



The Chip Pile

The Newsletter of the Central Texas Woodturners Association

Austin, Texas

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

CTWA Meetings

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Tuesday, September 18, 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 October conflicts with the SWAT Symposium, and is being cancelled. See you November 3.

From the President's Shop

"Actually, we missed the donuts..."

OK, I got a lot of grief over my missing the August First Saturday. The fact is, I simply forgot about it because my family was scattered in different places that morning. I didn't remember until I saw an E-mail the next morning from a member who seemed to be genuinely concerned for my welfare, until I read the line, "Actually, we missed the donuts". (Thank you for caring, **Jim Brinkman**.) Well, I started bringing Round Rock donuts soon after we started the First Saturday meetings, and it took no time at all for everyone to expect them to appear. So I guess I've

brought this on myself. Anyway, back to turning. I have finished the tool rack that I mentioned last month. I really like it, and I've yet to fill the drawers in it. I'm already pondering modifications...

At September's First Saturday, **Ed Roberts** brought his pickup truck full of the bois d'arc tree that I mentioned at the August meeting. He even brought a chainsaw to cut up the pieces for everyone. Not only did Ed bring his chainsaw, he did all of the cutting under the able supervision of at least a dozen guys. Many thanks to Ed for gathering, hauling and cutting for us, and to the twelve guys for picking up all of the yellow savings.

One thing I neglected to mention at the August meeting is the president's challenge - bracelets. We've had several members bring bracelets of many different designs to the meetings over the years. If you haven't tried one (and I haven't yet), here's your opportunity.

Monthly Features

- Calendar, page 5
- Demo Schedule, page 7
- First Saturday, page 7
- Membership Information, page 4
- Shop Crawl Schedule, page 6
- This Month's Program, page 4
- Upcoming Symposiums, page 6
- Volunteer Instructors, page 7

tunity. Bring them to the November meeting.

We need officers for 2008. As president-elect, **Craig Timmerman** will be president next year. I don't know yet if any of the other current officers want to serve another year, but we'll at least need a new president-elect. Here's your chance to step up and take an important role in steering the club.

Drew

August Demo

Laying an Egg

Our August meeting found new member and new turner **Curtis Turner** giving his first demonstration. Curtis elected to show us how he



turns eggs, spheres and other items.

Curtis brought along numerous samples of his work for the Show and Tell table, including spheres, bowling pins and a musical sound block.

Thanks, Curtis for a great job, and for

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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 512.295.2144, 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



great courage in undertaking your first demonstration under the watchful eye of a bunch of kibbitzers! We look for-



ward to seeing more of your work on the Show and Tell table in the future, as well as more demonstrations down the line.

Bring Back Raffle

Johnny Tolly was the winner of an open form vase (inspired by Stuart Batty) turned from walnut by **Jack Besperka**. **Joel Crabbe** took home a tall maple goblet turned by **Dave Dick**. **John Thompson** was the lucky winner of a chestnut sea salt box with walnut inlay, turned by **Charlie Kay**.

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

Johnny Tolly brought along three items - a walking stick turned from recycled pallet wood, a bowl turned from a cutoff from a construction beam



and a platter turned from scrap Trex (the recycled milk jug synthetic deck lumber).



Curtis Turner showed off a number of items, including a bowl of eggs, a bowling ball and pins turned from cherry and musical sounding block.



Jake Ivey brought a mortar and pestle turned from purpleheart and finished with Deft and a cube with trapped star on a stand, turned of mesquite and purpleheart.



H. O. Evans shared another challenging segmented piece of holly, walnut and wenge, 190 pieces in all, in the form of a tall slim vase.



Marcia Tolly brought a maple platter with a pyrographic image of an owl, titled, what else, "Who?."



Charlie Kay brought along a pair of boxes, one of bloodwood and bird's eye maple finished with Watco Danish



Drew Shelton brought a nice Ashe juniper bowl, finished with Danish oil and Beall buffed.



Craig Timmerman showed off three multi-axis vases of a new design, all turned from mesquite and filled with turquoise.



oil and buffed and the second of hackberry with a figured cherry inlay.

Stacey Hager showed off a number of items, including a tall cedar elm vase, a bowl, a handle and jigs.

Jack Besperka shared an Indian vase of an unknown wood that looked like pecan, except for the white heart.



It Ain't Done Until It's Finished

Jack Besperka, who is well known for his well designed and beautifully detailed and finished pieces will provide our program for the September meeting. Jack will be leading a discussion of the principal finishing systems useful to woodworkers. His emphasis will be on how and why various finishes work, as well as their relative advantages. Given the quality of finishes we see on Jack's pieces, we should all learn a lot from this presentation.

We had 41 attendees at our August 21 meeting, including one visitor.

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

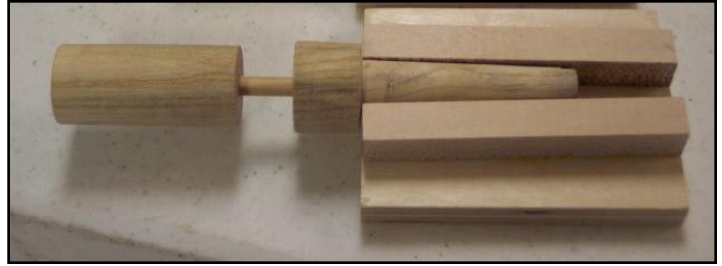
Johnny Tolly reminded us that the SWAT Symposium is scheduled for the first weekend in October in Wichita Falls. He also advised that there was a planning meeting scheduled for August 25.

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.

Photographs for this month's **Chip Pile** were provided by **Drew Shelton** 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.

Stacey Said What?

At our August meeting, **Stacey Hager** showed off a couple of jigs he had made, with turned no. two Morse tapers to fit in the head stock. One of these, pictured below, featured a small dowel between the Morse taper and the larger dowel on the left. On the smaller



dowel was a sliding segment, shown just to the left of the Morse taper in the photo. What on earth could this be used for? This gave President Elect **Craig Timmerman** the bright idea for a contest. There are two categories in the contest:

1. Guess what the jig is really used for
2. Give us your best creative, whimsical or inane use for the jig

Members may enter either one or both of the categories. However, you must disqualify yourself if Stacey or anyone else has told you what the jig is actually for. There must be at least five entries in each category for a prize to be awarded. We have to have a little competition! With fewer than five entries, we will just announce the guesses. Prizes will be small square bowls turned by Craig. Send your entries to Craig at craig@armadillowoodworks.com.

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**

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.

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

President's Challenge

President **Drew Shelton** has issued the first Challenge of his fast waning term. Drew wants you to turn a bracelet for the September meeting. The rules seem to be simple, as there are none. You've seen examples of bangle bracelets by several members, but nobody says you have to make a bangle. How you decorate, embellish or desecrate it is limited only by your imagination. Categories to be devised by the President as he surveys the entries. Prizes, if any, to be awarded at the discretion of the judge, the aforementioned President.

This should be fun, so bring your most creative attempts.

2008 Officers

Although it seems like only a month or so to us old guys since we last did this, it is again time to be thinking about officers for 2008. Our usual approach is to nominate candidates at our October meeting and have the election at our November meeting.

Under our By-Laws, **President Elect Craig Timmerman** will become President. We will need a candidate (the plural form is also acceptable) for President Elect, who commits to follow that term with a term as President in 2009. A number of our officers have been serving for several years and some of them may be looking to leave the job to someone else. The Board will be meeting before the club meeting on Tuesday, September 18. If you have a suggestion regarding candidates for one or more offices or are interested on one of the jobs yourself, get that information to **Drew Shelton** or one off the other current officers.

If you haven't served as an officer of CTWA, take a chance and volunteer your services. Most of the folks who continue to do the same job year after year don't do it because they crave power, but rather because no one else has volunteered. We have a very active club, so you get a lot of help whatever role you choose to play. None of the jobs is that difficult or time consuming.

We have added quite a few new members in the past year or so. Consider stepping up to volunteer to work for the club. You will meet more people

and make more friends that way than any other, and that is a large part of what this organization is about.

2007 SWAT Symposium

Don't Forget SWAT 2007!

The 2007 SouthWest Association of Turners annual Symposium is upon us. This year's Symposium is being held again at the Multi-Purpose Event Center in Wichita Falls, Texas, October 4,5,6 and 7. Doors will open for Registration at 2:00 PM on Thursday, October 4. The Registration desk will open again at 7:00 AM on Friday, October 5, and Opening Ceremonies will take place at 9:00 AM, with the first demonstration rotation beginning at 10:30.

Lead demonstrators for this year include **Stuart Mortimer, David Marks, Alan Stirt, Cindy Drozda, J. Paul Fennel** and our own **Stacey Hager**. There will, of course, be a large contingent of vendors plying their wares. So, there will be ample opportunity for you to spend that money that has been burn-



ing a hole in your pocket for that toy - sorry, tool - that you cannot live without. As always, there will be a large Instant Gallery of turned pieces, so plan to bring along your best stuff to display.

Once again, there will be a Spouses Program with tours and a Ladies Gallery. For you guys out there, be sure that your spouse is aware of what is available. Details are available on the web site at www.swaturners.org.

As is customary, there will be a 2 for 1 Raffle, with a drawing at the Banquet on Saturday evening for the turned pieces that have been donated, including pieces by the lead demonstrators. The winning tickets are then returned to the bin and a second drawing will be held at lunch on Sunday for numerous items donated by vendors, as well as for a Powermatic 3520B lathe.

If you haven't been to a Symposium before, the SWAT Symposium is a great way to experience one at a relatively low cost. It is close and the registration fees are minimal. You will get an opportunity to meet a lot of fellow woodturners from around the Southwest and a chance to see many of the tools at vendors whose catalogues you peruse. For neophyte turners, the demonstrations and the Instant Gallery will inspire you to try new directions in your turning. You can expect to learn at least one thing in every demonstration that you take in. So pack your bags and plan to head for Wichita Falls for the first weekend in October.

While it is too late to register in advance, you can still register at the door. Details about the Symposium as well as information on lodging in Wichita Falls may be found on the web site at www.swaturners.org.

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.

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

Oct 6, 2007 - 9:00 AM to Noon
First Saturday cancelled - SWAT Symposium Conflict

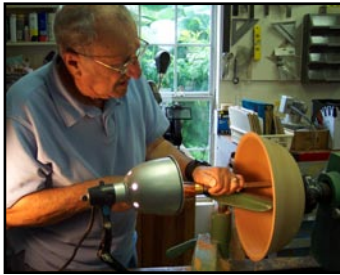
October 16, 2007 - 7:00 to 9:00 PM
CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

Nov 3, 2007 - 9:00 AM to Noon
First Saturday - to be announced

Nov 20, 2007 - 7:00 to 9:00 PM
CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

Dec 8, 2007 - 9:00 AM to Noon
Christmas Party - Frank & Jane Miller's

Our August First Saturday found fourteen or so of us in **Bill Hammack's** tidy shop in Manchaca. Was that bugles I heard when it



was confirmed that there were Round Rock donuts available, courtesy of the return of President **Drew Shelton?**

Frank Miller fired up Bill's big Woodfast to clean up the bottom of a big bowl that Bill had rough turned. It was warped,



so there was a little excitement from time to time as different folks tried their hand at the bowl. Somehow the bowl survived.

Stacey Hager

brought along his grinder, fitted with a diamond coated balanced steel wheel. Everyone had to have a turn at the wheel, after it demonstrated excellent grinding characteristics, as well as a tool cool enough to touch right off the wheel. Stacey had this wheel on loan from Andre Martell, who is marketing them. Stacey had agreed



to try to move five more for Andre. This group being one that never met a toy they didn't need, all five were spoken for in just a few minutes. Who can resist diamond dust anyway?

Ed Roberts created the next excitement by showing up with a bois d'arc tree in the back of his truck. The vultures all abandoned the shop to start bickering over the best pieces, with President Elect **Craig Timmerman**

demonstrating his leadership skills by being first in line to pick out the pieces he needed.

Despite the fact that Ed had already cut down the tree, cut it up and loaded it in his



truck, some wanted the pieces split in half first. While Ed fired up the chainsaw he had brought along and proceed to make the requested cuts, the vultures just stood around and told him how best to accomplish those cuts. Eventually all of the wood was loaded

into other vehicles and the yellow shavings removed from Bill's driveway.



After Ed had been properly supervised, it was back inside for Stacey to enlighten us on the ideal way to turn an egg. We didn't thing we were going to get him to finish it in time for lunch. With our continued encouragement, he finally finished and most of the gang repaired for Evangeline Cafe for Cajun food *al fresco*.



Upcoming Woodturning Symposia

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

2007 First Saturday Shop Crawl Schedule

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

Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed
Frank & Jane Miller
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.

At this writing, it seems likely there will not be a First Saturday get together for October. October 6 is the weekend of the SWAT Symposium, and most of the folks will be attending that. Should a decision be made later to hold a First Saturday get together on the second Saturday, we will let you know via an all points E-mail.

the shop. Time to get out the plumbers snake. The first four five times this occurred, a couple of hours with the snake and a lingering stream of choice words was usually enough to clear the clog.

The most recent incident, however, wasn't so easy. Despite several two or three hour sessions with the snake and the use of even more choice words, I couldn't budge the clog, although I did push through it more than once. Finally, I pushed through it from the collector end and the end of the snake came up through the duct at the lathe. "Aha!" thinks me, "I know what I'll do. I'll tie a hunk of old tee shirt into a ball and tie it to the end of the snake. That'll pull that clog out!"

Did I say that some good ideas gone bad only spawn other good ideas gone bad? You guessed it. The tee shirt was got hung in the wires and I couldn't move it either way. After much consternation and consulting with the problem solving gurus in the club (you don't want to know some of their suggestions) I gave serious consideration to just abandoning the system and replacing it with one hung from the ceiling and *not* set in concrete.

When I couldn't come up with a better idea, I finally backed the pickup up to the shed door, tied the snake to the trailer hitch and pulled. After I'd driven about ten or twelve feet, the snake popped out. I'll let you have it cheap. Unfortunately, or maybe fortunately, I didn't find any copper wire. I couldn't find the tee shirt ball either.

So I decided to fire up the collector and see if I could suck it out, and probably tangle it in the impeller. To my surprise, the suction was great at the lathe and no noise from the impeller. So, back to turning. I found the tee shirt ball the next day, in a remote corner of the shed.

Now, I have this *great* idea!

Keep on turning,

Charlie Kay

Why is it that ever so frequently what you think is a good idea at the time later turns out not to be as good as you thought? Some of those ideas even have a way of reminding you over and over again of their flaws.

Those of you who have visited my shop know that I put my dust ducts under the slab when I built it. Several years later, when I ordered a new dust collector from Oneida, they told me that I needed to run a six inch main duct from the collector, only necking down to four inches at the machines. I told them my decision to go with four inch ducts was already set

in concrete. Set in not quite the right places in a couple of instances.

When I was installing the PVC ducts, before pouring the concrete, the conventional wisdom was that you needed to ground the PVC with copper wire to assure that you didn't get a dust explosion from discharge of static electricity build-up. I had just read an article in some woodworking magazine suggesting running the wire inside the pipe, so I took that approach. While not quite as persnickety as Stacey Hager, I do like to try to do a tidy job. So I drilled little holes at every tee or wye, pulled the wire ends up and soldered them together. Neat. Too bad I didn't wait a couple more years until the MIT electrical engineering professor and woodworker showed that you will never get a big enough charge build-up in a small system to trigger a dust explosion.

Soon after everything was in place and I was on my to learning how to turn, I found that just a few little curly shavings could snag on that united wire at the tee just downstream from my lathe. The loss of suction is gradual, until suddenly you notice that there is a fine layer of dust over everything in

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

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

LOCKHART/SAN MARCOS

David Dick 512.357.6517
Curtis Seebeck 512.738.0775

2007 Demonstration Schedule

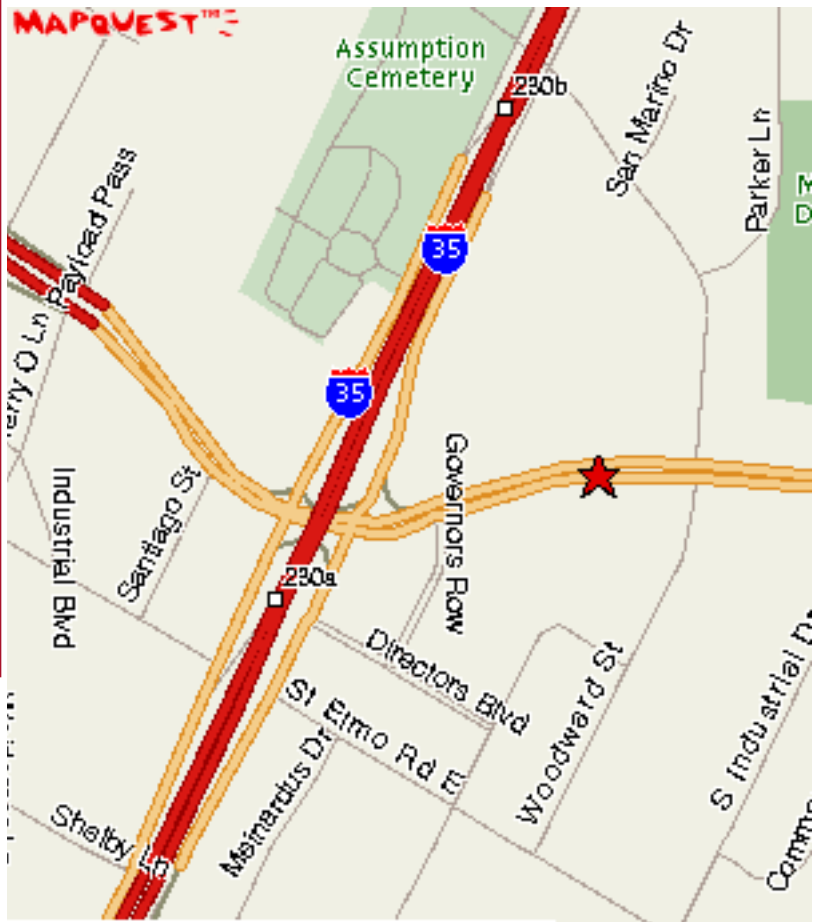
September 18
October 16
November 20
January 15, 2008

Jack Besperka
Gary Roberts
Charlie Kay
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.



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To: