**President’s Corner**  
**By Charles Graham**

We had a great hands on wood turning retreat in March. Thank you to all the many volunteers that made it a successful retreat. We had 90 members participating this year and our plans are to return to Deer Park next year. Walter Mooney has written an article with more details about the retreat to submit to the AAW. It appears in this newsletter.

At the March general meeting we elected new officers and board of directors. The list of officers and directors follows:

- **President:** Chuck Graham
- **Vice President:** Dave Greenwald
- **Secretary:** Lane Bradford
- **Treasurer:** Rene Gonzalez
- **Past President:** Greg Gonsalves
- **Board member:** Scott Haddix
- **Board member:** George Kabacinski
- **Board member:** Scott Njaa
- **Board member:** Walter Mooney

As club members we contribute back to the community through donations to charities. Gulf Coast Woodturners Association is more than members trying to improve their skills, we also contribute to the community through donations to charities. One of those charities is Empty Bowls. Members contribute turned bowls which are either sold or auctioned with proceeds benefiting the Houston Food Bank. I encourage you to turn more bowls.

Another charity is Beads of Courage, which we support through your contributions of boxes. Those boxes store beads which are given to children who are being treated for cancer. They receive different colored beads for different treatments and store them in the boxes we and others provide.

As a club of volunteers, may I encourage you to volunteer in any way that you can. Presently, we need a photographer for Show and Tell. Thank you to those who come early to help set up the room, unload the trailer, and clean the room afterward.

Have fun and turn safely, these are not mutually exclusive activities,

Chuck Graham, President

If you recognize this face, then you must spend time on Imgur.com, where he’s the meme for things that make you happy and sad at the same time, kind of like GCWA in a way these days: happy to welcome the new slate of club officers, sad to see others depart. Greg Gonsalves, Ed Peine, Don Fluker— you guys set an incredible standard of leadership. Peter Miao — thanks so much for the outstanding quality of your photographs for the newsletter. You’ll be missed!
**April Program: Offset Platter**

with Scott Njaa

I have been turning a little over 20 years, starting with pens and small kits. My first big project was a cradle that I turned for the birth of my daughter. I joined GCWA in 2007 and found that the opportunity to talk to other turners about what they were turning, how they got such a nice shape and how did you get the awesome finish led to a step change in my turning ability. I have been teaching at the annual retreat since 2011. My favorite things to turn include bowls and platters with a little flare to them as well as Christmas ornaments.

My demonstration is an offset platter, as demonstrated by Keith Gotschall at SWAT this past year. This is a fun and quick project that will let you practice using screw chucks, holding wood with recesses in expansion, and gives a lot of opportunity for being creative. The top rim can wither be decorated with beads, carving, coloring or burning.

**From the March Meeting**

Lots of bowls done, lots left to go!
**March Presentation — “Turning a 3-Sided Box”**  
**With Gary Barnes**

GCWA member Gary Barnes demonstrated how to turn a basic three-sided box at our March meeting. It sounds impossible, but is actually a fairly easy multi-axis turning. The boxes can be turned with either a clockwise or a counter-clockwise twist. This is a little more involved, as you have to follow a particular order of off-axis mountings to get the desired direction of twist. A practical use of this technique is to turn a salt and pepper set with opposite twists.

Gary, a retired engineer, has been working with wood since childhood. He has turned off and on for many years but has been turning regularly for the past 12 years. He also makes furniture and toys, carves, paints, and wood-burns. He is a member of GCWA and Lone Star Wood Turners, where he serves as president. He was a regional demonstrator during the 25th Anniversary SWAT. He regularly teaches carving and turning classes at his home.

If you missed the meeting, or if you’re not sure you got the steps exactly right that Gary discussed, you might want to check out the video the club made of his presentation since the video would do a better job than a description of his technique in words.
Jimmy Clewes Demonstration & Classes, August, 2019

Jimmy Clewes will be our Guest Demonstrator for a Demo Day on Saturday, August 17th, 2019. The days following, he will be here for classes for GCWA members. Below is the list of classes and dates chosen by the Board (incorporating the few preferences provided by members following the March newsletter’s request). The registration fee is $150 per student day. All classes are one day each and you may register for as many of the classes you would like. Registrations are on a first-come-first-serve basis based on when the registration check arrives.

Sunday, August 18, 2019 – Platter, Design, Ergonomics, and Colored Rim Platter
Monday, August 19, 2019 – Square Oriental Box
Tuesday, August 20, 2019 – Lidded Box with Exotic Insert and Brass Ring
Wednesday, August 21, 2019 – TENTATIVE, TBD based on demand

See the March newsletter for class descriptions.

To register for a class please make a check payable to GCWA and mail it to George Kabacinski, PO Box 502 (yes, that’s a new PO Box number!), Cypress, TX 77410. PLEASE do NOT address the envelope to GCWA, just the check payable to GCWA.

Registration will remain open through June 15, 2019. At that time decisions will be made depending on demand for classes. Please do not wait until the last minute to register. If there is insufficient demand to make a class it may be subject to cancellation. Our budget and the Registration Fee are based on having 6 paid registrations for each class.

If you register for a class and later determine that you are unable to attend requested refunds will be issued provided we can replace that spot with another paying student. Emergency cancellations with refund requests will be considered by the Board on a case-by-case basis.

AAW Resources

GCWA recommends that its members also join the American Association of Woodturners (AAW). Doing so gives the woodturner access to an incredible number of resources. There are two lists of videos available. In the AAW Video Source Library, there are 486 entries, and you can screen for beginner videos only or for all videos. AAW lists the speaker in the video, the date it was produced, its length, and any safety comments or concerns. In a smaller library of videos produced by AAW itself, the list is alphabetized by subject area.

Another valuable service is the AAW Forum, where members can post questions and get answers from other turners. On page 10 of this newsletter, for example, you’ll see a new section called “Ask the Experts,” with a question about bushings in pen making. In addition to asking club experts what their answer would be, I’m going to check to see what information is available on this topic in the Forum.

Print material is another category where there is an abundance of help. Members have access to PDF versions of every article in past issues of the AAW Journal, and the AAW Store has books for sale on various topics with a member discount.

There are also several online tools for learning and information. AAW Explore lets members look for information using key words. Woodturning Fundamentals is an online portal for new turners that complements the Woodturning FUNdamentals digital publication.

Check out the website at woodturner.org. Several categories of membership are available.
SHOW AND TELL, MARCH 2019

BEGINNERS

1st Place—George Graves
Mahogany Bowl

2nd Place
Terry LeFebvre
Rattle

3rd Place
George Graves, Mahogany Bowl
SHOW AND TELL, MARCH 2019, CONTINUED

INTERMEDIATE

1st Place, Larry Barron
Pecan Burl Box with Lid

2nd Place, Larry Barron
Spalted Pecan Bowl with Inlay

3rd Place, Thomas Matthews
Mesquite Box with Finial
**Show and Tell, March 2019, continued**

**Advanced**

1st Place, Scott Haddix
Natural Edge Platter

2nd Place, Larry Zarra
Four Boxes, Various Woods

3rd Place, Paul Mugridge
Tall Spalted Vase
SHOW AND TELL, MARCH 2019, CONTINUED

ENHANCED

1st Place, Paul Millo
Maple Bowl with Decorated Rim

Nell Wheeler
Maple Bowl with Decorated Rim

3rd Place
John Schlobohm
Ball with Stand, Cast Resin
**Show and Tell, March 2019, continued**

### Kits

1st Place, Scott Haddix
Pocket Watch with Stand and Glass Globe

2nd Place, John Schlobohm
Pen with Cast Resin

3rd Place, Vernon Burnham
Pen

March Show and Tell Judges
Dale Barrack and Steve LeGrue
On the weekend of March 9 and 10, 2019, 90 members of the Gulf Coast Woodturners Association (GCWA) gathered in the 19,500 SF Jimmy Burke Activity Center in Deer Park Texas for our 24th annual Spring Retreat. Members brought 80 lathes to the facility on Friday and set them up in eight separate class areas, seven to an area (six students and one instructor). There were a dozen lathes set up separately for the novice/beginners’ area, and a few lathes in another area for a 'come-as-you-are-able' bowl-turning area devoted to turning bowls to go to Empty Bowls. There was also a separate sharpening area, with eight grinders set up.

Saturday morning there were eight different four-hour, hands-on classes, plus the novice area, followed by a catered lunch. Saturday afternoon there were another eight different classes, and the continued hands-on instruction for the novices. A major treat this year was the addition, as a teacher and friend, of renowned international turner Avelino Samuel, who joined us for both days at the retreat. Throughout both days, he alternated between the sharpening area and the bowl-turning area, giving tips and instructions to anyone who asked for them. He taught two classes, including one Saturday evening on finials, and the results by the attendees were quite impressive. He is a great instructor.

Sunday morning brought the daylight-saving-time change to our clocks, a bit of a slow start, and a round of eight more classes. The novices had their final hands-on session, in which they turned a bowl. The day, and the retreat, was concluded by a catered lunch, a thorough cleaning of the facility, the loading up of everyone’s equipment, and then a marathon, two-hour door prize giveaway.

There were 28 classes in all, taught by 25 club-member instructors, and three demos. Several instructors taught two classes. There were classes for all skill levels, from beginners through advanced. Classes ranged from such subjects as rattlesnake whistles, sugar scoops and mallets, to boxes, pepper mills, yarn bowls, making your own ‘elf’-style rotary texturing tool, turning a twisted, three-sided box, and constructing a segmented feature ring.

Our retreat is a major undertaking, and we have several members who spend months each year planning it and preparing for it. GCWA collectively wants to especially thank members Greg Gonsalves, Doug Grissom, Ed Peine, Don Fluker, Bill and Linda Berry, Scott Haddix, Chuck Graham and Dave Greenawalt for their efforts in bringing another successful retreat to fruition.

For the Newer Turner

- **Scrapers and Scraping** — California turner Brian Havens has an excellent series of three videos on scraping, available on YouTube:
  - (Conventional) Scraping
  - Shear Scraping
  - Negative Rake Scraping
  Each video is between 24 and 30 minutes long. What sets these videos apart is the quality of Havens’s teaching. His explanations are clear, and the camera work lets you see exactly what he is talking about. Highly recommended.

- **Ask the Experts — Bushings**
  One of the annoying things about pen making is the fact that so many different sizes of bushings seem to be required. Is there a simple way around this? We’ll pose this question to club experts and report back to you next issue.

  So non-stick bushings are recommended when applying CA glue to finished blanks. But since these are made to fit a variety of blanks, could they in fact be used in place of the prescribed metal bushings when turning the blank itself? And if so, you can even make your own with a HDPE rod bought on Amazon (see RJBWoodturner’s YouTube video “Make Your Own Non-Stick Pen Bushings”). Below left: commercial bushings, at right: homemade.
Open Shop

On the second Tuesday of each month, three members of GCWA open their shops to other members and guests to visit, socialize, learn, and have a fun evening. These open-shop nights are hosted by Marty Kaminsky in San Leon, George Kabacinski in Cypress, and Lane Bradford in Montgomery.

Each of the three monthly Open Shop Night events has evolved to have its own format and a few “regulars” who are able to participate from month to month. Others drop in for a gathering when they can.

All members and guests are welcome to join in at any time. Host contact information is listed below. Check it out and join in the fun when you can. It’s a great way to meet other members, share some turning talk, get questions answered, and maybe even get some time on a lathe. There’s typically a seasoned turner or three to answer your questions and help you along.

George Kabacinski  (832) 349-3006
Marty Kaminsky  (281) 339-3297
Lane Bradford  (936) 447-9310

About Our Club

Gulf Coast Woodturners Association has, for more than twenty years, been affiliated with the American Association of Woodturners. GCWA meets at 9:00 am, usually on the third Saturday, and usually at the Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road, Houston (see map at left). Annual dues are $25. The club’s website is www.gulfcoastwoodturners.org, and its email address is: gcwamail@gulfcoastwoodturners.org

There are many resources for turners on the AAW website: https://www.woodturner.org