



The Chip Pile

The Newsletter of the Central Texas Woodturners Association

Austin, Texas

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

CTWA Meetings

AUGUST MEETING

Tuesday, August 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 September will be at 9:00 AM on September 8, at Greg Stower's shop, 16 Tall Oaks Trail, Austin, 78737

From the President's Shop

Take a SWAT at the Heat!

August is turning out to be a busy month. First, I would like to congratulate **Hilda Carpenter** on the publication of her first article in the **American Woodturner**. Nice work Hilda!

The club has just hosted a beginner turning class for six students at **Clyde and Pat Little's** shop on Lake Travis. This class came about from the collaborative efforts of **Jim Spano** and **Clyde Little**. They developed this free course for club members that are new to turning. However, like all CTWA events, there are many supporting characters. This year, students

had the undivided attention of not only Jim and Clyde but several other outstanding instructors, like **Charlie Kay**, **Len Brissette**, **Craig Timmerman**, **Jim Brinkman** and **Drew Shelton**. Thanks to all of you for your efforts to

develop new turners.

After much planning and discussion, it is almost time for the SouthWest Association of Turners (SWAT) Symposium in Waco. As I write this, SWAT is less than two weeks away. Many individuals across the state work many hours behind the scenes to make this event possible. The key individuals from CTWA that have

contributed many hours leading up to this point are **Johnny Tolly**, **Marcia Tolly** and **Greg Vest**. Thank you! Many of you will help on-site with set up and staffing various positions during the event. You all deserve a Texas-sized thank you!

I will be logging some miles this month. First I taught and demonstrated (flat woodworking) at the first Fine Woodworking Live event in New Paltz, New York, earlier this month. The only turning at that event was by Phil Lowe on how to make small turned parts for furniture. I followed that with a side trip to Maine for a few days.

Next, I will be in North Carolina attending Roy Underhill's school where I will spend a week making a spring pole lathe. If all goes according to plan I will ship home a completed lathe! So, watch out for a future club demo on using a spring pole lathe. Unfortunately, this class will cause me to miss the next meeting as well as SWAT. I look forward to hearing all about SWAT when I return.

Finally, August brings the first indicator of the coming changing of the seasons -- back to school sales!

I'll see you soon,

Curtis

July Demo

Jigs, Shortcuts, and Good Ideas

When our scheduled cancelled at the last minute, we had to come up with an alternative program quickly. As it was too late to come up with a demonstration, we chose to ask some of our experienced turners to bring along some of their favorite jigs and gadgets that they use to simplify their work in the shop.

Participants included **Jim Brinkman**, **Chris Van Peski**, **Johnny Tolly**, **Jimmy Tolly**, **Craig Timmerman**, **Len Brissette**, **Jim Spano**, **Stacey Hager**, **Drew Shelton**, and **Charlie Kay**.

Unfortunately, this approach wasn't very valuable to the rank beginners at the meeting, but we hope the rest of you got some good ideas out of the

Rather than try to describe or attribute any of the items that were discussed, following are photos of a number of the items. If one interests you and you missed the presentation, talk to one of the participants and we can point you to the culprit who brought it along.

Monthly Features

Business Meeting 4

Calendar, page 5

Demo Schedule, page 7

First Saturday Schedule, page 8

Membership Information, page 7

This Month's Program, page 5

Volunteer Instructors, page 7

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.

2012 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

Charles Kay
512.636.3492
sounddudeaustin@gmail.com

Treasurer

Ed Roberts
512.255.3294
eroberts6@juno.com

Membership Chairman

Pat Little
512.423.0508
patlittle46@yahoo.com

Webmaster

Aleta Wallace
512.589.8949
aleta.wallace@gmail.com

Audio/Visual Coordinator

Greg Vest
512.736.2715
artwoodworker@verizon.net

First Saturday Coordinator

Len Brissette
512.423.3625
mesquite@austin.rr.com

CTWA Web Site

www.ctwa.org

Editorial Information

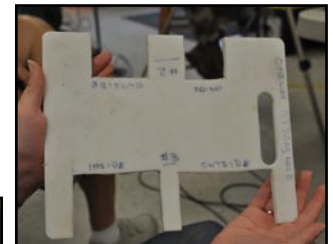
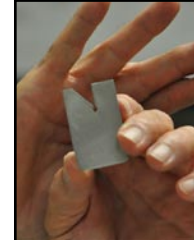
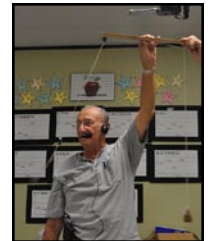
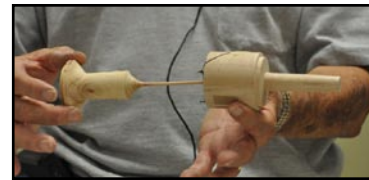
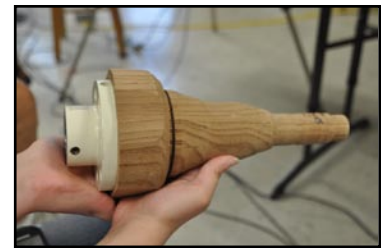
This newsletter is by and for members. The Editor welcomes any written materials and will provide assistance with getting your information into publishable form if you want. **DEADLINE IS THE FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH.** Contact me with your ideas and drafts by phone at 512.636.3492, by E-mail at ckayda@gmail.com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

The Chip Pile

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

Keeping Austin Turning Since 1988

Thanks to all of the folks who participated in this effort on very short notice.



Bring Back

Pat Little was the lucky winner of a pen made by **Derrell White**.



Greg Vest picked up a walnut platter turned by **Jim Brinkman**, finished with Deft, and Beall buffed.



Greg Vest also took home a Cindy Drozda style finial box finished with Mahoney's walnut oil by **Jim Spano**.



Jimmy Tolly won a multi-axis cherry vase turned by **Jim Spano**, finished with Deft and buffed.



Greg Vest (yes, he buys lots of raffle tickets) again had a lucky ticket for a banksia pod finial box turned by **Len Brissette** and finished with Deft.

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.

Show and Tell

Mack Peterson wowed us with six colorful pieces. There were no tickets describing them, but they most, whether segmented or not, seem to be of turned from his new medium of choice, dyed birch plywood.



Len Brissette brought along a brace of little boxes of various woods.



Jimmy Tolly showed off three pieces, his grandmother's biscuit bowl (with the bottom worn completely through), a new biscuit bowl complete with grandma's recipe on the rim, and a Beads of Courage box.



Hal Sanders brought along two large ambrosia maple platters, one with a rolled edge and both finished with a tung oil/polyurethane mix.



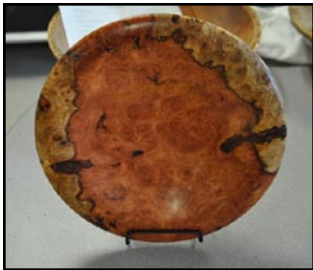
Joe Kirk showed a planter consisting of two turned pots mounted on a plank and sitting on a small stand.



Ho Evans brought a nice segmented piece (what else?) he turned to honor his latest great-grandchild.



Drew Shelton showed a beautiful afzelia burl platter finished with walnut oil and Beall buffed.



Business Meeting

There were 54 people in attendance at our July 17, 2012, meeting, including six visitors. The visitors included **Dan White, Zack Aiken-Edelman, Steve Corovo, (?) Harrison and Clyde and Pat Little's** grandsons, **Garrett** and **Gavin**. The meeting was presided over by **President-Elect Charlie Kay**.

Charlie reviewed the Beginners Turning Class scheduled for August 11

and 12, and announced that there were still some spaces available.

Charlie reminded folks that the SWAT Symposium is coming up and explained the event and what it has to offer for the newer members of CTWA. **Johnny Tolly** then brought folks up to date on what is needed behind the scene to make the operation succeed. SWAT is a volunteer organization and Johnny asked for volunteers to help with set-up and tear down at the Symposium.

Charlie passed on a request for donations of turned pieces by those that took pieces of wood donated by the Georgetown Department of Forestry. Those pieces should be brought to the August 21 meeting.

Guest Article

Sharpie Lathe Tool

by Frank Miller

This tool is a modification of a pair of different tools. Cindy Drozda works with a similar tool, and this tool cuts similarly to **Stacey Hager's** point tool, the three sided round tool with short bevels.

This tool is ground from a piece of 3/8" diameter round tool steel. I ground most of the top half of the rod almost two inches back. This face has to be ground to at least one-half the diameter of the rod you are using. The end is ground to a sharp point, and the bottom of the point is conical.

1. Side view



2. Top view with sharp point

Because the tool doesn't have a flute like a gouge, you must make sure the tool is not rolled past horizontal when sharpening.



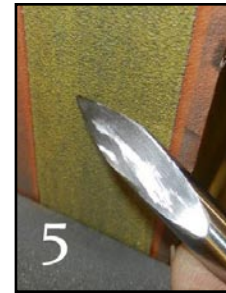
3. Start the grind flat at wide end

4. Finish the grind at the tip

5. Start the grind before center

6. Finish the grind before reaching horizontal

When sharpening and forming the back, touch the center of the rod lightly so you will not flatten the sharp point. When rolling the grind on the back of the tool, stop just before you reach horizontal. Where you stop forms the cutting angle, ideally 45 degrees or less. Try different angles to see what works best for you.



7. Start on the bevel/cone and slide the tool back until it cuts

This will put the groove exactly where you want it every time. The further back you bring the tool, the deeper the groove.



8. The tool will cut cleanly with no effort



9. To turn a bead, start at the top and roll into the groove

It is a smooth action and is almost impossible to catch. This tool is cutting on an unsupported spindle five or more inches from the head stock, and from less than 3/8" diameter down to 1/16" diameter or less. There is very little pressure from the cut, unlike the use of a gouge which requires the spindle to be supported.



10. Light cuts work best; this tool is not aggressive



11. Beginning a cut at the top of a bead is not a problem.

It cuts where you put it. The finish is very clean on this walnut. Have fun turning and be safe.



[Photos by **Paul Cote**]

For the benefit of newer members, **Frank Miller** was a long time and very active CTWA member. He set up all of our audio/visual systems and also specified and standardized the AV systems for the SWAT Symposium. As you can see, he is also a talented and innovative guy. After retiring, Frank and Jane moved to Minden, Nevada, where he is a member of the Carson

Valley Woodturners. You can reach him with questions at Miller Frank fnjmillers@charter.net

Editor

August Demo

Basic Pyrography

Our demonstrator for August will be **Keeley Guntrie**.

No details of what he will cover are available as this issue goes to press, so you will have to come to the meeting to see what all

Keeley will cover.

September First Saturday

We return again to US 290 east of Dripping Springs for the September First Saturday on September 8 (yes, I know that is the second Saturday - Labor Day weekend, you know). We will be gathering at **Greg Stowers's** shop, at 16 Tall Oaks Trail, Austin 78737. Greg has a nice big air conditioned shop under some big live oaks, so we hope to see you there.

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.budafinearts-festival.com

Photos

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

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.

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

December 8 - 9:00 AM until ...
Christmas Party

Jan 5 - 9:00 AM to Noon
First Saturday - to be announced

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

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.

Beginners Class 2012

Thanks to the planning efforts of **Jim Spano** and **Clyde Little** and the hospitality of **Clyde and Pat Little**, CTWA conducted its first class for beginning turners on August 11 and 12. We first tried a class last October, but learned two things from that effort. We need to restrict the number of students and we need to group turners by experience level, so this class seemed to go much better.

There were six participating students: **Linda and Arnold Truax**, **Suzi Parker**, **Zack Aiken-Edelman**, **Rick Greenfield**, and **Dwight Schaeper**. Thanks to the instructors and assistants who made the class a success: **Jim Spano**, **Len Brissette**, **Craig Timmerman**, **Clyde Little**, **Jim Brinkman**, **Drew Shelton**, and **Charlie Kay**. Following are random photos from the two day event.



SWAT Symposium

While it is too late for early registration, you can still this year's Symposium in Waco by registering at the door for a bit more money. Single day registration is available.

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.

Kudos

Congratulations Hilda !

If, like me, you don't always get around to reading your **American Woodturner** when it comes in the mail, dig around in your pile of stuff that you need to get to and dig out the August

2012 issue and turn to page 16. There you will find an excellent and informative article written by our own **Hilda Carpenter**, our once and, we hope, future newsletter editor.

Hilda interviewed a number of instructors as well as run of the mill woodturners and collected their tales of what she terms "blowups," or accidents in the woodturners shop. The article contains descriptions of things that can go wrong and the ways to avoid or minimize them. This is an important contribution to woodturning safety and we all should read it and take it to heart.

2013 Officers

Election Time

The first Tuesday after the first Monday won't be the only election held this November. On the evening of the third Tuesday, CTWA will be electing its officers for 2013. Nominations will be presented at the October meeting, with the election at the November meeting.

President Curtis Turner will be naming a Nominating Committee to contact people and propose a slate. This year's President-Elect will automatically become the President for 2013. We must vote on a new President-Elect. Some of the other Officers may be willing to continue to serve in the position that they are now filling.

If you are interested in serving in one of the Officers slots, please let either one of the present Officers or the Nominating Committee know. While a slate will be presented in October, nominations will be accepted from the floor in November. However, if you choose to nominate someone from the floor, please be sure to get that person's permission in advance.

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.

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

Pat Little
14307 Geronimo
Volente, TX 8641
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 Demonstration Schedule

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| August 21 | Keeley Guntrie | Basics of Pyrography |
| September 18 | Andy Chen | Corian Miniature |
| October 15 | Steve LeGrue | Surface Decoration |
| November 20 | Hilda Carpenter | Finishing Round Table |
| December | no meeting - Christmas Party | |

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**.

Chopping Wood

A good friend called to say that he had a big Texas persimmon that had died and invited me over to cut it down and chop it up. I was anxious to get it. This tree is a true ebony, the wood fine grained and pretty. The sapwood is light yellow, almost white. The heartwood, found only in large trees is black. This tree was big enough to have at least some heartwood.

We scrambled down the steep slope, chain saw in hand, and cleared away enough brush to get to it. By the time I had it cut down and sectioned into lengths, I discovered that it had been dead too long and was full of worm holes. There would be no pretty boxes from this tree. So my friend got some nice firewood and I worked up a good sweat. We shared a couple of beers and laughed about it.

That got me to thinking about my first experiences with watching someone chop down trees. I grew up on the coastal prairie near Galveston Bay, where there were no trees unless someone had planted them. However, my mother had grown up in West Texas and we went out to see her folks about once a year.

My grandparents had a little dry land farm near Tuscola, south of Abilene. As I recall, it was about 85 acres and it was far more of the nineteenth century than the middle of the twentieth century. I was a little kid, but I would guess that he farmed about a third of it, the part that was flat. On the hilly, wooded part, he ran cows and cut firewood. There was a big henhouse, a hog pen, a corral for use when necessary, a peach orchard, and a big wood pile.

Their live was primitive and close to the land. They had no running water, no electricity or telephone; they used kerosene lamps and lanterns and cooked on a wood stove. Their one artifact of modernity was a 1929 Chevrolet coupe.

My grandfather hauled water from his stock tank in a horse drawn wagon fitted with two barrels. He parked it under a big live oak tree outside the kitchen door, and that was the water supply for the next week, for cooking, laundry, washing up, and bathing. The plowing and harvesting were done with horse drawn equipment

and the crop was hauled to the barn in a wagon. There was a big produce garden that was my grandmother's responsibility. She was also in charge of the eggs, which they sold.

Although I wasn't aware of it at the time, keeping the necessary fuel on hand must have been one of my grandfather's biggest chores. Even in the long hot summers, a fair amount of firewood was needed. There was that big, heavy cast iron cook stove which was fired up every morning to make bacon, eggs, and biscuits for breakfast, then twice more to cook dinner and supper. At least one day a week, an outdoor fire had to be built under the big black cast iron pot down by the wood pile, to do the laundry before hanging it on the garden fence to dry. Another weekly chore required running the cook stove all afternoon to keep the half-dozen or so flat irons hot so that they could be rotated as the ironing was done for the week. That big stove was cranking out the heat all afternoon, even if it was already over 100 degrees outside.

In the winter, of course, even more fuel was needed. The cook stove ran all day, keeping the kitchen, at least, warm. In the evenings, they fired up the fireplace, but that only warmed the side of you that faced it and only if you were really close to it.

Most of the time, we visited them in the summer, but a couple of times we went at Christmas. When we did that, a great deal of my grandfather's time was spent cutting wood. Mostly he cut "cedar," the Ashe juniper that is as ubiquitous there as it is here. It may not be the best firewood, but it is abundant and needs to be cut down anyway. He also cut hardwoods, mostly for the cook stove. He had no chain saw, of course, but would put sharp edges on his two double bit axes, hitch up the wagon and head for the place where he was cutting that day. I was impressed by his efforts as the chips flew and the smell of the juniper filled the air. It was probably

twenty years later when I tried to chop down a six-inch Chinese tallow tree with an axe that I understood how much effort that took. After the tree was down, he chopped it into firewood lengths and at the end of the day, loaded it all on the wagon and hauled it back to the wood pile.

My grandparents finally got an REA line and minimal electricity in early 1949. One of my uncles brought them an old upright wood cased radio and they could read easily at night for the first time. After my grandfather died later that year, the kids got a kerosene cook stove and a cistern for the corner of the house so that my grandmother wouldn't have to chop wood or haul water. She lived out there by herself, miles from a paved road, with no car and no telephone, for another eight or ten years until she paid off the doctor and hospital bills.

As I reflect back on that life, it is hard to even imagine that kind of existence. Still, any time I smell smoke from a juniper fire or kerosene at an airport, I am transported to that tiny little unpainted house and the hardy folks who lived their life there. It doesn't make me want to trade my chain saw for a double bit axe though.

Keep on turning,

Charlie Kay

2012 First Saturday Shop Crawl Schedule

September 8
October 6
November 3
December 8

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 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**.

In Memoriam

Odie Bull

We are sad to report that long-time CTWA member **Odie Bull** passed away on **Sunday, August 12**, at the age of 84. Our thoughts are with **Odie's Family**.

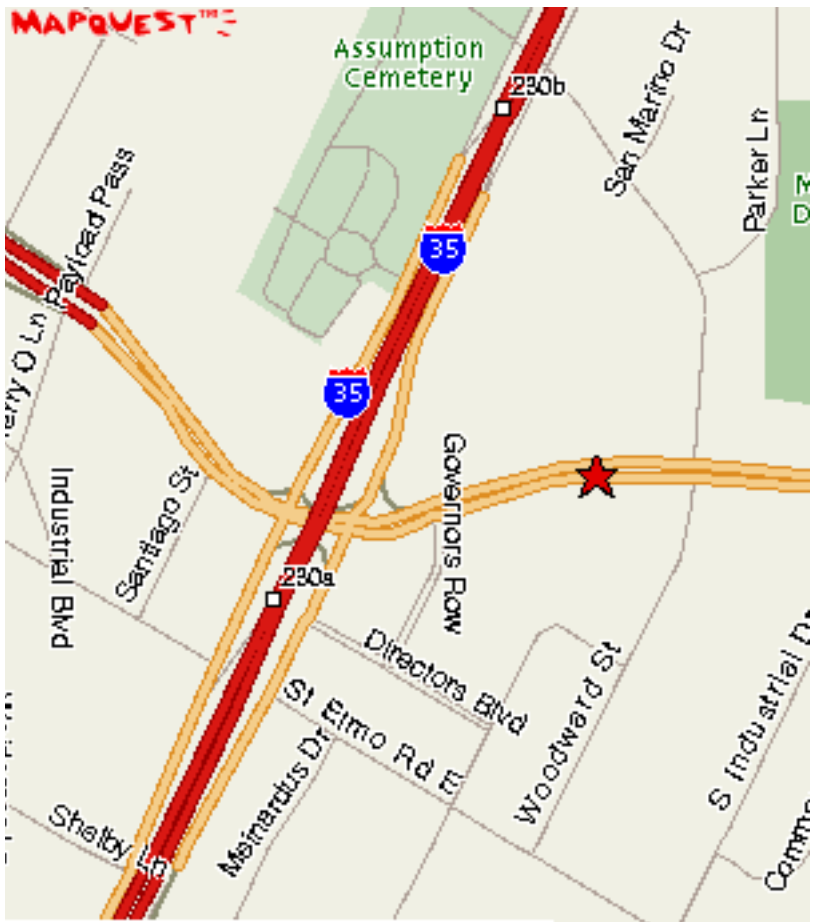
Twenty-five or so CTWA woodturners showed up at **Orlando Banos's** big shop on August 4 to share woodturning and tall tales. **Jim Brinkman** was using his Easy Hollowers with his laser attachment to turn a small hollow vessel. **Kimberly Shelton** brought her friend **Raleigh** and spent time modeling the latest in head gear among the Georgetown High School set. **Craig Timmerman** was conducting a tutorial on turning a bowl. **Charlie Kay** helped **Dwight Schaeper** sharpen some tools for the upcoming Beginners Class, then moved over to turn a box. **Johnny Tolly** and **Jim Spano** then continued the sharpening sessions, working on skewers and scrapers. Eventually, Orlando's dog tired of being locked in the back room and scratched on the door until he was invited into the party.

A crew of ten or so headed across US 290 to lunch at Nutty Brown Cafe. Thanks, Orlando for hosting us.



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: