



Gulf Coast Woodturners Association

GCWA Newsletter

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association



President's Corner

We had another interesting and informative meeting in October. I want to thank **Bill Berry** for putting together the demonstrations on segmented turning. The shop at Deer Park High School was an excellent facility for making this kind of presentation possible. The club thanks **David Berry** for making his shop available. We also enjoyed the Wood Swap and will plan to have another one in several months.

Brian Laing, our program chairman, has indicated that our program for November will include a couple of demonstrations on turning Christmas ornaments. Those always make wonderful gifts plus we want to get a head start on our annual ornament exchange in December.

In our October meeting, we talked a little bit about putting together a woodturning calendar for 2004. Quite a few members indicated an interest in purchasing one of the calendars if we can get it ready in time. The calendars will sell for about \$10 and are not intended as a money-making venture but as a way to recognize the work of our members and to remind all of us about meeting dates and give other information.

Tom Enloe, our librarian, is also keeping a membership map indicating the general area where our members live. We are hoping to publish the final map soon. This can be used to create carpools to meetings or simply to set up sessions between meetings to share woodturning ideas. Tom also asked that members who check out videos or books be careful to follow the guidelines for checking out and checking in library materials.

The weather could not be more perfect for getting out into the shop and turning. Stop making excuses and start making some shavings!

Janice Levi



October Raffle Report

By: Janice Levi

A big "Thanks" to **Chuck Massey** for putting together another good raffle. We also had members who contributed some excellent pieces of wood. **By Reed** brought in an entire mesquite log, while **Carl Blair** added walnut and holly pieces. **Jack Hanley** contributed a box full of cocobolo and walnut and **Marty Kaminsky** donated a bowl blank.

Our Bring Back item, a cedar elm box containing a top, was made by **Bill Tilson** and won by **Gary Rogers**. We look forward to Gary bringing back one of his creations for the next raffle.

Our final raffle item was a beautiful jewelry box made of 221 year-old bristle cone pine from the Rocky Mountains that was donated by **Charles Reed**. We appreciate this spectacular item and we thank Charles for donating it to GCWA.

November Meeting
November 15, 2003
The Hardwood Lumber Company
700 E. 5th-1/2 St.
(713) 862-6628

November 2003

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 due on January 1. 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 October meeting held at Deer Park High School were:

Beginner Category

1st Place — **Tom Sayre** for a Segmented Box of Unknown Wood

2nd Place — None

3rd Place — None

Intermediate Category:

1st Place — **Bob Brown** for a Set of Miniature Boxes, 6 stacked inside 1, of Osage Orange

2nd Place — **Tom Orton** for a Maple Bowl

3rd Place — **W. Tilson** for a Hollow Vessel of ASH

Advanced Category:

One Piece Turning

1st Place — **Bill Hubbard** for a Hollow Vessel of Cedar Elm

2nd Place — **Luna Ford** for Miniature Box & Goblet of Striped Maple

3rd Place — **Luna Ford** for a Hollow Vessel of Spalted Hackberry

Mixed Media Turning:

1st Place — **Gary Medearis** for a Segmented Vase of Imbuia, Red Gum, Maple & Ebony

2nd Place — **Jerry Bennett** for a Segmented Hollow Vessel of Purple Heart & Ebony

3rd Place — **Janice Levi** for a Hollow Vessel of Spalted Silver Leaf Maple

Special Award - **Derrick Furlow** for a Snare Drum of Purple Heart

Special thanks to our Judges;
Reggie Keith and **Brian Laing**

Pictures of these turnings can be viewed at www.gulfcoastwoodturners.org and go.to/gcwa

The Soap Solution

Article by Leif Thorvaldson; submitted by Hunter Malson

Having a reawakening to the pleasures of woodturning after a gap of four years, I plunged into it with enthusiasm, joining the South Puget Sound Chapter AAW, buying books and videos and eagerly reading all the posts on rec.crafts.woodturning along with visiting every site, both personal and commercial. I became increasingly discomfited by what I read and learned.

Experienced turners and professional turners were constantly carrying on about multitudinous ways of "drying" wood so as to avoid cracking. One way in particular had my hasty heart dismayed when it was described that one should rough turn the wood, slather it up with various lotions and potions and let it sit for six months to six years. One was to build an enormous pile of these objects by constantly adding to the drying rack and, at the end of the six months (or six years), check to see if the roughed out blank had cracked or warped so badly as to be unusable. If not, one could then turn it to completion, finish it and hope that it wouldn't crack thereafter.

Faster methods were suggested: boiling, microwaving, burying in manure piles, compost heaps, sawdust piles, storing in sealed plastic bags, unsealed plastic bags, dry paper bags, wet paper bags, immersing or spraying with WD-40, ad nauseum. None of these did what I wanted to do, i.e., pickup a piece of green wood, turn it, sand it and finish it within a day or two without unsightly cracks occurring.

One fateful day, browsing on my computer while waiting for the first six months to elapse, I encountered a very lovely website by Ron Kent (<http://www.ronkent.com/RKgallery.html>). He had some beautiful Norfolk Pine turnings -- very thin -- and used some unique finishing techniques. All very nice, but what struck me was a technique he had developed for stabilizing and conditioning wood. He had tried the expensive route, but was looking for something under \$50 per gallon. To make his story short, he found that Costco's house brand

(Kirkland) liquid dishwashing detergent mixed with an equal amount of water provided hitherto unavailable qualities in both conditioning and stabilizing of wood for almost immediate turning and finishing

I went to Costco and purchased four half gallon containers of the magic elixir along with a sturdy plastic storage bin of sufficient size to hold the mixture and some bowl blanks. Upon arrival at home, I emptied the detergent into the container and added an equal amount of water.

From then on, I would take primarily green wood and rough turn in one day, soak overnight, and finish the next day. Sometimes I didn't finish it on the second day and left it mounted on the lathe overnight and sometimes for a several days. Surprise! They didn't crack! I have since taken green wood, rough turned it, soaked it about four hours and then finish turned it and finished it in one day. In the six to eight months I have been using this technique, I haven't had one bowl crack. A few had a bit of movement, but it was very slight. I have used the following woods: black walnut, vine maple, maple, oak (kiln dried), yew, honey locust, fruiting cherry, birch, plum, apple. I have not tried madrona as I refuse to cut down the only one I have growing on my property.

Needless to say, I was ecstatic and proceeded to share my "discovery" with any and all turners I knew (two) and also spread the word on rec.crafts.woodturning (a regular not-so-little Johnny Appleseed I was!). A few turners were lured into trying it. Unfortunately, some people can't follow directions and tried variations on the simple recipe which resulted in cracking. A few did it correctly and were rewarded with success.

There has been some speculation as to the mechanism behind the process, but no real scientific investigation has been done. Lyn Mangiameli, John Nicklin and I have come up with the following theory which John set to

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The Soap Solution - (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 2)

words.

The soap solution sets up an osmotic gradient. Pure water in the wood is in more abundance than water in the soap solution, so it (the water) tries to migrate to balance the osmotic pressure. This would cause the specific gravity of the soap solution to decrease (although possibly not noticeably.) On the other hand, the concentration of soapy stuff is higher outside the wood than in, so it tries to migrate into the wood. If it is successful in migrating into the cells, the soapy solids will get trapped as the wood dries, preventing the cells from collapsing as they do when wood dries naturally (or unnaturally for that matter.)

As you point out, the soap solution is slicker than a Teflon banana peel. This may help the migration of soapy solids into the cells."

An attempt was made by Lyn to conduct a survey to gather details for a study on the detergent/soap technique. Unfortunately, he received only 11 responses from turners, so feels that no meaningful statement can be made as to the efficacy of the process.

The only slight drawback to the detergent solution is that the wood should be drained for a few minutes or longer and wiped with a towel while mounting it to the headstock. A plastic sheet should be placed over the ways and eye protection should be worn. Try it! Your hands will be smoother, cleaner and less subject to cracking as well as your turnings.

Leif O. Thorvaldson
Eatonville, WA
360-832-4352

Wax Finish Over Melamine Lacquer or Oil Base

Extracted from a Laymar Crafts article on
www.laymar-crafts.co.uk

A waxed finish will normally produce a luster rather than a high gloss. This wax finish may be applied to either an oil base or a sanded melamine lacquer base acting as a sanding sealer.

The technique is basically the same regardless of the base coat, with oil being used primarily on burls, and open grained woods such as ash and oak, whereas the melamine base is applied to denser grained woods such as pecan, mesquite, and the fruit woods. This combination works well with spalted wood, particularly beech and pecan.

As anyone familiar with spalted wood is aware, the differing density of the spalted and non-spalted areas can make finishing a problem if not treated correctly throughout the finishing phase.

Start by applying a liberal coating, of Mylands Melamine Lacquer mixed 1:1 with standard cellulose thinner (acetates and alcohol solution), using a brush and then wiped off with a paper towel. Once dry, sand the first coat using 400 wet-or-dry sandpaper.

Depending on the absorption rate of the wood (spalted woods in particular) repeat this process 3 or 4 times but never less than twice, sanding between each coat. Once satisfied that there is a good sound base, sand the final coat using 600 wet-or-dry.

Now apply a liberal coating of a good quality wax, such as Bison Wax, applied with a soft cloth and worked well into the surface. Sand the piece using 600 wet-or-dry keeping the surface reasonably wet with wax. Finally, buff to a fine sheen with a soft polishing cloth.

Some woods such as burls do not lend themselves to the final stage of buffing with a cloth. Instead use a fine soft polishing brush (as used for shoe polishing). The brush, after a period of time, becomes laden with polish. Soak the brush over night in thinner and then leave it outside for a couple of hours to allow the thinner to evaporate.

Club News & Announcements

End Grain Sealer

Greg Gonsalves says that he still has some end grain sealer left for club members to purchase at cost. Buyers will need to provide a one gallon, or larger, screw-top plastic container. If you would like to purchase some, the cost is \$5.50 per gallon if you have your own container or \$6.00 per gallon if Greg furnishes the container. Contact him at (281) 998-8662.

New Video Camera System *Submitted by Bill Berry*

GCWA is the proud owner of a new state-of-the-art video system. Those who attended the Phil Brennon demonstration on Saturday, November 1st, got to see the new system in action. The system consists of three mini cameras which are placed in strategic locations and a switching mechanism that allows viewing on TV from each of the camera locations. This same type system was used at the AAW Symposium in California this past summer.

A number of GCWA members made it possible for us to enjoy this new video camera system. A big THANKS goes to all of the following: **Boyce Gahagan** who brought the idea before the board to buy 2 cameras; **Jerry** and **Peggy Bennett** and **Roger Chism** who generously offered funds for us to purchase a third and fourth camera; **Greg Gonsalves** and **Don Fluker** who took time off from work to build the camera stands and bases. Last but not least, **Luna Ford** and I took time out from mentoring each other to build the camera brackets.

Membership

We had four new members to join GCWA in September. Welcome to: **Vickie Gillenwater**, **Dave Hart**, **Linda Hughes**, and **Robbie Tovey**

Library Corner

By: Tom Enloe

Stickpin Map - At the last meeting (great set of demos on segments) we tried an experiment related to using "stick pins" to mark our shops on a map of Houston and vicinity. Since it was a test, I only came with twenty or so pins and they were gone in only a few minutes. If we use 1-10 / 1-45 to divide the greater area into quadrants, it was interesting to note that there was virtually an even split across the city. This month we will bring more and better pins to fill out the map. We might be surprised to note that one or more of the members live close enough to us to go over to discuss weighty problems like "reverse chucking" or "the effect of micro waving wormy wood".

Report cards - I am gathering responses from members on their evaluation of the tapes that they are viewing. The plan is to make a summary of these reports available on our internet website to allow members to search for specific subjects. Of course, the initial result is to allow me to know which tapes are worn and bad enough to be replaced before someone else takes it home and is disappointed.

New tapes - Last month, we had some new tapes and they were checked out quickly. We are also replacing existing "ill eagle" copies with new legal tape masters. Certainly we want to continue to encourage members to loan us their masters that we can share with other members through the library.

Woodturning Tips

Drying Wood for Turning

The Woodturning Tip this month is, again, the use of liquid dishwashing detergent for treating wood to prevent warping and cracking. See the informative article, "The Soap Solution", by Leif O. Thorvaldson elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Classified Ads

For Sale:

DeWalt DW733 Planer for Sale, 12 1/2" size, three years old in fine shape with two sets of knives. Nothing wrong except that my wife gave me permission to buy a larger one. Price is firm at \$150. Call Tom Enloe, (281) 514-5414 - Work or (281) 357-1191 - Home

Mentor Program

The following members have volunteered to serve as Club Mentors:

Jim Keller----- (281) 438-1171

By Reed----- (281) 980-9793

Bill Berry----- (281) 479-8073

Diana Gahagan (281) 446-1590

Marty Kaminsky (281) 339-3297

Ernie Bahr----- (832) 476-3804

Luna Ford----- (281) 476-4159

Brian Laing----- (281) 580-5381

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.

Highlights of the 2003 October Meeting



Greg Gon-salves shows a future wood-turner how it is done.



A **Jerry Bennett** masterpiece of purple heart and ebony using computer aided design.



Derrick Furlow demonstrates that a woodturning can be extremely functional as well as beautiful.

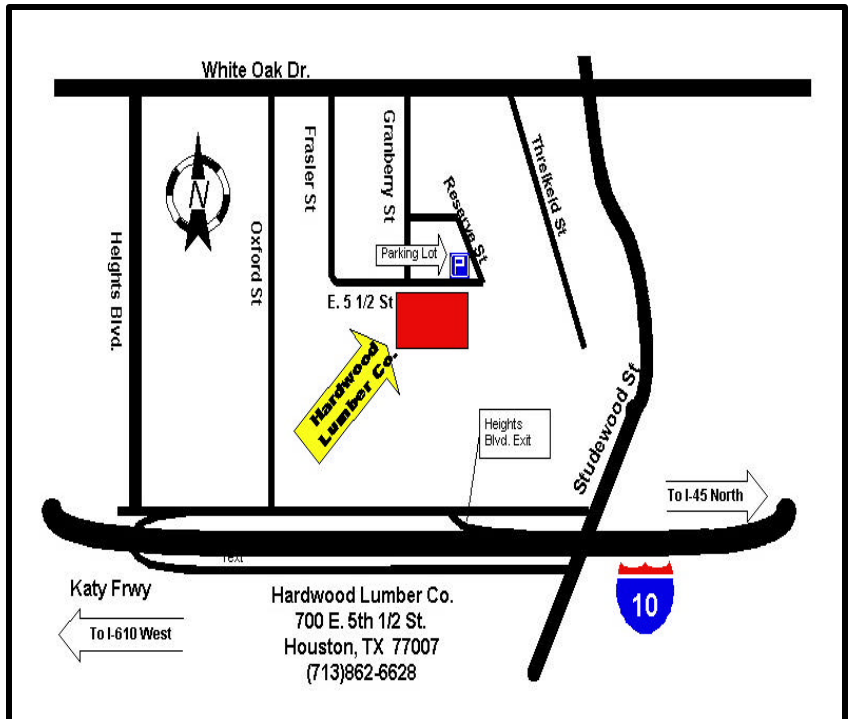


David Berry demonstrates the precision sawing of bowl segments.

Calendar of Events

Scheduled Meetings & Events

- November 10, 2003** ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~Janice Levi's home ~ 1915 Van Buren Circle, Pasadena, TX ~ 713-475-2308
- November 15, 2003** ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ The Hardwood Lumber Co. ~ 700 E. 5-1/2 St. ~ 713-862-6628
- December 1, 2003** ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge, 11760 S. Beltway 8 West ~ 713-981-9228
- December 8, 2003** ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~Janice Levi's home ~ 1915 Van Buren Circle, Pasadena, TX ~ 713-475-2308
- December 13, 2003** ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ Fairmont Junior High School ~ Holly Bay Court, Pasadena, TX
- January 5, 2004** ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge, 11760 S. Beltway 8 West ~ 713-981-9228
- January 12, 2004** ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~Janice Levi's home ~ 1915 Van Buren Circle, Pasadena, TX ~ 713-475-2308
- January 17, 2004** ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ Location to be announced later
- January 20 - 24, 2004** ~ **J. Christopher White** ~ Houston Center for Cotemporary Crafts
- February 2, 2004** ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge, 11760 S. Beltway 8 West ~ 713-981-9228
- February 16, 2004** ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~Janice Levi's home ~ 1915 Van Buren Circle, Pasadena, TX ~ 713-475-2308
- February 21, 2004** ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ Fairmont Junior High School ~ Holly Bay Court, Pasadena, TX
- March 1, 2004** ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge, 11760 S. Beltway 8 West ~ 713-981-9228
- March 6, 2004** ~ **Trent Bosch** ~ Location to be announced later.
- April 15, 2004** ~ Annual GCWA Picnic meeting.
- May 22-23, 2004** ~ Annual GCWA Spring Retreat
- July 23-25, 2004** ~ Annual AAW Symposium in Orlando, FL.
- Oct 2-3, 2004** ~ SWAT (Texas Turn or Two) in Temple, TX.
- Oct 11, 2004** ~ Columbus Day Festival in Fredericksburg, TX



Meeting Location This Month

The Hardwood Lumber Company ~ 700 E. 5th-1/2 St.
(713) 862-6628

November Meeting Program

Don Fluker and **Janice Levi** will be making two versions of hollow ornaments this month. Both have finely turned icicles. These make great gifts. Don't miss the demos.

Executive Committee

President	Janice Levi	(713) 475-2308	tilevi@swbell.net
Vice President	Brian Laing	(281) 580-5381	brian.laing@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Helen Osteen	(713) 475-8150	helen@osteenjewelry.com
Past President	Ernie Bahr	(832)-476-3804	ernie@jalepeno.com
Board Member	Greg Gonsalves	(281) 998-8662	
Board Member	Wayne Stanfield	(713) 867-3620	wayne.stanfield@moorewallace.com
Board Member	Diana Gahagan	(281) 446-1590	boycegahagan@aol.com
Board Member	Don Fluker	(281) 855-8230	skewgouge1@aol.com
Board Member/Librarian	Tom Enloe	(281) 580-1905	tomenloe@sbcglobal.net
SWAT/TTT Delegate	Bill Berry	(281) 479-8073	bberry2301@aol.com
Webmaster	Bruce Dolen	(713) 787-6962	bdolen@tydemandolen.com
Newsletter Editor	Mack DeBose	(281) 444-7993	Lmdebose@swbell.net

Email: gcwa@jalepeno.com

GCWA Websites:
www.gulfcoastwoodturners.org
<http://get.to/gcwa>

Program Chairman
Brian Laing

Internet Web Sites of Interest

American Association of Woodturners: <http://www.woodturner.org>

Robert Sorby: <http://www.robert-sorby.co.uk/turning.htm>

Wood Magazine: <http://www.woodmagazine.com>

The Cutting Edge: <http://www.cuttingedgetools.com>

Craft Supply: <http://www.woodturnerscatalog.com/index.html>

Tidewater Turners of Virginia: <http://www.esva.net/~woodturner>

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>

Woodcraft: <http://www.woodcraft.com>

Christian Burchard: <http://www.burchardstudio.com>

Texas Turn or Two: <http://www.texasturnortwo.com/>

Boyce Gahagan: <http://bgpenandtoolsupplies.com>



Gulf Coast Woodturners
Association