

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association

GCWA Newsletter

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association



President's Corner

May 2002 Issue

GCWA Web Sites:

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

We have an outstanding line up for the Retreat this year. If you have not registered yet, do it now! For beginners we have four instructors to help you get started in the right direction. You can make whatever you want to in this session. There will be 4 rotations, two each day. Learn sharpening, tool control, safety and just plain have fun.

We have something for everyone at the Retreat. All of the instructors are unique in their own way. You can learn from all of them, each will have valuable information you can take home and practice, practice, practice.

There will also be several demonstrations this year as well. **Bill Berry** is our retreat educational director. He will have a rotation sheet elsewhere in the newsletter.

We have exceptional raffle items this year. For starters we have several turned items by **Richard Raffan**. You should be able to view these items on our website right now. Two Jet 8" grinders, two 2 speed grinders, one air filtration system, one power visor, eight Richard Raffan turning tools by Henry Taylor, two long live centers, one 3/4 drill chuck, one 1/2 drill chuck, \$200.00 in gift certificates, one **David Ellsworth** video on hollow turning, plus several other items that are not in as of this writing.

Don't forget all that great food we serve for breakfast and lunch!

NEW MENTOR PROGRAM

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. We will be acquiring volunteers at our next meeting.

The **Houston Wood Carvers Association** has invited us to participate with them at a demonstration/sale event. This will allow people to show the public how items are made and to be able to sell them at the same time. A rare opportunity. The event called Traders Day will be held October 6th. More details to follow in future newsletters.

The **University of Houston Architecture Shop** has asked us to participate in a work shop, August 30 to September 13. The Best of the Best will be shown in the archives and we can set up for turning demonstrations on September 7th.

I have been communicating with **Richard Raffan** on a regular basis. He enjoyed his visit to Texas and has accepted our offer to return. We will be planning another demonstration and hands-on session for sometime in 2003. Be prepared to clear your schedules NOW, you don't want to miss this rare opportunity.

We all enjoyed the new building at **Hardwood Lumber** for our April Meeting. Cross ventilation and fans made a huge difference. Show and tell was in-

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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.

**May Meeting ~ May 18, 2002
VI Annual Spring Retreat
Montgomery County Fairgrounds
Conroe, TX**

Club News and Announcements

◆ The Club Officers election is over. The officers chosen are as follows: President—**Ernie Bahr**, Vice-President—**Bruce Dolen**, Treasurer—**Helen Osteen**, Board Members—**Marty Kaminsky, Janice Levi, Carl Blair, Brian Laing, and Tom Enloe**. The new officers will be introduced at the Spring Retreat.

◆ The Sixth Annual GCWA Spring Retreat is next weekend. The registration fee is \$40 if you pay in advance. Otherwise it is \$45 at the door. In addition you must be current with your membership dues. The registration fee includes breakfast, lunch and refreshments throughout the weekend. The fun, fellowship, food, and knowledge gained is well worth the cost.

Woodturning Tips

Lighting for Turning

By: Mack DeBose

Good lighting properly directed seems to always be a problem when turning. Here is one solution.

Harbor Freight sells an incandescent lamp with a magnetic base and articulated stem for about \$7. The problem is that there are not many places on a lathe that it can be mounted where it won't be in the way.

Make a floor stand by using two 1/2" or 3/4" floor flanges and a piece of pipe the proper length to connect them so that the light will be at the height best for you. Turn a pedestal base approximately 8" to 10" diameter. I used a scrap piece of 2" x 10" yellow pine. It works best to dish out the bottom like an upside down bowl and just leave a 1/2" wide rim for the

President's Corner - Continued

(Continued from page 1)

interesting as always. **Jim Keller** and **Dale Barrack** gave us some insights and guidelines on judging.

Design: Does the project have good form, is it pleasing to the eye? Does it have clean lines? Does it have good proportion? Does the wood selection complement the design?

Workmanship: Is the project free of tool marks and sanding scratches? Is it free of crushed fibers? Is it smooth to the touch and free of undulations? If a closed form, is the inside smooth? Is the bottom finished?

Finish: Has a finish been applied? Is the finish smooth? Has it been buffed?

These were discussed along with one important comment from Jim. Since Jim is selling his items he does have more knowledge of how the market works than some of us.

His comment: "Turn what you think looks good. Listen to the helpful hints. But remember to keep your own sense of style."

Don Fluker showed how easy he can make it look to turn a Christmas ornament.

If you missed all of this remember you can take advantage of Retreat.

Set up will be Friday at 3:30 P.M. and as a reminder, EVERYONE must bring face shields, tools, chucks, lathe accessories, extension cords, portable lights, wood, turned items for the gallery. HAVE EVERYTHING LABELED and be ready to have a really great time.

We all wish **Luna Ford**, **Bill Hubbard** and **Doug Davis** speedy recoveries.

I will see you at Retreat,
Boyce Gahagan

Membership

We had eleven new members to join in April. Welcome to:

Rick Barnes, Roger Chism, Ron Dean, Paul Fannin, Asim Farooq, Randall L Hassig, Dick Laxton, Sylvia Lucas, Marla Maudlin, Al Morrow, and Mike Sullivan, Sr.

pedestal to sit on the floor. I used a coping saw to cut out sections of the rim to leave 4 feet so as to allow for an uneven floor. Mount one of the floor flanges to the top of the pedestal. The magnetic base of the lamp will attach to the other floor flange.

This lamp can be easily positioned wherever it will do the most good and not get in the way of turning.

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

Classified Ads

FOR SALE

Lathe for sale: Myford Model ML8 with bed extension and variable speed. Asking price: \$1100.00. Thomas Irven, 713-666-6881, tom@thomasirven-art.com

Craftsman 15" Lathe, 2 HP variable speed DC drive 400 to 2000 RPM, 38" between centers, cast steel bed, direct geared drive headstock, integral spindle indexing, headstock rotates 90°, #2MT spindle and tailstock, 1"-8 spindle nose, outboard turning attachment w/'S' type tool rest, 6" & 12" tool rests, live center, spur center, spare parts including control circuit board, spindle bearings, complete headstock w/drive, 120v. \$300. Purchased new in 2000. Mack DeBose, Imdebosc@swbell.net 281-444-7993

Show & Tell

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

Beginner Category

- 1st Place — **Joe Cook** for a Pecan Bowl
2nd Place — **Carol Medina** for a Spalted Oak Bowl
3rd Place — **Ron Day** for an Art Form of Unknown Wood

Intermediate Category:

- 1st Place — **Grady Whiddon** for a Bois d'Arc Bowl
2nd Place — **Dave Greenawalt** for Hickory Bowl
3rd Place — **Bill Lewis** for a Lidded Vessel of Walnut

Advanced Category:

One Piece Turning

- 1st Place — **Jeff Schrader** for a Platter from Imbuya Burl
2nd Place — **Marty Kaminsky** for a Mahogany Plate
3rd Place — **Murray Powell** for a Vessel of Oak?

Multiple Piece Turning:

- 1st Place — **Don Philpott** for an Urn of Pin Oak and Oak Root
2nd Place — **Murray Powell** for a Dyed Sycamore Vessel w/ Corian Stand
3rd Place — **Andy Box** for a Segmented Bowl of Walnut & Oak

Special Award — **Sugimoto** for an Ice Cream Bowl of Cedar

Best of Show — **Jeff Schrader** for a Vessel of Arariba

Special thanks to our Judges;
Diana Gahagan and **Dale Barrack**

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: Billy Webb

Common Name: Billy Webb

Other Common Names: Chichipate

Botanical Name: Sweetia nitens

Family: Leguminosae

Mature Tree Height, Diameter: ? ft, ? ft

Weight @ 12% M/C: 56-69 lbs./ft.³

Working Properties: Rather difficult to work, but takes a smooth finish.

Growing Regions: Central and South America

General Characteristics: Color light brown with olive cast, uniform or with darker streaks and golden luster. Odor and taste not distinct. Hard and heavy. Grain mostly roey. Texture fine.

Uses: Teak substitute, heavy construction, handles, and flooring.

Acceptable Substitutes:

References: "Commercial Foreign woods on the American Market", David A. Kribs, Dover Pub. Inc. 1968, p. 101.

Discussion: Billy Webb looks much like Teak, and has many of the

weathering properties of teak, but it doesn't have the silica which makes teak so difficult to machine. While we wouldn't use it for open-water boats, it is a good substitute for many exterior uses.



DADWOOD OF TEXAS



Daryl Davis — Owner

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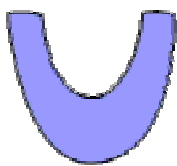
WWW.DADWOOD.COM

Bowl Gouges - The Story of the Superflute - Part 1

A personal view by Roy Child

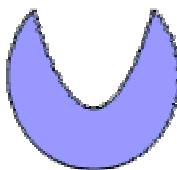
Ask ten turners what a bowl gouge should be like - style of grind, shape of handle - whatever and you will get twelve different answers. This confuses beginners and makes a fool out of any egotist wanting to lay down woodturning dogma. To me this is part of the fun and is what makes my personal view as valid as anyone else's.

Ever since I was in my teens I was interested in the design of gouges and the steel from which they are wrought. I used to come back from school and rough out a few green elm bowls maybe twenty, to earn my supper and pocket money. It was hard work and differences in the shapes and the quality of the steel used in the different bowl gouges I used were very noticeable.



In those days (1966) gouges were all forged by hand and came in all shapes and sizes. They were all carbon steel as HSS gouges were not yet available. They had to be reground often and I used up quite a few. This is a typical section of a carbon steel forged gouge.

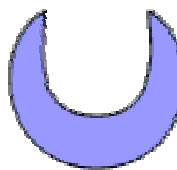
I began to experiment with a view to making the gouge last longer between sharpenings and also cut better. I epoxy glued some high speed steel tool bits into steel shafts and ground them to various flute shapes by hand with a cutting disc.



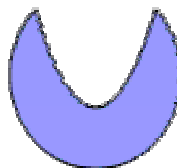
Some years later I returned from a brief career with the Marconi Company and did some serious experimentation with gouge shapes. This is the flute section I came up with. It worked really well for me. It has a large radius at the sides blending into a small radius at the bottom of the flute. I had a good friend with an engineering business and he was able to mill out some gouges to my design from round section material. The idea of milling gouges out of the round instead of forging was new at the time - at least it was to me. I used some Government surplus carbon steel which kept a wonderful edge. I have no idea what the analysis of the steel was to this day - it was sold to me as "tool steel". The gouges were taken to a heat treatment specialist in Harlow, Essex to be induction hardened. It was fascinating to see the process. The gouges were suspended in the middle of a coil protruding from one end of a huge box the size of a bus. Inside the box were enormous glass valves generating the radio frequency power which, within a couple of seconds made the flute end of the gouge glow bright cherry red. The clamp holding the gouge was precisely controlled by a timer so that the gouge was released the moment it reached the correct temperature and it was allowed to plunge vertically into a

tank of quenching liquid - soluble oil and water I think. Every gouge was hardened just right and then tempered. The next job was to take them home and clean them up and sharpen them ready for sale - we sold hundreds by mail order ("we" being Peter Child & Son). I still have a few left. Once the rust is cleaned off they keep a good edge and perform almost as well as high speed steel.

We soon progressed and made a few in high speed steel but at this point Henry Taylor Tools came into the picture. They asked to make the design in Sheffield from M2 high speed steel and they called it the "Superflute". Only Barry Martin could think of that name - something to do with keeping B sharp! The name of course has stuck and these gouges have been made in thousands ever since.



Shortly after the Superflute was launched quite a few gouges with a flute section like this came onto the market. It has two straight side walls with a single radius at the bottom. Soon the old forged gouges were forgotten and the shape on the left became the "traditional" shape and the Superflute was the alternative section. Now everyone makes gouges by milling them out of round section material.



So what's good about the superflute shape shown here on the left? The idea is that the large radius at the side of the flute cuts like a large gouge (say a 1/2" gouge) but if you twist it a little and cut with the small radius at the the bottom of the flute you get the same cut as you would with a small gouge (say a 1/4" gouge). As the large radius blends gradually into the small radius you can, at will, vary the radius of that bit of the edge which is in contact with the wood. You have more control over the cutting than you would have with a traditional gouge and you can achieve a higher standard of finish. The small radius at the bottom of the flute stabilizes a full cut too. This makes the gouge easier to control when hollowing a bowl and easier to control at the difficult entry point at the edge of the bowl where the bevel is initially rubbing on fresh air.

To Be Continued Next Month with Part 2

Saturday Session

	Hands On Help	Demo Area 1	Demo Area 2	Hands On 1	Hands On 2	Hands On 3	Hands On 4
9:00		Stacy hager	Murray Powell	Bruno Wesolek	Don Fluker	Bill Berry	Diana Gahagan
10:25		Making and Using	Hollow Ornaments	Using the	Turning	Hollow	Turning
10:35	* Greg Gonsalves	Traditional European	Lyman Frugia	Skew	Inside/Outside	Turning	Spinning
12:00	* Don Philpott	Spindle Tools	Turning Minatures		Ornaments	Wood will be furnished	Tops

Lunch and Slide Presentation

1:00		Tom Enloe	Murray Powell	Bill Berry	Thomas Iven	Brian Laing	By Reed
2:25	* Don Fluker	Beyond In/Out Ornaments	Hollow Ornaments	Turning	Lidded	Bowl	Turning
2:35	* Greg Gonsalves	Dave Greenawalt	Emie Bahr	Natural Edge	Boxes	Turning	Craft
4:00	* Don Philpott	Turning Boxes	Turning Thimbles	Bowls			Projects

Hands on Help - For Beginning turners. In this area there are lathes and Instructors with no planned structure.

The Instructors in this area will give guidance on safety, proper tool usage and techniques.

* These instructors will be available from 9:00 AM to 4: PM.

Demo Areas 1 & 2 - These areas are setup so that the instructor/demonstrator can teach a particular technique, tool or style. This session will last 1 hour and 25 minutes or 3 hours.

Hands On Area - These areas are the traditional Retreat "Hands On" areas. The Instructor will guide 6 students through a step by step process relative to his topic. This session would last a maximum of 3 hours.

GCWA Spring Retreat VI

Sunday Session

	Beginner Hands On	Demo Area 1	Demo Area 2	Hands On 1	Hands On 2	Hands On 3	Hands On 4
9:00		Stacy Hager	Lyman Frugia	Bruno Wesolek	By Reed	Bill Berry	Diana Gahagan
10:25	Don Fluker	Making and Using	Turning Miniatures	Using the	Turning	Hollow	Turning
10:35	Greg Gonsalves	Traditional European	Ernie Bahr	Skew	Craft	Turning	Spinning
12:00	Don Philpott	Spindle Tools	Turning Thimbles		Projects	Wood will be furnished	Tops

Lunch and Slide Presentation

1:00	Greg Gonsalves	Tom Enloe	Marty Kaminsky	David Berry	Thomas Iven	Brian Laing	Bill Berry
2:25	Don Fluker	Beyond In/Out Ornaments	Turning Plates	Turning	Lidded	Bowl	Sharpening
2:35		Dave Greenawalt	Greg Gonsalves	Natural Edge	Boxes	Turning	with
4:00	Don Philpott	Turning Boxes	Tree to Lathe - Chainsaw	Bowls			Jigs

Calendar of Events

Scheduled Meetings & Events

May 13, 2002 ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Boyce Gahagan ~ 20201 Fox Glen, Humble ~ 281-446-1590

May 18 & 19, 2002 ~ 9:00 AM ~ GCWA Annual Spring Retreat ~ Montgomery County Fairgrounds

June 3, 2002 ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., ~ 713-981-9228

June 10, 2002 ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Boyce Gahagan ~ 20201 Fox Glen, Humble ~ 281-446-1590

June 15, 2002 ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ By Reed's new shop at Chappell Hill, TX 77426

July 1, 2002 ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., ~ 713-981-9228

July 15, 2002 ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Boyce Gahagan ~ 20201 Fox Glen, Humble ~ 281-446-1590

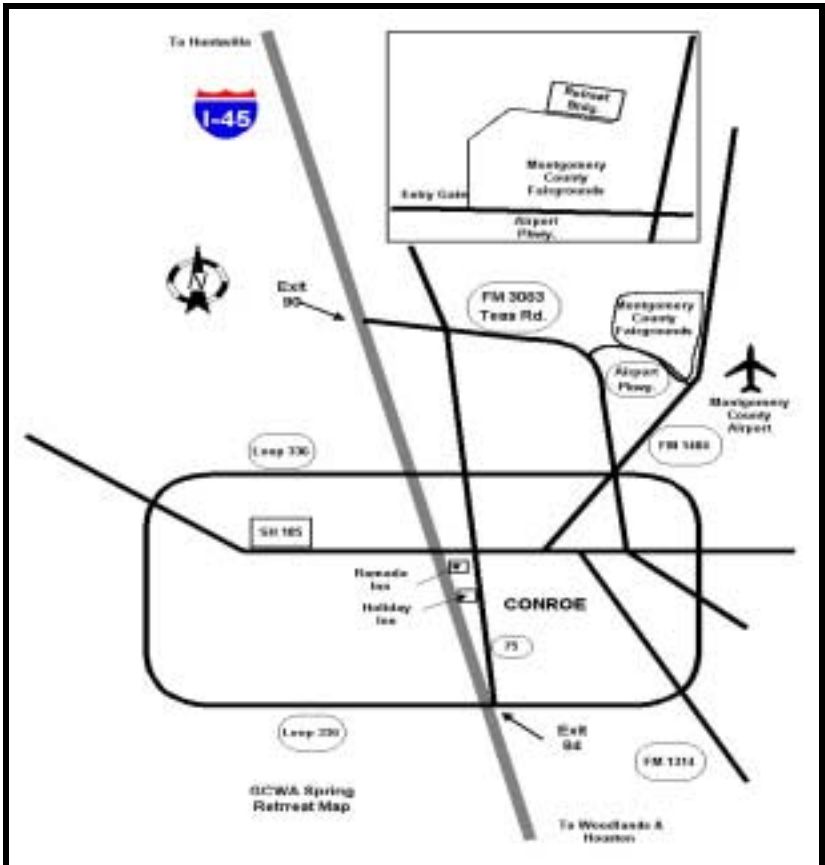
July 20, 2002 ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., ~ 713-981-9228

August 5, 2002 ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., ~ 713-981-9228

August 12, 2002 ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM
~ Boyce Gahagan ~ 20201 Fox Glen, Humble ~ 281-446-1590

August 17, 2002 ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., ~ 713-981-9228

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



Meeting Location This Month

May 18 & 19 ~ 9:00 AM ~ VI Annual Spring Retreat at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds ~ Conroe, Texas

Executive Committee

President	Boyce Gahagan	(281) 446-1590	Boycegahagan@aol.com
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lmdebose@swbell.net
<http://www.gulfcoastwoodturners.org>
<http://get.to/gcwa>

Program Chairman
Thomas Irven
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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://bgpenandtoolsupplies.com>

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