



Gulf Coast Woodturners Association

# GCWA NEWSLETTER

June 2006



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**M**y feet still hurt, do you think Montgomery County would install a softer floor for our 2007 SPRING RETREAT?

Despite my aching feet, the Spring Retreat is my favorite annual event presented by the Gulf Coast Woodturners Association. While I enjoy the monthly meetings, and have a lot of fun at the picnic and public shows, the Retreat is a full weekend of information and comradery. AND, even better **Bill "you have to buy tickets to win" Berry** ran the raffle and we made money that we can use for other projects throughout the year.

Those of you who show up at 9am and leave at 5pm only see the Public face of the show, this is the "organized" part - yes, it really is kind of organized. Those who hang around turning until midnight see the totally unorganized part, where we try out new tools, exchange weird ideas, and generally just enjoy ourselves. By the way, midnight is when the "Drill Sergeant" aka **Jonathan Bartz** pulls the plug.

Judging by the evaluation forms, it looks like y'all enjoyed yourself regardless of what time you left. One of the most frequent comments was about the new class structure that the LUNA FORD award winner for 2006 - **Janice Levi** installed. With a deft touch of tact, it directed beginners to a mentor area for one-on-one instruction and routed experienced turners to an assortment of classes that they selected but also matched their experience level.

The "needs improvement" section of the form was mostly left empty - this is a good sign. Two of my favorite comments were "we should have fewer beginner classes" and "there are too many advanced classes", I guess we must be about right down the middle. Seriously, there were some useful comments for improvement and we will certainly try to incorporate them. One that I saw repeated a few times was that they wanted more classes, maybe Friday night or possibly some shorter time slots during part of the day. Let me know if you have any ideas that you didn't put on the evaluation form and I will add them to the file for review next spring.

Nothing goes smoothly at an event like this unless there are a lot of people willing to donate their personal time. That obviously includes all of the demonstrators and session leaders but certainly includes **Susan Whid-don, Ailene Bradley, and Linda Box** plus, of course, **Bill Pottorf** - remember he arranged for the food.

GCWA Web Sites:

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

[Http://jhanley.us](http://jhanley.us)

For those of you who haven't thought about it - where DID all those lathes come from? I think there were more than fifty lathes delivered to that one site. **George Kabacinski** may have twisted a few arms clear out of the socket but it just amazes me that so many people will load and deliver heavy equipment so club members can take classes. This is truly what sets our club apart.

After reading the above, a good question is who organized this magnificent event? Our chairman in charge this year was **Reggie Keith** and as you see above, he had a lot of help, but he was in charge and "done good".

Looking and planning ahead, **Bill Lewis** is coordinating a visit by **Mike Mahoney** on November 11th. The following URL link is a good review of Mike's typical demo [www.carolinamountainwoodturners.org/mahoney/mahoney2.html](http://www.carolinamountainwoodturners.org/mahoney/mahoney2.html) The exact schedule and locations will be determined later but plan on attending the Saturday demo and at least one of the hands-on training sessions on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday.

So, what have you turned LATELY?

*Tom*

## The Committee Chairmen

Programs - Open  
Meeting Sites - **Ben Ball**  
Show & Tell - **Robert Frost**  
Safety Moment - **George Kabacinski**  
Raffle - **Reggie Keith**  
Refreshments - **Lane Bradford**  
Library - **Tom Enloe**  
Newsletter - **Mack DeBose**  
Website - **Dale Barrack/Todd Clare**  
SWAT Rep. - **Tom Enloe**

June Meeting  
June 17 2006  
University of Houston  
Architectural Building  
Houston, TX

## CLUB NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### AAW Website Contest

The results of the AAW Best Website Contest have been finalized and GCWA was not among the winners. The top three clubs were: 1) Woodturners of North Texas; 2) Alabama Woodturners Association; 3) Central Indiana Chapter of the AAW. There were 19 websites entered in the contest.

In an after-the-contest-was-over change to the rules, AAW eliminated the "Security" criteria from the contest. That probably hurt GCWA's chances. Our secure Woodturners Forum, searchable member map and web-based member list, thanks to Todd's good work, is perhaps the best available and would have significantly helped our chances in the contest had the criteria not been eliminated after the fact.

### Show & Tell

There was no Show & Tell at the May meeting which was combined with the 2006 Spring Retreat.

## June Program

By: Jay Ebner

The tempering of the cutting tip of turning tools will be demonstrated at the June meeting. If you have a tool that does not hold a cutting edge it may be a candidate for tempering. The hardness of the tool can be determined, in a relative sense, by how easy it is to file. To temper or 'harden' (Blacksmiths never use the word harden), the tool is heated to critical temperature, about 1450° F, then quenched in oil. It is interesting that at this temperature the metal loses its magnetism.

## MEMBERSHIP

Ten new members joined GCWA in May. Welcome to:

Alain Bally,	Charles Bland
Loyd Deen	Lonnie Gannon
Jerald Harrell	Jerry Harrell
Carl Matthews	Phyllis Rhodes
Rich Soucek	Rodney Tow

## Bandsaw Tips

Excerpts from Gschwind Group's Timber Wolf® Bandsaw Blade Catalog article; "The 6 Rules of Sawing"

1. The "Flutter Test" for proper Timber Wolf® bandsaw blade tensioning for turn screw and spring tensioning machines. This will increase your blade life.
  - a. Remove guides - you CANNOT run this test if the bandsaw blade is restricted in any lateral movement.
  - b. Make sure tire surfaces are in good condition - they cannot be hard, flattened out, cracked or brittle. If drive belts are loose, tighten or replace them. **NOTE:** Anti-vibration belts are a good choice here. This will eliminate over 80% of the vibration in your saw and the blade.
  - c. Mount the blade on the machine and apply the tension to the band that the manufacturer recommends for that blade and steel.
  - d. Close all covers for **safety** purposes.
  - e. Start the machine, engage the clutch, if so equipped, into the high speed cutting mode. **NOTE:** You will not be cutting any wood.
  - f. Stand at the head of the machine, with your hand on the turn screw tensioner and your eyes on the bandsaw blade. **Very slowly** start detensioning, by half turns at a time, keeping your eyes on the bandsaw blade. The object is to bring the tension of the blade down to a point that the blade starts to flutter. **TAKE YOUR TIME.**
  - g. When you see the band start to flutter, you have hit ground "ZERO." Now start **ADDING** quarter turns of tension, **SLOWLY**, until the band stops fluttering and is running stable again. At this point **ADD** one eighth to one quarter turn of tension.
  - h. You have now tensioned your blade correctly. Shut off the machine and put your guides back in place. You are now ready to start sawing.
  - i. **DETENSION YOUR BANDSAW BLADES.** Since you do not know

- exactly where to set the proper tension, it will be easier to remember if you take off a specific number of full turns of tension until the blade is completely relaxed. Remember of note the number of turns and the next time you use the Timber Wolf® bands, add the same amount of turns that were taken off. At this point, you will only have to run the flutter test one time.
2. Pam spray - or vegetable shortening is a great lubricant for ¾" and smaller bandsaw blades on small vertical bandsaws. Turn off your bandsaw and unplug the power cord. Spray the PAM oil on a clean rag and wipe it on both sides of the blade while turning the upper wheel by hand. You will hear a difference in the sound of the blade as it is cutting. Apply again as often as needed. **A bandsaw is a tool. You must lubricate both sides!** Lubrication of the body of the band increases band life by over 30%. **Applied sparingly**, you can cut grade lumber with NO staining of the product and it will enhance tire life.
  3. **ALWAYS DETENSION YOUR BANDS.** When you are done cutting for the day, take the tension off your blade. Bandsaw blades, when warmed up from cutting, always stretch; and upon cooling shrink by tens of thousands of an inch each cooling period. Therefore, blades, when left on the saw, over-tension themselves and leave the memory of the two wheels in the steel of the band, which will cause cracking in the gullet. When you leave the band on your saw under tension, not only do you distort the crown and flatten out the tires (which makes them very hard), but you also place undue stress on your bearings and shafts. Believe it or not; you can, and will damage your wheel geometry sooner or later and considerably shorten bearing life. You are also crushing your tires or V-belts.

*Editor's Note: The remaining 3 of "The 6 Rules of Sawing" are specific to sharpening and re-sharpening of band mill blades and is most likely of little interest to wood turners.*

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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

The following listed tools belonged to a former GCWA member ( Gene Stewart ) who passed away recently. The tools are in the North Fry Rd area. Please call or email me (Bill Berry) at 281-479-8073, or [bberry2301@aol.com](mailto:bberry2301@aol.com). For more information

- ◆ **Delta 6 x 48 Belt w/ 9"Disk**  
Model #31-695 with stand. Like new condition. New Price \$270 will sell for \$150
- ◆ **Performax 16-32 Thickness Sander** with optional infeed and outfeed tables. Includes extra rolls of various grit sanding paper. Excellent condition. Price new \$1300, will sell for \$650
- ◆ **Jet Shaper with Stand Model # JWS -18HO** 1 hp, 115/230 Volt. Excellent condition. Cutter set included. Price new \$799 will sell for \$400.
- ◆ **Milwaukee Close Quarter drill** – This is a very popular drill with woodturners for power sanding. Excellent Condition. Price new \$160 will sell for \$80.
- ◆ **Many other hand tool and accessories**

FOR SALE: **Jet Mini Lathe**. Custom Paint, Mud Flaps with Reflectors, Continental Kit, and Curb Feelers. \$150 Contact Luna Ford, Phone 281-476-4159 or Email [lford@hal-pc.org](mailto:lford@hal-pc.org)

FOR SALE: Mrs. C. Bartlett would like to sell her deceased husband's wood lathe and turning tools. A large quantity of wood turning craft kits is also available in group lots. Call her at (281) 456-9480 for details & directions.

## MENTOR PROGRAM

The following members have volunteered to serve as Club Mentors:

**Jim Keller** -----(281) 467-2866

## Snapshots from the 2006 GCWA Spring Retreat



Janice Levi accepts the 2006 Luna Ford Award from Tom Enloe



Some of the items in the Raffle.



Tom Enloe at his "Sitdown OneWay" aka "TomsWay"



The 2006-2007 Executive Committee -- From left to right: Mack DeBose, Lane Bradford, George Kabacinski, Tom Enloe, Reggie Keith, Jay Ebner, Ben Ball, and Barbara Gaynor. Not present: Robert Frost.

Photography by: Dale Barrack



Dennis Weber's homemade Spring Pole Lathe

## Toolswap This Month

By: Bill Berry

One of the popular activities at some of our meetings is a "Turning Toolswap". We are going to do it again at the June meeting. Those of you who didn't bring your "stuff," to the last Toolswap, get it all together, now that you know how it works. If you have any wood, turning tools and turning sundries that you want to **SELL or TRADE**, please bring them to the June meeting. Start digging out all those seldom or never used items that are collecting dust. It could be just the tool someone else "needs". There will be tables set up to display all of your items. **Please have all tools marked with your name and a price.**

## Library Corner

By: Tom Enloe

The book and tape listing on the webpage is horribly out of date. It has just been overlooked and we have added a lot of new material. I will attempt to update in the next few weeks to provide an accurate listing. The reason this comes to mind is because **Bill Lewis** has donated a laptop to the Club for use with the library and our "web guy" has agreed to build a database and entry program to allow quick and accurate Check-in and Check-out. It might surprise some of you that we have members who forget to do the log-in/log-out and, believe it or not, some forget to bring the tapes back for months. Todd promises that the program will be so easy to use that even I can do it.

If you see any advertisements for tapes that you think should be in the Library, let me know. I am preparing an order and would like to have your input.

By Reed----- (979) 830-0917

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

**Diana Gahagan** (281) 446-1590

**Marty Kaminsky** (281) 339-3297

**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.

## Bandsaw Tips (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 2)

### Additional Tips

All carbon bandsaw blades, 1-1/2" and narrower, run best on a cushion of urethane or rubber. The shock absorbing quality of resilient tires mounted on metal bandsaw wheels extend blade body life dramatically. Modern bandsaw wheels have a crown machined across the face of the metal wheel. This crown can be as much as .015" for tracking 3/4" and narrower blades on a coated wheel. A blade will track towards the center of the wheel because that is where the most tension is applied. This the same principal used for tracking sanding belts on a belt sander. Age, over-tensioning and not detensioning the blade after use, compress and flatten the crown out of the tire. This compression will also make the tires hard and brittle. Old tires cause band breakage.

How do you know when the time has come to replace your tires?. Simply by looking at them. When the crown in the tire as flattened out equal to 1/2 the

width of the blade you are using, the time has come to replace them. At this point the tension you apply must increase in order to stabilize the blade.

Always try to keep 6 to 8 teeth in the cut at all times; this is for metal or woodcutting. It will give you stability and more of an accurate cut when scrolling or straight-line cutting. This rule does not apply when re-sawing or milling logs and cants.

Fatigue Ratio of a Bandsaw Blade: The stress being applied to the blade body; due to wheel diameter, blade length, thickness, speed (surface feet per minute - SFPM) and tension. Blade body life diminishes rapidly when put into any one or more these stressful situations. The blade, as it travels around the wheel, is compressed on the inside of the body, which is closest to the wheel and stretched on the outside of the body. Blades are designed to absorb repeated compression and expansion of the body as long as it does not exceed the steel's capabilities. Small band-

saw wheels exceed the steel's capabilities. Two wheel machines, smaller than 14" wheels, using 1/8" to 3/4" blades will encounter 20% to 50% less blade life. With machines 14" and larger, blade life will increase proportionally. You will encounter decreased blade life with any three wheel bandsaw even if the wheels are larger than 14".

The optimum SFPM's for 12", 14", 16", and 20" wheel diameters are; 2800, 3300, 3800, 4000, and 4000, respectively. As you exceed the SFPM on a specific wheel diameter, you are greatly increasing the centrifugal force applied to the body of the band traveling between the two wheels. This causes you to over-tension your bands in order to make them run stable. This WILL cause premature and excessive blade breakage. Bandsaw blades cannot be tensioned properly if your SFPM exceeds the optimums. There is also a minimum speed that you can run a bandsaw blade. Timber Wolf® bandsaw blades should not run under 2400 SFPM.

$$\text{SFPM} = \frac{(\text{Motor RPM}) \times (\text{Motor Pulley Diameter})}{(\text{Driven Pulley Diameter})} \times (\text{Wheel Diameter}) \times \left(\frac{3.1416}{12}\right)$$

## SWAT Update

By: Charles Kay  
SWAT Publicity Chairman

Things are moving along on the planning for this year's SWAT Symposium to be held in Temple, September 29 through October 1. SWAT President **Walter Tate** and his fellow Executive Committee members and their many volunteer chairmen and their committees are all working away on the details necessary to make this event the best Symposium ever.

The Regional Lead Demonstrator has been identified as **Clay Foster**. Clay will join previously named National Lead Demonstrators **David Nittmann**, **Andi Wolfe**, **Dave Hout** and **Andre Martell**. The Regional Demonstrators have been selected and include:

**Bill Rubenstein** - making your own simple turning tools  
**Bruce Hoover** - sanding secrets  
**Andy Chen** - segmented vessel

**Bonnie MacDonald** - marbling on wood, paper and more

**Frank Penta** - multi-axis platter & multi-axis birdhouse

**John Horn** - turning your scraps into wearable art

**John Leonard** - twice-turned bowl, wet to dry

**Larry Zarra** - turning tops for fun and profit

**Paul Tiefel** - all about boxes

**Rusty Myers** - kitchen utensils

**Craig Timmerman** - disc vases

**Anthony Harris** - hand-chased threaded boxes

Alternates:

**Pleas McKee** - turning studs into dollars

**Bill Sullivan** - the nuts and bolts of turning (mechanical threading).

The new style SWAT brochures have been printed and should be in your mailbox soon. They contain details of this year's plans, as well as a registration form. As always, you can also find the latest information on the Sympo-

sium, including schedules, lodging information, the Spouses Program and a registration form on the SWAT web site, [www.swaturners.org](http://www.swaturners.org).

As reported last month, **Joanie Genender** has put together another fine Ladies Program. So for all of you guys who are planning to drag your wife along to Temple, open up the SWAT web site, [www.swaturner.org](http://www.swaturner.org), and let her see what is available.

Host Committee Chairwoman **Betty Hager** has put together a listing of available lodging in Temple, and that is also posted on the SWAT web site. The publicity and registration brochure is in preparation, and should be out by the end of May, and will include a registration form.

So mark your calendar, and start making your plans for late September.

## Scheduled Meetings & Events

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change.

**June 15 -17, 2006** ~ Annual Utah Woodturning Symposium  
~ Brigham Young University ~ Provo, UT

**June 17, 2006**~ GCWA Meeting~ 9:00AM ~ University of Houston Architectural Bldg.

**June 22 - 24, 2006**~ 20th Annual AAW Symposium ~ Louisville, KY ~ <http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2006/>

**July 3, 2006** ~ **NO** First Monday at The Cutting Edge

**July 5, 2006** ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Barbara Gaynor's Home ~ NOTE: Date changed due to Holiday

**July 15, 2006**~ GCWA Meeting~ 9:00AM ~ The Cutting Edge ~ 11760 S. Sam Houston Pkwy W. ~ 713-981-9228

**August 7, 2006** ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge ~ 11760 S. Sam Houston Pkwy W. ~ 713-981-9228

**August 7, 2006** ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Mack DeBose hosting at Cutten Green Clubhouse ~ Seegers Trail at Greens Road

**August 19, 2006** ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM Houston Center for Contemporary Craft ~ 4848 Main ~ Houston

**Sept. 4, 2006** ~ **NO** First Monday at The Cutting Edge

**Sept. 4, 2006** ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Location to be determined (**Note** - Date will probably be changed due to Holiday)

**Sept. 16, 2006** ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ Clark's Hardwood Lumber Co. ~ 700 E. 5½ St. ~ Houston

**Sept. 29—Oct. 1, 2006** ~ SWAT at Temple, TX

**October 2, 2006** ~ **NO** First Monday at The Cutting Edge

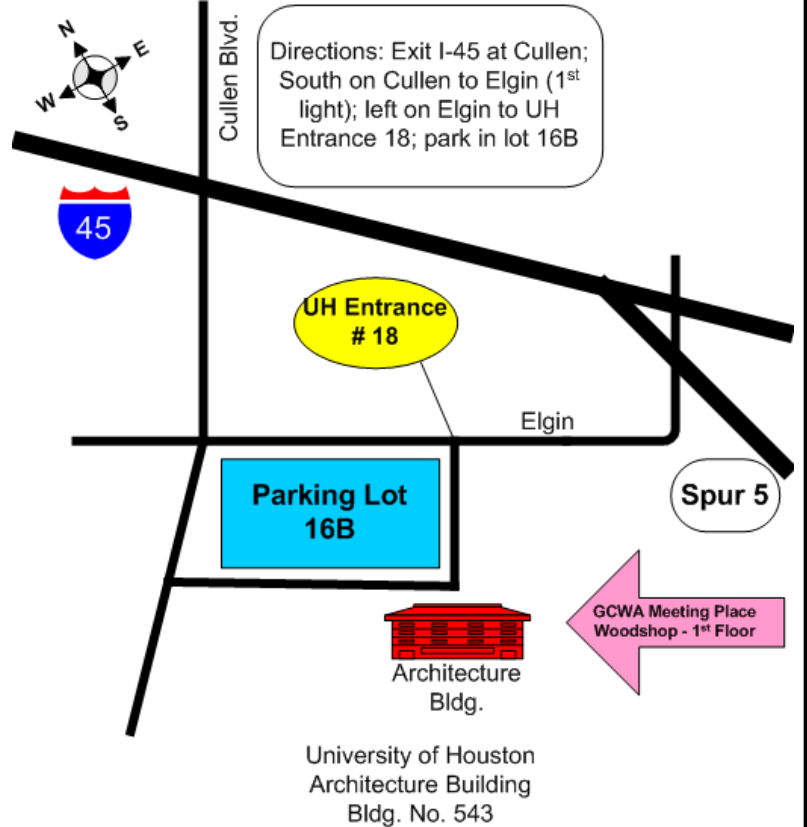
**October 9, 2006** ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Location to be determined

**October 21, 2006** ~ GCWA Meeting ~ 9:00 AM ~ Location to be determined

**Nov. 6, 2006** ~ First Monday ~ 7:00 PM ~ The Cutting Edge ~ 11760 S. Sam Houston Pkwy W. ~ 713-981-9228

## June Meeting Location

### University of Houston



## June Meeting Program

**Jay Ebner will demonstrate tempering of turning tools.**

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Tom Enloe - President/Librarian/  
SWAT Representative**  
(832) 229-4404  
tomtom@houston.rr.com

**Ben Ball- Vice President**  
(281) 494-0396  
benball@alum.mit.edu

**Lane Bradford - Secretary**  
(281) 353-8905  
bradfwl@swbell.net

**Jay Ebner - Treasurer**  
(713) 777-7019

**George Kabacinski - Board Member**  
(832) 467-2033  
gkabacinski@gmail.com

**Mack DeBose - Board Member/  
Newsletter Editor**  
(281) 444-7993  
Lmdebose@swbell.net

**Barbara Gaynor - Board Member**  
(713) 304-9659  
javaman@hal-pc.org

**Reggie Keith - Board Member**  
(281) 496-9876

**Robert Frost - Board Member**  
(281) 474-4690  
frosttax@houston.rr.com

**Dale Barrack - Website Creative Director**  
(281) 358-8529

**Todd Clare - Website Technical Director**  
(713) 660-8233

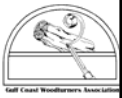
Email: [gcwa@jalepeno.com](mailto:gcwa@jalepeno.com)  
GCWA Websites:  
[www.gulfcoastwoodturners.org](http://www.gulfcoastwoodturners.org)  
<http://jhanley.us>

Program Chairman  
Open

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 Robert Frost, 1103 Cragmore Dr, Seabrook, TX 77586-4105. 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>  
Southwest Association of Turners: <http://www.texasturnortwo.com>  
Trent Bosch: <http://www.trentbosch.com>  
Central Texas Woodturners: <http://www.ctwa.org>



**Gulf Coast Woodturners  
Association**