



Gulf Coast Woodturners Association

GCWA Newsletter

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association



President's Corner

WE WILL NOT HAVE A REGULAR MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 15TH. Instead that will be our all day demonstration with **Richard Raffan**. For GCWA members the cost is \$35.00. That will include lunch. We have 4 days scheduled for hands-on.

The schedule for the Hands On sessions are as follows.

Sept. 14 ~ 9AM-5PM @ Woodwright Woodworking, 1407 Spring Cypress, Spring TX 77373 ~ hands on

Sept. 15 ~ 9AM-5PM @ Woodwright Woodworking, 1407 Spring Cypress, Spring TX 77373 ~ demonstration

Sept. 16 ~ 9AM-5PM @ The Cutting Edge, 7123 Southwest Freeway, Houston TX ~ hands on

Sept. 17 ~ 9AM-5PM @ Woodwright Woodworking, 1407 Spring Cypress, Spring TX 77373 ~ hands on

Sept. 18 ~ 9AM-5PM @ Woodwright Woodworking, 1407 Spring Cypress, Spring TX 77373 ~ hands on

All hands on sessions have been filled.

For the hands-on, you will need to bring face shield, turning tools and sandpaper. You are on your own for lunch. Bring wood if you have it.

The August meeting was great. We had a new meeting place at the American Legion. They had over \$22,000 in flood damage. The commander, **Bill Caldwell**, asked if we might be able to put up a rail near their display wall. After the announcement at the meeting we had several people volunteer to help. Later that afternoon **Jack Hanley** called to say he found some maple that might work for the project. He donated more than enough maple to make a great rail. Thanks, Jack.

Clamps: I will order the clamps after Richard's visit to give those who did not attend the August meeting an opportunity to order also. Clamp sizes and prices: 24" \$12.00;

36" \$13.00; 48" \$14.00; 60" \$15.00; 72" \$16.00. If you want any of these, mail your check to Helen Osteen, our Treasurer. Deadline: September 15th

From Richard Raffan

DEMONSTRATION WISH LIST

WOOD: For demonstrating basic techniques, part seasoned or green timber is preferable. (There is too much dust with dry wood.) Wood must be free of splits and rot. There should be some dry wood on hand for at least one project in each category. Choose woods which are commonly used by those attending the workshop so that people can see how I overcome the problems they have.

For bowls: Blanks should be at least 200 mm (8") diameter by 75 mm (3") for general demonstrating, with smaller seasoned blanks for specific demos, such as lidded bowls, as required.

For platters: Blanks should be seasoned, of 300 mm (12") or more diameter and between 30 mm- 50 mm (1.5"-2") thick.

For center work: For demonstrating general technique choose 75 mm (3") by 300 mm (12") long, green, knot-free, straight branches or similar sized squares of close-grained softwood (i.e. radiata pine, spruce) or softer hardwood (i.e. poplar). [The idea is to have material which tears badly if scraped but shines if cut cleanly.]

For end-grain hollowing: As for center work, but with dry squares for boxes. Very short lengths okay - about 100 mm (4").

This is a wish-list rather than set of demands: I can demonstrate or work with almost any equipment. However, there's little to be gained in watching

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September 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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**September Meeting
September 15, 2001
Woodwright
1407 Spring Cypress,**

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

Show & Tell

Winners at the **August** meeting at the American Legion Hall were:

Beginner Category

1st Place — **Carl English** for an Osage orange small vase

2nd Place — **Janice Levi** for two spindles of pine

Intermediate Category

1st Place — **Tom Enloe** for a shallow mesquite bowl

Advanced Category:

One Piece Turning

1st Place — **Bruno Wesolek** for a vase from pear wood

2nd Place — **Bill Dyer** for a mesquite vase

3rd Place — **Woody Woodard** for an Osage orange large bowl

Multiple Piece Turning:

1st Place — **Mack DeBose** for a beer stein of bocote, maple, bloodwood and ebony

2nd Place — **Bill Berry** for a bowl of oak and mahogany

Special Award

Don Fluker for a large lazy Susan of oak

Special thanks to our judges;

Carl Blair and **Don Philpott**

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

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:

How do you minimize warping in green wood turnings?

Responses:

- ◆ Turn a shape that is about 3 times as thick as it needs to be, put it in a paper sack, put it away for several months and if you can find it again, or more important if it hasn't cracked, turn it to the desired thickness. Two important rules for woodturning: 1. Don't turn a platter or flat plate from green wood. 2. Don't turn lidded boxes from green wood. ~ **Bill Berry**
- ◆ Gosh, I wish I was that smart. Gosh, I wish I knew how! Gosh I'm glad I joined the GCWA, now I will find out. ~ **Daryl A Davis**
- ◆ I built a drying box which is nothing more than an insulated box with a space heater (with internal thermostat) at one end and a 4 inch diameter hole at the other. It has a hinged lid with a foam seal. I adjusted the thermostat to hold about 110 degrees in the box. I rough turn green wood to about one inch or so walls then put the turning in the drying box for a week or two. I weigh the piece ever day or two. When the weight stops changing, it's dry. My drying box is in an air conditioned space - I don't know how well it would work if it were drawing in humid air. ~ **Marty Kaminsky**
- ◆ I heard from John Jordan that you can place a green bowl into an empty box, seal it and leave the bowl for a few weeks and it will dry evenly. Not one to take

anyone's word for something (especially John's!) I tried this with a hackberry bowl 5" in diameter and turned fairly thick (~1/2" wall thickness). I placed it in a cardboard box about 12" cubic and left it in my shop here at the store for 2 or 3 weeks. When I removed the bowl it was dry and had shrunk only 1/8" in the lateral dimension, without any apparent warping. I am pursuing this with other woods and wall thicknesses and will report back later. ~ **Steve LeGrue**

- ◆ It depends on the wood. For most domestic species, I'll rough turn to about 3/4 inch thick, weigh and put in a paper bag (grocery store type, nothing special), check occasionally, change bags if the paper feels damp and let the piece sit until it's weight holds pretty constant, then finish turn. With mesquite, you can pretty much get away with just letting it air dry (probably not in the sun!) - with really wild stuff like madrone burl, turn as thin as you dare, sticker it and find out the next day what you really made. ~ **Kip Powers**

Question:

How do you store and preserve your turning wood stock?

Responses:

- ◆ I store my wood on the patio, and to preserve it I tell my wife to leave it alone....Also if the wood gets worms in it, and most will, put the wood in the freezer for a week or so, before you turn it. I can't understand why my wife is always so grouchy. ~ **Bill Berry**
- ◆ Well since I turn mostly mesquite, that's not a problem since I use LeGrue's green wood sealer on my fresh

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Club News and Announcements

- ♦ We are still needing commitments for the chartered bus transportation to the Texas Turn or Two. It is only \$35 for the round trip including transportation between the Hotel and the Convention Center. Let Helen know right away if you intend to take advantage of this bargain. Mail your check to Helen Osteen, GCWA, 2502 Esther Ave., Pasadena TX 77502-3239.
- ♦ Those of us who are signed up for **Richard Raffan's** hands-on class feel that we are really fortunate to have someone of his caliber available for personal instruction.

Woodturning Tips

Honing Guides & Rust Removers

The inside edges of gouges can be difficult to hone and strop if you do not have a slip stone or strop with the correct shape. You can make a gouge-honing guide by wrapping a dowel or the appropriate diameter with 600 grit sandpaper. For stropping, simply fold a piece of leather to fit the inside of the gouge. You can also use these jigs to clean rust, corrosion, and resin build-up from the inside surface of gouges.

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

Exotic Hardwoods:

Lacewood

Common Name: Lacewood

Other Common Names:

Botanical Name: Grevillea robusta

Family: Proteaceae

Mature Tree Height, Diameter: to 150 ft , 2-4 ft

Weight @ 12% M/C: 38 lbs./ft.³

Working Properties: Rated very high in all around machinability.

Growing Regions: Coffee and tea plantations, areas in tropical and subtropical areas.

General Characteristics: Pinkish to yellow brown, texture medium to coarse, grain straight to wavy, figure is prominent on quartered faces, some people develop skin rash when working.

Uses: Joinery, furniture, parquet flooring, decorative veneers, turnery, light construction

Acceptable Substitutes: quarter-sawn White Oak

References: "Tropical Timbers of the World", USDA Handbook #607, Sept. 1984, p. 354

Discussion: Plain sawn lacewood shows the small, interconnected loops (like lace). Quarter sawn it shows large flecks of the very pronounced radial grain.



President's Corner (Continued)

(Continued from page 1)

me fighting a bad lathe with only a faceplate and no chucks. You can see that almost anywhere! Ideally you want to see me functioning as I would in my own workshop so you can pick up on my routines and quirky habits around the lathe. It's very difficult to explain the really fine points: they are easier to understand if you can see them.

"Boyce, I think I forgot to give you a cutting list for the workshops. I don't know how long I'll have each student, but we'll be making lidded bowls and end grain boxes with suction fit lids. For the lidded boxes you'll need a pair of dry well seasoned blanks from the same board 2" to 3" thick and at least 4" diameter. The project is in the Turning Wood, 2nd Edition if you have that. It's excellent for using just about every cut and technique in face work, and there is unlimited scope for design. I'll be making one in the demonstration too. The end grain box blanks would be best 2 1/2" to 3 1/2" and no more than 6" long. Dry of course. I'd suggest walnut or cherry if you have to get some commercially, but no doubt you'll have other stuff like cocobolo around. If anyone has a particular project they want to make with me looking over their shoulder, I can do that also. RR."

Richard Raffan, Woodturner

Many thanks to Thomas Irven for a great demo. Thomas is a talented individual. We can all learn a lot from him. Another reason to be a member of GCWA. See you on the 15th.

Boyce Gahagan

Thank you, **Boyce and Diana**, for inviting Richard Raffan, making all the arrangements, making countless phone calls, arranging lunch for the demonstration, providing transportation and opening your home to him during his stay.

Helen Osteen

Pool Cues Part 1

I'll give you my experience turning a pool cue in two parts (due to time) starting with the shaft. My source of supply is Atlas Billiard Supplies (800-283-7845). They will have everything you'll need although on some items there is a minimum order. One last thing about Atlas is that they are featuring high quality hard maple blanks for \$16.50 per blank.

PART I

The first thing I did was to rough out some hard maple blanks to 1" in diameter then set them a side to dry. I mounted the dried blank on the lathe -- I use a Stronghold chuck with a spur attachment. I think turning the shaft is the most difficult part of the project. At one point I used to turn a lot of pens and smaller objects that required fine tool control and that experience helped in this project. The next step is to true the shaft -- at this point the lathe is running around 1500 rpm's and I jump it up to 2000 during the finishing process.

You must use a steady rest when turning the shaft. I position the steady about 1 foot from the tail stock -- with the shaft running in my left hand (wear a glove) I true a 1" section. Stop the lathe and position the steady on the section just turned. Go back to the tailstock and work towards the steady rest turning the shaft. I have found that the skew is the best tool to use -- use the short point in a "peeling" cut. Remember the more tool surface that contacts the wood results in more vibration.

Next step is to square both ends of the shaft. I remove the spur attachment and reverse the blank and remount it in the chuck and bring the tail stock into position. The reason for reversing it is that you can true the shoulder on the tailstock end easier than the headstock -- remember the shoulder should be angled 1-3 degrees in, so the outside of the blank rests in the back of the chuck. The

shaft should be running true at this point. Position the steady rest at the tailstock end to hold the shaft firmly in place. Remove the live center and place the drill chuck in the tailstock with a .360 bit. Great care must be taken to ensure the hole is drilled on center -- the drill depth is about 1 1/4". Next mount a 7/16-14 tap in the drill chuck and tap the hole to receive the brass insert. Thread a 5/16-18 x 1/2 bolt in the insert -- now apply some glue to the threaded hole and use the bolt to thread the insert in place then back the bolt out. Thread 5/16-18 pin into the insert and reverse the shaft placing the pin in your chuck --- hopefully the shaft will be close to running true at this point. I start at the tailstock end turning the first 9" of the shaft the same diameter and working to the headstock which has a final diameter of 7/8" (remember to use the steady rest). At the headstock end I placed (2)7/8-5/8 id black plastic rings with a silver ring in the middle. Only apply finish to the first 4" of the shaft and use a piece of leather to polish the shaft. Now place the ferrule on the tip of the shaft. The ferrule I used was oversized so I could turn the ferrule to the same diameter as the end of the shaft. Finally I glued the tip in place with hot stuff and positioned the steady rest so it holding the ferrule. Reduce the lathe speed to 500 - 600 rpm's and true the tip and ferrule. You should be able to run your hand over the end of the shaft and not feel any edges. The final length of the shaft should be 29". Bingo the shaft is complete!

Check next month's newsletter for Part II.

Members Comments (Continued)

(Continued from page 2)

- ♦ blanks and I leave them kind of covered under a breeze way. ~ **Daryl Davis**
- ♦ If it is something that I hope will spalt, I cover with black plastic and keep it damp. Otherwise, coat the ends with a sealer, keep it out of the sun and hope I get to it before it cracks too badly! ~ **Kip Powers**

Classified

For Sale

Bois d'Arc (also known as Osage orange) and mesquite lumber, flooring and turning blanks. Located in Willis, Texas. Contact **Jim Sloan** at 836-890-6341, phone and fax.

Membership

Please welcome our new members who joined in August, Timothy Cukr, Ian Robson, and Maurice Stubblefield.

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

Calendar of Events

Scheduled Meetings & Events

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

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

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 ~ 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

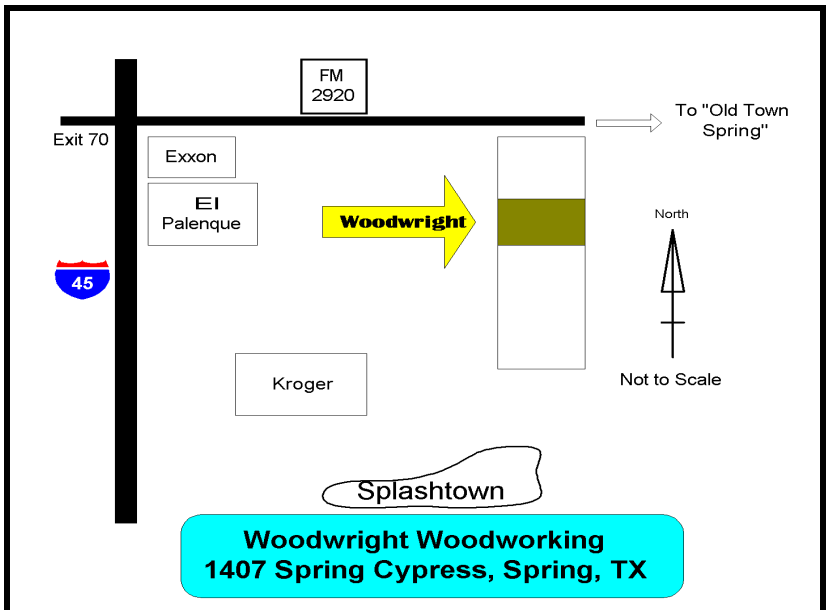
November 12, 2001 ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Boyce Gahagan ~ 20201 Fox Glen ~ 281-446-1590

November 17, 2001 ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ Woodwright Woodworking, 1407 Spring Cypress ~ 281-651-9663

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 ~ Meeting place yet to be determined.



Meeting Location This Month

September 15 ~ 9:00 AM ~ Woodwright Woodworking ~ 1407 Spring Cypress., Spring, TX 77039 ~ (281)651-9663 ~ \$35 Attendance Fee

Meeting Program

Richard Raffan Demonstration ~ A full day of woodturning techniques ~ Lunch included.

Executive Committee

President	Boyce Gahagan	281-446-1590	Boycegahagan@aol.com
Vice President	Murray Powell	713-682-2810	mpowell@wantabe.com
Treasurer	Helen Osteen	713-475-2940	helen@osteenjewelry.com
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<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>

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