



The Chip Pile

The Newsletter of the Central Texas Woodturners Association

Austin, Texas

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

CTWA Meetings

JULY MEETING

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

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 TURNOUT

The First Saturday Turnout for August will be held on August 4, at 9:00 AM at Len Brissette's shop, 10901 Cade Circle, Austin

What Drought?

How about that rain, eh? My wife and I have lived here in Georgetown since 1987 and every summer has been a drought. This summer has, of course, been remarkably different. Apparently a lot of the rain in Marble Falls ended up in the South San Gabriel River, which is the northern border of my neighborhood. It went up by 30 feet in some places. That was not enough to reach my neighborhood, but it was certainly enough to trash two Georgetown city parks. My family and I, along with lots of other people, walked along the river on the evening of June 27. Although this was some hours after the worst flooding, the river was still out of its banks in places. Blue Hole Park sustained con-

siderable damage, including having its only road washed away completely. It was eerie to walk under the Austin Avenue bridge and see the debris line well above our heads. The North San Gabriel also flooded, but it didn't become the raging torrent that the South did. Both rivers converge in San Gabriel Park, which ended up under many feet of water. There were downed trees everywhere, but mostly thin and splintered. I decided not to fetch my chain saw.

Last month I mentioned Craig's test class on flying bowls. Several of us participated in the class and had a great time. A few years ago, before I had actually seen such a bowl to even know if it was possible, I tried cutting wings like that. After some unsuccessful attempts, I decided that it was either a) not possible, b) downright foolish or c) my turning skills were inadequate. I was, of course, leaning towards a). Then I saw the Instant Gallery at my first SWAT and, well, I

was humbled. But I can now say that, thanks to Craig, I've done it. While it would have been humorous to say that we even had some bowls "flying" through Craig's shop, I can't say it because it didn't happen. Nobody blew their bowls apart. The only problem was the four hour time constraint being placed on Craig by the facility where he'll be teaching. Thanks, Craig, for sharing your time and talent with us.

July's First Saturday saw a smaller-than-usual crowd brave the rain and the distance to Lynn Kramer's large shop in Lockhart. Lynn himself had to leave town earlier in the week, so he left his shop in David Dick's care (in other words, it'll take Lynn a while to figure out what's missing!). We saw, but didn't play with, David's new large spiral cutter for spindles up to ten inches across. Jim Spano brought a nice, wide piece of hard maple and used Lynn's large drum sander to surface it very nicely, before cutting it into blanks for "inside-out" Christmas ornaments. We tried out Len's new "Eliminator" tool that he bought at the AAW Symposium, which is supposed to eliminate the need for many other turning tools. It's also supposed to eliminate catches, a challenge I personally accepted and debunked with style. Once I held it properly, it worked very well. We also had a couple of visitors invited by David. Hopefully we'll see them at the regular meeting. Once we were done at Lynn's, we were off to Kreuz's Market for barbecue.

Drew

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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 512.295.2144, by E-mail at ckay@austin.rr.com or mail them to:

The Chip Pile

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

June Demo

Sharpen Up!

Our June meeting found sharpening wizard and all-around woodworking guru **Stacey Hager** tutoring us on tool steels, tools and how best to sharpen them.

Stacey began his session by discussing the different kinds



of tool steel, how to tell them apart and the plusses and minuses of each of them. He then spent some time



talking about bevel angles on gouges and the reasons for different angles and profiles for different application. He also demonstrated how to set up a grinding jig to achieve the desired results.



To finish up, he sharpened a few tools that folks had brought along. One of these was a new tool that had not been sharpened yet. He discussed the shortcomings of the factory grind, showed how to set the angle on the tip and on the sides, then how to connect them up to form the desired profile.

As always, thanks to Stacey for a thoroughly informative session.

Bring Back Raffle

Dave Dick was the winner of a pendant necklace of mesquite, turned by **Stan Spell**. **Joel Crabbe** took home a Ashe juniper fence post weed pot vase turned by **Bruce Laughlin**. **Frank Miller** was the lucky winner of a large platter of figured maple, walnut and miscellaneous scraps turned by **Len Brissette**. Somehow, Len's platter evaded the photographer's camera.

As is the custom, each of the winners will bring back a



turned item to the next meeting. The Bring Back items should be representative of each person's best work.

It should be noted that the Bring Back Raffle is meant to be a fun event. No one is grading you on the quality of your work. Just bring a piece that represents the best that YOU can do. If you don't have a lathe or feel like you have enough experience, contact one of our Volunteer Instructors to help you prepare a Bring Back piece. So buy a ticket, get involved and have fun.



Show and Tell

Larry Walrath brought a chalice turned from mulberry and finished with tung oil.



Continuing the theme,

Dave Dick showed off a pair of fanciful long-stemmed goblets, one of bubinga and one of maple; both finished with spray lacquer.



Craig Timmerman brought a beautiful "flying" mesquite bowl with turquoise inlay, finished with Mahoney's walnut oil. Looking at all of the imperfections he had filled had many of us wondering how it ever stayed together while he turned it!



H. O. Evans showed off a large segmented platter of wenge, holly, walnut, canarywood and mahogany, finished with Deft.



Johnny Tolly brought a platter turned of soft maple with black epoxy inlay.

Richard Porter brought a pair of pens, turned from maple burl and finished with wax.



Gary Roberts showed off another of his masterpieces, this one a Steller's jay with Gamble oak leaves and



acorns. Gary turned the acorns and cups and says he "turned that bird many times in the course of carving it."

Curtis Turner shared three pieces, a lidded box of spalted maple, a bowl of eggs and a hollow vessel of mesquite.



Charlie Kay brought a lidded box of ash and mesquite finished with Master Gel and three winged mesquite bowls

from Craig Timmerman's "Making Bowls Fly" class, finished with Watco.



Stacey Hager shared a compressed air engine sketched on a napkin from memory by Lynn Kramer, drawn to scale and machined and assembled by Stacey.



Jim Spano brought along a mesquite "flying bowl" from Craig's class, finished with walnut oil.



Ed Roberts brought a small bowl colored with aniline dye, sitting on a stand of hackberry and maple.



see Show & Tell, page 4

Show & Tell

Fred Stidman showed off a pair of mesquite "flying bowls" from Craig's class, finished with polyurethane.



Mack Peterson brought along a number of pieces of various descriptions.



July Program

Big and Safe

When it comes to turning, tiny is **Bill Hammack** and segmented is **Ho Evans**, but when it comes to **BIG**, we all think of **Larry Walrath**, stalling his big Oneway 2436 roughing out a big pecan blank. So, no one is better qualified than Larry to talk to us about how to plan and turn big pieces safely. Larry's working title for the demonstra-

tion is **Design Considerations and Safety Factors for Larger Lathe Projects**. We all know that regardless of the title, the biggest pieces that will fit on the lathe and lots of big chips will be involved. So come along and be entertained and enlightened.

Business Meeting

We had 42 attendees at our June 19 meeting, including four visitors.

There were no significant action items at the June Business Meeting.

Johnny Tolly reminded us that the SWAT Symposium is scheduled for the first weekend in October in Wichita Falls. Symposium brochures, including registration forms, have been mailed. Folks are encouraged to get their registration in.

President-elect **Craig Timmerman** reminded folks that the Tolly's will be looking for assistance in keeping everything running well at the Symposium. Contact **Jimmy** or **Johnny Tolly** if you can help out.

Joel Crabbe reminded folks who have agreed to turn basswood canes for the carved eagle heads for injured soldiers to pick up their blanks before heading home.

CTWA Supporters

We don't recognize often enough those businesses that support our club. If you don't already do so, be sure to support those folks that support us, either through discounts or gift certificates.

**Woodcraft
Craft Supplies USA
The Cutting Edge**

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 \$40.00 per year for individuals and \$45.00 for families. For that, you get a first class quarterly magazine, **American Woodturner**, with excellent articles on woodturning and woodturners, amply illustrated with color photographs.

To learn more about membership or want to join CTWA, contact our Membership Chairman:

Clyde Little
14307 Geronimo
Volente, TX 78641
clyde2044@yahoo.com
512.413.6931

E-mail

It is your responsibility to see that Membership Chairman **Clyde Little** has your correct E-mail address. You can contact him at clyde2044@yahoo.com. We regularly use E-mail to advise members of important announcements on short notice. If Clyde doesn't have your current E-mail address, we can't contact you.

Photos

Photographs for this month's **Chip Pile** were provided by **Drew Shelton**, **Craig Timmerman** and **Charlie Kay**. If you have digital photos that you would like to have considered for use in the newsletter. Send them to the Editor at ckay@austin.rr.com.

July First Saturday

The July First Saturday saw ten or folks the trek to Lockhart and **Lynn Kramer's** large shop. After he volunteer to host the July get together, Lynn remembered that he had a prior commitment - in Utah. So he turned to **Dave Dick** who ably filled the role of Alternate Host. That means he provided lots of coffee and cookies. Dave could almost claim this as his second shop anyway. He has used Lynn's device for making big spiral twists for his big architectural turnings for some time. Now Dave has purchased a larger version of the same machine and installing it in Lynn's shop. The turnout was reduced, probably because of the weeks of soggy weather and the remoteness of Lockhart.

Dave helped Jim Spano sand a big piece of figured maple on Lynn's thickness sander. Len Brissette and Craig Timmerman were just back from the AAW Symposium in Portland, and Len had to show off his new toy, a turning tool that claimed to do everything but butter your bread. Drew Shelton disproved one of the claims (that it was catch proof) by getting the catch of the day. Spano, remembering that he got that title last month quickly passed on extensive trial of the new tool.

When we'd done with the lies and turning, we headed to Kreuz's Market for barbecue



First Saturday

Len Brissette reports that we are suffering a shortage of hosts for First Saturday events. Len is planning to host the August event, but at this point we still have no host for July. Unless someone volunteers soon, we will have to cancel the First Saturday event for July.

You don't have to have a dream shop to host the event, although most who have hosted say the event has forced them to clean up their shop a bit. So if you are willing to share a corner of your garage, or even your shade trees for folks to do a little turning and a lot of visiting, you too can host a First Saturday event. You can get in touch with Len to volunteer.

Web Site

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.

Calendar

The calendar listings are an attempt to keep you up to date on upcoming CTWA events, as well as other events of particular interest to woodturners.

July 17, 2007 - 7:00 to 9:00 PM
CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

Aug 4, 2007 - 9:00 AM to Noon
First Saturday - Len Brissette's

Aug 21, 2007 - 7:00 to 9:00 PM
CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

Sept 1, 2007 - 9:00 AM to Noon
First Saturday - Bill Hammack's

Sept 18, 2007 - 7:00 to 9:00 PM
CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

Oct 6, 2007 - 9:00 AM to Noon
First Saturday - To be announced

2007 First Saturday Shop Crawl Schedule

August 4
September 1
October 6
November 3
December 8 (Christmas Party)

Len Brissette
Bill Hammack
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed

As you can see, we have a serious shortage of sites for this popular event for the rest of the year. You don't have to have a fancy shop to host it, just a place for folks to congregate and drink coffee, eat donuts, and maybe for one or two to turn. To volunteer to host a First Saturday Shop Crawl, get in touch with Len Brissette.

As part of my preparation for teaching my first woodturning class, I held a trial class. Five volunteers gathered in my shop for part of a day. These guinea pigs were **Fred Stidman, Jim Spano, Charlie Kay, Mack Peterson** and **Drew Shelton**.

We started the day by getting the mini-lathes set up and going through a quick square bowl overview. After a short demonstration of the concepts, everyone was quickly turning their first basic square bowl.

A couple more concept demos later and everyone was finishing up. With the

first bowl done, we stopped to assess where we were.

With only an hour left in the class we certainly weren't as far along as I thought or hoped we would be, but then that is why I was running a test class. During a lunch break we discussed ways the class could be streamlined. It was great to have five guys who weren't afraid to give feedback. After lunch we got back to turning a second bowl with more elaborate wings. The second bowl went a little quicker, but most had to finish the bowl at home. Everyone felt they got something out of the class. In many ways I feel like I got more out of the class than the students. I am very grateful that Fred, Jim, Charlie, Mac and Drew were willing to help me out.

Craig Timmerman

The 2007 AAW Symposium was held in Portland, Oregon on June 29 - July 1. This year's symposium was the second largest ever, with 1,600 people in attendance. Even with that crowd, the rooms didn't feel crowded and all in all things ran smoothly. There were 44 demonstrators and 144 rotations from which you could only pick 11 rotations to attend, so there was a lot to choose from. I did my usual bouncing between rotations, but my highlights include the following.

The Japanese Woodturners

Several Japanese woodturners were invited to attend as part of the AAW's "Japanese Bowls: A

Western Perspective" exhibit. One of these turners has the honor of having been named a Japanese National Treasure. The Japanese turn in a very



different way from the way we do. They turn sitting down using a lathe whose turning direction and speed is controlled by two foot-pedals. The tool rest is a small, movable wooden "bench" that is approximately 18 inches long. It does not clamp down to the lathe, rather it is freely moved on the lathe platform. Their lathe tools are basically hook tools, but reversed from the hook tools we normally use since they do a lot of their turning in reverse. Almost all of the Japanese turners are production turners and they are extremely fast at what they do, typically turning 100 bowls per day!

Alain Maillard

Alain is a French wood turner whose specialty is hollow forms that are then carved into various organic forms such as trees or marine creatures.



Needless to say, he spends a lot more time carving than turning. He showed how he creates one of his tree forms. One of his tree forms was featured in the AAW's "Turning Green" show.

Professional Outreach Program (POP) Demonstrations

This year there was a series of demonstrations and talks geared toward the professional wood turner. These ranged from retrospectives to discussions on how to make a buck in the

wood turning field. **David Ellsworth** gave a great slide show on his work and it was interesting to see the evolution from series to series and that even David has pieces that don't sell. All presentations were interesting, but I feel many were geared to too high of a level, e.g., those trying to get into national shows or what I call the "Del Mano Gallery artist". I think there should be more done to address a "mid-level" professional, those who want to be in regional galleries or participate in smaller fine arts shows.

A big highlight of every symposium is the Saturday night banquet and auction. Due to the high number of auction pieces last year, this year there was to be a preliminary silent auction of all pieces and only the top 65 pieces in the silent auction would move on to the live auction. Believe me, I was a little more than anxious about my piece making the cut. In the end they took all pieces, as there ended up being only 69 total donations this year (down from 129 last year). The top money maker was a collaborative piece done by **Binh Pho** and the late **Frank Sudol**. This piece went for a record \$30,000. The second highest



price was for a collaboration done by **Jacques Vessery** and **Bonnie Klein** which brought \$20,000. These kind of made the \$375 my piece brought look small, but it all adds up. The total raised for the AAW educational fund was over \$100,000!

The Instant Gallery was again one of the largest displays of wood turnings you will see in a single room. Woodturning has come a long way since my first symposium in 1999. At that time the gallery had a large number of bowls and platters. Now,

see AAW, page 7

AAW Symposium

in less than 10 years, there were few



bowls but a large number of carved or surface decorated pieces. Many pieces I definitely would call sculptures. I'm not certain that is all to the good. I believe that the gallery at the symposium may be scaring off some turners from even showing a piece.

The trade show was one of the largest yet. Notable new items this year included the 1236SD lathe from Oneway. The "SD" in the name stands for "sit down". The entire headstock, bed and tailstock can be rotated 90 degrees so that you can stand or sit and turn at this lathe. See Oneway's web site (www.oneway.on.ca) for pictures. Vicmarc was demonstrating their new oval turning attachment. This is a self-contained "box" that mounts on the bed-ways of the lathe. Inside the box are the offsets and counter balances that allow you to create oval bowls, platters, etc. It was a neat attachment, but carries a price tag of about \$2000. Fluted Beams was showing their Compwood product. Compwood is a compressed hardwood that is bendable. Compwood is wood that has been subjected to controlled, intense, longitudinal compression. It is extremely flexible as long as the wood stays moist. They claim it can remain bendable for up to two years if kept wrapped. They sell it in bundles of 1x3s and 1x5s in lengths up to 102 inches long. You can then resaw it for your use. They had 1/4 in square pieces that you could tie into a knot without breaking. The 1x3 piece could be bent into severe curves. It kind of made me wonder if building a steam bending jig was worthwhile.

All in all the symposium was a great event and I recommend everyone attend at least once. Next year's symposium is in Richmond, Virginia and the 2009 symposium is in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Down Under Weather

Thought you all might like to read this recent correspondence from our old Aussie friend.

Dear Northern Hemisphere Friends:

We are experiencing the full brutality of southern hemisphere winter at the moment. You might not be aware just how cold and savage winter can be down under. Some people sneer at us and say we are winter wimps.

Well it isn't so. We experience all the conditions you do, as a recent national news report revealed. It stated that at the top of the Blue Mountains, 60 miles west of Sydney, near where I live, there was a massive snow storm and the main Australian east/west interstate highway was closed for about 12 hours. The main rail line did stay open, but only just.

Can you guess how much snow fell?

Four inches!

See, we are not weak sisters down here - we're as tough as any Minnesotan or Montanan. I hope you'll all be a bit more respectful in future.

All the best,

Ernie Newman

Tolly Travels

Johnny and **Marcia Tolly** along with grandson Jaxon traveled up to Garland, Texas recently. There Johnny demonstrated for more than 60 members of the Dallas Woodturners Club. Johnny again demonstrated how he makes the musical wind chimes using copper pipes and Texas Mesquite. Everyone in attendance seemed too really enjoy the demonstration. It was a long day for all as the Tollies got back home just after 2:00 AM.

Where's Charlie?

Bob Hrehor reminds us that our old friend, **Charlie Collins**, has relocated again. You can drop Charlie a note at:

Charles E. Collins
The Plaza
8502 Edgemere - # 202
Dallas, TX 75225

Charlie would really appreciate hearing from his old CTWA buddies, so drop him a line.

Upcoming Woodturning Symposiums

West Coast Roundup

September 7 - 9, Vancouver, BC
www.gvwg.ca

Turning Southern Style

September 14 - 16, Helen, GA
him1951@bellsouth.net

Rocky Mount Woodturning Symposium

September 15 - 16, Loveland, CA
www.rmwoodturningsymposium.com

North Carolina Woodturning Symposium

October 5 - 7, Greensboro, NC
www.northcarolinawoodturning.com

SouthWest Association of Turners

October 5 - 7, Wichita Falls, TX
www.swaturners.org

Totally Turning 2007

October 13 - 14, Albany, NY
capebud@aol.com

Probably, one should not do too much reflecting on things. As I used to drive back and forth between here and Houston, I would look at the twisted, gnarly live oak trees and think how much they called to mind the tough characters that settled and somehow eked out a living from this difficult land and climate. As the rains returned with a vengeance over the last several weeks, my thoughts again turned to musing over this place we call Texas.

Our reputation, at least partially justified, is that of a bit of a braggart. Everything is bigger, badder, hotter or colder than

any other state. Who knows all of the reasons for our actions that have contributed to that perspective on Texas and Texans. However, I cannot help but think that at least part of our world view comes from dealing with an environment that swings in extremes. Periodically, we are faced with lengthy, extended droughts that remind us that we live on the margins of a desert. At the same time, we live in the worst area of flash flooding in the world, thanks to our steep terrain, our shallow soil and the fact that the dry line on stalled fronts tends to park more or less along the Balcones Fault. That means that those epic droughts almost always end with a flood of biblical proportions. Add to that when other plagues strike us, they also tend to come in outsized waves as well. Consider the infestations oak leaf caterpillars and their nasty webs and grasshoppers that we have dealt with over the last several years. I can't wait to see what the next challenge will be.

Now that the rains have abated, and the heat has arrived, I am finally get down to some long delayed yard work. Having lost another young tree to the hormonal urges of a buck trying to rub the velvet off his antlers and practice for his big duels, I am reinforcing the cages around all my young trees. He destroyed the one around the tree he girdled and removed all of the bark from the trunk. While I'm at it, I'm putting down landscape cloth and covering it with double ground cedar mulch. Somehow, that is a lot harder work than it was a few years ago. Couldn't have anything to do with my age.

My other big project and one I like better as it is inside and air conditioned, is turning my darkroom into

a storage closet. I had put the darkroom in when we built the house, and used it a good deal before I built the shop, then we had our accident. By the time I was ready to get back to my photography, the revolution had come, and I found that I could do everything more easily and quickly digitally. I haven't done any wet chemistry photography in seven years, so it is time for it to go. I have my enlarger and the rest of my darkroom equipment out in the breezeway, ready to photograph it and see if I can sell it on Craig's List. If you know of anyone that is looking for some good darkroom equipment, let me know.

With that, I still manage to spend a few hours in the shop every week. It's nice that it is air conditioned too.

Keep on turning,

Charlie

August First Saturday

Our April 1, 2006, First Saturday Shop Crawl will be held at President **Len Brissette's** shop in North Austin. After several events to the south and west, the north Austinites won't have an excuse to miss this event.

This is a good chance to see Len's nice shop and to ponder about what a challenge it must have been to get all the materials back in there to build it. Then there was the challenge of getting the Oneway 2436 down that narrow track as well.

To get to Len's house, take Anderson Mill Road, either from RR 620 or US 183.

Turn south on Centennial Trail, go a short block and turn right on Sierra Blanca, go another short block and left on Cade Circle. Len's house is at the end of the cul de sac. A short walk down the driveway and by the pool will take you to the shop.

If you get lost, give Len a call at 512.258.4004.

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

Bill Hammack	512.282.0832
Stacey Hager	512.282.1036
Johnny Tolly	512.858.4471
Jimmy Tolly	512.894.0686
Craig Timmerman	512.288.3598

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

ROUND ROCK

Larry Walrath	512.255.5379
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LOCKHART/SAN MARCOS

David Dick	512.357.6517
Curtis Seebeck	512.738.0775

2007 Demonstration Schedule

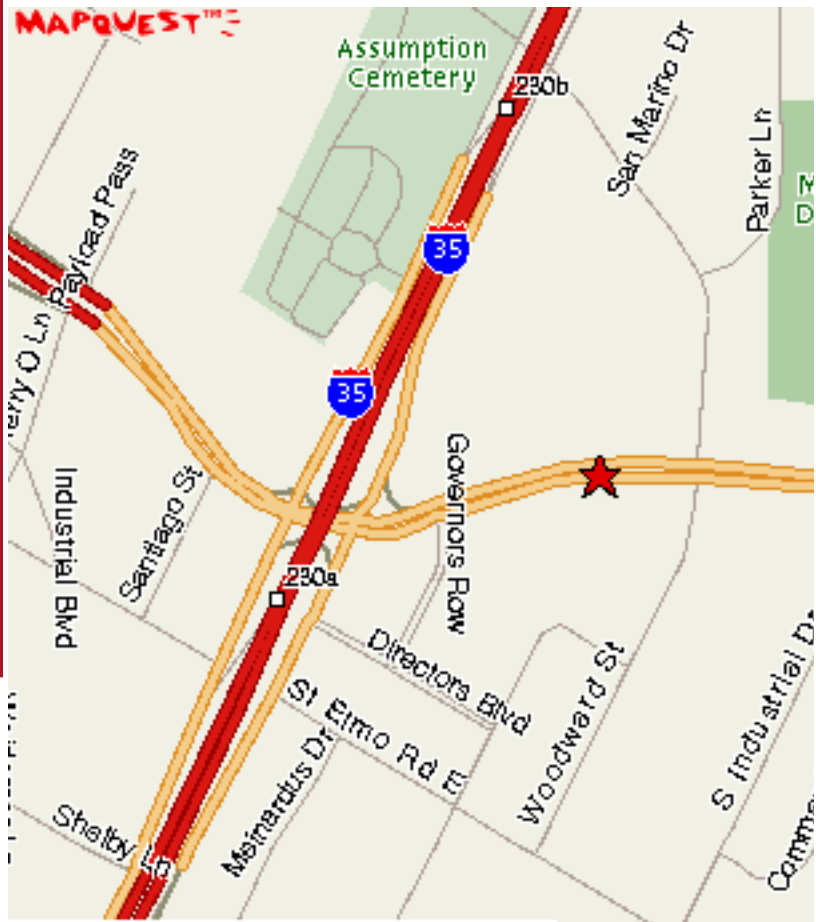
July 17
August 21
September 18
June 19

Larry Walrath
To be announced
To be announced
To be announced

If you are interested in being a Demonstrator at one of our meetings, or want to suggest a demonstrator, get in touch with Program Chairman Gene Stokes.

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. Folks coming from the north may want to exit I-35 at Woodward and proceed south on Woodward across Ben White.



The Chip Pile
Central Texas Woodturners Association
A chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

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