

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association

GCWA Newsletter

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association



President's Corner

August 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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We are very excited about a wonderful opportunity that has come our way. We are privileged to have the world renowned turner, **Mr. Richard Raffan** visit our area in September. He is Internationally acclaimed for both his turning and his teaching. Richard is a leading figure of the woodturning community.

Well-known for his gallery-quality work, he is the author of *Turning Projects, Turned Bowl Design, Turning Boxes* and his newly revised *Turning Wood*.

He will be providing us with five days of non-stop learning. We will have one demonstration day and four days of hands-on sessions. Accordingly, we will not be having a regular meeting on September 15. Instead, that will be our all day demonstration. For this event we will be charging \$35.00. This will enable us to have Richard demonstrate his incredible talent and we will have the event catered so you won't have to waste one minute. The hands-on sessions will be full day events for a fee of \$125.00. Each will be limited to a maximum of 6 participants. This is on a first come basis. Please request the day you would like to participate in the hands-on sessions. We will need to receive payment by August 25th with NO EXCEPTIONS. Make your check payable to GCWA and mail it to our Treasurer, **Helen Osteen, 2502 Esther Ave. Pasadena, TX 77502 3239.**

We are not trying to make a profit from these attendance fees, we will just be trying to cover the expenses.

The schedule is as follows:

September 14 ~ 9AM-5PM at Woodwright ~ Hands-on ~ \$125.00

September 15 ~ 9AM-5PM at Woodwright ~ Demonstration ~ \$35.00

September 16 ~ 9AM-5PM at The Cutting Edge ~ Hands-on ~ \$125.00

September 17 ~ 9AM-5PM at Woodwright ~ Hands-on ~ \$125.00

September 18 ~ 9AM-5PM at Woodwright ~ Hands-on ~ \$125.00

Woodwright, 1407 Spring Cypress, Spring, TX 77373

The Cutting Edge, 7123 Southwest Freeway, Houston TX

TEXAS TURN or TWO will be October 5-7 in San Angelo. We have contacted a bus service for the trip to and from San Angelo. The fare is \$35.00 per person if we have at least 20 people. If you are going and want to take the bus, payment is due by September 1st. It would be much better if you could pay at the August meeting so we could make the necessary preparations. Make your check payable to GCWA and mail to our Treasurer, **Helen Osteen, 2502 Esther Ave., Pasadena, TX 77502 3239.**

AAW Collaborative piece for 2002 AAW Symposium

A first time opportunity. A symposium collaborative piece to be done by women. Requirements, turners must be women. Contact **Judy Williams** (512) 836-7897, judy@lace-bobbins.com. Procedure: Put your name on the list, receive a collaborative piece, take a picture, work on it, take another picture, and send the item to someone on the list but out of state or country.

Many thanks to **Luna Ford** for a great demonstration on using the skew. Luna is a master craftsman and has a teaching technique that is enjoyable to watch and listen to. GCAW is a great club to belong to with members like Luna.

Boyce Gahagan

**August Meeting
August 18, 2001
American Legion Hall
3415 Aldine Mail Route
Houston, 281-442-7802**

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 **July** meeting at Pro-Tool & Supply were:

Beginner Category

No Entries

Intermediate Category

No Entries

Advanced Category:

One Piece Turning

1st Place — **Bill Berry** for a Cedar Elm Hollow Vessel

2nd Place — **Bill Berry** for a Sycamore Tall Goblet

3rd Place — **Bill Berry** for an Aromatic Cedar Hollow Vessel

Multiple Piece Turning:

1st Place — **Bill Dyer** for a Large Lost Segment Vase of Bloodwood and Maple

2nd Place — **Andy Chen** for a Small Ornamental Oil Lamp of Mesquite, Maple and Sycamore

3rd Place — **Marty Kaminsky** for a Hollow, Rimmed Vessel of Ash and Black Walnut

Special thanks to our Judges;

The members in attendance who voted for their choices.

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

Classified

No Classifieds this month

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. This month's questions and responses are as follows:

Question:

What is your favorite wood for turning? Why?

Responses:

►My favorite wood is mesquite because of it's beautiful, warm, rich color; it's interesting figure; it's near perfect dimensional stability; the easy way it works on the lathe, the way it takes a finish; and it's ready local availability. – **Tom Martin**

►Mesquite: Its a forgiving wood, by that I mean you can turn it green and finish it all at the same time and it stays in the shape you turned it without any cracks etc. Good hard wood and beautiful in color and I love it. - **Joe Heil**

►Favorite Wood: My first thought is; whatever I can find on the street, and why; because it's priced right. Truly my favorites are Mesquite - turn ability and beauty of grain. Sycamore - readily available and pretty grain pattern. Last but not least is Pecan - nice to turn with a rich and beautiful grain. And my least favorite is Cypress - Soft tender fibers are hard to get clean cuts. Requires lots of sanding. - **Bill Berry**

►My favorite wood for turning is Sweet Gum. It cuts very easily and smoothly, sands easily, and it's not difficult to give it a very attractive finish with good color. I haven't worked with it while it is green, so that might have different characteristics. My projects have all used dried turning blanks. My only trouble with Sweet Gum is finding some of it. - **Ric Taylor**

►Favorite: Of the local species, I really like ash. In the crotch and stump areas you can often find some very nice figure. Ash cuts and shear scrapes quite cleanly and you don't have to do a lot of sanding. Plus, there's lots of it around and it's usually free. If I'm going to buy or trade for wood I will usually try to get maple burl (because pieces sell quickly, especially if I use a bit of turquoise in them) or mesquite (supremely stable, cuts sands and finishes very well). - **Kip Powers**

►Mesquite, because it is green and stable. - **Diana Gahagan**

►FREE is always best. I do like pecan, which is good because I have a lot of it. - **Ben Puariea**

►Favorite Wood: Mesquite. Reason: Readily available in our area, very stable drying process when turned green, easy to turn. - **Butch Titus**

►Favorite Wood: Walnut. Reason: Dark rich colors and easy to finish. - **Pat Titus**

►I love burls because of their tremendous character, and because they turn so easily. Anything with color or figure or spault is good, too. Of course, we Texans know that mesquite is the undiscovered (for now) exotic. - **Steve LeGrue**

►Mesquite, it is easy to work with and it is very pretty too. Plus, I can get it FREE most of the time. - **Debbie Turner**

Question:

How do you come up with a design for your turnings?

Responses:

►When trying to design a turning, I

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Club News and Announcements

- ◆ While the Club does not have an elected Secretary as a member of the Executive Committee, we are fortunate to have a volunteer to perform those duties for the Board of Directors in the person of **Diane Gahagan**. This is a burdensome task and the Board members would like to publicly thank Diane for taking it on.
- ◆ Thanks are also due to **Sunny DeBose** for folding, addressing, stamping and mailing this Newsletter each month. The number of Newsletters mailed has decreased somewhat due to email subscriptions but still amounts to over 100 mailings each month.
- ◆ All of the members owe a large THANK YOU to **Ernie Barr** who is our volunteer Librarian without whose efforts there probably would be no library.

Woodturning Tips

Rubber Bands

Heavy rubber bands from the office supply can come in handy many ways in the Shop. They make excellent gluing clamps for oddball shapes. They can turn a pair of pliers into a clamp when wrapped around the handles. They can dampen vibration when applied to turnings and/or cutting tools. They can assist in temporary assembly prior to gluing. They can hold patterns for tracing or cutting. Not even duct tape is as good as rubber bands and some pieces of leather or vinyl for protecting the cutting edges of your turning tools from damage when traveling or shipping.

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

Exotic Hardwoods: Wenge

Common Name: Wenge

Other Common Names: Awong, Panga Panga

Botanical Name: Millettia spp.

Family: Leguminosae

Mature Tree Height, Diameter: 60 to 90 ft., 3 to 4 ft

Weight @ 12% M/C: 50 to 60 lbs./ft.³

Working Properties: Sawing and machining somewhat difficult, rapid blunting of cutting edges occurs, turns well, difficult to glue if resinous

Growing Regions: Africa

General Characteristics: Heartwood dark brown to almost black with alternate layers of light and dark tissue forming a decorative figure; sapwood yellowish white, clearly demarcated. Texture rather coarse; grain straight.

Uses: Parquet or strip flooring, joinery, general construction, specialty items.

Acceptable Substitutes:

References: "Tropical Timbers of the World", USDA Handbook #607, Sept. 1984, p. 248.

Discussion: Wenge can be particularly attractive used as a dark accent in combination with other exot-



Beaumont Art League Show

By Thomas Irven

The Gulf Coast Woodturners Association based in Houston is sponsoring a juried exhibition of woodturnings in conjunction with the Beaumont Art League Galleries. This show will run in combination with a photography exhibit by the Beaumont Art League's Artist of the year. The pieces will range from the small to the very large and from the functional to the decorative. This is an excellent chance to see woodturning as the art form it is.

DATES: - The Show will run from September 22nd through October 13th. There will be an opening reception September 22nd from 7:00 to 9:00pm where the awards will be given. All GCWA members and their families are encouraged to attend.

TO ENTER: - Bring your pieces to the August meeting or drop them off at The Cutting Edge before August 25th. Please have all turnings packed and ready to travel. If you can not get your pieces to either of these locations then call me at 713-666-6881 and we will schedule a pick-up or drop-off. You may enter as many turnings as you wish; however, only five pieces per person will be exhibited.

THE JURY: - The jurors will be woodworking artist **Roger Deatherage** and metal artist **Mary Rogers**. Both Roger and Mary are award winning, Houston based artists and are highly regarded in their respective fields. They each have their Master of Fine Arts Degree and have juried other events as well. They will be looking for spectacular pieces to be awarded 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places. There will not be a cash prize this year, but you will receive a ribbon and recognition at the awards ceremony/opening reception.

You may have noticed the deadline has been moved back. This is due to the change in the dates of the exhibition. We need at least 50 pieces to fill the gallery so get busy and turn something for this event.

Members Comments and Opinions (Continued)

(Continued from page 2)

first look at the rough wood to see if it's dimensions dictate whether a spindle or a bowl blank should be made. After turning the blank, I have a better view of the wood and it's figure, color, flaws, etc. I can then decide what turned form I think will best show off those elements that I want to emphasize and what elements that I want to hide or eliminate altogether. . - **Tom Martin**

➤Several ways: 1. It's programmed in my mind as to what I want to turn, this can be an item that usable or for show. 2. Sometimes I start turning and a design will appear from the grain and structure of the wood. 3. Then there are pictures of stoneware, glass, plastic and other material items in magazines etc. I will use these designs or they will give me a idea to make changes to suit me. - **Joe Heil**

➤Design for Turning: Keep it simple! When I first started turning I wanted to do something different, but I was never pleased with the final shape. Then I started looking for shapes that I liked. When I see pottery or glass, or when I walk through malls or stores I notice the shape of things and file that shape away in my mind as a shape that I like. After doing this it begins to show up in your turnings. I don't by any means advocate taking a shape and copying it. Also the grain of the wood sometime will dictate the design. Again keep the lines of form simple so that the beauty of the wood is dominant. - **Bill Berry**

➤My designs usually result from admiring someone else's work or seeing something interesting in a book or magazine. However, once I start my project, my screw-ups usually result in something that it quite different from what I had in mind when I started. - **Ric Taylor**

➤Guesswork. - **Diana Gahagan.**

➤My wife says she lets the wood talk to her, I think she is crazy but I Love her, plus what she turns looks good. - **Ben Puariea**

➤Where do I get my ideas? Mostly from pictures in the ads in the Sunday newspaper. Really, now everything turned today is a copy of something someone else did somewhere, either last week or last century. - **Butch Titus**

➤Ideas for turnings: No place special, I just chuck up the wood and what comes out. - **Pat Titus**

➤Design: I cut up log sections into pieces that I think will have some interesting feature-maybe crotch figure, bark inclusions, damaged areas that the tree "grew over", etc., mount it between centers and start roughing out. I stop frequently to look at what's there and change the centers as needed to show off anything that's "special". You don't start out with a pen blank and end up with a platter, but the approach gives you some flexibility. - **Kip Powers**

➤To some extent, the piece of wood will dictate the final form. Wood can give you unexpected beauty or disappointment. That is the thrill of working with a natural product. The main things I strive for are a pleasing shape (no flat spots or unsightly breaks in the line) and a uniform wall thickness. I went to the British Museum last summer and found out that humans from all civilizations have been using the same basic shapes for vessels for at least 4000 years. Nothing new under the sun. - **Steve LeGrue**

➤I sometimes get a brainstorm after I have the wood round. Look at different pictures and come up with your on idea. - **Debbie Turner**

Texas Turn or Two

The 2001 Texas Turn or Two promises to be one of the best. While we in the Houston area might feel somewhat disadvantaged by the relocation to San Angelo, it is no doubt that the new location has a lot to offer. The San Angelo folks have obviously put a lot into the preparations and seem determined to make the event a huge success.

San Angelo is a hard 8 hour drive of 400 plus miles from the outskirts of Houston. The worst part of the trip is having to spend an equal amount of time and effort coming back Sunday night after a full day of activities.

The idea of relaxing on a motor coach (travel agent term for bus) while someone else does the driving is definitely appealing. GCWA has made arrangements to charter a bus that would not only get us there and back, but would also provide transportation between the hotel and the TTT. The price to each rider is presently set at \$35 based upon a 20 passenger minimum. With gasoline priced at \$1.40 per gallon and an average of 18 mpg, your passenger car, pickup or SUV will cost in excess of \$62 in fuel alone. Obviously, some of us don't average 18 mpg and fuel prices vary greatly, usually upward.

This is a great opportunity to attend a highly enjoyable event with minimum cost and travel fatigue. So, make the commitment and sign up for the charter bus at the August Meeting. Time is short and hotel reservations must be made soon.

Membership

Please welcome our new members who joined in July.

Janice Levi and Chris Loomis

This will be your last newsletter if your membership dues expired on June 30, 2001.

Calendar of Events

Scheduled Meetings & Events

August 18, 2001 ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ American Legion Hall, 3415 Aldine Mail Route Rd. ~ (281) 442-7802

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

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

September 15, 2001 ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., ~ 713-981-9228

October 1, 2001 ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., ~ 713-981-9228

October 5-7, 2001 ~ Texas Turn or Two ~ San Angelo Convention Center, San Angelo, TX

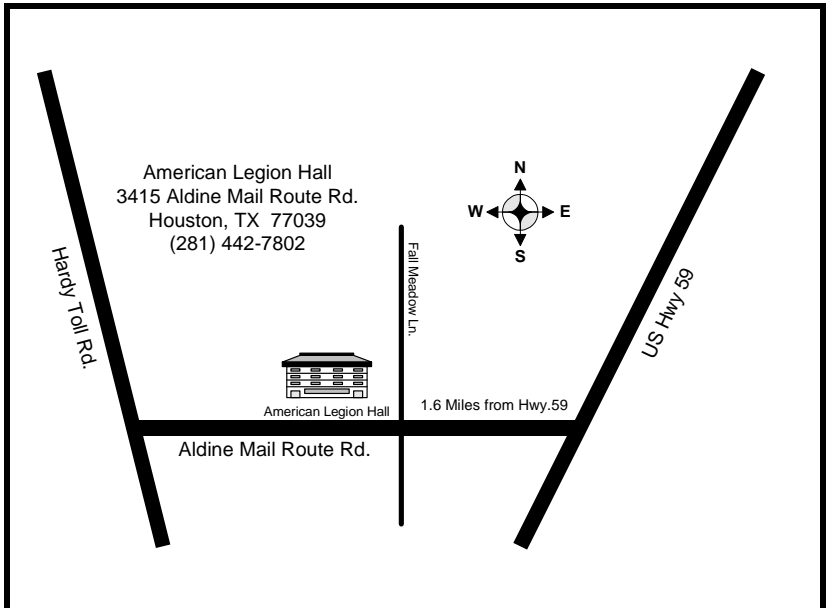
October 15, 2001 ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Boyce Gahagan's Home ~ 20201 Fox Glen, Humble, TX 77338 ~ 281-446-1590

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's Home ~ 20201 Fox Glen, Humble, TX 77338 ~ 281-446-1590

November 17, 2001 ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ Woodwright



Meeting Location This Month

August 18 ~ 9:00 AM ~ American Legion Hall ~ 3415 Aldine Mail Route Rd., Houston, TX 77039 ~ (281) 442-7802

Meeting Program

Yet to be determined, but always interesting and informative.

Executive Committee

President	Boyce Gahagan	281-446-1590	Boycegahagan@aol.com
Vice President	Murray Powell	713-682-2810	mpowell@wantabe.com
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
Librarian	Ernie Bahr	713-534-0559	ernie@jalepeno.com

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<http://www.gulfcoastwoodturners.org>
<http://get.to/gcwa>

Program Chairman
Thomas Irven
Phone: 713-666-6881
Email: trirven@academicplanet.com

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>

GCWA Web Sites:

<Http://www.gulfcoastwoodturners.org>

<Http://get.to/gcwa>



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