

central texas woodturners association

a chapter of the association of american woodturners

to give every turner the opportunity to become a better turner

APRIL MEETING

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

7:00 - 9:00 PM

VFW Hebert Hall - Bee Cave, Texas
3927 RR 620 S

(about 1/4 mile north of Texas 71 on east side of 620)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHOP...

Thoughts from a traveler

Turners, the year is one fourth over. How time flies when you're having fun.

The work on the SWAT symposium is moving along and our bowls and weed pots are coming along, I hope. Remember not to write your name on them, because they'll all be marked with the club name. Get your bowls and weed pots to Johnny or Marcia Tolly for marking. Thanks a bunch. This symposium is going to be the greatest yet, I think. Please help wherever you can. Lots of volunteers are needed.

I've been traveling a great deal lately and picking up wood wherever I go. Now there's no more room to turn! Better get out to the shop and onto the lathe. Got some good news from Provo while I was up there. I'll tell you about it at the meeting.

Let's keep up the good work on the auction and bring backs. The auctions are a significant source of revenue for the club. Besides, we all want to see your work and your progression. Bring a friend or a lost turner, and show them how much they can see and do at the CTWA club meetings. If you have a question, let us know and we'll help you find an answer.

See you Tuesday,

Lynn



As the apple turns

Our own **Drew Shelton** made his demonstrating debut at our March meeting. Drew was one of the attendees at the David Reeks "hands-on" sessions last summer and has been inspired to make a collection of turned fruit. He brought a table full of examples, as well as a nice piece of yellow pine to turn into an apple.

Drew chucked the piece of pine between centers and turned it round with a roughing gouge, then turned tenons on each end. The piece is chucked by one of the tenons and a 1/8" hole is drilled in the outer end of the blank.

Using a 1/4" spindle gouge, Drew makes a small dimple in what will be the top of the apple, then uses a pull cut to get a nice curve. He then begins working from the side of the cyl-



Fruit market

(Drew Shelton photo)

inder to the end to get the outside curve for the apple. After sanding, he begins to work back toward the headstock to shape the apple toward what will be its bottom, continuing to sand as he goes along. He also has finished and waxed the apple as he goes along.

When the bulk of the apple is shaped, Drew removes it from the chuck, reverses it and, using the 1/8" hole in the top, chucks it on a screw chuck. Since the top of the apple has already been finished, he pads the face of the screw chuck first, using layer of paper toweling. The bottom of the apple is rough turned, then another 1/8" hole is drilled, this time in the bottom of the apple. The finishing cuts are made to the bottom, finishing with a dimple. The rest of the apple is finished and waxed.

Removing the apple from the screw chuck, he glues a whole clove into the bottom, to make the blossom remnant, and a

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The American Association of Woodturners is "dedicated to Providing Education, Information and Organization to Those Interested in Woodturning." In keeping with the standards of our National Organization, the Central Texas Woodturners Association hereby gives permission for all other woodturning chapters, organizations, magazines and newspapers to use any materials contained herein for the benefit of all woodturners everywhere. We ask that credit be given for the source of the material.

2003 Officers

President

Lynn Kramer
512.398.6981
lkramer@lockhart.net

President Elect

Fred Stidman
512.402.0656
f.stidman@worldnet.att.net

Membership Chairman

Drew Shelton
drew@sematech.org
512.863.4651

Program Chairman

David Dick
thewoodwriter@yahoo.com
512.357.6517

Treasurer

Ed Roberts
512.255.3294
eroberts6@juno.com

Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Charlie Kay
512.312.2042
ckay@austin.rr.com

Webmaster

Larry Walrath
512.255.5379
larry@larrywalrath.com

Audio/Visual Coordinator

Frank Miller
512.335.4768
millerstexas@msn.com

Librarian

Marcia Tolly
512.858.4471
johntolly@austin.rr.com

CTWA Web Site

www.ctwa.org

Editorial Information

*This newsletter is by and for members. The Editor welcomes any written materials and will provide assistance with getting your information into publishable form if you want. **DEADLINE IS THE FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH.** Contact me with your ideas and drafts by phone at 512.312.2042, by E-Mail at ckay@austin.rr.com or mail them to:*

CTWA Newsletter
c/o Charles Kay
100 Matzig Cove
Buda TX 78610-3108

Drew Shelton, cont'd

twig into the top to make a stem. All in all, a quick and tidy addition to your fruit bowl. Similar techniques can be used



An apple takes shape

(Drew Shelton photo)

to make pears and other fruit. Drew says that a lemon is a bit too much work, involving jam chucks.

Thanks to Drew for a fine job on his first demo. It should inspire some of us to try turning fruit on our own.



Bring Back Raffle

Someone (your scribe's notes are incomplete) took home a walnut pot turned by **Larry Walrath**. **Lynn Kramer** was the winner of a thin ringed (as in Saturn) bowl turned of sycamore by **David Dick**. **Ed Roberts** won a bowl nicely turned from pecan by **Beth Morton**. **Ed Roberts** also picked up the ash ornament turned by **Johnny Tolly** (and decorated by **Marcia**) in last month's demo.

Each of the three winners of the first three pieces will bring a turning to the next meeting. Ed doesn't have to bring anything back for the special Tolly piece. This item should be representative of that person's best work.



Marcia's handiwork

(Drew Shelton photo)

Business meeting

There were 50 attendees at our March meeting including four visitors.

SWAT 2004

Steve Gottlieb gave a report on progress in planning the symposium. He thanked host committee members Stacey and Betty Hager, Johnny and Marcia Tolly, Carolyn Gottlieb, Frank Miller and Charlie Kay for their efforts to date. Frank has designed and made a prototype TV stand for the symposium and volunteers were called for to make five more. Orlando Banos, Charlie Kay, Jimmy Tolly, Lynn Kramer and James Norton all raised their hands. James says he will make all five, but the others stand by to help if needed.

There is a call for two gallery quality pieces from each club to be left at the Temple event center for five weeks after the symposium. Contact Steve if you are interested.

As the host club, we have volunteered to make table favors for the banquet. Johnny Tolly brought a whole table full of rough turned bowl and weed pot blanks and asked for volunteers. The pieces should be finished in time for the July meeting and will constitute the President's Challenge. The pieces should not be signed by the turner. We have ordered



SWAT blanks - take one

(Jimmy Tolly photo)

a wood burning branding iron that will say "Central Texas Woodturners Association - SWAT 2004." Try to leave at least a 1 1/2" flat bottom for that message.

Announcements

Carl Voss (carlvoss@msn.com) is preparing a website on urns. If you have one or more urns that you would like to have considered, you can contact Carl directly.

Johnny Tolly brought the premier issue of **Woodturning Design**, a new woodturning magazine. The subscription rate is \$19.97 for one year (four issues). If you didn't get one of the flyers Johnny passed out, you can contact the magazine at 973.383.8080, ext. 111.

Johnny had received a letter from a prison inmate, who expects to be released within the next year. He has taught himself to turn in the prison shop and been allowed to purchase a Nova lathe and the necessary turning tools. If you would like to contact him, you can do so at: Todd Munsinger

#1013682, Route 2 Box 2250, Powledge Unit, Palestine, TX 75882. Todd sent photos of some of his bowls and vessels, and he does nice work.

Show and Tell

- **David Dick** brought a large sycamore bowl finished with almond oil.
- **James Norton** showed off vessel turned from bois d'arc and finished with Waterlox and Deft. He says it was a learning piece prompted by Larry Walrath, who gave him the wood. Nothing like starting with something easy to turn, huh Larry.



Show and tell table

(Drew Shelton photo)

- **Carlos Valdez** shared a small gavel turned from oak firewood and finished with lacquer.



More show and tell

(Drew Shelton photo)

- **Jim Roby** brought two reverse turned vases of mesquite and finished with Deft.

- **R o g e r Gardner** displayed a natural edge bowl turned from fog (found on the ground) wood and finished with mineral oil and Briwax.

- **Ed Roberts** showed a large bowl turned from live oak and finished with lacquer.

- **Bill Hammack** brought a candleholder turned from

see Show and Tell, page 4



Chip carved ornament (Drew Shelton photo)

maple and finished with Deft.

• **Charlie Kay** shared a small bowl turned from mesquite and finished with Minwax and the Beall system.

• **H. O. Evans** displayed a 1.5 mm thick saucer turned of maple.

• **Jack Besperka** brought a pear box finished with Deft.

• **Lynn Kramer** showed off two mesquite pieces.

• **Jimmy Tolly** showed off three pieces, a beautiful abonya platter and two mesquite bowls, all finished with tung oil.



Abonya platter (Drew Shelton photo)

• **Larry Walrath** brought a large butternut salad bowl that had been turned by Al Stirt and that Larry had refinished for a customer.

In addition to the work listed above, there were several pieces where folks either didn't fill out a display sheet or the display sheet was lost before your Editor could pick them up. I know for sure that there were a number of Johnny Tolly inspired (maybe Johnny turned) Christmas ornaments. I don't know who to credit them to, but I'm including photos.



Orphan ornaments (Drew Shelton photo)



Spalted ornament (Drew Shelton photo)



Three in mesquite (Drew Shelton photo)



Al Stirt bowl (Drew Shelton photo)

Craig Timmerman wins best in category at Austin Fine Arts Festival

Those of you who went to the Austin Fine Arts Festival the first weekend in April would have seen CTWA club member **Craig Timmerman** displaying his beautiful turnings for sale to the many folks walking through all of the artists' booths. If you were there on Saturday after three o'clock or so, you also saw the large red and white rosette that Craig was proudly displaying in his booth after having been judged the best artist in his category. Congratulations to Craig.



Symposium season

As all of the veteran woodturners know and the rookies will soon learn, summer begins the annual season of woodturning symposia throughout the US. We are all aware, of course, of our own Southwest Association of Turners (SWAT) symposium, scheduled for the first weekend in October in Temple, Texas. But that is only the tip of the iceberg.

Last month's newsletter had a write-up on the West Coast Roundup, sponsored by the Greater Vancouver Woodturners Guild, scheduled for September 10, 11 and 12, 2004, in Vancouver, British Columbia (www.gvwg.ca/Symposium2004). The first big national symposium in the US is the Utah Woodturning Symposium set for June 10, 11 and 12, at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah (www.utahwoodturning.com). Stacey Hager claims this is the best one going. July brings the 18th annual Association of American Woodworkers (AAW) Symposium (www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2004), scheduled this year for July 23, 24 and 25, in Orlando, Florida. In addition, there are numerous regional symposia throughout the country.

As we did last year, beginning with this issue of the newsletter, we will include a **Coming Events** section that will provide minimal contact for those events we become aware of. For those of you that have yet to make it to a Symposium, 2004 would make a great year to start. You'll learn a lot from the demonstrations, meet lots of new woodturning friends and spend more money than you budgeted at the vendor's booths. Making it to the SWAT symposium will be the easiest, as it is in Temple this year. However, if you haven't made it to a national symposium, you owe yourself the treat.



April Program

Coring, or chip minimization

Larry Walrath has agreed to be our April demonstrator and will show us how he uses his McNaughton. I like the idea of coring a 2nd bowl in less time than it takes to hollow one out, not to mention the cleanup of all those chips. Jimmy Tolly has agreed to demonstrate the Oneway coring system at a later date.

David Dick



Central Texas Woodturners Show

The Austin Woodworkers Club sponsored the second annual Central Texas Woodworking Show, March 29 through April 10, 2004, at the Design Center of Austin, 3601 South Congress Avenue. Over \$4000.00 worth of prizes were given away at the reception held on April 1. Woodturners were invited and encouraged to participate. There were three club members who displayed turned works: S. Gary Roberts, Jimmy and Johnny Tolly. Gary was awarded a third place ribbon for his music box, "Working on the Railroad" and received a DeWalt Router package. Johnny was awarded a second place ribbon for his Texas Mesquite Hall Lamp and received a Delta Deluxe Hollow Chisel Mortiser. The show was a resounding success with numerous pieces of fine furniture and works of art.

Several CTWA members, including Bill Hammack and David Williams, worked during the show as volunteers.



Paxton under new ownership

This has been a week of twelve plus hour days. I no longer work at Paxton. We were bought by Hogan Hardwoods of Louisiana. The week of March 29 through April 3 was our final inventory with auditors from both sides looking over our shoulders. Everything came out great and Monday morning, April 5, we open as the Hogan Woodcrafters Store. We look forward to bigger and better things.

David Dick



Calendar

April 20, 2004 -- 7:00 to 9:00 PM

CTWA Meeting - VFW Hebert Hall - Bee Cave

April 22, 2004 -- 7:00 to 9:00 PM

Hands-On - Woodcraft

May 18, 2004 -- 7:00 to 9:00PM

CTWA Meeting - VFW Hebert Hall - Bee Cave

May 20, 2004 -- 7:00 to 9:00 PM

Hands-On - Woodcraft

June 15, 2004 -- 7:00 to 9:00 PM

CTWA Meeting - VFW Hebert Hall - Bee Cave

June 17, 2004 -- 7:00 to 9:00 PM

Hands-On - Woodcraft

Demonstrators needed for SWAT symposium

The Southwest Association of Woodturners, formerly known as Texas Turn or Two, is soliciting proposals from those interested in demonstrating at the 2004 woodturning symposium in Temple, Texas., October 1 through 3, 2004. The deadline for applications for demonstrators is fast approaching.

We here in Texas and the surrounding states have a vast amount of talent, and it is time to share those skills and talents. This event last year attracted over 450 participants, the second largest gathering of woodturners in the nation.

If you have a unique skill or feel that you have something to offer, please obtain a SWAT-demonstrator application from one of the following sources:

- Our club SWAT representative Steve Gottlieb
- The SWAT website (texasturnortwo.com)
- Bill Berry - Demonstrator Committee Chairman (bberry2301@aol.com)

The SWAT-demonstrator application must be completed and returned by April 30, 2004!



Trial Run - CTWA Newsletter on website

You will notice that this month's newsletter looks a little different than it usually does. I am evaluating a new publishing program on a 30 day trial license and have had to use different type fonts than I have been using. The advantage of this new program is that it makes much smaller PDF files than the program that I have been using. These files are small enough for us to put the newsletter on our website. I did a quick conversion of last month's newsletter and Larry posted it on the website. If all goes well, he will post this one as well. You can go to the website and click on the newsletter button and you should see the PDF file of the newsletter.

If we can figure out how to make this change, there are several advantages. For one, the photographs will be in color and if you want to print a copy in color on your own printer, you can. For another, if most of our members agreed to receive their newsletter by accessing the website rather than by snail mail, we could save about \$100 per month in printing and postage costs. So go to the website and check it out and give me your feedback.

At this point, the only hitch is the cost. The new program is costly, and this is the only thing I use my publishing program for.

Charlie Kay



Volunteer Instructors

The following turners have generously offered to open their shops and give their time to any member who wants to learn how to sharpen their tools, sharpen their skills, learn how to make a bowl or "test" the newest tool. Check out the people who bring items to Show and Tell. One trait common to all woodturners is that we all like to share, so just ask!

SOUTH

Odie Bull 512.442.2687
Bill Hammack 512.282.0832
Stacey Hager 512.282.1036
Johnny Tolly 512.858.4472
Jimmy Tolly 512.894.0686

NOTE: The Tolly brothers work strange shifts, so they may be available on times other than weekends.

H. O. Evans 512.282.2830

NOTE: Ho would like to confine his assistance to his specialty, segmented turnings.

NORTH

Rusty Myers 512.218.1606
Frank Miller 512.335.4768
Judy Williams 512.836.7897

SOUTHWEST

Donne Griffiths` 512.264.2526 (home)
512.264.0991 (shop)

ROUND ROCK

Larry Walrath 512.255.5379

LOCKHART/SAN MARCOS

David Dick 512.357.6517

Check Out Our Web Site

You may want to check out the CTWA Web Site at www.CTWA.org. If you have comments, suggestions or something for the gallery, get in touch with Webmaster Larry Walrath at larry@larrywalrath.com.



From the Editor's Desk

There is nothing more inspiring than a Central Texas spring in all its glory. The rains of late March and early April cleared the skies and greened everything at once. The bright greens of the newly leafed out cedar elms, Texas persimmons and mesquites stand out as they never will the rest of the year. The wildflowers, freed at last from their winter slumber, appear in profusion in all their wonderful colors, carpets of blue and yellow and pink.

One thing they never tell you about Central Texas, however, is the continuing series of plagues of almost biblical proportions. Droughts and floods, of course, we are all aware of. If it isn't one, it seems it is the other. The old saw is "every drought ends with a flood." Two years ago, it was grasshoppers, the biblical locusts, that stripped every leaf and blossom off every plant in Janie's gardens. They even ate agarita and our prickly pear still have scars where the grasshoppers nibbled on them as well. This time, it is millions of tiny caterpillars, all hanging from the oak trees by single strands of web. All oak trees are infested, live oaks, post oaks and the bur oaks, chinquapin oaks and lacey oaks we have planted. You cannot walk without getting webs and caterpillars all over you. Disgusting. Under the big trees, the tree trunks and everything else (barbecue grill, patio furniture, etc.) are covered in a thick coating of matted webs that make them look like they are glazed with a layer of ice. I hope they are soon gone.

This month has taken a little longer to put together than usual. That is because I'm trying out a new publishing program, and I'm having to try to learn how to use it as I go along. As you will read in a separate column elsewhere in the newsletter, I'm evaluating this as a way to get the newsletter on the web and reduce our monthly production costs. If I am able to go that way, I will probably redesign the newsletter a bit to change the way it looks.

Don't forget that you can help change the look of the newsletter by providing some articles. You don't have to be a seasoned writer. If you have something that you want to tell folks about, just put it in an E-mail or a Microsoft Word document and E-mail it to me. I'll fine tune it for you, or rewrite it for you if necessary, and get you into print. How-to articles would be particularly helpful. You may think, "everybody knows how to do that," but everyone does things a little differently. Also, there are always new turners that are looking for all of the help and suggestions that they can get. So give me a write-up on your finishing technique, how you turn an egg or the best way to sharpen your favorite tool. Discussions of how you handle dust in your shop or how you cut sections of logs to best advantage would also be useful. Give me a call or send me an E-mail if you want to bat an idea around. One of our main charges as AAW members is to spread the word about woodturning and teach others how to turn. Copies of this newsletter go to Woodcraft and Hogan Hardwoods (ex Paxton) every month and most of them are picked up by folks who want to know more about woodturning. What you know how to do can encourage them, so give it a try.

Charlie



A simple finishing technique

There are many, many ways to finish your newly turned masterpiece, and most of us have many cans of seldom used finishes and waxes to prove it. We've all experimented with every new thing we've heard of and finally found that there is no magic finish that requires little sanding and makes the piece look perfect. While different finishes lend themselves more to one kind of project or another, most of us eventually settle on one technique for most of our work.

A couple of years ago, I finally found a favorite for most of my pieces that gives me the look I want. I begin by sanding to 400 grit, going through all of the grades (yeah, I sometimes have to start with 80 grit). I power sand larger pieces and hand sand most everything to at least some extent. When necessary to deal with bruised or torn places, I stop the lathe and hand sand with the grain until the bad spot is gone. Sometimes I don't find those bad spots until I get to 400 grit, and I have to start over. And yes, I "use the sandpaper like someone else paid for it." I finish off with a white 3M pad.

When I have finished turning and sanding the bottom, I burn the signature and other information into the base. I usually accumulate a number of pieces before applying the finish. I apply several coats of Minwax natural, using a soft piece of old T-shirt, keeping it very wet until it all soaks in, then I wipe it dry with a separate rag. (***SAFETY NOTE: To prevent possible spontaneous combustion, either chunk your application rag into a bucket or water or into an airtight container when you are done with it.***) When the pieces have cured for 24 hours, I then buff them out on my Beall System, using tripoli, white diamond and carnauba wax. Just be sure you keep a good grip so the piece doesn't fly across the shop.

Charlie Kay

UPCOMING EVENTS

Utah Woodturning Symposium, June 10 through 12, Provo, Utah

www.utahwoodturning.com

18th Annual AAW Woodturning Symposium, July 23 through 25, Orlando, Florida

www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2004

West Coast Roundup Woodturning Symposium, September 10 through 12, Vancouver, British Columbia

www.gvwg.ca/Symposium2004.htm

Southwest Association of Turners Symposium, October 1 through 3, Temple, Texas

www.texasturnortwo.com

Charles Kay, Editor
100 Matzig Cove
Buda, TX 78610-3108

the newsletter of the central texas woodturners association
a chapter of the american association of woodturners

To:

Membership in CTWA

New members are welcome to join CTWA at any time. All you need is an interest in woodturning. CTWA membership also requires membership in the American Association of Woodturners (AAW). Local dues are \$25.00 per year, or \$2.10 per month prorated for new members joining during the year. AAW dues are \$35.00 per year for individuals and \$40.00 for families. For that you get a first class quarterly magazine, *American Woodturner*, with excellent articles on woodturning and woodturners, amply illustrated with photographs.

If you are interested in learning more about membership or want to join CTWA, contact our Membership Chairman:

Drew Shelton
112 Oakland Drive
Georgetown, TX 78628
512.863.4651
drew@sematech.org



Classified Ads

Free personal classified ads are available to all members of CTWA to sell, buy or trade woodworking related items. To place an ad, contact Charlie Kay at 512.312.2042 or via E-mail at ckay@austin.rr.com. Ads will be run for two months and then dropped.

FOR SALE: Delta 18" Scroll Saw. Variable speed with auxiliary lamp and cloth dust cover. Like new condition. Contact Ed Maeder at 512.261.8289.