



The Chip Pile

The Newsletter of the Central Texas Woodturners Association

Austin, Texas

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

CTWA Meetings

FEBRUARY MEETING

Tuesday, February 21, 2012
7:00 - 9:00 PM
American YouthWorks - Austin, Texas
1901 East SH 71
(about 1/4 mile east of I-35 on south side of SH 71)

FIRST SATURDAY TURNOUT

The First Saturday Turnout for March will be at 9:00 AM on March 3, at Orlando Banos's shop, 11321 Oak Branch Drive, Austin.

From the President's Shop

A Full Agenda

A number of things are happening or on the way for CTWA as we move forward in 2012. First off is the exciting new CTWA gallery exhibit Austin Bergstrom International Airport. Thanks to those of you who contributed works to the exhibit and special thanks to **Judy Williams** who helped me assemble the pieces and move them to ABIA.

We will soon have a completely functional new web page in place. **Aleta Wallace** is working hard at getting all of the pieces up and running. Already,

she has details on the meeting place, officers and copies of the 2011 and 2012 **Chip Pile** in place. We owe her a big thank you for the effort she has put in to get the new site off to a good start. Along those same lines, pass along a thank you to **Larry Walrath** for the fine effort he has put in for many years setting up and maintain-

ing our web site through the end of last year. While we are thanking people, I'd like to express my appreciation on behalf of the club to **Hilda Carpenter** for putting together **The Chip Pile** over the last two years. She did a fine job and we wish her well as she continues to pursue her turning career.

The next big thing on our agenda will be the visit by Alan Lacer in April. The

Saturday, April 21, all-day demonstration session will be free to paid members of CTWA. Get in touch with Program Chairman Tim White to inquire about openings in the hands-on sessions.

See you at the meeting.

Curtis

January Demo

Turning Fundamentals

Our demonstrator for January was **Jack Besperka**. Jack spent the evening on fundamental turning techniques intended to help beginning turners get started. He spent time showing how many different tools can be used to make most any cuts. Perhaps most interesting was his use of a screwdriver that he modified 70 years ago in a high school shop class. Let the photos tell the story of his demonstration.



Thanks, Jack, for a nice tutorial.

Monthly Features

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The American Association of Woodturners is "Dedicated to Providing Education, Information and Organization to Those Interested in Woodturning." In keeping with the standards of our National Organization, the Central Texas Woodturners Association hereby gives permission for all other woodturning chapters, organizations, magazines and newspapers to use any materials contained herein for the benefit of all woodturners everywhere. We ask that credit be given for the source of the material.

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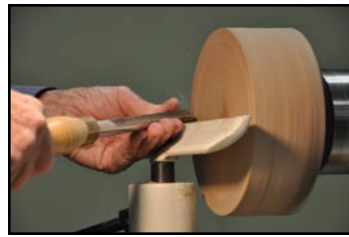
www.ctwa.org

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



Thanks, Jack, for a nice tutorial.

Bring Back

We only had two winners this month. That is because we are still short a lot of Bring Back items from winners in October and November of last year. If you were one of those winners, we need you to come through with your items.

Travis White was the lucky winner of a mesquite platter turned and decorated by **Len Brissette**. **Roger Gardner** took home a mesquite hollow form vessel turned by **Johnny Tolly**.



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 per-

son'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.

Show and Tell

Joe Kirk brought along a number of tea lamps of mesquite, cedar and pecan, all finished with polyurethane gel.



Curtis Turner showed off a pair of stools, a full-sized one of pecan and jatoba and a child-sized one of elm and oak.



Jim Brinkman brought three pieces, a hollow vessel, an ornament and a vessel with a removeable finial, turned variously from mesquite, pecan and cocobolo. All were finished with Deft and Beall buffed.



Johnny Tolly showed off three bullet pens of various calibers, finished with Ren wax.



Eddy Butler brought along a segmented piece he called "Up, Up and Away", of bloodwood, padauk, maple, walnut and acrylic, Beall buffed.



Larry Robinson showed four items, a lidded cherry box finished with sanding sealer and buffed and three very nice small hollow forms turned from walnut. All three of the latter were pyrographed and textured with a Dremel engraver and a Dremel rotary tool, then finished with black gesso and lacquer.



Jimmy Tolly brought three nice bowls, one each of mesquite, Spanish oak and a live oak burl cap, all finished with Mahoney's oil.



Jim Spano showed off a pair of hand-chased threaded boxes. One was of sycamore, finished with Deft and wax, and the second was a square box of cherry, finished with Mahoney's wax, with a top of white elm, finished with Deft and waxed.



Bob Elfant showed a flat-bottomed torus of poplar and red oak finished with Danish oil.



Jim Patterson showed off a maple hollow form finished with Deft and a lidded bowl of maple, a mystery wood lid and a bloodwood finial, finished with wax.



In Addition, I have been informed that this toothpick holder I attributed to Stacey Hager last month was really turned by **Bob Hrehor**. Sorry, Bob!



Business Meeting

There were 64 attendees at our January 17, 2012, meeting, including visitors **Tom Henderson, Kelly Parkinson** and **Bill (?) Foster**. Also joining us was new member **Larry Robinson**, who recently moved here from North Texas and the Golden Triangle Club.

President Curtis Turner announced that the gallery display of works by CTWA turners opened in the Austin airport terminal on February 10. It

will be up for about three months. Unfortunately, it is inside the security gates, so you can only see it if you are traveling into or out of ABIA. Thanks to Curtis for setting this up for us.

Program Chairman **Tim White** reminded us that Alan Lacer will be joining us in April. He will be demonstrating at American YouthWorks on Saturday, April 21. The full day of demonstrations will be free to paid

CTWA members. The hands-on sessions on April 22 and 23 are open to a limited number of participants on April 22 and 23 and there will be a charge for them. Contact Tim to sign up.

Curtis advised the club that **Larry Walrath** has resigned as Webmaster and thanked Larry for his many years of service in that capacity. **Aleta Wallace** has volunteered to take over the website.

Jim Brinkman announced that he is again gathering orders for CA glue. Jim regularly aggregates orders for CA glue and for bandsaw blades, getting us substantial discounts for both. Curtis presented Jim with a Craft Supplies gift certificate in gratitude for this service that he provides for the club.

Pat Little reminded us that our 2012 CTWA dues are now past due.

February Program

One of the more esoteric arts of the wood turner is hand chasing threads. Sure, there are jigs that will do most of the work for you, but the real craftsman will do it the old fashioned way. Nothing makes a more elegant box than one with a threaded lid.

We in CTWA are privileged to have two hand thread chasers in our midst, **Stacey Hager** and **Jim Spano**, and they will be

showing us all how easy it is at our January meeting. So come prepared for a show.

SWAT

Annual Board Meeting

On January 28, I represented CTWA at the annual SouthWest Association of Turners Board Meeting in Waco. Outgoing President

Delbert Dowdy presided over the first half of the meeting. The minutes of the 2011 Board meeting and the financial report for 2011 were approved as submitted. Both attendance and revenue were up substantially compared to 2010. Registrations increased from 641 to 821 and revenue increased from \$106,560 to \$122,655. However, due to a significant increase in catering costs and more money spent on raffle prizes, net income fell from \$16,380 to \$1959.

Two amendments to the By-Laws were approved by the Board. The first, to Article VII-B, added an office of Vice-

President Elect and changed the single office of Secretary-Treasurer to two separate offices of Secretary and of Treasurer. The second, to Article VII-D, modified the clause providing for removal of an elected Officer by the Board of Directors, adding the phrase "by a two-thirds vote, after 30-days notice to Board members.

Officers for 2012 were elected:

- President - Janice Levi (Brazos Valley Woodturners)
- Vice-President - George Kabacinski (Gulf Coast Woodturners Association)
- Vice-President Elect - Paula Haymond (Gulf Coast Woodturners Association)
- Secretary - Dena Fox (Brazos Valley Woodturners)
- Treasurer - Walter Tate (East Texas Woodturners)
- Past-President - Delbert Dowdy

New President Janice Levi chaired the rest of the meeting.

The Board approved a new club, Lone Star Woodturners from The Woodlands, as a new AAW member club. Lone Star Woodturners already has 64 members.

There were a number of Committee reports relating the 2012 Symposium. Most pertinent is a request from clubs to nominate turners to receive invitations to provide pieces for the Invitation Only 2012 Two-for-One Raffle. Also, applications from SWAT Regional Demonstrators should be in to Raul Pena by the end of March.

The advance Registration Fee for 2012 will increase from \$125 to \$130 (\$160 at the door). This is to be sure that we cover facilities charges. Last year we did not have to pay for the space in the Hilton. The Convention Center had promised us all of our space in the Center and couldn't fulfill that obligation, so they paid for the Hilton charges. We will need to pay for all of our space this year. In addition, meal costs will go up by at least two dollars this year from last year's \$30. The Executive Committee was authorized to set a price to cover costs after negotiating with the three prospective caterers. The EC was also authorized to spend up to \$3,500 for raffle prizes for this year. In addition, it was agreed that any one individual cannot win more than one lathe in the Two-for-One Raffle this year.

Contact me if you want more details on the Board meeting. I will also bring copies of the Regional Demonstrator application form to the February meeting.

Charlie Kay

E-mail

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

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

Photos

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

Web Site

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 Aleta Wallace** at aleta.wallace@gmail.com.

CTWA Supporters

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.

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.

February 21 - 7:00 to 9:00 PM
 CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

March 3 - 9:00 AM to Noon
 First Saturday - Orlando Banos's shop

March 20 - 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
 CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

April 7 - 9:00 AM to Noon
 First Saturday - Curtis Turner'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

May 15 - 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
 CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

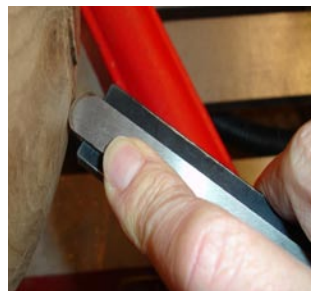
June 2 - 9:00 AM to Noon
 First Saturday - Charlie Kay's shop

four different types. I used four round nose scrapers made with the same size steel. They each have a different grind to allow them to complete different types of cuts.

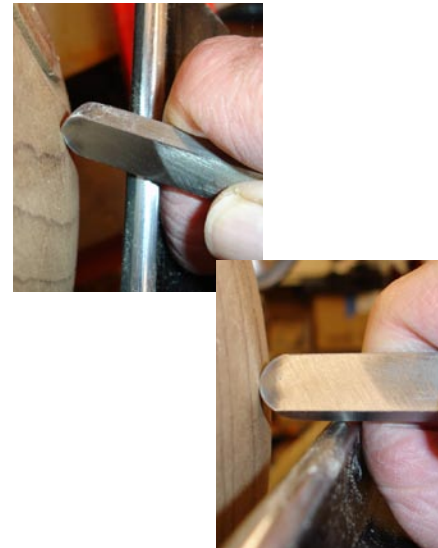
When you are looking for a clean cut from your tool look first to the cutting edge then second to its support. The most common use is a scraper used as it was originally designed.



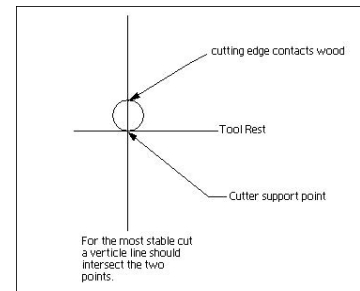
The tool rest should be close to the wood to give the least chatter. The wood should be approached lightly for a clean cut. This type of cut works best with a small burr on the top edge of the tool. A more stable way to cut with this type of grind is a "box tool rest". (The box rest is black and directly under the tool.) There are several types of these designed to go inside of boxes and bowls, but they also offer the best support and work great on the outside of projects. They give great tool control and produce a superior finish.



Shear scraping has become popular and requires a light touch for a clean cut. This also works well with a burr on the top cutting edge. The tool is raised on its edge and turned away from the bevel. The tool is pulled toward the left in the left picture below.



You can see the pull cut and the grain direction of the wood does matter. Cut with the grain for the least tear out. This diagram illustrates tool position.



The fourth grind for these tools was shown to me by James Johnson several years ago. I have found this most effective in removing grain tear out. As you can see in the following pictures it has a very slight curve. The big difference is that the top is honed and you are making a shear cut, this is the only grind that is not used as a scraper. The cutting edge is strong and will last a lot longer than a scraping burr.



The first photo shows the tool is riding on the bevel which is about 10 degrees and at a compound angle to

On Tools Round Nosed Scrapers

Long time CTWA members will welcome this article from our old friend **Frank Miller**. This article originally appeared in the newsletter of his new club in northern Nevada.

Scrapers used correctly will eliminate hours of sanding. Remember that scrapers should always contact only one point on a curve to produce a good finish. To look at the effectiveness of different grinds, I did a test of

Another variation of this grind is the negative rake grind that is shown in the following photo where the top of the cutting edge is ground so that the cutting edge is not 90 degrees to the wood, but about 100 degrees. The negative rake grind does not use a burr.



the workpiece. The direction of the cut is toward the left of the tool rest. This is a light cut and will produce very fine shavings. I have relieved the back side of the tool to give more clearance for smaller bowls.



You can see in the following photos that the edges of the bottom have a generous radius. This gives me better control and makes it easier to keep the cutting force vertical.



Frank Miller

AAW Insurance

We're Covered

A couple of club members have asked me about what liability insurance coverage is provided by our club and/or individual American Association of Woodturners. This is one of the biggest benefits that AAW club affiliation and individual membership provides. So, I spent some time researching it.

The club has a 37-page Certificate of Insurance

written in legal language, but the AAW has provided a simplified version at the following site:

<http://www.woodturner.org/community/chapters/practices/LiabilityInsurance013a.pdf>

In short, "... in plain language, each chapter and each AAW member is covered as an insured, under the policy, so long as they are performing chapter approved activities. Members are not covered for their own private activities. Note that chapter members, who are not AAW members, are neither covered nor protected by the policy." Regarding individual members conducting events under the auspices of the club, such as First Saturday or Volunteer Instructors, the plain language explanation says, "... mini-symposiums, if they are functions of chapters, they are covered. If they are put on by a separate organization, they are not. Likewise, with "hands-on" workshops. It makes no difference if it is a demo or hands-on, if they are chapter functions they are covered."

These two brief excerpts cover the coverage questions most pertinent to us as individuals and as members of CTWA. However, I would suggest that you go to the website listed above and read all of it to be clear about the coverage.

Charlie Kay

Random Ruminations

Getting There

I really knew only one of my grandparents, my mother's mother. Born into a very Victorian family on a dry land cotton farm in Comanche County, Texas, in 1889, she yearned for the education that she never received. She read everything she could find in her bleak rural life, away from libraries and bookstores. Although I only saw her once a year or so, I was always taken by the short, pithy quotes she picked up from somewhere. When she died when I was in my early 30s, my mother got her box of photographs. As I went through that box, however, something else that interested me even more than the photographs were the many tiny clippings out of newspapers and magazines. These weren't articles, but short phrases that picked up on the meaning of the bits and pieces of life. Many of them were attributed

to various notables and I remember noting that she was particularly fond of Ralph Waldo Emerson. That isn't surprising, I suppose; he was an eminently quotable fellow.

I got to thinking about all this in the last few weeks, as I am now calling my shop fully functional. It has taken almost a year, but what's the rush? Getting the dust collector duct work up and running was the last really necessary thing that needed to be done. Yes, there are a lot of little things that I need to do over time, but at least I don't feel like I really need to complete all this stuff before I begin to undertake projects. That calls to mind one of my favorite quotes from Emerson, now overused to the point of triteness, "Life is a journey, not a destination."

As I reflected on putting my shop together and getting settled into my new house, I realized that it really wasn't so much about having the shop properly set up and turning to my heart's content. It was really about the doing, about thinking and planning and organizing, and creating the space, and because of that I will never really be done with it. Creating that space is the journey, I think.

I had an older friend many years ago who had a fine wood shop, fully equipped with more tools than I could imagine (this was before I discovered wood turning!), and he was constantly adding to his tool collection. However, he seldom had any finished projects to show for it. Finally, I asked him about that and he told me that he didn't really ever get around to working on projects, but that he loved going into his shop to sit and ponder and say to himself, that if he wanted to he could build anything. I suppose his journey wasn't complete and he really didn't want to get to the destination, but he still got pleasure out of what he was doing.

Now I need to use my shop, but I will continue on the journey. I need to put in compressed air lines and extend my dust ducts to my work benches. I know that I will never be done with it. Maybe I don't want to get to the destination either.

I really wish that I had kept those tiny clippings, but by the time my mother died at 93 and the box of photographs passed to me, they had disappeared.

Keep on turning,

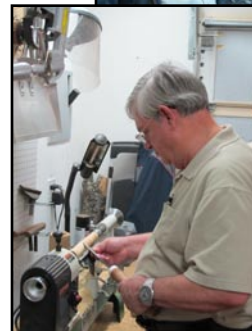
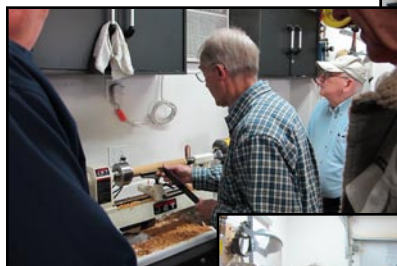
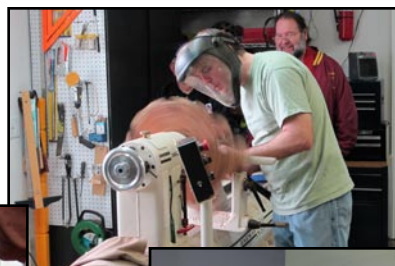
Charlie Kay

Thirty-five people or so showed up at **Tim White's** shop on a raw February 4 for our First Saturday Shop Crawl. Turning wood was plentiful. **Greg Stowers** brought a pick-up load of mahogany and maple cut-offs to trade and **Craig Timmerman** brought a pick-up load of black walnut to share. So a lot of wood changed vehicles. Craig has a new source of wood. There is no cost, but only one person is allowed to work on it, so Craig hauled it, chain sawed it and then hauled it to again to First Saturday. So, if you take some of this wood, be sure that you make a contribution to Craig to help cover the costs of his time and gaso-line for the chainsaw and his truck.

As is often the case, there was more gabbing going on than there was turning, but there were three lathes running. **Stacey Hager** was tutoring folks on spindle turning and later on sharpening. **Jim Spano** was also giving spindle turning lessons. Finally, **Tim White** was again working on the scary natural-edge mesquite platter that resulted in the bending of his Robust tool rest late last fall. We're hoping he has it finished by the next time we visit!

When the session was done, we wound up ad two separate Mexican restaurants for lunch, thanks to Brain Freeze on my part.

Charlie Kay



March First
Saturday

First Saturday for March 3 will be at the big shop of **Orlando Banos**, 11321 Oak Branch Drive, Austin. Head west on US 290, then turn right at the traffic light at the Nutty Brown Cafe. If you haven't been to Orlando's shop before, you are in for a treat.

Hope to see you there.

Thank You, Hilda!

In my anxiety to get the January edition of The Chip Pile completed and in more or less acceptable shape after a two-year layoff, I completely forgot one thing.

I forgot to thank **Hilda Carpenter** for the considerable amount of effort and enthusiasm that she put into getting the newsletter out over the last two years. Her efforts are greatly appreciated by all of us, most especially me.

Thanks for a fine job, Hilda, and the best of luck as you continue your turning adventure.

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, (\$40 per family) or \$3.00 per month, prorated for new members joining during the year. AAW dues are \$45.00 per year for individuals and \$50.00 for families. CTWA also strongly encourages all of our members to join the American Association of Woodturners (AAW). For that, you get a first class quarterly magazine, **American Woodturner**, with excellent articles on woodturning and woodturners, amply illustrated with color photographs. For more information, go to www.woodturner.org.

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

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 turnings, hollow vessels)
Charlie Kay 512.636.3492
(boxes, lidded bowls, bottle stoppers)
H. O. Evans 512.282.2830
(segmented turnings)
Hilda Carpenter 512.395.7782
(air brushing, tool handles)
Jack Besperka 512.261.4682
(finishing, decorating)

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)
Ed Roberts 512.255.3294
(basics)

LOCKHART/SAN MARCOS

David Dick 512.357.6517
(basics, spindles, architectural)

2012 First Saturday Shop Crawl Schedule

March 3	Orlando Banos
April 7	Curtis Turner
May 5	Drew Shelton
June 2	Charlie Kay
July 7	Chris Van Peski
August 4	Orlando Banos

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

February 21	Stacey Hager & Jim Spano
March 20	Craig Timmerman
April 17	To be announced
May 15	To be announced
June 19	To be announced

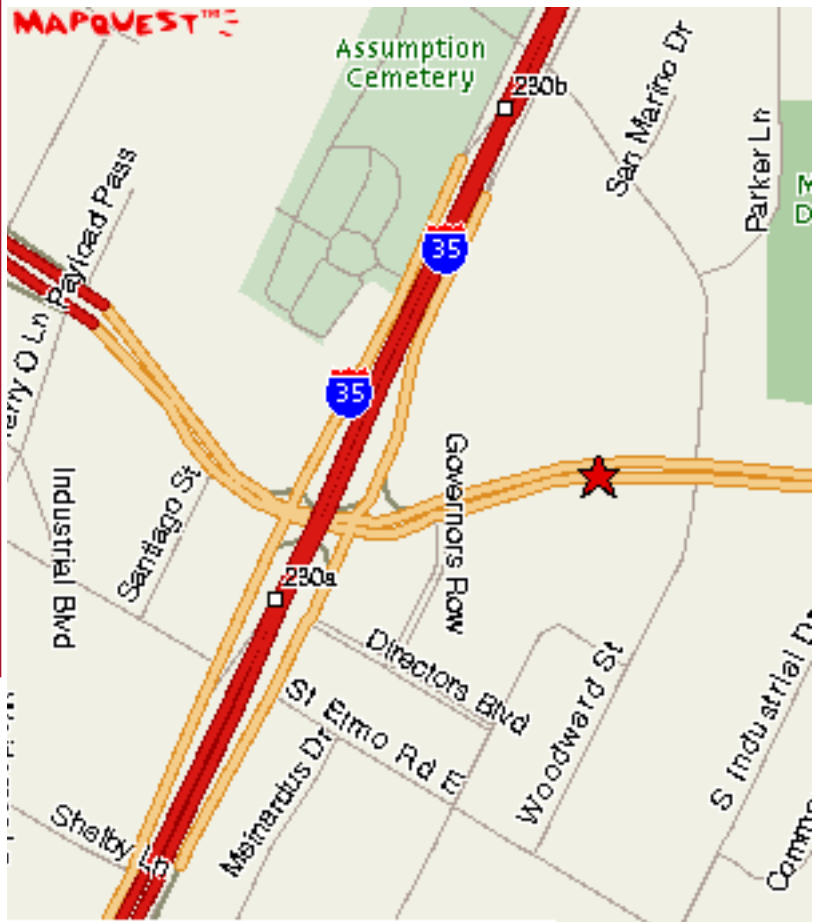
If you are interested in being a Demonstrator at one of our meetings, or want to suggest a Demonstrator, get in touch with **Program Chairman Tim White**.

In Memoriam

CTWA member **Joe Zacarias** passed away on September 26, 2011. Our sympathies are extended to his wife Esther on her loss.

Meeting Location

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



The Chip Pile

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Charles Kay, Editor
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To: