

# The Chip Pile

The Newsletter of the Central Texas Woodturners Association

Austin, Texas

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

## CTWA Meetings

### January Meeting

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

7:00 - 9:00 PM American Youth Works

1901 E. SH 71, Austin, TX

1/4 mi. east of I-35 on south side of SH 71

### 1st Saturday Turnout

The 1st Saturday Turnout for February will be at 9:00 am on February 6th at TBD

## From the President's Shop

Happy New Year everyone! I hope your holiday season was as exciting as mine. It was a grand and glorious season for me as I participated in various church activities, enjoyed visiting with my children and grandchildren, ate and ate and ate and ate! I even had the opportunity to attend a college football bowl game in San Antonio. One of the highlights of the season was our own Christmas party that was hosted by **Clyde and Pat Little**. The party was a wonderful way to begin the holiday season. Now with the season behind me I am

getting ready to turn my attention to Central Texas Woodturners and woodturning in general.

Unlike many of you my interest in woodturning did not begin until I

retired in 2003. My good friend **Ed Roberts** introduced me to the practice and I have been turning ever since. After joining CTWA I immediately realized that my skills at the lathe would never be equal to most of the turners in our club. Nonetheless, I have developed a certain passion for making chips. I have also learned to appreciate the skills that many of you are so willing to share with others. I am

continuously amazed at the skill level and the artistic ability that good woodturners possess. In summary woodturning is great fun for me, and I am looking forward to presiding as your president during 2010.

To be perfectly honest, I am feeling a little overwhelmed with the responsibilities that have been placed on my shoulders. At the same time, I am also equally excited about your willingness to choose me as your president. I will be leaning on the shoulders of many of you during this year. It was only with the knowledge that so many members of this club are so supportive that I accepted a position that I know so little about. Hopefully the leadership skills that I developed during my career in public school administration can carry forward into this rewarding past time.

Here are a few of the plans I have in store for our club during 2010:

- Our lead demonstrator this year will be **Trent Bosch**. He is an

excellent turner and nationally recognized as one of the best demonstrators/teachers in the world of wood turning. He will be with us in late April. His schedule will be finalized before our February meeting and we will then begin accepting your reservations for his hands-on classes.

- I want to call for at least **three president's challenges**. The first one is scheduled for the February meeting so you need to begin planning for the challenge. I am calling it the **"Going Batty Club."** You can find more detailed information about this challenge elsewhere in this newsletter.

con't PRESIDENT'S SHOP p. 4

## Monthly Features

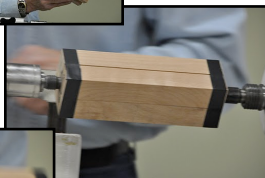
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The American Association of Woodturners is "Dedicated to Providing Education, Information and Organization to Those Interested in Woodturning." In keeping with the standards of our National Organization, the Central Texas Woodturners Association hereby 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.



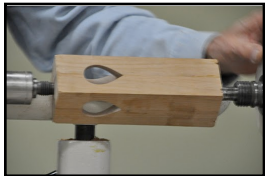
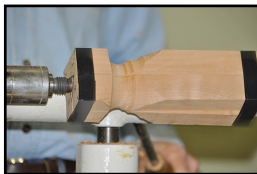
November Demonstrator: *STACY HAGER*

Just in time for Christmas, **Stacy Hager**, demonstrated how to turn an inside-out-ornament. Thanks to **Drew Shelton** for being **Santa's** helper and taking these



workshop pictures!

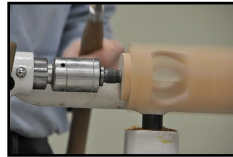
To begin, Stacy takes four pieces of wood, marks them, then, binds them together. Mounting them on the lathe, he begins turn the end of the bird house. Then, Stacy reverses the boards by turning it 180 degrees, bringing the cut side to the inside of the boards. These are glued together for the final piece.



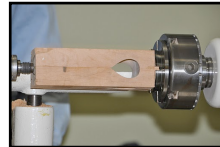
The four boards are now square again and ready to be rounded off. No, Stacy isn't saying, "Now throw it

out!" He's just expressing himself!!

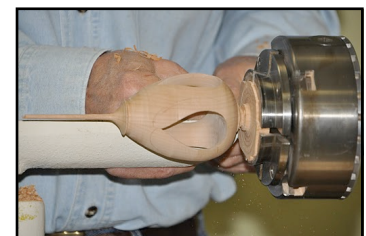
It was a great demo!



Here, Stacy begins to turn down the outside of the ornament by starting a tenon for the headstock. Now the ornament is located on the headstock chuck ready for turning to completion. Be sure to remember to leave a space for the ornament hook for hanging! The curve of the



ornament is best when following the taper of the holes. Leave room for your design on the icicle. *Speed* is our friend! Go Stacy!! Look at that icicle! Voila the completed product!!



January Demonstrator: *Anna Rachinsky*

At the end of SWAT 2009, I watched as the three lead demonstrators agree they liked Anna Rachinsky's unique flaming, spalted box elder creation. This month, Anna will be turning local thick-walled nuts (little walnuts or nogalitos, black walnuts or hickory nuts) and pretty scrap pieces of wood for created turned jewelry that features the beautiful cross sections through the center of these nuts. I know our club will learn a lot from her travels from Kerrville to teach us her style!



An Example of Anna's work from her website [www.artisansatrockyhill.com](http://www.artisansatrockyhill.com)



Anna was born and raised in Munich, Germany. As a high school student, she loved to spend time in the school's pottery studio and in Munich's art museums and considered a career as a potter or goldsmith. But when the decision came to go to college, her interest in science won over her interest in art. After working for over 20 years as a research scientist and college biology teacher in Germany, France, Canada and the US, she started to turn wood after moving to Kerrville in 2006. One of her colleagues, an accomplished wood turner, took her to a meeting of the Hill Country Turners ... and that was the beginning of an addiction to woodturning and many 'scientific discoveries. In her words, "You never know exactly what's inside a piece of wood until it is rough turned or hollowed."

She likes to work with local woods: mesquite, ligustrum, cedar elm, juniper, jujube, acacia, mountain laurel and escarpment cherry. 'Imperfections' like spalting, burls or insect holes contribute to the character and beauty of a piece and often determine its final shape. One of her favorite woods is spalted box elder with its delicate color patterns in vivid red, orange, gray and black. She likes to experiment with different shapes and styles. Most of her pieces are small, from tiny miniatures to 6 inches in diameter.

**PRESIDENTS CHALLENGE:  
GOING BATTY CLUB !!!**

This is your chance to practice your spindle turning skills. Your challenge is to turn a baseball bat and you can get extra credit if you turn a ball to go with your bat. Any size bat is acceptable. A miniature bat from your mini lathe is perfectly ok. Notice that in keeping with the title of the challenge you also have the option of turning a caveman's

club, nightstick, or just about anything that will pass as a club or cane.

Bring your finished product to the regular meeting on **February 16**. This challenge is strictly for fun. There will be no categories to enter or prizes to win. Just let your creative juices flow.



President's Shop  
(Con't from p 1)

- We will continue to hold monthly shop crawls on the first Saturday of each month. We are always seeking someone who is willing to host one of these meetings. The requirements are minimal. Just about any shop is adequate as long as it will accommodate two or three mini-lathes and several boisterous craftsmen. First Saturday's have become an integral part of our clubs regular activities and they present excellent opportunities to see and practice what fellow club members are doing at the lathe.
- The AAW International symposium will be June 18-20 in Hartford, Connecticut. SWAT is scheduled August 27-29 in Waco. You will want to remember both of these meetings. I hope that our club will continue to support these two symposiums with the same enthusiasm you have shown in the past.
- Finally, if you have not paid your CTWA dues for 2010 please plan to bring your \$35 to the January meeting.

November Member's Gallery



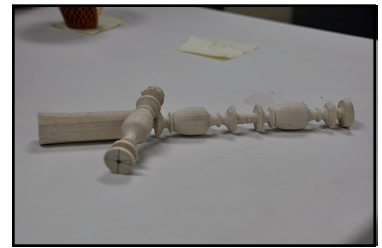
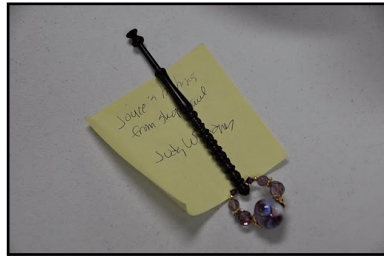
Gene



My sincere apologies to the entrants for not identifying your names, the wood and finishes. Since the tags were not collected by press-time, they are not in this issue. I'll do my best to ensure it doesn't happen again. Great work by all wood artists!!



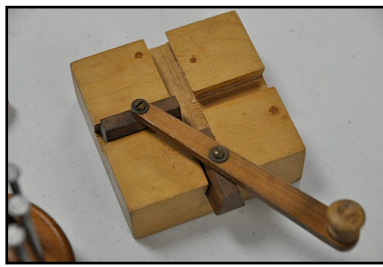
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2009 Toys! Gallery

Thanks to all you SANTA'S HELPERS!! There are some great toys and ornaments this year!  
Some of these are sure to be heirlooms.





November INSTANT!! Gallery

This month's instant gallery included guest winners Mary Lorenz who won Peter Hawkins' natural edge mesquite



bowl.  
Our new member, Steven Vange won this winged



bowl by Craig Timmerman. By the way did any of you see his booth at Armadillo Bazaar? Great booth, Craig!

James Pattison won this lidded box by Jim Brinkman.



Thank you Plaque

Thanks to the club for the beautiful inscribed natural edge mesquite platter you gave me for my service as newsletter editor. I was told that many hands participated in turning and finishing the piece. **Ed Roberts** provided the wood and **Doug Green** laser engraved the inscription. It was accompanied by a classic **Gary Roberts** platter stand. So special thanks to to these folks

and to all of the rest of you who participated in preparing this beautiful piece. It will have a special place on my office wall.

Thanks again to all of you as well for your encouragement and positive comments over the years. It has been my special privilege to produce those newsletters.

Charlie



Charlie Kay accepting his plaque from Clyde Little at the 2009 CTWA Christmas Party.



Plaque with spindle-stand, mesquite, turquoise inlay, laser engraving.



*Christmas Party by Charlie Kay*

On December 12, some 50 or 60 people gathered at **Pat and Clyde Little's** home on (what used to be) Lake Travis for the annual CTWA Christmas Party. The morning turning, telling lies and snacking on the Round Rock donuts that **Drew Shelton** provides, regardless of the goodies to follow. **Jim Spano** had his mini-lathe set up turning various inventive Span-items, including an innovative top. **Frank Miller** had his mini-lathe set up as well, and Spano sub-contracted some work to him before Frank started on his own items. **Mack Peterson** had his lathe set up as well and was turning bowls. Drew brought along both of his daughters this time, both **Kimberly**, whom we already knew, and older sister **Jennifer** whom we didn't know before. Numerous folks tried their hand at turning something before we were called upstairs about 11:30 for the real celebration.

There were all sorts of wonderful pot luck dishes to go with the turkey and ham and the Little's had plenty of seats and table for everyone, thanks to the back up supply from **Betty** and **Stacey Hager**.

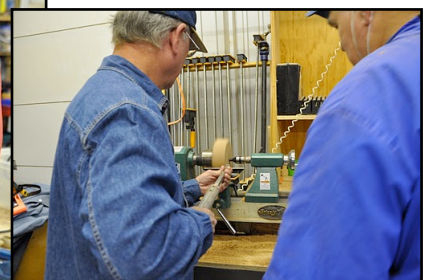
Then it was time for all the wonderful desserts.

After the dinner, Clyde presented **Charlie Kay** with an inscribed natural edge platter in thanks for his service as the Newsletter for the last ten years. Finally, the highlight of the day (although some would argue that the desserts fulfilled that role), the gift exchange. **Betty Miller** explained the rules and the fun began. As usual, there were many wonderful turning and much stealing of pieces. Eventually, all of the participants went home with a nice piece for their collection.

Thanks to Pat and Clyde for again hosting this event. It is a big chore to get everything cleaned up and ready before the event, and then cleaning up again when it is done.



Of course what's a Christmas party without turning?



## Editor's "Turn"

I attempted my first bowl turning last month. I was so excited to use tools Steve bought for me at SWAT as an early Christmas present. He was ready for me to have my own tools after I'd dropped one of his on the floor (oops). I rounded the piece just fine with the new roughing gouge, lookin' good, lookin' round! I'd drawn out the shape of the piece with the dimensions on a piece of grid paper, just like Steve had shown me. "*Now wasn't that a cool idea?*" I thought to myself. I took my very fat pencil and ruler and placed the marks for the cuts on the piece where the curves would go. I thought, "*I feel like I'm in kindergarten using this fat pencil—but how do they keep this pencil so still?*" I was determined to look cool. Unfortunately my pencil mark was a little crooked, until I remembered to turn on the lathe, oh yeah. Then, my pencil mark looked cool, too. Oh YEAH!! I'm workin' it, I'm workin' it!! I yelled. Steve ignores me when I talk to myself. It's a good thing in our marriage, because I do it a lot.

Now, the turning begins . . . now how did Len do that? . . . follow the bevel . . . Wohoo, It worked!! I seemingly masterfully followed to my mark lines. Little by little my wood chipped away toward my shape. I stopped the lathe. Why won't my face guard stay on straight? This is maddening. And what are those little ripples? Steve comes over to see my work. "Nice . . . your shape is great and matches your drawing, now you just need to get the highs and lows out."

By the time I got the highs and lows out, my piece was 1/3 the size of the original and no where near the shape of the original drawing. And there were still highs and lows, what's that about? So . . . I'd purchased a skew . . .

I am quite sure the bowl was there . . . but the next second it was gone and I was holding the skew, the lathe was turning, my face guard was

still crooked as usual (I must have a small head) . . . and there was a very loud noise above me. My very little bowl was gone.

Beginnings are about trying. I will try another bowl. I MIGHT try using a skew again . . . maybe not!! But I am most pleased about beginning with CTWA. I am honored to serve as the secretary/ editor . . . and in no way can replace Charles' experienced hands. Moreover, I will do another bowl, and I will make mistakes. I will make mistakes as our editor . . . hopefully not as poorly as a skew!

## AAW News

### AAW 2010 Exhibition "Maple Medley: An Acer Showcase"

All AAW members are invited and encouraged to enter this upcoming major exhibition. The deadline for entries is February 8, 2010, so there is still time to create. We are looking for entries that have creativity, imagination, appealing form and workmanship. Entries must also be lathe-turned and crafted from the many species of the Acer tree family (commonly known as maple). [Click here](#) for an easy online application. For detailed information, [click on this link](#) to view the fall 2009 American Woodturner article announcing the call for entries. All entries submitted will be shown on the AAW website following the 2010 symposium. This is a first, and it will be enjoyable to see the display of contemporary member's work.



Christmas Picos 2009



Clyde and Pat made room for everyone!



And terrific food!!





Christmas Pics 2009



More Christmas Pics





## 2010 Officers

### President

Gene Stokes  
512.288.3598  
[gstokes1@austin.rr.com](mailto:gstokes1@austin.rr.com)

### President Elect

David Dick  
512-557-8609  
[thewoodwriter@yahoo.com](mailto:thewoodwriter@yahoo.com)

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### Membership Chairman

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### Secretary/Newsletter Editor

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### Librarian

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512.250.1912  
[dlwolter@swbell.net](mailto:dlwolter@swbell.net)

### CTWA Web Site [www.ctwa.org](http://www.ctwa.org)

Larry Walwrath, Webmaster  
[wood@larrywalrath.com](mailto:wood@larrywalrath.com)

### 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 512.395.7782, by E-mail at [hildac@mac.com](mailto:hildac@mac.com) or mail them to:

#### The Chip Pile

c/o Hilda Carpenter  
560 Moss Rose Lane  
Driftwood, TX 78619

## Members in the News

**David Dick** will be conducting a demo on "Long Stem Goblets" for the Dallas club on Thursday, January 14, 2010. For those of you who may not know, David has been turning for about 15 years. He started making pens for sale. As the pen craze wound down he started turning parts for other people's broken furniture. To this day he considers himself more of a spindle turner than a bowl turner. Two tools that he loves are the skew and the skew-chi gouge. Both will be in the demo. He has a tip or two that lets his students start to use a skew easily. Nothing beats practice.

David's demo will be on a mini-lathe. No matter what your skill level, and however long you want your stem—David can show you how to make a long-stem goblet by joining parts together. Then, the hollowing will be done with a spindle gouge, which he says is an extremely efficient end-grain hollower.

It was great fun to visit Armadillo Bazaar for my first time and see **Craig Timmerman's** booth among the various art selections. There were various booths that had some woodturning selections contained within, but none that featured woodturning as the premier product, other than Craig's. I admired his beautiful selections and the people who graced his booth looking to purchase his wares!

When I reflected on all the beautiful pieces I see in our gallery each month, I thought to myself, "I think CTWA should have its own booth next year." Something to think about, eh?

If you have member news. Please send it to [hildac@mac.com](mailto:hildac@mac.com).

## 2010 Calendar

**Jan 9, 1st Saturday**  
Location: Orlando Banos  
11321 Oak Branch Dr.  
Austin, TX 78737

**Jan 19, 7pm - 9 pm**  
**CTWA Mtg**  
**American Youthwks**

**Feb 6, 9 am-noon**  
**1st Sat**  
**Location TBA**

**Feb 8 Deadline**  
**AAW**  
**Maple Medley**

**Feb 16, 7 PM - 9 PM**  
**CTWA Mtg.**  
**Amer. Youthwks**  
**"Going Batty"**  
**President's Challenge**

**Mar 6, 9 am-noon**  
**1st Sat**  
**Location TBA**

**Mar 16, 7PM - 9 PM**  
**CTWA Mtg**  
**Amer. Youthwks**

**Apr 3rd 9 am - noon**  
**1st Sat**  
**Location TBA**

**Apr 13, 7 PM - 9 PM**  
**CTWA Mtg**  
**Amer Youthwks**



## Membership in CTWA

We welcome NEW MEMBERS to to join our band of merry turners anytime. An interest in woodturning is the only requirement. Dues are \$35.00 per year, prorated to \$3.00/month for new members. CTWA members are also encouraged to join the American Association of Woodturners, AAW. Those dues are \$45.00 for individuals and \$50 for families. Your membership includes the AAW magazine, **American Woodturner**, a first-class quarterly magazine full of woodturning articles, tips and ideas with color illustration of the world's master turners' techniques.

With our membership, whether you are experienced or a novice, we will teach you, or learn from you, and build long-lasting friendships based on a common kinship of matching wood, metal, machine and man, or woman as the case may be.

Drew Shelton,  
Membership Chairman, [dcshelton@gmail.com](mailto:dcshelton@gmail.com)

### 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 Hilda Carpenter at [hildac@mac.com](mailto:hildac@mac.com) or 512.395.7782. Ads will be run for two months and then dropped.

**FOR SALE: E-Z UP 10'x10' tent/canopy** complete with four sides, awning and carrying case. Tent and sides 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 BO. 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 bade et, 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

January 19	Anna Rachinsky
February	TBD
March	TBD
April	TBD
May	TBD

If you are interested in demonstrating at one of our meetings, or if you want to suggest a demonstrator, get in touch with **Program Chairman, Tim White**.

## 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 turning)
- Jack Besperka 512.261.4682  
(decoration & finishing)

### North

- Rusty Myers 512.218.1606  
(basics, boxes, kitchenware)
- 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

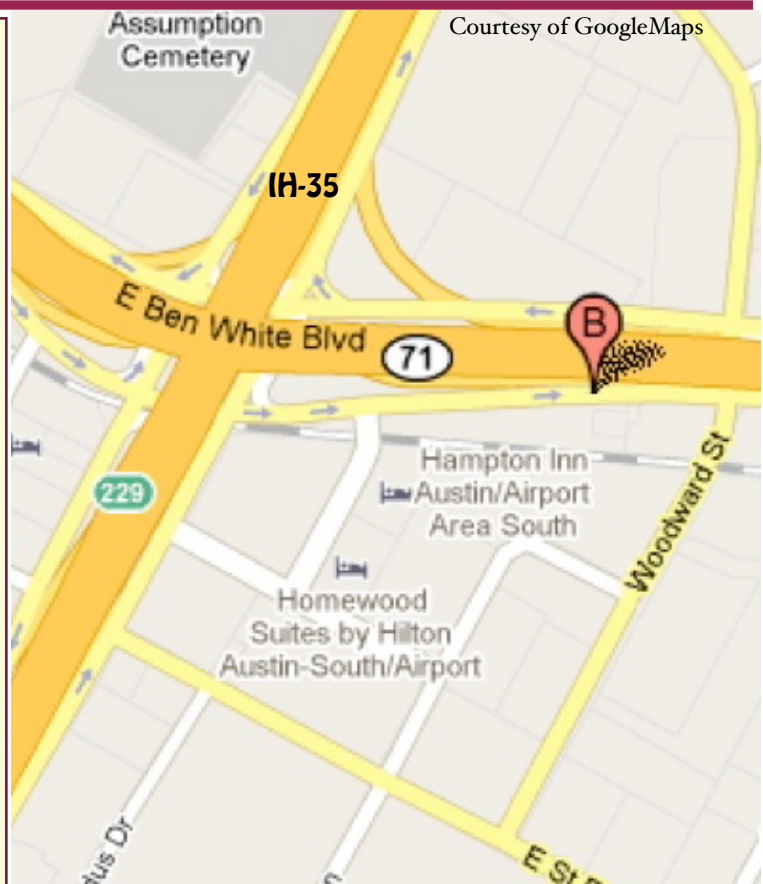
- Larry Walrath 512.255.5379  
(big vessels, bowls and platters)
- Ed Roberts 512.255.3294  
(basics, platters)

### Lockheed/San Marcos

- David Dick 512.357.6517  
(basics, spindles, architectural)

### 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**

Hilda Carpenter, Editor  
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