

ITWA Meetings

Fom the President's Shop

The Chip Pile

Keeping Austin Turning Since 1988

The Newsletter of the Central Texas Woodturners Association

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

JANUARY MEETING

Tuesday, January 17, 2012 7:00 - 9:00 PM American YouthWorks - Austin, Texas 1901 East SH 71 (about 1/4 mile east of 1-35 on south side of SH 71)

FIRST SATURDAY TURNOUT

The First Saturday Turnout for February will be at 9:00 AM on February 7, at a place to be determined - watch for an E-mail all aspects of turning, including segmented turnings, inlay and texturing. The items vary from spindle works to end grain boxes, hollow forms and platters. I think you will be proud to see the works of our members on display this spring.

As a club, we will be undergoing a few changes this year. Most notable will be the migration of our website to a new hosting service and

a new web master. Larry Walrath has faithfully hosted and managed this on our behalf for years. Larry wanted to take a break from this responsibility. We owe Larry a big thank you!

Just before the holidays, a customer of mine commissioned several works to be made from wood he had collected from his family property in Bastrop. His family was lucky and narrowly missed all the damage caused by the fires this summer. He wanted the pieces to give as gifts. The turnings were to serve as mementoes from the family land. He phoned me after the holidays to report that when his family members opened their gifts there was not a dry eye in the room. This shows that even simple turnings can have a big impact.

I want to thank all of the members for their hard work, both past and future, to make this club so much fun and so educational.

I am looking forward to a great year!

Curtis

Vessels, Hollow Forms and Bowls from a Board

emo

Our last meeting of 2011 featured CTWA turner and motorhome denizen **Mack Peterson** as our demonstrator. Mack showed us four methods that he uses to come up with his varied and challenging segmented pieces. All of these methods start with 3/4" to 1" boards and wind up with hollow

blanks that minimize wastage of wood.



The first method Mack showed us was how to use a band saw to cut the blanks. First he cuts a board down the middle across the grain, then clamps the two pieces together and lays out concentric circles. He then tilts the band saw to 40 degrees and cuts on the outside of the concentric lines. Now that the tension has been released, it necessary to square up the

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Struttin' Our Stuff!

I hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday season. We must, of course, begin the new year by thanking Pat and Clyde Little for hosting our Christmas party. Their wonderful home and shop are a perfect place for our annual get together. I know that all of you had a great time.

I am looking forward to another exciting year with Central Texas Woodturners. We are off to a great start beginning with our exhibit in the Austin Bergstrom

International Airport. This is the first time our club has exhibited works in the ABIA. In case you are not familiar with it, ABIA maintains several gallery quality displays in the terminal. They focus these displays on works by local artists and groups. We were fortunate to have a range of items selected for our display. These pieces represent

2009 Officers

President Curtis Turner 512.914.1873 curtis turner@sbcglobal.net

> President Elect Charles Kay 512.636.3492 ckayda@gmail.com

Program Chairman Tim White 512.312.2572 twhite716@austin.rr.com

Secretary/Newsletter Editor Greg Vest 512.736.2715 sounddudeaustin@gmail.com

> Treasurer Ed Roberts 512.255.3294 eroberts6@juno.com

Membership Chairman Pat Little 512.423.0508 patlittle46@yahoo.com

Webmaster Larry Walrath larry@larrywalrath.com 512.255.5379

Audio/Visual Coordinator Eddy Butler 325.388.8565 artwoodworker@verizon.net

First Saturday Coordinator Len Brissette 512.423.3625 mesquite@austin.rr.com

> CTWA Web Site www.ctwa.org

Editorial Information

This newsletter is by and for members. The Editor welcomes any written materials and will provide assistance with getting your information into publishable form if you want. DEADLINE IS THE FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH. Contact me with your ideas and drafts by phone at 512.636.3492, by E-mail at ckay@austin.rr.com or mail them to:

> The Chip Pile c/o Charles Kay 828 Middle Creek Drive Buda TX 78610-3056



ends that will be glued together. He does this by gluing 80 grit sandpaper to MDF and sanding the ends using a 90 degree jig. He then glues the ends together using hand clamping. After the glue is spread on the ends, they are placed on waxed paper and held in place by hand for at least 22 seconds. The base is then glued to a face plate and sanded flat with the lathe turning slowly. The rings are then glued in place one by one, sanding each flat before proceeding to the next one.

From there, Mack showed us how he uses a Ring Master (ringmasterlathe. com) to cut similar concentric rings. The Ring Master is available as either an attachment for the lathe or as a stand alone unit. Glue up is the same as with the band saw method.



The third method demonstrated was using the lathe to cut the concentric rings. He usually prepares blanks for this method by gluing up two or more kinds of wood in various predetermined patterns to achieve the desired



final effects. Before cutting the rings, he makes a scaled sketch to figure the size and number of rings he will need and numbers each ring in the drawing. As the rings are cut, it is important to



write the number on each ring to ensure accurate assembly. The piece is glued up in a similar manner to the first two methods. Instead of gluing to the face plate, the first ring is held in place with small pieces of doublestick tape. If Mack is making a hollow form, he glues it up and turns it in two pieces to allow him to hollow the insides before he glues the two halves together to form the finished vessel.

Finally, Mack showed us how he cuts the segments for his open segment-



ed pieces. The sizes of the pieces are calculated using Jerry Bennet's Woodturners' Studio (available from Craft Supplies). He demonstrated his sliding table jig, which he uses on a \$100 portable table saw, for cutting the segments. As with the previous method, he turns hollow vessels in two pieces.



This is a simplified discussion of Mack's procedures. If you were at the meeting, you got a copy of his excellent handout. If not, he will probably provide you with one.



Thanks, Mack, for an interesting and information packed demonstration.



Thanks to the generosity of our demonstrator for the evening, we had three extra pieces in the Raffle in November.

Aleta Wallace was the lucky winner of a bottomless bandsaw-based bowl turned by Mack Peterson. Johnny Tolly took home a pine Ring Master bowl turned by Mack Peterson. Greg Vest held the lucky ticket for a segmented lidded vessel turned by Mack Peterson. It was made of maple, ebony, purple heart, yellow heart and wenge, with an ebony finial. Jack Graham won a spalted pecan bowl turned by Greg Vest. Len Brissette pocketed an acrylic pen turned by Greg Vest. Finally, Greg Vest took home a new Robust tool rest for his mini-lathe, donated by Jim Patterson.





As is the custom, each of the winners will bring back a turned item to the next meeting. The Bring Back items should be representative of each person's best work. It should be noted that the Bring Back Raffle is meant to be a fun event. No one is grading you on the quality of your work. Just bring a piece that represents the best that YOU can do. If you don't yet have a lathe or don't feel that you have enough experience, contact one of our Volunteer Instructors to help you prepare a Bring Back piece. So buy a ticket, get involved and have fun.

You will note, that except for the genrosity of Mack and Jim, we would only have had two Bring Back items in November, although seven people took home Raffle items in October. So there are five of you out there who didn't Bring Back. You know who you are, so get out into your shop and get to work.



Stephen Van Gee brought along a turned bowl filled with fruit turned from mesquite, maple and walnut and finished with Formby's.



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Jim Brinkman showed off three pieces, a mesquite bowl, a pecan and rosewood box and a pecan lidded dish, alls finished with Deft and Beall buffed.



The ever inventive **Jim Spano** brought a sphere emerging from a cube of buffed and waxed maple.



Blair Feller showed off three bowls, of Bradford pear, buckthorn and hard maple, all finished with Watco and Beall buffed.



Chris Van Peske brought along a segmented bowl of padauk, maple and purple heart with turquoise inlay (no photo).

Charlie Kay showed seven tealight candle holders of various woods, finished with Formby's tung oil finish and Beall buffed.



John Wallace brought two bowls, one of mesquite finished with Wipe-On Poly and one of maple burl finished with walnut oil.







Stacey Hager showed off toothpick holder of ligustrum, finished with lacquer.

Steve Green showed two platters from his "Darth Vader" series, one of maple and one of cherry, both dyed with

India ink and finished with lacquer and wax.







Greg Vest showed off a small vase turned from mesquite and finished with Waterlox and poly.

Bob Duncan brought a beautiful Rosand goblet of purple heart and maple, finished with Deft.

Judy Williams showed a set travel lace bobbins turned from various

woods and polished and buffed.





Fred Zumwalt brought a hollow form of mesquite finished with Mahoney's walnut oil.



Curtis Turner showed the gear he had used in his October

Demonstration to illustrate the surface finishes that he uses.



Dave Wolter brought a maple platter with a design painted in henna by his daughter.

NOTE: In addition, as shown below, I have photos of a couple of pieces for which I have no cards and thus cannot identify the turners who brought them. Also, one or two of the turnings shown may be misattributed. I am dependent on the descriptions on the cards to identify the pieces in the photos, so please be clear in describing your work. Ed.





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We had 41 attendees at our November 15 meeting, including two visitors, **Tom Barton** and **Kelley Moncers**.

President-elect **Curtis Turner** reminded us that we have no First Saturday or regular meeting scheduled for December. Instead, all members and guests are invited to the annual Christmas Party to be held December 10 at Clyde and Pat Little's home on Lake Travis. Members

were reminded of the gift exchange and a sign-up sheet for attendance as well as covered dishes was circulated.

Pat Little reminded us that our dues for 2009 are due. The rate is \$35 per year for individuals and \$45 per year for a family membership.

There being no nominations from the floor, the following were elected by acclamation as CTWA Officers for 2012:

Curtis Turner - President Charlie Kay - President-Elect Tim White - Programs Greg Vest - Sec'y/N'letter Ed Roberts - Treasurer Pat Little - Membership Larry Walrath - Webmaster Eddy Butler - Audio/Visual David Wolter - Librarian Len Brissette - First Saturday Coordinator

Curtis discussed the possibility of displaying pieces prepared by our membeers in the gallery area at Austin Bergstrom International Airport and solicited possible entries. Send E-mail photos to Curtis.

Curtis also reported that the pieces we donated to the American Youth Works fund raising auction raised \$670.

We were reminded that the Alan Lacer demonstration sessions are set for April 21 through 23. The first day is free to members at American Youth Works and the two-day hands-on session is \$150 per person.

> Johnny Tolly will be traveling to San Antonio on January 26 to give a demonstration to the Alamo Woodturners. He will be discussing the use of the Golden Mean in designing and turning a hollow form.

January Program

Jack Besperka is to be our demonstrator for January. The subject of his demonstration was not available as the newsletter went to press, so come along and be surprised. I am sure that it will be an interesting presentation.



Our way of contacting you to let you know of something on short notice is by E-mail, thus keeping us advised of your current Email address is important so that we can get in touch with you. We need that address in two places. It is kept in the roster that gives you the names, addresses and phone numbers of your fellow members. To

keep that list up to date, you need to let Membership Chair Pat Little know of any changes in your E-mail address. You can contact him at patlittle46@yahoo.com. The second place we need that number is in the CTWA mass E-mail list maintained by Webmaster Larry Walrath. This list lets anyone in the club who has subscribed to the list send an E-mail to all of the members. To be sure that you are on that list and that your E-mail address is current, go to the web site, CTWA.org, and click on Links, then go to the bottom and click on get on the CTWA Mail List.



Photographs for this month's **Chip Pile** were pro-

vided 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 **ckayda@gmail. com.**



Check out the CTWA Web Site at www.CTWA.org. If you have comments, suggestions or something for the Gallery, get in touch with Webmaster Larry Walrath at larry@larrywalrath.com.

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.

- Jan 17 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM **CTWA Meeting - American** YouthWorks
- February 4 9:00 AM to Noon First Saturday - TO BE ANNOUNCED
- February 21 7:00 to 9:00 PM CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks
- March 3 9:00 AM to Noon First Saturday - TO BE ANNOUNCED
- March 20 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks
- April 7 9:00 AM to Noon First Saturday - Charlie Kay's shop
- April 17 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks
- April 21 all day Alan Lacer Demos - American YouthWorks
- April 22 & 23 all day Alan Lacer Hands-on Sessions
- May 5 9:00 AM to Noon First Saturday - Drew Shelton's shop



We need to recognize those whose support help to make for a better Central Texas Woodturners Association.

Thanks to:

Craft Supplies USA

for providing gift certificates to the club, and to:

American Youth Works

for providing us with a meeting facility.



Zapped!

Just before Christmas I was finishing up a few presents on my lathe when disaster struck as I was buffing out some of the plates that I had turned. The weather was cool, so I had the heat on in the shop. As a result, the air was guite dry. Using

my Beall Buffing System, I kept getting static "shocks." Not putting two and two together, I reached over to adjust the speed of the lathe when I experienced yet another "shock." As my lathe slowed to a stop I realized that I had just "zapped" the electronics on my 2436.

I tried resetting the electronics and called Oneway. Unfortunately, Oneway was closed for the holidays. I ended up having an informative discussion with the manufacturer of the drive electronics and knew I was in trouble when the tech support engineer told me "you probably have a fatal fault." I finally got in touch with Oneway. They were very helpful, but the bottom line is that it will cost me almost \$800 to replace the drive electronics.

SO, when you start getting static shocks when working on your lathe, you should seriously consider grounding yourself before adjusting the speed or turning off your lathe. The alternative is expensive.

Len Brissette

Like so many other things in our lives, from computers to refrigerators to cars, that are crammed with microprocessors, your electronically controlled variable speed lathe is sensitive to current surges. It is probably overkill, but I unplug mine when I am done for the day, just in case of lightning. Ed.

Harvesting the 74 H Homeland lilda Sees

In 1949, there were a scarcity of mesquite trees on the homeland. I have a picture of my daddy and my aunt looking over the bluff of shale, limestone toward a few tiny bushes that would someday grow into 40-50' trees, down below the bluff, away from the wind. There are two water capture tanks. The first one was dug out using a mule

and Fresno to allow capture of rainfall than ran off from the hill. My daddy would harness up the mules and ease them up the hill. If you have ever had to "ease" up a mule, you know

it is anything but easy. The idea was to end up at the cistern with enough water for his mother and the three girls to bathe. He bathed last in cold, soapy, dirty water. Later they put in a windmill. They also dug, again using a mule, a lower tank; this one deeper to catch more water for cattle. The mesquite took off, along with the cactus.

Steve Green and Hilda Carpenter

travelled up to Vincent (near Cohaoma, which is near Big Spring) to harvest some of that mesquite. There were some sick trees from the drought and some trees with army ants in them. We didn't find any arrowheads, which is unusual. However, we did find three healthy trees, about 30 feet high with many straight trunks and branches. These trees were in three sites. I looked the trees over searching for stress points. All of them had some, but these three had minimal defects.

So, we harvested them. The burls were minimal, probably because the ones at the water were off limits, drat it. The ones by the high banks would have to wait until we have more water.

In 1997, there was a terrible drought, so much so that each mesquite tree dropped it's leaves, every leaf. My daddy remembered these things and told my brother. The ends looked great as I coated them when we got home, only one or two had deep piths that looked a bit gnarly.

I began turning immediately. My spindle turning had some difficulty because the pith was pure rot. I'm sure it's because of that drought. However I talked with Charlie Kay at First Saturday and he said much mesquite was like that. The colors in the mesquite were absolutely beautiful, deep red and almost white. I'm still determined to turn it and turning green mesquite is so sweet.

If you would like to get some of this wood, I'll give you directions. It's a lovely little farm, we hope to build a fishing, hunting cabin in the upper tank (thus no cutting trees there). Those trees have historical meaningmany stories in political history were told while fishing under those trees.

Hilda Carpenter



Saturday, December 10, 2011, several CTWA members, spouses and children gathered at Pat and Clyde Little's house for the annual Christmas Party. Early in the morning several members were in Clyde's shop telling lies, some were turning, and all were having fun. Upstairs in the house, the spouses were getting lessons from Marcia Tolly in the art of pyrography, others were helping Pat prepare the food, or arranging the food. Around noon the turners were called for lunch. As usual, every-

thing was delicious, although we were spared **Charlie Kay**'s lumpy gravy.

After lunch we gathered around the tree to begin the present opening. **Betty Hager** took the original "rule sheet" and read the rules. One variation included a four steal—the crowd went nuts. "We'll be here all day!" So, the "rules" were changed back to three.

After drawing numbers for the turns to choose, **James Patterson** was first up to bat. His item was immediately stolen by **Mack Peterson**, sitting right next to him. The steals were hot this year. However three gentlemen were most active in the victims of "steals": **Johnny Tolly**, Mack Peterson and James Patterson. It was as if there was a conspiracy against those three. They kept going back to the tree, because after a while the open presents had been marked as three and were no longer eligible for stealing.

I had several stolen, to the point that I had a choice of three gifts under the tree. Have you ever heard of the phrase "bag it don't wrap it?" I love just dropping a gift in a bag, throw some tissue paper and poof the item is ready for giving. Well, the reason I picked this gift was it was "bagged." I peeked into the bag and saw what looked like a maraca. I reached in, yanked the maraca handle ready to do my best Ricky Romero impression. Instead, I got Lucille Ball. Toothpicks (hand turned, of course) went flying everywhere—in my hair, down my shirt, across the room. Oh dear. I was mortified, everyone started picking up toothpicks. Betty Hager was kind enough to get the last one out of my hair. I figured I'd get the one inside my shirt a little later.

After it was all over, we thanked Pat and Clyde for their hospitality, a good time was had by all.

Hilda Carpenter























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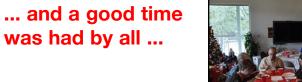
























The morning of January 7 found 20 or more folks gathering at **Len Brissette**'s house to begin the new year. There were four mini-lathes set up, but only two were actually in use. **Bob Duncan** was turning pendants on his Ruth Niles gadget. **Jim Brinkman** was so impressed with the Easy Wood hollowing tool that he got a catch with at **Stacey**'s in December that he ended up with a set of three and was telling of the wonders of hollowing with them. So **Jim Spano**, **Drew Shelton** and others had to try it out. They wound up with a nicely turned, thin-wall hollow form that was a mite too thin at the bottom. No one is saying who got it that thin. Drew brought his lathe and had it set up, but forgot to bring **Kimberly**, so it sat unused. The rest of us allowed as how we had intended to turn on Len's Oneway 2436, but it was out of service (see details in an accompanying article).

So, there were lots of donuts, coffee and yakking. The highlight of the morning was the mesquite that **Hilda Carpenter** and **Steve Green** brought to share and an equal amount of mesquite and pecan that **Greg Vest** had in the back of his van. All in all, a good start for the turning year.

When all was said and done, nine of us went to The Boathouse for catfish and hush puppies. Thanks to Len for hosting this event and more especially for scheduling all of our First Saturday sessions for us.



As of this writing, the location for the February 4 First Saturday has yet to be firmed up. As soon as we have details, there will be an E-mail telling you where the gathering will take place and directions for how to get there.

Hope to see you there.

Membership in CTWA

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

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

> Pat Little 14307 Geronimo Volente, TX 78641 patlittle46@yahoo.com 512.423.0508

2012 First Saturday Shop Crawl Schedule

February 4 March 3 April 7 May 5 June 2 July 7 To be announced To be announced Charlie Kay Drew Shelton To be announced To be announced

We can always use volunteer hosts. You don't have to have a fancy shop to host it, just a place for folks to congregate and drink coffee, eat donuts, and maybe for one or two to turn. To volunteer to host a First Saturday Shop Crawl, get in touch with *Len Brissette*.

2012 Demonstration Schedule

January 17 February 21 March 20 April 17 May 15 Jack Besperka To be announced To be announced To be announced To be announced

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

Volunteer Instructors

SOUTH

Bill Hammack 512.282.0832 (tops, tiny turnings) Stacey Hager 512.282.1036 (basics, spindles, sharpening, hollow vessels) 512.858.4471 Johnny Tolly (basics, open segmented) 512.894.0686 Jimmy Tolly (basics, platters) Craig Timmerman 512.288.3598 (basics, square turnings, hollow vessels) Charlie Kay 512.636.3492 (boxes, lidded bowls, bottle stoppers) 512.282.2830 H. O. Evans (segmented turnings) Hilda Carpenter 512.395.7782 (air brushing, tool handles) Jack Besperka 512.261.4682 (segmented turnings)

NORTH

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)

LOCKHART/SAN MARCOS

David Dick 512.357.6517 (basics, spindles, architectural)



Within the last couple of months, I have found myself returning to activities that I had long enjoyed, but had put aside for one reason or another. Some of these returns were part of a plan -- getting a shop set up and spending time turning, for instance. Others just happened.

I missed the Christmas party in December, the first I have missed since we started having them. It was a difficult decision to decide to forego the party. I had fully planned to be there, but circumstances and some much needed rain interfered with my plans. For years, the party has been on the second Saturday in December, free-

ing me to set up a booth at Buda Fest on the first weekend in December and things have worked out nicely. This year, however, Friday arrived with a slow, steady light rain that continued through most of the day turning the downtown green belt into a mud field. So, they postponed the event for a week, setting up the conflict.

In the end, I decided that I needed what I would get from Buda Fest more than I needed the fellowship of the Christmas party, at least for this year. After doing this event for ten years I had missed the last two, once because I was recovering from pneumonia and the other because I really wasn't able to get stuff together last year with my limited turning space. I had also missed the other events I have participated in before in both 2010 and 2011. I wanted to get back to see and visit with the folks that have stopped by my booth for years. Many of them had missed the contact with me as I had missed them. Those personal connections, plus the good feeling I get when folks appreciate and compliment my work even if they don't buy anything, were exactly what I needed to help me to continue to put my life back together. It was a successful weekend in that regard and turned out pretty well financially as well. I hope to do a number of shows next year. It is good to be back.

The other activity I returned to you already know about. Here I am again, putting together a newsletter for the club. Strangely enough, I missed doing that as well, although I didn't miss the monthly inevitability of it. I have committed to serving as President Elect and then President of the club, and thus this is an interim position. I was a little worried that I

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would have a learning curve to climb as I got back to work, but it has been a lot easier than I had supposed. I guess it is like riding a bicycle.

Let me know what you do and don't like about the newsletter. Hilda has added a number of new features, and I will be trying to keep them going if I have input from all of you. I am looking forward to the challenge of doing this again.

Before I close, some special thanks are in order. If you have ever hosted a big event like the Christmas party in your shop and home, you know what a debt we owe Pat and Clyde Little. That event alone would be enough, but they host numerous other events as well. Be sure to say a word of thanks to them. Thanks, also, to Larry Walrath. Larry has selflessly maintained our club web site for many years. The website is well done and presents a fine public image for our club. In addition, it is the primary means of circulating our newsletter and Larry has made it even more valuable by making it the means for us to communicate securely with all members of the club at one time. So, give Larry a big thank you when you see him.

Keep on turning,

Charlie Kay

CLASSIFIED ADS

Free personal classified ads are available to all members of CTWA to sell, buy or trade woodworking related items. To place an ad, contact Charlie Kay at 512.636.3492 or via E-mail at ckayda@gmail.com. Ads will be run for two months and then dropped.

FOR SALE: From PSI Woodworking Projects, a Long Ranger 3 Remote Dust Collector Switch (LR 220-3). Never used

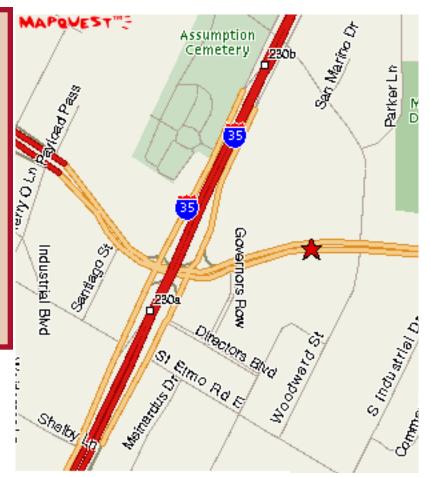
Contact Steve Green at 512.395.7776.

FOR SALE: I have a collection of rare wood suitable for turning that I acquired 30+ years ago that I am ready to part with.

Contact Spider Johnson at 512.517.9744 or **spiderjohnson. com**.

Meeting Location

The CTWA meets at American Youth-Works, 1901 East Ben White Boulevard (Texas 71) in south Austin. The building is on the south side of Ben White, just east of Interstate 35. The best entry is off Woodward Street, just south of a little strip center. You enter an alleyway into a lighted parking lot. We will enter through the back door. As you drive in, you will see a truck dock in the back of the building with a big roll-up white door. The entryway is just to the right of the truck dock. Folks coming from the north may want to exit I-35 at Woodward and proceed south on Woodward across Ben White.



The Chip Pile Central Texas Woodturners Association A chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

Charles Kay, Editor 828 Middle Creek Drive Buda, TX 78610-3056

To: