the skew chisel straight into the work piece. Use a slicing action and the skew will not have the tendency to skate away. Start with the tool handle low; the tool is a vertical position with the bevel parallel to the direction of the cut, and then lift the handle to create the slicing cut. This technique will relieve some frustration with the skew.

## Classified

### For Sale

Sears Craftsman 14" 2-wheel band-saw on stand with blades and miter gauge. \$160 Call Marty Kaminsky (281)339-3297 email [martykami@aol.com](mailto:martykami@aol.com).

## Membership

Please welcome the new members who have joined the last few months: Bob Clifton, Fagan Cox, Ernest Crumpacker, Jerry Dender, Carl English, Tom Enloe, Donald Kolkmeier, Jim Luton, Stephen McMullen, Adrian Middleton, Charles Reed and Jack Wafer.



## Elements of Design Defined

In each of these definitions, I have first given the dictionary definition of the word in relation to design and then a more user friendly meaning of that word.

? **Lines** – A straight or curved element generated by a moving point that has extension only along the path of the point.; A mark that forms part of the formal design of a picture (object) distinguished from the shading or color.; A defining outline; contour. TRI – Lines can be straight, curved, scalloped, s-shaped or a combination of these.

? **Shape** – The visible makeup characteristic of a particular item or kind of item. Spatial form. TRI – The result of the lines.

? **Mass** – Viewed as a whole; Total. TRI – General physical shape or size of the object.

? **Tone** – Color quality or value; A tint or shade of color. TRI – The lightness or darkness and the difference in these in an object.

? **Color** – The aspect of objects and light sources that may be described in terms of the hue, lightness, and saturation for objects... TRI – What the eye sees in the value reflected and hue of an object.

? **Texture** – The visual or tactile surface characteristics and appearance of something. TRI – The character of the surface.

Before we go too much further, we need to decide what we mean by design. For our purposes, we will define design as the intended arrangement of materials to produce certain results of effects. As I mentioned last month, good design is composed of certain basic elements along with several essential principles of design. The first principle we will look at is **Balance**. Balance is the principle of design that gives the feeling of balance due to illusions of equal ten-

sions or weights on both sides of the object. There are three basic types of balance; Formal; Informal; and Radial. Formal balance is achieved when an object is seen as identical on both sides of a real or imaginary center line. Most of our spindles and bowls will fall into this category. Informal balance is achieved when an unequal arrangement of differing shapes, colors, textures, etc. are used to a power within the scope of the design that is pleasing to the eye. There can be no center point or line and there are no rules to follow in creating a design with informal balance. This is difficult in turning because everything revolves around a center point. A well executed off-centered turning would be a good example of informal balance if the object is viewed as a whole. Informal balance is always asymmetrical and does not produce peacefulness as does formal balance. Radial balance is the distribution of elements or parts around a center point. The steering wheel of a car is a good example of radial balance. Wood turning lends itself to this type of balance quite nicely. Most of our turnings radiate around a center point and form a strong visual circular motion.

When we start to design a turned object, balance usually does not come into play unless we want to make a sculptural form. Radial balance is always present in turning until we consciously decide to alter the object in some way. In order to alter our turned pieces we can go back to our elements of design and choose to texture and color our turned work. If the piece does not look quite right when we get through it might not be in balance. It may appear to be heavier on one side than the other because of the color or texture. This is something to keep in mind while designing your pieces.

Thomas Irven

## Club News

? The woodturning tip this month was offered by Thomas Irven. 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?

? Beaumont Art League Show

Work by three GCWA members received recognition in the recent "3-D Show" sponsored by the Beaumont Art League: "Elderberry", a colored box elder vessel by **Tom Irven** was awarded second place and works by **By Reed** and **Kip Powers** received Honorable Mention Awards. The show is an annual event and is open to all three dimensional media.

Alexis Mc Carthy, the League's gallery director was very favorably impressed with the work submitted by GCWA members and has proposed a turned wood show jointly sponsored by the two organizations. Discussions concerning the organization and scheduling of such an event are in progress.

Kip Powers

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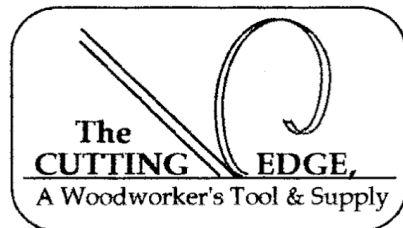
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# Calendar of Events

## Scheduled Meetings & Events

**September 11, 2000** ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Thomas Irven home, 5202 Willow St., Bellaire, 713-666-6881

**September 16, 2000** ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., 713-981-9228

**October 2, 2000** ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., 713-981-9228

**October 6, 7, 8, 2000** ~ A Texas Turn or Two ~ Maricopa Ranch Resort ~ Canyon Lake, TX ~ 210-649-2166

**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 Frwy, Pasadena, 713-472-5588

**November 6, 2000** ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., 713-981-9228

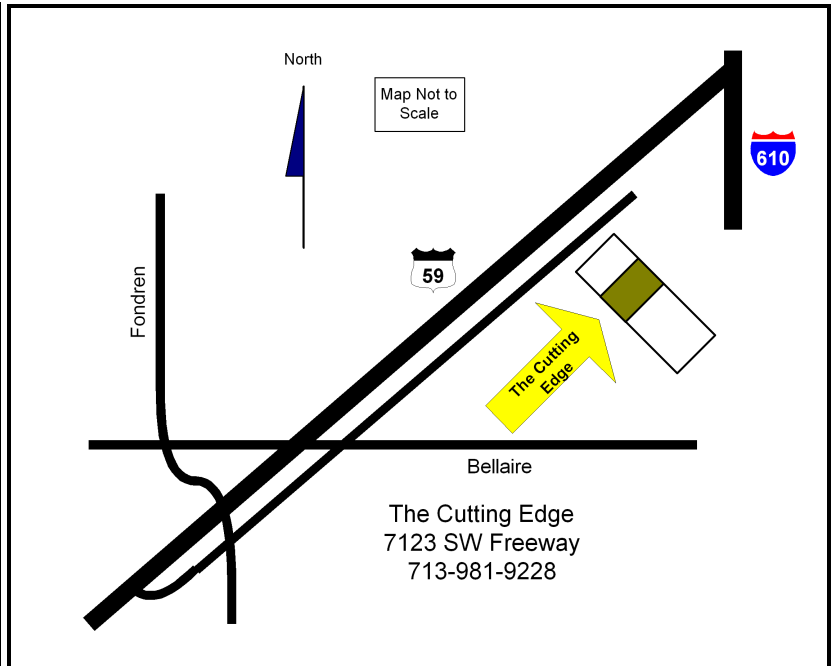
**November 13, 2000** ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Thomas Irven home, 5202 Willow St., Bellaire, 713-666-6881

**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, 7123 Southwest Fwy., 713-981-9228



## This Month

**September 16 - 9:00 AM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworkers' and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., Houston, TX 713-981-9228**

## Program

Thomas Irven will be turning something this month, probably a small box.

## 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@jalepeno.com
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## 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/>  
Exotic Burl: <http://www.exoticburl.com/>  
San Diego WoodTurning Center, Inc.: <http://www.sdwoodturning.com/>

## GCWA Web Sites:

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



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Association**