



# The Chip Pile



The Newsletter of the Central Texas Woodturners Association  
Austin, Texas  
A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

CTWA Meetings

## September MEETING

Tuesday, September 21, 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)

## October 2nd FIRST SATURDAY

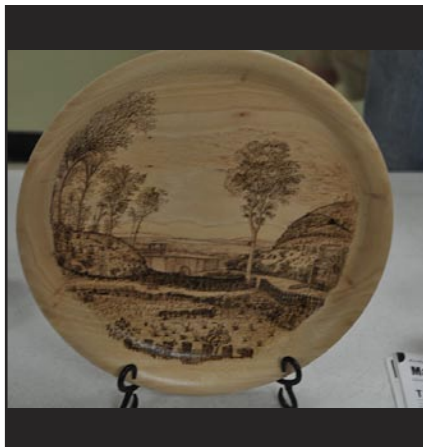
Place: Drew Shelton  
112 Oakland Dr., Georgetown  
78628  
October 2 2010 9 am-Noon  
WATCH FOR EMAIL UPDATES

## This Month's Most Unusual . . .

This month's most unusual is dedicated not to the wood but to the time an artist puts into the finishing and the artistry of woodturning and their craft. **Steve Green**,



an accomplished woodturner sees his turnings as canvases to add in this case natural mineral inlays to bring out the lovely grain maple pattern. It contains three separate series of carvings into the wood to place the different colors of stone. Then each series of stone is ground down



peaceful scene on sycamore. She uses her artistic eye to position the scene by placing the grain of the wood to accent the sky with her woodburning. The detail of her woodburning represents hours of work on a lovely shaped platter. The burning includes very light strokes to more heavy burning.

These pieces are chosen because of the effort, time and creativity of taking the turning (canvas) improving finishing, as well as considering including art within your turning on beautiful, or simple wood.

The President's Shop

It seems that the first lathe owned by most beginning woodturners is a mini-lathe. As the wood turning bug bites a little harder it becomes imperative to purchase one of the larger lathes that provides more options to turn larger objects with more horsepower. Obviously a large lathe provides the turner with more options and the whole "feel" of wood turning just seems to become more interesting. On the other hand, for most of us a good mini-lathe is fully capable of meeting most needs for the projects that we turn.

During the SWAT symposium last month we watched extremely skilled turners produce some magnificent

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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.

## President's Shop Con't

projects, and of course they had at their demonstrating disposal some of the finest lathes available on the market. Among the Powermatics, One-Ways, Stubbies, Vic-Marcs, and Robusts, we watched these turners with enthusiasm and we drooled at the potential of owning one of these lathes. Yet, as the symposium unfolded, what did we see these great demonstrators produce? Christmas ornaments, small hollow forms, immaculately formed four to five inch bowls, small finials, and other truly amazing small projects.

Don't get me wrong, I would give my right arm to own one of these previously mentioned machines; but alas, if I paid that kind of price I would have no arm with which to hold the skew or gouge. My point is this; most of us are confined to live within an established budget. Few of us will ever find a way to make woodturning profitable. So, enjoy the lathe you can afford. If it is a mini-lathe, enjoy it. If it is one of the bigger lathes with all of the bells and whistles, enjoy it even more. Whatever you own or choose to purchase, enjoy it! You have discovered a wonderful craft with unlimited potential for enjoyment.

Keep it spinning,

Gene Stokes

## BLOW UP'S



**Roger Gardner**, an experienced turner, tells of a story when he was sanding a piece. Now we all know that sanding is the very last stage of a finishing before taking your piece off the lathe. Everything was going great for Roger until suddenly the chuck flew off the lathe. The reverse motion (sanding in reverse is great for those of you who don't have a lathe that goes in reverse) unscrewed the chuck! The chuck, his beautiful masterpiece and all went flying out.

## Keeping Austin Turning Since 1988

Lesson learned? Make sure you tighten that chuck. We've heard this before, but safety first. Take the time to insure you have that chuck on tight.



**Clyde Little**, also an experienced turner, was turning with his brother-in-law. In his case, the chuck flew off; however the screw that was holding the wood actually flew off and hit him in the stomach piercing his skin. Thankfully it missed his stomach, but it did do damage. Clyde offered to show me his scar, but I declined.

Lesson learned—make sure that chuck is on tight. Make sure if you are around someone else who is turning, you are far out of the way!



**Hilda Carpenter**, an *inexperienced* turner, was making great progress on her icicle for the **Johnny Tolly** Icicle Challenge. Everything was going quite well. I had measured where I wanted the various coves, the tenon, etc. to go. I had the speed that was perfect. I was using the technique on the spindle that **Frank Miller** had showed me at First Saturday. Then suddenly, I thought, "**Stacey Hager** said turn it really fast." I looked away, turned up the speed, brought my skew back down and POP there went my spindle.

It wasn't that my advice from Stacey was wrong . . . I had forgotten my A . . . B . . . C's. Approach/Attitude, Bevel, Cut. Oh Heck, there went a blow up. I don't usually want to place my own things in this article, because frankly there would be too many, and I prefer to have others contribute, but this one seemed appropriate.

Red and the blow up

Years ago **Judy Williams**, experienced turner, was in **James Popell's** shop learning to turn a bowl. My red headed daughter was also interested and so we were turning little bowls. She had really taken to the lathe and was doing great little pieces such as weed pots. She had turned the outside of her little bowl and it was remounted on a chuck for turning away the inside. All was going so well when a mouse ran across the shop floor escaping to the great outdoors. Slam bang the bowl shattered and dinged her face mask. She calmly put the tool down. Went and set about 25 yards from the shop so she could watch from a safe distance in case my bowl blew up. She was convinced that as scary as having a little bowl blow up in her face, she didn't want to take the chance that a really big bowl would take her head off. It was ok if I wanted to take that chance but she was done with woodturning and has never voluntarily picked up a tool and attempted to turn again. She has since found many other ways to express her artistic side.

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I'm delighted I have several "**blow up**" stories people talked to me about. Now, I just need the details. Please email me with your name. I want to get them in the **CHIP PILE**.

Or, Please email your stories to me, that's the best way to get in the newsletter, we all want to learn from you. It can just be notes!

**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](mailto:hildac@mac.com)**

Demonstration:

# Stacey Hager



August's demonstrator, Stacey Hager, was



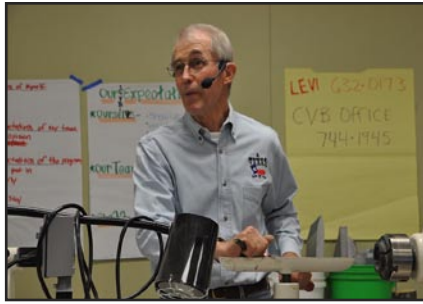
an educational tour. As **Gene Stokes** mentioned in his President's message, it doesn't matter what size your lathe is, **Stacey Hager** showed us how to keep it clean, how to choose the right tool rest, and best practices for turning.



He cleaned the club's OneWay using Brillo pads to get rid of all the old rust. and Johnson Wax. Woowee!" The point being be sure to clean the underside of the banjo, the runway of the lathe and of course the top of the lathe so the tailstock and head will run smoothly!

Stacey then showed the appropriate use of a Flat Bastard to treat the tool rest. Be sure to put chalk on the Flat Bastard so you know

where you have been and do not repeat that area as you go up the file. If done appropriately the result should be a smooth



tool rest with no scratches, and a file that lasts for a very long time.



Tool rest height was the next topic of Stacey's discussion. Set it to the height where the tool will be below center and your tool end will be at or below your waist. Stacey prefers his tool end below the waste for control.



Stacey next talked about personal safety as it came to tool rests. If you are choosing a tool rest what to look for, what his



preferences are, etc. For example. If you can find a tool rest that offers a curve for your hands to tuck under that is better than one that does not. A tool rest that gives your tool better stability (e.g., a flat top, vs. round top) will help you control the tool while turning. The simple rule: anything that can help you control the tool while turning and increase your safety, the better the chance for a beautiful turning, and less



chance for loss of limb.

Jewelry: lose it or lose IT. Take off all your jewelry while turning, protect longer hair, wear protective gear, eyes, nose, etc. Turning is dangerous

Stacey then turned to the subject of tree composition with all kinds of cool multi-



media tools. First were his "let me explain side grain and end grain to you straws."

Where on earth do you think he found the time and patience to put all those straws together in a coordinated pattern with blue tape? I'll bet he was very good with tape in Kindergarten.

Stacey rolled out the straw-tree with the explanation that "This is how a tree grows." It was fascinating to watch those straws fold around and change colors. Man I totally understood what he was saying . . . Then we graduated kindy-garten and went to higher math.

## STACEY HAGER (con't)

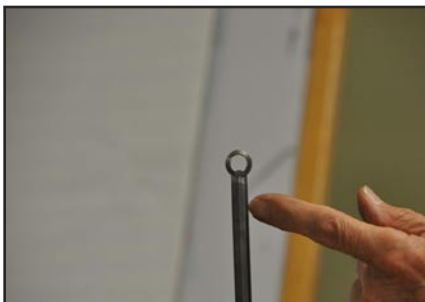
Stacey continued with additional multimedia tools for the more advanced minded. He brought out a sophisticated wood model that demonstrated the fibers of the wood. This showed how they would react when being cut while turned. The side grain, end grain, etc. are extremely important to the turner as they will affect the way the piece will react.



Similar to the simpler straw model the slats of the wood model show the layers of the tree's fibers. However, this more advanced model also shows the way a bowl, spindle, or hollow form might react, depending on where you have decided to approach your turning. The lesson here is to be sure to

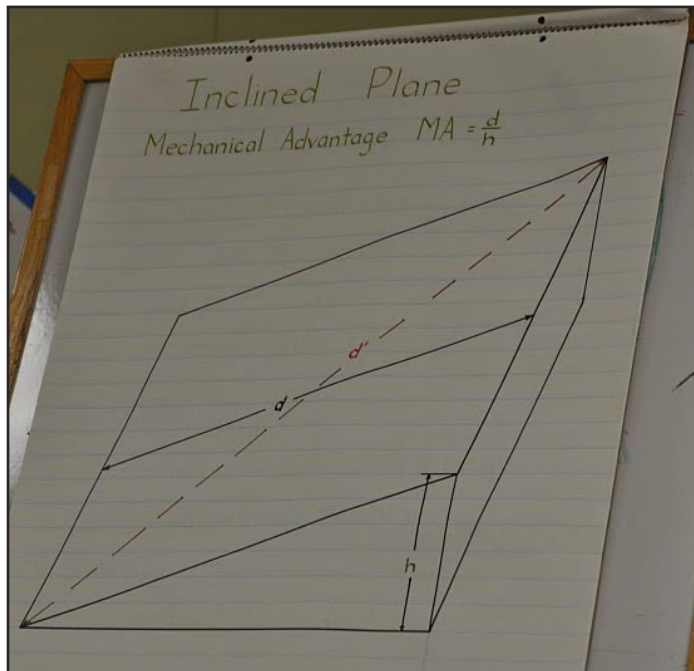


look at the grain before you decide on your shape.



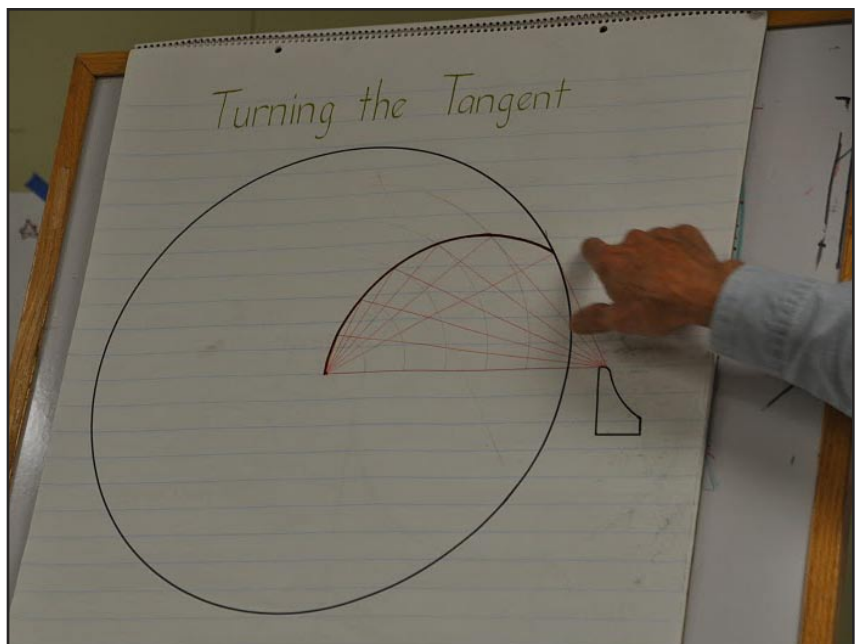
Stacey then showed us a hollowing tool, also known as a "termite tool" to scrape out the wood. This serves as a fast way to remove wood and is easy to use since it does not catch very easily.

The last portion of Stacey's presentation was fascinating for the engineers in the group. In the formula  $MA = d/h$  for an inclined plane;  $MA$  = mechanical advantage,  $d$  = the distance the resistance or load is moved across the surface of the plane, and  $h$  = height or the distance the load is raised against the pull of gravity. He was explaining that when you skew a cutting



edge you increase its mechanical advantage. This is analogous to walking diagonally rather than straight up a slope because it is easier.

Tangent = the point on straight line where



it contacts a circle. This point is always perpendicular to the center of the circle. Stacey was explaining that the "sweet spot" (where a tool cuts best) is always near this point.

We always appreciate Stacey's wisdom when he presents to the club. He is a tremendous asset and everyone enjoyed his style and wit. Thanks Stacey!

## Demo Schedule

September meeting :  
**Jim Rogers, Woods of  
Central Texas**

**Jim Rodgers** will inform us of some of the local and interesting Texas woods and how to process them. Jim received his BS in Forestry from Stephen F. Austin in Nacogdoches and has been appreciating trees and wood ever since. Jim has been woodworking since 1973 when a part time job gathering wood samples for a Wood Technology class at SFA led to a chance encounter with a big walnut tree he turned into a slab table. He began wood turning slowly but surely 10 years ago as another way to appreciate the beauty of different woods. Jim can extol the virtues (and vices) of many Texas woods. Jim retired from the City of Austin Parks and Recreation department and is currently the Director of Parks and Recreation for Williamson County.

October meeting :  
**Raul Pena Small  
Engrained box turned**

**Raul Pena** will be showing us Small Endgrain Box turned with Hook Tools showing how to use different hook tools. The demonstration also covers making jam chucks for finishing the bottom of the box and the use of different types of turning tools. I'll cover the ABC rule and hopefully show people how to overcome their fear of using a skew.

From Johnny: Well, I actually made smaller ornaments today and not quite as busy as the one I made yeasterday. The ones on the left are almost alike, Maple and Mesquite, The third from the left is the one I made yesterday The two on the right are also today's work. Agarita and Mesquite. The tape measure gives an indication of the size. I don't think that I can go any smaller on the globes. These are just so much fun to make and only uses up a small piece of wood. So you see I don't have scraps in my shop, just small wood waiting to be used up. Now I need to get along to other turnings.



# SPINDLES SPINDLES SPINDLES! TURN YOUR ICICLES BY NOVEMBER CHALLENGE!



Smallest icicle: The globe is Mesquite and the finial and icicle are Agarita. The mesquite globe is hollowed out through the 3/8" hole where the icicle is attached. The side holes are only 1/4" in diameter and was drilled using the Oneway Drill Wizard while still on the lathe.

## 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.

Events & Dates subject to change, watch for emails!

September 21st 7 PM to 9 PM  
CTWA Meeting Presenter:  
*Jim Rogers: Woods of Central Texas*

October 2 9 AM to Noon  
*First Saturday - TBD*

October 19th 7 PM to 9 PM  
CTWA Meeting Presenter:  
*Raul Pena—Small Endgrain Box turned with Hook tools.*

November 6th 9 AM to Noon  
*First Saturday - Site TBD*

November 16th 7 PM to 9 PM  
CTWA Meeting Presenter  
*TBA*  
**ICICLE CHALLENGE DUE!**

December 4th 9 AM to Noon  
*First Saturday - Site TBD*

December Christmas Party  
**Clyde & Pat Little's House**  
Date TBA

January 8th 9 AM to Noon  
*First Saturday - Site TBD*

January 18th 7 PM to 9 PM  
CTWA Meeting  
Presenter TBA

February 5th 9 AM to Noon  
*First Saturday - Site TBD*

February 15th 7 PM to 9 PM  
CTWA Meeting  
Presenter TBA

## Editor's "Turn"

My musings from SWAT:

I have mixed emotions about SWAT. First, please understand that SWAT is an annual event that I very much look forward to, almost as much as I look forward to our monthly meetings. There's something about getting away from the house, getting a dog-sitter, packing up the truck and heading up the road, meeting new people, watching new techniques, and looking at new tools, sandpaper, ideas, and having fun with people I know. OK, yes and listening to Sirius radio all the way up I35, Blue Collar Comedy Channel (don't ask).

I never am able to make all the 67.5 hours of meetings I want to attend because there is usually so much diversity in the topics and speakers—this is a sign of a good symposium. There is so much to learn, listen and see. Even if the topic is similar, having two or three people talk about the subject is interesting because they will see it from a different perspective.

SWAT again drew master turners that were world class. **Eli Avisera** and **Molly Winton** were my personal favorites. **Clay Foster's** room was packed each session. There were 750+ attendees! The largest number ever! Wow! Moreover . . . the schedule was not world class. Not to be a poop head as my granddaughter might say, but here are some ideas.

**Jennifer Shirley** had five sessions that were overlay sessions of **Molly Winton**, the premier draw; however, Jennifer is not a master turner, nor is she on the scale of **Molly Winton**. She admitted she only turns a few hours a month, it isn't her livelihood. Not to take away from Jennifer, her sessions were good, but her presentation was more like a regional presentation. Why would SWAT give her five sessions? Could those sessions have been given to other topics or other regional presenters on the same or better, different topic?

**Mike Jackofsky** (five sessions) and **Alan Leland** (four sessions) both discussed hollowing. Mike was promoting his tools while demonstrating hollowing on a bowl—I guess I don't have a problem with demonstrating hollowing on an open bowl, but it became a little redundant—trying to sell his tools vs. others. How about another presenter? Even better what would have happened if SWAT offered a different topic, or a different technique like a thin vase? How about something more challenging like what **Peter Hawkins** does a hollow form open vase? Now that's a challenge I'd like to see in a demonstration over and over.

For example, **Craig Timmerman** had only two sessions and a full room for his

## Keeping Austin Turning Since 1988

Torus vase on the first session of the symposium.

Last year there was a session on "Turning Crotches" now doesn't that sound like an interesting topic? The title was alluring but the idea was turning the area where the branches came together into the trunk. A regional presenter filled the room.

Besides our own **Craig Timmerman**, other regional presenters: **James Johnson**, **Tom Farrell**, **Jim Keller**, **Marion McDaniel**, **Don Ward**, **Dan Henry**, and **Andy Chen**. They were great! Now, I have to admit—not on the scale of the world-class **Eli Avisera** or **Molly Winton** . . . but with more presentations, they could be.

Well, I like my symposiums spicy. I learn how they hold a tool; or which tool they use for what application; or how they grind their too; or how they turn on the bevel. I smile when they have so many tools they can't find the tool they need—especially when they usually end up using only two or three anyway.

I also like the people who present in our club, and the topics we cover. I think **Tim White** does an excellent job of rounding up **Craig Timmerman**, **Jimmy Tolly**, **Johnny Tolly**, **Peter Hawkins**, **Len Brissette**, **Stacey Hager**, **Marcia Tolly**, **HO Evans**, **Gary Roberts**, **Frank Miller**, **Larry Walrath**, **Charlie Kay** and I'm sure there are others I'm missing that I do not intend to offend. Of course there are turners who have demonstrated that I cannot remember or who demonstrated before my time as well. Please forgive me if I've left your name off the list, I know you're great as well.

Here are some ideas that would help me: How about a session on how to cut wood to get it ready for turning? Finishing—all those choices, which one and what wood is best. What about using inlays, color, hollowing Christmas balls, creating icicles, segmented turning—not just creating the segments, but actually turning the segmented bowl or vase. We could go through a magazine and pick a picture and say, "How would I do this?" I'm sure there is someone in the club that knows how to do it and would be willing to demonstrate it at SWAT. I'm thinking about bringing airbrushing or some of my friends who know it as well as demonstrators to SWAT. **Bin Pho** had a huge drawing at SWAT two years ago.

Look at it this way, if over 35 people enjoy it in Austin, more than likely over 35 people at Waco would too.

Well, it's a thought worth considering. Maybe there's some political history here I don't know about. Maybe someone got mad at someone and they don't want to do it based on principle. But I guarantee you there are young (and I use that term metaphorically) turners like me that wish you would volunteer.

Regardless of the overlap in topics, I don't intend to be excessively negative, I still learned a lot. I had more time to go to the gallery than sit in uncomfortable chairs listening to demonstrators. There were many gallery pieces, including some from our group.

I found out that SWAT actually WANTS volunteer presenters! Did you know that? So let us go spice it up! Maybe you've presented in the past, please consider presenting again. You're really good!

OK, moving on . . . The high of the time (the low to my checkbook)—I bought a new lathe! As we volunteers, otherwise known as OPS, were cleaning up we came to the room where **Molly Winton** had been demonstrating. In this room was a lovely **Robust** lathe. I knew the **Robust** was set perfectly, because she's the same height as I am. I had watched her turn on it for a couple of sessions—mmmm. All the rooms were clean, except this one. We were ready to remove the lathe, clear away the sawdust and chips, pick up the plastic and vacuum the floor. **Brent English** came by to pick it up—I bought it right then and there. **Johnny Tolly** loaded the lathe with his forklift into our Truck!

We OPS folks finished cleaning up the SWAT rooms, disassembling TV tables and easels, rolling up electrical cords, cleaning white boards, folding plastic paper, loading the SWAT trailer vacuuming sawdust, moving lathes (it's easier than I thought it would be), helping a vendor back up her trailer, and always, always checking with **Marcia Tolly** to see if there was something else that needed to be done. Thanks go to all the volunteers in our club and others who helped with the setup and tear down. Next time, **Steve Green** and I will stay until we see the **Tolly's** wheels leaving because they had to stay until 6:00 PM. Why? Because the vendors left all their trash . . . they did not clean up after themselves. **Johnny and Marcia** were the only ones left to clean up the boxes and trash. Now, that is just not right. I guess that was the low, two dear friends got stuck and didn't get home until very late because SWAT didn't take care to make sure the Vendors did their part. That was the lowest news I heard.

Next year, SWAT will come again, we'll pack up the truck, turn on Sirius, blue collar comedy, and I'll have the same excitement. I'll volunteer for OPS, and I'll learn more techniques. For now . . . I'm a turning on that new lathe!

Keep turning it on!

Hilda Carpenter  
Editor

**Random Ruminations:  
Granddaughters take  
Precidence  
BY  
Charles Kay**

This month's Random Ruminations is ruminating while Charlie is away visiting his granddaughter in California. Watch for his column in next month's issue of the **Chip Pile**

In the meantime . . . from Charlie . . .

Keep on turning,

**Charlie Kay**

**CHRISTMAS  
PARTY**

**Clyde and Pat Little** have once again opened their home to us for the Christmas party. No date is set yet, but we have a place to party! Stay tuned on the date.

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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](mailto:hildac@mac.com) or mail them to:

**The Chip Pile**

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**SOUTH**

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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** 512.293.7479  
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

Meet the Turners:  
Stacey Hager  
by  
Judy Williams



Business Meeting

**Gene Stokes**, President, discussed the AAW collaborative meeting that would occur on Aug. 26th at SWAT, anyone is welcome to join. **Len Brissette** announced that September's First Saturday would be at **Orlando Bloom's** shop. **Curtis Turner** mentioned the Burr Oak in Georgetown and Osage Orange. **Stacey Hager and Jim Roberts** had items to sell. **Clyde Little** had a blow up that he would contribute to the Chip Pile. Questions were asked if would be a segmented turners special interest group at SWAT. The meeting was adjourned to move on to the demonstrator, **Stacey Hager**.

For those who attended the recent SWAT Symposium there is a two for one raffle. In the same spirit, three profiles of turners come in one article. These are the men who play important roles in our club and whose turnings are not often seen.

Our President, **Gene Stokes** is a retired principal who really knows how to delegate and have things run smoothly. He created well thought out challenges to our club members who responded with "interesting" results. Gene didn't really have much of a background in turning until his fellow church member, **Ed Roberts**, showed what turning was all about. It was 2003 and it's all Ed's "fault" that Gene HAD to get a mini-Jet to turn pens. After turning his second pen, Gene HAD to build a shop and things just grew from there. Gene used a 12 x 16 foot building to contain his drill press, band saw, 16 x 24 Jet, contractors table saw, work benches, storage, tools and other things that tend to grow with woodturners. We all know how that happens. Gene turns to woodturning for the simple pleasure it gives him. He tends to make easy pieces for his own enjoyment. He mostly turns bowls and hollow forms.

**Ed Roberts**, our Treasurer, was first exposed to turning in his high school shop classes. Although he enjoyed doing that, life put turning on the back burner until 1990 when he returned to working on a lathe. Ed joined the club in 1994 and has been a very active member. In his previous life, Ed was an electronic engineer which I think means he can build a better light bulb but you can ask him about what he did. Ed's favorite wood is mesquite and his favorite thing to turn is the "next thing". He does have a preference for vases although he likes to turn a variety of items. The one

thing that makes Ed stand out is that he enjoys helping people out. For example, he did a little collaboration with **Hilda Carpenter** on her project for the SWAT Raffle. Although he does not want to do a club demonstration, he really enjoys teaching in a one on one situation and he is very good at it. After all, he gave Gene the turning bug.

**Drew Shelton**, our membership chairperson, can only turn part-time as he is still in the work force. You often see him behind the camera at club meeting and you see his photos in the Chip Pile, or at First Saturdays with his daughter, Kimberley. Drew has had a connection to wood for many years. He originally liked to make furniture until a friend at work convinced him to take a pen turning class. Drew was hooked. He has been playing ever since. He has done Christmas ornaments, bowls, disk vases like **Gary Roberts**, wooden flowers but he really likes vases. He uses a lot of FOG wood and his car is trained to stop and park at nearly any newly cut wood. Drew's enjoyment of turning is similar to most turners in that the thing he likes most is "the instant gratification versus weeks and months to complete a piece of furniture"

For those who are new to turning here are some common woods that some of us turn:

- FOG wood - found on ground**
- FOR wood - found on road**
- FIB wood - found in bin**
- FIP wood - found in pallet**

Photos

Photographs for this month's **Chip Pile** were provided by **Frank Miller, Drew Shelton, Ben Warren, and Steve Green**. 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](mailto:hildac@mac.com).



**August Member Gallery**

We had an impressive gallery again this month showing various finishes and turning styles. First, **Curtis Turner** Demonstrated his metallic finishings on various woods (?). the tall turning of osage wood, then his canon ball, His pear bowl and box



**Hilda Carpenter** brought a baby walnut bowl finished in shellac.



**Johnny Tolly** brought a M&M Peanut dispenser.



**Steve Green** brought a Cypress 3 layer-Chyrsal inlay in Maple finished poly, as well as a Maple bowl treated with texture, gesso and finished with shellac.



**Davidson Loehr** produced 2 beautiful large salad bowls, one of in sycamore, and one silver maple both finished in water lox.

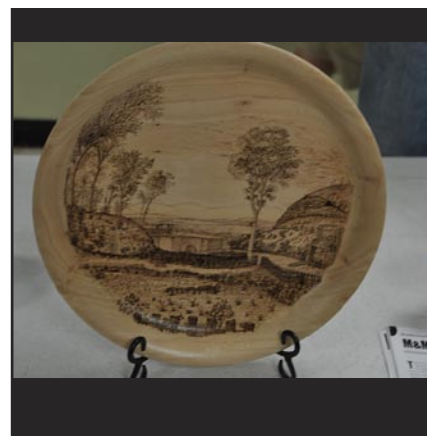


Len Brissette captured the beauty of a Box Elder Hollow Fern and Ironwood and finished it with Deft.



ished it with Deft.

**Marcia Tolly** named this beauty "Eternity" and I can tell you that the picture does not



do the work service. the Sycamore wood makes a perfect background for her delicate masterwork pyrographic burnings.

This first picture, although difficult to see, is a beautiful gift from Judy Williams as her bring back to the Brazos Valley Woodturners. She won while demonstrating for them! It is a shadowbox of her amazing spindleturnings and lace creations. The second picture is what Judy will be taking to SWAT for her 2-For 1 Gallery donation.



## August Member Gallery (cont)



**David Dick** brought this maple vase finished with Deft.



**Jan Rehler** created a mesquite lazy susan finished in danish oil.

## Beads for Kids



Anonymous donations came from all over



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the States of SWAT for the kids with Cancer, along with beads to put in the boxes. We



appreciate those CTWA members who took the time. Maybe next time, we'll have even more to send along, as well as more beads!

## Bring Back Raffle

**Jim Spano**, OH creative one, had this turbo



top of hack and pecan & unknown wood, finished in walnut oil and wax that **Harris P. Harrell** took home. **Tim white** turned a Cedar Elm Mushroom



Box finished in hut's that **Steve Green** delighted in taking home. Tim also had a small walnut bowl finished in tung oil that **Tom Choate** grabbed up with his raffle ticket!



**Jim Spano** played with his off-center chuck again and brought back an offcenter box of cherry finished and deft and buffed that **Tim White** took home.



Tom Choate brought a Mesquite box finished with lacquer and . . . yes . . . **Tim White** won it.

Well, what can I say . . . **Tim White** is going to be busy this month. Or Trevor, his son is.

OK, **Harris, Tom** you are also on the hook, but there are others from in the past that are "past due" and you know who you are, so let's get those raffles back up there.

AND if you have some pieces that are just collecting, but they are pretty good, then bring them on down to the raffle!

*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.*

# Collaborative Projects for AYW Benefit

Not having the paperwork for all the collaborators on each project, We'll just show you the before and after's of each project. These projects will now go to the auction that raises money for the AYW annual dinner. See Gene for tickets that so you can also bid on other fund raising items.

One thing of note—please note the scarcity of items to collaborate—seven. Some of us almost had to choose our own turnings. We ask you to please consider participating next year. We have a very large club, the officers and volunteers will take your turning and help you finish, or you can help someone else. Or, if you're like me, it's OK to blow it up!

Just try next year. Thanks.



There's a story here.



## Members in the News

### Johnny Tolley's Christmas Icicle CHALLENGE

**Johnny Tolly** challenges each CTWA member to do a little spindle turning. Remember back in February Johnny did a demonstration on how he hollows out the globes for his award winning Christmas Ornaments. This got Johnny thinking of a special challenge for each CTWA member.



Unforgettably Johnny had right shoulder surgery to repair a torn rotator cuff. So amazingly Johnny has healed up nicely and with the approval from CTWA President, **Gene Stokes**, Johnny set to work hollowing out enough globes for the challenge. Johnny has hollowed out various woods using the **Mike Hunter** small round carbide cutters. <http://www.hunterwoodturningtool.com/>

Each of the globes have four side holes so people can see that they are hollowed out on the inside. This also makes the completed Christmas Ornament very light weight, depending on the size of your completed icicle and finial.

Here is how the challenge works: Johnny asks that each CTWA person ONLY take one globe so everyone can do the challenge. This took Johnny a lot of time and work to get all globes completed for the challenge. Johnny will have some globes at the September meeting if you missed the August meeting, so see Johnny. Remember the challenge is to then turn an icicle and finial of your design. The holes on the top and bottom of the globes are, 5/8" and 3/8", you decide which you want as the top or bottom. You can use any wood of your choice. You can do anything that you want to the globe, such as painting, piercing or just leave it as is.

As you may be aware, Johnny has had the first of a two part article published in Woodturning Design Magazine. [www.woodturningdesign.com](http://www.woodturningdesign.com) The first article is how he does his icicles and finials. In the winter issue will be the second part on how Johnny hollows out the globes. Johnny encourages each of you to get the magazine and read the article then make your icicle and finial as you wish.

OK, the completed Christmas Ornament is to be brought back to the November meeting for all to see. Marcia has volunteered to use her phyrography skills and burn

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your name and date into the globe. If it is for someone special she can do that name also. Please print your name or what you want on a piece of paper so she won't have to guess who you are or what you want on the completed Christmas Ornament.

### Ben Warren: Long Horns & Butterflies by Hilda Carpenter

I heard from **Ben Warren** and he's been busy up in Branson, MO. He has been going to Tim and Tracey Nicholas' house who just happen to be the owners of Wood-N-Whimsies <http://www.woodnwhimsies.com/> Ben reports that the Nicholas' hospitality has been more than gracious and highly recommends everyone to check out their website. The inlay kits are really worth checking into. Ben says he is making the Butterfly this weekend. He sent me several pictures of his loveley pens. If you are interested in seeing more than the pictures I've posted here, just let me know. If you want to send Ben a note or call him, he is listed in the member's directory.

Gatsby Pen with Padauk and Maple Inlay  
Gatsby Pen with Maple and Padauk Inlay  
Tycoon Rollerball with Cocobolo



### Visiting Other Clubs by Judy Williams

Recently I had the chance to visit Brazos Valley Woodturning Club as a visitor rather than a demonstrator. It is an entirely different perspective. When one is a demonstrator one often viewed as more "professional" than a club member. Several years ago I demonstrated for them when all 12 could still fit in a member's shop. Coming as a visitor, I was greeted as a equal and trea-

sured guest. People introduced themselves to me and made me feel very welcome. Old friends from the club were really glad to see me. It was a treat to see new turned items from newly minted friends. Their show and tell was different than ours because I hadn't seen any of it before and it appeared to be a little more individual and experimental. The members all recognized each other works but they were new and exciting for me.

An old friend of mine, **Dan Henry**, was the demonstrator which is why I jumped at the chance to see him in a smaller venue. He demonstrated the Beall Wizzard and had a great selection of finished product as well as the "uups". The club meets at the Technical College in Waco; and if you went to SWAT, the young people running the video equipment were from the college.

This is a small club with a lot of heart and a mixture of new and old turners. They have a bring back as well as a donated door prize. However one can only buy one ticket for each and you have to write your name on the back of the ticket. I can't remember when I last won a bring back but my name got called. I won a fair size lidded box from a gentleman named Max and it currently is being used as my sugar bowl. I put together a little bring back for them which will make it's way up there.

In the future, I'll make sure I have a bring back in the car in case I accidentally win when I visit neighboring clubs as a visitor rather than a demonstrator. If you have the time, it is really worthwhile to visit other clubs. We certainly welcome visitors and make them feel welcome and it is nice to be on the receiving side of that.

**First Saturday September  
by  
Hilda Carpenter**

After enjoying labor day, we took the next Saturday for our First Saturday. About 30 people showed up at **Orlando Bloom's** amazing shop that is both a metal and woodshop behind his house in north Austin. As you can see **Kimberley Shelton** has advanced her turning to bowls. She worked with **Frank Miller** and her Dad, **Drew Shelton** turning with style and confidence.



In another area **Stacey Hager** discussed the Fibonacci aspects of the spindles in his article that he wrote a few years back. Several of us were amazed at the mathematics of his scale.



**Steve Gottlieb** worked with **Frank Miller** on spindle turning and **Hilda Carpenter** discussed the advantages of different grinds for spindle turning with Frank. Oh yes . . . Frank sharpened Hilda's skew she dropped, again, on the driveway up to Orlando's shop.

**Book Reviews  
by  
Judy Williams**

**The Frugal Woodturner by Ernie Conover  
(Amazon Books \$13.57)**

This is the book I wished I had when I was first starting out with woodturning; and the book I wished I could have recommended to my students who were first starting out and not sure if this was something they wanted to invest a lot of money in. Back in the day, one could get set up with a mini-lathe and a few tools and a bench grinder for a few hundred dollars. Now it is a little more difficult trying to decide between similar lathes and what they can do.

Conover takes the approach that one can get set up on the "modest" (read don't have much money), medium (have some but not really sure how far to go at first) and the large (just retired, have lots of money and need to do something) budgets. Each chapter continues this approach by going from the most inexpensive to the ultimate.

Conover starts out by discussing the various types of lathes and how to size up a used lathe. He discusses the types of work each type of lathe can produce. If your heart is set on big vessels and mini-lathe is probably not going to be big enough. He also presents how to build a decent lathe stand from common lumber. If your doctor has told you to increase your exercise, Conover has excellent plans for a Spring Pole Lathe.

Conover discusses tools and how to make some tools such as scrapers as well as the tool handle itself. It was really refreshing to have someone else write about not buying to turning tool sets. He has a true perspective on just having enough tools to do the job and gives specific examples for those that want to mostly do bowls and vessels or spindles and for those who aren't sure and want to try both. He does a really good job of describing how to sharpen tools including a shop built jig that can do everything the expensive one can, but the real gem in this book is making shop made chucks of various sorts. I've struggled making these in the past but now feel much more confident with this book handy.

We all know how to train our vehicles to stop at any wood left near road, but Conover expands the possibilities of free wood. He continues his frugal look at simple finishes that can be bought in big box stores as well as an oil/varnish finish you can make yourself.

Although there is only one turning project (a tool handle) there are plans for all sorts of other tooling as well as suggestions on how to chuck various projects. I was able to pick up quite a few ideas and would recommend this book to anyone who is starting to get serious about woodturning as a source for ideas for creating a shop.

## First Saturday con't

**Stacey Hager** demonstrated the use of a skew, one of his particularly strong skills (oh can there really be one among many?).



**Jim Roberts** was hiding in the corner, mainly because he has a bumb knee, but not even a bad knee can keep him from turning.

There was a lot of good time visitng among old friends and friends who had just met



and of course tools that spinned really fast. About the time we were ready to wrap up, Orlando gave us a tour of the machine shop side of his place. He tells a funny



story when he and his wife lived in another part of Austin with a two-car garage. All his tools were in the garage, she had no

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room to put her car in the garage. They built this home he laid the pad for his shop. She still doesn't have room for her cars, but it isn't his fault. He laughed a little too evilly at this. But it really was a funny joke.

All but one of his kids are in college, but when they were all at home, they would work and watch football in the shop.

He is quite a family man and loves Austin. He looks forward to having more time for turning. now that his youngest has his



driver's license.



After all this excitement Orlando suggested a restaurant that just opened, Flores, so 13 of us headed up towards Dripping Springs



and had a fantastic lunch of Mexican food. I highly recommend it.

Thanks Orlando for hosting our First Saturday, it was a great time.

## 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 \$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 \$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 Brissette know! Or email the editor.

## 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. AI @ 512/864-0876 gaskell@verizon.net Sun City.**

**FOR SALE: Like NEW Powermatic 3520B \$3,000**



hardly used. Missing drive center and or tail 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

### FOR SALE:

**Parks 12" planer** with 12" jointer attachment.

**Delta 1" belt/ 5" disk sander** with stand.

**Meed telescope** (D=114mm, F=1000mm, f/8.8) with stand and Autostar Tracking.

**Coleman Angle Jig** for any radial arm saw.

**Skill Saw** 6 1/2", heavy duty, all ball bearing, all aluminum, model 552

## Classified Ads

**New Black & Decker saber saw** with dust collector, model JS 500

**2 Weed eaters** (Echo GT 200 BE) (Bolens BL100 17")

**2 Chain saws** (Echo 452 VL with 16" bar) (McCulloch CS38EM 38cc)

**3 Tillers** ( Troy-built Horse 6 hp, Honda heavy duty 8hp FRC800

**Almost new, Mantis model 7222E** cultivator)

**Johnson 3hp Seahorse outboard motor**

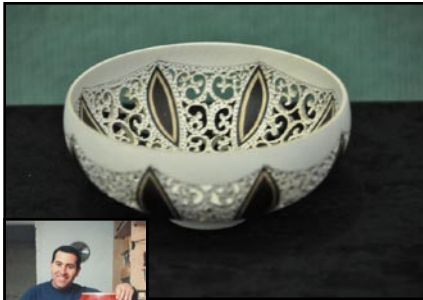
**Antique collections** - fans, typewriters, bottles, toasters, radio, accounting machine, oil heater, and more.

**Call Stacey Hager for details (512) 282-1036**

## Wandering through SWAT by Hilda Carpenter

We were lucky to have members with very nice cameras taking some snaps at SWAT. There are several ways to think about SWAT. First, Do you want to buy wood at a good price? Second, do you want to get ideas about a new way to turn? Third do you want to learn how to do those new ideas from the masters? Forth, do you want to see what others are doing in the gallery. Fifth, do you want to buy those cool tools that those masters are using, or replace your old tools with some better ones that are, "ahem" absolutely necessary. Maybe you need some state-of-the art sandpaper (and trust me here, sandpaper has changed). There is a slide show on the SWAT site, but it only shows a small portion of the imaginative pieces there. Here are some that You might enjoy.

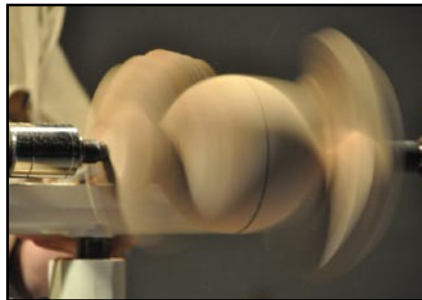
First let's talk one of the top Presenters, a leading wood art master, **Eli Evisera**, from Jerusalem at first apologized for his English. No one complained as he turned his bowl and long stemmed goblet that wowed the crowds.



The next buzz was **Molly Winton**, her well-recognized branded/burned hollow forms were part of her discussion of making our own "style." Her presentations were informative and excellent.



**Clay Foster** drew large crowds by demonstrating off-center turning. Each session was standing-room only.



Here are other pictures of wood, gallery, vendors that caught Drew Shelton, Charlie Kay, or Frank Miller's fancies. Of course our own clubs' entries were awesome, these are simply interesting and awesome as well. Enjoy!

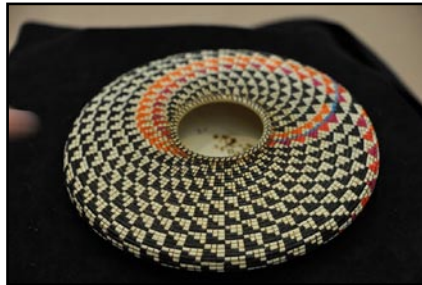
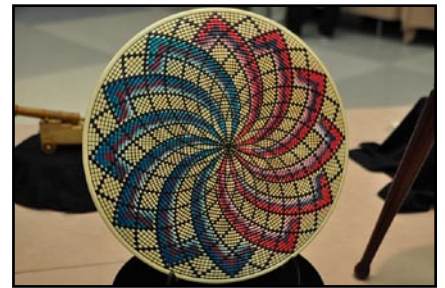
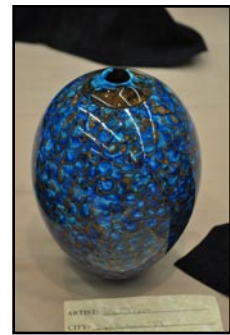




Wandering through SWAT



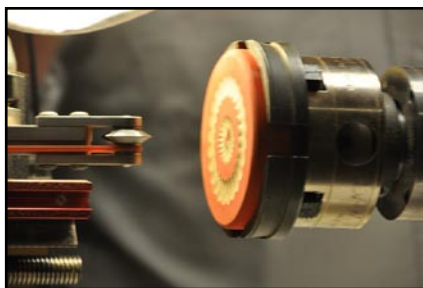
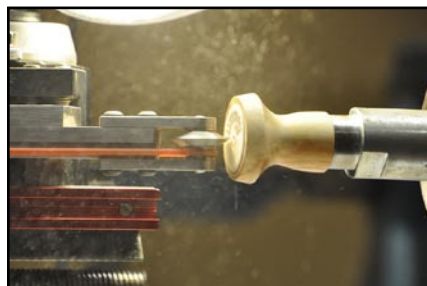
Wandering through SWAT



## Wandering through SWAT



Hands on volunteers were there to help all ages of turners learn a bit about turning.



## Advice to the Masters by Judy Williams

A visit with **Clay Foster**

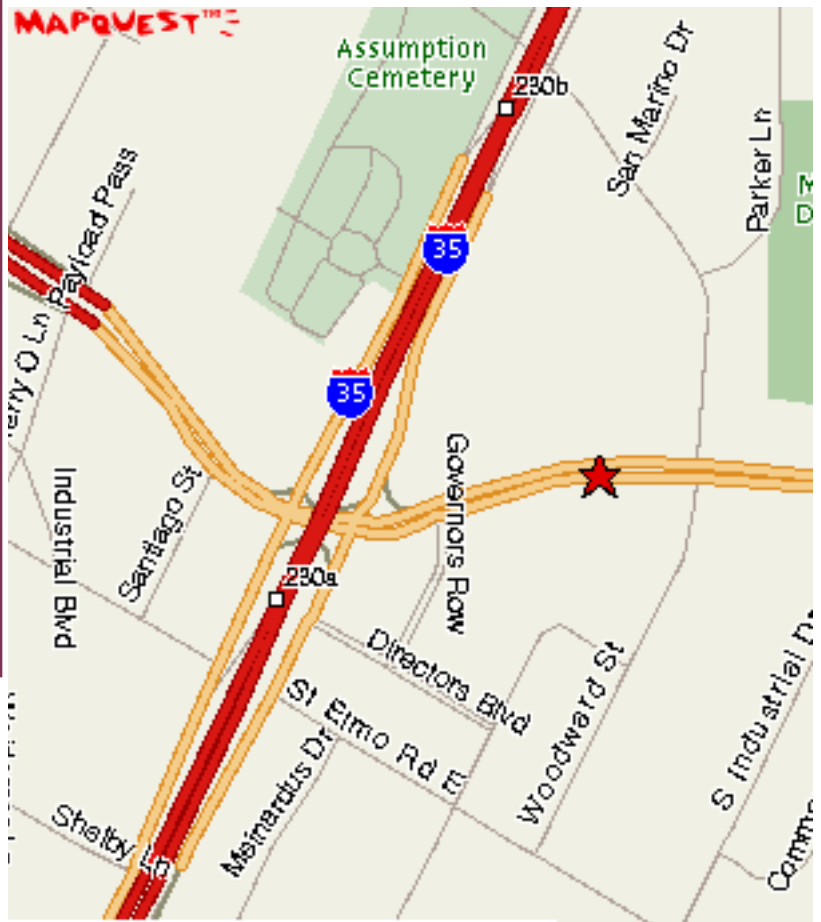
I've know Clay since I first picked up a tool and put it to wood on a lathe. I attended "Turn me a story" where he and Jennifer Shirley explored woodturning as story telling medium. All in all it was great concept for looking at art pieces. Later I had a visit with him and basically told him that he was missing a huge part of the telling a story. Some pieces reach out to the viewer inviting them to feel the wood, other pieces scream stay away and enjoy the visual. I told him my pet peeve about experts selecting pieces from the instant gallery. They never select the spindle work. I requested him to at least mention some spindle work and then go on to the vessel and bowls and

do the usual selection from those turned pieces. Over the years I have accumulated many turned pieces and the majority are in a cabinet on display but 3 I treasure and use almost daily because I like to feel them. I have a fruit bowl from one of the Tolleys, a salad bowl from David Dick and my sugar pot from Wes of Brazos Valley. He did say he liked my lace bobbins and the lace and I challenged him to "feel" my story or any spindle turners work in the future. There are many ways to tell a story and in my opinion all are valid.

There are more SWAT pictures posted online at <http://www.swaturners.org/svmanager/g40/>

### 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:

I looked at the AAW website for ideas about this newsletter and how it might evolve. I admit it was for selfish reasons. There is a contest at the end of the year for “best” newsletters. I took my enrgy and decided to look around, starting with the AAW site. Blah.

Since our membership is mostly men, I went to sites that are geared for men. Whoa, you guys like color, I'd say mostly hot rod red, black, white and brown, Sometimes purple and light blue. some gray oh . . . and blondes with uh, let's just call them embellishments.

Now what the heck does all this have to do with woodturning? Well, there seems to be an interesting dialogue going on right now. Where is AAW going with woodturners, with judging turning? How does embellishing a turning fit in with the pure craft of turning? Where does carving fit in with turning? Can a poorer quality woodturner be seen as a better woodturner because he can create a better image than the better quality woodturner?

Try saying that fast 3 times.

I'm always teasing Charles Kay about his beautiful turnings, telling him that they would look even better with a little bit of airbrushing on them. He knows I'm teasing because his work is absolutely beautiful as it is. However, he does embellish his work with a few conchos every once and a while, but not color.

So here's the scenario I heard about at the last 1st Saturday: A beautiful 4 sided turning, 3 sides down 1 side up. Perfectly finished, beautifully executed—by all assessments a very technically difficult and well-executed turning. Behind it sits a mediocre vase with simply designed lines. However, it has color beautifully embellishing the wood grain and brings the attention of the crowd.

They are both “woodturnings.” Both are considered “art.” One will sell for perhaps hundreds or thousands of dollars more than the other.

Thus creates the split between the two strongest factions in AAW. The “artists” and the “round and browns” as they proudly call themselves.” But what about the artist who is able to execute a technically proficient turning and opts to add something to that turning? Where does that artist fit? The artist who fits in that chasm of in-between.

I suggest one problem is not trying to figure out the categories of judging. We need the categories of **ethics** in judging.

For example, if I know I have a colored piece that is being judged by someone who

does not like color, then perhaps I have an option to request this judge recuse himself. Or conversely, if I know this artsy-non-woodturning judge is not technically proficient to appreciate my technical woodturning, then I request this judge, do the same.

At that point, the categories do not matter. The judging is fair and equal to the *person* receiving the judgment. Further, maybe this recusing idea relies on an odd numerical system of judges. Otherwise, I could stack the deck in my favor against someone else very easily if I recused all judges and someone else didn't take this option. So, maybe we can only recuse one judge out of 3, or something like that. Wow, it sounds like the Florida chads already.

In the mean time, as I play out a solution, the woodturner factions begin to split, lines are not so clear. A simple carve taints the purity of a woodturning, yet may actually enhance the wood. For example, a woodbore ate through some pecan—you decide to carve out the pith into a design. You burn the hole. The woodturning is alas enhanced. Which category does this fit? It wasn't painted, it was barely carved, more or less picked out really. What do you tell the judge?

I'm going to throw out a really radical idea. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. I see some pieces on World of Woodturners that take my breath away. They are the purest form of woodturning, they are exquisite. I see others that absolutely look like a piece of pottery, yet it is turned wood. If it moves me emotionally, it is art. If it is functional, then it is craft. It's still turned wood.

I think the important distinction is not deciding the categories for judging, rather providing ethical guidelines for judges and participants. I've thrown out one idea, I'm sure there are a million among the creative, woodturners I've met.

Also, setting our own expectation that people, especially men, like color. Oh, and you like to tinker—and oh by the way, in case you had not noticed, you DO like your embellishments.

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?

Radisson

\$95.00