

THE CHIP PILE

the newsletter of the central texas woodturners association

"to give every turner the opportunity to become a better turner"

AUGUST MEETING

Tuesday, August 17, 2004
7:00 - 9:00 PM

American YouthWorks - Austin, Texas
1901 East SH 71

(about 1/4 mile east of I-35 on south side of SH 71)

FIRST SATURDAY TURN OUT

Don't forget the First Saturday Turn Out at Charlie Collin's shop, 1603 Hydro Drive, Austin, the first Saturday of every month, from 9 - 12 AM. Turn east on Howard Lane off I-35, take the third right on Thermal Drive and the first left on Hydro Drive.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHOP...

Oh, the dog days ...

The hot weather of August says that summer is almost over. As a club, we've seen many changes so far this year. I hope to see some more.

SWAT is approaching fast and we need to get in all the bowls and weed pots for the tables. I hope I'm one of the lucky ones to bring one home. We still need lots of help, so contact Betty Hager or Steve Gottlieb to volunteer.

We should have a report from the National meet in Florida at the August meeting. That should be interesting.

We appreciate all the things our fellow club members do for us, saw blades, super glue, etc. That is what makes this outfit so much fun (and saves us all a little money!).

I just got a notice that Lyle Jamieson will be in Texas in February, 2005. Should we try to have him for a hands on? Let me know ASAP if you are interested, as we would have to let Lyle know soon so that he can set his schedule. Call as soon as you receive your e-mail and read this notice.

See you all at the meeting.

Lynn



Wine Corks and Rhythm

Our July meeting marked the demonstration debut of CTWA founding member **Joe Kirk**. Joe shared his personal approach to turning his wine bottle corks.

Joe started turning stoppers to use up shop scraps, but soon discovered that his favorite wood to turn them from was cocobolo, which is expensive. He soon found an unusual and economical source of the cocobolo for his stoppers. He has family in the lower



Joe rounds the blank

(CBK photo)

Rio Grande Valley and makes regular trips there. He crosses the border into Mexico and buys pairs of claves, rhythm sticks used in Latin music. The claves cost about four dollars a pair, and a pair makes eight stoppers.

After starting with cork stoppers, Joe was disappointed in their short life and switched to silicone rubber stoppers, which he buys from Craft Supplies. He has devised his own screw chuck by cutting the head off of a 3/8" lag screw, which he chucks in a Jacobs

see Joe Kirk, page 2

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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.

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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
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Joe Kirk, cont'd

chuck held in the head stock.

Joe cuts each claw into quarters on the band saw. He then drills a hole, of the proper depth for the dowel, in one end of the blank on the drill press, using a 23/64" bit to insure a snug fit on the lag bolt.



Lag bolt modification

(CBK photo)

The blank is then trued to be sure that it is round and centered, then he turns and shapes it using his spindle gouge and a shop made round skew. He uses other shop made tools, including a "skewchi" gouge to get sharp details. Some of his tools were made from the reamers that Stacey brought a couple of years ago. The 3/8" round skew was made from a "Dixie Pin". These are M2 high speed steel, and are sold by the Dixie Tool Crib, on Industrial Boulevard across from Hogan Hardwoods. The blanks are 6" long and are available (but not always stocked) in 0.001" increments.

When Joe has finished with the turning, he sands with 3M or Morton foam pads. He finds the 3M pads (available from Lowe's) to be slightly coarser and to last a little longer. He uses drywall sanding mesh to get into the tight corners. He finishes up his sanding using 3M synthetic sandpaper, progressing through green, then maroon and finishing up with gray. He frequently details a piece by using a wire to burn lines into the piece. He has experimented with commer-



Stopper variety

(CBK photo)

see Joe Kirk, page 3

cially available wire sets, but is happier with one he made himself.

Joe's preferred finish for his stoppers is HUT. He uses the tan HUT first, buffing with a blue paper towel and using a cotton string in the deep groves. He then uses the white HUT to bring out a high gloss, once again buffing it thoroughly.

When he done with the finish, Joe removes it from the modified lag bolt and bores out the hole to 3/8" to fit the stopper dowel. He uses a vee carving gouge along two sides of the dowel to let the air out. He then inserts it into the turned piece and drives it home with a mallet. He does not use glue.

Thanks to Joe for a well organized and well presented demonstration. He didn't look like a first time demonstrator to me!



Bring Back Raffle

Larry Walrath took home a shop mallet turned by **James Norton**. **Jane Miller** was the winner of a set of persimmon napkin rings turned by **Gene Stokes**. **Elmer Hoffman** was the lucky winner of the cocobolo wine stopper turned by **Joe Kirk** in his demon-



Shop mallet (CBK photo)

stration. **Craig Timmerman** was the winner of the drawing for the \$15 Craft Supplies gift certificate.



Persimmon napkin rings (CBK photo)

Each of the three winners of the turned pieces will bring a turning to the next meeting. This item should be representative of that person's best work. Craig is off the hook.



Show and Tell

- **Jack Besperka** brought a set of canela napkin rings (buffed, but unfinished) in an elm bowl.



Jack's napkin rings and bowl (CBK photo)

- **Stacey Hager** showed off a twisted weed pot turned from mesquite and finished with shellac and wax. Too much wine before you designed this Stacey?



Stacey's twisted vase (CBK photo)

from Brazilian Rosewood.

- **Bill Hammack** shared a tiny Texas ebony bowl finished with Mylands. He says he designed it to be self-righting. We wonder if he just didn't get the bottom flat.
- **Beth Morton** brought two bowls, one a segmented piece of ambrosia maple and the other turned
- **David Dick** brought four large matching architectural spindles turned from poplar.
- **Ed Roberts** showed off a large bread plate turned from live oak and finished with water base varnish.
- **Charlie Kay** shared three small plates, one each in cherry, lyptus and Spanish cedar, all finished with Minwax and buffed.

Show and Tell, cont'd

- **Joe Kirk** wowed us with a beautiful plate turned from a red mallee burl and finished with tung oil.



Flaming burl

(CBK photo)

- Inspired by Bill Hammack, **Fred Stidman** brought a collection of small closed vessels he called "What Would Bill Do?". The pieces were turned from pear and ash and finished with Deft.



WWBD?

(CBK photo)

- **Johnny Tolly** showed off a big collection of bird house ornaments finished with Mylands.
- **Jerry Whiteaker** shared two sets of nested (cored) bowls. There were three bowls turned from lysiloma sabicu and (almost) four bowls from a second piece of lysiloma sabicu. One of them got a little thin and didn't make it. All were finished with walnut oil.
- Finally, **Bob Hrehor**, on behalf of the First Saturday group presented a piece he called "Skew 101" to Stacey Hager. This was a practice piece started by Stacey and butchered by many at the first First Saturday session.



Gone to the birds

(CBK photo)



Three and a half nested bowls

(CBK photo)



August Program

From a Log to a Bowl ...

This month's demonstration will be given by CTWA member **Jimmy Tolly**, "How to Turn a Bowl from Log to Bowl in 30 Minutes." Don't forget your stop watches to time him! Even though he has been turning for over 30 years Jimmy keeps trying new things and passing them on. I've come to regularly expect new ideas and new gadgets from him. Wanna bet this demo will have another new gizmo or two in it?

See y'all at the meeting.

David Dick



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**.



Business Meeting

There were 49 attendees at our July meeting, including three visitors.

Newsletter now on the website

Charlie Kay called members' attention to the fact that they will no longer be getting a print copy of the newsletter unless they specifically request it. It will be viewable on the website as soon as it is completed, and two to three days before it would arrive by mail.

June 16 Demo at American YouthWorks

Lynn thanked the folks who participated in the June 16 demonstration at American YouthWorks. Several AYW staff members attended our July meeting.

SWAT planning

Volunteers are still needed for SWAT, the first weekend in October in Temple. See Steve Gottlieb if you can help.

Johnny Tolly said we are still short bowls and or weed pots for SWAT. If you took a blank, bring your bowl or weed pot to the August meeting.

If you haven't already registered for SWAT, it is time to do so. You should have received a registration packet in the mail. Register before August 15, and get a price break

Band Saw Blades

Jimmy Tolly announced that the night of the meeting was the deadline for the club band saw blade order.



Special Auction set for August meeting

Stacey Hager showed up at the July meeting with a large maple burl bowl blank, that had been donated



by Woodcraft in view of their difficulty in replacing our new Oneway lathe that was damaged in shipment. That blank will be auctioned off at our August 17 meeting, so bring money.



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

www.gvwwg.ca/Symposium2004.htm

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

www.swaturners.com

Update your E-mail address!

It is your responsibility to see that Membership Chairman **Drew Shelton** has your correct E-mail address. You can contact him at **drew.shelton@sematech.org**.



Calendar

August 7, 2004 -- 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

First Saturday - Charlie Collins' shop

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

CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

September 4, 2004 -- 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

First Saturday - Charlie Collins' Shop

September 21, 2004 -- 7:00 to 9:00 PM

CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

October 1 - 3, 2004 - SWAT Symposium, Temple, Texas

October 19, 2004 -- 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

November 6, 2004 -- 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

First Saturday - Charlie Collins' Shop

November 16, 2004 -- 7:00 to 9:00 PM

CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks



First Saturday - August 7

Fate again smiled on the First Saturday group meeting at **Charlie Collin's** shop. It was cloudy the whole time, and thus much cooler than it had been all of the preceding week. There were 14 or 15 people there off and on for the event. **Bob Hrehor** brought his mini-lathe and turned some light pulls and a plumb bob.



Turning a light pull

(Frank Miller photo)

There were bowl lessons on Charlie's big Powermatic and **Frank Miller** gave lessons on the skew on Bob's mini-lathe. He had normal skews, small skews, a round skew and a 1/16" parting tool that he insisted we use as a skew. A number of us had a go at it, and some of us were successful for the first time with a skew. Even your skewphobic editor managed to work at rounding off a blank and turning some beads, all without getting a catch. Who knows, maybe he'll get around to turning some wine corks.



Bowl instruction

(Frank Miller photo)

Rusty Meyers brought along 11-year old daughter **Katie**, who wasn't exactly thrilled with hanging out with Dad's pals. But guess who took home the plumb bob?

Good time, good fellowship and some informal instruction made for a nice Saturday morning.

If you haven't made a First Saturday yet, put it on your calendar.



You can do it, Ed!

(Frank Miller photo)

The group will need to decide at our August 17 meeting whether the First Saturday will take place in



Kibitzers

(Frank Miller photo)

September (Labor Day weekend) or October (SWAT weekend).



AAW national Symposium

The national AAW Woodturning Symposium in Orlando, Florida, July 23 through July 25, was a big success. Both CTWA and Texas turners in general were well represented at the gathering. CTWA members at the symposium were **Craig Timmerman, Steve Gottlieb, Drew Shelton, Charlie Kay** and **Rusty Myers**, who was one of the demonstrators.

There were over 800 people registered for the symposium, and all of the turning demonstrations that I attended were excellent. I got similar reports from the other attendees. Craig says he considers the demonstration a success if he gets two good ideas out of it. By that measure, I'd say all the ones I saw were successful.

Drew gave his take on the symposium this way: "When I think about the symposium, I can't help but compare it to SWAT. The Instant Gallery was quite a bit larger and, as expected, had many fantastic pieces. The vendor area was also larger with a wide variety of sellers and a good selection of products. The sessions were quite good, but SWAT's were just as good. Some of the room configurations at AAW made the sessions difficult to see. Waiting for the prize drawings after the banquet and auction was like watching the Academy Awards and waiting for Best Picture. I gave up and left."

It was neat seeing one of our own introduced as one of the group of demonstrators described as "the cream of the crop." I heard some good comments on Rusty's demonstrations.

As Drew has observed, the Instant Gallery is truly awe inspiring, as was the special AAW gallery exhibit, "From Sea to Odyssey." Just a few of the many outstanding pieces from the instant gallery are shown in the accompanying photographs.



Rival photographer

(CBK photo)

Among the demonstrators were both Trent Bosch and Cindy Drozda, giving essentially the same demonstrations they gave at SWAT last year. I opted to skip them. I particularly enjoyed demos by Aussie turners Neil Scobie and Guilio Marcolongo. I was also very interested in demos having to do with "decorating" the turnings, and got lots of good pointers from Canadian Marilyn Campbell (epoxy), Dane Irene Gafert (colorizing and metal) and Jacques Vesery (carving, burning and colorizing).

All in all, this was the best run of any of the three national symposia that I have attended, and well worth the money and time. While the demonstrations that I attended were of uniformly high quality, the facilities were less than ideal, in my opinion. Many of the rooms were far too small, leaving many standing in the back, in the door and in the corridor. The larger rooms were long and narrow, and they had the demonstrator and the TV monitors set up on the long wall. That meant that the folks that weren't right in the center had a hard time seeing anything. The AAW was using a three camera set-up in each room, consisting of two fixed camera (including one overhead

fixed camera) and one conventional zoom lens video camera. By and large, the video coverage was good, but the monitors were too small to see well if you were in the back or on the wings.

The banquet on Saturday night had really good food, I thought, some Cuban style roast pork on a bed of Cuban rice. The auction, however, was another matter. While it raised over \$48,000 and featured John Hill as an entertaining auctioneer, it was interminable. All of us but Craig gave up by 11:00, when they were about two-thirds done. The bidding didn't always go as expected. The big winners were a turning by Ellsworth that went for \$3,200 and a collaborative spin top that went for \$4,200. It was magnificent, but it was a top!

There was a huge room for the vendors, and any toy you could desire was to be found there. It was a rare turner (not your scribe) who got away without leaving a few bucks there. The schedule had been arranged so that there was plenty of time to visit and revisit the Instant Gallery and the vendor area. In addition, there was a continental breakfast every morning in the lobby of the convention center.

Fortunately, there was plenty to do inside, because the weather outside was pure Houston. Lots of heat and humidity. The AAW Symposium next year will be in Kansas City, right up I-35 from us. If you haven't gone to one, you might put that on your list for next year. If that is too far for you to go, by all means plan to attend this year's SWAT Symposium in Temple, October 1-3. As Drew noted, you will get demonstrations that are excellent (and big monitors, thanks to Steve and Frank), almost as many vendors, lower cost and a short drive.

These are just my observations on the Symposium. I'm sure that the other guys took different things away from it than I did, and that they will be glad to share their experiences with you.

Charlie Kay



Orlando Instant Gallery





Get your SWAT registration in

The SWAT registration packet has been mailed to over 1,000 turners, and you should have received yours about a month ago. You still have a few days to get your registration in by August 15, and save ten dollars that you can apply to tool purchases. If you can't



find your packet and registration form, go to www.swaturners.com and register there. As we have noted before, it is particularly important to get your room reserved right away, as that is a college football weekend, and motel rooms will be tight.

Lead demonstrators for this year include Michael Hosaluk (Canada), Nick Cook (Georgia), Linda Salter (California), Phil Brennon (Arizona) and Steve Worcester (Texas). In addition, our own **Jimmy Tolly, Rusty Myers** and **Craig Timmerman** will be demonstrating as well. Twenty vendor booth spaces have already been rented, assuring a good vendor turnout.

In 2005, the SWAT Symposium will be in Wichita Falls again, which is on the order of 250 miles further up the pike than Temple, so plan to come and join the fun this year.



From the Editor's Desk

This issue will certainly show you the advantages of the electronic newsletter. Not only will you get it sooner, as the editor is a little late getting it out, but it is ten pages. When it has to be mailed, those extra two pages add another twenty-three cents in postage. Furthermore, the impact of some of the Instant Gallery Photographs from Orlando would simply not be nearly as dramatic in black and white as they are in color.

I got my Woodfast back together and got a bunch of bowls turned before I went to Orlando, including three more for the SWAT banquet tables. Some of you questioned my comments about the Jet mini-lathe in last month's issue. When I said that it would make you take light cuts, I didn't mean that as a negative. It's just that I'd gotten so used to taking deep cuts on the Woodfast, that I discovered I had to ease up a bit on the Jet. I love the lathe, however, and need to get me a base built for it so that I can take it to events like First Saturday.

I enjoyed the trip to Orlando, having never driven beyond Mobile along the Gulf coast before, and that only once. Since I had gone to our July meeting and had only two days to get there, I pushed across on I-10 on the way over. On the way back, however, once I got out of the tackiness of Orlando and I-75, I moved over to the two lanes along the coast through the Florida panhandle, Alabama and Mississippi and saw some charming areas. I also managed to get a good Cajun meal in Louisiana both going and coming. I never tire of seeing this diverse country from behind the wheel. It lets you see things you never see from 35,000 feet, even if national chains are

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.shelton@sematech.org



reducing the differences among the regions. The differences in geography will always be there.

Charlie



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
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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
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LOCKHART/SAN MARCOS

David Dick	512.357.6517
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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: Craftsman Commercial 15 1/2" floor model drill press., 1/2 HP motor. \$150.00. Contact Jim Brinkman, 512.258.4732 or at jsbrink@attglobal.net.



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THE CHIP PILE

the newsletter of the central texas woodturners association

a chapter of the american association of woodturners

To:

Meeting Location

The CTWA meets at American Youth-Works, 1901 East Ben White Boulevard (Texas 71) in south Austin. The building is on the south side of Ben White, just east of Interstate 35. The best entry is off Woodward Street, just south of a little strip center. You enter an alleyway into a lighted parking lot. We will enter through the back door. As you drive in, you will see a truck dock in the back of the building with a big roll-up white door. The entryway is just to the right of the truck dock. Because of the construction at Ben White and I-35, folks from the north may want to exit I-35 at Woodward and proceed south on Woodward across Ben White. Folks from the south might do better to go east on St. Elmo, then north on Woodward. Those coming from the west on Ben White will just have to fight their way through until the construction is finished. See you at the meeting.

