

# The Bayou Skew

The Bayou Woodturners' Newsletter

February 2001

Volume 03

Issue 02



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Bayou Woodturners  
P.O. Box 231293  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123

Steve Rome - President  
Keith Welsh - Vice President  
Eddie Castelin - Treasurer  
Dennis Wall - Secretary  
Jerry Markowitz - Photographer  
Charlie Kragle - Membership

## From the Headstock

It's still chilly out there! Fortunately, we found a warm place to meet in January - thanks to the hospitality of Charlie Kragle in LaPlace.

Apparently many of us have been hibernating in our shops, keeping busy on our lathes. We must have a lot of eager turners out there, because we had our largest turnout to date. As you can see in the minutes, there was much business and plenty to discuss at the last meeting. Sometimes it's really hard to get it all done in three hours, but we do what we can. So much to see and learn and so little time!

Our show-and-tell was impressive as well. Looks like a lot of us were really busy over the holidays! We had quite a few pieces submitted for discussion and the progression of the skills of our members from month to month is evident. Keep up the momentum guys - it makes the meetings fun! I've received several calls from new members in the past week with a lot of positive feedback.

I want to thank Larry Zarra, whom I called upon to craft our application for an educational grant from the AAW. Larry had success securing a grant for his former club in Midland, Texas, and we are hoping that his efforts will produce a similar result for us.

In order to get some direction as to how the club would want to spend money should we get it, Keith Welsh prepared and distributed a survey with some options. The answers were almost evenly split between inviting a professional "celebrity turner" to a future meeting and expanding the club library. So, we decided to request funding for the

**Next Meeting**  
**10:00 AM**  
**February 10, 2001**

**Greg Arceneaux**  
**Cabinetmakers**  
**67230 Industry Ln**  
**Covington LA 70433**

**Directions & Map**  
**on Page 4**

On the Internet at: [www.woodturners.com](http://www.woodturners.com)

*From the Headstock continued from previous page*

library. Other options on the ballot were new turning equipment or video taping gear, which I'm sure we will add in due time as it seems that many are hungry for more and more 'wood' stimuli. We now await the decision of the grant committee. I'll keep you posted!

I encourage everyone to interact with your fellow members to pick each other's brains for help and tips. There is plenty of know-how among us. Some of us need advice on equipment and sources for materials, while others just want to learn more about turning. Whatever it is that you need, there's help out there for you, so give a fellow member a call. For buying and selling services, materials and gear, there's an additional method at your service – our newsletter. Contact Keith Welsh or Jerry Markowitz for any requests you may have. It's there for you!

Let's continue to build club momentum and have our best year yet! Next month we will take the meeting to the Northshore, which will feature a demonstration by Malcolm Cheramie at the shop of Greg Arceneaux Cabinetmakers in Covington. Hope you guys can make it!



We are trying to initiate some friendly competition amongst ourselves, so we have proposed our first turning competition. The subject will be turning tops. Any kind of top you want. We will have categories such as most creative, longest running, smallest, largest, thumb spinners, and string pulled tops, etc. So give it a whirl. It'll be fun. **Entries will be due at the March meeting.**

See you then,

Steve Rome  
President, Bayou Woodturners



Our somewhat chilly meeting started at 10:25 a.m. Our thanks to Charlie Kragle for hosting this time. Charlie is now officially in charge of both membership services and merchandising. He will take orders and give receipts for the clothing items we sell.

***We still have many folks who need to pay their dues for this year.*** Please pay up by March; otherwise you will be dropped from the club roster and mailing list as of that date.

Please check your membership list to make sure your information is correct. The new directory will be out in April. Anyone interested is entitled to a business card size ad in the directory. You can give that information to Ed Castelin.

This year we have a committee to organize and coordinate our demonstrations. The members are Steve Rome, Jerry Markowitz and Keith Welsh. Jerry will coordinate the refreshments as well.

Jerry has purchased the Adobe Acrobat program for the Newsletter.

As in the past year, we are looking for biographies, shop profiles, turning tips, etc. for the Newsletter. Also, we are continuing the Trading Post; if you have something for sale, or something you wish to buy, you can advertise it here. We'll also continue the WoodWatch -- this feature mostly for our Internet readers. If you know of a tree being taken down or Any other source of free wood, contact Keith and he'll put it in the WoodWatch.

Dillard Ball will be hosting an upcoming meeting. At that meeting, he'll cut down a sycamore tree that needs removal and share the wood with club members at the meeting.

**To new members Phil Coghill and Ray Hoffmann -- welcome aboard!**

We are considering applying for a grant from AAW. Larry Zarra will help the writing, since he has done this before. We also took a vote on what to spend money on. The choices were: Videos and books; Guest demonstrators; more mini-lathes or a bigger lathe; video equipment, so we can videotape our demos and/or make our own training videos. If anyone has additional ideas on what we should invest in, please send them in. Ed Castelin noted that individuals could also apply for grants, and not just from AAW. The Louisiana Crafts Association also

*continued on page 3*

### *Meeting Minutes continued from previous page*

gives grants.

This year we hope to institute a series of topical group challenges.

First up -- **TOPS**: in two categories: string powered tops and finger tops.

Please try to have some ready for the *March* meeting. We are going to try to get a few more corporate sponsors for this year. We might approach the folks at Home Depot and Lowe's when it opens

Tom Dunne has been working on our nonprofit status filing. This is a slow and complicated business and will take some time to complete. However, we will still be in compliance as a non-profit organization as long as our revenues do not exceed \$5000 pre year. Incidentally, Tom has a show at the Bruner gallery in Covington coming up pretty soon.

Ed Castelin distributed the treasurer's report for the year 2000. If you didn't get a copy and want one, contact Ed.

Dillard Ball has a contact in the apparel trade who might be able to supply us at bargain prices. This will be investigated further.

Finally the subject of an exhibit/demonstration at Jefferson Parish Library came up at the board meeting, although we did not have time to discuss it at the Saturday meeting. We need for folks to start thinking about what they might like to put in the Exhibit case. Remember, the cases are only 10 inches deep. More about this next time.

The business portion of the meeting concluded

at 11:25 AM.

#### **Show and Tell:**

**Larry Zarra:** Two 2-tone boxes: walnut and yellowheart and maple and ebony; holly bowl with lacquer finish; buckeye burl natural edge bowl.

**Dick Gahn:** Showed a miniature working model lathe he received as a gift from a fellow woodworker

**O.B. Lacoste:** Pecan vase; plum wood bowl -- high gloss finish; pallet wood box; cherry bowl with no finish, but sanded absolutely glass smooth; large cedar bowl; small pear wood bowl.

**Alan Rips:** Cherry bowl with cypress segmented ring.

**Malcolm Cheramie:** Two large natural edge eucalyptus burl bowls -- wet turned.

**Tom Dunne:** Three large vessels: Ambrosia maple base with curly maple and tulipwood segmented rings.

**Ed Castelin:** Bowl of dyed oriented strand board (OSB)

**Keith Welsh:** Golf tee box; small Osage orange bowl; small cedar vase; mesquite vase with barbed wire decorations.

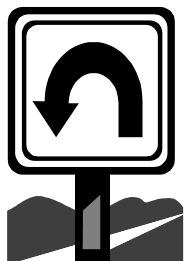
**Phil Coghill:** Kaleidoscope -- maple and walnut.

Raffle: \$90.00

That's all folks; see you next time.

Dennis Wall  
Secretary

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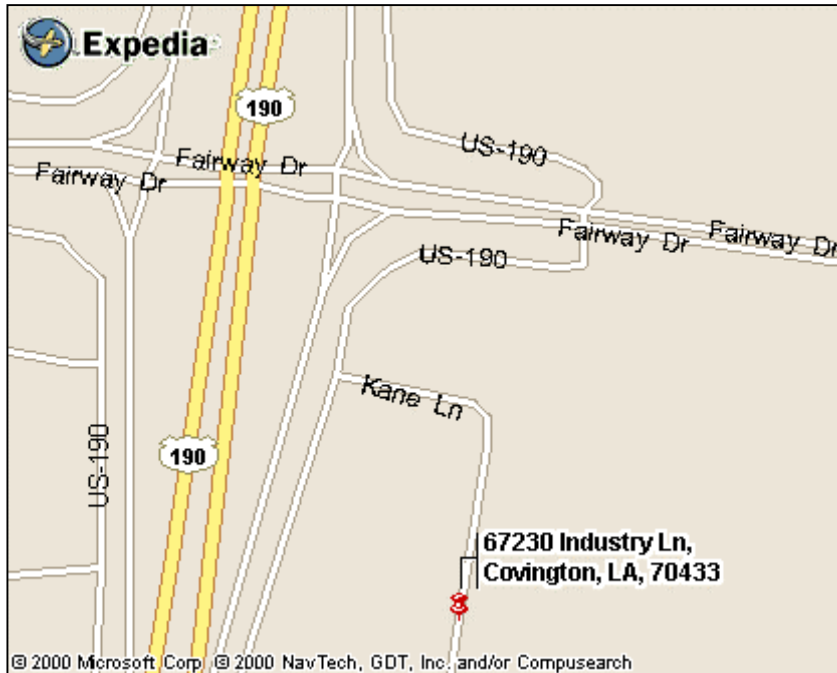
## Turning Tips

### **To sand or not to sand, that is the question.**

I've recently been experimenting with 3M Scotch Brite pads for sanding Corian and other solid surface materials. At the same time I was turning some hard exotics and grabbed a piece to give it a try. To my amazement, it worked quite well. I'm now working with several grits of the pad for finishing of hardwood pieces. I have found that for wet sanding and for polishing, they're very hard to beat.

My source is Woodworker's Supply of New Mexico 1-800-645-9292. The pads come in 6X9 pads and sell for about a buck apiece. If you're interested the ex-fine(white)comes close to 500 grit, the fine(gray) comes a little coarser than 400 and the medium (burgundy)is about 220. There are no standards established, but this is my best guess of the grits. *And while we're into sanding, keep an eye out for Steve Rome's new audio tape on sanding. It's dusting the competition.*

By Eddie Castelin



Greg Arceneaux Cabinetmakers  
 67230 Industry Lane  
 Covington, LA 70433  
 (504) 893-8782

Take Fairway Drive exit off of Hwy 190

Head East toward Lakeview Regional Hospital

Take a right at service road and head south (backtrack) for about a block.

Turn left (Kane LN) and that will bring you to his place.

It's a metal industrial bldg.

We will set up direction signs before the meeting.



This month's web site features an e-book, an entire online book written by Brian Clifford of the Lincolnshire Association of Woodturners. At present 13 chapters have been written with several more to be added as time goes on. Subjects still to be covered include the following:

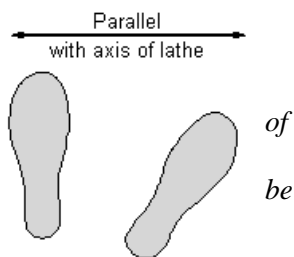
- Cutting coves
- Some simple exercises in spindle turning
- Bowl turning

Already online are:

1. Learning to turn
2. The workshop and equipment
3. The tools
4. Sharpening tools
5. Safety
6. Making the cut
7. The effect of grain and other factors on the cut
8. Introduction to spindle turning
9. Spindle turning - setting up for practice
10. Spindle turning - roughing down
11. Spindle turning - the planing cut
12. The 'V' cut
13. Cutting a bead

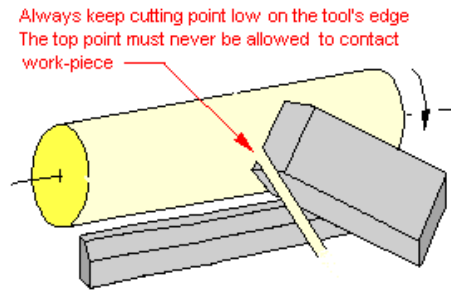
Each chapter is clearly written, with lots of detail and well illustrated. Everything is covered from the correct stance to take in front of the lathe (chapter 6):

*"A slightly oblique position suggested; that is to say a line drawn through the shoulders should cut the axis of the lathe at an angle somewhere around 15 degrees. So the feet need to a little distance apart and pointing in the correct direction "*

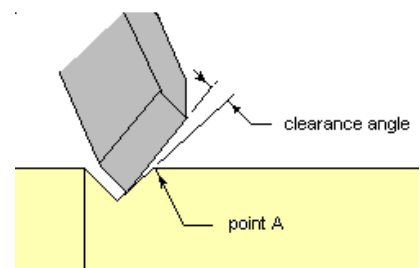


To how to approach the tool to the workpiece (Chapter 11): *"Ideally, the position on the edge, at which cutting takes place, should be about one third of the width of the edge above the short (or lower) point. For convenience, we can call the position at which cutting takes place the 'cutting point'. In practice it*

*will be difficult to maintain this position precisely but every effort should be made to prevent the contact point rising above the middle point of the edge."*



And how to avoid a catch (Chapter 12): *"there must be some clearance between the cutting edge of the chisel (above the cutting point) and the wall of the 'V'. This is illustrated in Diagram 12.7, which shows a view from the back of the lathe looking towards the turner. If this clearance is not maintained the edge may catch on the part of the work piece marked Point A in the diagram. The result may be an ugly spiral gash in the wood."*



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 \*[www.alstudio.freemove.co.uk/wtintro/wtintro.html](http://www.alstudio.freemove.co.uk/wtintro/wtintro.html)



In this column we will provide an index to the latest articles and tips found in the various wood working magazines that relate to turning. References marked with an asterisk are available from the Bayou Woodturners Library (see Denis Wall to check out)

- Wet Cutting and Wet Sanding On Dry Wood** MW Jun '00
- The Crown Tools 1/2" Roughing Gouge** MW Jun '00
- Chain Effect** Wturn Jan '01 pp14-17
- Mulberry Magic** Wturn Jan '01 pp 35-38
- Off The Beam** Wturn Jan '01 pp 25-27

**MW – More Woodturning**  
**Wturn - Woodturning**

# Around the Clubs



This column provides a look into what other clubs around the country are doing; how they are organized, what their demonstrators are showing, and how they are promoting woodturning among their members and the public

## Arizona Woodturners Association

Member Richard Anderson demonstrated Finishing Techniques - Topics included sanding, padding and lacquer finishes and tung oil.

## Woodturners of North Texas

### Collaborative Challenge 2000

The key is to select a project that has winning potential. Here are a few things we learned last year in Tacoma, WA.:

- A project must be attractive
- It must be a work of art
- It must be functional
- It must be something all woodturners can relate to
- It must be colorful, showing all kinds of beautiful wood
- It must have eye catching action that is repeatable

### Treasurer's Report By Eddie Castelin

Beginning Balance 1 Jan 2001 2762.26

#### Income

Dues 7 @ \$25	\$175.00
Clothing sales	\$15.00
January Raffle	<u>\$90.00</u>
Total January income	\$280.00

#### Disbursements

Postage	\$27.88
Refreshments	\$20.00
Software for newsletter	<u>\$206.97</u>
Total disbursements	\$254.85

Balance, as of 1 Feb 2001 **\$2787.41**

# Bayou Woodturners Corporate Sponsors

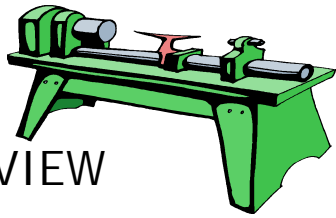
**Acadian Hardwoods**  
#1 Industrial Parkway  
Ponchatoula LA 70454  
(504) 386-6079  
(800) 489-6079

**Southern Saw & Cutter Co. Inc.**  
5808 Plauche St.  
Jefferson, LA 70123  
(504) 736-6063  
Fax: (504) 736-6064  
(800) 229-6063

**Gueydan Lumber & Plywood Inc.**  
4300 Airline Dr.  
Metairie, LA 70123  
(504) 833-2828

**Riverside Lumber Co.**  
5451 Morrison Rd.  
New Orleans, LA. 70126  
(504) 242-6624

## TOOL REVIEW



### The Kel McNaughton Eccentric Faceplate

By Alby Hall

It is apparent to all in the craft that woodturning has made considerable advances in recent years. How far or fast it can continue to advance in large measure depends on the technology that is available to turners. In this regard we are dependent on tool



manufactures to provide us with gear that will enable us to make the breakthroughs into new designs. Besides the simple round bowl and hollow form there are a host of other shapes, realizable in other crafts, that many of us would like to emulate in turning - the oval the eccentric and multi sided vessels as well as eccentric patterning being just some examples of these.

While these shapes are realizable in principle or by the old ornamental turning techniques they are at best in current practice difficult, time consuming and often frustrating to make.

The Kel McNaughton Faceplate from Kelton Industries has changed this.

The faceplate is in three sections. Work is screwed on to a conventional type plate that screws into a second plate that is housed between two rails - and between which it can slide to give off centeredness - that are part of a third plate that attaches to the lathe and in the back of which are two counter balancing weights that can be variously positioned to give counter balancing effect to off centered or out of balanced work. The sliding and off centering plate can also be rotated and held in various indexable positions by large locking grub screws that are located in the rails.

Fine adjustments in the amount of off centering of the sliding plate are made by advancing or back winding of the large stopper grub screw shown between the rails at the edge of the plate.

The total structure is of very solid construction. The weights are of mild steel and are 6 kg in total. The major plate is made from a machined casting. When I first saw the faceplate I was immediately struck by its great potential. My appreciation of it continues to grow and I now see it as the most important advancement in modern woodturning. It is in fact a two in one tool as not only does it allow turners to produce a host of new shapes it also allows them to turn without vibration!

In the short time that I have had it my mind has run wild with ideas for its use. It would seem that its full potential is only restricted by one's imagination. There is a small learning curve with this tool. In my first testing of it I used a 300mm by 800mm blank of kauri, which I mounted extremely off center on a very lightweight lathe. Normally there is no way that a lathe of this size could handle such out of balance work but by adjusting the easily set counter balancing weights I was able to get perfect vibration free running.

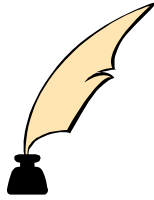
The work was set in balance on the lathe by observing how the heavier aspect of it gravitated downward. The weights in the back of the plate are spread until such a position was reached where no one part of the arc of the structure would gravitate towards the bottom of the lathe bed. This is done by moving each weight upward an equal amount, i.e. away from that part of the arc of the plate that has gravitated towards the bottom of the lathe bed. Once this is done then the total structure of faceplate and attached stock is in balance. This point of balance is achieved by progressive approximations until the exact position for each weight is found. This was fairly quickly done with three trial settings to find this point.

The weights are held in position by a capturing outer ring into which they are forced by the centrifugal swing from the turning. I further secured their position by use of the locking grub screws that enables them to be tightened against this ring. Even for this amount of off centering of the work only a small amount of the available adjustment had to be used.

Using a long tool rest I easily turned a slightly undercut bowl then flattened the remainder of the top. I remounted the back to the center of the blank, moved the counter weights to rebalance the work then finished the

*Continued on page 8*

## Featured Article



### Sanding Secrets

(Part II)

By Woody McMartin

Spindle work presents a fresh set of challenges; all readily overcome fortunately. There is not usually any end grain to contend with here, but to offset that tiny benefit all the sanding is done at right angles to the grain. Precisely the way timber hates to be handled. Is timber not the most cantankerous medium? Again though, it is simply a matter of working through the grades. There are however a few tips to make life a little easier. For sanding coves too small for fingers to reach into, try wrapping a small piece of sandpaper around a scrap of leather. The tongue off an old shoe will do nicely. Hold them together to form a deep 'U' shape. With the work turning slowly, place the bottom of the 'U' in the bottom of the cove and feed the leather and paper sandwich back and forth between thumb and forefinger so that you are always presenting fresh paper to the work as it turns. Just as effective is a piece of paper wrapped around a short piece of electrical chord or something similar. Now roll it back and for the way a smoker might roll a smoke. For a long time I used a piece of solid 8mm round rubber extrusion for the purpose which really was ideal. Using this method you are much less likely to soften the shoulders, if any, around your cove.

Dealing with v cuts or precise detail requires a delicate touch using the 'factory' edge of the paper, or an edge that has been cut rather than torn. If the paper is fine enough it can be folded for this purpose. Ideally of course the detail should be so precise as to make sanding unnecessary. Not difficult with sharp tools. Next step is to stop the lathe and apply the final finishing touches by lightly sanding the larger expanses by hand using a worn piece of 320. This only takes a moment and will obliterate any remaining marks from the areas where they are most likely to be seen. Finally, if your sanding efforts have dulled the detail somewhat, with a very sharp skew and an equally light touch, some of the crisp detail can easily be restored. Just a touch on the shoulder of a "V" here and there can bring the work back into focus. Approach with caution though, as it is frequently at this point that Murphy's Law comes into play. Something

about "if anything can go wrong, it will". And a word of advice from me. Make all your stools four legged stools, but never drill the holes for them until they are safely nestled on your bench. In the event of disaster striking, three legged stools are just as acceptable, and who will ever know? Unless of course you send it out with one hole Plugged. (Part III continued in March newsletter)

*Woody McMartin turns out of Cromwell in the South island. He is a former Vice-President of the NAW*

*Special thanks to the National Association of Woodturners of New Zealand for their permission to reprint this Tool Review.*

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#### *Tool Review continued from page 7*

very easy and the result was a cracker and dip bowl with a difference. Running speed was 570 rpm.

Having started on this I am now very keen to apply the faceplate to my range of work as I know that I will discover a lot of new directions. Besides the basic off centered bowls turners will be able to produce a host of exciting shapes. This tool has great relevance for work be it miniature or large and bulky. I know that worldwide we will start seeing some wonderful objects made from it.

*Special thanks to the National Association of Woodturners of New Zealand for their permission to reprint this Tool Review.*

## Arrowmont or Bust!

Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, located in the foothills of the Smokies near Gatlinburg, Tenn. will be hosting classes with David Ellsworth in June. Several turners from our club, including Eddie Castelin, Larry Zarra, Keith Welsh, Jerry Markowitz, Don Mercante and others will be attending.

If you are planning to attend this week-long session, and would like to share transportation, please contact Eddie Castelin. A meeting will be set up later in the spring to coordinate the trip. If you'd like more information on Arrowmont contact the registration office at 865-436-5860

*The Votes are in - at the last meeting members were requested to vote on how they would like to see the club spend some of its funds. The results are listed below.*

Place	Spending Item	Sum of the Votes	(Number of "3" Votes)
1.	Professional Demonstrator	= 44 points	(with 11 votes as highest priority)
2.	Videos and books	= 44 points	(with 8 votes as highest priority)
3.	Two Additional Mini Lathes	= 26 points	(with 3 votes as highest priority)
4.	Video Camera Equipment	= 19 points	(with 3 votes as highest priority)
5.	Large Lathe	= 11 points	(with 1 vote as highest priority)

## Who's Who in Bayou Woodturners?

Eddie Castelin has made an offer to create a club directory for 2001. He will handle the layout, printing and distribution of the directory at no cost to the club. The format is one 2" X 3 1/2" business card ad for each member. If you wish to use your woodturning business card for your spot, then send him at least 2 cards. If you want some other information in the space allotted for you, then create a card-sized entry. He will assemble these into pages of 10 with an informational cover. This directory will list active, current dues paying, members only! There will not be provisions for commercial advertisements in this directory; it may be something we want to consider in the future. He will need all entries by the day of the March meeting. He will go to press within a week of that meeting. If you do not submit information for the directory, He will use the vital information provided by the Membership Director - Charlie Kragle. You can send your information, cards, etc to Eddie Castelin, 330 Highway Drive, Jefferson, LA 70121. You can contact him at 835-1413, 416-0896 or [eddiecastelin@hotmail.com](mailto:eddiecastelin@hotmail.com)

## TRADING POST

1. Grinder with 6" fast wheel and an 8 or 10" slow water wheel. Excellent condition for \$40.00
2. Foley-Belsaw 1055 Sharp-all blade and sharpening system. Excellent condition for \$200.00. New it sells for over \$1100.00. Also have many accessories for it, including aluminum jig for planner and jointer attachment.
3. New 20" Scroll Saw. Excellent condition, used only 2 times. \$75.00
4. Sears 10" Radial Saw / stand. It is a 220-volt saw that is in good working condition. Great power...\$200.
5. Also, have a 110 volt Welding machine (Montg. Ward) with hood and welding rods, chipping hammer, etc., good condition ....\$75.

Contact Dillard Ball Phone: 225-622-5683

# Member's Gallery



# Turning A Sphere



Steve Rome with his jig for marking and checking the shape of the sphere



Marking the endpoints of the sphere



Roughing to a cylinder



Cylinder turned to proper diameter



Shaping the rest of the ball



Almost there



Putting on the finishing touches



Another Perfect Sphere

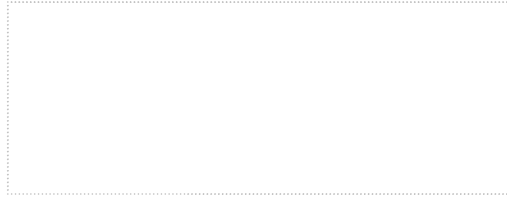


Bayou Woodturners  
P.O. Box 231293  
New Orleans, La. 70123

Place  
Stamp  
Here

## ***The Bayou Skew***

***The Bayou Woodturners' Newsletter***



February's Featured  
Demonstrator  
Malcolm Cheramie



Turn A Top  
See Headstock column  
for more details on the  
first President's  
Challenge.