

The Chip Pile

The Newsletter of the Central Texas Woodturners Association

Austin, Texas

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

CTWA Meetings

AUGUST MEETING

Tuesday, August 19, 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 September will be at 9:00 AM on September 6, at Bob Reading's shop, 476 Arbors Circle, Elgin

regional association of woodturners. We put on the second largest symposium in the world every fall. The symposium is three days of woodturning demonstrations. This year we have seven nationally known demonstrators and fourteen regional demonstrators. Almost all areas and all levels of woodturning will be covered in the demos. If you are looking to get some new ideas or jump start your turning, you need to attend. There will again be an instant gallery

at the symposium that will probably have over 1,000 turnings on display to inspire you. Don't forget to bring a few of your own turnings to put in the gallery. The trade show is a great place to see some of the latest tools and you might find a piece of wood for that special turning you wanted to do.

Johnny Tolly had a great idea related to the President's Challenge. He suggested that we display all our collaborations in the SWATurners Instant Gallery. We talked with Ken Terrell, who is organizing the gallery, and

he has agreed to display all of our bowls in one location. We will have a description of the challenge on display to explain the pieces. What this means is we need to have the collaborations done a few days early as the Symposium is the weekend before our October meeting. Also, if you are not going to the Symposium, you will need to get your piece to someone who is. I think this is great opportunity to show the other SWATurners clubs what we are doing in CTWA and to show off our work to a wider audience. I hope you all agree.

I am still in production mode in my shop. I haven't heard if I've been accepted in the Armadillo Christmas Bazaar yet, but I have to produce as if I am. I figure I have about 20% of the flying bowls I need and I still need to do a big run of boxes and vases, so there is no time for rest...

Craig

From the President's Shop

No Rest for the Weary

The last part of this year looks to be pretty busy. I have three club demonstration dates in the next three months. I'll be at the Woodturners of North Texas this month, then the Hill Country Turners in September and finally the Coastal Bend Turners in October. Add to that two gallery demos in September and November and my demo schedule is pretty much full.

October brings the SouthWest Association of Turners Symposium to Waco. I highly recommend attending the symposium. If you are new to the club you might be wondering

why we keep pushing the SWATurners Symposium. SWATurners is our

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July Demo

Our talented demonstrator for our July meeting was **Marcia Tolly**, showing us how she achieves her intricate pyrographic decorations on turned items.

Marcia began by showing us examples of her wide variety of work. She then discussed where she gets ideas for her designs, including design books and photographs.



She reviewed the tools and materials she uses in the process. In addition

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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
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Keeping Austin Turning Since 1988

to designs, she needs pencils or pens, some means of transferring the design to the blank and a woodburning power center and various woodburning tools



with different tips for different uses and different looks.

The process begins by choosing a design and transferring it to the blank,



using graphite paper. The actual process of pyrography requires the use of various woodburning tips. For purposes of her demonstration, Marcia chose a simple design and transferred it to a section of white colored wood using graphite paper. She then proceeded to



burn the design in the wood, explaining her choices and techniques as she proceeded.

Thanks to Marcia for a fine presentation. This was her first demonstration and it took awhile to talk her into doing it. However, I think we can all agree that she did a great job.

Thanks to Marcia, also, for donating a book on pyrography to the Raffle.

Bring Back

Jim Brinkman was the lucky winner of a birds eye maple platter turned by **Lynn Kramer** and **Dave Dick**. **John Knox** took home a mahogany box turned by **Craig Timmerman**. **Jane Miller** was the winner of a zircote platter brought by **Jimmy Tolly**. **Orlando Banos**



had the ticket for the pyrography book donated by **Marcia Tolly**. **Gene Stokes** won a Husky circle saw blade box donated by **Jack Besperka**.



As is the custom, each of the winners of the turned items will bring back a turned item to the next meeting. The Bring Back items should be repre-

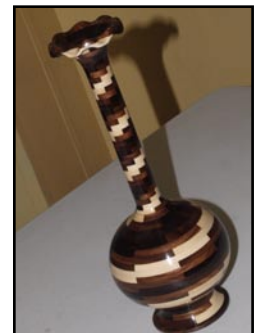


sentative of each person's best work. Gene and Orlando are off the hook.

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.

Show and Tell

H. O. Evans brought along a segmented flower vase of holly, walnut and wenge. It



consists of 53 layers with four pieces per layer.

Lynn Kramer showed off a pair of ball bearing rolling pins of laminated hard maple, yellowheart and chechen.



Len Brissette brought a threaded acorn box of walnut and sycamore, finished with Deft.



Doug Green showed off a box full of pens.



Ovis Vestal brought along his first segmented piece, a box of cherry and birds eye maple finished with tung oil.



Ed Roberts showed a redwood burl bowl finished with wipe-on polyurethane.



Clyde Little brought a mesquite sphere and the sphere chuck he used to turn it. He also brought a mes-

quite lidded box. For a real treat, Clyde brought the turned and carved



piece that he and his wife bought at the auction at the AAW Symposium in Richmond, VA.



Charlie Kay showed off a monkey pod bowl finished with Tru-Oil and Beall buffed as well as a pill box of crape myrtle and rosewood.



Curtis Turner brought along a one-legged stool of mesquite and some



chatter work and the improvised tool he used to produce it.



Frank Miller showed a "screwball" screw driver and a bullet pen in a stand.



Craig Timmerman brought along samples of the "Shopsmith boxes"



he turned at his brother's in Iowa, as described in his column in the July issue.

Dave Dick showed off a nice birds eye maple platter.



August Program

Our demonstrator for August is **Steve LeGrue**. Steve is the owner of The Cutting Edge woodworkers store in southwest Houston. He has demonstrated for us a number of times, and is one of the staunchest supporters of the annual SWATurners Symposium. You will get your chance to thank Steve by patronizing his booth at this years symposium in Waco.

Steve came to woodworking as a release from his career. For 16 years he was on the faculty of The University of Texas Health Sciences Center where he did cancer research and taught



Biochemistry & Immunology. He discovered woodturning in 1987 and has turned hundreds of objects and shown his work in galleries and fine art shows around Texas and the Southwest. He opened The Cutting Edge in November 1993 to serve turning and carving friends. In addition to selling tools, The Cutting Edge also holds evening classes in turning, carving, furniture and box making and cabinet making.

At our August meeting Steve will be discussing and demonstrating turning chisels, emphasizing the skew. He has been teaching this workshop recently and it should be of great benefit to all of our members. The workshop is designed for turners who have never used a skew chisel but will also be educational for our most experienced turners.

Register Now for SWAT 2008

By now, you should have received your brochure for the 2008 SWATurners Symposium in Waco, October 16 through 19. Included in that brochure is a registration form. Advance Registration, before September 15, is \$125 for an individual and \$60 for an accompany-

SWAT 2008

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ing spouse. Those prices go up to \$150 and \$75 after September 15, or at the door. This covers attendance at all sessions as well as lunches for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Tickets for the banquet on Saturday evening, are an additional \$25 per person. If



you don't want to cut up your brochure, you can either register on the SWATurners web site, www.swaturners.org, or print out a registration form there and mail it in.

For those of you new to woodturning, you may wonder what all of the fuss is about. This will be the 17th year of what has become the second largest annual woodturning symposium in the world. You will have an opportunity to see some of the most talented turners in the world demonstrate their techniques and be inspired by them. You will have an opportunity to visit a large number of vendors at the trade show and indulge your yen for a new tool or a nice piece of wood. Who can pass up that chance? You will see a wonderful instant gallery of works turned by your fellow turners from throughout the region. Turners of all levels are invited to bring along pieces to show in the Instant Gallery. Finally, you will get a chance to meet and visit with hundreds of woodturners who share your passion for the art and craft of turning wood.

More Information

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

Business Meeting

We had 51 attendees at our July 15 meeting, including two visitors.

Craig Timmerman made a number of announcements.

He first went through the rules he would use for swapping the bowls and platters that were to be exchanged for embellishment. He then went through how the rest of the process should work.

Craig then gave an

update on the upcoming SWATurners Symposium in October, encouraging folks to attend.

Finally, he gave us a report on his attendance at the AAW Symposium in Richmond, VA.

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.

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.

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

Sept 16 - 7:00 to 9:00 PM
CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

Oct 4 - 9:00 AM to Noon
First Saturday - Tim White's Shop

Oct 21 - 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

Nov 1 - 9:00 AM to Noon
First Saturday - Orlando Banos' shop

Nov 18 - 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

Part 2 - October

The challenge for October is to embellish the bowl or platter you were assigned in July. 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.

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 pieces will be shown at the SWATurners Symposium in Waco, then the top pieces will be donated to the annual American YouthWorks auction at the end of the year. The other pieces we will use for other raffles.

We had fifteen pieces submitted. The names of those who turned them and those who will be embellishing them are listed below

Craig Timmerman

Turner/Embellisher

- Mack Peterson/Craig Timmerman
- Clyde Little/Mack Peterson
- Curtis Turner/Ed Roberts
- Charlie Kay/Jimmy Tolly
- Johnny Tolly/Larry Walrath
- Gary Beers/Richard Porter
- Len Brissette/Clyde Little
- Jimmy Tolly/Curtis Turner
- Richard Porter/Dave Dick
- Craig Timmerman/Jack Besperka
- Marcia Tolly/Charlie Kay
- Jack Besperka/Len Brissette

Ed Roberts/Gary Beers
Dave Dick/Marcia Tolly
Larry Walrath/Johnny Tolly



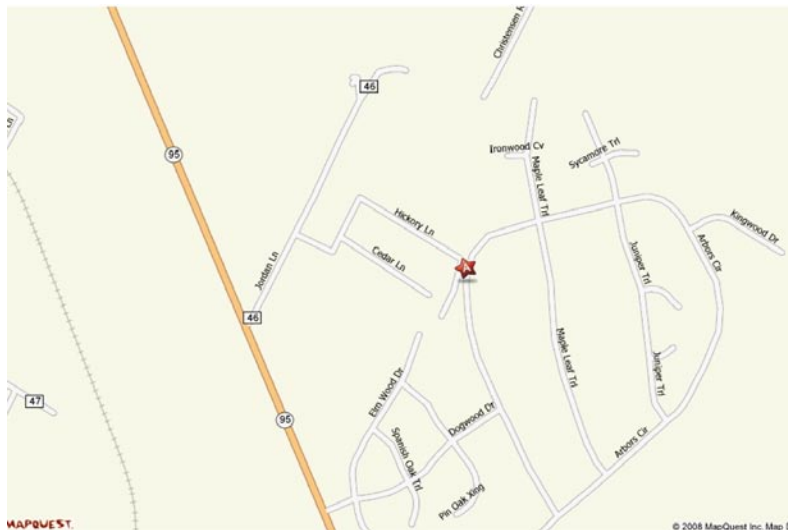
Thanks to all who are participating. We look forward to seeing the finished pieces at our October meeting!

July First Saturday

Our September 6 First Saturday Shop Crawl will be held at **Bob Reading's** shop, 476 Arbors Circle in Elgin (512.285.3168). Bob is one of our three new members from Elgin, so lets all plan to pay him a visit.

To get to Bob's place, find your way to Texas 95, south of Elgin, but north of Camp Swift. Turn east on Dogwood Drive and take that to the T-intersection with Arbors Circle. Take a left on Arbors Circle and look for the street number.

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



2008 Demonstration Schedule

August 19
September 16
October 21
November 18
December
January 20, 2009

Steve LeGrue
James Johnson
20th Anniversary Celebration
To be announced
No regular meeting
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**.

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

2008 First Saturday Shop Crawl Schedule

September 6
October 4
November 5
December 13
January 3, 2009
February 7

Bob Reading
Tim White
Orlando Banos
Clyde Little
To be announced
Jim Brinkman

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**.

Web Site

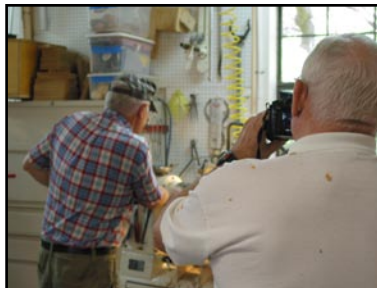
Check out the CTWA Web Site at www.CTWA.org. If you have comments, suggestions or something for the Gallery, get in touch with **Webmaster Larry Walrath** at larry@larrywalrath.com.

Photos

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

August First Saturday

Some 16 or 18 folks turned up at **Len Brissette's** air conditioned shop on August 2. **Charlie Kay** brought the only mini-lathe to go along with Len's Oneway, where he was demonstrating his threading jig. **Jim Spano** made some tops on the mini-lathe, then Charlie began working on a box. **Larry Walrath** provided the main excitement when he chucked a big piece of very wet wood on the Oneway and proceeded to cover the shop and everyone in it in long, curly, wet chips. Folks moved to the other side of the room to watch the show, before stepping in to clean up the mess. Six or eight of us drove to the local Cajun place for lunch when we were done.



From the Editor's Desk

All of us, I think, like to believe that we are largely in control of our own lives. I suppose it would be hard to maintain one's sense of self without that belief.

However, it seems to me that our lives are really guided by randomness. Start with the genes you were born with. You had no control over that, and neither did your parents, really. If you are a little handsomer, smarter or more athletic than others, it was a stroke of luck.

We do, perhaps, exercise some control by how we react to the randomness in our lives. But even there, we are more likely to take advantage of our looks, our intelligence or our athleticism if we were born to parents who were more affluent, better educated or in the right geographical location.

What got me to thinking about all of this was ruminating on how I came to this craft that we call wood turning. I never had a shop class in high school, although I was vaguely aware of a lathe and envious of the rough turned laminated bowls the woodshop boys turned out. Although my father was a carpenter, I had no real interest in woodworking. He took weekend jobs that I had to help with, but my tasks were always the dirty grunt work and learned very little about even basic carpentry.

We bought our first house in 1969 when our oldest son was one. As with most of the houses we have owned, it was a "fixer-upper." It needed the kitchen remodeled and more cabinets. It took all of the money we could rake and scrape to come up with the down payment, so if any remodeling was going to take place, I was going to have to do it.

My father had died when I was in college, so I had inherited a quarter-inch electric drill, a small Skilsaw and a few hand tools. We had rented a garage apartment for a few years from a couple a little older than we were, and our landlord was a cabinet maker. He had a pretty good woodshop in the back of the garage and I would go down and help him on projects from time to time. I had learned a little about woodworking and found it interesting. That gave me a little bit of confidence.

I hid myself down to the local Sears store and bought a "Sears Best" 10-inch Craftsman table saw and went to

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

work on those kitchen cabinets. There were no readily available "how-to" books like there are now, and it was a case of figuring it out as I went along. I made some mistakes and scared the **** out of myself when a short piece of 2 X 4 I was ripping got caught and sailed past my ear and through the sheetrock in the garage wall behind me. All in all, things turned out pretty well, however, and I was proud of what I had accomplished.

As my corporate career advanced, we were transferred a number of times, always to more expensive locales, and remodeling "fixer-uppers" became a way of life. In addition, there were bunk beds to be built to accommodate our growing sons and bookcases to accommodate my growing book habit. With each job, I got a new power tool or two and my skills began to grow. Pretty soon, I found I enjoyed working with wood.

When the boys were small, I bought a Dremel scroll saw and began making small toys for them and teaching them how to use the saw. Soon, I was trying my hand at making some furniture.

The next random event on this odyssey came when I was asked to teach the woodcarving merit badge at the summer camp the Boy Scout troop our sons belonged to was holding

in the Sierras. After a week helping boys hack out neckerchief slides with impossible Boy Scout knives, I had turned out a half-dozen slides of my own and found I had a talent for it. My wife wanted an hand mirror, so I made her one and carved a relief design on the back, and soon I was off on that track.

When I retired, I carved a bunch more mirrors; but by then, I had seen enough beautifully turned pieces at craft fairs and galleries that I decided that was what I wanted to try. Little did I know that would take over my woodworking life.

All because I couldn't afford to hire anyone to build me some kitchen cabinets.

Keep on turning,

Charlie

Membership in CTWA

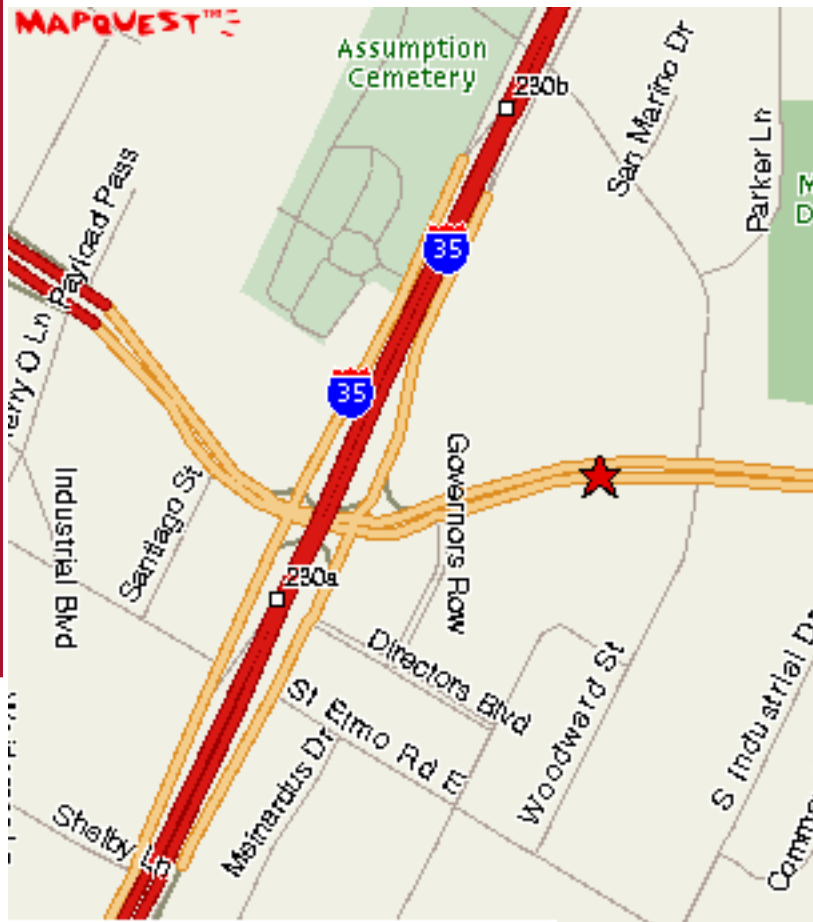
New members are welcome to join CTWA at any time. All you need is an interest in woodturning. CTWA membership also requires membership in the American Association of Woodturners (AAW). Local dues are \$25.00 per year, or \$2.10 per month, prorated for new members joining during the year. AAW dues are \$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

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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To: