



Gulf Coast Woodturners Association

# GCWA Newsletter



## Gulf Coast Woodturners Association

### President's Corner

February was a good month for the Gulf Coast Woodturners Association. We had a great meeting at the University of Houston College of Architecture. Those of you who were not there really missed out. I want to thank **Tommy Joe** at U of H for hosting us. I would also like to thank all of the people who help to make the meetings a success month after month. People like the demonstrators, the judges, the people that bring the coffee, soft drinks, and doughnuts. There is also the program chairman, the librarian, the raffle and everything else. All of the work of all of these folks really combine to make the monthly meetings a rich experience for us all. I can't begin to express how much I look forward to and enjoy the meetings every month. I would imagine there are many of you who feel the same way.

We have our annual election coming up next month. As usual we will be electing a new president, vice-president and several board members. However, I do not want you to forget about all of the people I have mentioned above. Typically every year after elections the people who fulfill the

various roles at meetings also change. I want to encourage those of you who have not previously been involved in these positions to consider volunteering for some of these roles. The club meetings are a rich experience partly because of the dedication and work of the individuals who help to put the meetings together.

It is not necessary to be on the board of directors or any other elected position to get more involved in the club. The more new people we get involved in the club the more we can grow as an organization. If you feel that the club gives a lot to you consider giving a little back to the club. If you have any interest in taking on any club duties in the new year please feel free to talk to me or any of the other club officers. Talk to us either at the upcoming meeting or by email or phone. If you like the club as it is now and would like to help continue that tradition we can use your help. If you would like to see some changes or improvements in the way we do things we can use your help as well. However, if you want to consider changes, be prepared to help make them happen, don't merely make suggestions. This is our club; it is what we make it.

Happy Turning *Ernie Bahr*

March 2003

GCWA Web Sites:  
[Http://www.gulfcoast-woodturners.org](http://www.gulfcoast-woodturners.org)  
[Http://go.to/gcwa](http://go.to/gcwa)

#### Inside this issue:

<i>Show &amp; Tell</i>	2
<i>Woodturning Tips</i>	2
<i>Mini-Lathe</i>	2
<i>Tool Show</i>	2
<i>Membership</i>	2
<i>Lathe Safety</i>	3
<i>Raffle Report</i>	3
<i>Mentor Program</i>	3
<i>Guide to Bowl Making</i>	4
<i>Meeting Schedule</i>	5
<i>Meeting Location Map</i>	5
<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	5
<i>Executive Committee</i>	5
<i>Meeting Program</i>	5
<i>Internet Web Sites</i>	6

### Presentations & Demonstrations

Marty Kaminsky - Program Chairman

You know, sometimes things seem so obvious, but they aren't. Like last month **Dale Barrack** showed us the many ways to sign our work (and also thanks to **Don Fluker** for bringing in his branding iron). This month's topic for the 9 to 10 AM session is another seemingly obvious task - sanding. What's the mystery there? You just go over to Ace Hardware and pick up two or three grades of sandpaper and have at it. Let's see; what type to use: flint, garnet, silicon carbide, or aluminum oxide? Stearate or regular? Hand sand or power sand? PSA or hook and loop? What

brand do you like - Mirka, Klingspor, 3-M, etc.? Paper or cloth support? What grade sequence should you use? How do you know when to move from one grade to the next? How should you store your sandpaper for convenient use? These questions and many more will be answered by **Greg Gonsalves** in his demonstration of sanding techniques.

Our second presentation of the day will be by **Steve LaGrue**, of Cutting Edge fame. He will demonstrate something that I think most of us haven't seen before - an eccentric box. I guess we should also thank **Terri LaGrue** and The Cutting Edge crew for the extra work they'll have to do in dealing with the crush of customers while Steve is busy demonstrating for us. (Then again, maybe they'll be glad to have Steve

*(Continued on page 3)*

**March Meeting**  
**March 15, 2003**  
**The Cutting Edge**  
**7123 Southwest Fwy.**

**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 **February** meeting held at **The University of Houston Architectural School** were:

### Beginner Category

1st Place — **Fog Tanner** for an Lidded Bowl of Colored Ash

2nd Place — **T. Orton** for an Sugar Maple Bowl

3rd Place — **John Laing** for a Mesquite Bowl

### Intermediate Category:

1st Place — **Bill Metzger** for a Long Stem Goblet of Maple

2nd Place — **Bill Metzger** for a Yellow Long Stem Goblet of Lemonwood

3rd Place — **Jeff Thomas** for an Elm Bowl

### Advanced Category:

#### One Piece Turning

1st Place — **Bill Hubbard** for a Water Oak Bowl

2nd Place — **Marty Kaminsky** for a Dyed Hackberry Bowl

3rd Place — **Janice Levi** for a Pecan Bowl

#### Mixed Media Turning:

1st Place — **Dale Barrack** for a Green Ash Bowl

2nd Place — **Murray Powell** for a Natural Edged Vase

3rd Place — **Jeff Thomas** for a Hackberry and Padauk Bowl

#### Special Award

**Otto Woodard** for Flared Bowl of Mesquite

#### Best of Show

**Jim Keller** for a Natural Edged Pecan "Wheel"

Special thanks to our Judges;

**Don Fluker** and **Greg Gonsalves**

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

## Jet Mini-Lathe Wanted

Jet Mini-Lathes wanted for the Spring Retreat. If you have a Jet or Delta Mini Lathe we need to borrow it, your spur drive, your live center, your knockout bar, your scroll chuck, an extension cord. If you loaned it to us last year (and you got it back) we will need it again this year. If you have a Jet or Delta 12-36 we will need those also. These are the most popular among our members and are easy to transport. The success of the Retreat depends on lathes being loaned by our members for use by our members. Please let **Bill Berry** or **Greg Gonsalves** know at the March meeting if you will loan your lathe for the retreat. As it gets closer to May we will be asking for more and different equipment that will be needed. Watch the newsletter each month..... Thanks!

## Setup and Cleanup for Tool Show

Once again GCWA was asked to demonstrate woodturning at the upcoming Tool Show March 28-31. This show gives GCWA maximum exposure to the wood-working public. It is a major source for building our membership. Many of our present members were introduced to GCWA at the Tool Show. The setup for this show requires a great deal of planning and logistics of personnel and equipment. In years past many of our members have come early on Friday and helped with setup. Some members have stayed after the show to help tear down and load on Sunday afternoon. I can't thank those members enough for their help in past years. They are a welcome sight on Friday morning and Sunday af-



## Woodturning Tips

By Janice Levi

Here are some turning tips from Stuart Batty's demos and hands-on sessions.

1. To control a scraper, you need at least a ratio of 4:1 off the tool rest. For example, if the piece is 4" off the tool rest, you need 16" behind the tool rest of blade and handle to control the cut.

2. To avoid tearing grain, close the flute on your gouge. An open flute removes more wood. A closed flute makes a smoother cut but is harder to manage. You have to push harder and more heat is generated.

3. When using a scraper inside a bowl, point the handle up, not down. It will "catch" if the scraper handle drops.

4. "Faster speed, slower feed" to minimize gouge marks.

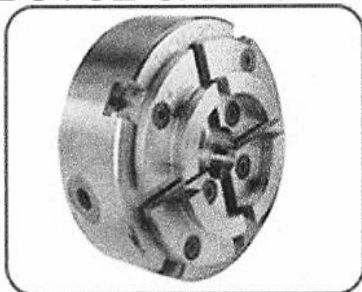
## Membership

We had two new members to join in February. Please welcome:

**Bill Pottorf** and **Joseph Rice**

ternoon. If you are going to attend the Tool Show please plan to come at a time when you can help with setup (10:00 AM on Friday) or tear down (5:00 PM on Sunday). Your help would be greatly appreciated. — Thanks

## 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

This article is reprinted from the AAW Website and submitted by Boyce Gahagan.

## The AAW Lathe Safety Guidelines

1. Safe, effective use of a wood lathe requires study and knowledge of procedures for using this tool. Read and thoroughly understand the label warnings on the lathe and in the owner's/operator's manual.
2. Always wear safety goggles or safety glasses that include side protectors and a full face shield when needed. Wood dust can be harmful to your respiratory system. Use a dust mask or helmet and proper ventilation (dust collection system) in dusty work conditions. Wear hearing protection during extended periods of operation.
3. Tie back long hair, do not wear gloves, loose clothing, jewelry or any dangling objects that may catch in rotating parts or accessories.
4. Check the owner/operator's manual for proper speed recommendations. Use slower speeds for larger diameter or rough pieces and increased speed for smaller diameters and pieces that are balanced. If the lathe is shaking or vibrating, lower the speed. If the workpiece vibrates, always stop the machine to check the reason.
5. Make certain that the belt guard or cover is in place. Check that all clamping devices (locks), such as on the tailstock and toolrest are tight.
6. Rotate your workpiece by hand to make sure it clears the toolrest and bed before turning the lathe "on". Be sure that the workpiece turns freely and is firmly mounted. It is always safest to turn the lathe "off" before adjusting the tool rest.
7. Exercise caution when using stock with cracks, splits, checks, bark, knots, irregular shapes or protuberances.

8. Hold turning tools securely on the toolrest and hold the tool in a controlled but comfortable manner. Always use a slower speed when starting until the workpiece is balanced. This helps avoid the possibility of an unbalanced piece jumping out of the lathe and striking the operator.

9. When running a lathe in reverse, it is possible for a chuck or faceplate to unscrew unless it is securely tightened on the lathe spindle.

10. Know your capabilities and limits. An experienced woodturner may be capable of techniques and procedures not recommended for beginning turners.

11. When using a faceplate, be certain the workpiece is solidly mounted. When turning between centers, be certain the workpiece is secure.

12. Always remove the toolrest before sanding or polishing operations.

13. Don't overreach, keep proper footing and balance at all times.

14. Keep lathe in good repair. Check for damaged parts, alignment, binding of moving parts and other conditions that may affect its operation.

15. Keep tools sharp and clean for better and safer performance. Don't force a dull tool. Don't use a tool for a purpose not intended. Keep tools out of reach of children.

16. Consider your work environment. Don't use lathe in damp or wet locations. Do not use in presence of flammable liquids or gases. Keep work area well lit.

17. Stay alert. Watch what you are doing, use common sense. Don't operate tool when you are tired or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

18. Guard against electric shock. Inspect electric cords for damage. Avoid the use of extension cords.

19. Remove chuck keys and adjust-

## Raffle Report for February 2003

By: Janice Levi

The University of Houston School of Architecture facility lent itself well for the GCWA activities. I am grateful for **Tommy Joe's** help in getting our raffle set up and running. I also want to thank **Chuck Massey** for his help with selling raffle tickets and **Brian Laing's** son, **Jonathan**, for drawing out the numbers.

We really appreciate our members who brought "Bring Back" items. **George Greider** brought a back scratcher that was won by **Ron Kirchoff**. George also brought a sycamore bowl and that was won by **Tom Enloe**. **Carrie Creenawalt** won the holly vase made by **Andy Box**. We look forward to seeing the turnings that these three winners bring next month.

A special thank you goes to **Jeff Thomas** for donating wood for the raffle and to **Jack Hanley** for his donations of wood. If there are any members who have an excess of wood in your garage that you would like to donate to the raffle, your gift would be most appreciated.

(Continued from page 1)

## Demonstrations & Demonstrations—Cont'd.

out of their hair for a while.)

I also want to thank **Bill Hubbard** for his excellent demonstration of natural edged bowls at the February meeting.

ing wrenches. Form a habit of checking for these before switching on the lathe.

20. Never leave the lathe running unattended. Turn power off. Don't leave the lathe until it comes to a complete stop.

## 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) 285-9404

**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.

# A Complete Guide to Bowl Making

(Continued From February)

By Brian Laing

## Step 4 - Completing the Foot of the Bowl

Like most bowl makers I waste time turning the foot of the bowl. I use the jumbo jaws on the Vicmark chuck. This makes the task easy and can be done without the use of the tail stock. However, if you do not have a set of jumbo jaws a disk of plywood can be used. The disk should be about an inch bigger in diameter than the bowl. Cut a recess in the disk about 1/8" deep. The trick is to make the recess exactly the same size as the bowl rim (you will also find out if your bowl is round). If you fuss with it and develop a 2 to 5 degree angle the bowl will "lock" on the recess. Once the recess is done use the tail stock to hold the bowl in place. Now you can work on the foot.

1) – Blending the outside to the foot can be a challenge and takes care. Generally, the bowl is not exactly round at the foot so take small cuts to blend the foot to the bowl. I use several shapes for the foot, i.e., a round



This is meant to show the completion of the foot on the bowl side. In this case there is a small skirt between the foot and the wall of the bowl. This is turned with the tail stock

bead, an ogee or an ogee with an overlap. Complete this step; sand, seal and sand.

2 – Now for the nervous part! All good bowls should have a shaped base. I like to have the foot rim to be 1/4 to 1/2 " wide with a taper to the OD. If the bowl does distort this technique prevents it from wobbling. I like to have a concave bottom from the foot rim to the center. If you are using the plywood plate technique the tail stock is in the way preventing completion of the task. At this point you can take it off the lathe and finish the rest by hand ( but this is labor intensive) or use the following.



The foot has been turned to a concave surface. Why is it only wood turners pick up a bowl and turn it over to see if the bowl has been reversed chucked and the foot turned? I have to admit I take pleasure in the fine details and feel a great bowl is not done until all the surfaces are turned, sanded and finished.

3 – With the tailstock in place use 2" masking tape and secure the bowl in place.

The masking tape is very strong in tension and will hold the bowl firmly. I suggest you adjust the RPM to a conservative speed at this time. In order to prevent break-through you can use the starting thickness where the tailstock was a guide. Develop the concave shape leaving the center in place until the last operation. I use the 3/8 " gouge and then scraper to finish the shape and then sand, seal and sand.

## The Tools

This picture shows the tools I use most frequently for turning bowls. If I had to start again I would buy:



With these basic tools you can make any bowl. However, you never have enough tools! The Henry Taylor small tool set is very useful for the small details for the rim and foot.

## Step 5 - Finish

I apply the finish off the lathe. I like the Liberon finishing oil. You can achieve a variety of finishes from matt to high gloss depending on the number of coats and treatment between applications.



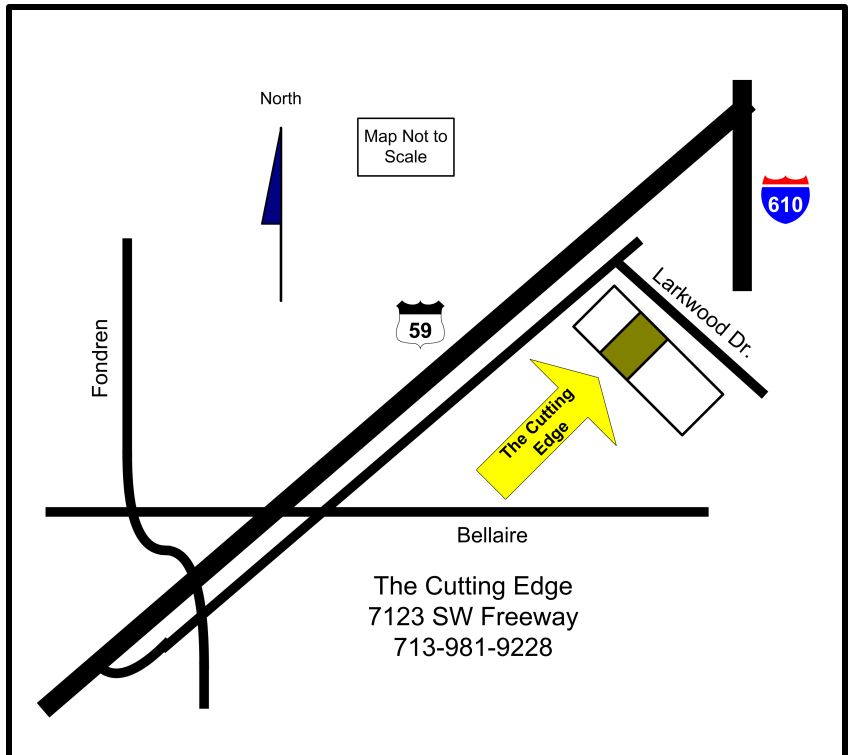
Here is a sample of a completed bowl, finished with Liberon oil and buffed between four coats.

Brian Laing

# Calendar of Events

## Scheduled Meetings & Events

- March 10, 2003** ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Ernie Bahr's Home~ 2610 Easy St, Pasadena TX ~ 713-534-0559
- March 15, 2003** ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., ~ 713-981-9228
- March 28-31, 2003** ~ Woodworker's Tool Show ~ Reliant Arena ~ Houston, TX
- April, 2003** ~ GCWA Executive Committee Election
- April 7, 2003** ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply, 7123 Southwest Fwy., ~ 713-981-9228
- April 14, 2003** ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Ernie Bahr's Home~ 2610 Easy St, Pasadena TX ~ 713-534-0559
- April 19, 2003** ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ The Hard-wood Lumber Co. ~ 700 E. 5th-1/2 St. ~ 713-862-6628
- May 5, 2003** ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge, 7123 Southwest Fwy., ~ 713-981-9228
- May 7-10, 2003** ~ Utah Woodturning Symposium ~ Provo, Utah
- May 12, 2003** ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Ernie Bahr's Home~ 2610 Easy St, Pasadena TX ~ 713-534-0559
- May 17-18, 2003** ~ GCWA Spring Retreat ~ Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Conroe, Texas
- June 2, 2003** ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge, 7123 Southwest Fwy., ~ 713-981-9228
- June 16, 2003** ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Ernie Bahr's Home~ 2610 Easy St, Pasadena TX ~ 713-534-0559
- June 21, 2003** ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ By Reed's Shop ~ Chappell Hill
- June 27-29, 2003** ~ Annual AAW Symposium ~ Pasadena, CA
- July 2, 2003** ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge, 7123 Southwest Fwy., ~ 713-981-9228



## Meeting Location This Month

The Cutting Edge Woodworker's and Tool Supply,  
7123 Southwest Fwy., ~ 713-981-9228

## Meeting Program This Month

Gregg Gonsalves will demonstrate sanding techniques and Steve LeGrue will demonstrate turning an eccentric box.

## Executive Committee

President	Ernie Bahr	(832) 285-9404	ernie@jalepeno.com
Vice President/Webmaster	Bruce Dolen	(713) 787-6962	bdolen@tydemandolen.com
Treasurer	Helen Osteen	(713) 475-1832	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	brian.laing@sbcglobal.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
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Email: [gcwa@jalepeno.com](mailto:gcwa@jalepeno.com)

GCWA Websites:  
[www.gulfcoastwoodturners.org](http://www.gulfcoastwoodturners.org)  
<http://get.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>

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/>



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