



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 18, 2009

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

(Note Date Change !!!)

The First Saturday Turnout for September will be at 9:00 AM on September 12, at Clyde Little's Shop, 14307 Geronimo, Volente

From the President's Shop

Collaboration Time Again

It is time for us to start planning our contribution for the American YouthWorks fund raising auction this fall. We have decided that last year's collaborative effort approach resulted in some very nice pieces and enough pieces to show our appreciation for YouthWorks providing us with meeting space.

For this year's effort, I propose that we approach the collaborative works in more than one way. That way, you can choose the approach that you are most comfortable with. If you

have someone you would like to work with on a collaborative piece then team up with that person and sign up together. If you don't have a specific partnership in mind, the "over the wall" collaborative approach we used last year will be available as well. Those of you that sign up for that approach will turn pieces and bring

them to the meeting and they will be assigned to someone else to decorate. In addition, to bowls and platters, we will be including bowls, platters, vases or goblets and lidded boxes or lidded bowls. This should provide more diverse pieces for the auction and increase interest and, perhaps, increase the income they receive.

A sign-up sheet will be provided at the August meeting so that we know in what way each of you plans to participate. At that meeting, we will also discuss what will be expected of the first person in the collaboration to leave the piece in a form so that the second person will be able to work on it. We had some excellent pieces last year and hope to do even better this year. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please call or E-mail me before the meeting so that I can include them in our discussion there. For a look at last year's pieces, go to the web site and check the August 2008 issue of the newsletter for the turned pieces and the November 2009 issue for the finished, decorated pieces.

As you all know, **Charlie Kay** has submitted his resignation as Editor of the newsletter. I am sure that we all agree that we cannot offer enough "thank yous" to Charlie for the dedication and quality that he has brought to the newsletter. His talent will certainly be missed. I understand that ten years is a long time to carry out that job. It had to be a labor of love to have done it so well for so long. THANKS, CHARLIE, FROM ALL OF US.

Now we need to select some person

or persons to take over the production of the newsletter. We have had one volunteer but I thought we should see if there are others who would like to work on the newsletter before we announce the new Editor. Please call or E-mail me if you have an interest. Because of the many tasks that go into the newsletter, a team effort might be in order.

Clyde

July Demo

Our meeting demonstrator for July was **Mark St. Leger**. Mark did yeoman duty for us that week. He did a full day of demonstrations on the previous Saturday, two days of hands-on classes for beginners on Sunday and Monday and came directly from the first day of the intermediate hands-on class to this Tuesday evening demonstra-

tion.



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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.

2009 Officers

President

Clyde Little
512.413.6931
clyde2044@yahoo.com

President Elect

Gene Stokes
512.288.3598
gstokes1@austin.rr.com

Program Chairman

Tim White
512.312.2572
twhite601@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

David Wolter
512.250.1912
dlwolter@swbell.net

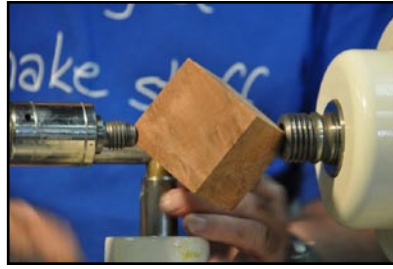
CTWA Web Site
www.ctwa.org

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

Mark chose to make one of his Rock-a-Bye boxes for us. He starts with a perfect cube and centers it between the Morse taper in the headstock and



the cup of the live center with the point removed, carefully adjusting the position until the turning corners of the cube are perfectly aligned.

The top, or tailstock end of the blank is turned to a concave shape, leaving a stub in the center. He then turns



his attention to the bottom of the box, turning it into a spherical shape, but leaving about 1/4" of the corners unturned, before turning a tenon on the bottom.

The piece is then chucked and the top is turned concave with a shallower curve than the bottom, taking care to



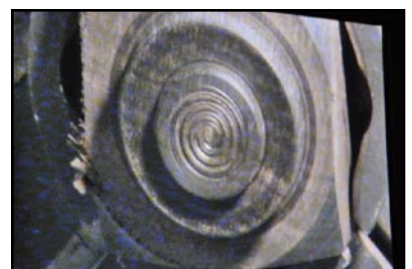
get a smooth curve and to stop the turning precisely as the curve of the top and the curve of the bottom meet at the points of the corners.

He then drills a 5/8" hole in the top and hollows out the inside of the box. Using a jam chuck with a stub that



snugly fits in the hole and that has its face turned to a convex curve that fits the concave top. The piece is jammed on and held in place by a golf ball fitted to the live center and the spherical shape of the bottom is completed.

Mark next turns his attention to the lid of the box. He chucks the square blank and turns the inside of the lid, decorating it after turning a tenon



that will fit loosely in the lid. The lid is parted off and chucked in a collet

chuck that he has prepared by making a hole in the chuck sized to fit the lid tenon. Tightening the scroll chuck



jaws on the wooden collet chuck holds the lid snugly while it is finished and a hole is drilled to fit a finial.

He turns the finial on a wooden multi-axis jam chuck of his own devising. It has a hole in the center and two tenons on the bottom. An off-center



tenon is turned first, then an on-center tenon is turned on the bottom half of the first tenon. The end of the finial stock is turned round to fit precisely in the hole in the jam chuck. He turns the off-center section of the finial first, then turns the base of the finial and the tenon to fit the hole in the lid, then parts it off.

The finial is fitted to the lid and the box is ready to rock. That is when you find out why the lid is fit loosely. As the box rocks, you can hear (or at least some of us can) a faint tick-tock as the lid slides back and forth.

Thanks, Mark, for a great demonstration.

Speaking of thank yous, how about we thank **Drew Shelton** for these outstanding photographs.



and how he made it, but in the confusion, didn't get the chance. If Jane brings the piece back to the August meeting, we will give him a chance to explain it all to us.

Meanwhile, the IOU situation on Bring Backs has outgrown my ability to keep up with it. I have IOUs from May that I know who belong to and will bring them to the August meeting. I think there is still one IOU due from May, and I know there are IOUs due from both June and July; I just don't know who they are. If you have an IOU due, you know who you are.

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 yet have a lathe or don't feel that 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.

Bring Back

Doyle Young was the lucky winner of a pair of bottle stoppers, one of cherry with two captured rings and the other of



redheart with a jasper inlay, both in a display piece of holly, turned by **Hal Sanders**. **Hilda Carpenter** took home soft tip live centers turned by **Frank Miller**. **Jane Miller** held



the lucky ticket for a multi-tool pen and knife turned from bocote by our youngest member, **Travis White**, and



finished with friction polish. Travis had looked forward to explaining his piece

Show and Tell

Bob Elfant brought along an open-segmented lidded bowl of walnut, poplar and maple.



H. O. Evans brought an **unsegmented** footed finial box of ambrosia maple and rosewood.



The talented **Peter Hawkins** showed three beautiful pieces, a maple burl bowl with natural edge wings, a fluted

Keeping Austin Turning Since 1988

bowl of mesquite and tall vase of mesquite with voids. All three were finished with salad bowl finish and Beall buffed.



Bob Elfant brought along an open-segmented lidded bowl of walnut, poplar and maple.



James Norton showed off a goblet of cocobolo and mystery wood finished with friction polish.



Doyle Young brought along a home-made garden rake with a turned cedar handle, finished with Wipe-On Poly, and recycled parts.



Hilda Carpenter has been busy. She brought five items: a maple safe drive center turned in the Mark St. Leger class, a birch panel and maple vase turned and airbrushed in a class with Binh Pho and a pierced and airbrushed square bowl of birch.



Dave Dick showed a bunch of tool handles turned off cedar elm, maple and pear and finished with lacquer and a set of table legs.



Jim Spano has also been busy, bringing six items: a pair of vacuum chucks for turning torus vases; two torus vases, one of pecan and one of walnut and two triangular vases, both of mesquite.



Frank Miller brought along another puzzle, this one of walnut and mesquite, a soft-tip live center and a St. Leger hollowing tool.



interest, I am sure that Len will be willing to give you more advice. Here you see him coring bowls at the First Saturday in his shop in July.

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-mail 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. To be sure that you are on that list and that your E-mail address is current, go to the web site, CTWA.org, and click on Links, then go to the bottom and click on get on the CTWA Mail List.

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.com.

Business Meeting

There were 53 people at our July 21 meeting, including five visitors. **President Clyde Little** conducted the business meeting.

Other than a couple of brief announcements, no business was conducted at this meeting and we proceeded directly to Mark St. Leger's demonstration to give him as much time as possible to squeeze it into the more limited time frame than he is accustomed to for the box he was making.

August Program

Turning Big Bowls

Our demonstrator for August will be **Len Brissette**. Len will be giving a brief introduction to bowl turning and to coring multiple bowl blanks. If you have watched coring before, you will understand that it would take much more time than we have available at a meeting to do a complete demonstration of this technique. If this piques your

Volunteer Instructors

SOUTH

- Bill Hammack** 512.282.0832
(tops, tiny turnings)
- Stacey Hager** 512.282.1036
(basics, spindles, sharpening, hollow vessels)
- Johnny Tolly** 512.858.4471
(basics, open segmented)
- Jimmy Tolly** 512.894.0686
(basics, platters)
- Craig Timmerman** 512.288.3598
(basics, square turning, hollow vessels)
- Charlie Kay** 512.295.2144
(boxes & bottle stoppers)
- H. O. Evans** 512.282.2830
(segmented turnings)
- Jack Besperka** 512.261.4682
(decoration & finishing)

NORTH

- Rusty Myers** 512.218.1606
(basics, boxes, kitchen ware)
- Frank Miller** 512.335.4768
(basics, spindles, skew, tops)
- Judy Williams** 512.836.7897
(spindles)
- Jim Spano** 512.835.5023
(novelty items, tops, shop gadgets)
- Len Brissette** 512.258.4004
(bowls, platters, sharpening)

ROUND ROCK

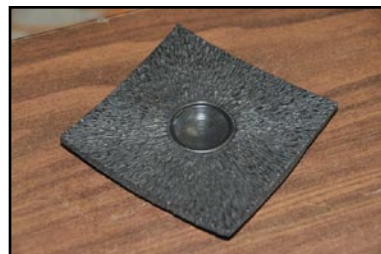
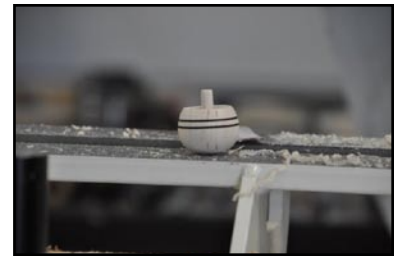
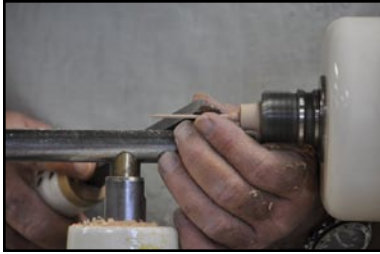
- Larry Walrath** 512.255.5379
(big vessels, bowls and platters)
- Ed Roberts** 512.255.3294
(basics, platters)

LOCKHART/SAN MARCOS

- David Dick** 512.357.6517
(basics, spindles, architectural)

St. Leger Demos

Following are random images from **Mark St. Leger's** Saturday, July 18 demonstrations.



Thanks to Mark for a stimulating and inspiring day of demonstrations and to **Drew Shelton** for photos.

St. Leger Hands-On

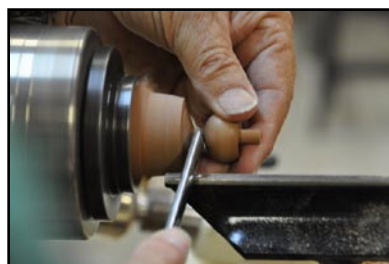
Mark St. Leger conducted hands-on classes for beginning turners on July 19 and 20 and for intermediate turners on July 21 and 22. Following are photos for the intermediate class. No one offered photos of the beginning class, but I am sure that it was just as useful.



Thanks to **Mark** for the classes and thanks to **Drew Shelton** for the photos and special thanks to **Clyde** and **Pat Little** for hosting the classes.

August First Saturday

First Saturday for August turned into a series of farces worthy of a Marx Brothers film. President **Clyde Little** volunteered his shop and we noticed it in the newsletter. Then **Pat** reminded him that wouldn't work, as they had a family reunion scheduled for that weekend. **Charlie Kay** volunteered to substitute and we announced that at the meeting. However, a last minute unexpected death in his family required him to be out of town that weekend. **Frank Miller** stepped into the breach and invited those who weren't totally confused to his place. It looks like they had a lot of fun, and **Kimberley Shelton** looks like she livened up the place. I presume that proud papa **Drew** provided the requisite Round Rock donuts so that no one missed their carbohydrate fix.



Although it may not be considered responsible to say so these days, one of my favorite cultural artifacts is the simple, brown, Kraft paper grocery bag. Despite its humble function, I like it for its absolutely elegant design. It is made of some of the cheapest possible paper, it is cut as a single piece and folded and glued into such a shape that it can be shipped and stored flat. It is then unfolded and used to pack groceries very efficiently as it is really a thin-walled box. Once that box is filled, it is quite stable. That means your groceries don't roll all over the car. When you get it home, you can reuse it many times so long as you don't put something wet or dirty in it. It has been

around for many decades unchanged, which testifies to the elegance of its design.

I got to thinking about the grocery bag again by a circuitous route. As I continue to sort my library into the "must keep" and the "it can go" piles, I find myself picking up and rereading books I read years ago. The two most recent are **Pencil** by Henry Petroski and **The Gate** by John van der Zee. As I was finishing the latter, it dawned on me why I like both these books so much despite the utterly disparate subject matter. The common thread is that they both deal with elegant, economical design, albeit in slightly different ways.

Pencil is a history of the development of the simple lead pencil from its earliest days in craft shops (actually, cabinetmakers) to the giant industrial operations that came into being in the twentieth century. Although it has been refined since the earliest models were assembled in the sixteenth century, the basic design has remained unchanged, once again testifying to the elegance of design of the originals.

The Gate, on the other hand, deals with two aspects of design as it describes the designing and building of the Golden Gate Bridge in the depths of the Great Depression. The bridge is, of course, an excellent study of elegant and efficient engineering design, making it as strong as necessary, but with no wasted motion or materials. But it is also a study in adding beauty to an object without compromising its strength or functionality or significantly increasing the cost.

Prior to the Golden Gate, suspen-

sion bridges were solely in the design province of the engineer. That is absolutely necessary if you want the bridge to continue standing. Many of them were elegant in visual design as well as functional design (consider the Brooklyn Bridge) but a number are really painful to look at. What was done differently on the Golden Gate Bridge was to bring in a painter/architect to work with the engineers so as to not compromise the strength or economy of the construction, but to come up with a visually stunning design that was harmonious with its setting. They succeeded admirably. It will still take your breath away to see it in person.

Further musings on design lead me to contemplate the kinds of objects that appeal to me and that I would have collections of if I had lots of money. I like beautifully engineered automobile engines. I like beautiful cars as well, but I want the engine to be mechanically interesting and rev like a sewing machine. I like fountain pens (the real ones), pocket knives and mechanical watches. All of those represent elegant design, functionality of the highest order mixed with enough visual design to make them interesting.

That is, I think, what contributes to the mystique that surrounds Apple products. The iPod and the iPhone are electronic marvels, but they are dressed in beautiful clothes and the interface with the user is as good as it gets. Similarly, the way the designed the new MacBook with its single piece all aluminum case is a superb example of elegant design. It makes me want one for that reason alone although it offers no functional advantage over the MacBook I am currently using. That kind of reaction is what good design should bring about.

I am not sure what any of this has to do with woodturning, except that I think elegance of design is what makes a good turning as well. At any

rate, that is my story and I'm sticking with it.

I could drift on and on in this train of thought, but you would soon tire of it. I also must put an end to it if I am to get this proofread and off to Larry and the printer so you will see a copy before the meeting.

Keep on turning,

Charlie Kay

Change of Date for First Saturday

Our August First Saturday event will actually be held on Saturday, August 1 at 9:00 AM at **Clyde Little's** shop, 14307 Geronimo, Volente (512.413.6931).

This time he really means it. The hitch this time is that First Saturday will actually be on the second Saturday, September 12, due to conflict with the Labor Day weekend.

To get to Clyde's place, turn north off FM 620 onto Bullick Hollow Road (Bullick Hollow Road would be the extension of FM 2222 if it continued across FM 620) and follow it to RR 2769. Turn left onto RR 2769 and follow it to Geronimo off to the left. Clyde's house is on the left, and there is plenty of parking.

2009 First Saturday Shop Crawl Schedule

September 5
October 3
November 7
December 12
January 2, 2010

Clyde Little
Tom White
Joe Evans (tentative)
Christmas Party
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**.

Membership in CTWA

New members are welcome to join CTWA at any time. All you need is an interest in woodturning. Dues are \$35.00 per year, or \$3.00 per month, prorated for new members joining during the year. AAW dues are \$45.00 per year for individuals and \$50.00 for families. CTWA also strongly encourages all of our members to join the American Association of Woodturners (AAW). For that, you get a first class quarterly magazine, **American Woodturner**, with excellent articles on woodturning and woodturners, amply illustrated with color photographs. For more information, go to www.woodturner.org.

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

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

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.

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

Sept 5 - 9:00 AM to Noon
First Saturday - Clyde Little's Shop

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

October 3 - 9:00 AM to Noon
First Saturday - Tim White's Shop

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

Nov 7 - 9:00 AM to Noon
First Saturday - Joe Evans' Shop (tentative)

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

Dec 12 - 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Christmas Party - location to be announced

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: E-Z UP 10' x 10' tent/canopy complete with four sides, awning and carrying case. Tent and sides are white in color and are in excellent condition. Carrying case has a tear in it by the handle. This is the basic E-Z UP that is sold at Sam's Club. \$150 or best offer. Will throw in four small PVC pipe weights for free. Contact Craig Timmerman 512.773.9976 or armadilloww@gmail.com.

FOR SALE: Jet Model JTAS-10 3HP 10" cabinet saw, table extension, HTC fold-down run-out table, Excaliber overhead guard and dust duct, Biesemeyer anti-kickback & splitter, Incra Miter2000 miter gauge, mobile base, 8" Freud dado set and crosscut sled. Current new price for this set-up on Amazon is \$3,400. Will sell the complete set-up for \$1,650.

Delta Model DC33 13" 2HP heavy cast iron planer, extra blade set, roller infeed and outfeed tables, mobile base. \$300.

Atlas Model 6001 6" jointer, new 1HP Baldor motor, mobile base. \$125.

Contact Charlie Kay at 512.295.2144 or ckay@austin.rr.com.

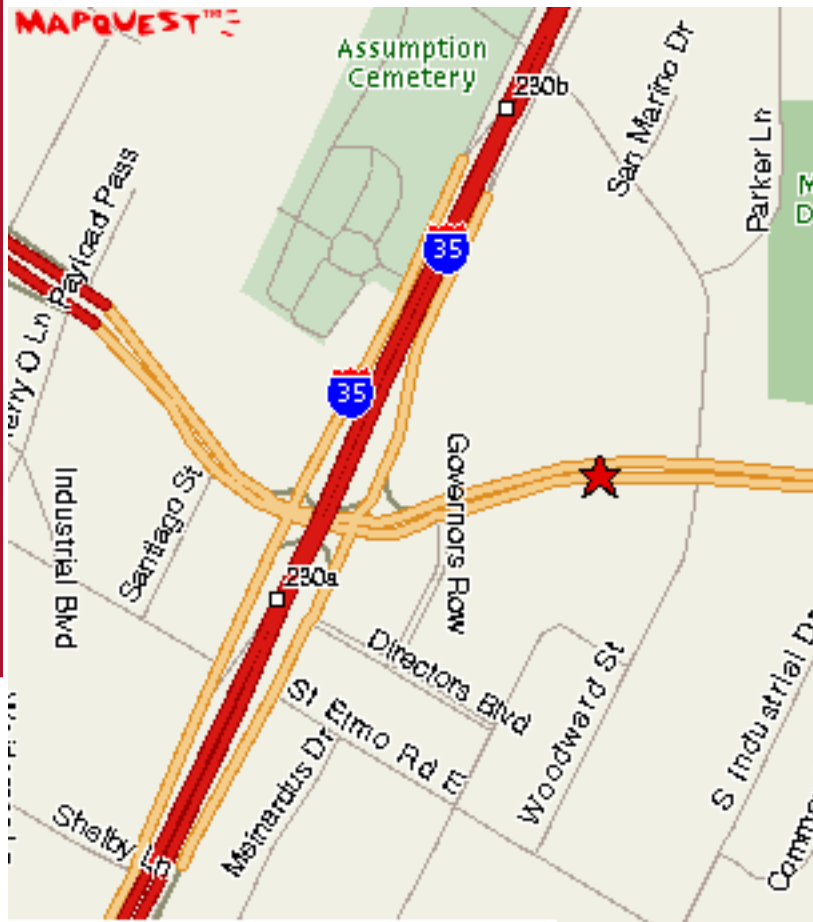
2009 Demonstration Schedule

August 18	Len Brissette
September 21	To be announced
October 20	To be announced
November 17	To be announced
December	No regular meeting - Christmas Party

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 Tim White**.

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

Charles Kay, Editor
100 Matzig Cove
Buda, TX 78610-3108

To: