



The Chip Pile

The Newsletter of the Central Texas Woodturners Association

Austin, Texas

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

CTWA Meetings

OCTOBER MEETING

Tuesday, October 21, 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 November will be at 9:00 AM on November 1, at Orlando Banos' shop, 11321 Oak Branch, Austin

Bryce Canyon was just amazing. When you stop at all the lookout points it is hard to believe you are just looking at different views of the same canyon. I did a couple of the trails there and it was great to see the canyon from the different perspectives. I highly recommend that you see Bryce if you never have been there. Zion National Park was also very awe-inspiring and they have several easy trails to explore. We decided to opt out of the trail that goes to the top where

the last narrow section has 1000 foot drop-offs on both sides and you have to hang on to a chain to make it! If you go to that area, don't miss Cedar Breaks National Monument. It is not as big as Bryce or Zion, but it also has some awesome views.

Now that we are back, it is time for me to move into full production mode. Right before we left on vacation I found out that I had been accepted into the Armadillo Christmas Bazaar. This is a big event, twelve straight days starting on December 12th.

Monthly Features

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That's right, it runs through Christmas Eve. I've finished a run of over 125 flying bowls and now need to move on to some other items including some new multi-axis pieces, a few of my Swing Series vases, and of course some small items. While doing all of that I also need to get applications ready for other upcoming art shows.

I hope you President's Challenge people are putting the final touches on your pieces. I enjoyed working on mine. This process has actually given me some ideas for some new pieces of my own. I look forward to seeing the pieces at SWAT and at our October meeting. I also look forward to hearing your comments about the Challenge. A few have already said that you would like to make this an annual event.

Well, time to get back to the shop.

See you at SWAT!

Craig

September Demo

As part of the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Central Texas Woodturners Association (CTWA), our guest demonstrator for August was **James Johnson**. James is presently a member of Hill Country Turners in Kerrville, and a renowned turner and inventor. More importantly for our purposes, James was a founding member, second President and the demonstrator at the first meeting of the CTWA.

At the request of President Craig Timmerman, three of the founding members of our club who are still active, **Joe Kirk**, **Bill Hammack** and **Gary Roberts**, introduced James by reminiscing about the early days. That included discussion of James' big towable lathe, which proved its rug-

Recharged, and in Full Production Mode

Sorry about missing last month's meeting. Tina and I took a week off to visit a few of our great National Parks. We went to the north rim of the Grand Canyon first and it is big and expansive. We stayed to see the sunset one evening. We weren't able to get lodging in the Park, and driving back to our hotel in the dark, we had a close encounter with a deer. Luckily I was able to slow down and almost missed him, just clipping him with the corner of the bumper, but it was still enough to crack the bumper of the

rental car.

The American Association of Woodturners is "Dedicated to Providing Education, Information and Organization to Those Interested in Woodturning." In keeping with the standards of our National Organization, the Central Texas Woodturners Association hereby gives permission for all other woodturning chapters, organizations, magazines and newspapers to use any materials contained herein for the benefit of all woodturners everywhere. We ask that credit be given for the source of the material.

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Editorial Information

This newsletter is by and for members. The Editor welcomes any written materials and will provide assistance with getting your information into publishable form if you want. **DEADLINE IS THE FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH.** Contact me with your ideas and drafts by phone at 512.295.2144, 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

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gedness by surviving a wreck near Bastrop. Also mentioned was his turning the big medallion for Paxton Hardwoods that hung in the Austin



store until it was sold and the many techniques and useful tools that he has invented and shared with others.



James has actively participated in the SWAT Symposium since its first meeting as Texas Turn or Two in Columbus



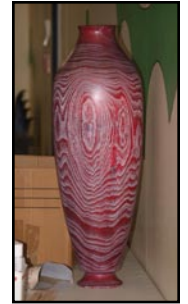
in 1992. He has demonstrated, formally or informally, at most if not all of those events.



James is in the process of building and installing cabinets in the new house he is building in Kerrville. Faced with the need for dozens of drawer and door pulls, he did what we would expect him to do. He is making his own. So, he chose to make that the subject of his demonstration.

In addition, James talked about many of the tools and techniques he has invented, including foam backed sanding disks and gave us a dissertation on the choices of foam and how to make the disks.

Thanks to James for his interesting and informative presentation and for sharing some of his remarkable turned pieces with us, as shown below.



Bring Back

This was a big month for the Bring Back Raffle, with six turned pieces and a couple of non-turned items. **Mack Peterson** was the lucky winner of a padauk travel mug turned by **James Patterson** and Beall buffed.



Clyde Little

took home a pregnant goblet of mesquite turned by **Bill Hammack**. **Charlie Kay** was the winner of a mesquite box with ambrosia maple lid brought by **Joe Kirk**. **Hal Sanders** had the ticket for the pen turned by **John Knox**. **Doug Green** won a lidded box of mesquite, purple heart and African blackwood turned by **Bob Duncan**. Finally, **John Knox** won a decorated vase turned by **Marcia Tolly**.



In addition, **Clyde Little** won a copy



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
Jim Spano brought along a pair of items, a chinaberry and ironwood hollow vessel and a multi-axis, spiralling hollow vessel, both finished with Master Gel and wax.

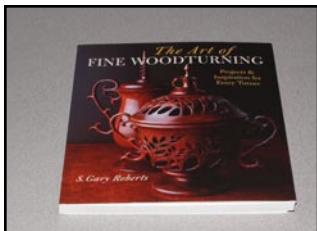


of **Gary Roberts'** latest book, *The Art of Fine Woodturning* (donated by Gary) and **Tim White** won a sandpaper file donated by **Doug Green**.

Lynn Kramer showed off a manzanita goblet and a natural-edge bois d'arc bowl.

Dave Dick brought along a bois d'arc natural-edge platter.

As is the custom, each of the winners



Bill Hammack showed a cane of ash, ebony and cocobolo, finished with tung oil.



of the turned items will bring back a turned item to the next meeting. The Bring Back items should be representative of each person's best work. The winners of the book and sandpaper file are off the hook.

Mack Peterson brought three pieces, a mesquite vase, a mesquite "flying bowl" and segmented vase of ebony, lacewood, mesquite and maple.

Doug Green brought a number of trivets with inlays cut with his laser.

Gary Roberts showed off a magnetic top an stand.

James Patterson showed off a travel mug of cedar and a drink mixer of mahogany and mesquite.

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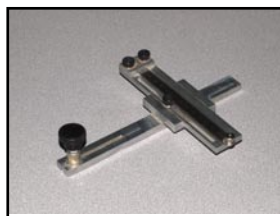
Bison wax, as well the trim router jig he used for cutting the flutes in the platter.



Kerrville visitor **Anna Rachinsky** brought along two nice items, a small five-cornered mesquite bowl finished with tung oil and a tiny finial box of spalted hackberry, ligustrum and African blackwood finished with lacquer.



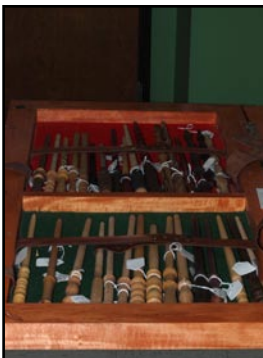
Johnny Tolly showed a "repeatable" saw stop he had machined out of aluminum.



Jimmy Tolly brought a platter he called Double Cut, finished with White



Doug Manney showed off a large display case of Harry Potter-style magic



wands, as well as some boxes and a candy dish.

Peter Hawkins brought along four items to show: a narrow-necked hollow vessel of spalted pecan, a tall



pecan vase, a mesquite hollow vessel and a spalted pecan vase. **Doug Green** showed a towel on which he had engraved the CTWA logo with



his laser.

Jimmy Tolly brought the President's Challenge mahogany platter turned by **Charlie Kay** that Jimmy had fluted with his fluting jig.



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**

October Program

There will be no regular demonstration at our October meeting. Instead, we are celebrating our 20th Anniversary as a club at this meeting. Family and friends are invited to attend. Please bring a dessert to the meeting along with your earliest turning that you still have. Bring your turning in a bag as we are going to have a contest to see who can match the right turner with their piece. We will have two Bring Back Raffle exhibits, one from Bill Hammack and one from David Dick. We will have similar guessing contests for those pieces.

There will be some slide presentations running on the monitors, including pictures from this year's AAW Symposium in Richmond, Virginia. If you participated in the President's Challenge, bring that turning as well and we will do our regular Instant Gallery. We also have several Craft Supplies certificates to give away. So come and join in the food and fun!

Craig Timmerman

Business Meeting

We had 52 attendees at our September 16 meeting, including five visitors.

President-Elect **Clyde Little** ran the meeting in **Craig Timmerman's** absence.

Steve Gottlieb brought us up to date on the SWATurners Symposium and encouraged us to register. **Frank Miller** then updated us on video plans for the Symposium.

Clyde reviewed plans for the October meeting, reminding us to bring our favorite dessert to share and the earliest of our turnings that we still have.

Clyde also called for volunteers to fill officer positions for 2009.

Mack Peterson reminded us of the segmented turners symposium described elsewhere in the newsletter.

Gary Roberts called for input from members about previous Texas Turn or Two and SWATurners Symposia for use in preparing an article for the AAW journal.

Christmas Party

It isn't too early to start planning for this year's CTWA Christmas Party. We will be going to Clyde and Pat Little's home on the shore of Lake Travis on Saturday, December 13. Spouses and families are encouraged to attend.

Folks will start to gather at 9:00. There will be turning in Clyde's shop until we break for lunch around noon. As usual, the club will provide the meat and the drinks. Members are expected to bring a covered dish to cover the rest of the courses. We will have a sign-up sheet at the November meeting, so that we don't wind up with all desserts or all broccoli.

When the meal is done, we will gather for our annual gift exchange, using whatever devious rules Betty Hager has devised for this year. Please note that the gifts are expected to be turnings. So bring a really nice piece and enter in the fun.

Mark your calendars now and plan to be there on December 13.

President's Challenge

Okay, kids, your time is up. If you haven't finished your embellishment of the turned piece you received for the second half of the President's Challenge, you'd better put this issue down and get out to the shop and finish it!

Remember that your finished collaborative piece will need to be displayed at the October meeting, after which it will be donated to American YouthWorks for their fall fund raising auction. However, you don't really have that much time, as we plan to display the collaborative pieces on a special CTWA table in the Instant Gallery at the SWATurners Symposium in Waco, October 17 through 19. If you are going to the Symposium (and we hope all of you are) bring the piece with you. Otherwise, get it to someone you know is going to take it for you.

We are all looking forward to seeing what the collaborators have done to embellish the turned pieces they have been assigned.

Now, get to work!

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.

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

December 13 - 9:00 AM to Noon
Christmas Party - Clyde & Pat Little

January 3 - 9:00 AM to Noon
First Saturday - TO BE ANNOUNCED

Jan 20 - 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

Feb 7 - 9:00 AM to Noon
First Saturday - Jim Brinkman's Shop

Feb 17 - 7:00 to 9:00 PM
CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

E-mail

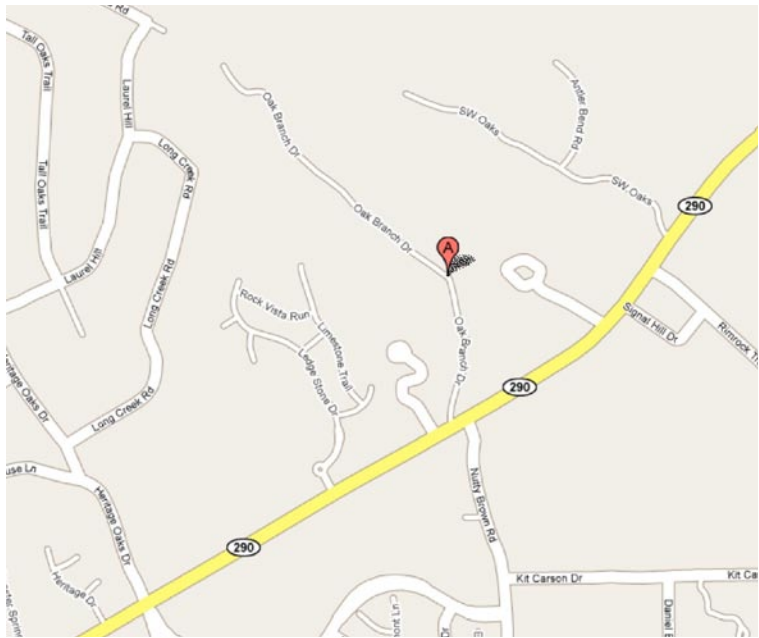
Our way of contacting you to let you know of something on short notice is by E-mail, thus keeping us advised of your current E-mail address is important so that we can get in touch with you. We need that address in two places. It is kept in the roster that gives you the names, addresses and phone numbers of your fellow members. To keep that list up to date, you need to let **Membership Chairman Jim Spano** know of any changes in your E-mail address. You can contact him at jimjoy@austin.rr.com. The second place we need that number is in the CTWA mass E-mailing list maintained by **Webmaster Larry Walrath**. This list lets anyone in the club who has subscribed to the list send an E-mail to all of the members. So if your address changes, you will need to re-subscribe to the mailing list. Either Larry or Jim can enlighten you on how to do that.

November First Saturday

Our November 1 First Saturday Shop Crawl will be held at **Orlando Banos'** shop, 11321 Oak Branch in Austin (512.773.1099).

To get to Orlando's place, take US 290 West several miles past the Y at Oak Hill. Oak Branch Drive is the first right, immediately after you pass the Nutty Brown Cafe on the left. Follow the gravel drive around the house to the large shop in the back, and be prepared to see some very big machines.

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



Segmented Symposium

AAW Board Member Malcolm Tibbets has advised us of a unique event scheduled for this fall, the very first symposium exclusively organized for "segmented" turners. The dates are November 14 -16 at the Marc Adams School in Indiana. All the details are posted on the event website: <http://www.segmentedwoodturners.org/>.

low. We want to use part of our dues to do that.

3 - A/V equipment. We have been discussing replacing our current monitors with larger displays. We need to start putting some money aside for this and we cannot do that at the current dues level.

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.

Dues Increase

As you all know costs for just about everything are going up these days and to help cover these costs, the CTWA Board has decided to increase our dues \$25 to \$35 per year. The increase will help with several things:

While the Board believes \$35 is a reasonable amount for a full year of dues, we do realize that it could be a burden for some. The Board will do its best to help anyone who feels they cannot afford this increase. Please see a Board member if this represents a hardship for you.

1 - Outside demonstrators from other local clubs. We need to offset their costs and gas prices continue to stay high.

2 - Bringing in a national turner in the spring. We would like to keep the daily rate for our national turner days

2009 Officers

CTWA is looking for a few good volunteers to serve as Officers for next year. The jobs are not complicated and do not require a lot of time. We have openings for members of all experience levels. If you would be willing to serve as an Officer for next year, or want to suggest a candidate, please see **Craig Timmerman** or **Clyde Little**.

Under our By-Laws, Clyde will automatically succeed to the Presidency. However, the other positions are all fair game. We will nominate Officers at our October meeting and elect them at our November meeting. A complete listing of all the offices is shown in the 2008 Officers box on page 2 of this newsletter.

2008 First Saturday Shop Crawl Schedule

November 5
December 13 (Christmas Party)
January 3, 2009
February 7
March 7
April 4

Orlando Banos
Clyde Little
To be announced
Jim Brinkman
To be announced
To be announced

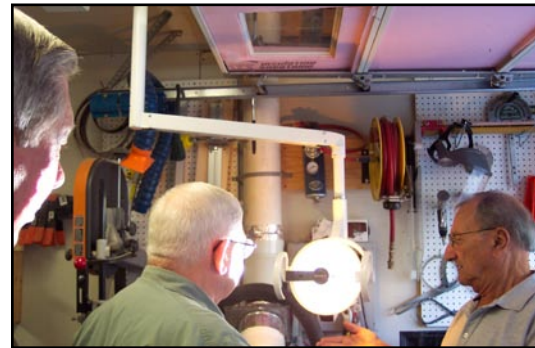
We can always use volunteer hosts. You don't have to have a fancy shop to host it, just a place for folks to congregate and drink coffee, eat donuts, and maybe for one or two to turn. To volunteer to host a First Saturday Shop Crawl, get in touch with **Len Brissette**.

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.

About 15 of us ventured to **Tim White's** shop in Buda for our October First Saturday. We were greeted by **Justin**, Tim's six year-old son, who was eager to show us his own workbench inside the shop as well as some of his own latest work. **Craig Timmerman** and **Drew Shelton** brought their mini-lathes. **Frank Miller** and **Drew** worked on some CD tops while **Craig** turned some lidded boxes. **Stacey Hager** demonstrated how to sharpen a point tool (which just happened to be a Stacey Hager point tool), then proceeded to demonstrate how to use one to cut beads on end grain as well as spindles. **Bill Hammack** made some of his trademark items that require a magnifying glass to see, and he gave them to Tim's family. When the morning's session was done, we headed off for Cajun food at what is becoming one of our favorite lunch spots, Evangeline Cafe.

Drew Shelton



20th Anniversary
Celebration

Our October meeting will be the second part of our 20th Anniversary celebration that started with James Johnson's demonstration in September.

Our October meeting will be a dessert night and we would like everyone to bring their favorite dessert to the meeting. The club will provide the drinks, cups, plates and utensils.

We also want you to bring your first or earliest turning to the meeting. Please bring it in a paper sack so that no one else can see what you brought. We will then put the turnings on display and have a contest to see who can identify who turned which pieces. I have also picked up several of Bill Hammack's and Dave Dick's Bring Back collections and we will run a similar contest with those pieces. There will be Craft Supplies gift certificates for first, second and third place for all contests. We will also display all of the President's Challenge collaborative pieces at the meeting.

Please, invite any past members you know to these next two meetings. Also, your spouse/significant other/family are welcome to join us as well. It should be a fun evening.

SWATurners
Symposium

The 17th Annual SWATurners Symposium will be getting underway on Friday, October 16 in Waco. Many CTWA members, however, will be heading to Waco on Thursday, to help get things set up for the Symposium.

If you have attended the Symposium before, then you know what a treat is in store for you. If you haven't, it is just a short drive up I-35 to Waco. There you will see three days of demonstrations by outstand-



ing turners, including many world famous names. There will also be a huge Instant Gallery, filled by the works of your fellow turners, as well as a big trade show. The trade show will feature many of the vendors that you know only from their web sites or

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catalogs, and will give you a chance to see and handle the "toys" that you really need. Included among the wares will be Oneway, Stubby, Robust and Powermatic lathes. These lathes will also be used by the demonstrators in the various demonstrator rooms, giving you a chance to see them in action.

If you haven't already done so, it is too late to register early. However, you can register at the door. For those of you reluctant to dip your toe in the water, or who don't want to pay the hotel bills in Waco, single day registration is available at the door as well.

You can get additional information on the Symposium at the web site, www.swaturners.org.

If you are a new turner, attending this event is one of the best things you can do to kick-start your new hobby. You will come away inspired by the demonstrations, the items in the Instant Gallery and the enthusiasm of your fellow woodturners.

Remember, this is the second largest woodturning symposium in the world.

We look forward to seeing you in Waco on October 17.

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:

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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)

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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

I'm sorry that I missed the October First Saturday. After all of these years, there is finally a First Saturday within three miles of my house and I have a conflict.

Instead, I was engaged at the Buda Fine Arts Festival under the big tent in the park in downtown Buda. The event kicked off on Friday night with a dinner catered by Paul Peterson, formerly the chef at Little Texas Bistro in Buda and presently the chef at the restaurant at the Gage Hotel in Marathon. Good food, a little wine and enough sales that evening to pay the booth rent.

We had good crowds through on both Saturday and Sunday and I ended up doing pretty well at the show. In common with the other vendors I talked to, however, I sold only a few items for more than \$50. Folks seem to be hanging onto their money in these scary economic times. Once again, my trusty bottle stoppers accounted for almost half of my sales.

I had spent a pretty intensive week or so getting items ready for the show, and anticipated doing that up through Thursday. That plan got knocked askew on Tuesday, however. I put the cap back on my pickup so I could use it to haul stuff to the show. The cap had been sitting under a big live oak tree since January and it was filthy. So, I pulled the truck around to the driveway to wash it.

Then I did something really dumb. To reach the top of the cap, I stacked the two heavy duty milk crates I keep in the back of the truck and climbed atop them to wash the top of the cap. Big mistake. In an instant, I had dropped my two hundred pounds on my left elbow on the concrete, while also whacking my left wrist and hand on something. After lying there a couple of minutes, I was finally able to get up. By then, my hand was already close to twice its normal size. I finished the wash job (avoiding the crates) and came inside.

I iced the wrist and the elbow. It was too late to go to the doctor and I decided not to fight the crowds in the emergency room. By the next morning, however, things were hurting enough and swollen enough that I decided to go to the doctor anyway. After a bunch of x-rays, they assured me that nothing was broken. You surely couldn't have proven that by

how it felt. The more I think about it, the more I realize how lucky I am not to have done some serious damage.

Why is it that we do things like that? We are cautioned about climbing on improvised ladders from the time we are kids, but we all do it from time to time, tempting the fates.

So it is with shop safety as well. We know better than to turn without a face shield and dust protection, but most of us do it occasionally anyway. It usually takes an accident to make us wake up and pay attention to the risks of what we are doing. If we are lucky, no catastrophic injury is involved and we resolve to pay attention and not do something that risky again. That is, until complacency sets in and we do something stupid again.

So, while this didn't involve safety in the shop (at least not directly), the moral remains the same. It is always a good idea to stop and think when that little voice in the back of your head says, "You might want to think about the wisdom of what you are about to do." Is the inconvenience or the two minutes you will lose doing things the right way worth what might occur if things go wrong?

Now, don't tell anyone, but I need to finish this issue and get back out to the shop and finish embellishing the beautiful birds-eye maple bowl that Marcia Tolly turned. It is such a nice job and such a pretty piece of wood that I really hesitate to do anything to it. However, I had an inspiration almost immediately that I hope will enhance the piece and please Marcia.

Stay safe!

Keep on turning,

Charlie Kay

2008 Demonstration Schedule

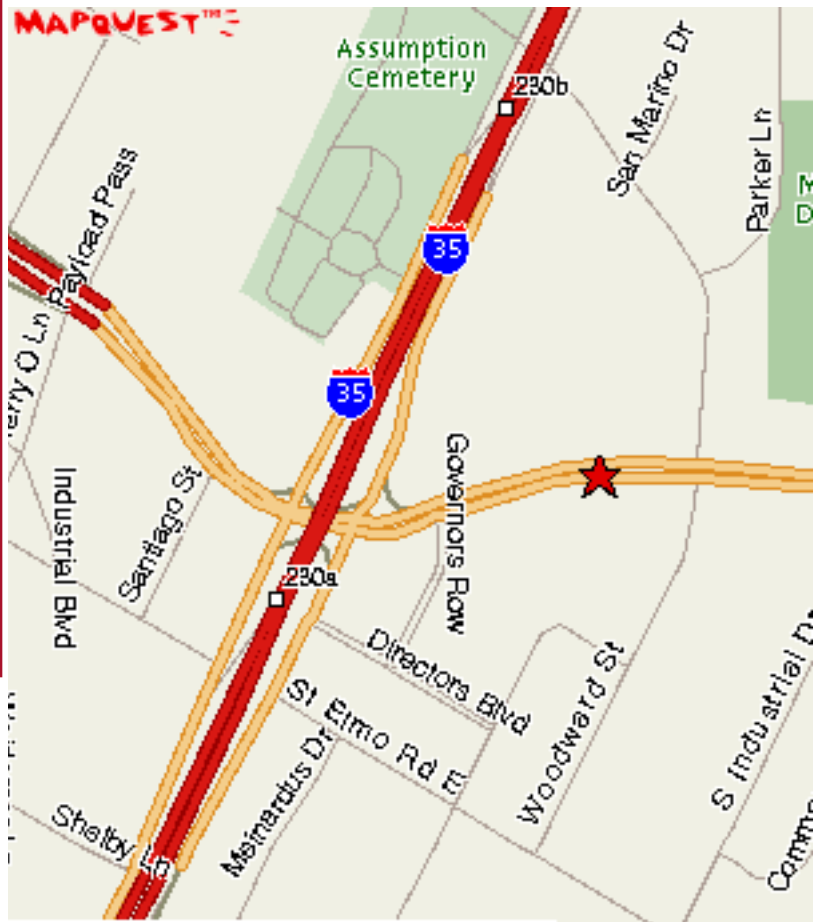
September 16
October 21
November 18
December
January 20, 2009
February 17

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



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A chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

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