



Gulf Coast Woodturners Association

GCWA Newsletter

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association

April 2001 Issue

President's Corner

The Woodworking Show at the Houston Astro Arena was a rousing success thanks to Greg Gonsalves and all the volunteers who helped out. We had two big lathes in our booth this year, and they were kept busy most of the time. Bill Berry brought his Woodfast again this year and Steve LeGrue of The Cutting Edge let us demonstrate on Powermatic's newest lathe. Willie Hooper and Don Fluker both brought their Jet mini lathes, so we had a patriotic set of Jet lathes (red, white, and blue). Vic Vucinovich made a great sign for the club and it was displayed proudly. I can hardly wait to see the signs Vic has agreed to make for the retreat.

Speaking of the retreat, it is not too early to sign up. Those who sign up early enough will get a really great and very reusable name tag that is laminated and has a clip on it to hang it from your whatever. Remember that Christian Burchard will be at the retreat and will be leading some hands-on workshops as well as doing a demo or two. He has also agreed to give us a slide presentation. The slide presentation will happen Saturday evening after the hands-on sessions are complete.

The AAW symposium and the Utah Symposium are approaching fast. There is still time to schedule your vacation travel around these two events. The AAW 2001 Symposium takes place on July 6th, 7th, and 8th in St. Paul, MN and the Utah Symposium takes place on June 7th, 8th, and 9th in Provo, UT. When you are scheduling, don't forget about the TTT in October in San Angelo, Texas.

Thomas Irlen

Comments and Opinions From the Members

Included here are specific questions asked of the members and some of their responses. The questions are structured to gather facts and opinions based upon the personal experience of the members. Last month's questions and responses are as follows:

Question: *How do you prevent and cure rust problems on your shop equipment?*

Responses:

► I use lots of wax and a good rust preventive. Plus it is insulated, sheet rocked and I keep air moving either by a Jet air filter or an ac (big one)

► There are several things that I do. Most of them I learned from Don Fluker. First, keep the shavings from wet wood off the lathe and tools as much as possible. At the end of a turning session, I brush all equipment down, clear the dust with some compressed air, scour the bed with scotch-brite and then apply a light coat of WD-40. I have tried using wax but it doesn't seem to be as durable and it takes a little more effort to make sure everything is covered. There are some spray inhibitors designed specifically for this purpose that you can buy, but WD-40 seems to be just as effective and it certainly is a lot cheaper. If you are lucky enough to have air conditioning in your shop or garage, you have already reduced the problem by lowering the humidity of your environment.

**April Meeting
April 21, 2001
Hardwood Lumber
700 E. 5th. 1/2 Street
713-862-6628**

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.

Show & Tell

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

Beginner Category

1st Place — **Darrel Corcoran** for a Pear Vessel

Intermediate Category

1st Place — **Bart Rhoads** for a Mesquite Vase

2nd Place — **Bart Rhoads** for a Mesquite Vessel

Advanced Category:

One Piece Turning

1st Place — **Bill Hubbard** for a Water Oak Burl Bowl

2nd Place — **Earl Rogers** for a Hackberry Bowl

3rd Place — **Marty Kaminsky** for a Mulberry Bowl

Multiple Piece Turning:

1st Place — **Howard Moore** for a Black Walnut Vase

Special Award:

Jim Keller for a Spalted Pecan Vessel

Best of Show

Bill Hubbard for a Water Oak Burl Bowl

Special thanks to our Judges;

Buddy Clifford and Butch Titus

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 February 28, 2000.

Comments and Opinions From the Members - (Continued)

(Continued from page 1)

It will be a long time before I'll have an air conditioner in my shop. I barely have enough electrical service to run my tools.—Jeff Schrader

➤In my garage the best I can hope for is a "delaying action" against rust. The trapped humidity makes for a constant battle, which I fight on two fronts. On surfaces that are merely supportive (like the column of my drill press), I've had good results using Top-Cote aerosol. I clean with mineral spirits and abrasives, wipe thoroughly with paper towels, then liberally apply Top-Cote. This might last several months. I also Top-Cote my tablesaw top, but expect to renew the surface much more often. On "working surfaces" (bed of my lathe) I use WD-40 and synthetic steel wool almost every session. I was pleased to get a compliment when my lathe was used for Soren Berger's demo – it passed his Sliding Banjo test, so he skipped his usual 5-minute clean-off procedure. I scrub not only the bed and tool rest lip, but also get the underside of the banjo. Makes a big difference in performance, especially with an added bit of buffed wax on the tool rest.—Murray Powell

➤Most of the time I will use a good paste wax. To remove the rust I use WD-40 and a fine 3M pad—Bart Rhoads

➤Have an air conditioned shop and keep a coat of paste wax on the surfaces of all tools that might rust. If you don't have air conditioning then the tool covers that breathe work very well.—Thomas Irven

➤When I get a new item of metal for the shop I usually wipe it down and put a coat of wax (paste polish) on it. I then try to remember (ha-ha)to re-apply wax from time

to time.

➤I would like to think I could avoid them by waxing everything (usually use Johnson floor wax) but almost any wax will do. But this often doesn't work for me. Then I use a rust remover for metal Ecotec - paint it on and wipe off in about five minutes. Then remove what is left with crocus cloth and cover with a good oil or wax. For oil I use WD40 or Kano Sili Kroil. I sure wish the preventative maintenance worked all the time. Last big problem was when I turned a mesquite bowl and didn't remove the shavings for about two weeks (because of bad weather). No matter how dry it seems, mesquite makes steel rust.—Jack Hanley

➤Very easy--my studio has central air and heat (!) - Dale Barrack

➤Being new to Houston's humidity, I have been very worried about rust. I put a coat of car wax on everything six months ago and haven't had any problems yet.—Tom Enloe

➤While air conditioning is probably the best rust deterrent, it is not too economical to keep it going in a shop that is unoccupied much of the time. Even in Houston's humidity if the air is kept circulating with the use of a window fan or roof ventilator in conjunction with liberal applications of a good penetrating oil, rust formation can be reasonably controlled.—Mack DeBose

Question: *What is your favorite turning tool? Why?*

Responses:

➤Roughing gouge. That is where in my limited experience my pieces take shape and get decided on what I make.

➤I do most of my turning with a ½" fingernail-grind bowl gouge. I can do more things with this one tool

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Comments and Opinions From the Members

(Continued)

(Continued from page 2)

than with most anything else I own. Of course, my favorite bowl gouge is the Glasser gouge. I also happen to like the 3/4" Raffin curved skew and sometimes I'll use just that. If truth be known, I guess my favorite tool is the one that happens to be sharp. I hate to sharpen tools. So, many times when the tool that I am using starts to get dull, I'll just switch to a sharp tool so I don't have to stop and go to the grinder. Laziness can be effective in forcing you to learn how to use other tools. You will probably get a variety of answers to this question, since each type of turning and the size of your work will influence the kind of tools you use.—Jeff Schrader

►Nothing brings a smile like using a 5/8" deep-flute to hog away on green wood for blanks. Blasting away in bonsai-mode, spraying shavings and water, is huge fun and good therapy! I also like the challenge of a skew, which demands full attention and fine control. There is great satisfaction in feeling the surfaces left from skew work, and there's so much less to sweep up afterwards.—Murray Powell

►The bowl gouge. It is a versatile tool. You can really hog off the material or you can take a very delicate cut, and it leaves a nice finish when you want—Bart Rhoads

►The 1/2" bowl gouge with the side grind as used by Liam O'Neill is one of the most versatile tools I use. It can be used as a gouge, skew or scraper. I use this tool for roughing out most pieces and finishing cuts on many. There are other tools needed, and my favorite depends on the job at hand.—Luna Ford

►Spindle gouge for turning boxes and end grain hollowing. The beading and parting tool for turning beads and clean cuts on straight or tapered parts and also for cutting the tenons for chucking. The skew for

cleaning up rough cuts from the spindle gouge and for making 2.5" and under stock round.—Thomas Irvén

►It seems I always grab a gouge more often than any other tool because it is so versatile. It can be used for so many different cuts. Many of the other tools are designed for a specific task.

►Not long ago I would have said which ever one fit the cutting situation but now I think I do have a favorite tool. When I began trying to learn to turn, I was told that the first thing I needed to do was sharpen the new tools and be sure and remove the ears from all gouges except for roughing gouges. In October, I went to a demonstration by Soren Berger and he clearly showed that there is another approach. Try using a gouge (spindle or bowl) with roughing gouge ears. You don't have to dig them in and if you avoid that, they are remarkably versatile. I reground ears on a couple of gouges from which I had previously removed them and then I found that Packard Wood works sold two Crown PRO-PM bowl gouges with ears. I am finding that I now use one of these (3/8" or 1/2") more often that I do anything else. - Jack Hanley

►The Ellsworth 5/8" bowl gouge by Henry Taylor. Ellsworth has interpreted the side grind perfectly on this gouge and with the optional Ellsworth sharpening jig, it's easy to maintain it. The tool can be as aggressive or gentle as you want and it's great for sheer scraping. I also like the steel in Taylor tools better the Sorby tools--Taylor tools seem to stay sharper longer. I use this gouge for approximately 60 percent of my work.—Dale Barrack

►A large handled gouge with a fingernail grind using a shopmade Ellsworth guide.—Tom Enloe

Question: *Which bench grinder choice is more suitable for sharpening turning tools: 6" or 8", 1750 or 3600 rpm? Why?*

Responses:

►I have a 6" 1750 because it will do all tool steel, even if they say it doesn't need it. But I would buy an 8" if I had to do it over again.

►I use a 3600 rpm 8" grinder (Jet). Since it is the first grinder I've ever owned, I didn't know there was a difference in speeds or that one speed was better than another for high speed steel tools. At first I was afraid of my grinder because everything happened so fast. Eventually I learned how to use a light touch, proceed carefully and grind at high speed. I did burn a lot of steel while I figured out what I was doing. And using white wheels does help keep the heat down. I haven't tried the pink or blue wheels that can cost as much as a nice gouge. If I had to buy a grinder today, I would look for a "slow" speed grinder. Probably 1750 rpm. I don't think I would consider the slow, water bath grinders (mainly Tormek), because I wouldn't want to fool with changing the water and keeping everything dry around the grinder area. And the Tormek system can be quite expensive compared to a conventional grinder. I also like 8" wheels instead of 6" wheels. Mostly because there is less of a curve cut into my tools.—Jeff Schrader

►The OneWay folks are very persuasive in their cry for high surface speeds on grinding wheels, so I've taken their word and settled on 3600 rpm grinders. Recently I upgraded my 6" for an 8" grinder. For wheels, I've waded through many of the postings on rec.crafts.woodturning, and tried to decode the information on Norton's web site and others. Yeesh. Being utterly confused, I finally decided to simply trust Steve LeGrue's advice on his white

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Club News and Announcements

►The Spring Retreat is next month, May. We still need lathes and other equipment. If you wish to volunteer your services contact **Boyce Gahagan**. To volunteer equipment contact **Willie Hooper**. To volunteer as an instructor contact **Thomas Irven**.

►It is time for the Election of Officers and Board Members for the next term starting in June. A ballot is enclosed in this Newsletter. You can either mail the ballot in or cast your vote via E-Mail. Candidates are **Boyce Gahagan** for President; **Murray Powell** for Vice President; **Helen Young** for Treasurer; **Vic Vucinovich**, **Gregg Gonsalves**, **Mack DeBose**, **By Reed**, and **Bruce Dolen** for Board Members. Biographic sketches for most were included in the March Newsletter which can be viewed on the GCWA Website..

Classified

For Sale

Common and **exotic** turning wood for sale. Prices vary depending on size and type. Varieties include: African Blackwood, Spalted Maple, Wild Pear (from Africa), Bubinga, Narra (from Africa), Kiaat (from Africa).
Call Tom At 713-666-6881.

EMCO wood lathe. Made in Austria. 4 speed. 16" by 39" capacity. Some Modifications made.
Call Tom at 713-666-6881.

Membership

Please welcome our new members who joined in March.

Tommy Joe and **Robert Jucker**

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

Exotic Hardwoods: Canary Wood

Common Name: Canarywood

Other Common Names: Arariba

Botanical Name: *Centrolobium* spp.

Family: Leguminosae

Mature Tree Height, Diameter: to 100 ft , 30-50 ft

Weight @ 12% M/C: 46-53 lbs./ft.³

Working Properties: Easy to machine with all tools, finishing very smoothly but there may be some fuzzy grain.

Growing Regions: Panama to southern Brazil

General Characteristics: Heartwood yellow to orange, typically variegated, sometimes "rainbow hued", texture medium, grain straight to irregular, medium to high luster.

Uses: Boat building, turnery, decorative veneers, cooperage, furniture and cabinetry, flooring, heavy construction, railroad crossties>

Acceptable Substitutes:

References: *"Tropical Timbers of the World"*, USDA Handbook #607, Sept. 1984, p.50

Discussion: This wood with its characteristic red and orange streaks can 'make' a project.



Comments and Opinions from the Members — (Continued)

(Continued from page 3)

wheels, which seem to work just fine. I will add that my OneWay "Wolverine" grinding jig was what really allowed me to learn how to turn. When I was free-handing, I'd always have to wonder if it was my technique or the tool. Since the Wolverine takes care of the tool question, I now know that the problem is me.—Murray Powell

►A 8" - 1750 Slower speed means less chance to burn. I like the 8" because it makes a straighter cut in other word there is less of an arc to the end of your tool.—Bart Rhoads

►It really does not matter. If you do not have a grinder and you have a lot of tool steel tools then get a 1750 rpm grinder. If you are in a hurry and have mostly HSS tools then get a 3600 rpm grinder. Both will do the same job if they have the same wheels on them. 6 or 8 inch is a matter of personal preference and/or how much you are willing to spend. The material from which the wheels are made will be a bigger influence than the size of the wheels in the frustration level of the machine.—Thomas Irven

►It seems like the 8" is easier to use due to the angles available on a larger circle. 750 may cause less heat build up, but the higher rpm may give a smoother finish.

►I prefer an 8" grinder at 1750 rpm. The second choice is 8" at 3600. The 8" size gives me a better hollow grind effect and I think that I get a better surface with the slower grinder without a noticeable loss of time.—Jack Hanley

►I have a 6" by 1750 grinder but would prefer an 8" x 1750.—Tom Enloe

Editor: Thanks to all of the members who contributed to this article. There will be additional comments in future Newsletters.

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association

is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of woodturning. We are a diverse group of men and women, amateurs and professionals, bonded through the arts of the wood lathe.

RETREAT IV

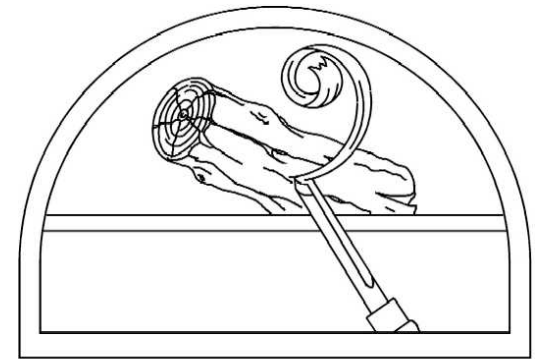
A Weekend of Hands-on Woodturning

Mail registration to:

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association
Helen Young
2502 Esther Ave
Pasadena TX 77502-3239

Email: gcwa@jalepeno.com
<http://www.gulfcoastwoodturners.org>
<http://get.to/gcwa>

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association
Helen Young
2502 Esther Ave
Pasadena TX 77502-3239



Gulf Coast Woodturners Association

RETREAT IV

*A Weekend of Hands-On
Woodturning*

May 19-20, 2001

*Montgomery County
Fairgrounds*

Conroe, Texas

Gulf Coast Woodturners
Association is affiliated with
the American Association of
Woodturners (AAW)

Calendar of Events

Scheduled Meetings & Events

April 16, 2001 ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Thomas Irven home, 5202 Willow St., Bellaire, 713-666-6881

April 21, 2001 ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ Hardwood Lumber, 700 E. 5th. 1/2 Street, 713-862-6628

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

May 14, 2001 ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Thomas Irven home, 5202 Willow St., Bellaire, 713-666-6881

May 19 & 20, 2001 ~ GCWA 2001 Spring Retreat ~ Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Conroe, Texas

June 4, 2001 ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., 713-981-9228

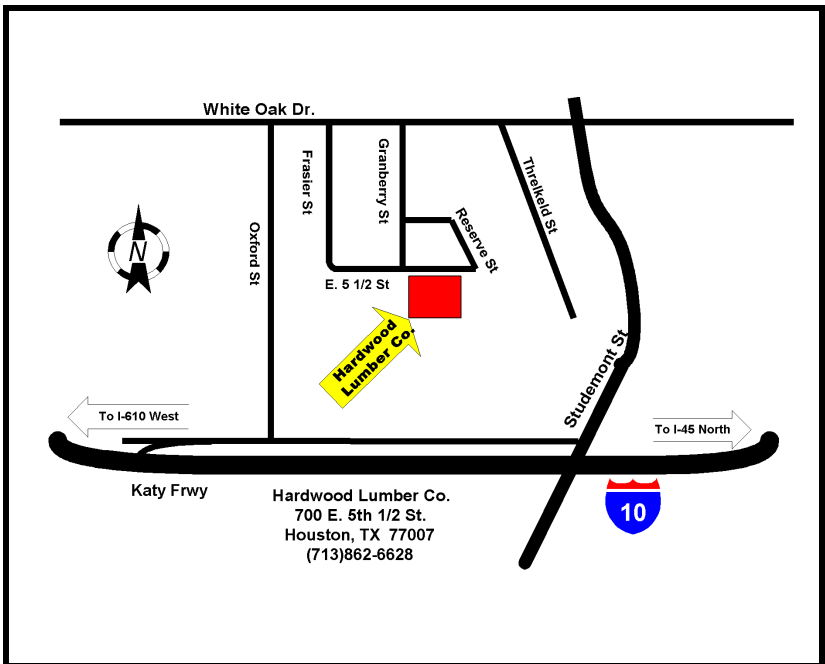
June 11, 2001 ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Thomas Irven home, 5202 Willow St., Bellaire, 713-666-6881

June 16, 2001 ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ Woodwright Woodworking, 1407 Spring Cypress, Spring, TX ~ 281-651-9663

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

July 16, 2001 ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Thomas Irven home, 5202 Willow St., Bellaire, 713-666-6881

July 21, 2001 ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ Pro Tool and Supply ~222 W. Pasadena Fwy. ~ 713-472-5588



Meeting Location This Month

April 21 - 9:00 AM ~ Hardwood Lumber~ 700 E.5th 1/2 Street ~ 713-862-6628

Program

Not yet determined, but always interesting.

Executive Committee

President	Thomas Irven	713-666-6881	trirven@academicplanet.com
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/Editor	Mack DeBose	281-537-1814	Lmdebose@swbell.net
Webmaster	Bruce Dolen	713-787-6962	bdolen@tydemandolen.com
Librarian	Ernie Bahr	713-534-0559	

Email: gcwa@jalepeno.com
<http://www.gulfcoastwoodturners.org>
<http://get.to/gcwa>

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/>
Woodcraft: <http://www.woodcraft.com>

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<Http://get.to/gcwa>



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