

The Bayou Skew

The Bayou Woodturners' Newsletter

February 2003

Volume 05

Issue 2



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From the Headstock

We're off to a great start for 2003. The first meeting featured 3 mini clinics and a great presentation by Dick Gahn on "Inside-Out" turning. We then ended the month heading into the Woodworking Show at the Pontchartrain Center.

I received many favorable comments on the Info-Clinics at the beginning, and often at the end, of the meetings. It more than doubles the free lessons offered to our members each month. I plan on expanding that program in coming months and will soon present to you a program I call *S.K.E.W.* An all day program designed to take Woodturners from soup to nuts, or in our world, from log to shavings.

It didn't take a survey to discover that what a woodturner wants to do more than turn wood is to learn how to turn wood better. And that's where you come in. Our best teachers are our own members. They each hold at least one tip or hint for turning wood that can be shared with others. Take a step forward and host an info-clinic at a meeting or a full blown demonstration. I guarantee that it's not only painless but also rewarding. Next month we will host our first ever "Open Meeting". We're inviting everyone at the woodworking show, who's even remotely interested, to join us for some woodturning and some gumbo. What a combination! Be in that number at the Harahan Senior Center and help us welcome aboard some new Woodturners. Makin' Shavins' is what it's all about.

Eddie Castelin
President, Bayou Woodturners

Next Meeting
10:00 AM
February 8th, 2003
Harahan Senior
Citizen Center
100 Elodie Street
Harahan, LA 70123
Directions & Map
on Page 4

On the Internet at: www.woodturners.com

Clinic Recap

The January meeting featured several info-clinics and a great demonstration by Dick Gahn. Need more info:

“Inside-Out” by **Dick Gahn**. See the Winter 2001 American Woodturner for an article about “Inside-Out” Christmas ornaments.

Eddie Castelin on making ferrules for your turning tool handles. This was from **O.B. Lacoste** and used a ½” compression nut turned down to a smooth ferrules.

Larry Zarra on skew techniques. Check out *The Skew Chisel – The Dark Side, The Sweet Side* by Alan Lacer in our video library.

Eddie Castelin on the Black Hawk hollowing jig with laser guidance. See Spring 2002 American Woodworker about *Red Hot Laser Measuring*. Eddie is taking orders for his hollowing jig and tools at this time.



Meeting Minutes

The meeting began at 10:00 precisely, and let us begin by saying some much deserved thank yous: Thank you to Larry Zarra and Eddie Castelin for their pre-meeting demonstrations. Thank you to Dick Gahn for hosting, and for demonstrating his by-now famous *inside-out* technique. Finally, a special thank you to Julia Gahn for feeding us hungry (and cold) woodturners some delicious and warming chili.

We still have a few calendars left, and will print more if anyone is interested. See Charlie Kragle if you want a calendar. Likewise, if you haven't yet paid your dues for this year, you need to send them to Charlie as well.

The woodworking show at the Pontchartrain Center will take place about two weeks from the date of this meeting. We're going to stress the need for AAW membership. It's required for insurance purposes of anyone who wants to demo., at the WoodWorking show or any other club function.

We've picked up a new sponsor: The Woodturner's Catalog (Craft Supplies). They seem most enthusiastic about the arrangement.

The next presidential challenge will be at our March 8 meeting, and it's going to be: plates, platters and saucers. Categories will include best use of wood, and best ensemble (cup and saucer, for instance). Details will be in the February issue of the Bayou Skew. The March meeting will likely be held at Riverside Lumber and will likely start later than normal.

Our February meeting will be held at the Harahan Senior Center, and it will be an open meeting with non-members welcome. We'll stress this at the WoodWorking show. There will be three featured demonstrators, plus a pot of Charlie Kragle's special gumbo. Come on down!

It is possible that we may hold a future meeting at Acadian Cypress and Hardwood. We're still negotiating with them. Watch this space for further details.

We have acquired several new videos for the club library: A complete set of the AAW symposium videos for 2002, plus Alan Lacer's video on the skew and a video on sharpening, featuring several of the world's top turners.

Our newsletter is now available via e-mail and in color. If you want to receive the newsletter by e-mail, let us know. It saves us about \$12.00 per member per year. Also, please make sure we have your current e-mail address, and that it is correct. We've had a few things come back as undeliverable.

continued on page 7

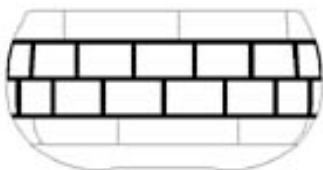


Over the past two years this column has reviewed mostly websites hosted by individuals that are of interest to woodturners. This month we continue with our list of places to go on the internet for plans and descriptions on how to build jigs, get woodturning tips, and find full length articles that cover such subjects as; finishing turn projects, roughing out a bowl, to how to make a platter.

Some of the Internet address (**those in bold**) will lead you directly to the website of the individual(s) that wrote the article or built the jig. In other cases, the address (*in italics*) will take you to a site that has an extensive listing of jigs, tips, or articles. Click on one and you will be able to view the information.

As always if anyone knows of a website that should be included in the above list or profiled at a future date please forward internet address to jerry-marko@yahoo.com.

Building and Turning a Segmented Bowl: The "Brick Bowl" by Russell G. Brown



<http://www.swcp.com/%7Ergbrown/brickbowl.pdf>

Turning Hollow Balls by John Tolly



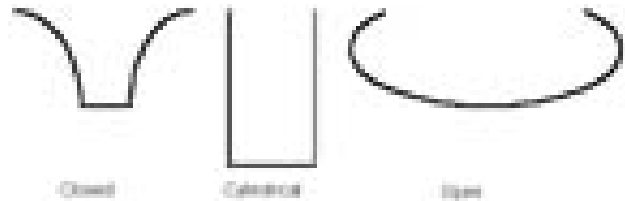
<http://www.turningwood.com/johnny/johnt1.htm>

Jig for drilling on the lathe by Keith Jeeves



<http://www.sydneywoodturners.com.au/site/articles/machinery/drilljig/drilljig.html>

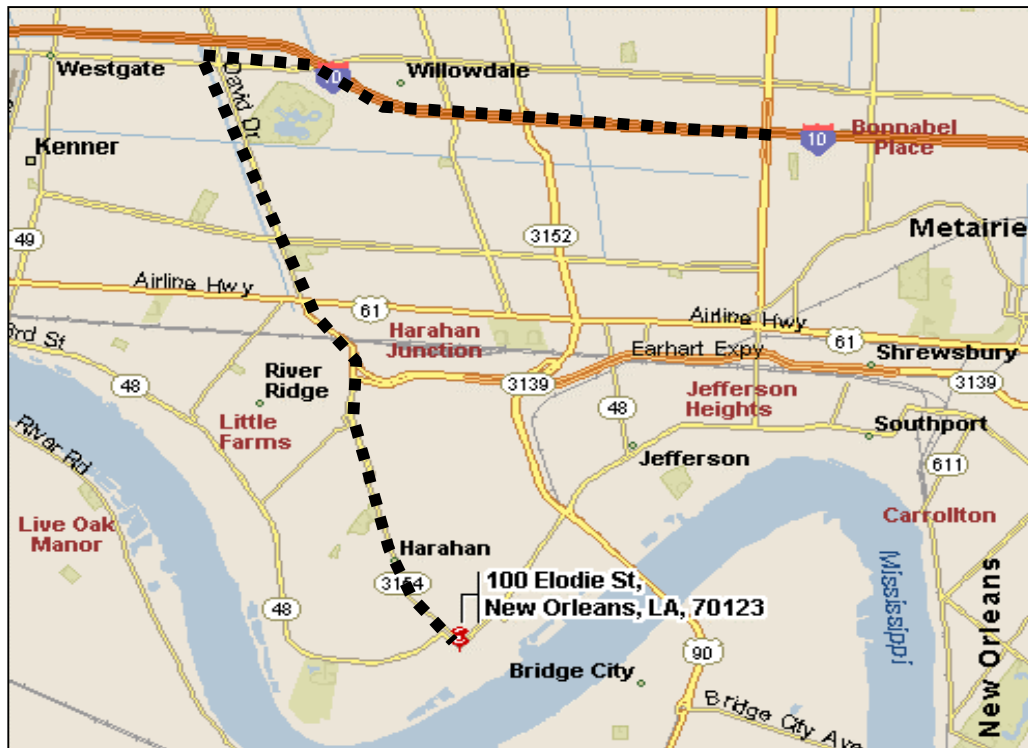
Elements of Design by Les Swift



<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~pwguild/design.htm>

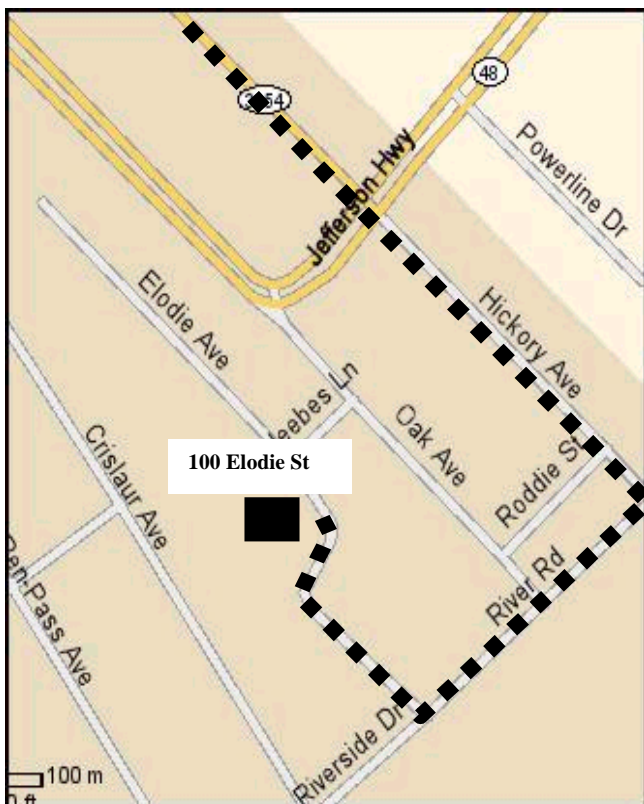


Inside-Out Turn Vases by Jerry Markowitz
For more on inside-out turning see page 9



Directions

From New Orleans take I-10 heading west to Veterans Blvd. Turn left onto Veterans and go to David Drive. If you don't see the K-Mart on the corner, you turned the wrong way. Turn left on David Dr. Go South for about 2 1/4 mile. You will cross Airline Hwy and go over a bridge where David Drive turns into Dickory Ave. Be careful not to speed in these areas, police are everywhere! You will pass Dock Av. at the light on your right. Dickory Ave. is only a mile long and at the end, you will first turn right on Gardner then left onto Hickory Ave. Stay on Hickory for two miles. After you cross Jefferson Hwy. at River Road turn right and go two blocks. Turn right on to Elodie Ave. You're just about there! As you go up Elodie about 100 yards, you will see a red brick building. Round the curve and turn left into the Parking lot marked "Enter."



Some Rules For Good Design?

By Russ Fairchild

The question, "What is a good design?" is all too often answered with, "There are no rules", "You just know it when you see it.", or "You either have it, or you don't."

I have heard these answers from the "experts" at AAW Chapter meetings, from demonstrators in various venues, and from informal discussions among woodturners. Many articles in "American Woodturner" have made the implication that there is an "insight" that is known only to a very few among us. It would appear that there is no hope for those of us who are not gifted with a natural ability to discern pleasing shapes and proportions.

Nothing is farther from the truth. Pleasing shapes have been found in every civilization throughout history, and they all share the same basic rules of good design that were first taught in ancient Greece. When we deny their existence, we are either admitting that we are artistically illiterate, or that we refuse to believe that the rules, used for 3000 years of pottery and furniture design, could have any application to articles turned from wood.

We can either mathematically calculate pleasing proportions from an ancient formula, or we can use some "Rule-Of-Thumb" formulas.

The "Rule Of The Golden Mean".

The Greeks perfected and used the "Golden Mean," a formula for the ratio between the short side and the long side of a rectangle that will appear balanced to the viewer. I learned to use the "rule" for furniture design back when wood shop (Manual Arts) was still a required subject in high school.

The Rule Of The Golden Mean simply states that: "The smaller is to the larger as the larger is to the whole." Without a lot of discussion, this can be reduced to: "The relationship between the smaller and the larger is the ratio of 1 to 1.618". To complete the "rule" the sum of the length and width is the same as the length multiplied by 1.618.

We can find examples of the rule in the sizes of tables and other furniture. A 72" long dining table is 45" wide. An oval coffee table that is 42" long is 26" wide. The 60" round dining table still has a balanced proportion with a 36" leaf inserted in its center. A bookcase that is 72" tall will be 45" wide. All of these examples fit the "Golden Mean", the larger (length) is the smaller (width) multiplied by 1.618.

Bowl Design

To apply the "Rule" to a bowl design, we divide the diameter by 1.618 to determine its height and divide its height by 1.618 to determine the diameter of its base.

As an example: If we want to turn a 10" diameter bowl, its height will be: $10 \div 1.618 = 6.180$ ", or $6\frac{1}{4}$ " height And the base diameter is: $6\frac{1}{4} \div 1.618 = 3.72$ ", or $3\frac{3}{4}$ " These dimensions will give us a bowl of pleasing proportions, as taught by the ancient Greeks. What we do with the curves between these dimensions is the topic for another discussion.

Rules-Of-Thirds

There are other rules of proportion that we can use. One of these is the "One Third-Two Thirds" Rule that is easier to use and similar to the "Golden Mean" within the dimensions that we would use for a bowl design.

Rule 1 - "The bottom diameter is $\frac{1}{3}$ that of the largest diameter." Using our same 10" bowl as an example, the bottom diameter would be $3\frac{1}{3}$ ", but $3\frac{1}{4}$ " can be used for easier measurement.

Rule 2 - "The height is either $\frac{2}{3}$ (preferred) or $\frac{1}{3}$ (optional) that of the largest diameter." Using the same 10" bowl, its preferred height would be $6\frac{3}{4}$ ", or it could be a $3\frac{1}{2}$ " height in its shallower form. Both would appear to be proportional to the viewer.

Rule 3 - (Adapted from vase design) Bowl shapes have a more pleasing appearance when the maximum diameter is not at the top rim, but is located below the rim which is a smaller diameter. How far below the rim can be defined as: "If the height from Rule-2 is divided into 3 equal parts, the largest diameter will be $\frac{1}{3}$ down from the top." This rule can also be inverted, locating the major diameter up $\frac{1}{3}$ from the bottom. Using our same example from Rule-2, the 10" bowl that is $6\frac{3}{4}$ " in height", will have its maximum diameter located $2\frac{1}{4}$ " down from the top, or up the same amount from the bottom in its inverted form.

Rule 4 - (Mine) I added this rule as a follow-up to Rule-3 after being asked for some guidance on how much smaller the rim diameter should be. I measured several bowls that looked pretty good to find something that they shared, and came up with the following: "The diameter of the bowl at the rim is smaller than the largest diameter by half the distance that the largest diameter is below the top of the bowl."

In other words, for the same 10" bowl that is $6\frac{3}{4}$ " in height, the largest diameter is located $2\frac{1}{4}$ " down from the top. With this "rule", its diameter at the rim would

be half that amount smaller, or 1 1/8" less than the 10" diameter, making it 8 7/8" at the rim. If this bowl had the alternate shape that placed the largest diameter near the bottom, or 4 1/2" below the top, the rim would be smaller by half that amount, or 2 1/4" smaller than the 10" diameter. And the bowl would be 7 3/4" diameter at the rim.

Conclusions

Now we know why the bowl we turned from that expensive 10"X 10" X 3" bowl blank "just didn't look right". Using either of the rules, the blank should have been at least 6" thick for the 10" diameter bowl. A better use of the wood may have been cutting it into four pieces and making a set of 5" bowls that had a more pleasing shape.

Vases and Urns

Considering that a vase is an elongated bowl, we can use the same rules, with one exception. The difference is that the relationship between diameter and height is reversed, and Rule-2 is modified to read: "For turning a vase or an urn, the largest diameter will be either ? or ? that of the height." All other rules for the magnitude and location of the various diameters will remain the same.

Russ' Rules

There are several other "rules" that I have learned, either from experience or from other woodturners.

- Concentrate on form, not wood grain. A lot of wood turns darker with age, and all that you may have left is the shape.
- All curves must be "fair". A fair curve is one that flows with smooth transitions as it changes in shape or from a concave to a convex curve.
- There are no flat areas between curves.
- Lift the object off of the table or other surface on which it is sitting. Ideally, it should appear to be floating slightly above, rather than being firmly attached to the surface. With the bowl or vase sitting on a table, follow an imaginary continuation of the lines of the sides of the bowl or vase until they have intersected under the bottom of the vessel. This intersection will be inside of the foot of the piece. It should be above the table surface for the vessel to appear as being lifted above it.
- Turn the bowl or other turned object upside down on the table. Its proportions should be just as pleas-

ing to the eye as they were in the upright position. If not, there is something wrong with the proportions or the curves between them.

- If you have made two bowls that are nearly identical in size and shape, place them along side of each other on the table, and concentrate on the shape of the space between them. The proportions of the space will be the reverse of those of the bowls, but it should have a "pleasing" appearance.
- When any pair of objects, vases, candle holders, etc., will be viewed at the same time, the shape of the space between them is as important as that of the objects themselves. Always work their design as a pair, and never as individual pieces that are later placed together.

Special thanks to Russ Fairchild for permission to use his article in the Bayou Skew. Russ's writings can be found at Russ's Corner at www.Woodcentral.com. If anyone has any comments, questions, thoughts or opinions on the subject please write or email jerrymarko@yahoo.com

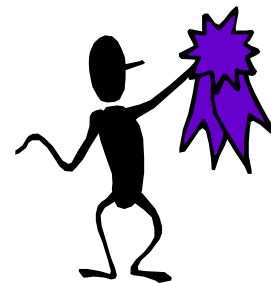
The Craft Supplies President's Challenge

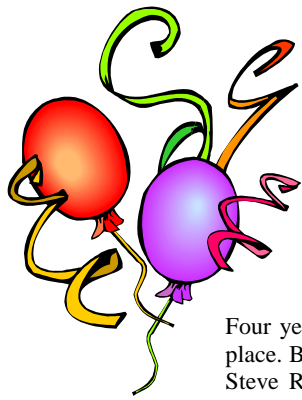
The first Craft Supplies President's Challenge of 2003 is Saucers, Plates and Platters.

The challenge is due at the March 8 meeting at Riverside Lumber Company in New Orleans.

Divisions are Saucers, 6" and smaller, Plates 6+" thru 11" and Platters 11" and larger.

Categories include Most Creative, Best use of wood and multi-media. A special category of Best Ensemble will be awarded for the best place setting or combination of pieces.





The Bayou Woodturners Turn 4



Four years ago, this February, the first meeting of the Bayou Woodturners took place. Below is part of the very first column written by the club's first President – Steve Rome. It is safe to say that Steve's words were prophetic – many good friends, much inspiration, and lots of learning have made the Bayou Woodturners a great organization. May the future continue to bring each and every one of us, from professional to beginner, the opportunity to continue to improve our skills and make new friends along the way.

“Congratulations! – and pass out the cigars! New Orleans has just given birth to a new krewe, or should I say club – our long awaited woodturning club, that is! We're so new that we don't even have a name yet.

On Saturday, February 20th, 1999, nineteen eager woodworkers and woodturners gathered at an old warehouse studio on Tchoupitoulas Street to organize a local woodturning chapter. This effort was spearheaded by Bob Sigillito. The purpose was to organize a local group of woodturners in our area that could meet periodically to share knowledge, experiences and inspiration from one another. As I'm sure you know, many artists, crafters, and woodworkers work along, isolated from one another. Well, hopefully this opportunity to meet and mingle should be beneficial to us all. Our intention is to provide a forum for all of us to learn skills from one another, discover sources for tools, supplies, materials, and find ways to market our wares if we so wish. Most importantly, however, we want to establish communication and new friendships with people that share the same passion for what we love to do...”

Steve Rome
President 1999 - 2001

Minutes of Meeting continued from page 2

We concluded our meeting by presenting a commemorative plaque to outgoing president Keith Welsh in recognition of his service to the club. The business portion of the meeting concluded at 10:23.

Raffle: \$78.00.

That concludes the account of our first meeting of the new year, folks. Don't forget the WoodWorking show, and the February meeting at the Harahan Senior Center. It promises to be spectacular.

Dennis Wall
Secretary



President Eddie Castelin presents Keith Welsh with a plaque. The plaque reads:
For His Outstanding Efforts as President 2002. His Leadership Has Helped Us Turn Wood Into Art

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

Mountain Woodturners

The Mountain Woodturners next meeting will be their annual Tool and Wood auction. Members bring spare turning tools and wood to be auctioned off to benefit the club, and to pick up some real bargains. Also at that meeting will be a roundtable discussion on chucks of all types. Members were asked "If you have a favorite technique for holding a chunk of wood on a lathe, come and discuss or demonstrate it".

Seattle Woodturners

In their continuing series "From the tree to a bowl" the January program will be a description/discussion/demonstration of some of the more common boring bars available on the market today. The intent is not to make everyone proficient with all the tools in one and a half hours but rather to expose the audience to a variety of boring tools and to describe their strong points, preferred uses and possible drawbacks. This will provide some potential buyers of boring bars with enough information to make an informed decision.

Olympic Woodturners

Last month in keeping with the theme of the excellent demonstration of miniature turning presented by professional turner and club member Gerda Van Dijk, Leon Cotey challenged the members to turn a miniature that would fit inside a 35mm film canister.

If you have any questions, comments, turning tips, articles, photos, etc. you wish to put in the Newsletter please contact

Jerry Markowitz at:

email - jerrymarko@yahoo.com
 mail - 620 Chambertin Dr.
 Kenner, LA 70065
 phone (504) 464-6050



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Treasurer's Report By Gordon Ousset

Beginning Balance:	\$3,257.02
Income:	
Dues	\$100.00
Calendar	\$120.00
Library Fees	\$20.00
Raffle	\$78.00
Total	\$318.00
Disbursements:	
Calendar	\$656.00
Bank Charge	\$8.00
Newsletter	\$39.00
Total	\$703.00
Balance - Jan 13, 2003	\$2,872.27

Inside-Out Turning

*with
Dick Gahn*



IMPORTANT NOTICE!!!
MEMBERSHIP DUES
This May Be Your LAST Newsletter

Don't miss out on the next issue of THE BAYOU SKEW. The current members as of Jan. 11, 2003 are listed below. If you don't see your name listed this will be your last issue of THE BAYOU SKEW unless we receive your renewal dues for 2003. If you believe your name has been omitted in error please contact me. Dues are only \$25.00 per year and can be paid at any regular scheduled meeting or mailed to me at the address below. Please make checks payable to The Bayou Woodturners.

Charlie Kragle
 2165 Augusta Dr.
 Laplace, LA 70068

Current Members as of Jan. 11, 2003

Ron Alexander	Lucy Cundiff	Steven Latter	Robert Sigillito
William Ault	Mark S. Demanuelle	Francis LeJeune Jr.	Ben Sulzer
Dillard Ball	Thomas Dunne	Jerry Markowitz	Edward Toole
Bob Broome	Gorst Duplessis	Melvin Marquis	Steve Vales
Paul Burk	Austin Fitzjarrell	Don McLaren	JC Vanderlick
Bill Byl	Dick Gahn	Don Mercante	Dennis Wall
Dale Campo	Kirk Gordon	Jim Motichek	Keith Welsh
Gerald Carr	James O. Gundlach	Skipper Munson	Steve Widdicombe
Eddie Castelin	Raymond Hoffmann	Gordon Ousset	Michael Wilensky
Phil Coghill	Charlie Kragle	Laura Ousset	Larry Zarra
Cesar Cruz	Ken Lacassin	Stephen Palmes	
Louis Cundiff	O. B. Lacoste	Alan Ripps	

THE BAYOU SKEW IN FULL COLOR

Now you can receive THE BAYOU SKEW in full color. The January issue was sent to all members for whom we have e-mail addresses. If you did not receive the January issues by e-mail but would like to, please contact me at ckragle@earthlink.net and I will put you on the e-mail list. You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view and/or print this file.

This program may be downloaded for free at

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>. Just follow the instructions listed on the site.

Charlie Kragle



Get your 2003
 Bayou Woodturners Calendar
 for the Home, Office, or your Workshop.
 Great gift for a family member, friend, or yourself.
 Only \$15.00.
 To purchase contact Charlie Kragle.
 (985) 651-3095

Member's Gallery

Gorst Duplessis: African blackwood "head" in the likeness of Count Von Count of Sesame Street, mounted on a cocobolo stand; ornamentally turned boxes: a triangular box, blackwood and boxwood; a Russian olive and blackwood box; a blackwood and pink ivory box.

O.B. Lacoste: Ash (?) bowl, split along the grain (a lesson here about harvesting wood from trees blown down in a windstorm: don't bother; the wind causes the trees to twist back and forth and this causes splits that run the length of the trunk).

Larry Zarra: Spalted soft maple hollow form; spalted hackberry open vase; kingwood box with a buckeye burl lid; cocobolo box.

Dale Campo: Sycamore bowl.

Charlie Kragle: Neador cedar bowl with textured rim.

Gordon Ousset: Cherry (?) enclosed bowl.

Jerry Markowitz: Two red oak "inside-out" vases.

James LeJune: Three vases: hackberry, mulberry, and mimosa.

Paul Burke: Maple platter; Japanese yew goblet.

Steve Vales: Throwing tops of various woods; cedar bowl; gumwood (?) candlestick with bark inclusion.

Eddie Castelin: Pine (?) vase hollowed out with his new deep hollowing rig; rough-turned vase, ready for final hollowing.



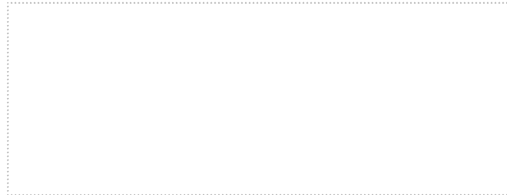


Bayou Woodturners
P.O. Box 231293
New Orleans, La. 70123

Place
Stamp
Here

The Bayou Skew

The Bayou Woodturners' Newsletter



Inside:

- Inside-Out turning with Dick Gahn
- Some Rules For good Design
- Member's Gallery
- Bayou Woodturners Turn 4!
- On The Web
- Around the Clubs
- And much much more



Bayou Woodturners Display at the WoodWorking Show