



The Chip Pile

The Newsletter of the Central Texas Woodturners Association

Austin, Texas

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

CTWA Meetings

APRIL MEETING

Tuesday, April 20, 2010
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)

May FIRST SATURDAY

May 1, 2010 9 am-Noon
Place: Jim Spano (OUTSIDE SHOP dress appropriately)
11904 Glenda Ct., Austin, TX 78753
Watch for Email Notice for changes!

not limited to what is available on the commercial market. 3) Wet wood is softer and that makes it easier and faster to cut and it keeps the tool cooler allowing it to stay sharp for a longer period of time. 4) Because the wood is flexible and easily cut, bowls and vessel forms can be shaped with very thin walls. 5) And finally green wood is usually free if you just look around your neighborhood.

Keep turnin' good,

Gene

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From the President's Shop

Two or three weeks ago I had the occasion to get out my chain saw and trim some of the trees in my yard. Not much fun but a necessary task if one wants to protect their property. As I began the laborious task my attention quickly turned to the pleasures of turning green wood, and of course green wood is something that many woodturners love and others avoid. I have discovered one certainty that goes with turning green wood. The finished piece will almost always crack. Green wood is also known for taking on an unusual shape as it begins to dry. Any how, this gave me an opportunity to go to the internet and Google "Turning Green Wood." There I found an interesting article by

Howard Lewin and I recommend his article for your consideration.

He points out some definite advantages to turning green wood. 1) The selection of available wood is virtually endless. 2) The size of your bowl is

But now back to the chain saw and my vision of turning green wood. I decided to salvage a couple of pecan logs. My thirteen year old grandson came to visit me last weekend and excitedly asked about turning a bowl. I remembered my green pecan project and together we began the process of shaping a bowl. I might add that he did an amazingly good job with the bowl gouge. I helped him form a tenon for the chuck just before the project was interrupted. We set the turning aside with plans to finish it during his next visit. We will just have to wait and see if the piece holds its shape well enough to continue with the same piece of wood on his next visit. The good news is my grandson is developing an interest in wood turning. This proud granddad can only hope that his interest will grow with time.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find details about our next President's Challenge which I am calling "Put a Lid on It." It is not too early to begin working on your lidded vessel. There will be several different categories for you to consider. The challenge will be a part of our regular meeting in May.

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.

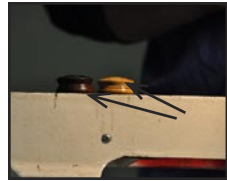


March Demo:
Steve Promo



This year we were delighted once again as Steve Promo demonstrated how to turn his "nitro" boxes. Not only did we learn the

beginning story of his boxes and a tip about marketing them, but we carried away "how to" instructions that beginner or experienced turners can decipher. These boxes are very small and hold one small, blue pill. Or a nitrogen pill, thus the name, "nitro box." Steve recommends slow speed turning, going at about 1800 (medium) on a Jet Mini lathe for this project.



First, chuck a rough-turn piece of square stock (or rough wood). Then true up with a bowl gouge. Using a parting tool,



he creates a short, straight tenon. Then he uses a parting tool to create a flange and tenon for the base and lid. This first piece

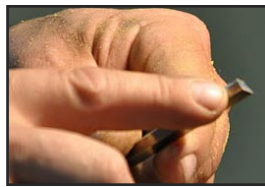


is going to become the lid of the pill box. The outside tenon becomes the method that will hold the lid so you can "reverse chuck"

it into the box' bottom to hollow it out. But before that turn an ogee and cut a flange. Using a thin parting tool, part off the lid, leaving a flange "trace" on the lid. Turn the Jamb Chuck Mortise in the Base for the Lid Tenon. Be sure the opening matches the lid tenon. Jam in the Lid and hollow the lid.



Steve suggests using the tissue paper



technique, or Johnny Tolly's spit technique to get it to stay in (did I get that right, Johnny?).

This editor (a very inexperienced woodturner, admittedly) looked at the tool that Steve was using and it's seemed like a variation of what looks like my skewchigouge. Regardless, Steve noted the important thing is to go straight in and above the center.



Here is another up close picture that Drew took of the tool. Now, Steve holds the inside of the lid and shows us the results of his progress.



When he prepared the base's flange and mortise, he now prepares the box's base to accept the lid. Precise measurements are key not to shave too much off. He takes off the lid's tenon and is now ready to finish the top of the lid



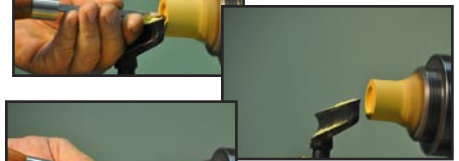
This is a good time to finish the lid, e.g., inlay, paint, design, carve, embellishments



(see picture of burning) Now, he sands the top of the box and is ready to move on to pulling off the top and finishing the bottom. He gives the same embellishment on the bottom (burning that he did



on the top and middle).



Next he SLOWLY turns the ogee on the bottom of the base to the same dimensions matching the lids and mortise. This allows him to be ready for the next lid/base combination. The most amazing part of this adventure is the number of boxes that he can turn in the stump of wood! Since all dimensions match, the combinations of tops and bottoms are limitless. We appreciate Steve's trip to Austin and wish him a safe trip back to Michigan after his Texas Winter vacation.

President's Challenge



PUT A "LID" ON IT!!

This second president's challenge will occur during our regular meeting on May 16th. The challenge is to bring a lidded vessel to the meeting. Entrees will be judged in four different categories:

- 1) Threaded Vessels
- 2) Fitted Lids
- 3) Finial or handle appeal
- 4) Wildcard; including unique, zany, segmented, carved, or otherwise unique features.

It is not too early to begin planning your project. Once again, I am sure our wildly creative members will bring forth equally lidded vessels.

Sorry Gene, this editor just couldn't resist putting a "lid" on that old character "Cousin It" when you said we could be creative!

April Demo:
Peter Hawkins

One of the first people I met when I joined the CTWA was the worldly Peter Hawkins. No, it wasn't his accent—I've had Brit friends before. The amazing man was impressive because he was demure as well as talented. It was obvious that he was someone with a great deal of talent, experience and well, likability. I figure when someone who has travelled the world decides to become a Texan

then by darn he's a good man by my standards.

Born and raised in England, **Peter Hawkins** was educated through university level and was an avid athlete in sports such as Rugby and Cricket. He was a Rugby schoolboys trialist for 4 years playing in 3 separate age groups, and subsequently turned professional. After a repetitive injury curtailed his career, he served time as a cabinet-maker.

He is a man of many interests – one of which was showing dogs, where he has shown, handled, trained, and served as an international judge at dog shows, inclusive of Crufts. He has bred many top champions including Crufts winners. For those who may be unaware, Crufts is the largest, probably most selective confirmation dog show in the world. So, the next time you see one of those judges at a Crufts dog show, think Peter. Wow.

He later entered industry in the textile/rubber/chemical fields, involved primarily in R+D. As a leader in the field of textile printing and colour matching, he developed advanced resist printing techniques enabling use of 8 screens to yield 13 colours.

He then spent a lot of time living in the middle east, primarily in Persia (Iran),



but also Kuwait, Iraq, Turkey, and Mauritius (a small island off the coast of Madagascar). He worked for the late Shah, leaving on the eve of the revolution, and then returned to work in the field of textile rubber management.

He retired early and came to live in Texas, between Cibolo and Marion. He did a lot of voluntary work at the Animal Defense League re-training and re-socializing vicious and ill treated dogs with a 100% success rate.

Four years ago, he attended a hands on class at Alamo Woodturner's

Association. He loved it and pur-



chased his first lathe, soon finding he was totally smitten with woodturning!

He is now a permanent artist with many pieces in a gallery in San Antonio and has regular customers in several states here as well as in Europe.

He tends to specialize in thin walled hollow vessels with large voids (such as the one above), but has a massive thirst for more knowledge in turning.

His simple turnings, such as a plate or bowl are as exquisite as the tall hollow bowls. This editor is delighted to vessels one of his thin, hollow vessel turnings gracing her home. I understand that most of his turnings are commissioned these days. We may be well-advised to ask him how to market turnings during his demonstration.

Peter is a true seeker of knowledge. He is learning much about the woods available in the United States, after a 40 year gap without woodworking. CTWA is very fortunate to have this Brit/Texan as a member.

Photos

Photographs for this month's **Chip Pile** were provided by **Drew Shelton**. If you have digital photos that you would like to have considered for use in the newsletter. Send them to the Editor at hildac@mac.com.

Business Meeting

President Gene Stokes conducted a quick business meeting prior to the demonstration. He talked about the upcoming AAW Symposium in June. We welcomed first time guest **Robert McGowan** who works on a 1642 Jet. Gene gave some additional information on the upcoming **Trent Bosch** classes. There is still room for the April 24 demo \$25 per person. The Hands on Classes Advanced Tues/Wed is full, they need 2 more for the Sun/Mon Novice/Inter. class. Someone can attend 1 day. 2nd Presidents challenge (see elsewhere in this newsletter for information). 1st Saturday **Bill Kingsbury** will be there to trade wood from the North.

Editor's Turn

This time of year is hard for those of us with Oak allergies. On a scale of 1-10, mine are 15.

The thought goes through my mind, "Let's cut all the darned things down." Then I pause and consider how beautiful oak trees are, their age, their ability to outlive many plights that other trees simply can't. I grieve for the mighty oaks that didn't make it through the last drought.

One of the things that drew me to woodturning, besides my husband, was the beauty of wood, and the creative aspect of turning raw wood into beautiful art, or useful tools. I see that products made of oak, fits into the useful tools category most of the time. This gets me to thinking—I'll admit that's dangerous.

Question 1: "Why don't woodturners turn more oak?" Certainly the woodworkers, woodcarvers, and furniture makers have optimized the mighty oak trees' beauty.

I've heard about the radial pith cracks, right checks around the pith, beetle holes, etc. But then, I've heard that about Pecan and Mesquite as well.

When I was at SWAT, the judges talked about a beautiful Oak bowl. If I go to Pottery Barn, they sell Maple or Oak bowls. OK, maybe you want to

turn more than just kitchen bowls, fair enough.

Question#2: Why don't woodturners turn oak as a canvas for making embellishments? As far as the "Art" side of woodturning, if a turner embellishes a bowl, then Oak might be as good as ash, right? Well, actually I don't know the answer to that, so I could be talking into the inside of a dust collector here.

My pensive brain has been circling this subject ever since I asked **Charlie Kay** where he got his "exotic" woods. He laughed at me and said, "By the side of the road." OK, I was a farmer's daughter, and a city girl after that—just now turning into a woodturner.

For example, I thought Bois d'arc must be an exotic wood (with it's French name). I had to look Bodark up on the internet where it came from, and what it looked like. See, I grew up in West Texas where nothing grows but Cowboy songs about Tumbling Tumbleweeds (for good reason I might add).

Well Heck, Bodark was the Osage Orange that used to grow (profusely I might add) behind my house in California. Jeepers, no big deal. Wish I cut some before I came down here. I'll plant some here for future turnings.

But my question remains—why aren't there gallery pieces of oak? My heavens, there is oak everywhere. Just ask my allergies. I'm really hoping someone in the club will bring along some tools, or turnings that they use or have done out of oak, respectively.

Your participation will help me, a baby woodturner understand why I can't just go out on my land, cut up a piece of oak, let it "cure" for 1 or 2 years, then turn it into a bowl for my kitchen.

Oh, of course that assumes I know how to turn a bowl by then.

Turning on my lathe now.



Trent Bosch sent an invitation to those interested in discovering more about promoting woodturning into an art form, or joining the Professional Outreach Program. Here is the website

for those of you who may be interested in walking in the land of both woodturning worlds. <http://www.woodturner.org/community/pop/>

As always, turn your lathe on, whether you care to embellish, or just plain turn!

Hilda Carpenter
Editor

Trent Bosch Info

We've awaited his arrival and it's finally here! Remember the workshops are small for individual attention! The demo will have a SHORT lunch break.

April 24 Trent Bosch Demonstration 9 am 4/5 PM

There is plenty of room for this event, which will be held at American Youthworks. If you would like to attend, email Tim White twhite601@austin.rr.com and pay at the next club meeting. The cost is only \$25 and includes a SHORT lunch break.

April 25-26 Bosch Hands-On Beginner/Intermediate Training 9 am - 5 pm

There are two seats left, so act fast! The cost is \$200 for the two day hands-on session, to be held at Clyde Little's Shop. Email Tim White if you would like to attend.

April 27-28 Bosch Hands-On Advanced/Intermediate Training 9 am - 5 pm

This class is full. But if you would like to place your name on a waiting list, contact Tim White. The cost is \$200 for the two day hands-on session to be held at Clyde Little's Shop.

Trent is one of the most proficient trainers in the world, adept at adjusting to any woodturner's skill level. We hope to see you there on the 24th.

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, 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, platters
- Ed Roberts** 512.255.3294
basics platters

LOCKHART/SAN MARCOS

- David Dick** 512.357.6517
basics, spindles, architectural

Learning how Not to Fail!

If you claim to be a woodturner, then you have failed at some point in time. If you have an interesting "blow up" story in your shop, we would like you to share it (see the President's Shop for an example). If you hold the angle of the skew wrong, then you will make the piece go flying off the chuck and onto the garage wall (one of my own personal experiences that I've written about). It makes for good reading and learning for others. For example:

This past first Saturday **Jim Spano** approached me to show me his masterful prowess in box turning. He asked me to pull the finial he had turned & affixed to the top of the lid of his box. I marveled at how everything fit perfectly. Jim commented, as

most woodturners do, that the lid needed to be looser or tighter (woodturners are never happy with how their lid fits). To me the lid fit perfectly and the little finial was exquisite, in balance with the design. Ahh, but I did note that the "box part was unfinished, and it did look a little rough around the bottom.

It was at that time that **Jim** said, "Well, I turned it a little thin, now pick up this."

Sure enough the cylinder of the "box" came free of the bottom. Even the masters turn too thin. **Jim** got a good laugh out of that one and the huge gasp I made when the box came up. I really thought I'd broken it! If only you'd seen the twinkle in his eye and heard the giggle in his voice. It was funny.

So turning the bottom of the box is difficult, yet any woodturner, just like any old lady, knows that a heavy bottom isn't good. Calipers can help to know the thickness. A simple light bulb. Sound of the wood, unless like me, you're a little hard of hearing. Measuring your depth between inside and out is the safest bet of all.

Now here are **Jim's** learning points for you from his ruined box in his words: "I measured the depth of the box and transfer the measurement to the outside with a pencil mark. But then, I didn't add for bottom thickness. Gee, that's the first time I've ever done that. You believe me of course. HA"

If you have a technique how to prevent a

"blow up", we'd like you to share that! This is a column we are testing for interest. Please send all ideas and pictures to hildac@mac.com

AAW Symposium June 20, 2010

The American Association of Woodturner's Symposium is fast approaching. The primary requirement for registration is current dues in CTWA and AAW. Hartford, CT is a beautiful part of the country offering shopping and excursions in metropolis and country, regardless of your tastes. If you'd like to know more about that part of the country, Please be sure to email hildac@mac.com or visit the AAW website: <http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2010/> Register soon, this international event is sure to attract many great woodturners.

AFTER AAW

If you have never visited the beautiful State of Maine, now is the time to do it. It is a very short drive from Hartford (Short in Texas terms). Drew sent a notice that Denise Rose is giving a workshop, offered the week following the AAW Symposium at Hartford. Midcoast Maine is a prime vacation spot, and an easy 5 hour trip north of Hartford, CT. If any members are interested this site can be more than helpful: www.woodturningschool.org

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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 512.395-7782, by E-mail at hildac@mac.com or mail them to:

The Chip Pile

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

Member Gallery

The contributions this month were fewer yet fine. **Ho Evans** turned an amazing musi-



cal theme for his great-granddaughter. Stacy Hager was able to read the music as "Happy Birthday". We warned **HO** that now he'll have to turn one for all his great-grandchildren. This is mahogany, holly, mesquite approximately 750 pieces.



Peter Hawkins turned a beautiful ash bowl, revealing the secret of ash is to turn the bottom of the tree where the wood is compressed and thus has minimal ridges between the rings.



Doug Monney created an eclectic combination of a shaker-style lidded box with a cocobolo, early-Cyndi Drozda style finial.

Steve Green turned maple into a pottery bowl with applications of carving on the top and side, dye, and poly finishing.



Steve Green also brought a maple square turned lidded box that he had colored to look like cherry. The lidded finial he carved

into a spiral. A tiny mineral inlay embellished the circle around the lid. All were finished with several coats of rub-on poly and lots of sanding.

Johnny Tolly discussed this tool cutting off behind inset bowls. The saddest part of Johnny's story was his beautiful Open-turned Mesquite vase that "died" a horrible death at the Wild flower center by a gust of wind. No picture taken out of respect for the dead vase.



My apologies for a technical difficulty in identifying your name on the next two pictures and slips of the **Mystery Turner** of these beautiful shakers and natural edge bowl. If you'd like these repeated, let me know.



Bring Back

Ben Warren seems to have jumped into woodturning with both feet. He turned a lovely pen that **Hilda Carpenter** was most delighted to take home!



Ben Warren will be busy bringing back

more as he won the beautiful vase donated by **Peter Hawkins**



David Dick brought back an example of his long-



stemmed goblets. That lucky **Mystery Person** took it home!

I had a little technical difficulty identifying the turner on this next piece as well, but I believe this was a donation of David Dick's, a nice turning tool with a custom spindle handle, taken home by another **Mystery Person!**



Drew Shelton turned his classic form that certainly this woodturner was eyeing, but (due to technical difficulties the winner's name is:) **MYSTERY PERSON**



Ahh, now last, but certainly not least is the



most unfortunate catastrophe of the technical difficulty. I do not have the name or winner of this piece, so both are **MYSTERY PERSONS**. Such a shame for such a lovely piece.

*As is the custom, each of the winners including **Mystery Person** (you know who you are, even if the Editor doesn't) will bring back a turned item to the next meeting. This is not a Judging contest! Your turning should be representative of your turning skill. If you don't have a lathe, or don't feel you have the experience, contact one of our volunteer instructors to help you prepare a Bring Back piece. So buy a ticket, get involved and have fun.*

Members in the News

*Random Ruminations:
The Mystery Within*
BY
CHARLES KAY

I recently received an order for a number of salt cellars and set about turning them. In the course of freeing one of them from the wood, I encountered one of those serendipitous finds that have always drawn me to working with wood—a lovely bit of figure for which no clue existed on the surface of the blank. I am always captivated when this occurs. Sometimes, like this one, it is a fancy bit of figure. I am just as struck by the remnant of an old limb from early in the life of a tree, the old tap-holes in a bit of sugar maple that our Wisconsin friend Bill Kingsbury has brought along, the mistletoe roots in a cedar elm limb burl, or even an inevitable void in a piece of mesquite. I once turned a beautiful platter from a beautiful piece of sapele that **David Dick** had given me. It was a scrap from a custom furniture maker's shop and consisted of two pieces glued up. As I got into the piece, I turned into one of the dowels that had aligned the glue-up. It provided an interesting conversation starter and, as most of these surprises do, had something to say about the history of this piece of wood. The customer that bought it said that she did so just because that dowel was in there.

I have come to see life as a lot like those pieces of wood. You always find something unexpected as things unfold and many of those things take you in a direction that you never expected to go. I began to reflect further along those lines as I mowed my weedy yard on Saturday and contemplated spring. With the spectacular wildflower crop this year and the brilliant green, both a result of a rainy El Nino winter, the hoary cliché of spring as renewal and the beginning of yet another cycle in the course of one's life came immediately to mind.

But not for long. As I considered the wildflowers and how different the wildflower crop is every year, it occurred to me that spring may be renewal, but, like snowflakes, no two springs are ever the same. I have seen a large number of springs (and hope to see a good many more) in many different locales, including thirteen here, and as I reflected back on them I began to realize just how different they can be. They can be lush and green and pleasantly warm, wet and dreary, dry and dusty, hot or cold. Even the wildflowers change, not just in quantity in response to the weather, but in which ones actually show up. This year, for instance, there has been an abundance of buttercups every evening -- hundreds of them. In good years in the past, you might see a dozen and sometimes none at all. One year there was a solid field of horse mint out to the northwest of my shop.

Before and since that spring, there have never been more than a few plants.

I am filled with wonder at the randomness of life. We like to think that we have control of our lives and our world, but in the end, most of our course in life is affected at least as much by random events as it is by conscious plans and actions on our part. What little control we have over our lives comes from how we react to these random events. Like the unexpected surprise below the surface of the wood, most of these events are a source of wonder and inspiration. From time to time they appear to be an obstacle, but then you can see how they can be bent to good effect. Although occasionally they are catastrophic, even those events often lead you to a new understanding and yet another interesting detour in life.

Right now, I'm going to pour another cup of coffee, sit on the back porch and enjoy the green and the lush wildflower meadow while it lasts. Then I'll head to the shop. I have a big chunk of chinaberry chucked up and I am anxious to see what mystery it holds.

Keep on turning,

Charlie Kay

Pecan Donation
BY
Hilda Carpenter

Last month a very private person asked me if I thought it might be a good idea to use some Pecan in the "bring back" as a way to encourage: 1) more people to bring back their items; 2) sell more raffle tickets; 3) get more beginners and old timers to turn, etc. I thought it was a brilliant idea! There was so much wood. Toward the end of the meeting is when we have the raffle. Everyone is ready to go home. There is a lot of wood. A decision is made in haste to basically raffle the wood. Without capturing who got the wood. This month I had some computer issues that were actually "operator error" issues. However, I cannot let it go by that this person, private as he is made a HUGE contribution to the club. These were ready-to-go, end-sealed pecan logs. Standing on their ends they took up an entire table.

If you are reading this, and if you have an idea who this member is, thank him, and think about the message. Have you made a contribution to the bring back? Even if you haven't won anything you can still bring a "bring back. It's fun to watch someone else win. I brought something one time, I didn't need to. They seemed to like what I brought, but mostly they liked getting something for a dollar.

If you got some of that free wood, wouldn't now be a good time to put something in the gallery? Even I put something in the

gallery and I am a total beginner. Trust me, my work next to HO Evans, or the Tolly's or Peter Hawkins or even next to my own Husbands is very intimidating. But it's fun nonetheless.

I hope you got some of the wood! I hope you'll bring back something in the gallery, and I really hope I get your name right in the newsletter! So, here's thanks to the **Mystery Member**. Since I didn't ask permission to use your name, you remain **Mystery Pecan Man**.

*David Dick &
Gary Roberts' Axiom*

David Dick was on the road again this time to Ft. Worth to demo his long-stemmed goblets on a mini-lathe. He says, "Once again I proved Gary Roberts' axiom that there are only two types of demonstrators in the world. Those with no problems and those who will have all problems. I left a tool at home, had to replace it at the last minute. I broke the bottom out of the goblet and had to turn a second one. The 1st stem to be redone and the next two turned without tailstock support. Did I tell you I had a great time in Ft. Worth?" In the end **David** completed a 14-15" tall goblet that he donated to the raffle. His son Brian from Abilene surprised him by being at the meeting. It was a good night. He stayed with his daughter, Heather who lives nearby and returned to Austin on Friday.

*Johnny Tolly &
Technology Students*

I pestered for an email update from **Johnny Tolly**. He said he was: "Still typing with the left hand but I'm not in a lot of pain. Just can't move the right arm or do anything for another month other than go to PT and do my exercises here at home. I'm not to drive yet either so I'm rather bored." He also mentioned his life-partner **Marcia** was his chauffeur. Lucky Johnny!

Johnny's recovery I am certain will not keep him from his May 6-8 commitment to judge the participants (kids) entries. If you will remember, Johnny called for some volunteers to help in judging the **Texas Technology Student Association (TTSA)**. TSA promotes personal growth in leadership, technology, engineering and design fields. <http://www.texastsa.org/contest.htm> Through membership in **TTSA** students apply science, technology, engineering and mathematics through curriculum, competition and related studies. Johnny's original call for Judges requested you arrive in the Heart of Texas fair complex in **Waco** May 6 on Friday earlier than 5 pm. They can pay for your hotel room if you can stay over and they will feed you that evening. Please let Johnny know if you can help. Give him a call. He is bored, after all!

**SWAT 2010 is Right around the Corner:
August 27-29**

Are you getting your turning piece ready to show for the SWAT gallery? Have you decided how you are going to travel up to Waco?

Most importantly, have you decided to have some major fun? Learn a lot; watch some wickedly good woodturners; look over some vendors' products on sale; meet new friends; win prizes; get some cool wood for a good price?

Oh and be a great volunteer for the club, even if you NEVER volunteer for anything? Did you know our Club is the club responsible for the chore of setting everything up for SWAT? Yes, it's true! **Johnny, Marcia and Jimmy Tolly** have organized the work duty to an art so it is easy on all the volunteers, like **Drew Shelton, Steve Green, Gene Stokes**, and people I hadn't met yet last year because I was too new and I had to leave early.

The good part, it's very organized. No one stands around looking stupid. You get in, get the job done, and go get a GREAT steak dinner. Yum. Laugh, tell bad jokes, and then sleep like a baby.

We've just received rates on hotels that you may be interested (see another section of this newsletter).

We have news from the SWAT President, **Raul V. Pena** that SWAT is also learning that Special Interest Groups (SIG) are important and will designate sessions toward those groups, for instance: beginning turners, pen turners, segmented work, tool making, surface enhancements, and perhaps finishes, or any other topic that you have an interest in learning about. Talk to **Gene Stokes**, or send them to the editor, if you have a particular topic you would like to see added as a SIG discussion. He'll send them along, then SWAT will compile a list of the most requested topics from that information and find experts in those areas to lead the discussions.

Waco Hotel Options for SWAT

Contracts have been signed setting the rates at \$109 for those of you that plan to stay at the host hotel, the Hilton in Waco. If you want to make reservations you can go our web site www.swaturners.org/info/hotels.shtml. A link is provided for you to go directly to the Hilton web site to make a reservation at the \$109 rate for a room. This link also gives a list of other places in Waco where you can stay. If all of the reserved rooms are taken at the Hilton when you call, the Marriott located on the west side

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of the Convention Center, is the overflow Hotel and the rate is \$99. Be sure to mention that you are attending the Southwest Association of Turners Annual Symposium to get the special room rate. All doors on the west side of the Convention Center will be closed due to construction, so entrances on the east and south side will have to be used.

The following hotels are also offering discounted rates for people going to the SWAT Symposium. Be sure to mention that you are attending SWAT in August to get the reduced rates.

Best Western Old Main Lodge Special Rate Request	\$80.00
Clarion Hotel Special Rate Request	\$69.95
Comfort Suites Special Rate Request	\$85.00
Courtyard by Marriott Over Flow Hotel	\$99.00
Econo Lodge Inn & Suites Special Rate Request	\$59.95
Hilton Waco University Parks Headquarter Hotel	\$109.00
Homewood Suites Special Rate Request	\$119.00
Quality Inn and Suites Special Rate Request	\$84.99

AAW News Clips

Here is a summary of the email highlights that our esteemed president sent. For more information go to the AAW website. In a word, it seems they are after membership—and they have come up with good incentives.

- 1) **Past American Woodturners** issues now available on the web go to the AAW Website, select "online Journals" and see for yourself. www.woodturner.org/ I tried this out and it worked. Very nice reason to join AAW. The journals go all the way back to 1986.
- 2) **Monthly membership drawings** every month, AAW will draw names from the membership & award prizes—nice prizes, e.g., carving stands, Trent Bosch, Nova Chucks, Mike Mahony, Thomson Lathe Tools, Hunter Tool Gift Certificates and year end lathe drawing for Powermatic 3520B.
3. Electronic "online" membership is less expensive \$38. This allows online reading of the American Woodturner, vs. paper delivery.
- 4) Did you know that there has always been educational grants in AAW? If you have

never applied for one, check it out. You may qualify.

5) Marketing opportunities on the website for artists, collectors galleries, and museums. Group rates for health, life and commercial business insurance (US members only). Read all about this online.

**CTWA May Meeting:
Tips & Tricks**

For May's Meeting, we'll have a **Round Table discussion**. The talented **Len Brissette** will facilitate this discussion.

The Tips & Tricks Roundtable Discussion meetings are great because:

- 1) you get to ask questions.
- 2) someone explains something about a technique you've had trouble with, or have been curious about.
3. you get to touch, feel, smell, (don't drop) the item being talked about.
4. you teach others about your skills, tricks or methods.

Bring what you'd like to share. Come up with a list of questions you'd like to ask. Bring a turning that was particularly difficult for you, or a technique that required a special skill or tool to talk about.

This is one of the best meetings all year. Be sure to be there! This is different than 1st Saturdays, **Len** will make sure everyone is heard!

Membership in CTWA

We welcome **NEW MEMBERS** to join our band of merry turners anytime. An interest in woodturning is the only requirement. Dues are \$38.00 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 \$38 online membership only, \$48.00 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.

Volunteer Your Shop for First Saturday!

1. It doesn't need to be fancy, or big.
2. We'll bring the lathes.
3. You make the coffee.
4. We'll bring the donuts.
5. Have enough room for at least 1-2 turners (easy in the summer).
6. Let Len Brisette know or Gene Stokes, or anyone! or get in touch with the editor—she'll let them know

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. All regular 3rd Tuesday CTWA Meetings are at American Youthworks.

April 20 - 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Presenter: Peter Hawkins
Thinned Turned Vessels
CTWA Meeting

April 24, Trent Bosch Demo

9 AM -4/5 PM
American YouthWorks

April 25-26, Trent Bosch
Hands-On Beginner/Inter. 9-5
Clyde Little's Shop

April 27-28, Trent Bosch
Hands-On Advanced 9-5
Clyde Little's Shop

May 1 - 9:00 AM to Noon
First Saturday - JIM Spano (outdoors!
dress appropriately)

May 18 - 7 PM to 9:00 PM
CTWA Meeting - Len Brisette
Tips & Tricks Roundtable
Bring Your Show&Tell

June 5 - 9 AM to Noon
First Saturday - Charles Kay
(Tentative)

June 15 - 7 PM to 9 PM
CTWA Meeting
Presenter - Craig Timmerman
(TENTATIVE)

June 20 AAW SYMPOSIUM
HARTFORD, CT

July 10 - 9 AM to Noon
(Note date change due to 4th)
First Saturday - TBD

July 20th 7 PM to 9 PM
CTWA Meeting

August 7 9 AM to Noon
First Saturday - TBD

August 17th 7 PM to 9 PM
CTWA Meeting

SWAT Symposium
August 27th - 29th

Events & Dates subject to change, watch for emails!

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 or 512.395.7782. Ads will be run for two months, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTIFIED, and then dropped.

FOR SALE: CLEAN/ LIKE NEW Parts Bins (12Wx21Hx6D) w/ (60) clear plastic drawers (2Wx5 1/2Lx1 1/4D) approx. inches. \$11 each. Al @ 512/864-0876 gaskell@verizon.net Sun City.

FOR SALE: Delta Model DC33 13" 2 HP heavy cast iron planer, extra bade et, roller infeed and outfeed tables, mobile base. \$300 CHARLES KAY

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

FOR SALE: Like NEW Powermatic 3520B \$3,000 hardly used. Missing drive center and or taila center and some brand of 4 jaw chuck (may be found by the time it is sold). Club member Richard Ness can verify condition of lathe. **Like NEW John Sorby 6** piece beginner set and the assorted tools \$250 Ellen Cote, 1625 Fuqua Drive, Flower Mound, TX, 972-539-7208



Wanted: Used Jet Mini

Wanted, MINI Jet lathe, preferably with digital variable speed. If you are trading up or getting out of turning now is a chance to get a decent price for your used lathe.

Craig Collier
ccollier@hotmail.com

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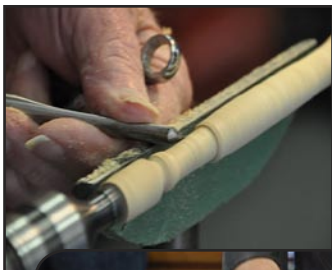
**First Saturday April
by
Charlie Kay**



Saturday, April 10, found some 35 folks gathering at **Bill Hammack's** shop in Manchaca for the First Saturday Turnout. (Yes, I know that it was the second Saturday, but never mind.) **Jim Spano** was busy as usual,



turning a maple box with lid with tall padauk finial. The lid was a spin



top, designed to spin in a recess in the base. However, his innovative variation - a hole in the bottom - didn't work out as well. **Frank Miller** went from one extreme to another, starting on **Bill's Carba-Tec turning** spindles, them moving to the big Woodfast to turn a spatula.

Kimberley Shelton was busy turning a blue acrylic pen. **Frank Miller** worked with a



new young new turner, **Joseph Jones** and his dad, **Joseph Jones**. Young Joseph worked on pen turning and also helped **Hilda Carpenter** on her Steve Promo Box. **Len Brissette** at



the end of the meeting translated the instructions and Hilda's oops into understandable next steps. Young James went back over to pen turning to join Kimberley.



Charlie Kay was working on a salt cellar. **Drew Shelton** demonstrated the "speed method" for removing the chuck from a Jet mini-lathe. It was good to see our

friend **Bill Kingsbury** from Rhinelander, Wisconsin, here for the third year in a row. As usual, he brought some wood from the North Woods to trade for local Texas wood.

There was plenty of coffee, along with Round Rock donuts courtesy of **Drew** and brownies courtesy of Kay Hammack. This fueled plenty of conversation and swapping of lies. When



the session was over and the chips

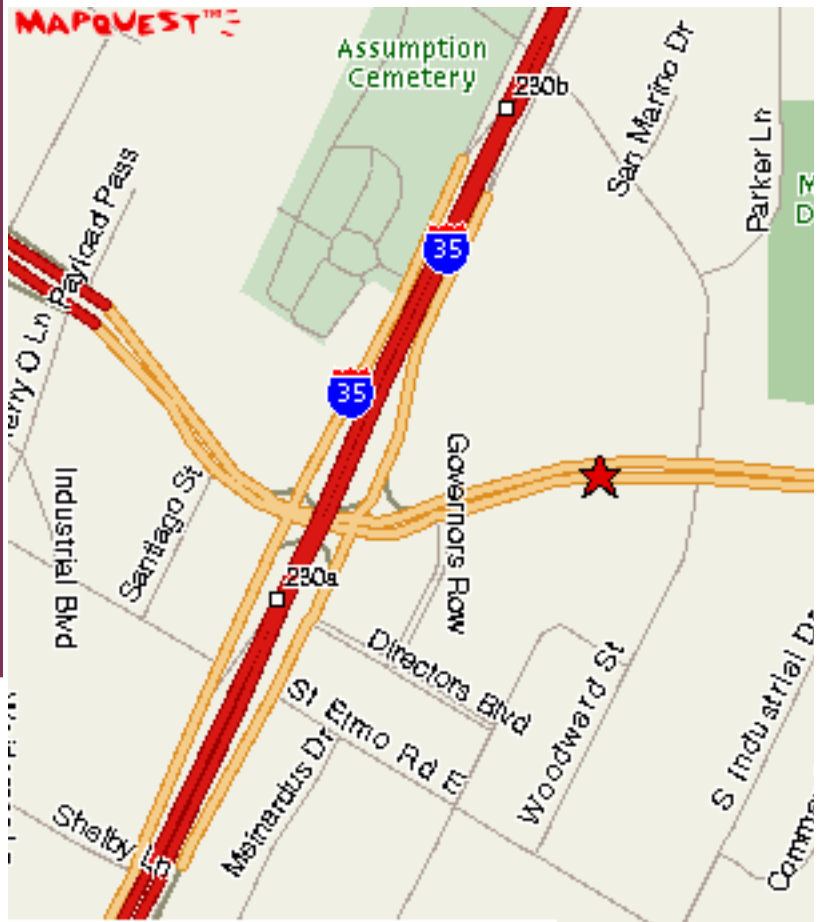


swept up, 21 of us headed to the Texican in Manchaca for Mexican food.



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

Hilda V. Carpenter
560 Moss Rose Lane
Driftwood, TX 78619

To: