

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association

GCWA Newsletter

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association



President's Corner

October 2001 Issue

GCWA Web Sites:

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

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**October Meeting
October 20, 2001
Pro Tool & Supply
222 W. Pasadena Fwy.,
Pasadena, TX**

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.

We had a great meeting in September with two demonstrators, **Thomas Irven** and **By Reed**. They both did a great job and with just a few moments notice. I want to take this opportunity to thank the Board for all their hard work in putting this together. As of Wednesday morning September 12th, we had to change everything. **Richard Raffan** was scheduled to be here but had to cancel after the tragedy on Tuesday, September 11 with the terrorist attack in New York and Washington D.C.

We had 65 signed up for the Richard Raffan demonstration on the 15th of September. Another 10 showed up hoping he would be there. Another 26 signed up for the hands-on sessions. All money was refunded for both events. Many thanks to **Helen Young** for all her hard work in collecting the money, Making badges and refunding the money. I don't believe anyone saw the badges Helen made for the event. She put a color photo of Richard Raffan on them with each individual name so there would be no mix up as to who had paid. Great Job Helen. I will bring some of the badges for display at the meeting in October.

The following is an email that I sent to Richard after the attack and his reply:

Richard

No doubt you made the right decision to cancel your trip here. We all realize that now. We have an unknown enemy out there that dealt us a terrible blow. It will take a long time to heal, if at all. So many lives lost needlessly. We were all disappointed of course that you did not get here. The first thing everyone asked was, can we reschedule and have you come at a later date. My response was, yes, when things are somewhat normal again. I hope you have a safe trip home. And please, try to arrange a visit here when things settle down. You do not need to feel bad. You did not let us down. There was nothing you could do but cancel your trip. It was canceled for

you by hideous perpetrators.

Boyce,

Thanks for your kind note. I was very disappointed not to have got to you. I realized that we'd all be effected by September 11th. and when I called you it really didn't seem appropriate to do anything so frivolous as a woodturning demo. I hadn't counted on the airlines not functioning as normal.

The trip home was very circuitous and just about everyone seemed intent on getting to their various homes as soon as possible. I hope the canceling work wasn't too difficult, and I'm sorry all the hard earlier work was wasted. I know what goes into these events. Who knows what will happen next. The ramifications of any retaliatory actions are bound to include all sorts of things nobody has yet imagined (as usual), so think we'd better wait a few weeks before arranging anything else.

I'm due to be in the US again in March, but clearly we are going to have to review that trip if there's to be a war and the attendant terrorist reprisals. I hope you don't have to suffer IRA of Basque-like attacks for decades only on a larger scale. And these guys function at a different level of commitment to the rest of us or even most terrorists. Interestingly I've had several emails from English friends hoping that something will now be done about rounding up the Irish Americans who finance the IRA terrorist activities in Britain. Same activity, different scale. None of this makes for a better world, that's for sure. When I get organizing tours again I'll be in touch. Meanwhile I hope you keep

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Show & Tell

Winners at the **September** meeting at Wood Wright were:

Beginner Category

No Entries

Intermediate Category

No Entries

Advanced Category:

One Piece Turning

1st Place — **Bill Berry** for a Hollow Vessel from Silver Leaf Maple

2nd Place — **Thomas Irven** for a Small Vase from Maple Burl

3rd Place — **Bill Berry** for a Rimmed Bowl from Hickory

Multiple Piece Turning:

1st Place — **Doug Davis** for a Lamp from Mesquite w/Leaded Glass Shade

2nd Place — **Jerry Bennett** for a Bowl from Mesquite

3rd Place — **Jerry Bennett** for a Small Vase from Padauk and Maple.

Special Award

None awarded

Special thanks to our Judges;

Robert Frost and Mack DeBose

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

This will be your last newsletter if your membership dues expired on August 31, 2001.

The Steve Russell Review of the Kel McNaughton Centre Saver System

By Steve Russell

- published in the July 1999 issue of "More Woodturning" magazine and on the "Woodturning Plus" website.

The Kel McNaughton Center Saver System enables you to easily produce one or more bowls from a single block of timber. Removing several bowls from the center of each blank saves time, money and allows significant conservation of expensive or highly figured timbers. Typically, you can save one rough blank for each inch to inch and a quarter of thickness.

Four inch blanks therefore, can be expected to yield three to four blanks, depending on the wall thickness and profile required. This system also allows "nested sets" to be produced, from an area that would ordinarily be turned away as waste shavings. The McNaughton system works equally well on traditional and natural edge blanks. The system utilizes both curved and straight knives and allows the turner full control of the profile and thickness of each blank produced. Hard dense timbers cut the best, but you can successfully core most species without difficulty.

The McNaughton system coring blades operate like a scraper or parting tool and therefore puts a lot of stress on the blade, toolrest holder, lathe and the fixing. I recommend only heavy duty chucks or faceplates for safety reasons. The system is best suited to heavy duty lathes with powerful motors, but it can be adapted to some smaller lathes. If in doubt, consult a local pro or the manufacturer before proceeding. I begin by roughing out the bottom of the bowl blank to form a dovetail tenon boss for my Vickmark VM140 chuck. On very large blanks, I will use a Oneway faceplate. The tailstock can be brought up and used for added security. I then turn the outside shape to rough dimensions. The tenon boss should be formed of

sound wood to handle the coring stress. I prefer to use the large dovetail jaw set when coring the blanks, switching to the small jaw set when necessary.

No punky or cracked wood is ever allowed on the tenon boss for safety reasons. I make sure the boss is well formed with a straight shoulder for the chuck jaws to rest against. The bowl blank is then mounted in the chuck and the jaws securely tightened. If I use a faceplate, I install a screw in every available hole.

It is important to keep the cutter tip on the coring knife sharp and to maintain the specialized grind on the blade tip. I typically use a grinder to sharpen the tip and a diamond hone to touch up the edge in between corings. Only grind or hone the face of the cutter, never on the top. On some timbers that contain lots of silica it is not uncommon to have to resharpen or hone the edge during the coring operation. On most timbers though, this is not required. If you find that you have to exert much force to get the knife to cut, you probably need to sharpen it. Keeping the cutter tip sharp allows the blade to cut efficiently with less heat buildup. Install the desired knife in the tool handle and place the tool rest T-bar into the lathe banjo. WD-40 or a lubricating oil should be used to lube the blade travel gateway. Green timbers will spray a lot of water and extractives out. Some of these can be very sticky and cause feeding problems as you try to advance the knife forward. Lubricating the travel gateway, will help to eliminate this problem.

Caution: The blank must be held

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The Steve Russell Review of the Kel McNaughton Centre Saver System (Continued)

(Continued from page 2)

very securely or it may fly off! With the bowl blank mounted in the chuck/faceplate, bring the front of the T-bar holder as close to the wood as possible without binding and securely tighten the banjo and the toolrest. The T-bar should be at the rear, with the knife gateway in the front. Position the cutter tip at the center line or a tad higher. The front of the knife is installed in the gateway slot and the rear of the knife is placed UNDER the top of the T-bar holder. The knife must be kept under this T-bar while coring blanks. The toolrest holder is designed to handle the stresses and vibration of the coring operation. Turn on the lathe (slow speed) and bring the knife near the edge of the spinning blank. Remember to KEEP THE TOOL HANDLE PUSHED UP during the entire coring operation against the underside of the T-bar. Allowing the blade to drop will cause a catch. The wall thickness you chose depends on many factors including the profile desired and the drying characteristics of the subject species. I typically use a one half to one inch wall thickness on smaller bowls with most timbers. On larger bowls, I use 10% of the bowl diameter. Gently advance or plunge the knife into the wood, (PUSH UP ON THE HANDLE) and direct the knife through the gateway.

Once I have penetrated the blank about an inch, I carefully withdraw the knife and open up the kerf a bit on the outside to look like an upside down "Y". This allows the chips to eject much easier. Re-enter the wood and continue gentle forward pressure cutting the desired interior curve. Stop often and check your progress.

Try to make the interior cut as smooth as possible to facilitate chip ejection. You do not want a jagged interior wall as this will prevent free ejection of the chips. I do not use or advocate the "fishtail" method of coring the blank. It leaves a jagged

interior wall that can cause chip ejection problems. At times, I make the kerf about 1.25x cutter width for easier chip removal, but only if the knife tends to bind.

Sometimes the kerf will clog up and bind the knife with chips and shavings. It is best to turn off the lathe and withdraw the knife to clear the bind. If the clogging continues and you have repeated difficulty, spray the knife with a lubricant spray. This will help the chips to slide over the knife and exit easier. It is also important to keep the knife clean. I use sandpaper or a chemical cleaner to remove any accumulated gunk. If you notice any burning or scoring in the kerf, withdraw the knife and enlarge the kerf slightly.

When you start coring, the early material that is ejected is a mixture of ribbon shavings from the side grain and dust from the endgrain. When you get down to the last quarter of the coring, the ejected material is mostly dust from the endgrain and it flows out easily. Hard and dense timbers produce more dust like chips and softer timbers produce more ribbon shavings.

When I get within one inch of the bottom, I stop the lathe. A small wedge or hammer is then used to break the interior tenon (hit the side grain) and remove the core. After you remove the core, take a bowl gouge and make a clean up pass on the interior. This removes any superheated wood that may be present from the coring operation. To remount the core, turn a tenon on the bottom (between centers/drum chuck/etc.) and repeat the coring process. I usually turn an interior dovetail boss on the face of the bowl blank to speed up turning the core later. Some folks core the smallest bowl first, others the largest. It's up to you. You can use McNaughton to "save" natural edge, endgrain and side grain blanks equally well, with proper setup.

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Turning a Pool Cue Part II

In turning the handle there is a degree of creativity involved. I laminated lacewood and walnut, which turned out nice. The only restrictions at this point is that the length should be 29 inches, and the combined weight of the shaft and handle should range between 18 - 22 oz. I started with 2" stock and roughed it out to around 1-1/4" in diameter. Make sure the shoulder at the tailstock end is square -- then reverse the handle mounting it into a 3-jaw or equivalent chuck. Drill a slightly smaller hole than 5/16" into the handle to about 2" in depth using a drill chuck mounted in the tailstock. Apply "hot stuff" glue in the hole -- with the 5/16" pin in the drill chuck press the pin into position.

Using this method I was able to obtain perfect alignment, but when tapping the hole I was always off. After the glue is dry reverse the handle and place the pin in the driving chuck. As soon as you turn on the lathe you'll know if the previous step was do correctly! Take a cut along the entire handle to bring it into round. The next step is to add the stainless steel joint collar. Prior to this step I drilled out the threads on the collar to 5/8" I.D.

I also placed a 7/8" O.D. x 5/8" I.D. x 1/2" black butt material between the collar and the wood. After the end of the handle is turned to 5/8" O.D., place the collar in your chuck, apply glue and press the collar and ring into position.

Now you should be home free. Finish turning the handle to the desired taper. Many of the good cues have ivory butt material at the base of the cue. I have used contrasting wood because the ivory material runs around \$40.00 per foot. I used gun stock finish on the handle which looks good -- you need to build-up coats. Finally, add a rubber stop on the end and now your cue is complete.

Club News and Announcements

♦ News from the Texas Turn or Two held in San Angelo earlier this month has not reached the editor yet. Look for a complete report in next month's newsletter.

President's Corner (Continued)

(Continued from page 1)

well clear of what dangers there are. RR.

In spite of the short notice of a regular meeting I was glad to see we had several Show and Tell items on the table. I will have ribbons at the next meeting.

Murray Powell has resigned as Vice President. The Board will address this at the next board meeting.

Texas Turn Two will be history when you get this letter, will make a report in the next newsletter and at the October meeting.

Thomas Irven has delivered the items that were submitted for the Beaumont Art League. Thanks for the huge effort in putting this together Thomas. I know it took a lot for you to teach all day, drive to Beaumont for the show, come back and teach another full day. Another dedicated wood turner.

We have a lot of them in our club. Another one is our excellent newsletter editor **Mack DeBose**. It is a huge job to do a newsletter. He is doing a great job. At any time, any member should feel free to give him a hand. E mail him an article or two. Thanks Mack. ~ **GOD BLESS AMERICA ~ UNITED WE STAND**
~ What a great country we live in.

Boyce Gahagan

Editor's Note: This article was obtained from the Hibdon Hardwood website at <http://www.hibdon-hardwood.com>

Exotic Hardwoods: Morado

Common Name: Morado

Other Common Names: Bolivian rosewood, Pau Ferro, Santos rosewood, Moradillo

Botanical Name: Machaerium acutifolium

Family: Leguminosae

Mature Tree Height, Diameter: medium-sized tree ft , ft

Weight @ 12% M/C: 49-57 lbs./ft.³

Working Properties: Fair to excellent.

Growing Regions: Throughout tropical America but mostly in Brazil

General Characteristics: Brown to dark violet brown heartwood, often streaked. Luster medium to high, texture fine to coarse, grain straight to irregular, wood dust may cause skin rash.

Uses: fine furniture, decorative veneers, turnery, specialty items and cabinetry

Acceptable Substitutes: Granadillo

References: "Tropical Timbers of the World", USDA Handbook #607, Sept. 1984, p. 106

Discussion: This wood will usually contain small worm holes -- they are frequent enough so that it is not considered to be a defect.



The Steve Russell Review of the Kel McNaughton Centre Saver System (Continued)

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In my production studio, the McNaughton tool has become a valuable tool for saving not only bowls, but time and money as well. It does however, require practice and patience to master. If possible, try to see a demonstration of the tool in action. If a picture is worth a thousand words, then a demonstration is worth a thousand pictures. Also, when you first begin using the tool, make sure you practice on some inexpensive timber until you become proficient. Like any new tool, you will make some mistakes but with practice and patience, you can master this most valuable tool.



Protecting Turning Tool Cutting Edges

Many of us wood turners have adopted a David Elsworth practice of cutting the finger tips off a left hand glove (or right hand as appropriate) and wearing it when turning to protect the hand while maintaining dexterity. The cutoff finger tips, instead of being trashed, can be used to protect turning tool cutting edges with the addition of a rubber band or twist tie. For long term storage, wipe a little machine oil on the inside surfaces of the leather. This is especially useful when transporting tools in a bag, bucket or box.

Classified

For Sale

Bois d'Arc (also known as Osage Orange) and Mesquite lumber, floor-

ing and turning blanks. Located in Willis, Texas. Contact **Jim Sloan** at 836-890-6341, phone and fax.

Membership

There were no new members joining in September.

Calendar of Events

Scheduled Meetings & Events

October 15, 2001 ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Boyce Gahagan ~ 20201 Fox Glen ~ 281-446-1590

October 20, 2001 ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ Pro Tool and Supply ~ 222 W. Pasadena Fwy. ~ 713-472-5588

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

November 12, 2001 ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Boyce Gahagan ~ 20201 Fox Glen ~ 281-446-1590

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

December 3, 2001 ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., ~ 713-981-9228

December 10, 2001 ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Boyce Gahagan's Home ~ 20201 Fox Glen, Humble, TX 77338 ~ 281-446-1590

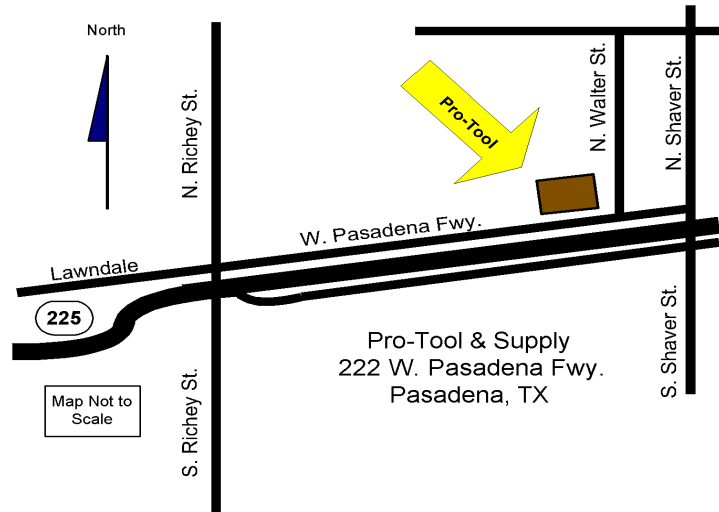
December 15, 2001 ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ Woodwright Woodworking, 1407 Spring Cypress ~ 281-651-9663.

January 7, 2002 ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., ~ 713-981-9228

January 14, 2002 ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Boyce Gahagan ~ 20201 Fox Glen ~ 281-446-1590

January 19, 2002 ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ Meeting place to be determined.

February 4, 2002 ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., ~ 713-981-9228



Meeting Location This Month

September 15 ~ 9:00 AM ~ Pro Tool & Supply ~ 222 West Pasadena Fwy., Pasadena, TX ~ 713-472-5588

Meeting Program

Undetermined as of this date. Always interesting and educational.

Executive Committee

President	Boyce Gahagan	281-446-1590	Boycegahagan@aol.com
Vice President	Open		
Treasurer	Helen Young	713-475-2940	helen@osteenjewelry.com
Past President	Thomas Irven	713-666-6881	trirven@academicplanet.com
Board Member	By Reed	281-980-9793	fun@neosoft.com
Board Member	Greg Gonsalves	281-998-8662	
Board Member/Webmaster	Bruce Dolen	713-787-6962	bdolen@tydemandolen.com
Board Member	Vic Vucinovich	713-923-6254	
Board Member/Editor	Mack DeBose	281-537-1814	Lmdebose@swbell.net
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Email: gcwa@jalepeno.com &
lmdebose@swbell.net
<http://www.gulfcoastwoodturners.org>
<http://get.to/gcwa>

Program Chairman
Thomas Irven
Phone: 713-666-6881
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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/>
Woodcraft: <http://www.woodcraft.com>
Christian Burchard: <http://www.burchardstudio.com>
Texas Turn or Two: <http://www.texasturn.org>
Boyce Gahagan: <http://bgpenandtoolsupply.com>

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