



# GOLD COAST WOODTURNERS NEWSLETTER March 2009

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday April 16, 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:

August is a Christmas Ornament mini symposium.  
We'll have multiple lathes and demonstrators making ornaments during the meeting.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Every time I see a person trying woodturning for the first few times I think back 9 years ago to my novice days. I took a class and made a nice bowl with a unintended hole in the side. My next several attempts were basically on my own at the Woodcraft store shop area in Deerfield Beach. There were many times I started with a grapefruit sized wood blank ending up with a bottle stopper sized treasure. I checked out a few woodturning tapes at our main Broward County library to learn more about our art to make a bit of progress. Only when I discovered the Gold Coast Woodturners club did I start really learning how the tools and lathe worked. By taking advantage of the mentoring program and workshops is something we all can learn from. Beginners and intermediate learn from our more experienced turners and by teaching others, the more experienced learn the finer points of tool usage. If you want to really become a good woodturner this is the place to do it.

Our club is only as good as our members make it. By sharing our knowledge, skills & ideas, by helping set up, tear down, distribute wood, give a demonstration, run the club library, camera, raffles, etc... our club will flourish and grow.

I encourage all members to come to our club workshop this Saturday April 18th to spin some wood. Come to our picnic May 30th to get to know other members better too. We are a fun bunch and welcome everyone.

Lee Sky

## **BEGINNERS CORNER**

I have been turning for 14 months and it has been one of the most satisfying and frustrating experiences of my life. In the series of articles I hope to write, I will take the beginner through my experiences from the equipment needed to finishing. I will try to cover all the difficulties I encountered and how I solved them in hopes that the beginning turners are helped by my experiences.

Today I will talk briefly about the first step. What do I need to turn and what is just nice to have stuff?

1. You need a lathe. Either borrow one or buy one. Start with a small mini-lathe. There are a bunch of them available for about \$250. Start small and acquire some skills and see if you love turning as much as I do. Bolt the lathe down or weigh it with sandbags if it is on a stand.
2. Cutting tools. There are many kinds and many prices. You can get a basic set of 7 high speed (HSS) steel tools for about \$100 or less. They will include a spindle gouge, bowl gouge, roughing gouge, one or two skews, a parting tool and one or two scrapers. They are not the high quality tools most of us eventually acquire. They are made in China and cut fine. Just require sharpening more often. Again limit the investment until you see what you like.

3. Sharpening- You will need a grinder and probably an 80 grit and 100 grit wheels. The gray wheels are not for our tools, don't use them. You will need some type of system to hold the tools while sharpening. Oneway has a system that works well. There are several systems out there. Check in the Craft store and on the net. The grinder you can get at Home Depot. I prefer the 8" wheels but they also make 6" wheels. Be careful, the wheel can take skin off faster than a blink of an eye.
4. Get a pair of work gloves that fit and cut the top of each finger off. You need the fingers bare for the feel.
5. Get a dust mask of some kind and eye protection. I cannot emphasize this strongly enough.
6. Your lathe consists of a headstock (where the motor is) and a drive tool of some sort which digs into the wood and makes it spin. The other end is the tailstock with a tool that has a small point and spins freely.
7. Depending on what you like to turn, you will need a chuck that fits your lathe. Again about \$100 for a mid value lathe chuck. Google "lathe chucks" on the net or anything on this page and you will find everything for sale. The chuck screws on to the lathe and grips the wood with three or four sets of teeth. The size chuck you buy will determine the size of the bite you can get on the tendon (part of the wood you cut to fit the chuck).
8. The lathe should come with a faceplate. This is a round piece of steel that screws on to the lathe and instead of a chuck gripping the wood, the faceplate screws into the wood or into a glue block that stands between your wood and your faceplate (more of that in another article).
9. You will need a sander of some kind. I have found one on E-Bay (its really a drill) that has the head on an angle, not quite 90o but maybe 45o. It is cheap, about \$30 and you can replace it when it gets tired easier than an expensive one.
10. You will need sandpaper. Sandpaper comes in different sizes, shapes and prices. The roughness of the paper is called the grit. You will need 80,100,120,180,220,320,400. Fortunately it is relatively cheap unless you buy the pre-cut to the size of your sanding mandrel. You will probably want a 2" and 3" mandrel. That is the thing that goes into the sander and holds the sandpaper. See the sandpaper section in the Craft store. Even if you buy the pre-cut you should have a supply of the sheets ( Home Depot).
11. You might want sanding sealer to seal the wood before putting any finish on it.
12. You will want some kind of oil to bring the colors of the wood and grain out before putting sanding sealer on. There are many kinds of oil, linseed oil, tung oil and walnut oil are a few.
13. A regular set of shop tools will help a lot. There are many more tools you will ultimately buy such as calipers, hollowing tools, etc. but the above should give you the very basic system.

**Stan Blumin**

# This month's work





# Pembroke Pines Show



## 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:mrtunit@aol.com">mrtunit@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>