

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association

GCWA Newsletter

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association



President's Corner

January 2002 Issue

GCWA Web Sites:

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

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Mr. Richard Raffan, the world renowned turner, is scheduled to visit our area in February. He is internationally acclaimed for both his turning and his teaching. Richard is a leading figure of the wood turning community. Well know for his gallery quality work, he is the author of 'Turning Projects', 'Turned Bowl Design', 'Turning Boxes' and his newly revised, 'Turning Wood', books.

He will be providing us with 6 days of nonstop learning. We will have one demonstration day and 5 days of hands-on session. The demonstration day will be February 23rd. For this event there will be a \$35.00 fee that includes lunch. This will be limited to 60 people. Sign up EARLY. The hands-on sessions will be full day events also for a fee of \$125.00 per person per day, limited to 6 participants per day. All sessions are on a first come basis. You must provide your own tools, face shield and lunch. Please request the day you would like to participate in the hands-on sessions.

Payment is required in advance with NO EXCEPTIONS. Make your check payable to GCWA and mail to Helen Osteen, 2502 Esther Ave., Pasadena, TX 77502-3237.

The schedule is as follows:

- February 23rd Demonstration at Woodwright ----- \$35.00
- February 24th Hands-On at Thomas Irven's Shop----- \$125.00
- February 25th Hands-On at The Cutting Edge ----- \$125.00

- February 26th Hands-On at Woodwright -----\$125.00
- February 27th Hands on at The Cutting Edge -----\$125.00
- February 28th Hands-On at Thomas Irven's Shop ----- \$125.00

Woodwright, 1407 Spring Cypress, Spring, Texas 77373
The Cutting Edge, 7123 Southwest Freeway, Houston Texas
Thomas Irven, 5202 Willow St, Bellaire, Texas 77401

There will be a regular meeting on February 16th at Woodwright.

Many thanks to Gary Rodgers for a great Demo at last month's meeting on making a jig for Turning chess pieces.

Boyce Gahagan



Richard Raffan

January Meeting ~ Jan. 19, 2002
American Legion Hall
3415 Aldine Mail Route
(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 **December** meeting at **The Cutting Edge** were:

Beginner Category

- 1st Place — **Rich Gredler** for a Mahogany Bowl
- 2nd Place — **D. Welch** for a Cocabolo Bowl
- 3rd Place — **D. Welch** for a Sycamore Bowl

Intermediate Category:

- 1st Place — **Paul Kendall** for Goblets and Tray of Mesquite

Advanced Category:

One Piece Turning

- 1st Place — **Bill Berry** for a Sweet Gum Vase
- 2nd Place — **Bill Hubbard** for a Hollow Vessel of Elm Burl
- 3rd Place — **Luna Ford** for a Small Box of Ash

Multiple Piece Turning:

- 1st Place — **Tom Irven** for a Box of Mesquite, Maple and Walnut
- 2nd Place — **Tom Irven** for a Box of Maple Burl and Mesquite
- 3rd Place — **Murray Powell** for an Ornament of Sycamore and Paduak

Special Awards—Ornaments

- 1st Place — **Luna Ford**
- 2nd & 3rd Place — **Bill Berry**

Special thanks to our Judges who were not identified this month.

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

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

Exotic Hardwoods: Primavera

Common Name: Primavera

Other Common Names: White Mahogany, Palo blanco, Prima vera, Cortez blanco, Duranga, San Juan

Botanical Name: *Cybistax donnell-smithii*

Family: Bignoniaceae

Mature Tree Height, Diameter: 100 ft, 2-3 ft

Weight @ 12% M/C: 30 lbs./ft.³

Working Properties: The wood is easy to work in all operations even though there may be considerable grain variation; finishes smoothly and acquires an attractive polish.

Growing Regions: Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia, and Venezuela.

General Characteristics: Color yellowish white to light yellowish brown often with darker streaks. Luster high. Odor and taste not distinct (*see discussion*). Light and soft but firm. Grain usually roey producing a conspicuous ribbon figure. Texture medium.

Uses: Furniture, cabinets, decorative veneers, and interior trim.

Acceptable Substitutes:

References: "Commercial Foreign woods on the American Market", by David A. Kribs, Dover Pub. Inc. 1968, p. 17

Discussion: This is a very attractive wood from several different aspects.

The Primavera we import is plantation grown --usually to shade young coffee plants, and is harvested when it has served its purpose. So, use of Primavera is ecologically friendly.

Primavera is one of the most beautiful of the light colored woods -- it has the deep, inner glow of Mahogany, and is frequently highly figured. Properly sanded and finished, it can be spectacular.

Now the negative side -- some peo-

ple find the smell of the wood during machining is not to their liking -- somewhat like Cottonwood. Once the machining is complete, though, there is no noticeable odor.

In the United States, around the turn of the century, Primavera was in favor for use as a decorative millwork wood in high-quality construction. We have seen examples and cannot understand why its use has not continued -- possibly supply problems.



Classified Ads

FOR SALE

►EMCO Lathe with a 16" swing; M33 X 3.5 threads on the headstock; 4 speed. Made in Austria. Originally sold by MVP Sharpeners here in Houston. - Thomas Irven, 713-666-6881, tom@thomasirven-art.com

►16" Delta Bandsaw (3 wheel) with stand, fence and miter gauge for \$200.00 (OBO). Saw is in excellent condition. Don Fluker, 281-855-8230

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

How do I prevent my wood from Splitting

By Alastair Mitchell

Why do logs split and how can it be prevented" The question I was recently asked about preventing wood in the round and or very large sections of timber, from splitting as they loose the moisture content, is one that has plagued man probably since we first started using wood.

To answer your question the quick way - it is very hard sometimes impossible, to stop a log from splitting particularly in the early stages or first few weeks when the loss of water is at its greatest.

What happens is the water evaporates faster through the end grain than it does by escaping through the cell walls and out the side of the log as though to speak.

The most common preventative procedure is to immediately coat the ends of freshly felled logs with a wax compound or heavy PVC paint - the idea is to slow down the evaporation from the end grain. In hotter drier climates logs that await milling are constantly misted with water jets to maintain high humidity.

Here in Western Australia particularly during the hot dry summer months, high grade slabs or baulks of quality green timber may be completely embalmed in thin food plastic to slow down the moisture loss and thus prevent radical splitting.

Splitting is worst during these hot dry summer months when the relative

humidity is very low outside the log and very high inside the log! Wood is hygroscopic so it will both soak up and give off water rather like a bath sponge!!

I know sculptors who work on large logs and they are constantly re sealing the log with wax/paint as they carve - literally even when they go for lunch break, it depends how hot and dry the weather is.

Where large or unsightly cracks do

appear, the sculptor/carver will ignore them during the carving process (except as stated all surfaces will be sealed at the end of work each day) then as soon as the job is finished the cracks are filled.

Probably the best remedial action to make up appropriate wedges of wood from the same log (they reserve a small section) and then drive these wedges with glue into the cracks and then cut them back to the surface.

I have seen this kind of repair work (and done this myself) and just about invisible repairs can be achieved. Other folks and where it is not so critical, i.e. large/rough/out door park sculptures, will often have the splits filled with various kinds of resins or plastic wood, putty or one of the best I have used is an appropriate car bog!! (use for filling rust patches in car bodies)

There are many good books and articles written on this subject, the American author R. Bruce Hoadley writes with great knowledge and clarity and I recommend reading him for easy to understand wood technology. Also, a very good read is "Wood and How to Dry It" which is a collection of articles from the Fine Woodworking magazine USA, The Taunton Press, ISBN 0-918804-54-X.

There are two kinds of water in a freshly felled tree - bound water which is inside the wood cell and free water which surrounds the cells. Remarkably, and I do not know the reason why! first all the bound water will leave the log and only then will the free water leave the log such that we can call it dry or seasoned.

With water escaping at different rates and in different directions (i.e. out the end grain and out through the cell walls) the competing forces literally split the wood apart. When the humidity in the air around the log (amount of water in the air!) has

reached the same amount of humidity in the log (wood moisture content) we say it has reached 'equilibrium moisture content' (EMC) and at that point the wood becomes reasonably stable and will stop splitting, warping and cracking.

By weighing wood you can tell if it has reached EMC because it will not fluctuate in weight, when it starts to get heavier again then it is reabsorbing moisture from the air and it will only stabilise when it has the same moisture content inside the wood as to outside the wood.

When I lived and worked as a studio wood turner in Ireland and used to turn Bog Oak that was literally soaking wet and thousands of years submerged in the tannin bogs, I would rapidly put the chunks and pieces into wet Hessian sacks and re-bury the wood in 'drier' ground. It would take me 3 to 5 years to dry the wood out slowly underground thus minimizing the amount of splitting although warping still happened.

I hope this has been of some help in explaining what is happening and how to minimize the effect of log splitting.

For more information about this topic or article, email Alastair (alastair@arbortech.com.au)

Warmest regards

Alyson

<http://www.arbortech.com.au/woodmain.html>

Membership

We had three new member to join in December. Welcome to

Carol Medina, Wes Smith and Fog Tanner

Letter From Kip Powers

This isn't a question, but we have successfully formed a club here {Northwest Arkansas - ed.} (17 paid members to date) and are applying for AAW Local Chapter status. There's a distinct GCWA influence: **Tricia DeBose** is our Secretary-Treasurer, **Larry Thurston** our Librarian and I'm the President. Also, one of our members, **Craig Young**, is a good friend of **Tom Irven** who referred him to us. A number of the things that we're doing are based on successful practices of the GCWA which I have "stolen with pride".

Merry Christmas to you and all the guys down there!
Kip

Club News and Announcements

◆ **Luna Ford, Thomas Irven**, probably **Don Fluker**, and **Greg Gonzalves**, and maybe **Don Philpot** will be demonstrating at the **Houston Arboretum** on January 19, 2002.

◆ Most of the members will remember, two years ago, when the club used its buying power to purchase a large quantity of end grain sealer with each participant only paying for a smaller quantity that he or she needed. This was a very successful venture managed by **Murray Powell** and **Frank Massaro**. Is there a need or desire to repeat this project? If so, the sealer can be purchased for as little as \$5.00 a gallon including shipping if a 55 gallon drum is ordered. If you are interested please contact a member of the executive committee or send email to **Mack DeBose**, Imdebose@swbell.net, or **Helen**, helen@osteenjewelery.com. There will be a sign-up form at the monthly meeting where you can indicate your preferences. If there is enough interest to split a full drum we will collect the money prior to ordering. Any excess funds collected over the actual costs will be added to the Club Treasury.



Woodturning Tips

Small Turning Tools

Occasionally the need arises for very small turning tools, often times with a 90° or 45° bend at the tip for working inside hollow vessels. Commercial availability is limited and pricing is often unjustifiable. The obvious solution is to make your own. In order to hold a sharp edge these homemade tools need to be either made from hardened steel or subjected to a heat treating process. One simple approach is to make the tools from long shank hexagon key wrenches (Allen wrenches). These wrenches are tough, hardened, readily available in many sizes and cheap. They come with a ready made 90° bend which can be opened up to 45° or 60° with the careful application of heat and force. While an abrasive cutoff wheel is desirable, good results can be obtained with a bench grinder while exercising care to preserve the heat treatment by not overheating. Shaping the cutting edge can be done by trial and error until the desired cutting or scraping action is obtained. Handles, also are custom designed and turned for the specific application.

◆ Realizing that some of our members make a portion of their livelihood from selling tools and supplies to other members, we would like to offer an explanation as to why the Club participates in group purchases such as the preceding example. One of the benefits from belonging to a Club such as ours is the capability of joining into group activities such as our annual Retreat. A group purchase can be seen as a similar activity that provides a rare, economic opportunity that probably would not exist on an individual basis. As such, it is not contributing to a lost local sale.

Thank You Note From Andy Chen

I would like to say a big thanks to our club members, especially to By Reed, who turned the beautiful sycamore platter for my going away present that was given to me at the December meeting.

I literally walked into GCWA almost 8 years ago. I had some business to take care of that took me much less time than expected one Saturday morning back in April, 1994. It was too early to go to Chinatown for lunch. I told my wife that there was a new tool shop that just opened up at the corner of Bellaire and US 59. So we went to check it out and saw all these weird people in there. I asked whom I later learned was Terri LeGrue what was going on and was told that GCWA was having their monthly meeting. Thus began my fun association with this group of terrific people.

I had been woodworking for many years before then and just dabbling in turning occasionally on a ShopSmith. This association with GCWA really opened my eyes. I have learned so much over the years from so many people. (I am not going to mention names because I know I will leave out a couple and make them unhappy.) The most wonderful thing about these turners is that everybody is so generous about sharing their knowledge and resources. I have become a more competent turner by learning from you folks. No longer is every tool a scraper of different shape. Neither do I turn with 40 grit scraper (^_~) any more.

I will certainly miss you guys and gals when I move to Kerrville. However, since my wife doesn't want to move Kerrville, at least temporarily, I'll probably be coming to meetings on weekends I am back in College Station. So, maybe I'll be collecting more going away presents.

Andy Chen

Calendar of Events

Scheduled Meetings & Events

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

January 19, 2002 ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ American Legion Hall ~ 3415 Aldine Mail Rt., Houston, TX ~ (281) 442-7802

January 19, 2002 ~ Arbor Day Celebration ~ 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM ~ Houston Arboretum & Nature Center ~ 713-681-8433

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

February 11, 2002 ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Boyce Gahagan ~ 20201 Fox Glen ~ 281-446-1590

February 16, 2002 ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ Woodwright Woodworking, 1407 Spring Cypress ~ 281-651-9663

February 23, 2002 ~ Richard Raffan Demonstration ~ 9:00 AM ~ Woodwright Woodworking, 1407 Spring Cypress ~ 281-651-9663.

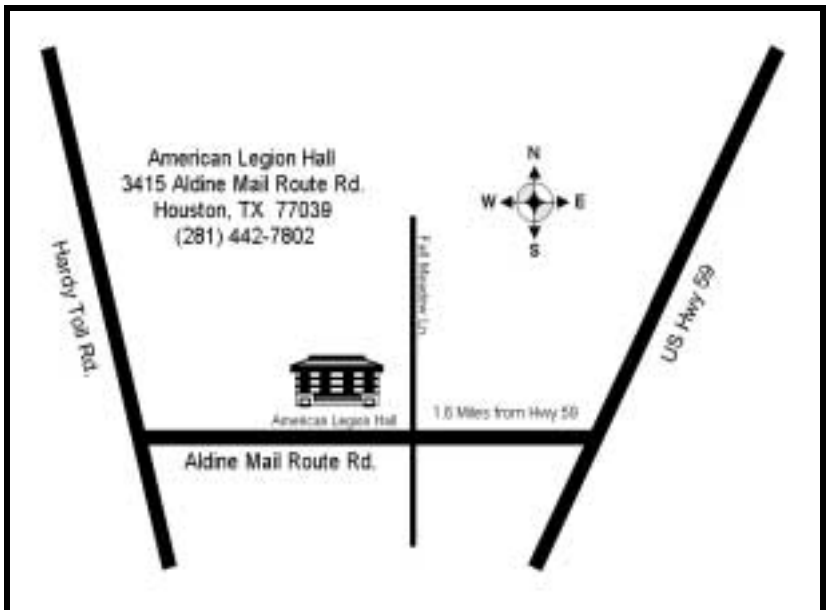
February 24 & 28, 2002 ~ Richard Raffan Hands-On Sessions ~ Thomas Irven's Shop, 5202 Willow St., Bellaire, TX ~ 713-666-6881.

February 25 & 27, 2002 ~ Richard Raffan Hands-On Sessions ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy. ~ 713-981-9228.

February 26, 2002 ~ Richard Raffan Hands-On Session ~ Woodwright Woodworking, 1407 Spring Cypress ~ 281-651-9663.

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

March 11, 2002 ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM



Meeting Location This Month

January 19 ~ 9:00 AM ~ American Legion Hall ~3415 Aldine Mail Route ~ Houston, TX ~ (281) 442-7802

Meeting Program

Paul Kendall will be demonstrating the turning of plates.

Executive Committee

President	Boyce Gahagan	(281) 446-1590	Boycegahagan@aol.com
Vice President	By Reed	(281) 980-9793	fun@neosoft.com
Treasurer	Helen Young	(713) 475-2940	helen@osteenjewelry.com
Past President	Thomas Irven	(713) 666-6881	trirven@academicplanet.com
Board Member	Marty Kaminsky	(281) 339-329	martykami@aol.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

Email: gcwa@jalepeno.com &
lmdebose@swbell.net
<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>
Boyce Gahagan: <http://bgpenandtoolsupply.com>

GCWA Web Sites:

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

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



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