



# 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 20, 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

The First Saturday Turnout for November will be at 9:00 AM on November 7, tentatively at Joe Evans' Shop, 5807 Trailridge Circle, Austin

From the President's Shop

## Just a Reminder

By the time you see this, many of you will already be off to Wichita Falls for this year's SouthWest Association of Turners (SWAT) Symposium. I hope to see you there. We should have some reports on that weekend at our October meeting.

As we discussed at the last meeting, it is time for us to get our donated pieces together for the November 12 Help Clifford Help Kids fund raising auction to support American YouthWorks. If you picked up a piece at the last meeting, please don't forget to bring it to the October meeting. The same applies to those of you who collaborated by agreement, outside the exchange system. If you didn't get things together to collaborate on a piece for the auction, please feel free to bring a nice piece for the auction anyway. Remember, this is one of the ways that we

replay American YouthWorks for allowing us to use their space for our meetings.

As we reminded you last month, it is time for our annual elections. The drill is for us to nominate folks for the various offices in October and vote on them in November. We are still looking for volunteers to run for President Elect and for Membership Chairman. If you are interested in serving, let me, Gene Stokes or one of the other officers know and we will put your name in the hat.

Don't forget to bring your collaborative pieces to the October meeting!

Clyde  
September Demo

Our demonstrator for our September meeting was CTWA founding member **James Johnson**, now with the Hill Country Turners in Kerrville. James showed us how to make "pods" or "squirts." As James was CTWA's second President, he



was introduced by our first President, **Gary Roberts**.



James began by placing between centers a blank made up of two identical pieces screwed together on the ends. Leaving an inch or so of waste on each end where the screws are, he turns the blank round in the center and tapered toward each end.



James then sands the blank before removing it from the lathe and unscrews the two pieces of the blank and then reassembles them with the

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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

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clyde2044@yahoo.com

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512.250.1912  
dlwolter@swbell.net

### CTWA Web Site

[www.ctwa.org](http://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](mailto: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



turned sections facing each other. The new outside is then turned, the piece removed from the lathe and the shaping of the ends using a bandsaw and a grinder.



The two finished pods are sanded smooth and decorated as desired, using pyrography, paint, carving, etc. The result is an interesting object that you want to pick up and play with. Looks like a fun project.



Thanks James, for another great demonstration.

## Bring Back

**Joe Kirk** was the lucky winner of a zebrawood bowl with undercut rim turned by **Dave Wolter** and finished with tung oil. **Steve Green** took home a walnut bowl turned by **Jim Spano** and finished with friction polish. **Drew Shelton** held the lucky ticket for a cherry bowl, turned by **Steve Green** and burned pierced and airbrushed by **Hilda Carpenter** and finished

with lacquer. **David Kastner** was the lucky winner of a small fluted mesquite bowl turned by **Peter Hawkins** and finished with salad bowl finish and Beall buffed. Finally, **Hilda Carpenter** took home a box elder bowl turned by **Bill Hammack** and finished with Deft and wax.



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 experi-

ence, 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

**Mack Peterson** brought four pieces, a segmented hollow form of oak, yellowheart, purpleheart and padauk; a segmented vase of yellowheart and padauk; a segmented bowl of Spanish cedar, maple and padauk and a segmented bowl of bloodwood, yellowheart and padauk.



**Steve Green** brought a square cherry platter, carved and painted and finished with lacquer.



**Joe Kirk** showed a pair of fan pulls of redheart and silver maple, finished with beeswax.



**Peter Hawkins** brought along three pieces, a plain bowl of pecan, a large fluted bowl (48 flutes) of mesquite and a magnificent hollow form turned from a mesquite burl with multiple voids. All were finished with salad bowl and Beall buffed.



**Johnny Tolly** showed off a pair of garden tools and an ice cream scoop with handles turned from mesquite and finished with tung oil and wax.



New turner **Hilda Carpenter** brought along a practice spindle of cedar, representing her first attempts with a spindle gouge.



Visitor **Anna Rachinsky**, from Hill Country Turners, brought earrings and pendants made from mesquite, walnuts, and hickory nuts and finished with wipe-on poly and tung oil. Anna is to be our demonstrator in January.



Finally, **Charlie Kay** showed off a pair of lidded bowls, one of sycamore with a walnut lid and the other of ambrosia maple with a walnut lid and a palm nut finial. Both were finished with Waterlox and Beall buffed.



Business Meeting

There were 56 people at our September 15 meeting, including two visitors. **President Clyde Little** conducted the business meeting.

In our brief business meeting, Clyde called for volunteers to man the CTWA demonstration room at the SWATurners Symposium. A camera operator and a host/helper are needed for each demonstration session. A sign-up sheet was passed.

Clyde will prepare a final schedule and get it to all of the volunteers.

Clyde also made a plea for volunteers to be nominated for President Elect and Membership Chairman for 2010. Anyone who can serve in one of those positions should contact either Clyde or **President Elect Gene Stokes**.

Finally, Clyde reminded us of the need for our collaborative pieces to donate to the American YouthWorks fund raising auction. Those completed pieces should be brought to the October meeting.

October Program

### Multiple Choice

**Jim Keller** will be presenting an array of topics on Multi-Axis Turning at our October meeting. Jim Keller started turning in 1991 and joined the Gulf Coast Woodturners Association and the AAW in the summer or 1991. He has created sculptural work that has been shown in galleries for the past 15 years. After a 42 year engineering career, he is now a full time studio artist out of his



Foxfire Studios in Richmond, Texas.

His topics for this demonstration will include:

- Multi-axis turning using an angled face plate**
- Getting started in multi-axis turning**

## Keeping Austin Turning Since 1988

- A critique of turned Objects**
- Visualizing form within the log**
- A review of deep hollowing bars over the last 15 years**



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](mailto: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.

Photos

Photographs for this month's **Chip Pile** were provided by **Drew Shelton**, **Frank Miller** 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](mailto:ckay@austin.rr.com).

Web Site

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

## 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)

November First Saturday

Our November 7 First Saturday Shop Crawl is tentatively scheduled to be held at **Joe Evans'** shop, 5807 Trailridge Circle in Austin (512.453.2081).

To get to Joe's place, go west on FM 2222 off MoPac to the second right on Trailridge Circle and look for the number.

To be sure that the event will actually be at Joe's, you should keep an eye on your E-mail as the date gets closer. Len Brissette will get out an E-mail blast, either confirming this location or advising us of an

alternative location.

Collaborative Challenge

There were several pieces brought to the September meeting to swap for the Collaborative Challenge. If you picked one of those up, you need to bring the completed piece to the October meeting. In addition, I am hoping that others of you have paired up to do collaborative pieces and will bring them along as well. It is important that we have a significant number of nice pieces to contribute to the American YouthWorks fund raising auction.



If you haven't participated in a collaborative piece, I would encourage you to contribute a nice piece of your own for the auction.

Clyde Little

2010 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. We are always looking for new folks to serve in these positions, so that the same folks don't burn out on the job. If you would be willing to serve as an Officer for next year, or want to suggest a candidate,

please see **Clyde Little** or **Gene Stokes**.

Under our By-Laws, Gene 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. It is expected that the Board, serving *ex officio* as a nominating committee will propose a slate of officers. However, nominations from the floor are in order. Just make sure that you have talked to anyone that you plan to nominate to confirm that they are willing to serve if elected.

Wood Hunters

Size Matters

The Tolly boys have never been known to back away from a big challenge and this one was no exception. Somehow it doesn't look like this blank will fit on Jimmy's Oneway 2436. Jimmy and Johnny stand by their find to give you a sense of how big a find it is. This certainly qualifies as a jumbo blank. Congratulations, guys.



September First Saturday

First Saturday for September brought twenty or more people to **Clyde Little's** shop on a gray, dreary day, although Clyde was out of town. **Frank Miller, Jim Spano** and **Ed Roberts** were all conducting tutoring sessions and **Kimberly Shelton** was busy turning a pen. Most of the rest were standing around drinking coffee and swapping lies. When the morning session was done, twelve or so folks headed to the Boathouse for catfish. While we were there the skies opened up. Most of the tables were at least partially wet from leaks in the patio roof and soon the water was flowing over the "floor," which really is a sort-of roofed section of the parking lot. At that point, we were mostly through eating and waded to our cars in the sorely needed torrential rain. The catfish was good, though.



Photographs by Drew Shelton and Charlie Kay

October First Saturday

First Saturday for October found a large group gathering at **Tim White's** shop in Buda. Tim was working with son **Travis** on a pen. **Bill Hammack** turned a top and colored it and then began teaching spindle turning to one of the new turners. Most of the us were trying to conquer the spiraling tool on end grain with **Len Brissette** being the lead instructor. The effort was very instructive and many of guys tried it. **Clyde Little** brought along a past member of the club and fellow worker of his at IBM, who was visiting from New Mexico. He had brought along some aspen to trade for mesquite. After the turning session eight of us went to Evangeline Cafe on Brodie Lane for some fine Cajun cuisine.

Jim Spano



Photographs by Frank Miller

## Thoughts on Rain and Human Nature

I spent the first weekend of October at the Buda Fine Arts Festival. Yes, I had a successful show, thank you.

We have been fortunate to receive all of the rain we have gotten in the last month and a half. It is at least making a dent in the drought. It did make for an interesting weekend, however. On Friday, the grounds were too wet to unload at the big white tent, so I had to cart everything about a block before I could set up shop. Then on Saturday, it was threaten-

ing all morning, before the bottom dropped out of the sky and eventually the northern end of the tent began to flood.

All of the booths on the west side had at least some water in them and the northern-most booths had about a foot of water. The northeast corner, which the band was evacuating as quickly as it could, had about 18 inches of water before it began to go down. That was after someone noted the foot high berm of sand and the hay bales they had put in place on Friday. There was a big puddle on the north end of the tent, and they were apparently concerned that if we got a big rain, water would somehow flow uphill and flood the caterers space and the band space. When the berm was breached and the hay bales removed, the water drained off. Surprise! But, not before all but four booths (including mine) had at least some water in them.

Despite the deluge, the customers kept coming and despite a disastrous Friday evening, I had a really good Saturday. The weather was better on Sunday. At least it didn't rain much, but it was warm and muggy. We are never satisfied I guess. Sunday's business was pretty good as well, and I got a couple of new wholesale customers as a result of this show.

Despite the occasional trials and tribulations of outdoor shows, I really enjoy craft fairs. It is always interesting talking to and observing the people. I get lots of questions, particularly about the woods. Wood is a medium that everyone feels that they can relate to, I think, as opposed to painting or pottery or jewelry, for instance, which people seem to feel require a

little more specialized understanding. You can always get a conversation going when they pick up a Chinaberry piece or a hackberry piece. Folks are always astounded that anything useful can ever come from what they regard as trash trees.

I am also interested in the differences in the way men and women react to things. There are no absolute differences, of course, but after ten years of doing this, I have observed certain trends.

As a rule, men will walk right up, start picking pieces up and asking questions, while women will frequently look with arms crossed until you invite them to pick stuff up. Then the questions begin. One of the most noticeable differences I have noted is the way people react to boxes. Men generally comment favorably if the box lid fits snugly, as they hold it sideways to take the lid off. Women, on the other hand, are more likely to be pleased that the lid comes off easily as they hold the box upright to open it.

I have noticed that women are far more likely to be attracted to the lighter colored woods and men to the darker colored woods. One of the strangest things I have noted is the words used to describe the smoothness of the wood. I get frequent comments on how smooth the wood is, and smooth is always the word used by men. While women sometimes use smooth to describe the surface, they very frequently use the word soft instead. I first encountered that usage about eight or nine years ago. My oldest granddaughter, then about eight, liked to come to the shop and ask if she could help. What she really wanted to do was sand something. So I would give her a piece of some sort, an assortment of grits and let her get to work. Each time she was ready to move to a finer grit, she would bring it to me, rubbing the surface with her hand and asking, "Is this soft enough,

Grandpa?"

We humans are mysterious creatures, and I think we have only begun to understand the ways that we think and the ways that we are the same and yet different. Nurture is important, but nature still seems to have a lot to do with who we are and how we think.

Now, I'd best finish this and get it off to Larry to post on the web site, then get out to the shop and get ten mesquite stoppers with Ranger star inlays ready for my new customer. I need to get that done before I head to SWAT on Thursday morning.

See you in Wichita Falls.

Keep on turning,

Charlie Kay

### First Saturday Shop Crawl Schedule

**November 7**  
**December 12**  
**January 2, 2010**  
**February 6**  
**March 6**

**Joe Evans (tentative)**  
**Christmas Party**  
**to be announced**  
**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**.



## 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](http://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](mailto: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.

**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*

**Jan 2, 2010 - 9:00 AM to Noon**  
*First Saturday - to be announced*

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

**Feb 6 - 9:00 AM to Noon**  
*First Saturday - to be announced*

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

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:armadilloww@gmail.com).

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

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

Contact Charlie Kay at 512.295.2144 or [ckay@austin.rr.com](mailto:ckay@austin.rr.com).

## Demonstration Schedule

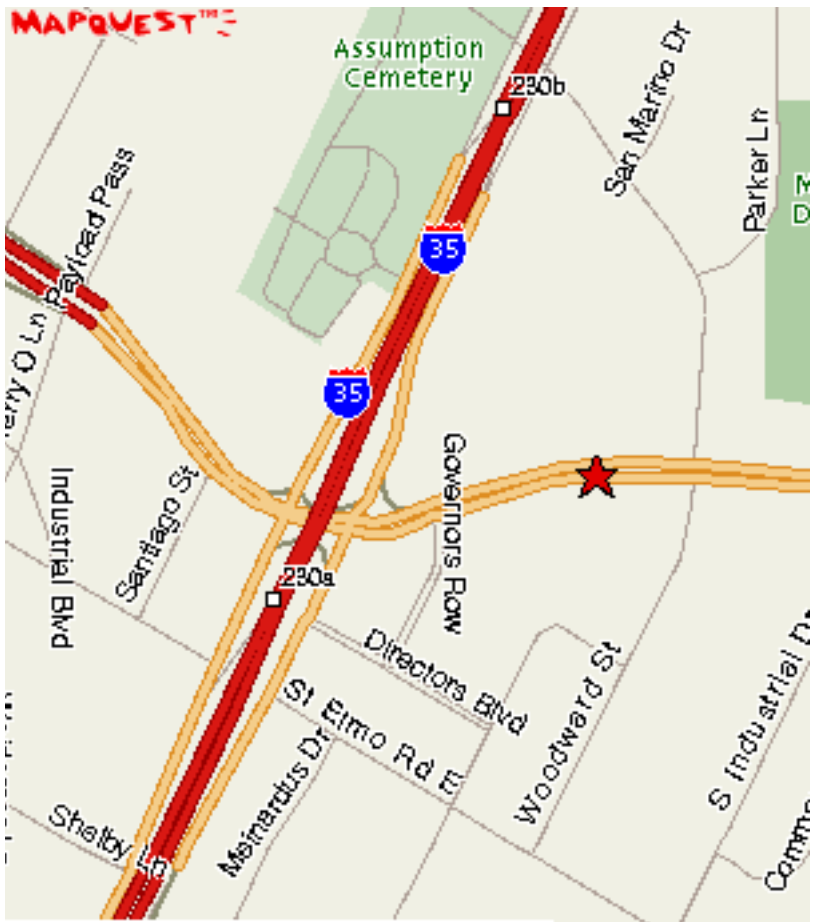
September 15  
October 20  
November 17  
December  
January 19

James Johnson  
Jim Keller  
To be announced  
No regular meeting - Christmas Party  
Anna Rachinsky (tentative)

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**

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A chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

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To: