

GULF COAST WOODTURNER

November 2008



President's Corner

October was a pretty good month for GCWA. We had a very successful general meeting featuring **Jimmy Clewes** and followed that with the **Jimmy Clewes** Demo Day event in the afternoon. The weather held up fairly nicely and the U of H facility proved again to be a nice meeting place when you don't need A/C. Thanks go out to **Tommy Joe** for allowing us to use the facility. Special thanks also go out to **Doug and Anne Grissom** for hosting Jimmy during his stay. Having a guest turner hosted by a club member goes a long way in keeping the costs down and making it feasible to have someone of Jimmy's stature visit for classes and a demo day. Speaking of the classes, I attended two of them and had a great time and I learned a lot in the process.

The October general meeting and afternoon event allowed a few of us to practice on getting the video system setup and used. **Mack DeBose** provided the instruction with **Lane Bradford** and I being the main students, mostly Lane. A few others pitched in to help with setup and tear down – that was greatly appreciated. A couple weeks later we were off to SWAT for our first solo run (Mack did not attend SWAT this year). **John Van Domelen** and I arrived first and had most of the equipment up so Lane could handle the connections and tweaking prior to the first session. Again, we had several other members help out. Due to the schedule of presenters in the room the equipment had to be reconfigured between sessions the first day. We learned some about operating the equipment and came away with a few tweaks we can make to improve it a bit. All in all things went pretty well. We have a great deal of thanks to extend to Mack DeBose for all his efforts in getting the equipment so well organized which allowed us to pull it off. In addition to Mack and John we had at least one club member working each session to operate the console and assist the presenter as needed. **Tom Enloe** coordinated all this with his normal calm manner. Me, I'd go crazy trying to follow up on all

the details while Tom just pulls things off in what appears to be no effort - even though it is a lot. Thank you Tom, Mack, Lane, John and all the others who helped out at SWAT.

The Waco Convention Center turned out to be a nice facility even before they start their major, multi-year renovation effort. Well, ok, maybe with the exception of the chairs. I hope the SWAT will be able to utilize this facility in the future once it re-opens following the renovation which we hope includes new chairs. The sessions at SWAT were great, as usual with the biggest problem being trying to decide which rotation to attend in each time slot and how to get in to see the tremendous Instant Gallery and all the vendors. John was doing a lot of shopping for Retreat raffle prizes and negotiated some good deals so we should see some great prizes in May. Our club was well represented with probably 20 or so members present. **Greg Gonsalves, Don Fluker, Luna Ford** and others were there working the only hands-on area at SWAT. They were able to introduce wood turning to a few folks and help others refine and expand their turning skills. Well done guys!

Back here in Houston you may have noticed we've changed the meeting locations for November and December. Sadly, The Cutting Edge is closing and we've lost a great place to meet along with a prime retail source for our interests. The November meeting will be held at Clark's Hardwood Lumber Company. A map appears on page 9. The December meeting will be held at the Bayland Community Center in Southwest Houston. This will be

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**November Meeting
November 15, 2008**

Clark's Hardwood Lumber
700 E 5 1/2 St

GCWA Web Sites:

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

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

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

Woodturning Lessons

Hands-on woodturning lessons are now being given by Jim Keller at Foxfire Studios. You pick the subject; learn with my tools or yours. Oneway 2430 and Jet 1642 lathes available.

Rates- 8 hour lesson, one person \$135.00, lunch included, add a second person for \$75.00. 4 hour lesson, one person \$65.00, add a second person for \$40.00.

Call 281-467-2866 for information or to schedule a lesson.

FOR SALE Jet 1220, New ... Complete lathe with all original equipment. No box and no manual. Never powered up. Selling retail and on-line for \$449 plus tax / shipping. Buy it here for only \$399 (no tax, no shipping). Contact George by e-mail at CL23313@gmail.com.

Your Picture is Needed!

By Dale Barrack

Whether you have a Gold Gallery or not, GCWA would like to have a picture of you for club records. **Dale Barrack** recently upgraded his photo equipment and will be taking portraits at November's meeting. Dale will have a list of who does, and who does not, have a picture on file. For members with Gold Galleries, if you don't like your current picture, a new one will be taken.



Win an Eliminator Hollowing Tool!

The Eliminator is available in three variations – the Mini Eliminator Hollowing Tool, the Eliminator Hollowing Tool and the Mega Eliminator Hollowing Tool. Pricing ranges from \$115 to \$160. As the review article mentions, the tool is sold unhandled.

However, you can have your very own Eliminator Hollowing Tool with a custom handle by participating in the November and December general meeting raffles. A small number of tickets from each raffle will be used for a special drawing at the December meeting for this cool tool. The tool is donated by **Craft Supply USA** and the handle is made by **Reggie Keith** using a Cocobolo blank donated by **George Kabacinski**.

As Retreat Raffle King, **Bill Berry**, always says *'You gotta buy tickets to win!'*

No Tool Swap!!

We will not be holding a Tool Swap during the November meeting. This is typical of when we meet at any retail location. You can look forward to more tool swaps at future meetings.

MEMBERSHIP

One new member joined GCWA in October. Let's welcome Brian Foyt

President's Corner - (Cont'd)

our first meeting at this facility. It's a good sized room and a very nice building so it should be a good venue for us. Thanks are extended to **Jim Keller** for working this arrangement and making sure we have a safe and comfortable place to meet each month.

Changing topics a bit Several years ago, through the efforts of **Todd Clare** and others, GCWA introduced the Member Forum on our web site. The Member Forum is comprised of several 'boards', or general topic areas, where members post messages for other members which often results in an on-going discussion. All this is behind a 'fire wall' making it secure and limited to members only. You must have a user id and password to enter this area of the web site. A recent review of usage shows that about 120 of our members have never logged in after receiving their user id and password. On a more positive note nearly 70 members have used the Forum and 55 of them have visited within the last month. To put things into perspective the 70 members who have visited the Forum is more than most AAW club membership rosters so it's not a bad statistic at all. However, there is room for improvement in making the Forum more widely used and thereby benefiting more of our membership. In an effort to do this we will be providing a quick overview of the process to log in, read and post to the message boards. For folks who are not 'into' computers it sounds rather intimidating, but it really is quite easy and a great opportunity to exchange ideas with other members, get questions answered by fellow club members, do research on woodturning related topics, keep up with what's going

on, find out about available wood sources, and even save some money. There will be more to come on all that in future issues of the newsletter and at our general meetings.

For now we have a bit of a dilemma. That is how best to communicate to our membership. Of course the newsletter is a key part of our communications plan. We also use broadcast e-mail and we rely on postings to the web site and Forum boards as well. We have deliberately tried to keep the number of broadcast e-mails to a minimum. The idea in taking that approach was to rely on my passive forms of communication like the web site public pages and the member only Forum space. However, if only a portion of our membership is using these facilities we can not rely on them as being a total communication vehicle. The bottom line – we may need to increase the number of broadcast e-mails sent out by the club. Working in a high tech company I know first hand the problem of getting way too many e-mails every day. So we will continue to make every effort to limit the number e-mails and only use that medium when it is most appropriate or the message is of an urgent nature.

While on the topic of communications, our October newsletter was assembled by **Mack DeBose** who was filling in for newsletter editor **David Morley** while he was recovering from surgery. A big Thank You is extended to Mack for filling in. David is back at the helm with this issue and he's probably getting annoyed with the length of my article so I'll bring this to a close.

Keep turning, stay safe, and have fun!

george

Eliminator Hollowing Tool Test

by **Mike Baker**

I first came across the Eliminator tool last year when I saw Jack McDaniel (the manufacturer) at the AAW Symposium using it. I was intrigued because not only were shavings flying off the wood being cut, and that is always a draw to anyone, but on closer observation, the quality of finish achieved with the tool was excellent on both wet and dry timber.

But I did have a sense of déjà vu when I saw the tool. I recall another manufacturers product which had a square cutter set at 45° so that it peeled shavings off work, but that was a finishing tool.



Easy to use

The tool is able to make shaping and finishing cuts alike.

Sporting a heavy duty profiled shank with two milled flats to minimize vibration and to present the tool at an optimum cutting angle, it is designed to be easy to use – and it is!

In comparison to the other tools with attached cutters, these range of tools have a small cutter in relation to the shank size. The cutter to shank size is specifically designed to provide maximum stability and support when working. The cutting tip is where things start to get even more interesting.

The cutting tip

The tip is a carbide cutter that you rotate when an area becomes dull

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Dues Increase for 2009?

Yes, it's still a question. At the November board meeting a decision was reached to put this to a vote of the membership. The board proposed to raise the club dues from the current \$18.00 per year to \$25.00 per year. Before this can take effect it must be voted on by the club membership.

At the December general meeting we will have a vote, by private ballot, on this issue. Current members present at the meeting will be provided with a small ballot to give a thumbs up or thumbs down on the proposal.

But why is the board proposing to raise the annual dues? Well, anyone who has been to a gas station, grocery store, hardware store, or most any other place of business has had to notice that prices are going up. This also impacts everything the club purchases. GCWA was started 20 years ago and the dues were set at \$15.00 per year. Approximately twelve years ago that was raised to \$18.00 a year. This is one of the lowest rates of all of the AAW Chapters. The increase to \$25.00 is an increase of less than 60 cents a month.

Just because we have low dues now is clearly not a reason, in itself, to raise the dues. There are areas where the board would like to improve the club's operation and experience for the membership. However, the current level of income combined with on-going cost increases have resulted in some erosion of the club's cash reserves. Specifically the areas to be addressed include, but are not limited to

- Monthly meeting demonstrations that periodically feature known turners from Texas and surrounding states;

- Continued improvement in the video and audio systems the club uses for meetings and special events;
- Improved educational opportunities for club members;
- Help to grow people within the club to be future presenters and leaders of the club and at regional and national levels
- Use of meeting space that charges a small fee when appropriate free space is not available.

Over the past several years the board has been working to improve benefits for the club membership. These efforts have cost more than what the club is currently bringing in resulting in and resulting in erosion of the club's reserves. The modest increase in dues will help to improve revenue for the club and help support continued improvements in the club's operation and offerings to the membership.

Is GCWA worth \$25 a year? The board thinks so and the hope is that the membership does as well. Again, this is an increase of less than 60 cents a month ... not even the cost of a cup of coffee these days.

November Demonstration

by Tom Enloe

NO - relax, I am not going to do the demo, I'm just writing a note about the demonstration that **Steve LeGrue** will be doing this month. We are trying to have demos that appeal to a range of talents - not just beginners and not just experts. Since December's big event is the Christmas ornament exchange and we want to encourage EVERYONE to bring at least one ornament to swap,

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Eliminator Hollowing Tool Test - (Cont'd)

and it is fixed to the shank via a machine screw. The tip has a micro groove running around the face section which causes the cutting edge to have a 'lip'. This creates an ultra-fine cutting edge that works on both side and end grain. It is a disposable tip, however, I am about 20 hours into using the tool and am yet to rotate the cutter to a new position, indicating the tip will last a very long time. Coming unhandled, it will require fitting into an interchangeable handle or make your own to fit the tool into.

Verdict

This is a very easy tool to use. The hard work of what is the optimum cutting angle has been sorted for you, the cutter works effortlessly and the tool is stable and vibration free in use. I am sure it will become a firm favorite with many. It is certainly a tool worth having in your tool kit as it is a delight to use.

*This article appeared in the October, 2008 issue of **Woodturning** www.lightningpublications.com Used here by permission.*

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for November we have asked Steve to cover the basics of a traditional ornament. If you have never turned a custom-made ornament, you REALLY need to watch Steve and begin to enjoy making your own family traditions Christmas ornaments.

New Attendance Record at SWAT

By Bill Berry

The South West Association of Turners (SWAT) symposium was held in Waco, Texas this year, with just under 600 registered attendees. The larger crowd was probably as a result of a more central location. The event will move back to Wichita Falls for 2009 and hopefully back to Waco for all future events.

The event this year was highlighted by turners from other states as well as local talent from Texas. One of those Texas turners was our own **Bill Tilson**.

There were a number of GCWA members that attended the event this year, and I have asked some of them to share with us there reflections from SWAT.

Fog Tanner: I attended several of Binh Pho's rotations. He did one on airbrushing and another on piercing. They were both informative, and I can see why he uses one of those \$300 NSK tools now. I will stick with Harbor Freight version for a while though. The airbrushing was very informative on how to use it and the techniques he uses for masking and fading. I would have liked to have seen how he got around the problems on curved surface rather than a sheet of 1/16" aircraft plywood. But, it is one of those things that you have to practice on your own.

Mark St.Ledger had a good demo on making his "Rock-a-bye" box. It was pretty ingenious as he started off making several fixtures that would be used during the course of the project. One was a simple but ingenious "eccentric jam chuck" for doing the finials. I talked to him later and told him it was great idea - but since I have over \$1000 worth of eccentric chucks I wasn't going to

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President's Challenge

The best laid plans of mice and men Sadly we did not have any entries for the President Challenge at the October meeting. I suspect this was due to not having a general Show and Tell period and the excitement of having **Jimmy Clewes** at our meeting. This is certainly a 'lesson learned' for the future.

Hopefully we'll have much better results with the November Collaborative Challenge. The results of two or more working together should be even better than individuals working alone. As previously communicated, beginning Level turners **are encouraged to** pair up with an Intermediate or Advanced level turner (or tow or ...) and so on. For the project try for recovery of something that was previously discarded as a turning. Find something from the waste bin and see what another set of eyes, skills, and innovation can bring to coming up with a solution. If you say you have nothing to start with that's ok, just go with something from scratch the main idea here the idea is to get together and turn with someone else, enjoy the company, enjoy the common interest and potentially learn from each other. This should be fun, a creative learning experience, so don't get too caught up with rules, just have fun. If you do work on a recovery project try to bring a photo of the 'before' item so folks can get a sense of the transformation and recovery you've been able to pull off.

December – The traditional Ornament Exchange. I'm not about to mess with that tradition. We will not have a separate President's Challenge in December.

The challenge for January, 2009 will be to come up with a turning based on an article in **American Woodturner**. For those who may not know this is the journal produced by AAW. The Fall 2008 edition (Vol 23, No 3) carried an article by **Tim Heil** title Doorknob Upgrade (pg 48). Read the article, head out to the workshop, and then show up with your version of a custom turned doorknob for the January President's Challenge. Just be careful if you decide to remove a doorknob from your house for parts ... your spouse may not take kindly to the idea! For those who may need an even greater challenge go for a perfectly matched set or a whole series for a specific room, or even the entire house!

The next Exchange Challenge will be in March, 2009. While that's a ways off I wanted to put the challenge out and give everyone plenty of time to work on it. The item? A working time piece – this can be a wall clock, pocket watch, watch pendant, desk clock or whatever turns you on!

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New Attendance Record at SWAT - (Cont'd)

use a fifty cent piece of wood. He laughed and said that at home he uses an Escoulen chuck too. This is just a mechanism for people to see if the like that type of turning without buying a \$300 chuck. Its also something we could do at the retreat very easily. I have on my list to make one of those boxes, but I am still not going to use that fifty cent piece of wood...

I did go to one of Donal Derry's infomercials, but it wasn't that bad. I didn't come away with the urge to replace my Berry/Gonsalves system with it. He is good at presenting the subject matter and was fluid in the rotation. I have yet to understand why he uses the lathe in reverse and then lean across the lathe to see the laser on the other side. I think it is one of those things that works for him. He did show how to go a little too far when he was pushing the limits - he was trying for 1/32" wall thickness and came up with a -1/32" when the inevitable wood movement occurred. And later he showed that "feel and sound" aren't always the best indicator when he cut the form in half - this time it was more like a -1/16" thickness. You could see the inside curve as it went from 1/8" to a 1/16" to 1/32" to a 1/64" and finally to a -1/32".

Christian Brisepierre had an interesting rotation on how he turned some segmented birdbaths. They were actually fountains that look like bird baths for a place in Vegas. They painted them, which was a shame as it hid all the segmented work. He did not turn any, but went over all the jigs and fixtures he had to make in order to get the pieces to turn. They were 23 1/2" in diameter which is right at the max

size for his Vicmarc lathe.

I attended one rotation by someone from the Dallas area, the name escapes me, on making hollow forms from narrow logs. The diameter of the form is wider than the log, which produces two windows on each side. He had one piece that he passed around where he had touched the inside just a bit too much, but it was interesting. I think that this is one of those winter time projects when you can dispose of the mistakes in the fireplace. Its on the list of things to try, but way down the list.

I went to Betty Scarpino's rotation on surface treatment, mainly to see how she bleaches wood. She does do some dying and liming - which I found interesting. She said there was no finish that could be put over the liming wax, so all her limed pieces are just the liming wax and no finish. There were also a few people in the audience that agreed with her. After the rotation I had to share that you can indeed put a finish over liming wax and that I didn't have any limed pieces without a finish over them. She had seem my pieces in the instant gallery, but did not realize there was a finishing oil over the wax. She did have some interesting pieces, but you came away with the sense that she is more of a carver and embellisher off the lathe when watching her turn pieces. But she ends up with some really nice work and it was worth the time to attend.

Bill Tilson:

Kevin Bassett – turning a double natural edge bowl started out running the camera so thought I would get an up-close and personal look but the cameraman finally showed up – bummer. He showed us how to make a smaller bowl inside a larger bowl or plate both with natural edges. Even did some reverse turning.

Attended the opening ceremonies

and lead demonstrator critique. Think our club should be proud that out of seven items picked by the lead demonstrators, three were from four GCWA members. That's pretty good in anybody's book.

Worked in GCWA's host room and worked the camera switch while watching Trent Bosch doing carving on one of his hollow forms – it never gets old watching him do a demo.

Betty Scarpino- Turning and safe use of bandsaw to create finished forms was informative, maybe I'll

try something like that 😊 one never knows. Her slide show/talk session on design ideas and theory had lots of audience participation.

Matthew Hill- Simple techniques for augmenting your work using color was interesting and learned some techniques using a little different from the way I do color. Want to try real retarder with my lacquer instead of just thinner to reduce blushing.

Donald Derry- romancing the curve, a simple "building block" approach to becoming a master of shape and form was very informative. It gave you some tools to refine your shape in small increments. This demo was NOT an info commercial.

All in all I had a great time even though I didn't win anything at the raffle – maybe next year I'll buy more tickets like George.

Snapshots from the October Meeting

Demonstration—Jimmy Clewes

Natural Edged Green Wood Vase

During the general meeting Jimmy provided the presentation and produced a natural edged vase from green wood. He donated the piece for the meeting raffle and guess who won it? George.



Oriental Box

During the Demo Day event Jimmy turned three additional pieces. The first was his famous oriental box. Jimmy has refined all the processes and provided many tips and special tricks of making these boxes safely and without having them fly around the shop.



Dyed Silver Leaf Bowl

The next work that Jimmy produced was a coloured piece. He is adamant that we Americans have messed up the English language and he spells colour with the U! Jimmy provided the audience with a number of insights and techniques for producing a coloured piece with a silver leaf bowl perfectly balanced to both the colour and size of the piece.



Lidded Box

Jimmy was running out of time, but he quickly completed a box to demonstrate the process he uses for perfectly fitted boxes. If anyone in the audience blinked they likely missed the demo - yes, he was that fast!



Snapshots from the Woodcraft Jimmy Clewes Session



Snapshots from the Cutting Edge Jimmy Clewes Session



Scheduled Meetings & Events

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change.

November 15, 2008 ~ GCWA General Meeting ~ 9:00AM - NOON

Location: Clark's Hardwood Lumber *change in loc.*
President's Challenge: Collaborative Challenge

December 1, 2008 ~ Board Meeting ~ George Kabacinski's house ~ 7:00PM

December 20, 2008 ~ GCWA General Meeting ~ 9:00AM - NOON

Location: Bayland Community Center
President's Challenge: Ornament Exchange

Jan 5, 2009 ~ Board Meeting Loc TBD ~ 7:00PM

January 17, 2009 ~ GCWA General Meeting ~ 9:00AM - Noon **Location:** University of Houston Main Campus ~ Keeland Discovery Center next to School of Architecture

Feb 9, 2009 ~ Board Meeting Loc TBD ~ 7:00PM

February 16, 2009 ~ GCWA General Meeting ~ 9:00AM - Noon **Location:** Foxfire Studios ~ 105 South 5th Street, Richmond, TX

Mar 9, 2009 ~ Board Meeting Loc TBD ~ 7:00PM

March 21, 2009 ~ GCWA General Meeting ~ 9:00AM - Noon **Location:** Memorial Lutheran Schools ~ 5800 Westheimer, Houston, TX

April 6, 2009 ~ Board Meeting Loc TBD ~ 7:00PM

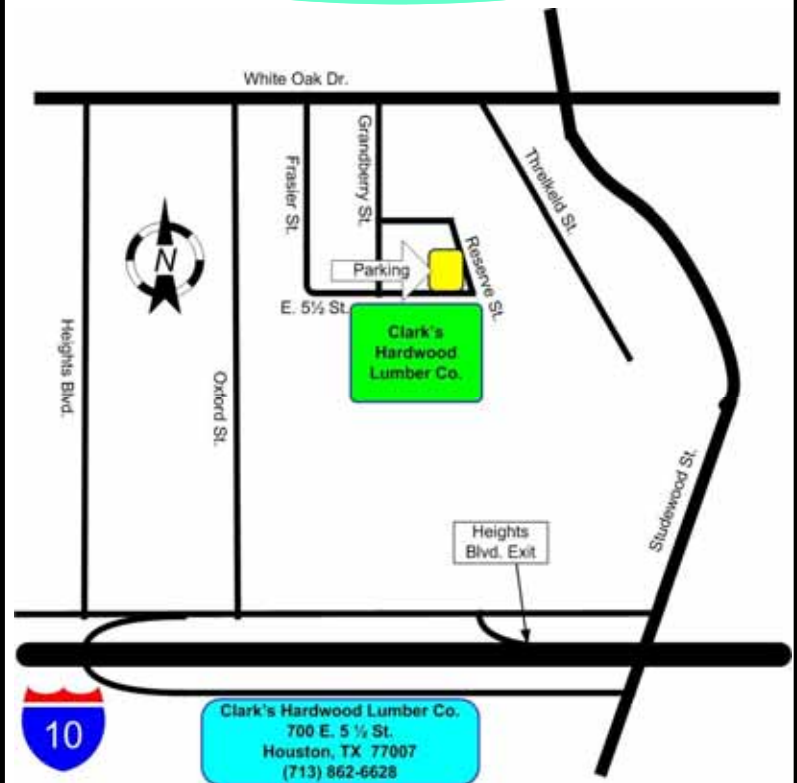
April 18, 2009 ~ GCWA Picnic ~ 9:00AM - Noon **Location** ~Bear Creek Park

May 16-17, 2009 ~ GCWA Spring Retreat ~ 8:00AM - 4:00PM

Location: Montgomery County Fairgrounds

November Meeting

Clark's Hardwood Lumber Co.
700 E 5 1/2 St
Houston, TX 77007



November Meeting Program

Steve LeGrue will demonstrate the turning of custom Christmas ornaments.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Program Chairman
Tom Enloe

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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 Mack DeBose, 11535 Clover Lane Ct, Houston, TX, 77066-3816. 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>
Rockler: <http://www.rockler.com>
The Cutting Edge: <http://www.cuttingedgetools.com>
Craft Supply: <http://www.woodturnerscatalog.com>
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>
Arizona Silhouette: <http://www.arizonasilhouette.com>
The Wood Turning Center: <http://www.woodturningcenter.org>
Woodturning Online: <http://www.woodturningonline.com>



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Association