

TWA Meetings

From the President's Shop

The Chip Pile

The Newsletter of the Central Texas Woodturners Association

Austin, Texas A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Tuesday, September 18, 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 October will be at 9:00 AM on October 6, at Stephen Van Gee's shop, 13304 Sleepy Hollow Road, Austin, 78736

From SWAT to Festivals

I hope all of you have fully recovered from the SWAT Symposium. I appreciate the efforts of everyone who helped make this year's Symposium a success. Key contributors, of course, were Johnny Tolly, Marcia Tolly, and Greg Vest. I received a thank you note on behalf of the club from Janice Levi, SWAT president, thanking CTWA for our contributions. Nice work everyone!

I would also like to thank those who have contributed donations to the Texas Tree Conference. At this time I would like to thank Jim Brinkman, Johnny Tolly, Ed Roberts, and Stephen

Van Gee for their contributions. Donations were still being received as of this writing so I know the list of contributors will continue to grow.

While SWAT was taking place, I was

attending a week long course on building a spring pole lathe at Roy Underhill's school in North Carolina. I am happy to report that I was able to turn using my new lathe by the end of the class. I am looking forward to bringing it to a future meeting for a demonstration.

October is shaping up to be a busy month. **Steve Green** will be the featured artist at

Buda Fine Arts and Jazz Festival. Also, Round Rock will host its annual Chalk Walk and Arts Festival. I will be there conducting turning demonstrations. Hopefully, you will have an opportunity to attend one or both of these great local events. More information can be found at the following links:

http://www.budafineartsfestival.com/ http://roundrockchalkwalk.com/

Curtis

Copper
Enhancements
For the second time in as many months we had a la minute substitution for ou planned program. This tire

For the second time in as many months we had a last minute substitution for our planned program. This time our expected demonstrator, **Keeley Guthrie**, broke her leg and couldn't make it. However, despite her mis-

fortune, she sent us an able substitute, **Joel Crabbe**.

Joel is a long-time member of CTWA, but hasn't made it to our meetings in quite some time. It is a long drive

from his home in Temple. We are

happy that he made the trip this time. Most of us remember Joel for his creative use of copper in decorating his turned pieces and the trademark tiny copper crab on the bottoms of his pieces.



In one more trial run, prepping for the demonstration he would be giving at the SWAT Symposium a few days later, he went through numerous techniques for using copper in many different forms to add interest to turned pieces.

Joel began by outlining the forms of copper that are readily available and where to find them. Next he went through the tools that are needed to work the copper.

He showed us a number of different methods of texturing copper. One of the more interesting techniques was to make some copper cable using a simple jig, then hammer the twisted copper cable to flatten it. He also covered patination of copper. Once you have the copper ornamentation prepared, you are faced with how to fix

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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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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

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the metal to the wood. Joel covered that aspect as well.













Since Joel had an excellent and complete handout covering everything he showed us as well as references and sources, no further detail is offered here.









Thanks, Joel, for an excellent and informative demonstration, and we hope Keeley is soon up and about and can share her planned demonstration with us at a later date.



Craig Collier was the lucky winner of a hand-forged awl with a dyed ash handle, finished with CA glue made by Greg Vest.



Greg Vest picked up a mesquite salt cellar finished with Watco and wax, turned by Clyde Little.



Pat Little took home a second Greg Vest awl, this one with a walnut handle finished with oil.



Marcia Tolly won a mesquite lidded box turned by Clyde Little, and finished with Watco and wax.



Jim Paltrow had the lucky ticket for a third Greg Vest awl with an dyed ash handle finished with CA glue.



Jack Besperka picked up a purple heart pen turned by Pat Little and finished with wax.

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Charlie Kay took home a mesquite pen nib holder turned by John Thompson.

Chris Van Peski won a walnut platter finished with Mahoney's oil and turned by Jimmy Tolly.



Chris was also the lucky winner of a Joel Crabbe mesquite lidded box with a copper leafed rosette inlay.



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.

Mack Peterson again treated us to five colorful segmented pieces. There were no tickets describing them, but all seem to be of turned from his new medium of choice, dyed birch plywood.





Marcia and Johnny Tolly brought along the turned and pyrographed maple platter, titled Who's in There, finished with Deft. This is the piece they are donating to the Two-for-One Raffle at the SWAT Symposium.



Jack Besperka showed off an ebonized and textured bowl turned from a live oak root burl and finished with lacquer.



Pat Little brought a cedar elm practice egg finished with wax.



Fresh from the Beginners Class, **Dwight Schaeper** showed a pair of bowls, one of mahogany and one of maple.





Ho Evans brought along a striking small segmented (you were expecting something different?) bowl, mostly of holly.



Jim Spano showed four pieces, a goblet of mesquite and elm, finished

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with Mahoney's and wax, a candlestick of sycamore and mesquite finished with Deft and buffed, and a pair of seed pods turned from elm, also finished with Deft and buffed.







Dave Wolter brought the Beads of Courage box that he will be taking to the SWAT Symposium.



Ed Roberts showed off a big natural edge mesquite platter.



As is more and more the case, there were at least seven pieces that had no description cards filled out. I cannot

credit you if you don't fill out a card. I figured out all but one piece, but wound up with one orphan. Thanks to whomever brought it.



usiness Meetin

There were 45 people in attendance at our August 21, 2012, meeting, including visitors **Ryan Hoover** and **Jim McKinney**. The meeting was presided over by **President-Elect Charlie Kay**.

Charlie passed around a sign-up sheet for folks to host the various demonstration sessions to be held in the CTWA sponsored room at the SWAT Symposium.

It was also announced that both Jimmy Tolly and Craig Collier had wood in their trucks and were asking folks to take it all.

September Demo

Turning a Corian Miniature

Our demonstrator for August will be **Andy Chen**. He will be turning a miniature piece from Corian.

Andy is well known for his segmented turnings as well as his work in Corian. He has demonstrated for us several times before, and was a demonstrator at the SWAT Symposium this year.

tober First Saturday

Your car should know the way by now, as for the third time in as many months we return to US 290 east of Dripping Springs for the October First Saturday on October 6. This time we will be gathering at Stephen Van Gee's new shop, at 13304 Sleepy Hollow Road, Austin 78736. Stephen has a nice big air conditioned shop under big trees and a beautiful piece of property on a creek. Should be a treat.

2012 Demonstration Schedule

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*.

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 gad-

gets)
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)

Show Time

Steve Green will be the "Featured Artist" at the Buda Fine Arts and Jazz Festival to be held this October 27 - 28, 10 - 6 on Saturday and 10 - 4 on Sunday.

www.budafineartsfestival.

Curtis Turner will be at the Round Rock Chalk Walk Festival on October 5 - 6.

www.roundrockchalkwalk.com

DIS 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.

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 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

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.

WA 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.

Hilda's Take

The Southwest Association of Turners (SWAT) Symposium is always filled with new things to learn and to buy. This year, I watched **Cindy Drozda**

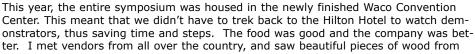


turn a metal foil-wrapped sea urchin shell ornament with a beautiful icicle. In her next session she turned a starshaped lidded bowl with finial. She added her special touch by embedding a jewel into the inside of the lid. She then colored the box with two coats of dye. We ended up buying her scraper. In my profession I had the opportunity to coach top executives on presentation styles. Not only is Cindy an amazing artist, but her demonstra-

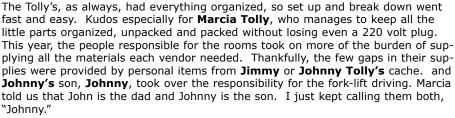
tion style is top-flight. **Ron Fleming** demonstrated airbrushing techniques and, even more impressively, his carved vessel. I need a riffler! His carving stand looked like the bottom of a barber chair, and was cleverly versa-



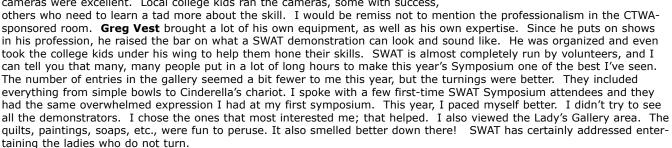
how to use a band saw better than I do. There were many demonstrators that I didn't get to see, but then that is the hallmark of a really good symposium.



vendors specializing in various types of wood. Lathes, hollowing bars, sand paper, tools, and accessories were all sold at discounted prices. Now, I'm not much of a shopper when it comes to clothes, but put me with that many woodturning vendors and it gets very tempting to spend money. The Hands-On Demonstration area afforded people an opportunity to try their hand at spindles, bowls, and pens while learning from experienced turners.



I cannot help but mention that the camera work, sound quality, microphones, and cameras were excellent. Local college kids ran the cameras, some with success,

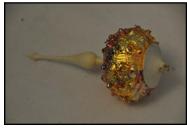


Oh, I didn't win either of the lathes given away in the raffle, but the raffles are always fun even if I don't win.

Now, I only have to take my notes, new tools, and expanded imagination into my shop and play. Be sure to attend next year. It's inexpensive (except for the tools you buy), entertaining, and will blow your mind.

Hilda Carpenter







This year's SouthWestern Association of Turners (SWAT) Symposium was bigger and better than ever, setting a new attendance record. SWAT President Janice Levi and her team are to be complimented for their efforts. This was perhaps the best organized Symposium yet. Additional kudos to Janice for her great effort to acknowledge the many folks who put in a great deal of extra effort to make the Symposium a success. When you are running an organization that depends on volunteers to make it successful, it is important to publicly recognize the folks who do the lion's share of the work.

Those public thank yous have been conspicuously absent from the Symposia of the last several years and it is good to see them return.

Along those lines, while it is impossible to name all of the folks from our club who contributed to the sucess of the event, I will try. Both Curtis and Hilda have already mentioned the efforts of the Tolly family, Marcia, John, Johnny and Jimmy. Thanks also to the stalwarts who helped with set up and teardown and clean up of the rooms and the vendor area, notably Betty and Stacey Hager, Clyde and Pat Little, and Hilda Carpenter and Steven Green. I also want to personally thank the folks who set up and

cleaned up the room that CTWA sponsored, and those who hosted the demonstration sessions in that room:

Drew Shelton, Kimberly Shelton, Clyde Little, Greg Vest, Jim Patterson, Greg Stowers, Stacey Hager,

new member **Suzi Parker**, and **Len Brissette**. **Greg Vest** deserves additional thanks for bringing professional class A/V equipment and for assuring that the A/V presentation in our room was the best at the Symposium. **Kimberly** also deserves extra recognition for helping a bunch of technology challenged old men get one another's cell phone numbers programmed into their own phones. There are probably others I should thank as well, but I didn't think to take notes.

Although CTWA members bought our fair share of Two-for-One Raffle tickets, our take this year was not as big

as it has been in recent years. Clyde and Pat Little won a couple of turned pieces in the banquet drawing, as did Drew and Kimberly Shelton, and Dave Wolter. Clyde and Pat also won some turning tools at the Sunday lunch drawing. There may have been other CTWA members who won, but they didn't make enough noise for me to see them. That wasn't Hilda Carpenter's fault, as she did her cheerleading best to inject a little life into the drawings. The crowd just sits there mute as the tickets are drawn, and one would be hard pressed to locate the winners. Most of them either quietly stand up or raise their hand to announce that they have the winning ticket. That isn't true of our folks. Thanks to Hilda, they make a big whoop if they win and the whole crew cheers and whistles. I want to nominate Hilda for auctioneer next

This is the fourteenth Symposium I have attended, going back to the days when it was called Texas Turn or Two. That first year, I knew very few of our own members and, with one exception, no one else at the event, held under tents at a camp ground on the Guadalupe River west of New Braunfels. Now I see folks from all over the area that I have known for vears and watched age before my eyes. I enjoy the cameraderie of our own folks as well, as we have more time to visit with one another over this multiday event. Yes, even the faithful crew that makes our annual visit to Buzzard Billy's for Cajun food that

is "not half-bad." It's a long story.

I have also been to enough of these events to see a number of the demonstrators for the second or third time, not that that is a bad thing. You learn something new every time

you watch a Cindy Drozda, a Michael Hosaluk, and many others. It is good to seek new demonstrators, however, and get fresh viewpoints.

So, there is another Symposium on the books and in the memory bank. Woodturning and woodturning friends have been good to me, as I am sure they have to many of you over the years. I already have next year's event on my calendar.

Charlie Kay

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**.

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 he American Association of Woodturners (AAW). 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

A shopful of CTWA woodturners showed up at **Greg Stowers's** shop on a beautiful fall (by Central Texas standards) September 8. Although there seemed to be more talking and coffee drinking that usual, several folks, including **Jim Spano**, **Craig Timmerman**, **Greg Vest**, **Jim Brinkman**, and **Stacey Hager** all spent some time turning on Greg's new Robust Sweet 16. For a long while, **Spano** regularly entertained us with a a nice catch at most First Saturday sessions, but he got tired of the burden and hasn't had a First Saturday catch in a year or more. We have had some catches from time to time, but so far none has been consistent enough to do it every month. This month's catch was provided by **Greg Vest**, although it was so silent that he probably isn't a candidate. Nevertheless, he turned out an accidental work of art, an egg with pedestal and finial as well as spiral decorations.

Thanks to Greg for hosting us and special thanks for generously sharing wood and deer antlers with us.

Afterward, ten or twelve of us went to Trudy's to lunch at Nutty Brown Cafe.























Carving Comes Full Circle

At both the AAW Symposium in San Jose and the SWAT Symposium in Waco, I found myself drawn to demonstrations featuring surface decoration, most specifically those that involved carving and pyrography, or some combination of the two. In a way, that was bringing me back full circle to my earliest ventures in what might be dubbed artistic rather than purely functional working with wood. I had been building cabinets and some simple furniture projects

for twelve or fifteen years, but hadn't ventured beyond that to something that didn't scream functional.

I got into wood carving accidentally by way of a couple of serendipitous ventures, never foreseeing that they would merge and turn into a very satisfying hobby. One involved my wife seeing a carved creche set in one of her magazines and deciding that I could do that and giving me a cheap set of carving tools from Ace Hardware for Christmas. The second involved Boy Scouts and backpacking.

At the time my three sons were involved in Boy Scouts. We were living in Southern California, so camping and backpacking trips were most often in the Southern California mountains or the southern Sierra Nevada. Both of those have an abundance of sugar pine trees and there are always fallen limbs scattered everywhere. Fortuitously, sugar pine is an excellent carving wood. Bored and antsy at the evening campfires, I found myself picking up chunks of the fallen pine limbs, taking out my pocket knife and just making shavings with no particular plan in mind. I was learning critical tool control, however.

In the meantime, during a family vacation in Colorado, my wife spotted wooden vanity mirrors and asked if I could make her one. Visiting a friend, I cadged some aspen from his firewood pile and hauled it home. I took it to my bandsaw and made some crude short planks from it, then resawed one of the planks to make two halves of a mirror blank. We had a cheap plastic framed ovaI mirror and the frame had broken. I took my cheap Dremel scroll saw and cut out a hole for the mirror on one half of the blank, crudely routing relief for the mirror with a bench chisel. I glued the

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pieces back together around the mirror and went to work with sandpaper and a rasp. It was functional, but certainly not elegant. I never got around to attempting the intimidating creche, but I decided that the mirror might look better with some carving on the back side. So I took a round salvaged mirror and repeated the procedure, this time carving her initials on the back. It was crude, but she professed to like it and, in fact, still has it.

Meanwhile, on the Scouting front, our troop decided to hold it's own summer camp at Camp Wolverton in Sequoia National Park, something we did for three or four years running. Having seen me continually whittling, the Scoutmaster scheduled me to teach crafts - wood carving, leather work, and basket weaving. I had no experience at the first and had done one project in each of the others in sixth grade art class. But, I packed my whetstones and my pocket knife, the woodcarving merit badge book, and a book of carved neckerchief slide designs and headed for Seguoia. By the time the week was up, I had become pretty proficient at carving three dimensional neckerchief slides. I can't say as much for the Scouts, however. Most of them had a big clunky Scout knife with a blade of such terrible steel, that even when you eventually got it sharp it wouldn't hold an edge. They eventually all made a slide, most with some helpful tweaking by the neophyte instructor, though in some cases it would be hard to decide what it represented. From then on, my campfire whittling became more purposeful. I made balls in cages, linked chains and more neckerchief slides. On week-long 50 or 60 mile hikes, I would pick up a sugar pine limb for a walking stick and decorate it with carvings as we progressed. I found that I enjoyed carving and had a bit of a flare for it.

I started accumulating some quality carving chisels and some books and started carving small figures in the round. However, I was still drawn

back to the mirrors. I found a source of oval mirrors and made templates to lay out the shapes for cutting the blanks on the bandsaw and for routing the pockets for the mirrors. I then started laying out designs on the back and doing the relief carving on the back. The more I worked at it, the better I got and I found that I much preferred relief carving to carving in the round. I made a lot of vanity mirrors. I then moved on to carving frames for wall mirrors. I would make them out of basswood and carve detailed designs into them. Soon I was draping flowers over the corners. I would faux grain the uncarved parts then paint the flowers.

After I retired, I finally had enough discretionary money to buy a lathe and to build a nice shop. I got hooked on turning and fell in love with the beauty that isd exposed inside the wood and largely forgot aout my carving. Recently, though, I have begun to think about combining the two. Until now, all my carving has been with chisels, rifflers and sandpaper, but I have decided that I will try to learn to carve efficiently with rotary tools. So far, I have mostly been doing practice pieces, but I am getting better at it. Maybe I'll have something for Show and Tell before long.

Keep on turning,

Charlie Kay

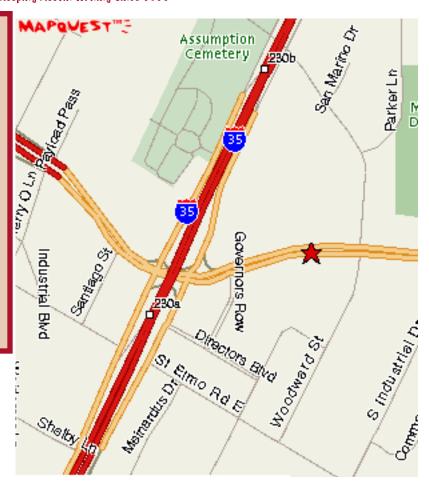
2012 First Saturday Shop Crawl Schedule

October 6 **November 3 December 8** January 5, 2013 Stephen Van Gee **Curtis Turner Christmas Party** 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*.

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: