

# GULF COAST WOODTURNER

February, 2010



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We continue to have a very full agenda for the club as we go into 2010. Our first President's challenge of the year was a big success, despite the fact that Guyla and I did not win. Thanks to **John van Domelen** and **Thomas Irven** for the judging. The winning pieces were both tour-de-forces in artistic and technical expression. If you didn't see the entries, they are on our website. Thanks also to Steve at **Rockler** for donating one of the \$50 gift certificates. Be sure to support those businesses that support us.

The **Empty Bowls** project (page 2) for the Houston food bank is coming up May 22, so be sure to bring in your bowl donations to a meeting to give to **Dave Barziza**, our coordinator for this event. If you are interested in turning at the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft on that day, please contact Dave or **Greg Gonsalves**.

We also need to elect a new board for the coming year. This is an all volunteer organization that depends on the efforts of its diverse membership. If you can give a couple of hours a month, please consider serving. We will need a new secretary and a couple of replacement board members, so please run. The best situation I can imagine is that we have several candidates for each post. If you don't like how things are being run, have a say in the club's direction. Speak to **Ben Gray**, the chair of our nominating committee. Voting is in April, and new officers will be announced at the Retreat.

Speaking of the **Retreat**, it is coming up fast: May 29-30 (page 4). It will again be held at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds in Conroe. If our program chairman, **Tom Enloe** has contacted you about teaching a workshop, please help us out and say "yes". We also need a bunch of lathes, so if you can let us use one of yours, contact **Doug Grissom** (page 4). We are trying to standardize the Fundamentals class for new turners, and I want all those who serve as mentors during the year to actively help in teaching this very important workshop.

Our **annual picnic** is scheduled for April 17 at the same place as last year, George Bush Park. We plan to have a catered BBQ lunch and lots of fun activities, including another egg cup race. I was shamed in the races last year, so I am going to practice this year. This is the same weekend as **The Wood Working Show** out at Merrill Center in Katy. We will have a booth there again this

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

year, as this is one of our best opportunities to recruit new members to GCWA. If you want to participate in the booth you **MUST** be a member of the American Association of Woodturners (they provide our insurance). If you are not a member, now is the perfect time to join or renew your membership. See **Greg Gonsalves** about helping out in the booth.

About 25% of you have not yet renewed your membership in GCWA. The \$25 membership fee funds our meetings, our library, our raffles, our community outreach, and gives you the chance to see regional and national turners. It also gives you access to our DVD library and donuts. Bring a check to this next meeting and give it to board member **Derek Powers**, who is helping out when our treasurer **Jim Keller** can't make it. If you have not renewed by April 1 your gold gallery will be taken off the website and you will no longer receive the newsletter.

Two other turning meetings of note that are on the horizon are the **National Symposium**, to be held June 18 – 20<sup>th</sup> in Hartford, CT and the 19<sup>th</sup> annual symposium for the **Southwest Association of Turners** in Waco August 27-29<sup>th</sup>. Leads for the two symposia are listed on their websites, [www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org) and [www.swaturners.org](http://www.swaturners.org). These are great opportunities to better yourself as an artist and turner. When I was at the SWAT board meeting in Waco a couple of weeks ago I picked up the DVD's from last year, so be sure to see our librarian **Tom Enloe** to check them out.

We frequently get inquiries from businesses asking for our membership roster in exchange for club discounts, gift certificates, donations, or other considerations. It has been our policy up until now to categorically deny such requests, in order to protect our membership from un-

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**February Meeting  
February 20, 2010**

**University of Houston, main campus**  
4800 Calhoun Road, Houston, Texas 77004

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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

Hands-on woodturning lessons by Jim Keller at Foxfire Studios. You pick the subject; learn with my tools or yours. Oneway 2430 and Jet 1642 lathes avail. Rates- 8 hour lesson, one person \$135.00, lunch included, add a second person for \$75.00. 4 hour lesson, one person \$65.00, two for \$40.00. Call 281-467-2866 for info.

**INSTRUCTION:** Current woodturning instructor for the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, **Thomas Irven**, will teach beginning to advanced participants turning in his Bellaire Studio. Classes will be individualized to your needs and tools will be available. Learn box making multi-axis, spindle, and bowl turning and finishing. Limited to 1 - 4 students. Call or e-mail Tom for pricing and information. 713-666-6881. [trirven@sbcglobal.net](mailto:trirven@sbcglobal.net).

For sale: Olivewood Pen Blanks (3/4" x 3/4" x 5") - \$3.25 each. Have about 100. Olivewood Turning Blanks (1" x 1" x 6") - \$5.00 each. Have about 40. Douglas Grissom, 281-844-4397 (M), [douglas.grissom@att.net](mailto:douglas.grissom@att.net)

## Empty Bowls Houston

By Dave Barziza

This year the Empty Bowls event will be held on May 22. Usually several of our members (Greg, Don and others) do bowl turning demonstrations during the day. Unfortunately, our retreat is on that weekend and those who have done the demo previously will be at the retreat. If there is anyone who is not attending the retreat and has an interest in demonstration this event, please contact me. These folks attending will view the bowls on display and hopefully buy one and in turn receive a bowl of soup.

I will be collecting bowls for this event at the February, March and April meetings. The other option is to take them directly to the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft Center, 4848 Main Street, Houston during the week starting May 3 (Tuesday through Sunday).

The following is an excerpt from an e-mail I received entitled "Call for Bowls".

*Last year, artists contributed a record 1400 bowls, and several hundred Houstonians purchased bowls. Whole Foods Market donated 5% of its sales from all area stores during its Community Giving Day. All totaled, Empty Bowls Houston 2009 raised approximately \$45,000 for the Houston Food Bank, which can turn that into an equivalent of more than \$360,000 worth of food distributed to those in Houston, Harris County, and surrounding counties in need. All of us on the Steering Committee thank you for making bowls and thus making Empty Bowls Houston a great success for five years running. Now it's time for a Successful Sixth!*

*We will begin collecting bowls beginning the week of May 3. You can drop off bowls at the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, 4848 Main Street (Tuesday through Sunday), or the Ceramic Store, 1002 W. 11th Street (Monday through Saturday). Any bowl or bowl-like object will be accepted, and bowls do not need to be functional (i.e. actually hold soups). For anyone curious about size think in terms of a bowl with a height of 2" - 4", diameter 4" - 6", volume of 1 1/2 cups to 3 cups - but larger or smaller is just fine.*

Take a look around your shop and/or home, pick out one, a few or many that you are willing to part with, large or small, old or new and help this worthy cause.

Any questions, please contact  
Dave Barziza  
281-236-6747 (cell)  
email: [davebarziza@yahoo.com](mailto:davebarziza@yahoo.com)

## Pecan Available

By Jim Keller

State Representative Charlie Howard has four Pecan trees down in his pasture in Sugar Land. The trees are 24 to 30 inch diameter. We can harvest all the wood we want. Charlie will provide a tractor to help load large pieces. We will need to wait for the land to dry up. Best guess is that we can have access the first or second Saturday in April. If you are interested in participating please contact Jim Keller at [jimkeller.foxfire@comcast.net](mailto:jimkeller.foxfire@comcast.net) pr 281-467-2866. I will then let you know the details of the schedule.

## MEMBERSHIP

Dennis Ford, Charles Horton, John McCaskill, Walter Mooney, Clifford Ober, Joe Potvin, James Robertson, Jesse Tabares, and Steve Tait  
joined the club in January. Welcome aboard.

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wanted solicitations. However, some members want to get on-line updates and snail-mail catalogs from businesses catering to our addiction. Is the membership in favor of releasing our list, with the understanding that you can opt-out if you desire? If more than a few want to opt-out we will continue the current policy because of the work required to maintain such an opt-out list. We will hold an informal vote at the meeting this month to gauge the opinion of the membership on this topic. I will tell you that companies that have been very generous to us in the past, such as Craft Supplies, now require a roster for further support. If you like the goodies these companies give us, we will need to release the roster to them.

This month our meeting will again be hosted by **Tommy Joe** at the **University of Houston** architecture shop, and our regional demonstrator will be **John Horn**, from the DFW area. John has been a demonstrator at SWAT for many years, and he is well known to many of us. John's demo for the club meeting will be on 'maximizing your

mini lathe'. The in-depth afternoon session will be on **turning a peppermill**. The afternoon session is \$25, which you can pay for at the door (checks or exact change, please). To maximize the time we have with John, I suggest that you bring a brown-bag lunch with you to the meeting. Otherwise, you can go off campus to get a meal in the hour between the end of the regular meeting and the afternoon session. This meeting will also have a **tool swap**, so if you have any turning-related tools you would like to see living in someone else's shop, bring them to the meeting. Remember that the club does not run this swap, nor do we profit from it. So please put your name and the price on each item you put out at the swap.

Next month we will have a program that I have been looking forward to. Janice Levi will be showing her tricks on turning backyard pine at Memorial Lutheran Church. Plan on attending this one. I guess that is all for now. Keep making shavings.

*Steve LeGrue*

## Endgrain Sealer

by **Bill Berry**

Greg will have endgrain sealer at the February meeting. The price per gallon will be \$9.00. The sealer is in a 55 gallon drum. So **please bring a heavy duty container** to put your sealer in. A new plastic gasoline container works well. Sealer will be sold in 1 gallon increments only. This means....If you have a 2 ½ gallon gasoline container you get 2 gallons of sealer, or if you have a 1 gallon gasoline container that holds 1 gallon plus some odd number of ounces, it will not be completely filled..... You get 1 gallon of sealer. A 1 gallon plastic milk jug with a "snap-on" lid is **not** the best choice for holding endgrain sealer. If you require 5 gallons of sealer, Greg will have on hand only (4) 5 gallon containers already filled. **Bring your container and bring CASH.....**

Thanks, Greg!!

## News and Announcements

### Introduction to Wood Turning with Thomas Irven

One class, 7 hours total  
Saturday, February 27; 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Tuition: \$125.00 + \$20.00 materials fee

Learn how to make beautiful wood objects on a lathe with former HCCC resident artist Thomas Irven. Thomas will discuss proper design and finishing techniques, as well as function. Participants must be over 18. The workshop will take place at Tom Irven Studios (directions provided upon registration). Limited to 4 participants. Sign up through Houston Center for Contemporary Craft at [www.crafthouston.org](http://www.crafthouston.org) or 713-539-4848.

### Sad News

Jim Denson, one of our members from Huntsville, passed away on Tuesday, February 9. He fought a long and hard battle against cancer for the past few years and never gave up. We will miss Jim. An obituary can be found at <http://www.funeralplan.com/samhoustonmemorialfuneralhome/obits?id=190849>.

## 2010 Retreat Update

By George Kabacinski

Yes, it's that time of the year again. It's cold outside and yet I can feel the warmth of activity and excitement of our upcoming Retreat. The major team leads are in place and work is underway to make this another great GCWA Retreat. The Team Leads for this year's event are:

Equipment – **Doug Grissom**  
Programs – **Tom Enloe**  
Turning Fundamentals – **Steve LeGrue**  
Registration – **Ed Peine/Ben Gray**  
Raffle / Silent Auction – **Paula Haymond/Reggie Keith**  
Food / Catering – **John Van Domelen/Andy Anderson**  
Event Chair – **George Kabacinski**

We still have a few lead roles to confirm and some that are open, so please step up and volunteer or say yes when should you be approached to help out. Roles remaining to be filled include Instant Gallery/Public Area, and Signage. Of course, these are just the lead roles and there are a great many needed to fill in the various teams to make the event a success.

The 2010 budget calls for no change in the registration fee for this year. It will remain at \$45.00 for each participant. The spouse/guest fee (for those who are not participating in any of the classes/demos) will remain at \$25. This essentially covers the cost of meals.

**Doug Grissom** has already begun to collect names and type of equipment to be loaned for the event. We will again need around 75 lathes for this year's Retreat. That's a lot of equipment and we need folks to step up and commit to supporting the event with a loan of a lathe in good working order. Please contact Doug for specifics on what is required and to sign up to support the event.

**Tom Enloe** has been out recruiting instructors and already has some 20 folks lined up, or at least identified. If he has not contacted you already and you would like to

lead a hands-on class or demo at this year's event please contact Tom directly. Time is short as we will need to have the full list of classes and schedule ready to open registration at the annual GCWA Picnic in April.

**Steve LeGrue** is working with the Mentoring team to develop plans for the Turning Fundamentals program. Each year we work to improve this program based on feedback from prior years. This year will be no exception. However, some things will remain unchanged – we will continue to have a very low student/mentor ratio and we will provide a solid foundation for new turners or those interested in revisiting the fundamentals of turning and developing core skills. The Turning Fundamentals program will be limited to 12 students and is expected to fill up quickly so be sure to talk with your friends and family members early and be prepared to sign them up once the registration opens in April.

**Paula Haymond** and **Reggie Keith** are making plans for the big raffle and silent Auction. Raffle prizes are being secured and commitments are being collected for the silent auction. If you would like to donate a turning for the silent auction please contact Paula directly. If you have any specific ideas for raffle items or wish to donate a turning related item for the raffle please contact Paula or Reggie.

Each year the GCWA Retreat is a great event. Through the writing of **Larry Zarra** our Retreat was exposed to the entire community of AAW members and beyond in the winter 2009 issue of American Woodturner. It was a great write-up of the event. Our retreat is likely the largest hands-on woodturning learning event of its kind and the 2010 GCWA Retreat is sure to live up to the precedents set in past years. So mark your calendars for **May 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup>** and plan to be with us in Conroe, TX for the best value in woodturning education and an all-around great time!

## 2010 SPRING RETREAT LATHES

By Doug Grissom

It is only 105 days (at the time this article was written) until the Spring Retreat, 21-23 May 2010. These days will pass fast and the retreat will be starting before we know what took place. At the present time, 15 lathes and four sharpening systems have been offered for use at the retreat. We will need about 75 lathes and 15 sharpening systems in order to present the quality of retreat that we have done in the past. If you are willing to let your lathe

be used at the retreat, please e-mail the information to me, Doug Grissom, at [douglas.grissom@att.net](mailto:douglas.grissom@att.net). I would like the following info; make and model of lathe, size, accessories available (drive center, live center, chuck, tool rest, knock out bar, light), on stand or stand available.

I also need two volunteers to pick-up and deliver back some lathes. One is to pick up three lathes from Rockler and one is to pick-up two lathes on stands from Houston Center for Contemporary Crafts. I did both of these last year but no longer have a full size pick-up.

Thanks in advance for all that help.

# JANUARY SHOW & TELL



## Best of Show

**Dennis April**

Hollow form  
(unknown wood)



Judges: Lane Bradford and Jack Hanley

Photos: **Paul Millo**

## Advanced Category

**1st Place – Larry Zarra**



Oak bowl

**2nd Place – Larry Zarra**



Mesquite bowl

**3rd Place – Brian Laing**

Ash plate



## Intermediate Category

**1st Place – Ron Day**



Pecan/redheart box

**2nd Place – Linda Bohl**



Mesquite earrings and necklaces

**3rd Place – Frank Campbell**



Mesquite kaleidoscope

## Beginner Category

**1st Place – Pat Lloyd**  
Amboyna burl pen set



**2nd Place – Troy McLaughlin**



Bowl  
(unknown wood)

**3rd Place – Delia Spicer**



Maple bowl

## Enhanced Category

**1st Place – Bob Brown**



Hackberry/  
blackwood  
lidded box

**2nd Place – Gary Rock**



Spalted cotton-  
wood vessel

**3rd Place – Bill Pottorf**



Ash vessel

## Segmented Category

**1st Place – Eddie James**



Spalted elm/  
cocobolo lidded  
vessel

**2nd Place – Eddie James**



Sycamore/  
blackwood lidded  
vessel

## President's Challenge

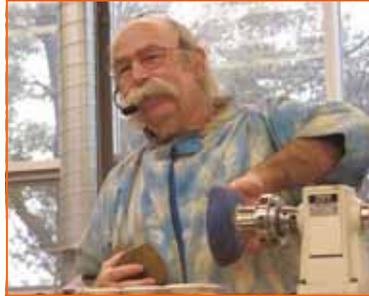
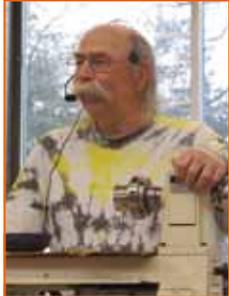
**Old-fashioned sprayer**  
George Kabacinski/Tom  
Enloe



**Art Piece**  
Paula Haymond/Dave  
Barziza



## Snapshots from the January meeting



Pictures can be viewed at [www.gulfcoastwoodturners.org](http://www.gulfcoastwoodturners.org)

Photos: Ric Taylor & Dale Barrack

### MENTOR PROGRAM

The following members have volunteered to serve as Club Mentors:

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

**Larry Zarra** ----- (281) 528-9183

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

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

**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.

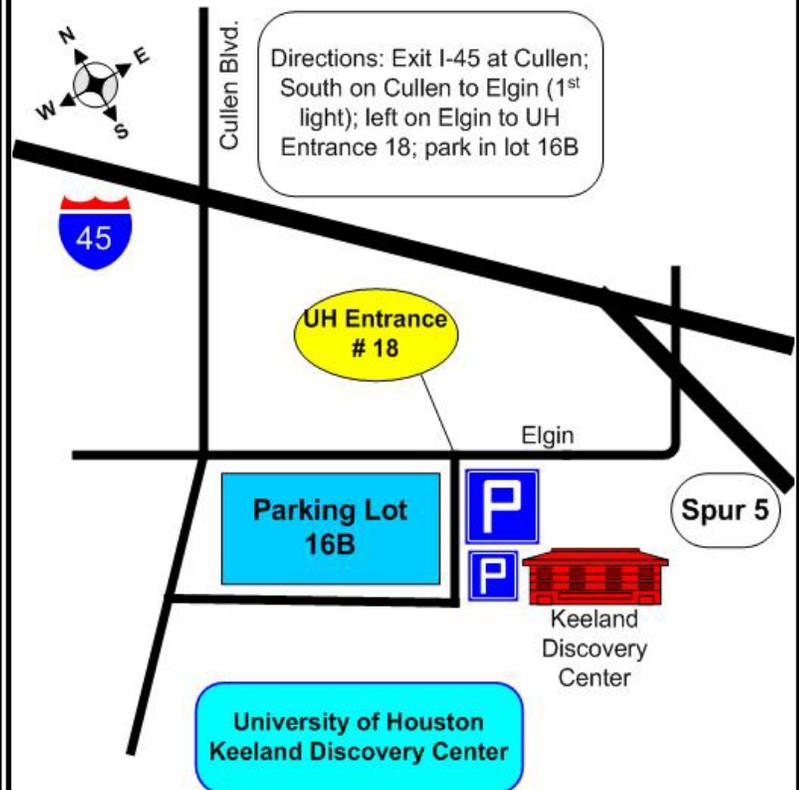
## Scheduled Meetings & Events

*Meeting dates and locations are subject to change.*

- February 20, 2010 ~ GCWA General Meeting ~ 9:00 AM - noon**  
**Location:** University of Houston main campus ~ demonstrator, John Horn
- March 8, 2010 ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Tom Irven's house**
- March 20, 2010 ~ GCWA General Meeting ~ 9:00 AM - noon**  
**Location:** Memorial Lutheran Church, 5800 Westheimer, Houston, TX 77057~ demonstrator, Janice Levi
- April 6, 2010 ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Bayland Community Center**
- April 17, 2010 ~ GCWA picnic ~ 9:00 AM - noon**  
**Location:** George Bush Park
- May 3, 2010 ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ Archway Gallery**
- May 21-23, 2010 ~ GCWA Spring Retreat ~ 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM**  
**Location:** Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Conroe, TX
- June 7, 2010 ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ TBD**
- June 19, 2010 ~ GCWA General Meeting ~ 9:00 AM - noon**  
**Location:** Bayland Community Center, Houston, TX
- June 18-20, 2010 ~ AAW Symposium ~ Hartford, CT**  
 ( More information at: [www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2010/](http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2010/) )
- July 5, 2010 ~ Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM ~ TBD**
- July 17, 2010 ~ GCWA General Meeting ~ 9:00 AM - noon**  
**Location:** TBD

## February Meeting

**University of Houston, main campus  
 Keeland Design Center  
 (Next to Architecture Bldg)**



## February Meeting Program

**John Horn: Maximizing Your Mini Lathe  
 Turning a Peppermill**

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Steve LeGrue - President**  
 (832) 496-0040 cell  
 slegrue@comcast.net

**Dave Barziza - Vice President/  
 Judging**  
 (713) 661-5941  
 dbarziza@earthlink.net

**John Van Domelen - Secretary/  
 Website Technical Director**  
 john@texasturner.com

**Jim Keller—Treasurer**  
 (281) 467-2866  
 jimkeller.foxfire@comcast.net

**George Kabacinski - Past President**  
 (832) 349-3006  
 gkabacinski@gmail.com

**Ed Peine - Board Member**  
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**Derek Powers - Board Member**  
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 derekpowers@gmail.com

**Thomas Irven - Board Member**  
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**Ben Gray - Board Member**  
 (281) 859-3132  
 BenG@rigidbuilding.com

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

**Andy Chen—Newsletter Editor**  
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GCWA Websites:  
[www.gulfcoastwoodturners.org](http://www.gulfcoastwoodturners.org)

Program Chair  
Steve LeGrue

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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 \$25 due on January 1. Dues may be mailed to Jim Keller, 105 S. 2nd Street, Richmond, TX 77406. 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>  
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>



Gulf Coast Woodturners  
Association