



Gulf Coast Woodturners Association

GCWA Newsletter

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association



President's Corner

Those of you who were in attendance at last month's meeting were in for a special treat. We had two excellent items on the agenda. Jerry Bennett and Dianna Gahagan both had interesting topics. Jerry's new computer program for designing and visualizing new vessel shapes is amazing. I am most impressed.

Dianna helped us to get the most from our scrapers. The scraper sometimes gets bad press from the "serious" woodturners. It is a very useful and versatile tool if used with care. It is also very good for doing fine adjustments on shapes.

We also had a good showing at the University of Houston workshop on September 7th. It was held in the woodshop at the U of H College of Architecture. I want to extend a special thanks to our host Tommy Joe. He is a club member and is definitely an asset to the turning community. The facilities were first class. In fact I am hopeful that we might be able to secure the facilities for occasional meetings in the future.

As I write this and look out the window at the stormy weather I am reminded that summer is just about over. With

cooler weather ahead it will be time for many of us to head back out to the shop. I would love to see more pieces at upcoming meetings. The turnings we get at meetings now are great. Having said that, do not feel like you need to bring a gallery quality piece to the meetings. We exist as a community of woodturners in order to further the cause. If you want to improve your work the best way is to share it with others. I was working on a piece to bring to the next meeting last week and was about finished with it. I was trying to make some final touches to the piece to get it just right and had a catch (none of us have ever had that happen before right?). The piece was dislodged from the chuck and it slammed against the tool rest. Part of the edge broke off and I was unable to find the broken part. I am still trying to figure out how I might salvage the piece. These types of questions and more are good topics for discussion at the meetings.

Happy Turning
Ernie Bahr

September 2002 Issue

GCWA Web Sites:
Http://
www.gulfcoastwoodturners.org

Inside this issue:

<i>President's Corner</i>	1
	1
<i>Club News</i>	2
	2
	2
<i>Woodturning Tips</i>	3
	3
<i>Classified Ads</i>	3
<i>Membership</i>	3
<i>Show & Tell</i>	4
<i>Presentations & Demos</i>	4
	4
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	5
<i>This Month's Meeting</i>	5
<i>Meeting Program</i>	5
<i>Executive Committee</i>	5
<i>Internet Website URL's</i>	6

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.

September Meeting
September 21, 2002
The Hardwood Lumber Co.
700 E. 5 1/2 St.
Houston, TX
(713) 862-6628

This article is reprinted from issue No. 111 of Woodturning with the kind permission of the publishers, GMC publications Ltd.

WAXES FOR WOODTURNERS

Part 1

By Steven Russell

Steven Russell begins a series on using waxes by discussing surface preparation and hand application.

One of the most frustrating things about modern wood finishing is the lack of detailed information on proper application techniques. Most manufacturers offer very little information on how to apply and perfect their wood finishing products. To complicate matters further, very few manufactured finishing products are specifically tested for use in a woodturning environment. Although most traditional wood finishes can be adapted for use on woodturnings, to do so with success can be a significant challenge at times. This lack of detailed application information can lead turners to explore wood finishing products in a frustrating series of trial and error experiments. While we may all have different opinions of what constitutes the perfect finish for a given timber or application, there is universal agreement about the desire to achieve the best finish possible. In our quest for continuous improvement in all facets of our woodturning art, the subject of wood finishing ranks among the most demanding in scope and practice.

Let the finishing begin - various waxes, buffing wheels and bushes.



To make a cloth rubber place a small lump in the centre of a soft cloth and twist the edges closed.



If using semi-liquid wax in your rubber, place an additional small folded cloth inside



The complete rubber ready for use



Using a cloth rubber to apply clear Arborwax to the surface of a silver maple platter

APPLICATION METHODS

Paste, semi-liquid, liquid and solid waxes can be applied with a myriad of hand- and machine-assisted methods. Traditionally, paste and semi-liquid waxes are applied by hand with soft cottons cloths, cloth rubbers, wire wool or natural bristle brushes. Liquid waxes can be applied by hand as well, but are typically sprayed with common conventional spray guns (high pressure), or HVLP (high-volume, low-pressure) spray units. When spraying small intricate areas, an artist's airbrush may also be used. Solid waxes, such as friction waxes, are traditionally applied by hand, directly to the spinning piece, while turning at high revs on the lathe. In addition, solid waxes can also be applied to power-buffing wheels/pads that transfer the wax to the piece when treated by friction. Solid waxes such as pellets and flakes may be used in hot wax applications; here, the wax is heated until liquefied and the piece is immersed in the hot liquid wax. Many turning squares and bowl blanks are prepared in this hot-wax manner. Cold wax emulsions such as end grain sealers are typically brushed on, or when working with larger areas, sprayed with various types of equipment. Cold-wax emulsions are safer and easier to apply than hot wax and offer the added flexibility of easy field application.

Application considerations

Which type of wax you choose is largely based on the specifics of the piece at hand. Artistic pieces that are handled infrequently offer more finishing options than turned-for-use items. Other important factors to consider include the specific lustre level desired - satin, semi-gloss, high-gloss or ultra high gloss- and whether the piece will contain foodstuffs or liquids.

Achieving consistent excellence with wax finishes requires some knowledge of the specific wax's performance characteristics, along with choosing the proper materials for application and buffing.

With high-gloss and ultra-high-gloss wax finishes in particular the material used to apply and buff the wax can have a significant impact on the overall lustre level achieved. Although wax can be applied to bare or unfinished wood surfaces a significantly higher lustre can be achieved if the surfaces is first sealed with a penetrating type of sealer. Very thin cellulose sanding sealers, spirit sealers, shellac and even some thin oils can be used with equal success.

For even greater lustre, burnishing waxes (light wax with a fine cutting compound) like Arbortech's Arborwax Burnishing Wax, or U'Beaut's EEE Ultra Shine, should be used after the sealer has dried.

These speciality waxes are used to burnish and cut back the surface of raw timber, prior to application of the intended finish. They can also be use to cut back and perfect cured finishes. Once the surface has been raised to the desired lustre, the wax finish can be applied.

Surface preparation

Regardless of the type of wax or application method you choose, proper surface preparation is critical to success.

Like any finish, waxes will tend to magnify surface flaws like torn or bruised grain areas, sanding scratches, peck-outs etc.

In addition, the amount of abrasives used and the level to which they are applied to the surface will also

Show & Tell

Winners at the **July** meeting held at **The Cutting Edge** were:

Beginner Category

- 1st Place — **Grady Whidden** for a Vessel of Aspen.
2nd Place — **Janice Levi** for a Maple Baby Rattle
3rd Place — **Bill Chapman** for a Mesquite Pedestal Platter

Intermediate Category:

- 1st Place — **Marty Kaminsky** for a Spalted Elm Bowl
2nd Place — **Wayne Stanfield** for a Mesquite Plate
3rd Place — **Paul Millo** for a Sycamore Bowl

Advanced Category:

One Piece Turning

- 1st Place — **Don Fluker** for a Hollow Vessel of Norfolk Pine
2nd Place — **Jim Keller** for a Large Split Wheel of Pecan
3rd Place — **Paul Kindal** for a Mayan Walnut Bowl

Mixed Media Turning:

- 1st Place — **Tom Irvén** for a Double Sphere of Maple and Silver
2nd Place — **Jerry Bennett** for a Segmented Hollow Form of Mesquite
3rd Place — **By Reed** for Winged Vessel of Spalted Hackberry

Best of Show

Paul Kindal for an Open Bowl of Spalted Pecan

Special thanks to our Judges;
Gary Rogers and **Brian Laing**

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

Presentations & Demonstrations

Marty Kaminsky – Program Chairman

Marty Kaminsky – Program Chairman

I don't know about you, but I thought the computer program that **Jerry Bennett** demonstrated at the August meeting was darn slick. Using the software that he developed we can design a vessel design in advance, see a three dimensional representation of it on our monitor, rotate it to view it from any angle, tweak it to get the design *just* right, and then print out all the cutting details for making the segmented rings. I'll be in line at the store to buy a copy of the program. (Jerry, did I lay it on thick enough to get a discount?)

At the September meeting the multi-talented **Luna Ford** will be providing hands on instruction from 9 AM to 10 AM on the use of the spindle gouge. If your technique needs a bit of touch up, or you just don't have a clue what to do with a spindle

gouge, let Luna put one in your hands, and he will give you a bit of guidance.

For our turning demonstration, **Tom Irvén** will demonstrate the use of the Escoulen ball and socket chuck. This chuck is used to make the unusual eccentric finials on the boxes for which Tom is well known. I suspect most of us have never seen this chuck in use, and will find this a very interesting demo.



DADWOOD OF TEXAS



Daryl Davis — Owner
281-495-1755 Res.
281-435-7712 Mob.
9114 Chesney Downs
Houston, TX 77083



Unique Mesquite and DADWOOD have joined forces to bring you the very best in Mesquite Turning Blanks, All Sizes, All Burl, Orders Custom cut and filled to meet your turning needs. We have burls from small to very large here in Houston. Please call for directions and appointment.
WWW.DADWOOD.COM

Calendar of Events

Scheduled Meetings & Events

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

September 21, 2002 ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ The Hardwood Lumber Company ~ 700 E. 5 1/2 St., Houston ~ (713) 862-6628

October 5, 2002 ~ Turning and Carving Event in conjunction with the Houston Woodcarvers Club at Traders Village,

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

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

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

October 19, 2002 ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ Woodcraft ~ Hollister Pointe Centre, 13155 Northwest Freeway, Houston ~ (713) 690-8508

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



Meeting Location This Month

September 21 ~ 9:00 AM ~ The Hardwood Lumber Company~ 700 E. 5 1/2 St. ~ Houston, Tx ~ (713) 862-6628

Meeting Program

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

Email: gcwa@jalepeno.com &
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.kestralcreek.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>

GCWA Web Sites:

<Http://www.gulfcoastwoodturners.org>
<Http://go.to/gcwa>



Gulf Coast Woodturners
Association