

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association

GCWA Newsletter



Gulf Coast Woodturners Association

September 2004

GCWA Web Sites:

[Http://www.gulfcoast-woodturners.org](http://www.gulfcoast-woodturners.org)

[Http://go.to/gcwa](http://go.to/gcwa)

President's Corner

There are so many exciting woodturning activities that will be coming our way during the next few months that it is hard to know which to talk about first. Greg Gonsalves and Don Fluker are working on our club's contribution to the AAW totem pole that will be on display in Arrowmount, Tennessee. If you would like to help, please contact either Don or Greg.

Our September meeting will be held at the University of Houston and it comes on the same day as Houston Center for Contemporary Craft's Gathering of the Guilds Day. We are going to need about 3-4 people, at least, to set up lathes and turning equipment Saturday morning at 9:00 and agree to give up the GCWA meeting in order to demonstrate turning for the public. Let me know if you would like to be at HCCC early to represent GCWA.

GCWA is going to begin taking member photographs at our meetings to keep in the archives. These photos will only be used in our newsletter from time to time to identify members who submit articles, contribute to Show and Tell, etc. So, make sure to comb your hair and iron your shirt before our September meeting.

I am truly excited about having Cindy Drozda here in November as our guest demonstrator and session instructor. I saw Cindy last year at the South West Association of Turners in Wichita Falls and was very impressed with her beautiful and creative boxes and banksia pod creations. Reserve your spot at our

September meeting.

If you haven't signed up yet for the SWAT symposium in Temple, you still have a tiny bit of time. Pay your registration fee by August 15 to avoid a late registration penalty. We have four club members who will be demonstrating along with Greg and Don who will man the hands-on section.

GCWA says "Thanks you" to Bruce Dolen who has been our web master for the last four years. Bruce has resigned from that position and we are glad to announce that Ernie Bahr and Dale Barrack will be taking on the responsibility. Ernie will serve as technical director and Dale as artistic director. They have some innovative ideas that I think we are really going to enjoy. We hope to have our new sight up and running in the next couple of months.

Our August meeting was held at Cy-Fair High School in their exceptional facility. Thanks to Larry Carlton for hosting us. Wayne Stanfield, Don Fluker and Greg Gonsalves had a round robin of box turning demonstrations. Members were able to learn several different approaches to box making. Hopefully, all of you will put that knowledge to good use because in October, we are going to have a "Box Swap," similar to our Christmas ornament swap.

Don continues to collect Freedom Pens from our members. Bill Hubbard may hold the record in number of pens donated—48 at our last meeting!

(Continued on page 2)

Cindy Drozda to be Guest Demonstrator for GCWA in November, 2004

Cindy Drozda, who makes her home in Colorado, will be the GCWA guest turner in November. Cindy is probably best known for her banksia pod creations and her ornate boxes. If you have wished you knew how to apply decorative inlay or contrasting woods to your turnings, you won't want to miss Cindy's demonstration and hands-on sessions.

Cindy's general demonstration will be Nov. 13 at the University of Houston. The cost will be \$15 and the session will be divided into two segments. The first two hours are from 9:00 to 11:00 and the second part of the demonstration will be from 1:00 to 3:00. Lunch will be on your own. The cost is lower than usual since lunch will not be included. We are inviting University of Houston students to attend, in keeping with one of our goals of educating the community in the craft of woodturning, and the lower cost will be more palatable for those students.

(Continued on page 3)

**September Meeting, Sept 18, 2004
Houston School of Architecture
University of Houston
Houston, TX**

Show & Tell

Winners at the August meeting held at Cypress Fairbanks High School were:

Beginner Category

- 1st Place — **Ron Brewer** for a Turned Box of Pallet Wood
2nd Place — **Ron Brewer** for an Ambrosia Maple Bowl
3rd Place — **Betsy Dodson** for an English Chestnut Bowl w/ Scroll-sawn Corian Top

Intermediate Category

- 1st Place — **Kevin Turco** for Mesquite Bowl
2nd Place — **Larry Zarra** for a Red Oak Bowl
3rd Place — **Joe Rice** for a Hackberry Bowl

Advanced Category

- 1st Place — **Wayne Stanfield** for an Elm Bowl
2nd Place — **Kendall Westbrook** for a Mesquite Bowl
3rd Place — **Dale Barrack** for a Root Ball Weed Pot

Segmented

- 1st Place — **Andy Chen** for a Mesquite, Walnut, Maple & Cocobolo Navaho Vessel
2nd Place — **Jerry Bennett** for a Soft Maple Open Seam Vessel
3rd Place — **Ben Ball** for a Walnut & Cherry Lost Segment Vessel

Enhanced

- 1st Place — **Bill Hubbard** for an Osage Orange Carved Box w/ Palm Lid
2nd Place — **Dale Barrack** for a Pecan Bowl w/Leather Trimmed Rim
3rd Place — **Bill Hubbard** for a Carved Box of Holly

Special thanks to our Judges;
Jack Hanley and
Randall Hassig

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

Classified Ads

Woodturning related items of interest to GCWA Members listed as a free service.

FOR SALE

Vega 24" bench top Bowl Lathe, dual range 8 speeds - 200 to 3000 rpm, 110 volt 3/4 HP motor with reversing switch, all sealed ball bearing drive system. 1"- 8tpi spindle nose, 4" face plate, 6" tool rest, with custom stand and mobile base.



Asking \$500.

Contact Kyle Westmoreland, (713) 725-6692, Westmoreland@3di.com.

Nova Mercury Mini Lathe—8" Swing, 23" between centers w/included bed extension, 1/4 HP Variable DC Drive, 3 Range headstock—400 to 3800 RPM. 1"- 8tpi spindle nose, #2 MT spindle and quill, 6" tool rest, live center, drive spur, 3" face plate. \$125. Mack DeBose, (281) 444-7993, Lmdebose@swbell.net.



President's Corner, continued

(Continued from page 1)

If you noticed that we had a new squirrel cage for raffle tickets, you are right. The old cage finally gave up the ghost. We thank Boyce and Diana Gahagan for building the new one.

The weather has been unusually cool for August and September in Houston. Go ahead and take a chance—get out to the shop and make some turnings!

A Club Challenge Freedom Pens Project

By: Don Fluker

Bill Hubbard donated 48 turned pens, each made from a different species of wood.



Please don't forget about the Freedom Pen Project. Bring your pens to the meeting and I'll send them in the clubs name. If you

have received free kits from the Freedom Pen Project and want to turn them in with us then you can. Because of their policy about not sending more kits until they have received your finished pens, be sure and tell them that you put your finished pen in the GCWA contribution. I will be sending a list of the names of those who contribute and the amount of pens that you gave along with the shipment. That is why it is very important that when you give any pens that you give me an accounting so that your name will be on the list.

I mailed our first donation of 72 pens. Gulf Coast Woodturners also contributed a check in the amount of \$200 for the Freedom Pen Project people to purchase kits or wood.

A list of contributors: Jack Hanley 26, Roger Dauer 2, Diane Pottorf 1, Don Fluker 25, and Greg Gonsalves, Luna Ford, David Zaunbrecher, & Don Fluker 20.

A Special thanks to Richard Galindo, an employee of the Houston Woodcraft store, who purchased and contributed plastic triangular pen cases for shipping all the pens in.

Once again **Thanks** to all of you who have helped.

Product Evaluation Table Saw Blades

By: Andy Chen

Most of our members do not do much cutting on a table saw. But for those of us who turn segmented bowls, the table saw is an essential tool. Even if you do not do segmented bowls you probably still have an appreciation for the requirement of precision cutting.

One of the key issues for precision cutting is the selection of a saw blade. For a number of years I used Freud (Italian, not German; correct pronunciation, free wood, to which we turners can all relate) "Quiet Blades" (F410), which is a 10" carbide-tipped blade with 40 alternate top beveled (ATB) teeth. They have laser-cut zigzagging lines that disrupt the vibration, hence quietness. Less vibration means not only quieter cuts but more importantly, less gouging into the wood and a resulting smoother cut. They worked at least as well as the Forrest Woodworker II but cost just about half as much. Unfortunately, Freud changed this product a couple of years ago and as far as I can tell, to a "premier" blade, which does not have the laser-cut antivibration slots and it costs about twice as much as the old F410.

Living in College Station, I was unable to find a reliable saw sharpener to

sharpen my old F410s and I started looking for a substitute blade desperately. About 2 years ago, another woodturner in College Station told me about a Freud Diablo blade that he had purchased from Home Depot for an incredible \$29.97. I looked at what he had cut and decided to get one for myself. I have been using it for about a year and half now and I am happy to report that this is an excellent blade, especially for the price. It is a 40-tooth ATB combination blade (cross-cutting and ripping) with the vibration-damping laser-cut lines and is coated with red Teflon. It does both cross-cutting and ripping well and because it is a thinner blade (0.098" vs. 0.125"), it requires less effort to push the stock through the blade. Of course the flip-side is that it can be re-sharpened fewer times. But at this price, who needs re-sharpening!

One word of caution, I guess in the interest of cutting the cost, these blades are hanging on the pegboard with no sleeves or coating on the teeth for protection. I would strongly advise that you examine each tooth carefully, preferably with a magnifying glass, before you proceed to the checkout.

Letter from Amy Weber Houston Center for Contemporary Craft

6/30/04

To the Gulf Coast Wood Turners Association:

Dear members,

On behalf of Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, I wish to extend a heart felt thank you for the lathes which your association so generously donated to the Craft Center. Because of your donation, we are able to expand our woodturning class capacity and introduce more people to the art of turning!

As Program Manager, I look forward to putting the lathes to good use in keeping with our joint educational missions.

Sincerely,

Amy Weber

Amy Weber

Program Manager, Houston Center for Contemporary Craft

Cindy Drozda, continued

(Continued from page 1)

The hands-on sessions will be Nov. 14, 15, 16, and 17 in the shop of Boyce Gahagan. The cost will be \$135 and lunch will be included. These day-long sessions will allow members to make elaborate boxes, among other turning opportunities.

Our new members are particularly encouraged to participate in these opportunities as you will be able to work with a nationally known professional turner for six hours, gaining invaluable information and experience.

Sign up with Helen Osteen, our treasurer, at the September meeting.

STRETCH

One's mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions.

Oliver Wendell Holmes

So we invite you to come stretch with us as Cindy Drozda provides us with an eye opening experience. You will be able to see her demonstrate on Saturday, November 13, at the University of Houston. You will be able to have hands on instruction for 4 days following that at a small shop that is just right for private attention, and good food. Don't let this opportunity pass you by, I offer my personal invitation to join us.

Diana Gahagan

Samples of Cindy Dozda's Work



Highlights of the August Meeting



Wayne



Don Fluker



Gary Rogers

Demonstrators at the August Box-A-Thon demonstrating the turning of small boxes.

Show & Tell Entries from the August 2004 Meeting



Diana Gahagan with the Jerry Bennett segmented vessel that she will embellish by burning.



Bill Hubbard's carved boxes.



Dale Barrack's weed pot.



Kendall Westbrook's Mesquite Bowl



Mentor Program

The following members have volunteered to serve as Club Mentors:

Jim Keller----- (281) 438-1171
By Reed----- (979) 830-0917

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.

Lacquer Finish for Woodturnings

By Wm. Kendall Westbrook

If you have a beautiful piece of hardwood and want to show off the figure in the wood, lacquer is a great finish to go with. The following steps might seem very labor intensive but, when taken in the following order, you can finish out a project in less than a week. The drying time in between steps accounts for most of the time. I think that the results will justify all of the time spent.

1). Sand to at least 400 to 600 grit on the lathe. I go through the grits starting with 180, 220, 320, and 400. Be sure to clean between grits and for the final step, if you have an air compressor, clean off with an air gun. I slowly go over both inside and outside, getting into all the graining and getting out all the sanding dust I can. Inspect carefully under a close light for any surface defects such as sanding marks or opening in the grain, or any other imperfections. Lacquer is unforgiving; it will amplify any defect that you overlook.

STEP #2 IS BEST DONE WITH A PAIR OF RUBBER GLOVES

2). While the bowl is still on the lathe, take a small rag and apply a generous coat of a premixed solution 30% Deft paint-on lacquer and 70% lacquer thinner to the inside and outside of the bowl as close to the chuck as possible. Remove as much of this mixture as you can with a dry paper towel. Then using lacquer thinner, wipe the bowl off to bare wood. This process does several things at the same time. You are sealing the wood so the remaining process will layer and not continue to soak into the wood. This will also neutralize most surface oils that could affect the finish. You can repeat this step if you feel another coat is necessary to seal the wood. I use my Cole Jaws to finish turning the bottom of the bowl and then repeat steps 1 and 2. Let this set up at least over night.

THE REST OF THE STEPS ARE OFF THE LATHE

3). Apply four to six coats of spray on lacquer to the outside of the bowl. I use the Deft spray on gloss. Apply as thick as you can. Just be careful to keep the spray nozzle some 6 to 9

inches away always moving to avoid any build up or drips. Wait approximately 10 to 15 minutes between coats and then allow it to dry at least 24 hours.

4). Wet sand with water using 1500 grit wet or dry sandpaper. All you are doing at this stage is leveling everything out without going through to the wood. If this happens, just stay away from this place and keep on leveling until you have completely sanded.

5). Repeat steps 3 and 4 until your surface is completely smooth. Then wet sand again with 1500 grit.

REPEAT 3, 4, AND 5 FOR THE INSIDE OF THE BOWL

6). When you are done sanding, apply Scratch Out to a soft rag and rub out the lacquer using a circular overlapping pattern one small area at a time. Then finish off buffing with a soft cotton cloth.

If your project is a bowl or platter you have to step through the process for the inside and then again for the outside starting at step three.

The Scratch Out and the wet or dry sandpaper can be purchased at Wal-Mart in the automotive department. There is also a 3M Clear Coat Rubbing Compound. Both products do the same thing by removing scratches in clear coat automotive finishes. The Scratch Out does not cost as much as the 3M Clear Coat Rubbing Compound.

You might want to try it on a small vessel the first time to see how the technique works. The reward comes when you buff the bowl with the soft rag and you see the beauty of the wood coming through the lacquer.

I hope you find this finishing technique as rewarding as I have.

Membership

We had four new members to join GCWA in August.

Welcome to: **Cecil Arnold, Chris Hines, Drew Hunger and Larry Zarra.**

Raffle Report

By: Diana Gahagan

The most important thing to remember, is that the winners of the bring backs are required to turn something so we can continue this wonderful tradition. It's always such a great treat to receive something another member has made. You all remember how excited I was when I won a piece at retreat.

You can always volunteer to donate one of your pieces too. Just run out to the shop now that's the weather is cool and turn something to share with us.

Woodturning Tips

By: Tom Enloe

What do you do with broken tool rests? Of course I don't really get violent catches that break a tool rest, but I must have gotten a defective one. In any case, I cut off the other wing to create a "shorty" tool rest that is very useful for getting into small areas.

I got tired of trying to plug in my various tools with 110v two wire plugs and crudely spray painted a white spot on the ground side of every darn plug in my shop. Now I get it correct every time.

Trying to determine where to position a piece to take the best advantage of the grain while fitting into a log is much easier now that I made a set of 1/4 plywood circles in one inch incremental disks. Once I find the right location, I drive a small screw in the center hole and use the disk as a guide while bandsawing to rough shape. The circles can take a beating but their cheap to replace.

Look around your shop and send me a couple of ideas, I need help.

Cindy Drozda to be Guest Demonstrator for GCWA in November,

Hollow Wooden Vessels and Containers

My vessels are turned on a lathe from a solid piece of wood. The rough chunk of wood is mounted to the machine, and a hand held chisel shapes the spinning piece. Specialized hook-shaped tools are used to hollow out the interior of the vessel. Hollowing is a time consuming process of working by feel, checking frequently with calipers, and coaxing all of the wood chips out of the small opening. After the unseasoned (green) piece of wood is turned to it's rough shape, it is dried until all of the tree sap in the cells has evaporated. I use a variety of drying techniques since each type of wood reacts differently during the drying process. The rough turned piece may be boiled for a couple of hours in a big pot of water, or dried slowly in a paper bag, before finishing the drying in a specially made kiln.

As the wood dries it shrinks, distorts, and sometimes cracks. At this point some of the rough pieces don't survive.

After it is completely dry, the vessel is remounted to the lathe, turned to it's final shape, and sanded to a high polish. I finish the completed vessel with hand rubbed oil and wax for waterproof protection.

Because the wood is completely seasoned in Colorado's dry climate, and the vessel is turned with a consistently thin wall, the piece should not crack or change its shape even if it is taken to live in a wetter or drier environment. It is not a good idea to expose these wooden vessels to excessive temperatures or direct sunlight, and water should be wiped off immediately.

The thin walled vessels are also somewhat fragile. They should be

well padded for shipping, and will dent or scratch easily if dropped.

My lidded containers are made using similar techniques as for the larger vessels, but with smaller tools. Usually a container will have the inside finished to the same high polish as the outside, requiring more care in the hollowing. The lid is cut from the same piece of wood, or from a contrasting species, and the finial, foot and decorative inlay rings are fitted to the body of the container with tight-fitting joinery such as is used in building furniture.

When creating a lidded container, I often will decorate the piece with precious metals, gemstones, or 23k gold leaf. The application of gold leaf is known as "gilding", and has been used to decorate furniture, picture frames, signs, architectural components, religious artifacts, books, and other highly prized works since the middle ages. I use a traditional gilding technique of applying a "gold size" varnish, which the gold leaf adheres to, and finish with a burnishing style referred to as "engine turning". Since pure gold doesn't tarnish, there is no protective coating over the gold to impair its brilliance. The gilded surfaces will not withstand heavy use.

Despite my best efforts to control it, wood remains a living material with its own personality! My pieces develop their own character as they age.

The Banksia Seed Pod: A "pine cone" from "down under"

Banksia is a genus of plants that occur in Australia and Papua New Guinea numbering 75 named species. Of these, 61 are found in Western Australia, including the Banksia Grandis, the species that generates the large pods used by woodturners. The other 14 species are found in the eastern and southern states. There is one, banksia dentate, which is found

over a habitat range from NW Australia, the Northern Territory, north Queensland, and through the islands of the Gulf of Carpentaria into Papua New Guinea.

The Banksia take their name from Sir Joseph Banks, the botanist who was on captain Cook's ship "Endeavour" that arrived in Australia in 1770. Of the botanical specimens gathered, the Banksia Serrata was the first named of the genus.

It was from a subsequent trip to Australia that specimens were gathered resulting in seeds being grown in European glasshouses and 2 new species being named. One of these was the Banksia Grandis named by Carl Wildenow in 1798. Although it's the size of the seed pod that makes it attractive for woodturners, the name probably refers to the tree's large leaf size.

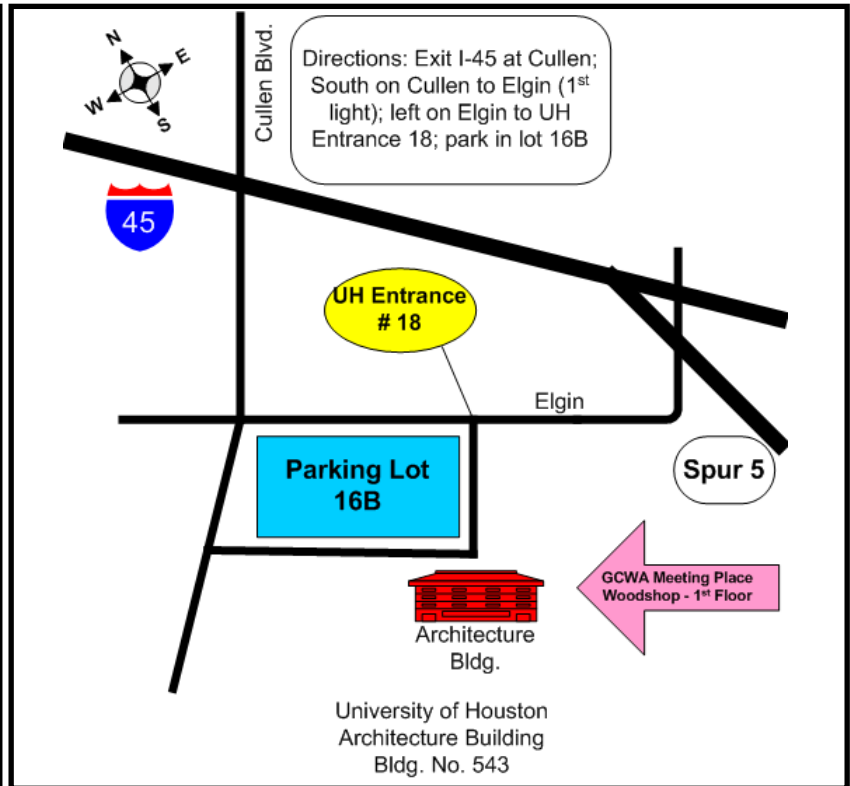
The Banksias Grandis is restricted to a natural occurrence in only the southwest corner of Western Australia. More specifically, the coastal plain and Darling plateau from a point some distance north of Perth extending over an area about 650 miles southwards and eastwards along the coast and about 100 miles inland at most. Banksias in general occur as plants ranging from prostrate shrubs through to larger bushes and on up to trees of 50 feet or so in height. Banksia grandis grows as either a large shrub or a small tree depending on its location, either on the coastal plains or as an understory tree in the eucalyptus forests. The cones commonly used for woodturning are the fruit body remains from the flower head spike that blooms from October to January. These cones can be anything from 4 to 16 inches long. Once the stunning, upright, golden yellow or red flowers fall off, the cone matures on the tree and the seeds develop. The seed case holes, which give these pods their unique appearance, burst open and release the seeds.

Please check out other articles:
<http://www.cindydrozda.com/>

Calendar of Events

Scheduled Meetings & Events

- September 13, 2004** ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Janice Levi's home ~ 1915 Van Buren Circle, Pasadena, TX
- September 18, 2004** ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ University of Houston School of Architecture
- Oct 2-3, 2004** ~ SWAT (Texas Turn or Two) in Temple, TX
- October 11, 2004** ~ Columbus Day Festival in Fredericksburg
- October 11, 2004** ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Don Fluker's home
- October 16, 2004** ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ Deer Park High School
- November 1, 2004** ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge ~ 11760 S. Sam Houston Pkwy W. ~ 713-981-9228
- November 13, 2004** ~ 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM ~ Cindy Drozda Demonstration ~ University of Houston School of Architecture
- November 14 -17, 2004** ~ 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM ~ Four Hands-On Sessions ~ Diana Gahagan's Home ~ 20201 Fox Glen, Humble, TX
- November 15, 2004** ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Diana Gahagan's home ~ 20201 Fox Glen, Humble, TX
- November 20, 2004** ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ TBD
- December 6, 2004** ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge ~ 11760 S. Sam Houston Pkwy W. ~ 713-981-9228
- December 13, 2004** ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Greg Gonsalves home ~ 1915 Van Buren Circle, Pasadena, TX ~ 713-475-2308
- December 18, 2004** ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00AM ~ TBD



September Meeting Location

University of Houston School of Architecture

September Meeting Program

Bruno Wesolek will demonstrate the turning of twisted candlesticks

Executive Committee

President/Past President	Janice Levi	(713) 475-2308	TJLevi@swbell.net
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GCWA Websites:
www.gulfcoastwoodturners.org
<http://get.to/gcwa>

Program Chairman
Greg Gonsalves

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.

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>
Southwest Association of Turners: <http://www.texasturnortwo.com>
Trent Bosch: <http://www.trentbosch.com>



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