



# GOLD COAST WOODTURNERS NEWSLETTER April 2009

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday May 21, 2007 at 7 pm**

We hope you will plan to attend.

The meeting will be held at Woodcraft located at 1157 S. Federal Hwy., Pompano Beach

<http://www.goldcoastwoodturners.org>

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## **Next Demonstration:**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Our Gold Coast Woodturners platter contest is in full swing. Only 13 more days until our next meeting on May 21st, 2009 so plenty of time to "turn" one out! Platters must be present at our meeting to get a raffle ticket for prizes (awarded by drawing). Remember, no larger than 10 inch diameter and 1 1/4 inch tall. If you want assistance our mentors are glad to help. Some wood & ideas are available too. This is a club challenge. You are not required to participate and you only expand your woodturning knowledge by trying new things. Most board members are mentors and everyone else in our club are glad to share their knowledge.

Lee Sky

## **BEGINNERS CORNER, Part 2**

Before I get started on wood, a bit in information on where to get stuff. The following list will give you a heads up on where to buy on-line:

Woodcraft.com  
Packardwoodworks.com  
Traditionalwoodworker.com  
AugumsPenWorks.com  
Hartvilletool.com  
Woodworker.com  
Rockler.com  
Ptreeusa.com  
QualityCarvingSupplies.com  
TheSandingGlove.com  
McFeelys.com  
Highlandwoodworking.com  
Sears.com/shoptools  
JamestownDistributors.com

After you have the tools and equipment mentioned in my first article, the next logical step is to get some wood. This article could be a paragraph, page or a book. There is no end to talking about wood.

Let's talk about wood. For the beginner, this can be the most confusing part of getting started. So many kinds of wood, so many terms to misunderstand. So in no particular order, I would like to start this article with some plain English definitions.

Pith- the small round center of a log.

Heartwood-the wood around the pith.

Sapwood- the outside wood, usually a lighter color, but not always. Carries the sap up the tree. When it stops carrying, it becomes heartwood.

Grain- The capillaries that run up the tree (LONGITUDINAL CELLS).

End Grain- When you cut a log in half and look at the part you cut, you are looking at end grain.

Side Grain- the side of the log, under the bark is the side grain.

Next we have wet wood and dry wood. I had no idea what they were talking about when I first heard these terms. Wet wood is freshly cut wood where the moisture is still inside the pores of the tree. Dry wood is the opposite. It takes about an inch a year (in diameter) for wood to dry (general rule). The thinner it is, the quicker it dries. Most of us turn wet wood. It is easier to turn so it is more fun.

Crotch wood-where a branch has connected to the main trunk. Distorts the grain nicely.

Burl-large knoblike projections or bulges formed along the trunk. Disoriented grain makes beautiful turning.

Spalted wood- wood that has started to decay. Be careful if you have allergies.

Hardwoods: Apple, Ash, Aspen, Basswood, Beech, Birch, Cherry, Cottonwood, Hackberry, Hickory, Pecan, Magnolia, Maple, Oak, Sweetgum, Sycamore, Tupelo, Walnut, Yellow Poplar.

Softwoods: Cedar, Fir, Hemlock, Pine, Redwood, Spruce

What does all this mean? Not much to the beginner. You should start turning with easy to turn woods. You will find wood locally and on the internet. Go to E-Bay and search "turning wood". You usually will come up with about 1000 items. Set your filter by most recent and you will see what is up for auction. The club announces when a tree cutter has cut wood for us to pick up. It's free. You can also buy wood blanks at the Woodcraft store we meet. It may seem more expensive but you save the freight which can equal the cost of the wood if you buy on E-Bay. They sell every kind of wood in the world. It's great to turn different kinds of wood. The wood usually comes in the form of logs of many diameters and lengths or on the internet they will sell round blanks as well. Remember you can only put on your lathe, twice the distance from the drive center to the lathe bed (radius). Don't buy a 14" round if you have a 12" lathe. It won't fit.

My knowledge of wood for turning is only two years old. Most of the members get local wood from tree trimming companies that call the club when they are going to cut down trees. The usual species are Mahogany, Acacia, Norfolk Island Pine, East Indian Rosewood, Pongom, and Live Oak. You can also buy turning wood on the internet.

When you get wood from the tree cutter, you should keep it in as long a log as possible until you use it. It will be "wet wood" which has a tendency to crack along the end grain cuts as it dries. The longer the wood, the fewer ends to crack. Paint the ends of the wood with a green wood wax which helps slow the drying process. When you are ready to use the wood, cut the end off an inch or so and then cut the size piece you want to turn. Re-wax the fresh wood you will not be using. Another rule of thumb is to turn a piece to 10% of its intended thickness and set it aside to dry (weeks to months). Wood "moves". That means it will warp and or split while it is drying.

Unless you are going to use the bark to make a natural edge bowl (later), cut the bark off or chip it off with a chisel. That will save you getting hit in the face or arms when it flies off the lathe.

Many beautiful woods grow in the US but not in Florida. They include walnut, oak, holly, redwood, yew, maple, and a thousand more. Some wood is toxic. I am allergic to tropical almond. Many are allergic to the dust from walnut. Make sure you use a good mask when turning.

Another type of wood we turn is burl. Almost every tree can grow burl. It is a lump that grows on the side of the tree. The beauty is that the grain is all twisty and curly inside the burl. Some of the most beautiful burl comes from Australia. It is expensive but beautiful.

If you turn from start to finish, cover the wood on the lathe with a paper bag or plastic bag every time you leave for lunch or overnight. This will retain some of the moisture and again help stop splitting. If you cut the wood from start to finish without letting it dry, cut it thin enough so it will move (warp) instead of splitting. The warping can make an unusual shape that you cannot get turning. Some of us like the warped shapes we get.

Don't be afraid of wood with bark inclusions, holes, unusual shapes etc. They can make some of the most unusual and beautiful turnings. A bark inclusion is where there was some kind of damage to the wood and the bark grew into the trunk. Many of the burls have interior voids in the wood that make for interesting turning.

I hope this has been informative to the beginner turners. Next will be putting the wood on the lathe and starting the fun.

**Stan Blumin**

## Identifying Wood

May I recommend National Audubon Society Field Guide to Trees, Eastern Region, North America. We are using it to identify our trees here in NW Alabama. We have 19 acres, heavily wooded, many different kinds, and I want to identify as many as I can. Of several tree ID books I bought, it is by far the best. If you can match the leaf and the bark with the excellent photos, you have it.

Also there is a website: [arborday.org/trees/whattree/](http://arborday.org/trees/whattree/) that is excellent. It asks a series of questions, the next depending on your answer to the previous (a tree structure, actually!). It does require you to know what the flower looks like. We ran into problems with several trees because we don't yet know what the flowers look like.

Of course, these won't help you identify the wood if all you have is a log or a turning blank!

Since I won't remember tomorrow what that tree is that we identified today, I got some large metal plant markers from Burpee:



Metal Plant Markers

**Customer Favorite**

Keep track of what you plant and where.

Identify your plants the easy way. The over-sized name plate (1-1/4" x 3-1/2") allows plenty of room for notes and the black carbon pencil is "indelible". The stakes are 11-1/2" long so you can anchor them securely. The labels are made of brushed zinc, which will not rust, and you can erase by buffing gently with fine steel wool. Both labels and stakes will stand up to years of use in any weather. Each package contains 25 labels and stakes and one marking pencil.

Bill Lockhart

## Turning Videos on line

There truly is a fine line between madness and genius!

Nova DVR lathe - modified, chain saw and bowl gouge for tools, rasp files for braking, 3 inch faceplate (with tailstock support) to hold over 4 foot tall 15 inch plus diameter glue up = masterpiece ... priceless. ten minutes long but worth it!! Lee Sky

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydDQQQww1AA>

If you know of a good video send in a link

# This month's work







More photos and the Instant gallery ar on the web site <http://www.goldcoastwoodturners.org/>  
Old news letters and old meeting photos are in The Newsletters area of the web site.

## Meeting and the Demo



## Our Library



The cub has a library of tapes, DVD's and books that can be checked out for a month by members. A \$5 deposit is required.

A full list of titles is on the [web page](#).

We've made a few new acquisitions for the library:

- As you should all know by now, we are a chapter of the AAW and you hear about all the benefits of AAW membership at each meeting. One of those benefits is the American Woodturner magazine, which is arguably one of the best turning magazines in the world. Many of us believe that American Woodturner magazine alone is worth the price of AAW membership. The club has arranged to purchase all issues of American Woodturner in PDF format on CD for the years 1994 to 2006. Those who are unfamiliar with the magazine can review the past issues and see what you've been missing. Those who haven't been members of the AAW all the way back to 1994 will be able to catch up with those issues that predate your membership.
- Some of you may be familiar with "More Woodturning". It is another magazine that is available to the turning community. Where American Woodturner leans more towards the "art" of woodturning, More Woodturning magazine leans more towards the "craft" of turning wood. According to the editor, "It is designed to provide guidance in woodturning techniques and to keep you informed as much as possible with what is happening in the woodturning craft; i.e., new equipment, new tools, new techniques, new projects, shows, places to sell, etc.". The club has arranged to purchase all issues of More Woodturning (1996 to present) in PDF format on CD. I hope you will find this a valuable and inspirational resource.
- A member has requested that the club consider the purchase of the Alan Lacer DVD "**Skew Chisel: The Darkside & The Sweet Side**". The board approved the purchase of this DVD at the last board meeting and it should be available in the library shortly. The member that requested this DVD will be given first shot at checking it out of the library. If there are books or videos that you think the club should add to the library, let me know. The board is willing to consider any suggestion, but material that has broad appeal to all members is more likely to be approved as funds become available.

## Web Site

A new page has been added for membership which has a membership form and a link to the AAW membership page.

The web site has space available for events or ideas relating to woodturning and things the members might be interested in such as items for sale. If you have any items to add write.

We have Blog (web log) area that is short articles or news. At present, you send items in and I post them. We can actually make this an interactive Blog where you can post messages if you want. It would use passwords and be limited to members only.

Don't forget the **member's gallery** where you can post photos of your work. Send the photos with a short description of each work, wood, finish and any other details. There is no limit on how many you can post, I may need time if you have a lot of additions. IF you would like to have another photo session for gallery photos, let Jerry know. If you have pictures presently in the gallery, they are all numbered so you can send descriptions for each one. I think a short personal biography about your woodturning or a link to a personal turning site would also be good additions. If you want pictures removed, I can do that too.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Gold Coast Woodturners, a chapter of the American Association of Woodturners, was formed in 1992 to promote an awareness of the craft and art of modern-day turning. Each meeting is designed and organized to present woodturning-related programs and projects to the members. Demonstrations are also presented that may be performed by a GCWT member or a world-recognized guest turner. No matter what is scheduled for the next meeting, the results will be the same. Woodturners will gather to share their experiences as well as learn from the experiences of others. All benefit, novices and "old-timers" alike. Beginners learn techniques and styles while the experts reaffirm their skills by demonstrating and teaching.

### **Gold Coast Woodturners membership benefits include:**

- Participation in all GCWT-sponsored activities and demonstrations.
- Weekend workshops to learn new techniques.
- Wood source opportunities through raffles and auctions.
- Tool and supply discounts available from local and national retailers.
- Videotape library.
- Tools and accessories available for loan.
- We encourage our membership to join the AAW. You will receive the American Woodturner Magazine and get some basic insurance needed at many club events.

### **MENTORS**

The club has several members who have volunteered to be mentors to other members. Members may contact one of the experienced mentors and set up a meeting where specific skills or tool usage can be worked on together.

North Broward	Carl Spinnler	954.370.6318
West Broward	Ray Reiland	954.475.1167
Southwest Broward	Jerry Remillard	954.434.5289
Ft Lauderdale	Lee Sky	954.971.6314
	Ron Pursell	(954) 434-6163
Hollywood area	Paul Heede	954.981.5695

### **OFFICERS and BOARD MEMBERS**

If you have any questions about the Gold Coast Woodturners, please contact any of these officers, board members or committee chairpersons:

Lee Sky, President	(954) 683-1406	<a href="mailto:mrturnit@aol.com">mrturnit@aol.com</a>
Robert Przybylski, Vice President	(954) 435-8312	
Diane Klein, Secretary	(954) 455-8922	
Ron Pursell, Treasurer	(954) 434-6163	
Lee Sky, Tool Collection		
Ray Reiland, Board Member	(954) 475-1167	
Warren Howie, Board Member	(954) 382-9393	
Jerry Remillard, Board Member	(305) 525-9207	
Carl Spinnler, Board Member	(954) 946-1302	
Jim Kal, Librarian		
Ken Rizza, Membership and Video		
David Kerzel, Newsletter	(954) 785-2184	<a href="mailto:david@floridaame.org">david@floridaame.org</a>
David Kerzel, Website	(954) 785-2184	<a href="mailto:david@floridaame.org">david@floridaame.org</a>



**Gold Coast Woodturners Membership Form**

The membership year for the Gold Coast Woodturners Club runs from January 1 to December 31. Annual dues are \$30.00.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please check if you do not want your name published in the newsletter

PLEASE NOTE, we are a Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners. All members are expected to be members of the AAW and covered by their insurance. The AAW dues are \$40.00 per year and you receive a quarterly magazine and a directory of all AAW members throughout the world.

\_\_\_\_\_ Are you an AAW member?

Yearly dues of \$30.00 are made payable to:

Gold Coast Woodturners,  
c/o Ron Pursell  
GCWT Treasurer  
5500 S.W. 160<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Southwest Ranches, FL 33331  
(954) 434-6163

<http://www.goldcoastwoodturners.org>