



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 15, 2008
 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 at 9:00 AM on August 2, at Len Brissette's shop, 10901 Cade Circle, Austin

From the President's Shop

A Few Random Musings

Iowa Flooding

If you are wondering why the newsletter is a little late, it's my fault. I was up in Northeast Iowa over the fourth of July and forgot to send Charlie my newsletter article before going. He was nice enough to hold off publishing until I got back. Didn't really see too much flood damage first hand when I was up there as I was north of the worst damage, which was in Cedar Rapids and Iowa City. I did get to see lots of the pictures though. Downtown Cedar Rapids took the brunt of the damage. While the water has receded, most businesses are just now

starting cleanup and many don't know if they will be able to re-open. The

time they would have more people than they could use. In Decorah the local farmers brought in their pumping equipment and tractors to try to relieve the pressure on the dikes; they ran them 24 hours a day for multiple days with the local gas company stationed near by to refuel the tractors as needed. It will take quite while for Cedar Rapids and Iowa City to recover, but the process has started. If you want to send your support, just Google "Iowa flood donations" and you will see a list and, as always, the American Red Cross can always use

Monthly Features

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your support.

In Praise of Today's Lathes

While in Iowa, I did get a chance to do some turning on my brother's lathe. I had taken my tools, but there wasn't room in the car for the mini lathe, so I used my brother's old Shopsmith as my lathe. Now some of you have used a Shopsmith before and some of you might still be using one. For those of you that don't know, a Shopsmith is a multi-purpose wood-working tool. It can be a table saw, drill press, lathe, and with attachments a bandsaw, planer, jointer, etc. While it can be used for all those jobs, there are trade-offs. In using it as a lathe I think the best way to describe it, is you just need to be patient. This is especially true when moving the tool rest. There are two set screws and one other T-knob that must be adjusted. If you are lucky you only need to change one of the three, but sometimes even the simplest changes in angle require changing all three settings. Needless to say, this really slows you down when you are trying to turn boxes just as fast as you can. Add to that a little play in the spindle, a very low spindle height, and the fact that you move the headstock and not the tailstock when mounting pieces between centers and you get quite the adventure in turning compared to today's lathes. If you ever want a better appreciation for your lathe, come out to my shop some day and I'll let you experience the Shopsmith first hand.

Where Do the Chips Come From?

I've been spending the better part of the last few weeks roughing out a bunch of pecan bowl blanks. It never ceases to amaze me how many chips we can produce. A couple of the days I had five wheel barrows full from that day's work and that does not even count the cut-offs. Just something

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2008 Officers

President

Craig Timmerman
512-288-3598
armadilloww@gmail.com

President Elect

Clyde Little
512.413.6931
clyde2044@yahoo.com

Program Chairman

Gene Stokes
512.288.3598
gstokes1@austin.rr.com

Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Charlie Kay
512.295.2144
ckay@austin.rr.com

Treasurer

Ed Roberts
512.255.3294
eroberts6@juno.com

Membership Chairman

Jim Spano
512.835.5023
jimjoy@austin.rr.com

Webmaster

Larry Walrath
larry@larrywalrath.com
512.255.5379

Audio/Visual Coordinator

Frank Miller
512.335.4768
millerstexas@msn.com

Librarian

Betty Hager
512.282.1036
staceyhager@hotmail.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 512.295.2144, 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

Keeping Austin Turning Since 1988

else to add to my list of how things have changed since turning full time. Nice to know I'll have plenty of wood mulch for new landscaping we plan to do!

President's Challenge

Don't forget the first part of the President's Challenge is due this month. If you can't be there, try to get your piece to someone else so that we can get a good start on the second part. NOTE: If you have a spouse that wants to take part in just the embellishment portion of the challenge, feel free to bring an extra item for them and we will add their name to list.

Now I need to get into the shop and turn my President's Challenge piece!

Craig

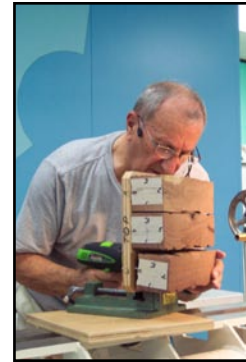
following are for a lathe with a 12.5 inch swing.)

The blank length and width is determined by multiplying the thickness times three plus two bandsaw cuts. For the 12.5 inch swing, Jim used a



piece 2 5/8 inch thick by 7 7/8 inch wide. The blank should be flat and square.

The blank is then attached to the jig using #8 sheet



metal screws with pilot holes drilled into the blank to prevent splitting. After mounting on the lathe, beads, coves, vee-cuts, texturing, etc., are used to produce a design on side one. The blank is then removed

from the jig and reversed and the other side similarly decorated.



After completing side two, the piece is again removed from the jig and cut

June Demo

Our demonstrator for our June meeting was the ever



creative **Jim Spano**, showing us how he makes his interesting triptych that he calls a "Treesome."

To make this piece, he starts with a jig which is then attached to a faceplate. Using a square piece of 3/4 inch plywood or MDF nine inches on a side. The corners are sawed off, then three clearance holes for #8 sheet metal screws are drilled on each of two opposite sides on the centerline and 2 5/8 inches each side of the centerline and 1/4 inch in from the edge. (These dimensions and the blank dimensions

Safety First!

Obviously, all of us are aware that we must constantly be aware of safety considerations whenever we turn. This is particularly true of projects like this, where multiple pieces are mounted and remounted with screws on a jig. A face mask is a bare minimum, and a face mask with a hard hat is a better idea. This point was demonstrated dramatically during Jim's demonstration, when one of the three pieces came off the jig and launched over the middle of the audience and into the back wall. Fortunately, no one was injured in this incident, but that was pure luck. Jim has analyzed the situation and believes the accident occurred because he had disassembled and reassembled the pieces several times practicing for the demo. That is probably right. Nevertheless, Jim has re-raised the suggestion made by Fred Stidman when he was President several years ago. As a result, he and Jim Brinkman have designed a Lexan "Spanoshield" to put between the audience and the spinning workpiece. Meanwhile, we need to pay more attention to leaving an unoccupied aisle down the "line of fire." One narrow escape is enough!

into three equal pieces on the band-saw. After being careful to line up the pieces just as they were before cutting them apart, turn all three pieces 90 degrees in the same direction and mount them in order on the jig, again using the #8 screws. Side three is then turned as sides one and two



were. The three pieces are then reversed on the jig, being sure to keep them properly oriented (i.e., the

left hand piece on side three will be the right hand piece when turning side four), and side four is turned.

After side four is completed, the three individual pieces are then turned between centers. First, a tenon is turned on the bottom of each piece. Each piece, in turn, is then chucked and the top turned, removing sufficient material so that all pilot holes are eliminated. A hole is then drilled in the top to accommodate a screw chuck and the piece reversed to remove the tenon and finish the bottom.

The finished piece is quite impressive. Thanks, Jim, for a fine demonstration.

by **Dave Dick**.

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 don't 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.



Ed Roberts brought along a bois d'arc vase. He also brought, a month late, his entry in the President's Box Challenge, a nested set of three boxes. **Bill Hammack** should be glad he was late, because the smaller of Ed's boxes would have fit inside Bill's winning Smallest Box!



Jimmy Tolly showed a pair of mesquite bumpers he turned for his contractor trailer.



Jack Besperka brought a spalted pecan vase with textured and colored rim and base, finished with lacquer.

Craig Timmerman showed off a mesquite and turquoise winged bowl. Craig also brought a pair of wig stands turned from ambrosia maple that he called "Fun With Dick and Jane," wig stands that were his entry in the AAW "Turned for Use" competition. They

Dave Dick was the lucky winner of a maple **Johnny Tolly** M&M dispenser. **Hal Sanders** took home a mesquite bowl, finished



with lacquer, turned by **Stan Spell**. **Jimmy Tolly**

was the winner of a mesquite box with cocobolo finial brought by **Len Brissette**. **Craig Timmerman** had the ticket for a walnut goblet turned



Show and Tell

Richard Anderson brought along a nice box elder and mesquite box.



Len Brissette showed off a mesquite and cocobolo box.



Bob Elfant brought a bowl of bloodwood and laminated plywood.

Lynn Kramer showed off a small dyed maple bowl.

Keeping Austin Turning Since 1988

and purpleheart, a second of purpleheart, yellowheart, walnut and maple and a third of purpleheart, maple and walnut.



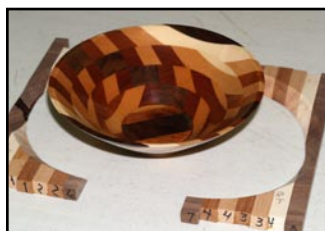
were not selected for the show, but he will show them and the winged bowl in the Instant Gallery at the AAW Symposium.



Mack Peterson brought along three segmented pieces, one of mesquite



H. O. Evans showed three segmented pieces as well, a pair of pin blank bowls and a small Greek vase inspired by one he and Mary saw on their last cruise.



husband Johnny. Now we will get a chance to see just how she works her magic.



SWAT 2008

Plans progress for SWAT 2008

Vendor Demonstrators

At least three of our vendors will be giving demonstrations at this year's SWATurners Symposium in Waco:

Bruce Hoover - Sanding Secrets

Bill Rubenstein - Feet -

- A way of Getting Your Hollow Forms and Bowls Up Off the Table

Christian Briepierre - Bird Bath and Beyond - From Flat to Round

Lathes

This year's Symposium will give you an opportunity to see a number of the most popular lathes in action in the various demonstration rooms. Represented will be:

Vicmar
Stubby
Robust
Oneway
Powermatic

This will give you a chance to check out how your dream lathe actually performs.



Accommodations

There will be two headquarters hotels in Waco, the Waco Hilton and the Marriott Courtyard. Both are immediately adjacent to the Convention Center.

July Program

We are in for a treat at our July meeting, as the talented **Marcia Tolly** will be demonstrating the art of pyrography.

Marcia is a self taught artist. She is skilled in pyrography as well several painting media. She has donated pieces to the SouthWest Association of Woodturners for the past several years for use in their Two-for-One Raffle. In addition, she has decorated many Christmas ornaments done as gifts for family and friends. She

has also decorated platters for each of their grandchildren, decorated with their portraits. Marcia's work may be seen in the Gallery section of www.ctwa.org.

We have all seen the work that Marcia has done to decorate pieces turned by

Waco Hilton

113 South University Parks Drive
Waco, TX 76701

\$109 (king bed - single or double occupancy)
\$119 (two queens - single or double occupancy)

Phone 254.754.8484 and use the full name "SouthWest Association of Turners" for these prices. We have ten rooms on Thursday night and thirty on Friday and Saturday reserved at these rates.

Marriott Courtyard

101 Washington Avenue
Waco, TX 76701

\$95 (single or double occupancy)

one king bed (code SWASWAA) or two queen beds (code SWASWAB)

Phone 254.752/8686 and use the name "SW Assn of Turners" for these prices.

We have twenty rooms on Thursday night, and fifty rooms on Friday and Saturday at these rates.

If these don't fit your plans, there are numerous other hotels in Waco, as well as nearby RV facilities. Hampton Inn has just opened a new facility, Hampton Inn Waco South and has newly renovated the older Hampton Inn Waco.

More Information

As always, for more detailed information, check out the SWATurners web site, www.swaturners.org.



Finally, Craig gave an update on the upcoming SWATurners Symposium in October.

President's Challenge - II

We have just finished our first President's Challenge and now it is time for another. This one will be a two-part challenge. It will also be the first ever Collaborative President's Challenge. The challenge is to turn and embellish a bowl or platter. This challenge is more complex, so I am giving extra time to each part.

Part 1 - July

For July the challenge is to turn a bowl or platter. There will be two size categories so that members with big and small lathes can participate:

Category 1: 6 to 10 inches

Category 2: 10+ to 16 inches

Please bring nothing larger than 16 inches. Any shape will be accepted, but remember, the piece will be modified after turning, so you may want to keep the design fairly simple. The turning of the piece must be completed and sanded, but it should not have any finish applied to it, as someone else will be embellishing it for you. You must leave a tenon on the bowl or platter or some other way to re-chuck the piece.

Part 2 - October

The challenge for October is to embellish a bowl or platter. However, the twist is that you will be doing the embellishment on someone else's turning. At the July meeting we will have a drawing among all submitted pieces and will randomly assign a piece to everyone that brought a piece. The piece you draw will be the piece you get to embellish. What kind of embellishment you might ask? Well, anything and everything of course, including woodburning, coloring (dyes,

paints, bleaches), inlay, texture, carving and shape modification. Use your imagination. The person doing the embellishment is responsible for removing the tenon on the piece and submitting the work in its final form.

Some guidelines:

1. Don't use highly figured wood for the turning. We want to feature the embellishment.
2. Use lighter colored woods if possible. The lighter colors give many more options for the type of embellishment that can be done.
3. Don't use green wood for the turnings. We need these to be done in a few months, not a year.
4. Keep the turning simple. Again, we want to feature the embellishment.
5. Don't turn the thinnest piece you can. Sometimes a little more bulk is useful, especially if the embellishment includes carving.
6. Again, keep the tenon or chucking point on the turning. The person doing the embellishment may need to hold the piece or do some further turning (e.g., put beads around a decorated area).
7. The embellishment doesn't have to cover the entire piece. Sometimes subtle highlights are the best.

To help out with this project, we have several videos in our library that cover platter or bowl turning for surface treatments. **Betty Hager** will have a special list of which videos cover which topics. At the October meeting we will have some awards and drawings for Craft Supplies gift certificates for all that participate.

There is one final point. By participating in this challenge, you are agreeing that the final pieces are donations to the club. Since this is a collaborative challenge it would be hard to assign ownership anyway. The top pieces will then be donated to the annual American YouthWorks auction at the end of the year. The other pieces we will use for other raffles.

Craig Timmerman

Business Meeting

We had 46 attendees at our June 17 meeting, including four visitors.

Craig Timmerman made a number of announcements.

He reminded us that our unfinished platter or bowl for the President's Challenge is due at the July meeting. There will be a drawing among all who participate for Craft Supplies gift certificates.

Craig told us that he had been contacted by someone from Collings Guitars about disposing of scraps. He brought sample that he had picked up either at nominal cost or for free out of their scrap bin. He will be arranging for a group visit to Collings soon.

E-mail

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

July First Saturday

Our July 5 First Saturday Shop Crawl will be held at **Len Brissette's** shop, 10901 Cade Circle in Austin (512.258.4004).

To get to Len's place, find your way to Anderson Mill Road, between US 183 and FM 620. Turn south off Anderson Mill onto Centennial Trail, then right on Sierra Blanc, then left on Cade Circle to the end. Note that Centennial Trail is a loop. These instructions are for the easternmost entry to Anderson Mill

A map is shown below and you can always call if you get lost.

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.

Photos

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.

2008 First Saturday Shop Crawl Schedule

August 2
September 6
October 4
November 5

Len Brissette
Bob Reading
To be announced
To be announced

We can always use volunteer hosts. 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.



2008 Demonstration Schedule

July 15	Marcia Tolly
August 19	Steve LeGrue
September 16	James Johnson
October 21	20th Anniversary Celebration
November 18	To be announced
January 20, 2009	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**.

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 15 - 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

August 2 - 9:00 AM to Noon
First Saturday - Lynn Brissette's shop

August 19 - 7:00 to 9:00 PM
CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

Sept 6 - 9:00 AM to Noon
First Saturday - Bob Reading's Shop

Oct 4 - 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

Oct 21 - 9:00 AM to Noon
First Saturday - To be announced

July First Saturday

Some 16 or 18 folks turned up at **Charlie Kay's** air conditioned shop in Buda on July 5. There were a number of visitors and new turners at this get together. **Jim Spano** spent time tutoring a young beginning turner, but one who has already sold some pens! **Charlie Kay** was conducting a hands-on session on bottle stoppers and **Clyde Little** and **Len Brissette** were trying to make spheres with a new sphere holding jig that Clyde got at the AAW Symposium. Eventually, **Bill Hammack** got around to turning a tiny top. **Drew Shelton** was out of town, so we had to settle for Krispy Kremes rather than Round Rock donuts, but no one seemed to mind. When all was said and done and the chips swept up, a half-dozen folks headed to Hyde Park Bar & Grill in Westgate for lunch. Another good Saturday session.



Volunteer Instructors

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
 Charlie Kay 512.295.2144
 (boxes & bottle stoppers)
 H. O. Evans 512.282.2830
 (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

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 \$45.00 per year for individuals and \$50.00 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:

Jim Spano
 11904 Glenda Court
 Austin, TX 78753
jimjoy@austin.rr.com
 512.835.5023

From the Editor's Desk

As I have gotten older, I have become much more keenly aware of obsolescence. My mother-in-law was born in 1900, and I used to think that perhaps her generation had seen more radical changes than any: the airplane, commercially viable automobiles, computers, radio, television, widely available electricity and telephones. Now I am not so sure. Maybe my generation is now the one to make that claim.

Think of the things that were common place not very many years ago are simply gone forever: typewriters, hardwired telephones, phonographs, television antennas on every roof, carbon paper, flash bulbs and adding machines. The list could go on and on.

I got to ruminating on this several weeks ago, when I finally decided that my life-long infatuation with silver chemistry photography was truly over. When we built this house, I incorporated a darkroom off my office. As with a woodshop, a dedicated darkroom had been a long-time dream, after years of working in cramped bathrooms and closets.

The first year and a half, I did a lot of work in that darkroom. Then I built my shop and we had a bad automobile accident. When I was able to do something again, I got started in the shop, building some furniture and doing some carving. Then I got hooked on woodturning and it was a long time until I got back to my old love, photography.

By then, the world had changed. Scanners and digital photo printers and photo management software had finally gotten good enough, in my opinion, to compete with good old silver chemistry. I found that I could scan my black and white negatives, tweak them a bit in Photoshop if necessary and print them with archival pigment based inks. All this in less than a tenth of the time it would take to make an equivalent silver print.

Still, I couldn't bring myself to get rid of my darkroom equipment. They were old friends, after all. Besides that, no one would give me anything for the stuff. Finally, I decided that I had to move it out. I listed everything on craigslist, including the darkroom sink, and eventually sold it all for ten cents on the dollar. It was painful to

see it go. However, the woman who bought it is a professional photographer who has clients for silver prints and who cannot find commercial printers, so at least the equipment has found a good home.

I'll miss it, though. It isn't that I want to go back to the lengthy drudgery of the wet lab, but a computer and the rest of the digital menagerie will never have the magic of a print coming up on the paper in the tray.

Selling the gear was only the beginning, of course. I then had to fabricate a top for the cabinet where the sink used to be and update the cabinet that had supported it. But that is a tale for another day.

Keep on turning,

Charlie

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**

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 512.295.2144 or via E-mail at ckay@austin.rr.com. Ads will be run for two months and then dropped.

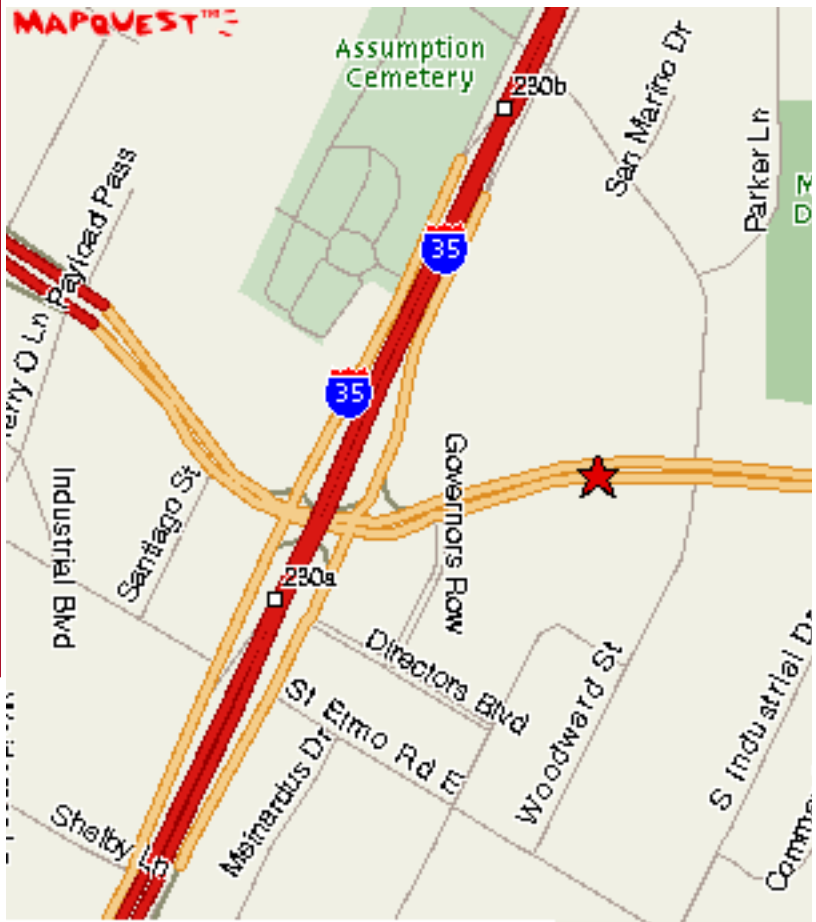
FOR SALE: AMT 4370 lathe that needs a new home. It is 12" x 36" on a 22" x 61" bench and has a 1/2 horse motor. Interested? Call Frank Lilly at 512.963.3096. Very reasonable.

FOR SALE: Three double bag dust collectors:
 1 - 3 HP with "Y" outlet
 2 - 1 HP

Contact Lynn Kramer
 at 512.398.6981 or
kramerlyn@sbcglobal.net

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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Charles Kay, Editor
100 Matzig Cove
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To: