



Gulf Coast Woodturners Association

# GCWA Newsletter

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association



## President's Corner

We had a great turnout at Hardwood Lumber for the September meeting. We could not have asked for better weather. I want to thank Hardwood Lumber for having us. The new building has a lot of space and the selection of wood gets better every time I go there.

We had a little scare with one of our members, **Jack Hanley**. Thank goodness everything is OK. We were worried about him, but it looks like it was not anything too serious. I especially would like to thank the members who did everything to watch over him. I also want to recognize one of our first time attendees, **Retta Thomas**. Retta is a nurse and was very helpful with Jack. I am sure I am not alone in expressing my gratitude for her assistance. I hope to see her again at more meetings.

For those of you who are planning to attend the Texas Turn or Two, the time is here. By the time you read this, TTT 2002 will be taking place. It is a long way this year, Wichita Falls. It is always worth the effort though. I have not been able to attend in several years due to work commitments, this year is no exception. However, if I was able to go I would not hesitate. The Texas Turn or Two is a very significant event in the Texas woodturning calendar. It is one of the best symposiums in this part of the country. We are fortunate to have such an active group of AWA chapters in Texas. For those of you that have never been, I would like to encourage you to try to attend. If not this year then next year. Many people work very hard to make it a success. I especially would like to recognize **Pat and Butch**

**Titus** for the effort they have put into it over the years. They are a great asset to the Texas woodturning community.

Our meeting this month will be at the Houston Center for Contemporary Crafts. We have not met there before. They have a nice facility.

Do not forget that we have been invited to attend the Houston Woodworkers Club annual picnic after the meeting. It will be on the southwest side of town. Directions will be available for those who would like to attend. This is a great chance to spend time with the members of one of our sister organizations in Houston. It is also a good opportunity to test the power of your belt sanders. I have seen belt sander races on television but never in person.

Happy turning... Ernie Bahr

## Presentations & Demonstrations

Marty Kaminsky – Program Chairman

Whining seems to work. Maybe it was the tears. Arm twisting perhaps? Hard to say. Whatever it was that influenced them, I got another fine batch of volunteers as demonstrators for this month's meeting.

What's the most important turning skill? Spindle work? Bowl gouge technique? Oh, I know – it must be the use of skew chisels. Nope; not even close. It's sharpening. If you don't start with properly sharpened tools, you'll never get where you want to go as a turner. In the 9 to 10 AM hands-on sessions at our upcoming meeting, **By Read** will show you how to sharpen your lathe cutting tools: scrapers, chisels, and gouges. Bring your tools and he will help you sharpen them properly.

(Continued on page 4)

## October 2002 Issue

GCWA Web Sites:  
[Http://www.gulfcoast-woodturners.org](http://www.gulfcoast-woodturners.org)  
[Http://go.to/gcwa](http://go.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 Osteen, 2502 Esther Ave., Pasadena, TX 77502-3239. Make your check payable to GCWA or Gulf Coast Woodturners Assn.**

### October Meeting

October 19, 2002  
Houston Center for Contemporary Crafts  
4848 Main, Houston, TX  
(713) 529-4848

## Waxes for Woodturners - Part I

Continued from September 2002 Issue

By Steven Russell

### Newly finished Surfaces

Wipe the surface with a soft cloth to remove any dust or buffing compound residue. Waxes can be applied over virtually any finish, but the finish should be fully cured before applying the wax. If the finish used was water-based, care should be taken to choose a wax with a mild solvent such as white spirit or mineral spirits, rather than a harsher solvent like toluene, which might damage the finish.

### Previously waxed or finished surfaces

If the surface is clean, you can simply re-apply the wax by the method of choice. The solvent in the wax will act as a mild cleaner and any residual surface wax will be incorporated with the newly added wax. If the surface is soiled, it should be cleaned thoroughly with a soft cotton cloth, saturated in a solvent such as naphtha or white spirit prior to application of the wax. If the surface is heavily soiled, a No. 0000 wire wool pad can be used with the solvent wash instead of a cloth. Once the solvent has dried, fresh wax can be applied.

### Hand Application

#### Rubbers

The easiest and most effective way to apply paste or semi-liquid waxes by hand is to use a cotton rubber. To make a cloth wax rubber, obtain a 130-150mm (5-6in) section of 100% soft cotton cloth - polishing cloths or clean old T-shirts are ideal. Do not use cloths that are blended with man-made fibres, or incorporate the sewn edge of the cloth on the application face of your rubber, because synthetic fibers can scratch the surfaces of many finishes.

To use the rubber, place a small lump of paste wax into the middle of the cloth. Grasp the edges of the cloth and twist to form a small ball around the lump of wax. Secure with string. Gently knead the cloth until the wax begins to migrate onto the surface of the cloth. To apply the wax, simply wipe the face of the rubber across the surface of the item. Periodically, you may need to squeeze the rubber to ensure the wax continues to migrate through the cloth.



Brushes can also be used to apply and buff most paste waxes. At the bottom is a stiff artist's brush and at the top is a natural bristle and leather brush combination that is made in Australia specifically for applying waxes.

Apply only a very light coating of wax onto the item. On larger pieces apply the wax in small overlapping circles to ensure a uniform coating of wax. When the solvent in the wax flashes off, it will turn hazy or dull in appearance and is ready to buff.



To remove wax from finished surfaces, naphtha, mineral spirits and white spirits can be used.

If the wax is buffed before the solvent has fully flashed off - the time will vary between products - the buffing procedure may remove the wax from the surface. When the wax is ready to be buffed, use a soft cotton cloth/pad, lamb's wool pad, natural bristle brush or a soft kitchen paper towel to buff the surface, raise the luster and remove any excess wax. Do not wait too long to buff the wax after the solvent has flashed off, or it may be difficult to fully remove the excess. If you experience difficulty in buffing, reapply the wax with the cotton rubber, or remove the wax with a solvent and re-apply. A second coating of wax applied after the first coat has been buffed will generally improve the overall luster level and ensure a more uniform reflective appearance.



Using a cloth saturated with naphtha to remove the wax finish from silver maple salad bowl

NOTE: Although the majority of waxes require you to wait for the solvent to flash off before buffing, some microcrystalline specialty waxes, such as ArborTech's Arborwax, recommend buffing immediately after application, before the white spirit solvent has flashed off.



Small, natural bristle artist's brushes are ideal for applying and polishing waxes on carved and textured surfaces

### Buffing

The term 'buffing' used throughout this article refers to buffing a waxed surface to raise the luster, not buffing the surface with cutting compound

### Kitchen papers

Wax may be applied with top-quality kitchen papers instead of a cloth rubber. In this case, use a small brush to load - very sparingly - the wax on a small folded section of the paper towel. Cheap paper towels may contain small amounts of abrasive particles.



Applying liming wax with kitchen paper to a turned magnolia bowl

(Continued on page 3)

## Woodturning Tips

### Magnetic Base Trays

One of the more useful gadgets to be found at the Chinese import tool houses is the magnetic base metal tray. It is about 6" in diameter, chrome plated, with a large magnet impregnated plastic ring on the bottom. It is usually priced between \$3.00 and \$5.00.

It can be used to hold Allen wrenches, drill chuck keys, diamond hones, sandpaper, chuck jaws, screws, etc. that are in constant use while turning on a lathe. Best of all it can be stuck anywhere on the lathe that will allow it to sit reasonably flat. It can be readily moved from one location to another.

How many times have you dropped a chuck jaw screw into the dust and turnings while changing jaws? Place the tray under the chuck and chances are the dropped screw will land in it and stay put.

Insert type cutting tools are always somewhat of a problem to keep up with due to their small size. Once placed in the magnetic tray they are not going anywhere and you know right where they are.

## Mentor Program

By Boyce Gahagan

Definition of a mentor: a wise and trusted teacher.

We have a plethora of teachers in our organization. We would now like to share that wealth of knowledge. We will be listing a group of volunteers with their phone numbers so that members may contact them with questions concerning wood turning. This is an excellent opportunity for expansion and growth for all concerned. The program has the potential to benefit each and every one of us.

As with all things that are of this caliber, they are precious and should be treated that way. We must all realize that we have a very large club. The time factor must be made notice of. We must use this precious commodity with the greatest of care.

Mentor program volunteers:

|                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Jim Keller</b>     | <b>By Reed</b>       |
| <b>Bill Berry</b>     | <b>Diana Gahagan</b> |
| <b>Marty Kaminsky</b> | <b>Ernie Bahr</b>    |
| <b>Luna Ford</b>      | <b>Brian Laing</b>   |

If you would like to have one of these individuals talk with you about a particular piece, feel free to bring it to the meeting so you may have a one on one discussion.

## Waxes for Woodturners - Part 1 (Continued)

(Continued from page 2)

### Brushes

Natural bristle brushes are excellent for applying paste and semi-liquid waxes to carved or textured surfaces. The bristles allow the wax to be applied onto the tiny areas with ease. Unless a separate brush is available for buffing, the brush used for applying the wax should be thoroughly cleaned in a solvent and allowed to dry before buffing the wax.

Hand-held brushes work well for small areas, but when buffing larger areas various styles of powered brushes are available. These are secured into a standard Jacob's chuck and used in handheld drills and drill presses, via the exposed section of the spindle. They perform very well on carved and textured surfaces and can be mounted on drill extensions to reach into limited-access areas. As with cloth buffing wheels, separate brushes should be maintained for light- and dark- colored waxes to prevent cross-contamination.

~ Part II at a future date ~

## Classified Ads

### FOR SALE

Complete hollow turning tool set. As seen and used at GCWA Spring retreat - \$80. Handle only - \$40. Contact **Bill Berry** at (281) 479-8073

6" x 48" Belt w/9" Disk Sander with Steel Stand - \$100 - Contact **Jim Keller** at (281) 438-1171

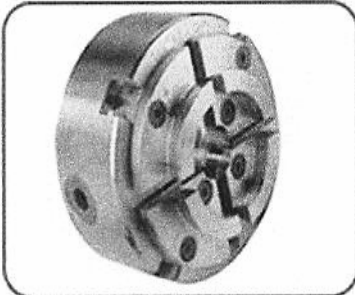
Cherry lumber suitable for bowl blanks or re-sawing to lumber. \$1.25 / bdft - Contact **Carl Blair** at (713) 946-6344

Campbell Hausfeld Portable Air Compressor; 2HP, 4 GAL Twin Tank Contractor Series Model. Purchased new 3 years ago for \$247; sell for \$75. Contact: **Dale Barrack**, 281-358-8529

## Membership

We had no new members to join in September.

## BOYCE GAHAGAN PEN AND TOOL SUPPLIES



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Website: [bgpenandtoolsupplies.com](http://bgpenandtoolsupplies.com)

Boyce Gahagan 20201 Fox Glen Humble, Tx 77338

281-446-1590

## Show & Tell

Winners at the **September** meeting held at **The Hardwood Lumber Company** were:

### Beginner Category

1st Place — **Greg Gonsalves** for a Hollow Bottle of Elm.

2nd Place — **Brett Boley** for a Square Bowl of Cocobolo.

3rd Place — **Jeff Thomas** for a Lidded Vessel of Padauk

### Intermediate Category:

1st Place — **Bill Metzger** for a Mesquite Box

2nd Place — **Janice Levi** for a Mesquite Natural Edge Vase

3rd Place — **Mike Moore** for a Red Oak Spalted Bowl

### Advanced Category:

#### One Piece Turning

1st Place — **Jim Keller** for a Donut Form of Mesquite

2nd Place — **Don Fluker** for a Natural Edge Hollow Form of Cedar Elm

3rd Place — **Ric Taylor** for a Buck-eye Hollow Form

#### Mixed Media Turning:

1st Place — **Tom Irven** for a Threaded Acorn of Boxwood & African Blackwood

2nd Place — **Luna Ford** for a Segmented Hollow Form of Hickory & Walnut

3rd Place — **Jerry Bennett** for a carved Vase of Maple Burl & Walnut

Special thanks to our Judges;

**Marty Kaminsky** and  
**Steve Russell**

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

## Presentations & Demonstrations - (Continued)

*(Continued from page 1)*

Rumor has it that **By** may demonstrate chucking at a future meeting. I can't tell you how much I appreciate the willingness of many of you to help with our demonstrations – there really hasn't been much arm-twisting necessary. I also appreciate suggestions from members; chucking, in fact, was requested by a member.

Later in the October meeting, **Bill Berry**, our hollow turning instructor from the retreat and maker of exceptional boring bar hollow turning rigs, will demonstrate his tools and methods for us. If you haven't

tried, or perhaps have not even seen hollow turning, this is a demo not to be missed.

I want to thank last month's demonstrators, **Luna Ford**, who gave hands-on instruction in the use of spindle gouges, and **Tom Irven** for his demonstration of the Escoulen eccentric chuck. I also owe **Diana Gahagan** thanks for demonstrating the use of scrapers in August (and an apology for omitting her from last month's column).

**This will be your last newsletter if your membership dues expired on August 31, 2002.**

## Club News and Announcements

◆ **Bruce Dolen**, our Vice President and Webmaster, has agreed to provide space on his Internet Server for members to store pictures of their turnings. He asked that those members desiring to take advantage of this to comply with a few simple rules: 1) send him your digital photos via email, 2) describe each item displayed including material, 3) include a brief biography of yourself, 4) include contact information, 5) include links to other web pages/

sites displaying your work, 6) include pricing if applicable. This will provide consistency and allow him to provide an attractive and meaningful website for each participant.

◆ This month's meeting was originally scheduled to be held at Woodcraft but, due to some miscommunication within the store, the location had to be changed. We are fortunate in having **By Reed** in charge of this who follows up and makes sure that we have a place to meet in spite of such difficulties.



## DADWOOD OF TEXAS



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# Calendar of Events

## Scheduled Meetings & Events

**October 14, 2002** ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Ernie Bahr's Home~ 2610 Easy St, Pasadena TX ~ (713) 534-0559

**October 12 & 13, 2002** ~ Texas Turn or Two at Wichita Falls, TX

**October 19, 2002** ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ Houston Center for Contemporary Crafts ~ 4848 Main ~ (713) 529-4848

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

**November 11, 2002** ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Ernie Bahr's Home~ 2610 Easy St, Pasadena TX ~ (713) 534-0559

**November 16, 2002** ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., ~ 713-981-9228

**December 2, 2002** ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., ~ 713-981-9228

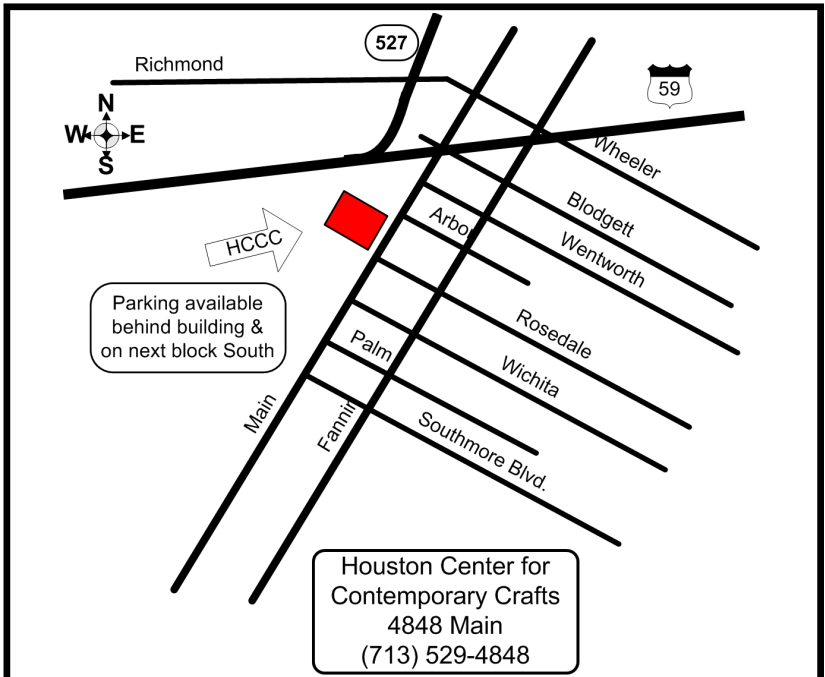
**December 16, 2002** ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Ernie Bahr's Home~ 2610 Easy St, Pasadena TX ~ (713) 534-0559

**December 21, 2002** ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ Woodwright Woodworking ~ 1407 Spring Cypress ~ Spring, TX ~ (281) 651-9663

**January 6, 2003** ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., ~ 713-981-9228

**January 13, 2003** ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Ernie Bahr's Home~ 2610 Easy St, Pasadena TX ~ (713) 534-0559

**January 18, 2003** ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ Houston Center for Contemporary Crafts ~ 4848 Main ~ (713) 529-4848



## Meeting Location This Month

**October 19 ~ 9:00 AM ~ Houston Center for Contemporary Crafts ~ 4848 Main ~ Houston, Tx ~ (713) 529-4848**

## Meeting Program

***By Reed will demonstrate Sharpening of Turning Tools.  
Bill Berry will demonstrate Hollow Vessel Turning with Deep Boring Rig.***

## Executive Committee

|                          |                |                |                         |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| President                | Ernie Bahr     | (713) 534-0559 | ernie@jalepeno.com      |
| Vice President/Webmaster | Bruce Dolen    | (713) 787-6962 | bdolen@tydemandolen.com |
| Treasurer                | Helen Osteen   | (713) 475-2940 | helen@osteenjewelry.com |
| Past President           | Boyce Gahagan  | (281) 446-1590 | Boycegahagan@aol.com    |
| Board Member             | Marty Kaminsky | (281) 339-3297 | martykami@aol.com       |
| Board Member             | Brian Laing    | (281) 580-5381 | blaing@hia.net          |
| Board Member             | Carl Blair     | (713) 946-6344 | cblair@orbitworld.net   |
| Board Member             | Janice Levi    | (713) 475-2308 | tjlevi@swbell.net       |
| Board Member/Librarian   | Tom Enloe      | (281) 580-1905 | tomenloe@sbcglobal.net  |
| Newsletter Editor        | Mack DeBose    | (281) 537-1814 | Lmdebose@swbell.net     |

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[lmdebose@swbell.net](mailto:lmdebose@swbell.net)  
<http://www.gulfcoastwoodturners.org>  
<http://go.to/gcwa>

Program Chairman  
Marty Kaminsky

## 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://bgpenandtoolsupplies.com>

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Association