



# The Chip Pile

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

CTWA Meetings

## JULY MEETING

Tuesday, July 17, 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 August will be at 9:00 AM on August 4, at Orlando Banos's shop, 11321 Oak Branch Drive, Austin, 78737

we are fortunate to have such an active club with members involved in so many aspects of wood turning. All of this energy helps to promote the art and craft of woodturning.

I am sorry that I will be missing the July meeting. I will be away on business. I look forward to seeing you next month.

Curtis

From there it was conventional box making. He chucked the blank with the tenon, turned the inside of the lid and parted it off. The lid was then placed on a jam chuck with tape for security and the outside turning, end-



ing with drilling a stopped hole for the finial using a 1/4" brad point drill with the brad ground off (to assure that the bit doesn't drift off center).

The top of the blank is then stabilized with CA glue, the interior of the box hollowed and a ledge is turned inside the top for the lid to sit on. The box is parted off and jam chucked and the outside and bottom are turned.

From the President's Shop

## Thanks, Pen Turners!

I am very pleased with the support from CTWA members for the American YouthWorks Pen Turning Day for graduating seniors. Special thanks go to **Johnny** and **Marcia Tolly** for their hard work prior to and during the event. They had scores of pen kits cut, drilled, and packaged and ready for the students. Thanks to both of you for making this a successful event. Thank you, also, to all the club members who volunteered as instructors and assistants. The students really enjoyed the project and were pleased with their pens.

I also want to call your attention to the Buda Fine Arts Festival, set for October 20 and 21 on the green in Buda. The festival is featuring **Steve Green** as a returning artist and the winner of Best of Show 2011. Congratulations, Steve! Once again,

June Demo

## Banksia Pod Box

CTWA stalwart **Len Brissette** was our demonstrator for June. For his project, he showed us how to turn a finial box from a banksia pod.

Len had already cut the ends off the pod with his bandsaw before he started. He placed it between centers by eyeballing the



centers of the core of the pod and turned a tenon on one end to fit his chuck. Because of the porous nature of the pod, he stabilized the tenon with thin cyanoacrylate (CA) glue and hardener.

## Monthly Features

- Business Meeting 4
- Calendar, page 5
- Demo Schedule, page 5
- First Saturday Schedule, page 6
- Membership Information, page 5
- This Month's Program, page 5
- Volunteer Instructors, page 6

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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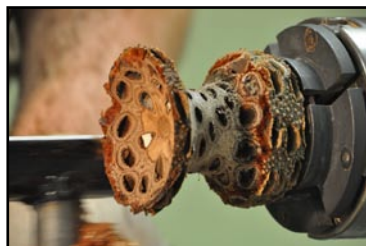
[www.ctwa.org](http://www.ctwa.org)

### 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](mailto:ckay@austin.rr.com) or mail them to:

### The Chip Pile

c/o Charles Kay  
828 Middle Creek Drive  
Buda TX 78610-3056



When the box was done, Len turned the finial and mounted it on the finished box.



Thanks for a fine demo, Len.

May Demo

## Correction!

I made a couple of errors in my article on **Curtis Seebeck's** demonstration in the June issue. I referred to the resin he uses as polyurethane, when I should have said methacrylate ester resin. I also said that he heats the impregnated blanks for 24 hours at 200 F when I should have said two hours at 200 F. My apologies for the mistakes.

I have asked Aleta to post a corrected copy of the June issue on the web site.

Editor

Bring Back

**Jim Spano** was the lucky winner of a Wall Street II pen of kingwood made by **Jim Howe**.



**Jim Brinkman** took home a stylus turned from osage orange and finished with

EEE Ultrashine and Shellawax by **Joe Kirk**.



**Greg Vest** picked up an ash box turned by **Jim Howe**.



**Darrell White** won a pen of stabilized spalted pecan made by **Johnny Tolly** out of one of the blanks from **Curtis Seebeck's** demonstration in May.



**Jim Spano** had the lucky ticket for a mystery salt shaker turned from soft maple by **Charlie Kay** and fin-

ished with Formby's tung oil finish and buffed.



**Len Brissette** took home a very nice bottle stopper turned by **Bob Duncan**.



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.

**Dave Wolter** brought an oak hollow form with cocobolo collar and turquoise Inlaid inlay, finished with Wipe-On Poly.



**Steve Green** showed a pair of his maple platters with crushed stone stone inlay, one featuring a herd of turtles and the other a tree.



**Chris Van Peski** brought three tea lights of mesquite, laser pierced and finished with wax.



**Jim Brinkman** showed a vessel of pecan finished with Deft and Beall buffed.



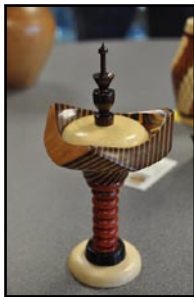
**Eddy Butler** showed off a beautiful segmented vessel of mesquite, maple, padauk and turquoise, finished by Beale buffing.



**Joe Kirk** brought along two styli of stabilized spalted pecan finished with EEE Ultrashine and Shellawax.



**Mack Peterson** wowed us with six colorful pieces, a box of rosewood, ebony, holly, pink ivory and dyed plywood, an open segmented vase of holly and mahogany and four hollow forms turned from dyed plywood.



Show and Tell



Guest Column

The one thing I understand about a volunteer organization is that it is only as strong as the participants decide to make it.

There are many members of CTWA who are beginners (like myself) or would be or wannabe turners (like myself) who aspire to become a master craftsman. This club is over 100 strong and there is a nucleus of extremely talented master craftsman just waiting for you to ask, "How do I do that?" These folks will show you, then encourage you to take the tool or idea and give it a try. No one ever treats your question as a stupid one or gives you a hard time for your inept attempts to duplicate what they showed you how to do. Every lesson is taught in a way that makes it easy for you to learn and that challenges you to stretch yourself and learn something new without the fear of failure. I, for one, appreciate that.

**Stephen Van Gee**

Business Meeting

There were 47 people in attendance at our June 19, 2012, meeting. The meeting was presided over by **President Curtis Turner**.

Curtis began by reviewing the SWAT registration scholarship. Members interested in attending the Symposium in August and who have not attended before are invited to apply for the scholarship and a name will be drawn from the applicants.

**Johnny Tolly** reviewed the arrangements for the American YouthWorks senior pen turning event and renewed the call for turners and lathes.

**Treasurer Ed Roberts** provided a Financial Report for the club for the year 2012 through the date of the meeting.

INCOME

Dues	\$2,338
Raffle	124
Lacer Hands-On	1950
	\$4,412

EXPENSES

Lacer	\$2,763
Newsletter	134
Christmas Party	195

Miscellaneous	71
	\$3,163
BALANCE on hand	\$9,948

A Sign-Up sheet was circulated for assignments in the demonstration room our club is responsible for at SWAT. Remember that SWAT is a volunteer organization, so sign up to help.

Show Time

**Steve Green** has lined up a busy year of Art Shows for 2012. You can catch him at the following:

As the **"Featured Artist" at the Buda Fine Arts Festival** to be held this October 27 - 28, 10 - 6 on Saturday and 10 - 4 on Sunday. [www.budafineartsfestival.com](http://www.budafineartsfestival.com)

Service

**Senior Pen Turning Day**

One of our key commitments to American YouthWorks is to assist deserving graduating senior in turning a pen in recognition of their achievement. Once again, we had a good turnout for this event and a lot of kids (and a few faculty members) walked away with a pen they had turned as a memento of their high school years. Thanks to **Johnny** and **Marcia Tolly** for heading the event up and to **Jim Brinkman, Curtis Turner, Charlie Kay, Fred Stidman, Len Brissette, Johnny Perales, Ed Roberts** and his **grandson, Bob Hrehor, Jim Spano** and **James Patterson** for lending a hand.



**Now, a word from Johnny Tolly:** Marcia and I want to thank all of you for helping with the American YouthWorks Senior Pen Turning. You are the backbone of the Central Texas Woodturners Association. Your skillful guidance enabled some proud kids take a completed pen home. The big smiles on their faces when their pen was completed said it all.

July Demo

**Basic Bowl Turning**

Our demonstrator for July will be **Ken Mays** from the Brazos Valley Club.

Ken has been turning since 1947. He spent 28 years in the Air Force as a fighter pilot. After retirement he was in home construction, then worked for a civil engineering firm and was later the Director of Utilities and City Planning for the City of Woodway. For the past 15 years he has done commercial turning of stair balusters for a local renovator. Ken's specialty is bowls and small hollow forms. He enjoys turning large items such as 16 inch bowls and trays. His guidance on bowl and platter turn-

ing is "let the grain and beauty of the wood determine the shape". Do not ruin a beautiful piece of wood with a pre-determined pattern. His presentation will cover harvesting wood for turning and basic bowl turning. Safety around the lathe will be stressed.

August First Saturday

The August First Saturday will be on August 4, at **Orlando Banos's** shop, at 11321 Oak Branch Drive off US 290 east of Dripping Springs.

If bigger and heavier is better in a tool collector's shop, then Orlando will win.

If you haven't checked it out before, be there.

SWAT Symposia

There is still one major woodturning Symposium left on this year's schedule and you should make an effort to attend, particularly if you have never attend one of these events before. It will greatly expand your view of woodturning and what you can do with it and you will meet lots of interesting new people.

**SouthWest Association of Turners Symposium August 24 through 26 Waco, Texas**

Affectionately know as SWAT, this annual symposium is second in size only to the AAW Symposium. There were 821 woodturners at last year's Symposium. It also has a great Instant Gallery and trade show. Best of all, it is by far the least expensive. Advance registration is \$130 and registration at the door is \$160. Plus, it is only 100 miles up the road. If you are a new turner and are looking for inspiration and three days of great demonstrations, you really should plan to attend this. You can get more details at [www.swaturners.org](http://www.swaturners.org).

After skipping the AAW Symposium for the last several years, I made it to this year's event in San Jose. I can assure you that the SWAT Symposium is fully as useful and inspiring as the the national symposium, and at considerably less cost. While it may not always be true, the size of this year's trade show in San Jose looked to me to be smaller than the one last August in Waco. While the number of pieces by big name turners was much larger there than what we see at SWAT, I don't think there were as many total pieces displayed as we had last year.

Make plans to be in Waco in August.

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.

**July 17 - 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM**  
CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

**August 4 - 9:00 AM to Noon**  
First Saturday - Orlando Banos's shop

**Aug 11&12- 9:00AM to 4:00PM**  
Beginners Class - Clyde & Pat Little's shop

**Sept 8 - 9:00 AM to Noon**  
First Saturday - Greg Stowers's shop

**Sept 18 - 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM**  
CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

**Oct 6 - 9:00 AM to Noon**  
First Saturday - Stephen Van Gee's shop

**Oct 16 - 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM**  
CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

**Nov 3 - 9:00 AM to Noon**  
First Saturday - Chris Van Peski's shop

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

Photos

Photographs for this month's **Chip Pile** were provided by **Drew Shelton** and **Curtis Turner**. 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](mailto:ckayda@gmail.com).

Web Site

Check out the CTWA Web Site at [www.CTWA.org](http://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](mailto:aleta.wallace@gmail.com).

## Membership Information

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](http://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](mailto:patlittle46@yahoo.com)  
512.423.0508

## 2012 Demonstration Schedule

**June 19**  
**July 17**  
**August 21**  
**September 18**  
**October 15**

**Len Brissette**  
**Ken Mayes**  
**Keeley Guntrie**  
**to be announced**  
**to be announced**

**Banksia Pod Box**  
**Basic Bowl Turning**  
**Basics of Pyrography**

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**.



## Spouse's Events

As always, there will be programs for non-woodturning spouses at this year's Symposium. This year, there are some exciting new things to try.

### Writing Short Memoirs: Treasure, Story and Truth Friday 2-4 pm

This workshop is inspired by writing down family stories that are too good to be forgotten. Participants are guided through short writing activities inspired by personal photos, family recipes, or small wood kitchen tools. Each person should bring 3 or 4 items (e.g., old photos, recipe cards, a wooden spoon, rolling pin, etc.) to describe an experience you can't wait to write about and share. The idea is to have some fun writing down the stories behind the objects we treasure. Bring your objects and your own pen or pencil. Paper will be provided. No cost. Limited to 12 participants.

### Basket Making - Garlic Basket Saturday 10-12 noon

We had so much fun making baskets with Pat last year, that we have asked her to teach us another basket. This year she will teach us what is called a garlic basket, although it can be used for many purposes as it is a hanging basket. Previous experience is not needed. Cost of class is \$7. Limited to 12 participants.

### Kool-Aid Dyeing a Silk Scarf Saturday 2-4 pm

This workshop will teach the basics of Kool-Aid dyeing. It is fun and easy to do. It is nontoxic, so its great for doing with kids. There will be a silk scarf (8"x54") supplied for the class and additional scarves will be available for purchase. You might want to wear old clothes or bring an apron or smock, as this can get a bit messy but is fun! Cost of class is \$15 Limited to 12 participants.

### Book Club Sunday 9:30-11 am

We are exciting about starting a new tradition this year...book club. The discussion will be led by San Antonio readers Trudy Edwards, Diane Bertrand, and Betty Waldron who have chosen Faith Bass Darling's Last Garage Sale by Lynda Rutledge written by a Texas author and set in Texas. The book was released in April and one of our leaders actually met the

author and has some extra information to share with us. I have purchased my copy to read on vacation before showing up at SWAT in August. No participant limit on this event. The only requirement is that you purchase and read the book beforehand.

In addition, we have a bus tour scheduled on Saturday to the Mayborn Museum Complex and the East Terrace Mansion. Lunch will be at the Elite Cafe. I will let you know the cost of this tour as soon as arrangements are completed.

You can E-mail me directly to sign up for any of the classes and tour. We will also have a sign-up table in the registration area when you arrive, for those classes not already filled by then.

If there is enough interest, we can continue the tradition of the Spouses Gallery. You can bring items you have made, such as quilts, knitting, baskets, lace, paintings, jewelry, etc. In order to have this gallery, we need volunteers to make sure the room is always watched when it is open. If you are willing to volunteer for this job, please let me know. When there is no one available to sit in the room, it will have to be locked.

We also have a need for volunteers in the following areas: sign-in table on Friday afternoon and to help ferry turnings from the table to the photo booth and back in the instant gallery. If you would be willing to volunteer for either of these jobs it would be appreciated.

As you can see we have plenty of events to choose from and volunteer opportunities. I hope you will all be able to join us in Waco, August 27-29, 2012.

Regina Dale  
817.319.6624  
howlingwolfherbs@verizon.net

## 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

August 4  
September 8  
October 6  
November 3  
December 8

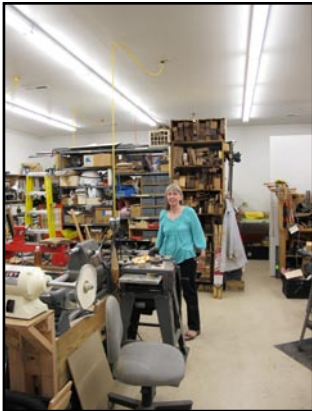
Orlando Banos  
Greg Stowers  
Stephen Van Gee  
Curtis Turner  
Christmas Party

We can always use volunteer hosts. You don't have to have a fancy shop to host it, just a place for folks to congregare 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**.

## A Community of Woodturners

Several happenings over the last month have gotten me to thinking about the meaning of community and the meaning of friendship.

I stopped and spent a day and a night with **Frank and Jane Miller** in Minden, Nevada, on my way back home from the AAW Symposium. We had a nice, long visit and I enjoyed their hospitality, as well as Jane's flocks of California quail, cotton tails and jack rabbits. I should acknowledge that she is on the war path at the latter two species.

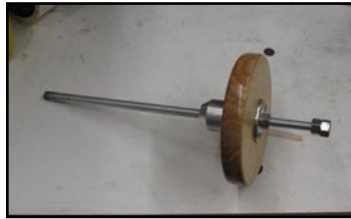


I spent the next morning with Frank in his new shop. He seems to have made more progress in a year than I have in fifteen months. Although he has a lot more space than I do, he also has several times as many things to stow away. I got to sample some new tools he has been developing.



One he wrote about in last month's Chip Pile and a second he had written up for this month's issue. However, I ran into trouble trying to extract the photos from his document to use to accompany the text in the newsletter. Meanwhile, I ran out of time. When I get done with this issue, I will get with him again and try to get the photos separately and include the article in next month's issue. Frank also showed me a draw bar he had made,

then graciously machined the metal parts for me to make one of my own. I have yet to get around to finishing it, however. I am including some photos from that visit.



On a different track, **Jim Spano** is one of the real treasures of our club. Not only does he have as inventive a mind as anyone I have known, but he is unbelievably helpful in sharing his knowledge and ideas with anyone who asks. He is always first in line to volunteer for whatever project or effort we undertake as a club. He also takes the lead in assuring that various projects actually happen while the rest of us just talk about it. He and **Clyde Little** have taken the initiative to design and outline a Beginner's Turning Class in August.

Jim was the first person that came to mind when I received an E-mail from **Stephen Van Gee** last Saturday afternoon, expressing his appreciation for First Saturdays in general and for the wonderful sense of sharing that characterizes our organization, a real community of folks who share a common interest and care about each other. To invoke Spano again, he has commented to me a couple of times over the years about how our common interests draw us together. He observed that without this connection, if we crossed paths on the street we would be just as likely to cut one another off in traffic as to speak to one another. Thankfully, we have made the connections.

I lived way too much of my life before things like this began to dawn on me. Partly this was because I was too busy just trying to make my way through life, first straining to put myself through college and graduate school, then earning a living and raising three sons. Part of it was growing up in a strict Calvinist environment

that imbued in me that if something was fun and not productive, you probably shouldn't be doing it. The biggest part, perhaps, was just not sitting back to think about the world and my place in it. These last few years have left me time for contemplation and I am beginning to understand that I can ask for help almost as easily as I can offer it, and that is at least part of what community and friendship are about.

As with many other things, it is a bit sad that we have to live so long before we begin to understand things about ourselves and about life. Still I, for one, am happy to achieve at least a few insights while I have a few more years on this earth. I know that I am happy to be a member of this community.

Keep on turning,

Charlie Kay

In Memorium

### Cecile Elfant

**We are sad to report that Elfant's wife Cecile passed away on Wednesday, June 27. She succumbed to a rare and persistent cancer.**

**Our thoughts are with Bob and his family in this sad and difficult time.**

July First Saturday

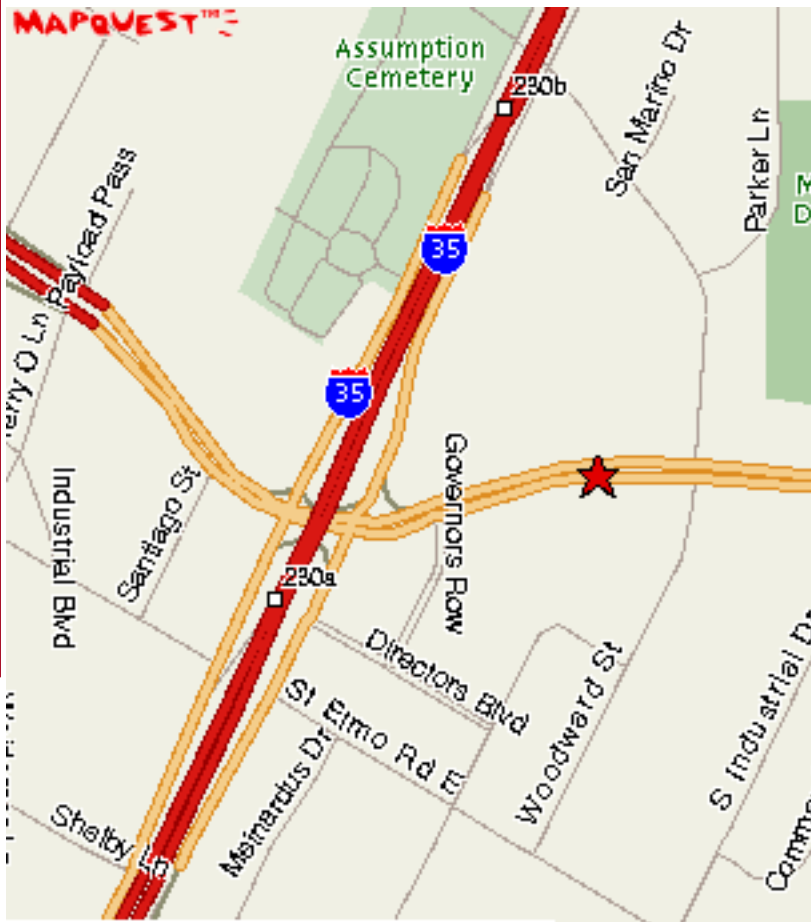
July 7 saw some 20 people or so gathering at **Chris Van Pesci's** beautifully arranged and lavishly stocked shop for our First Saturday Turnout. Very little turning got done, but a lot of stories were told and solutions were found to many of the world's problems -- or at least it seemed that way. One hit of the day was Chris's Epilog laser. **Johnny Perales** and his friend **Jesse** demonstrated it's capability. Between the laser, the road runner and the huge pecan dining table built for **Chris** and **Dinah** by club member **Brqndon Berdoll**, our photographer (that would be **Drew Shelton**, who also caters the Round Rock donuts) got a little distracted this month. That's okay, we all appreciate the donuts and I am eternally grateful that he does the photography that graces our newsletter each month. When the morning was done, a dozen of us stopped at Cindy's Gone Hog Wild on the way home for lunch and yet more conversation, including batting around the plans for the upcoming Beginner's Turning Class led by **Jim Spano**.





### 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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A chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

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