



The Chip Pile

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

CTWA Meetings

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Tuesday, October 16, 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 November will be at 9:00 AM on November 3, at Chris Van Peski's shop, 108 Palo Duro Drive, Cedar Creek, 78612

get tired?" "Can you switch legs?" "Wow that's slow." I explained how wood contains moisture and how that water is lost through evaporation. I also showed them a blank that had nails buried deep in the wood that were only revealed after I cut through them on the band saw. There were several adults who were interested in learning to turn and I hope that a few will attend one of our meetings in

the future.

Turning in Public

The Round Rock Arts council hosted its annual Chalk Walk art festival the first weekend of October. I was fortunate enough to be asked to return again this year to demonstrate woodturning. I had such a blast last year that I was excited about participating again. This year, in addition to my Jet mini-lathe, I also brought along my spring pole lathe. This event caters to families, so there were many kids in attendance, most of whom



had neither seen a spring pole lathe nor even knew anything about turning. There were, of course, lots of questions about my "contraption". The questions and comments went something like these: "Does your leg ever

Just a reminder that the election of our Officers is just around the corner. The Officers serve an important function for all of us as club members. They help to set the direction of the club and ensure that our club functions run smoothly. Please show your

support and make the extra effort to attend the two remaining club meetings of 2012 and participate in the election process.

Curtis

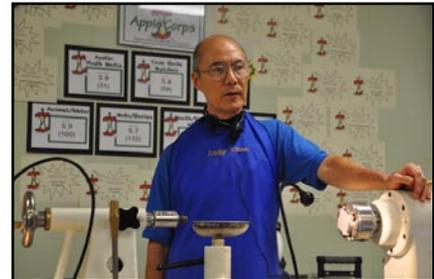
September Demo

Miniature in Corian

At our September meeting, we were privileged to have **Andy Chen** as our demonstrator. Andy is a member of Gulf Coast Woodturners and well known for his work with Corian. Perhaps some of you caught his demonstrations at SWAT on segmented turning. While he does miniatures in Corian, he is best known for his segmented Corian pieces. For

our limited time slot, he chose to show us how to make a miniature hollow vessel from Corian.

Andy started by showing us how to glue up pieces of Corian to make his



blank. Since the material is acrylic based, cyanoacrylate glue works perfectly. He then chucks the blank in his scroll chuck, supported by the tail

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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

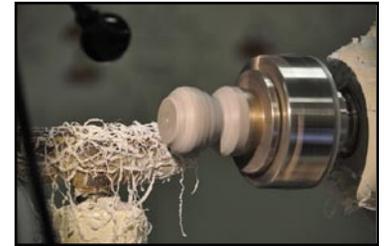
www.ctwa.org

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



stock, and turns a tenon for the chuck. The piece is then chucked and the outside shaped. He drills the mass out of the interior using a Forstner bit, then finishes the interior with an EasyWood tool. Due to the abrasive nature of the Corian, he finds that carbide tools hold their edges much better than high speed steel tools. He then sands the piece and turns off the bottom before he buffs to a high shine. Andy then donated the piece to the Bring Back raffle.

Thanks to Andy for a fine presentation.



Bring Back

Drew Shelton was the lucky winner of a small winged square platter turned by **Jim Spano** and finished with Mahoney wax.



Eddy Butler picked up a beautiful maple platter, decorated with pyrography and titled "Nature's Porthole." The piece was crafted by **Marcia Tolly** and finished with Deft.



Jim Spano brought along three pieces, a mesquite twisted vessel, an ash sphere box on a three sided stand, and a winged square turning with final, all finished with Renaissance Wax.



David Dick picked up a mesquite pot-pourri bowl finished with wax, turned by **Chris Van Peski**.



Drew Shelton took home the miniature Corian vessel turned by **Andy Chen** in the night's demonstration.



Jack Besperka showed off a Santa Fe pueblo-style olla turned from osage orange and finished with lacquer.



Dave Wolter took home a square walnut platter turned by **Jack Besperka** and finished with lacquer.



There were also three winners of ten dollar gift certificates from Craft Supplies: **Greg Vest, Len Brissette,** and **Cortland Hunt**. They are not obligated to bring back a turning.

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.

Johnny Tolly won a pecan Christmas ornament turned by **Chris Van Peski** and finished with wax.



Cortland Hunt brought three bird-house ornaments finished with oil.



David Dick had the lucky ticket for a small walnut box turned by **Charlie Kay** and finished with Formby's.



Show and Tell

Jim Brinkman showed a pair of three-sided vases, one of bois d'arc dyed yellow and one of poplar dyed orange. Both were finished with Deft and Beall buffed.



Ho Evans brought along a segmented vessel of mesquite, holly, and maple, finished with Deft.



Ed Roberts has been busy and showed five nice bowls, three of mulberry and two of ash, all finished with Wipe-On Poly.



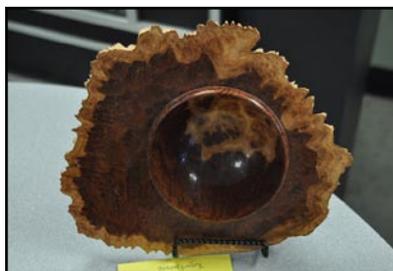
Fred Zumwalt showed a finial lidded box turned from a banksia pod and finished with Deft.



Johnny Tolly brought three pieces, two frames and legs for Ottomans, finished with lacquer, and a 50 caliber pen of brass and mesquite, finished with CA glue.



Drew Shelton showed off a beautiful winged bowl turned from an horistes burl and finished with walnut oil and buffed.



Charlie Kay brought along a couple of pieces, a small walnut box with pyrographic detailing on the lid, finished with wax, and his Beads of Courage lidded bowl, which he finished too late to take to SWAT. The second piece was of mahogany, with a figured yellow birch lid featuring beads and a carved and painted flower inside the lid, finished with Watco oil and Beall buffed.



This time I wound up with only one orphan, a bowl that appears to be turned from live oak. Thanks to whomever brought it.



October Demo

Surface Decoration

Our demonstrator for October will be **Steve LeGrue**. He will be showing us various means of decorating our turnings.

Long time CTWA members will know Steve. He has demonstrated for us several times in the past and was a major supporter of SWAT. He is a member of Gulf Coast Woodturners. After 17 years on the faculty of the UT Health Sciences Center in Houston, along with his wife Teri, he owned and operated The Cutting Edge, a woodworkers supply store, in Houston from 1993 until the national economic woes caused him to close it in 2009.

November First Saturday

Our November First Saturday will be on November 3. This time we will be returning to **Chris Van Peski's** amazing shop, at 108 Palo Duro Drive, Cedar Creek, TX 78612, just off Texas 71 on your way to Bastrop.

2012 Demonstration Schedule

October 15	Steve LeGrue	Surface Decoration
November 20	Hilda Carpenter	Finishing Round Table
December	no meeting - Christmas Party	
January 5, 2013	to be announced	

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

Volunteer Instructors

SOUTH

Bill Hammack 512.282.0832
(tops, tiny turnings)

Stacey Hager 512.282.1036
(basics, spindles, sharpening, hollow vessels)

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)

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.com

2013 Officers

Election Time

Jim Spano, Len Brissette, and **Charlie Kay** were named as a Nominating Committee to nominate CTWA Officers for 2013. That committee has met and contacted the following people who have agreed to serve if nominated.

President - Charles Kay
 President Elect - Pat Little
 Secretary/Newsletter - Hilda Carpenter
 Treasurer - Ed Roberts
 Program Chair - Stacey Hager
 Membership Chair - Chris Van Peski
 Librarian - Stephen Van Gee
 Audio/Visual Coordinator - Greg Vest
 Webmaster - Aleta Wallace
 First Saturday Coord. - Len Brissette

These people will be formally nominated at our October 16 meeting. Nominations will be accepted from the floor, but if you are going to nominate someone, you must have their permission in advance of nominating them.

The slate will be voted on at our meeting in November.

AYW Auction

Don't forget to bring your turning to donate for the **American YouthWorks** fundraising auction. These donations are one of our obligations to AYW in exchange for using their fine facilities. Please bring you nice piece to the October meeting.

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.

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

Feb 2 - 9:00 AM to Noon
 First Saturday - Stephen Van Gee's shop

Feb 19 - 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.

CTWA Supporters

We need to recognize those whose support helps 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 Tool Reviews

If you are like me you may occasionally buy some tools that end up collecting dust (from non-use) or don't give you exactly what you are looking for. After going to SWAT, Steve and I came back with a couple of wonderful tools that I thought I'd share with you. Let me know if you have other ideas and tips.

Cindy Drozda's Arc Tool

After seeing Cindy Drozda demonstrate making her star bowl at SWAT, we purchased her Arc Tool. Typically we sharpen any new tool we purchase; however, Cindy's Arc Tool is already quite sharp and ready for use if you buy it directly from her for \$54.95. It also has a different arc than the tool that Packard Woodworks sells for \$50.95. www.packardwoodworks.com as shown below.

Packard's Cindy Drozda Tool
(note that their arc tool is rounded)



Arc Tool purchased directly from Cindy
(has a more severe arc)



I tried Cindy's arc tool on some white ash and the tool performed perfectly. It is bi-directional, so you can use it from either side (left- or right-handed). It also has a straight edge opposite the arc that is excellent for non-curves. I had a particularly nasty spot on the edge of my bowl. So, I decided to see if it could handle the wobbly edge. It worked perfectly, removed the mark, and left it ready to sand. Now, for me, I usually have tool marks on my pieces. My usual scenario is to grab some 80 grit sandpaper to smooth them out. I decided to try her tool on this problem of tool marks. This little beauty took them out in only a couple of passes. I was able to start sanding at 120 grit. I probably could have gone to a higher grit, because the arc tool left the wood incredibly smooth.

The way Cindy demonstrated her tool was after applying color. She used the arc tool to cut the color of the wood—thus bringing out the beauty of the birds eye maple grain to complement the color. That is something I'm going to try (as soon as I have some birds eye maple).

To use the arc tool, the turner keeps the tool horizontal to the lathe bed, just below or at center. Keeping that angle allows the tool to be eased into the wood for the scraping. I also use various sizes of round nosed scrapers. I still use these scrapers for certain areas; however, I find the arc tool

leaves the wood more polished.

In the past, I bought a similar arc scraper, Hartline, from Bin Pho. This scraper is also arced, but cannot easily be used ambidextrously. To use the straight side of the arc tool, or change handedness, you need to loosen the hex screw and turn the blade. It does not come with a handle. This isn't really a big deal, since you can make your own handle, but it's nice to have the tool all ready to use.



Cindy's tool is far better and more user-friendly (no turning the blade for straight or curved edge with a hex screw). I can't remember how much I paid for the Hartline tool from Bin (<http://www.wondersofwood.net>), but it will probably be a dust collector from now on.

JT Turning Tools Vacuum System

The previous vacuum system we had was the Hold Fast V810R Vacuum Generator with kit. This system uses a lamp rod to generate the suction. The best vacuum that we could ever get was around 8-10 psi. The advantage to this system is any lathe can use the vacuum by cutting the lamp rod to the length for the lathe headstock.

Since we needed more vacuum for the larger pieces, we researched, then purchased a JT Turning Tools vacuum system. This product has an aluminum rotational motion adapter, called "precision vacuum adapter", that transfers the vacuum supplied by a pump. The Precision Vacuum Adapter has two parts within the one adapter. One side remains stationary and is attached to the vacuum hose. The other side rotates with the lathe spindle. The adapter is inserted into the knock-out hole on the left side of the headstock spindle. The part is basically a "plug & play" way to set up the vacuum system.



The vacuum chuck screws onto the headstock spindle. Within this chuck there is an O-ring that seals during the vacuum process. It is made from a solid billet of aircraft-quality aluminum. They use a precision machining process to exactly match schedule 40 PVC pipe couplings (2" nominal). The chuck holds the PVC fitting in place by simply inserting the smaller end of the cup into the adapter. When the vacuum starts, the turned piece is placed on the wide end of the PVC piece and the appropriate vacuum level is set by adjusting a valve on the hose.

I used this vacuum system for the first time and was thrilled with the results. The vacuum holds the piece sufficiently to remove the tailstock. This was the first time I was able to remove the bottom of my piece with enough turning speed to make it easy. Since both Steve and I will be using

it, we mounted it onto a portable table top. Steve then installed rollers on the tabletop, so all we have to do is roll it over to either lathe, pop the vacuum adapter in, place the PVC pipe, align the piece, and turn on the pump.



The pump that JT Turning Tools sells is the Stubby vacuum pump. We typically need between 12-20 psi, depending on the wood and the size of the piece. The pump achieves those levels and probably more.

Had I had this system when I started turning, the bottom of my pieces would have been much improved. JT Turning tools sells the vacuum system hardware kit for \$110, so you can use your current pump. They sell the pump (including filter and gauge) for \$210 (<http://jturningtools.com>). They also sell adapters for smaller lathes, like a mini.

In the past, to finish off the bottom of pieces, I used Alan Lacer's reverse chucking jig. This is a great too;



however you still have to bring the tailstock up. I always ended up with a little nub that I had to sand off. I also had to be careful not to let the stub get too small, or it would break off

and the bowl could get damaged on the jig. Alan sells this jig for \$76.95 (<http://stores.alanswoodturningstore.com>). It's a good jig and is certainly cheaper than a vacuum system. It's a little tricky to get the bowl centered to keep it in the round and without wobble—and that always took me a while to achieve. Most likely I will rarely use this tool now that I have a good vacuum system.

I hope this helps make up some minds about new, great tools that make your turning much simpler.

Hilda Carpenter

Business Meeting

There were 49 people in attendance at our September 18, 2012, meeting, including visitors **Glen Gonsoulis** and **Gene Berry**. The meeting was presided over by **President Curtis Turner**.

Both Curtis and **Johnny Tolly** expressed their thanks to those who had volunteered to help out at SWAT.

Curtis made an appeal for turned pieces to thank

Greg Vest's friends who had lent professional audio/visual equipment for use in the CTWA room at SWAT.

Curtis announced that he had asked **Jim Spano**, **Len Brissette**, and **Charlie Kay** to serve as a Nominating Committee to propose club officers for 2013. Anyone wishing to serve or to find out more about what is required of them were asked to contact Curtis or Charlie. All officers must be AAW members to be sure that our insurance is in force. Nominations will be presented at the October meeting, with voting taking place at the November meeting

Curtis reminded folks that, as is our custom, there will be no First Saturday or regular meeting in December. Instead, there will be a Christmas Party on Saturday, December 8. Once again, that event will be generously hosted by **Pat and Clyde Little**. Details and a sign-up list will be forthcoming at the November meeting.

Len Brissette made a plea for folks to host First Saturday event in 2013. Contact Len directly if you can volunteer.

Curtis reminded us that we are obligated to provide nice turned pieces to American YouthWorks for their upcoming fund raising auction. Those pieces

should be brought to the October meeting.

Curtis invited folks to attend a two-day series of demonstrations by Lie-Nelson Tool Works to be held at Fine Hardwoods. Expect more details in a later newsletter.

Photos

Photographs in this month's **Chip Pile** were provided by **Drew Shelton** and **Kimberly 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 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

October First Saturday

Thirty or so CTWA members made the trip to **Stephen Van Gee's** beautiful place in far southwest Austin to check out his new shop. His wife, **Sally**, supplemented the traditional Round Rock donuts with some freshly baked cupcakes. **Jim Spano** was demonstrating the turning of Bic pens using his third generation Bic Pen Jig, while **Suzi Parker** was turning a slimline pen from Corian. **Stacey Hager** and **Charlie Kay** were helping folks sharpen their tools and **Kimberly Shelton** was off surveying the beautiful property with her brand new Nikon. When the event was over, tickets were drawn to give away a couple of old tools that Stephen now considers surplus. **John and Suzi Parker** took along a drill press stand complete with old Craftsman drill and **Orlando Banos** (the only person who needs another tool worse is Stacey) took home an antique Craftsman lathe. All in all, it was an enjoyable event and a fine christening of Stephen's shop.

Afterward, fifteen of us went to Senor Buddy's for an extended lunch. Thanks, Stephen and Sally, for hosting us.



It's Spano's Fault!

I had great plans to get a number of new turnings done and decorated before our October meeting. However, those plans have not come to fruition. I know that it can't be procrastination and, watching our current electoral process, I am sure that it cannot be my fault. So, I have thought about the situation and concluded that it is all the fault of my good friend Jim Spano.

How, you ask, could Spano be responsible? Well, it is really very simple if one finds oneself needing a scapegoat. The situation has been bubbling for several months. It began back in the spring, when the ever inventive Mr. Spano showed up at the First Saturday at Drew Shelton's with his neon yellow Spano Banana mini-lathe and stand. Now, in fairness, it must be admitted that this paint job and updating of his Jet mini-lathe were the result of harassment by people who shall remain unnamed who had repeatedly taken Mr. Spano to task for the ratty look of his beloved machine. It was banged up and covered in dripped finishes and CA glue. So, the offended Mr. Spano decided to remedy the situation in spectacular fashion.

Not content to take the easy route, Mr. Spano chose to disassemble his lathe, scrape off as much paint as he could, then use industrial strength paint stripper to get the whole thing down to bare cast iron. Then he used professional quality primer (he says that Jet hadn't primed it at all) and enamel. He followed that with a clear coat to protect the fine finish. Just to be sure that no one missed the transformation that had taken place, he chose the brightest shade of yellow available. Then, as the *piece de resistance*, he painted his stand to match. This was already, you will recall, a lathe customized with numerous Spano modifications. Clearly, this is no ordinary Jet mini-lathe!

Now, back to my failure to get done the turning that I had planned on. From the first time I saw the Spano Banana, I knew that it was just a matter of time before I had to undertake a similar transformation of my own Jet mini-lathe. I made the mistake of telling Jim of my inclination. He responded by bringing me a jar full of the industrial strength paint stripper.

He then began to follow up on me occasionally as to my progress. So, after seeing the yellow machine once again at the September First Saturday, I knew that I needed to get started on my own project or face humiliation.

Ever the procrastinator, I decided to start with my lathe stand. I had observed one other modification that Spano had added to his stand recently -- a pair of fixed casters on the face of the legs on one end. When the stand is sitting flat on the floor, the casters are not engaged, but when you lift the opposite end, the contact the floor and you can easily trundle your mini-lathe around the shop as needed. That seemed easy enough, but as with every home remodeling project I have ever undertaken, things soon got complicated. When I got ready to install the casters, I realized that the feet I had put on the legs were too small to accommodate mounting them. So I wasted two days, making new feet, priming them, and getting them installed. Naturally, the paint I had originally used to paint the base and legs was long gone. Besides, the paint was looking ratty anyway, and demanded repainting. So it was off to buy some paint to repaint them. Not wanting the ultimate product to suffer in comparison the Spano Banana, great care went into selecting a nice color.

So now the base is done and it is time to start scraping, stripping, and ultimately painting the lathe itself. However, you shouldn't look for the masterpiece anytime soon. For one thing, I don't want anyone thinking that I am copying Spano, so I won't be painting the lathe to match the stand. So, considerable research will have to go into selecting the proper paint for the lathe. Suffice it to say that color will not be yellow. The likely delay in finishing this project won't be because I am procrastinating, I am sure. I just haven't yet decided whose fault it will be that it takes me months to finish this project. Suggestions are welcome.

Now, I have to get this into the newsletter, the rest of the layout done, and copies off to Aleta to post on the web site. Then I'm off to the paint store.

Keep on turning,

Serendipity is a wonderful thing. Those of you were at SWAT will recall two very special Beads of Courage pieces, Cinderella's Coach and a teapot. These two pieces, were created and entered by **Michael and Cynthia Gibson** (www.michaelgibsonwoodturner.com). The couple's pieces won the prize for the best Beads of Courage pieces, and when **Johnny Tolly** shipped their prize to them, he threw in a couple of his beautiful thin, hollow Christmas ornaments. Little did he know what would come of that. Check out the results.



2012 First Saturday Shop Crawl Schedule

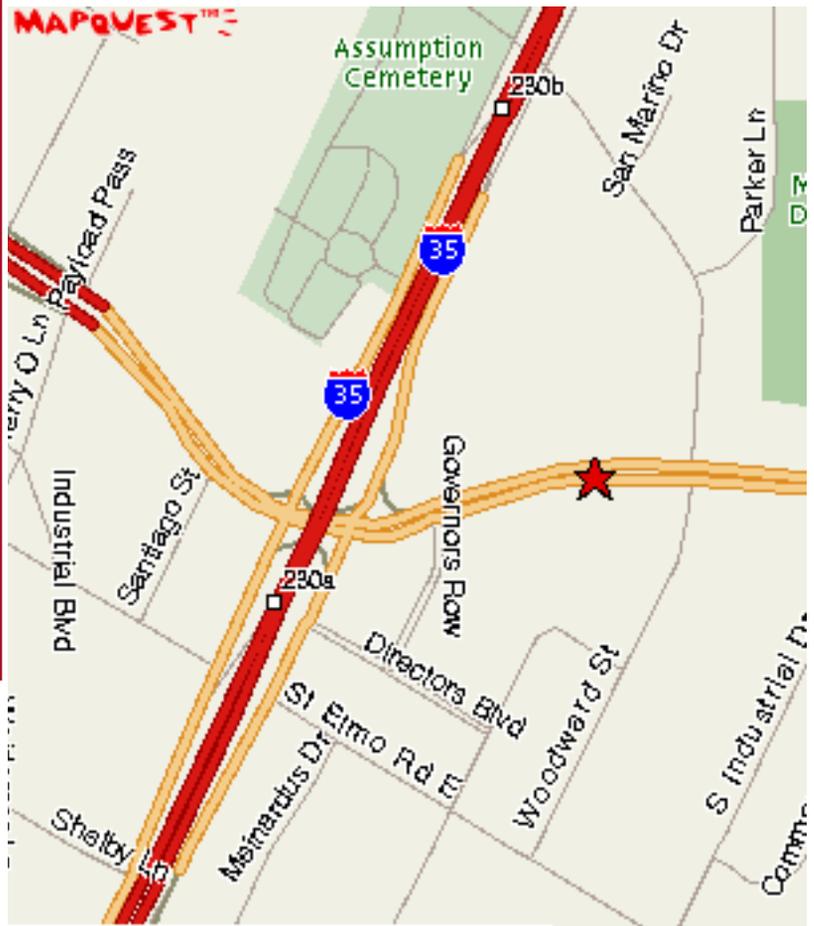
November 3
December 8
January 5, 2013
February 2, 2013

Chris Van Peski
Christmas Party
to be announced
to be announced

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

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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