

# GULF COAST WOODTURNER

January, 2011



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It is hard to believe that another year has blown past, but here it is 2011. This year should be an exciting and informative one for the club. We have interesting demonstrations scheduled, as well as hands-on mini classes, juried shows, and the ever popular Spring Retreat.

If you have not renewed your \$25/year membership to GCWA, please do so. We will be taking your checks and cash at the next meeting. So plan to renew then, or just mail your check to our Treasurer **Jim Keller**, or to me. The benefits of membership are many, including access to our outstanding DVD library, judging in the Instant Gallery, inclusion in the Gold Gallery on the website, the chance to participate in classes with world-class turners and participation in the world's largest hands-on workshop: our Retreat. Oh, and donuts, did I mention donuts? While you are thinking about renewing your GCWA membership, please also consider joining or renewing your membership to the American Association of Woodturners (AAW). The national organization fosters growth in the regional chapters and hosts the National Symposium. They also provide us with the liability insurance that allows us to demonstrate to the public without fear of litigation. Officers, Board members, and anyone who wants to teach in any capacity for the club must be an AAW member.

On a local note: the SouthWest Association of Turners (SWAT) is looking for regional demonstrators for their 2011 symposium. The symposium will again be held in Waco the last weekend of August (26 – 28). If you are interested in applying to be a regional demonstrator, please contact George Hancock ([ghancock@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:ghancock@suddenlinkmail.com)) for the requirements, which include handout materials that will be bound and given to all attendees. This is a good opportunity to sharpen your demonstration skills, as well as to share your expertise with other turners. If you have questions about demonstrating, talk to **Jim Keller** or **Andy Chen**, who have both had very positive experiences at SWAT.

As our club's representative to SWAT, I will be going to the Board of Directors meeting in Waco later this month. If you have any concerns, comments, praise or criticism of your SWAT experience, please give them to me (preferably in writing) so that I can communicate them to the Board. SWAT is an organization comprised of the various AAW-affiliated clubs in Texas and Oklahoma. As such, it is still a volunteer driven effort, and any help you can offer will be appreciated.

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

A nominating committee has been formed to fill our ballot for Officers and Directors for the 2011/12 year. **George Kabacinski** is chairing this committee (see page 5). We are always looking for people with a desire to contribute to the effort. So if you have a little time you can donate please contact George. If you have had any problems with the way the club is being run, this is your chance to make a difference. Nominations will be taken from the floor at our March meeting, with a final vote at the April meeting. The new Officers and Board will be announced at the Retreat in May.

We are collecting work for the **2011 Empty Bowls** affair, to be held in March (see page 2). The bowls are auctioned, with the proceeds go to the Houston Food Bank. We have supported this activity for a number of years, and I hope that you will be able to donate again this year. The bowls don't have to be your best work, nor signed. There will be a collection box for your donations at the next few meetings.

This year is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AAW, and to celebrate they are mounting a traveling show that will consist of one outstanding turning from each of the 375 chapters. The specifics are detailed later in the newsletter (page 3), and we will be collecting pieces to be judged at the January meeting at U of H. Please make sure that your piece is labeled with your name and is packed appropriately for us to move it to the judging site. If your piece is selected, you will have to pack, insure and ship it to AAW by February 15. The GCWA will provide the winner with a \$50 grant to cover the attendant expenses incurred in shipping.

While I expect that we will have tables and tables full of pieces to be judged for the AAW show, we will be having our regular Show-and-Tell at the January meeting as well. With all the classes and workshops taken by members in

*Continued on page 2*

**January Meeting  
January 15, 2011**

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

*Continued from page 1*

the past year, we should have our usual outstanding collection of pieces for S&T.

Our outdated club By-Laws have been reworked, and a provisional draft will be posted on the forum by the time you read this (<http://www.gulfcoastwoodturners.org/forum/index.php?topic=956.0>). If you have expertise in this area of law, please forward any concerns. If you have any comments about the By-Law revision, please forward them in writing for consideration. The board will take questions at the February meeting, and I expect that the By-Laws will be presented for a vote at the March meeting.

I want to remind you to support the businesses that support this club. Locally, Woodcraft and Rockler stores have donated to our raffles, provided lathes for the Retreat, and they also offer a 10% discount if you mention that you are a member of GCWA (another perk of membership!). An article later in the newsletter (page 6) lists our supporters, so please think of them first when you plan to shop.

**Doug Grissom** has been working hard to pull the spring Retreat together. If you can contribute in any way, please let Doug know. A questionnaire will be circulated with the mailing of this newsletter asking for your specific contributions to the effort. See Doug's article later (page 5) in the newsletter for more information.

Offering the hands-on sessions with nationally known turners is a major benefit of membership, and yet we have a limited number of places to hold these workshops. We have a very diverse membership scattered over hundreds of square miles, and I would like to have classes in areas close to everyone. If you can host a workshop series (3 or 4 consecutive days, with space to house 5-7 lathes and all the other necessary equipment), please let me know. Also, would it be a plus or a minus to have classes with only mini lathes? I know it is best to take classes on the kind of equipment that you use, and minis can be very limiting. However, almost all of us own at least one mini. What are your thoughts?

**Larry Zarra** will be our demonstrator for the January meeting at the U of H Keeland Center. Larry will be showing us some of his tricks for turning small hollow vessels (see page 3). He will also be teaching a hands-on class on this topic next month (see page 7). The class is full but don't despair, a repeat is in the works pending Larry's work schedule. This is just another example of the outstanding opportunities available to members of the GCWA. And remember that world-renowned turner and educator **John Jordan** will be here April 9-12 for demonstrations and hands-on workshops. Clear your calendars for this one. We will begin taking your money for these outstanding classes beginning this month.

See you at U of H, and keep making shavings.

*Steve LeGrue*

## EMPTY BOWLS HOUSTON

**By Andy Chen**

This year the Empty Bowls event will be held on March 19 at Houston Center for Contemporary Craft (HCCC). Usually several of our members (Greg, Don and others) do bowl turning demonstrations during the day. This is the same day as our March general meeting. Please contact Dave Barziza if you are interested in helping with the demo. The folks attending the event will view the bowls on display and hopefully buy one and in turn receive a bowl of soup. Dave will be collecting bowls for this event at the January and February meetings. The other option is to take them directly to the HCCC, 4848 Main Street, Houston during the week starting March 1 (Tuesday through Sunday). The following is an excerpt from the Empty Bowls Houston web site.

"Last year, artists contributed 1,200 bowls. With bowl purchases by the public and donations from sponsors like Whole Foods Market, Ceramic Store, and Epicurean Express, Empty Bowls Houston raised almost \$43,000 for the Houston Food Bank. Leveraging its charities and distribution networks, the Food Bank can provide 3 nutritious meals for 44,000 people in Houston, Harris County, and surrounding counties whose food bowls would otherwise be empty. You should also know that approximately 80

bowls were purchased by City officials for special gifts to visiting dignitaries. All of us on the Steering Committee thank you for making and donating your bowls and making Empty Bowls Houston a great success for six years running.

Now it's time for a Successful Seventh! The 2011 event will be held Saturday, March 19, at Lawndale Art Center and Houston Center for Contemporary Craft.

Tentatively, we will start collecting bowls beginning the first week of March. Tentatively, you will be able to 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)."

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.

If you have any questions, please contact

Dave Barziza  
281-236-6747 cell  
email: [davebarziza@yahoo.com](mailto:davebarziza@yahoo.com)

## 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- 4 hour lesson 4 hour lesson for GCWA Members \$70.00, non members \$80.00, add a second person for: member \$45.00, non-members \$50.00. Call 281-467-2866 for information or to schedule a lesson.

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).

PEN BLANKS FOR SALE...\$1.25 per blank plus shipping. Over 150 species available. Contact Doug Van Buskirk at [dvb@comcast.net](mailto:dvb@comcast.net) for a list of species.

## Beginners Corner

By **Jim Keller**

At the GCWA January meeting during the social hour Jim Keller will be manning a lathe to help beginning turners with their tool technique. Take advantage of this opportunity to make shavings. Remember to make contact with the heel of the bevel, rotate the tool until the cutting edge makes contact with the wood and advance the tool by shifting your body weight. Feel free to ask Jim any questions about improving your turning techniques.

## AAW Chapter Excellence Show: Turning 25 - A Celebration

By **Steve LeGrue**

The 2011 AAW symposium in St. Paul will feature a gallery of the best chapter work, as defined by the chapters themselves. This means one turning per chapter. I think it is important for the GCWA to participate in this important touring show. We have selected several judges from outside the club who represent gallery owners, artists in other media, and other woodworkers:

Mary Rogers MFA - Jeweler, Teacher (Bellaire H.S. art department for 30 years)  
Roger Deatherage MFA - Furniture maker and designer  
Donna Milstein - owner of Hanson Galleries, she opened the gallery in 1977

The piece judged to be the finest will travel to St. Paul for the Symposium, followed by at least a year of travel to various venues. The way they have set this up, the piece must fit into an 8" cube and weigh less than 3 pounds. It must be for sale (you get 70%), and can be by an individual or it can be a collaborative effort. We plan to collect the pieces at the January meeting, currently scheduled for the U of H. Please bear in mind that you must provide adequate packaging for us to safely transport your piece to the judging. Furthermore, the winner will be responsible for packing, insuring and shipping the piece to St. Paul. Also, remember that this does not need to be current work. If you made your masterpiece years ago, that is fine. Details of returning the pieces to you remain to be worked out, but rest assured that we will treat your work with the respect it deserves.

## January Meeting Program

By **tom Enloe**

The January demo by Larry Zarra will be an overview of small hollow forms. To define "small", it is bigger than a mini-vessel, but smaller than an extra large grapefruit. The small vessels made in the demo are turned with commercially available tools whereas the mini-vessels have to be made with home-made hollowing tools. The following topics will be covered:

- Wood selection and grain orientation
- Tools and turning techniques
- Design considerations
- Practical demonstration
- Fundamentals of measuring
- Reverse chucking to finish bottom of vessel

## MEMBERSHIP

Barbara Johnson and Tom Kobza joined the club in the past month. Welcome aboard, guys.

## Member Spotlight:

# James (Jim) Keller, A Woodworker's Evolution into An Artisan.

By Jeff Kapche

The first time I met Jim Keller, I had to give him money. This seemed to make him smile for some reason. I was introduced to Jim because he is the club treasurer, and as everyone else has to do, I had to pay my dues. Much like life or making wood shavings, you have to pay your dues to become better. In this situation, Jim was smiling when I paid him at the first GCWT meeting I attended, but I found later that Jim is the kind of guy that usually smiles in life, not just because he has collected your money for the club. I believe a large part of what makes him smile is his outlook on life; and, it does not hurt that he is a full-time wood-turner. Jim's



outlook is that of an open-minded person who loves to teach, and is still willing to learn what life has to offer. Jim believes he is still improving his wood turning techniques despite his accomplishments in woodworking. Therefore, he shares the same belief as other great artisans in realizing you can always enrich your craft. Although Jim has retired from his career, he states his job now is to make a living working with wood and creating art. In addition, Jim spends about 40 hours a week in his Foxfire Studios workshop creating his masterpieces. This sounds like the ultimate full-time job with the stress I get from my daily grind. Imagine having to go to work by turning some wood. Maybe that is why Jim is smiling most of the time; working at something he loves to do. However, Jim clarifies his responsibility as a full-time woodworker, "If I make a piece that is 99.8% perfect, I have to toss it because that is a piece that I cannot sell".



I met with Jim Keller at his Foxfire Studio in Richmond, Texas, which turns out to be just down the street from my office. I found I liked Jim's office better than mine, so it took more than one meeting for the interview.

Jim got his start with woodworking in Buffalo, New York, where his father was a carpenter. He began swinging a hammer at the age of eight, and has continued ever since. Over the years, Jim built furniture, a garage, an addition to his house, and did spindle work on the lathe. Jim went to college in Northern Indiana, and worked on a framing crew. Jim moved around the northeast a few more times before settling down in God's country, here in Texas. Jim never forgot his woodworking roots and joined GCWA in 1991, when less than 10 people came to the meetings, usually held in a member's garage.

Through the club, Jim learned how to turn bowls and hollow forms, which began his quest to perfect his projects into a more complex or better form. Jim is the current Treasurer for the club, and is a past Board Member. Jim also has been to all of the AWW symposia since 1996, and a Board of Director for the Collector's of World Art National Organization.

Several of the tools Jim uses have been made by him. Jim recalls that only about 5% of the tools today existed when he started in woodturning. Therefore, he and other club members had to make tools to fit their needs. Jim also has no favorites when it comes to tools. Jim says, "It is the tool of the moment, used for the purpose that you need for that job." Jim further explained that there is no tool that can do everything; for example, some of the expensive easy wood tools out now will not do a better job than a 3/8" bowl gouge for finishing a bowl. In addition, Jim warns to stay away from salesmen at the store that want to sell you an expensive new tool, especially if it is in carbide. In Jim's view, those tools are not worth the money, and may make what you are working on worse than when you started.

In 1994, Jim had a turning point in his woodturning life when Clay Foster critiqued one of his hollow form pieces. A dialog began concerning negative space, which opened the door for Jim. Jim stated, "I began to think in artistic terms, not just wood-working, especially in negative space". From that point on, Jim refined his work artistically, creating numerous hollow forms utilizing various degrees of negative space.



In 1995, Jim continued to improve his artistry when he learned about multiple axis work from Stoney Lamar at a woodturning demonstration. Jim then began to improve his mastery of multiple axis turning. Jim advised he was later able to "visualize a form and execute it in wood". Jim's evolution as an artist continued when he realized that if he wanted to be considered a respectable artist, he needed to have a focused body of work. Jim was then inspired by two different pieces made in stone that were found at separate locations. Both pieces had focused on a wheel concept, and Jim found out later that the two pieces were actually done by the same artist, Jesús Moroles. Jim no-



*Continued on page 7*

# 2011 Spring Retreat

By Douglas Grissom

As we come to the January, 2011 meeting, it is ONLY 125 days to the start of the retreat. There is so much that must be done in order to have a successful retreat. I have asked several members to be in charge of various areas as listed below with their e-mail address:

Chairperson	Douglas Grissom	<a href="mailto:douglas.grissom@att.net">douglas.grissom@att.net</a>
Consultant	George Kabacinski	<a href="mailto:gkabacinski@gmail.com">gkabacinski@gmail.com</a>
Program	Tom Enloe	<a href="mailto:tomtom3@comcast.net">tomtom3@comcast.net</a>
	Paula Haymond	<a href="mailto:pjhaymond@comcast.net">pjhaymond@comcast.net</a>
Equipment	Reggie Keith	<a href="mailto:reggie.keith@hoover-keith.com">reggie.keith@hoover-keith.com</a>
Raffle	Ed Bartimmo	<a href="mailto:bartimmo@yahoo.com">bartimmo@yahoo.com</a>
Registration	Ed Peine	<a href="mailto:epiene@comcast.com">epiene@comcast.com</a>
	Ben Gray	<a href="mailto:hennington@aol.com">hennington@aol.com</a>
Drinks and Snacks	Ron Day	<a href="mailto:ronday@suddenlink.net">ronday@suddenlink.net</a>
	NEED ONE OR TWO MORE TO HELP	
Instant Gallery and Front	Gene Bradley	<a href="mailto:bradleyha1002@att.net">bradleyha1002@att.net</a>
	Ailene Bradley	<a href="mailto:bradleyha1002@att.net">bradleyha1002@att.net</a>
Set-up/Clean-up	Waiting on an answer	

Now here is where you come into this picture. There are several things that I am asking all members to do or participate in. The first item is to fill out and return to me the survey that you will or have received by e-mail or in this newsletter. My e-mail address is above and my snail mail address is 15922 Bluffdale Dr. Houston, TX 77084. Then, depending upon your answers (no pass or fail), there will be other things to do as we get closer to the retreat.

Thanks to all in advance for your help.

## Do You Care?

By George Kabacinski

I mean really, do you care what happens with GCWA? What our programs, classes, and activities are, where we meet, what the raffle is like, whether we have coffee and donuts, soda and water? Anything?

I would guess that most of the folks reading this have some opinion on at least some of those questions. Well, for the most part it's the members of the board who pull all this together. Sure there are many, many volunteers who pitch in and take on responsibilities. But it all starts (and ends) with the board of directors and officers of the club.

Well, the current term of office ends in May and we'll need a new (or returning) set of board members and officers starting June 1, 2011. So, how about it? Do you care enough to get involved?

The board is comprised of four club officers: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Along with the officers there are four Directors plus the Immediate Past President (or a fifth Director as is the case this year).

For the coming term we will definitely have some open positions to fill including President and Vice President. So if you care and are interested and available to serve please contact one of the Nominating Committee members to discuss the process and requirements for your candidacy. The nominating committee for this term is **Bill Berry, Bill Lewis and George Kabacinski.**

***It's your club! Make a difference – join the board.***

## February Meeting Program

By tom Enloe

The February meeting demonstration will be by Paul Coppinger from Mineola, TX. Paul is a very experienced turner using a large variety of woods and shapes but has a particular fondness for "the finishing process". As a long time member of the East Texas Woodturners club he has extensive experience with demonstrations both at his home club and other clubs around Texas.

The demo will cover a wide range of finishing types and will include the critical steps of preparation through the final steps. The Memorial Lutheran Church, does not allow woodturning in the meeting area so this will be a "show and tell" demonstration with several examples being provided by Paul. Questions are of course encouraged so consider any particular problem areas that you might be experiencing. An after lunch meeting with more details is being discussed but is contingent on finding a suitable location for the afternoon session.

You can see examples of Paul's impressive turnings at [www.easttexaswoodturners.org](http://www.easttexaswoodturners.org). Note, from the left side menu, select GALLERY, then MEMBERS, then PAUL COPPINGER.

## From the Raffle Table

By Delia Spicer

Happy 2011 to everyone! As we look forward to another exciting year for GCWA we want to look back at 2010 and recognize some people that have helped make the monthly raffles so successful. First off, I'd like to thank everyone in the club that purchases raffle tickets. As you know, the proceeds from the monthly raffle pay for refreshments and those tasty donuts that we enjoy at our meetings. Please continue to buy raffle tickets this year and you not only help the club, but you also have the opportunity to win some great items. Next, I'd like to thank those that have helped out with the raffle. Derek Powers, Ailene Bradley and the monthly volunteer ticket pickers have kept the raffle running smoothly throughout the year. And of course, our President and board have definitely been supporting us with ideas and assistance. Next, and this is a big one – I'd like to thank all of those businesses and individuals that donate items to the raffle. Without these donations we wouldn't be able to afford those really nice items such as the Ellsworth Signature Bowl Gouge or the Sorby Multi-Tip tool. Locally, Rockler has been generous and donated wood, gift certificates and even a hat to our club. Woodcraft has also donated items to the club. Both of these businesses also give you a 10% discount on everyday priced items when you mention that you are a member of the GCWA. We appreciate the support that these businesses give to our club, especially for our Retreat and hope it continues throughout the coming years. In addition to local businesses, Craft Supplies donated a number of gift certificates throughout the year and also donated some

items to us from their Woodworking Show booth, as well as their SWAT booth.

As far as other businesses that have donated to us, several vendors at SWAT donated items. Thompson tools not only donated four tools, they also gave us a discount on the tools we were purchasing. Big Monk Lumber also donated wood and gave us an additional discount on our purchases. Of course, the Sanding Glove once again donated items to us. Other SWAT vendors that stepped up and donated were A'Dreyia Studios (large mesquite log), AR Liberty (signs), Glimmer Rock Shop (crushed malachite), Shadetree Woodcraft (wood), Woodworld (wood), and Kallenshaan Woods which mailed me dozen sample pen inlay kits after SWAT. Again, when you purchase items from these and other vendors, please let them know that you're a GCWA member and that we appreciate their donations.

Lastly, I'd like to thank those club members that donate items to the raffle. Since these persons don't receive any type of reward or other incentives for donating, I'd like to give them one of the biggest thank-yous of all. THANK YOU! Without those items that you so generously donate each month there would have been some slim raffle selections.

So, that wraps up basically a year of thank-yous from the Raffle Table. This year, we hope to bring you more exciting raffle items. Remember, when you buy raffle tickets you're not only supporting the club, you're also opening up the possibility for you to win one or more raffle item. So, like I've heard Bill Berry say so many times "the more tickets you buy, the better chance you have to win."

## Making Your Own Tool Rest

By Andy Chen

Have you ever found that the tool rest that came with your lathe is just not right and you wish you had a different one? During last month's demonstration, Tom showed briefly a tool rest that has a simple round horizontal bar to rest your cutting tools on. About ten years ago, at the first SWAT (formally TTT) symposium in San Angelo, Ernie Newman of Australia did some fantastic demonstrations. Among them was spindle turning down to about 1/16" diameter using a skew chisel. He supported the thin turning with his fingers while cutting by wrapping his hand around the tool rest. I tried the same thing after the symposium but it was difficult with the factory tool rest because my hand is a little small. I decided to make my own tool rest out of an automobile shock absorber piston rod. There are many advantages to using piston rod for the tool rest. First, they are free. Just go to your friendly auto mechanic and ask for some used shock absorbers that they are going to throw away anyway. Second, the piston rods are chrome-plated, producing an extremely hard surface, evidenced by the shiny surface even after years of exposure to the elements, including sand. Third, they are highly polished. Combining this property with the hardness, you will never have to grind the bar smooth. Lastly, they come in differ-

ent diameters, making it easy for you to pick the right size to suit your own needs. I have made my own and have been using them for years without any signs of wearing.

Here are the steps to make one:

1. Cut the piston rod to desired length. Because the rod surface is extremely hard you can't cut it with any saw. You need to grind off the surface on a bench grinder (one that you sharpen your tools with) first and then you can just cut it off with a hack saw because the core is not that hard.
2. Drill a hole and tap threads. This will allow you to mount the rod on a post to be put in the banjo. I usually put this hole off-center so that it is more versatile. Grind a nick to break the hard surface where you want the hole. On a drill press, center the drill bit on the groove of a V-block (like a V groove in a 2x4). Put the rod in and drill the hole about 2/3 of the bar's diameter and tap threads. Use 1/4"-20 TPI or 3/8"-16 TPI depending on the size of the rod.
3. Make the post. Cut an appropriate length of a round cold roll steel bar of the diameter that fits your banjo (usually 3/4" on a small lathe and 1" on large ones). Drill a hole of the same size as



*Continued on page 7*

Continued from page 4

ted a “wheel” series in wood had not been explored or prevalent in the art world; therefore, the “Evolution of the Wheel Series” by James Keller was born in 1999. Jim has since created 80 wheels in the series, which has been evolving from its inception (see photos).



Jim is still remorseful about one of the pieces in the series he sold at a show. Jim had received positive comments about the piece when critiqued, and he felt it was one of the best pieces he created in the series. “I still have seller’s regret on that one; it sold within five minutes after the doors opened for the show,” Jim says.

I was able to view some of Jim’s pieces of art at his studio. I was immediately impressed with the quality of finish Jim had on his pieces and his wood selection for each piece. The size of Jim’s work space was also to be envied. My work space is my garage which is cluttered with

kid’s toys and storage boxes for my wife. I know that if I had my “clutter” removed or donated to a charity, I could fit more tools there. I dare not because I do not like sleeping in the garage. I mention this to Jim which makes him smile. Jim also gives private lessons at his studio, and is a mentor for the club, if you want to see his space for yourself.

Jim feels that he “has a responsibility to give back to the club”, and advised the mentors in the club can be easily found in the club newsletter so a beginner or just someone looking to improve their skills can find a teacher close to them.

I finally asked Jim if he had any saga-like advice for me. Jim responded with the words he heard from Ray Leier upon critiquing one of Jim’s multi-axis pieces. He said, “Just because you can do it doesn’t mean you should.” Afterward, Jim realized the piece was just too busy having 12 or 13 axes. Despite reflecting on the “dues” he paid on that day, Jim Keller was still able to smile about it.

## Local Classes

By George Kanacinski

### Hey, have you been to class lately?

Well, the ornaments are turned and the holidays are over. I’m sure glad we had the Ornament class with **Doug Grissom** back in November. I, for one, was able to use the techniques from that class in the ornaments I turned for the holidays. Admittedly, I didn’t follow the style of ornament that Doug used as the class project, but the hollowing techniques certainly came in handy and the confidence built during the class was certainly a factor of success for my ornaments this season. And, I’m sure I’ll be trying more of the globe style that Doug taught, just a bit later. On behalf of the students, I’d like to say **Thank You** to **Doug Grissom** for teaching, to **Tommy Joe** for providing the facility, and to **Don Fluker** who stopped by to assist for a while.

The next local hands-on class is coming up in February. **Larry Zarra** will be teaching a class on Small Hollow Forms. The class will also be at U of H and will be held on Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. The date was announced at the November general meeting and by the end of the day the class was full. Amazing! The wait list is growing and Larry has agreed to do a second session. The date is not yet set for the second session and will be announced as soon as it is finalized. So if you have interested in the Small Hollow Forms hands-on class please drop me an e-mail or give me a call.

Larry’s class will cover the topic of Small Hollow Forms

from design through finishing techniques. The class will be hands-on utilizing mini-lathes meaning that most everyone taking the class will be able to use the skills learned in their own shop. Larry will be including discussion and critique on design; wood selection and grain orientation; details on measuring depth and wall thickness; reverse chucking to finish the bottom; and sanding / finishing techniques. With the small class size of 6 Larry expects that everyone will have plenty of one-to-one coaching allowing everyone to complete at least one, and maybe two, vessels during the class. It sounds like a great learning opportunity and a lot of fun!!

As of this writing we do not yet have a confirmed date for **Janice Levi**’s class for making a Box with a Delicate Finish. We’ll announce the date as soon as it is known.

There are discussions underway for what other classes to offer during 2011. So if you have any ideas please drop me a note or give me a call. Among couple ideas that are being discussed is a Basic Spindle Class. That would be for any of the newer turners or those who haven’t spent much time turning between centers. Of course basic spindle turning techniques are applicable to a lot of turning projects so most anyone might find that class of interest. Another idea is a class we might call *The Magic Tool – Learning to Use the Skew*. We still have some planning to do and we’re looking for instructors for these classes and other possibilities. The program has been pretty successful so far and we’d like to keep moving along that path. So please chime in with your ideas – what topics, which instructors?

Continued from page 6

- that on the horizontal rod on one end (preferably on a lathe for centering) to ~1” deep and tap threads.
4. Mount the rod on the post. Put a hex head bolt in the piston rod and tighten as much as you can. Cut off the

hex head with a hack saw leaving about 3/4” on the bar. Screw the post onto the bar and you have a tool rest.



# DECEMBER SHOW & TELL

Best of Show  
Ash hollow form



Judges: Don Fluker and Georgene Huckeba

Photos: Paul Millo



## Advanced Category

**1st Place – Scott Njaa**



Walnut bowl

**2nd Place – Larry Zarra**



Oak burl bowl

**3rd Place – Dennis Ford**



Elm burl hollow form

## Intermediate Category

**1st Place – Ron Day**

Diamondwood handle



**2nd Place – Al Riesen**

Pecan bowl set



**3rd Place – Dennis April**



Sycamore/ebony box

## Beginner Category

**1st Place – Ron Brewer**

Walnut scoop



## Judges



## Enhanced Category

**1st Place – Bill Pottorf**



Spalted maple compote

**2nd Place – Gary Rock**



Spalted hackberry dish with handles

**3rd Place – Delbert Pond**



Poplar plate

## Segmented Category

**1st Place – Larry Zarra**



Inlaid walnut bowl

**2nd Place – Bpb Brown**



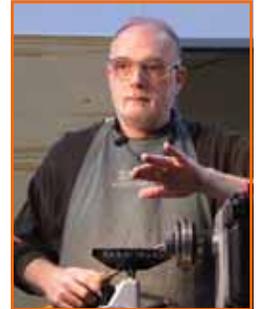
Baltic birch/bubinga goblet

**3rd Place – Delbert Pond**



Cedar/maple candlestick

## Snapshots from the December Meeting



Pictures can be viewed at  
[www.gulfcoastwoodturners.org](http://www.gulfcoastwoodturners.org)  
 Photos: Ric Taylor, Paul Millo, Andy  
 Chen

### 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.*

**January 15, 2011 ~ GCWA General Meeting ~ 9:00 AM - noon**

**Location:** University of Houston Keeland Center

**February 7, 2011~ Board Meeting ~ Ben Gray's house ~ 7:00 PM**

**February 19, 2011 ~GCWA General Meeting ~ 9:00 AM - noon**

**Location:** Memorial Lutheran Church

**March 7, 2011 ~ Board Meeting**

**March 19, 2011 ~ GCWA General Meeting ~ 9:00 AM - noon**

**Location:** Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church

**March 28, 2011 ~ Board Meeting**

**April 9, 2011 ~ GCWA General Meeting ~ 9:00 AM - noon**

**Location:** Foxfire Studios, demonstrator, John Jordan

**May 21, 22, 2011 ~ Spring Retreat**

**Location:** Montgomery County Fairgrounds

**June 18, 2011 ~ GCWA General Meeting ~ 9:00 AM - noon**

**Location:** Bayland Community Center, Houston, TX

**July 16, 2011 ~ GCWA General Meeting ~ 9:00 AM - noon**

**Location:** Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church

**August 20, 2011 ~ GCWA General Meeting ~ 9:00 AM - noon**

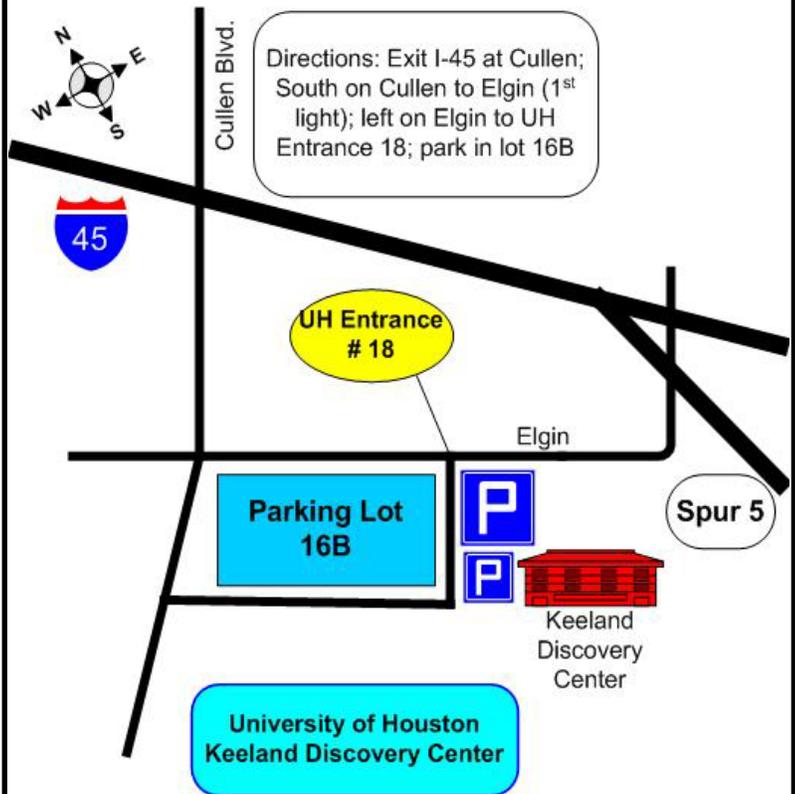
**Location:** Bayland Community Center, Houston, TX

**August 26 – 28, 2011 ~ SWAT annual symposium**

**Location:** Waco Convention Center

## January Meeting

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



## January Meeting Program

Small hollow forms by Larry Zarra

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Steve LeGrue - President**  
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**Dave Barziza - Vice President/  
Judging**  
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davebarziza@yahoo.com

**Ed Peine - Secretary**  
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epeine@comcast.net

**Jim Keller - Treasurer**  
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**Lane Bradford - Board Member**  
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**Thomas Irvén - Board Member**  
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**Ben Gray - Board Member**  
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**Chris Roth - Board Member**  
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**John Van Domelen - Website Technical Director**  
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GCWA Websites:  
[www.gulfcoastwoodturners.org](http://www.gulfcoastwoodturners.org)

Program Chair  
**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 \$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.swaturners.org>  
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  
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