



The Chip Pile

The Newsletter of the Central Texas Woodturners Association

Austin, Texas

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

CTWA Meetings

NOVEMBER MEETING

Tuesday, November 20, 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

There will be no First Saturday in December. Instead we will meet for the Christmas Party on December 8 at Clyde & Pat Little's

of Audio/Visual Coordinator and Newsletter Editor/Secretary. Thanks to **Greg Vest** and **Charlie Kay** for shouldering additional responsibilities.

The club also installed its first public exhibition, at the Austin Bergstrom International Airport, displaying many styles of turnings from various club members during the

three months the exhibit was up. This whole project, from conception through installation and removal took many months. The project was also featured in an article in **American Woodturner**. Thank you **Judy Williams** for helping with the collection, installation, and removal of the exhibit.

As we do every year, the club made significant contributions of time, money, and auction items for American YouthWorks in gratitude for the excellent meeting facility they allow us to use. While many of you were involved in these activities, special thanks are due **Johnny** and **Marcia Tolly** for managing the Senior Pen Turning event for American YouthWorks. We also "turned" up our (pen) contributions to the Texas Society of Arboriculture for their annual event. Thanks to **Craig Timmerman** for coordinating that effort

This year was likely a record year for us harvesting wood on behalf of all club members. Thanks to all the landowners, parks departments, and city officials that helped us recycle perhaps tons of trees, and to those of you that put muscle into cutting them up and hauling them.

As always, CTWA members made an impressive showing with our many volunteers at the annual SouthWest Association of Turners Symposium again this year. Their efforts were a big part of helping the event run smoothly. There were too many club members who contributed to thank all of you individually for your efforts.

For the second year in a row, in what I hope becomes a long standing tradition, we offered a free two-day turning class for new turners in the club. This well-organized effort was the brain child of **Jim Spano** and **Clyde Little**, who did an excellent job of planning the class and recruiting instructors for this program.

The commitments you all make to the club have helped this club continue to grow and remain strong. We have visitors at almost every meeting and most of them become new members. That says a lot about all of you. Thank you for participating.

I am very proud of our club accomplishments this year. I am sure I have missed a few of our achievements and no doubt there are some who deserve special recognition and whom I have forgotten to thank.

It has been a good year for all of us. Let me just say that I had a great time this year and I am proud of our club and honored to have been chosen to work with such a great group of

Monthly Features

Business Meeting 7

Calendar, page 5

Demo Schedule, page 4

First Saturday Schedule, page 9

Membership Information, page 7

This Month's First Saturday, page 4

This Month's Program, page 4

Volunteer Instructors, page 4

Thanks to All of You

As the last few weeks of 2012 wind down, I find myself reflecting on all the things we have accomplished this year as a club. I have enjoyed the last year serving as your President and I will always be thankful for the opportunity you made available to me. Thanks to all of you for your support and hard work over this last year. In CTWA, we have a unique resource that encourages and inspires all who are involved.

As we review our accomplishments for the year, we began with several major changes in our organization.

We migrated the club's website and redesigned its look and feel, yielding a very attractive and useful resource that will serve us for many years. We owe a special thank you to our new Webmaster **Aleta Wallace** for managing this process. We also made some changes in the offices

From the President's Shop

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
ckayda@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

people. Keep up the good work and we will continue to grow and prosper.

Thank you,

Curtis

October Demo

Tired of Round and Brown?

Old CTWA and SWAT friend **Steve LeGrue** of Gulf Coast Woodturners joined us as our demonstrator at our October meeting.

After enough time and practice, most of us eventually turn into pretty good turners. Our shapes get better and our finished turnings require much less sanding to get a beautiful finish on them. Once we have more or



less mastered turning, our interest can begin to wane a bit. One way to rekindle your enthusiasm is to begin to think about ways to decorate and enhance your turnings. Steve brought along a lot of his tools from his days and owner of a large woodworkers store in Houston and his experience in teaching classes in his store and showed us a number of ways that we can modify our finished turnings.

Among the techniques he showed us were carving with both a power chisel and a rotary carver, dying, painting, patinating, and the addition of non-wood accents to the turned pieces.



Thanks to Steve for a useful and inspiring presentation.

Bring Back

Bob Hrehor was the lucky winner of a 50 caliber pen turned by **Johnny Tolly** and featuring mesquite burl.



Steve Green picked up a maple closed form finished with Deft, turned by **David Dick**.



Jim Howe took home a spalted maple platter turned by **Dave Wolter** and wax buffed.



Greg Vest won a homemade skewchigouge with a cedar elm handle made by **Dave Dick**.



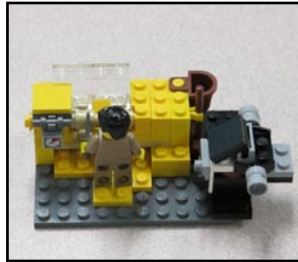
There were also gift certificates from Craft Supplies: **Gene Berry** and **Harris Harrell** won ten dollar gift certificates and **Jim McKinney** won fifty dollars worth of gift certificates. These folks are not obligated to bring back a turning.



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.

Show and Tell

Curtis Turner showed off a lathe, grinder, and woodturner assembled from Lego blocks by his eleven year old son, Brian.



Stacey Hager brought along his precision machined (of course) shop built version an elbow hollowing tool.



Hilda Carpenter showed off a white ash bowl she called "Midnight" that was finished with India ink, air brush paint and Wipe-On Poly.



Greg Vest brought a pair of boxes, one of pecan and mesquite with an antler finial and the other an "eyeball" box of unknown wood, elk antler, and unknown stone.



Steve Green brought along a pair of his trademark mineral crystal inlaid plates. Both were turned from maple, one featuring a cypress tree and the other featuring a tree of life.



... continued on page 4

Ed Roberts showed a crooked vase turned from mesquite and finished with Wipe-On Poly.



Jack Besperka brought a walnut bowl decorated with Indian carvings and finished with wax.



has demonstrated for many clubs across Texas. He has many turning specialties including his beautiful Christmas ornaments, bullet pens, and platters that wife **Marcia** decorates with pyrographic designs. Marcia also belongs to CTWA, SWAT, and AAW.

Steve Green has been a member of CTWA, SWAT, and AAW for the past four years. He has been recognized by Austin Bergstrom International Airport, is an award winner at Round Rock Art, as well as Best in Show and Featured Artist at the Buda Fine Arts Festival. The Wimberley Valley Art League chose Steve as their featured artist in November 2012.

Hilda Carpenter has also been a member of CTWA, SWAT, and AAW for the past four years. Her specialties are airbrushing, piercing, color treatments, and bowls.

Hilda Carpenter

January 2013 First Saturday

At this point, we do not have a location for our January 2013 First Saturday get together, which is scheduled for January 5. When Coordinator **Len Brisette** has a location finalized, he will get out a club group E-mail to give you the details

As is our custom, there will be no First Saturday in December, but instead will meet at **Clyde and Pat Little's** place on Lake Travis for our Christmas Party on December 8.

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.

November Demo

Finishing Round Table

Jim Spano, Johnny Tolly, Steve Green, and Hilda Carpenter will host a roundtable discussion and demonstration on finishing your woodturning at our November meeting

The discussions will include such finish options as Mahoney's Walnut Oil and Wax finishes, citrus oil, Deft, and Wipe-On Poly. The participants will also discuss sanding, buffing, and application of color treatments as they share the secrets to the success of their own finishing techniques. Be sure to bring along any finishing suggestions you would like to add to the discussion.

Jim Spano is a longtime member of the CTWA, SWAT, and AAW. His works include small, unique *objets d'art*, offset turning, and boxes with hand-chased threads as well as many ingenious jigs and gadgets.

Johnny Tolly is also a longtime member of the CTWA, SWAT, and AAW, and has published many articles in national and International magazines. Johnny

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 Brisette** 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)

Demonstration Schedule

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| November 20 | Hilda Carpenter | Finishing Round Table |
| December | no meeting - Christmas Party | |
| January 15, 2013 | to be announced | |
| February 19 | to be announced | |

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

NO REGULAR MEETING IN DECEMBER!

2013 Officers

Election Time

The Nominating Committee, consisting of **Jim Spano**, **Len Brissette**, and **Charlie Kay** presented the following slate to serve as CTWA Officers for 2013.

President - **Charles Kay**
 President Elect - **Pat Little**
 Secretary/Newsletter Editor - **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**

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

AYW Auction

The following folks (and perhaps others, whose names didn't get to me) have contributed pieces to American YouthWorks for the Silent Auction at the Help Clifford Help Kids annual fund raising dinner:

Greg Vest, **Jim Brinkman**, **Charlie Kay** (two pieces), **Jack Besperka** (three pieces), **Craig Timmerman** (two pieces), **Ed Roberts**, and **Greg Stowers** who made the most impressive donation - one of his beautiful walnut garden benches.

Here are photos of the pieces that were donated at the October meeting. Other pieces were donated at the September meeting and at the November First Saturday and those are not pictured.



Thanks to all of you who contributed to this worthwhile cause.

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.

Nov 20 - 7:00 to 9:00 PM

CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

December 8 - 9:00 AM until ...

Christmas Party Clyde & Pat Little's

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 - to be announced

Feb 19 - 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

March 2 - 9:00 AM to Noon

First Saturday - to be announced

March 19 - 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

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.



Local Treasure

It is almost time to topple trees. The best time to cut wood is when the sap is down (after the leaves fall). The worst time, by the way, is early spring when the buds are swollen. Woods store and dry best standing up with the same orientation in which they grew. Following are my personal top ten local woods, saving the best for last:

10. Prickly Ash (*Xanthozylum americanum*), also known as the tooth ache tree because the bark is used medicinally, is not an ash at all. The creamy white wood has large, solid nonporous vascular bundles, which make the end grain look a little like palm. This medium hard wood turns nicely green, but tends to crack rapidly close to the pith. I like to use this fairly unknown wood to emphasize shapes where I do not want figure to interfere with the lines of the piece.

9. Red Bud (*Albizia julibrissin*) is extremely unstable, but turns nicely when green. Although it splits and warps and is prone to insect damage when stored as logs, it will do better when cut into blanks for turned pieces before drying. Large trees are prized for their rich walnut brown heartwood which often exhibits fantastic burls, feathers and stress grain ripples.

8. Mimosa (*Ceros canadensis*) is a strong sensitizer that has put several of my friends in the hospital. Cover up and use lung protection if you turn it. This rich chestnut to walnut brown wood is a relative of the tropical monkey pod tree. Medium-hard and fairly stable, it turns nicely and accepts finish well. Abundant burls and crotch grain make this wood worth searching for.

7. Chinaberry (*Melia azedarach*) This abundant, fast-growing tree is the only local member of the mahogany family. The moderately stable, pinkish-brown heartwood contrasts well with the bright yellow sapwood. Soft and coarse, this wood is fun to turn "soppin' wet." Try to find healthy trees, because dead wood decays fast and becomes "punky." I like to turn utilitarian bowls and plates from this wood.

6. Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) Birds love the sweet berries from this member of the elm family. Where birds go, this fast growing "trash tree" soon follows. The straw colored wood is moderately hard and fairly stable. The things that makes hackberry desirable are its stress-wood figure and its tendency to spalt beautifully. The small zig-zag "elm" grain pattern also adds interest. I use the highly figured, crotch grain specimens to turn objects for staining with multiple colors of aniline dye. This also a good wood to sand blast.

5. Arizona Ash (*Fraxinus velutina*) The arch "trash tree", this tree is cheap, easy to cultivate, fast growing and gets very large. It is, therefore, a favorite with tract house developers. The good news is that the tree is prone to disease and insect damage, so it is readily available for wood turners. The wood is creamy white and turns like a dream, wet or dry. Turned wet, long continuous ribbons tend to sizzle off the tool. The wet surface immediately turns orange and then dries to a pleasing yellowish blond. Ash is strong, relatively stable and makes excellent spindle material, tool handles, stool legs, etc. Stress grain and y-crotch are both highly figured and make dramatic platters and bowls.

4. Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) and the similar European Plane Tree (*Platanus acerifolia*) resemble members of the maple family (*Acer*) but may grow much larger. Some specimens attain a height of 170 feet and a diameter as large as 14 feet. Think about it; you could turn a bowl and cover your Volkswagen with it. Sycamore is medium hard and very uniform with tight grain and prominent radial ray fleck. It turns like soft maple and will often distort a lot if turned wet and then dried. I like to use it to make "how did you do that" objects such a football shaped hollow vessels (run the pith sideways through the major diameter of the vessel) and drunken goblets (the stem and bowl usually warp and distort).

3. Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*) is a leguminous member of the Mimosa family. The pea-like seeds were most likely brought from Mexico in the digestive tracts of cattle. Specimens were planted (with fertilizer) along the cattle trails of the southern United States. Mesquite thorns almost single-handedly made chaps a necessity for working cowboys. The wood is dense, extremely hard, and very stable (its radial and circumferential, or tangential, shrinkage are almost identical 2.2 % / 2.6 %). Compared to 5.3 % radial and 9.0 % tangential shrinkage for white oak, which is considered to be fairly stable. Volumetric shrinkage for mesquite is 4.7 % compared to 15.8 % for white oak. The color varies from honey to dark reddish brown with bright yellow sapwood. The tree usually grows crookedly and the wood almost always has heart shakes (stress cracks around the center of the tree). If you find a large, straight piece with no cracks, grab it - it is a rarity. Mesquite burls are among the most highly figured and most highly prized woods in the world. Mesquite turns nicely but you may have to sharpen your tools often. Mesquite is more than twice as hard as white oak and over three times as strong in compression. It is a little brittle, but its unequaled stability makes it a top choice for lidded boxes and items where durability and hardness are crucial. If you live in Central Texas and are not turning mesquite, you are missing a good thing. It is sort of our local "exotic".

2. Pear (*Pyrus communis*) is a member of the rose family. Planted as ornamentals and fruit trees, pear tree trunks seldom exceed twelve inches in diameter. The wood is medium in hardness and density with a creamy smooth texture that makes it one of the sweetest turning materials you will find. The color runs from tans to browns, but can become dramatic with off-whites and blacks if spalted. When sanded smooth this wood glows. Pear wood is excellent for lidded boxes, finials, hollow forms, tool handles and in any application where clear, clean details are desired. On second thought, this wood is really terrible and I think you should unload any you find at my shop!

1. Waxleaf Ligustrum (*Ligustrum japonica*) is a member of the tallowood family. This is my all-time favorite turning wood. It is classified as a privet hedge, but I have grown specimens thirty feet tall with eight inch trunks. I burned tons of this stuff before finally trying a piece on the lathe. I have hoarded it ever since. This hard, medium-dense, close-grained, almost white, wood is as close to boxwood as anything I have found growing in Texas. Wet or dry, it turns like a dream. It is so stable that I have actually fitted the lids to boxes turned green and repeatedly had them still fit perfectly after drying. The wood does shrink when drying, but the shrinkage is incredibly uniform. Turn the top and bottom from adjacent pieces and they will shrink identically. (By the way ligustrum spalts beautifully.) I use this

... continued on page 7

wood for demonstrations and to teach students spindle cuts. If you can't cut this wood cleanly, you are doing something wrong. Find a piece, practice with it and experience the sheer joy of making shavings.

Stacey Hager

* * * * *

*This is a reprint, slightly edited, of a pair of articles that Stacey provided for the October and November 2002 issues of **The Chip Pile**. I thought newer members might find it helpful and the old timers would enjoy seeing it again.*

Ed.

Business Meeting

There were 45 people in attendance at our October 16, 2012, meeting, including visitor Bill Kibbler (sp?). The meeting was presided over by **President Curtis Turner**.

Curtis began the meeting by thanking **Drew Shelton** for taking care of harvesting the big sycamore in Georgetown.

Craig Timmerman reported on the situation with the Austin Forestry Department.

Things have gotten more difficult since his original contact moved on to another job. Craig asked for help in dealing with the large amount of material. **Davidson Loehr** volunteered to assist.

Charlie Kay presented the report of the Nominating Committee (himself, **Jim Spano**, and **Len Brissette**) offering the following group of nominees to serve as Officers for 2011. The election will be held at the November 20, 2012, meeting.

- President - **Charles Kay**
- President Elect - **Pat Little**
- Secretary/Newsletter Editor - **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**

Curtis showed a short video of his pole lathe in action.

Thanks

Damon Lange and the folks at **Nomad Sound Group** were generous enough to loan some very high quality audio and video equipment (and the van to haul it in) to our A/V Coordinator **Greg Vest** for use in the CTWA sponsored room at the SWAT Symposium in August. In

gratitude, **Jim Spano**, **Ed Roberts**, and **Charlie Kay** donated turned pieces to the folks at Nomad Sound.

Thanks to them and our own dedicated **Greg Vest**, we had the best audio and visual operation at the Symposium.



On the Road

Travelin' Tollys

Our most traveled demonstrators, **Johnny and Marcia Tolly** made the trip over to Kerrville on October 11. Johnny was the guest demonstrator for the evening, showing the members of Hill Country Turners how he turns the icicles and finials for his award winning Christmas ornaments. He had shown them how he hollows the globes of the ornaments last year, so this demonstration completed his methods for turning a complete Christmas ornament. There were about 30 people at the meeting as Johnny covered how to select an appropriate wood and how to center the blank. Then, using a limited number of tools, he showed them how to turn the finial and the icicle. The demonstration was a hit and it was followed by many questions.

Photos

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

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

Christmas Party

Once again, CTWA stalwarts, **Pat and Clyde Little** have volunteered to host the club Christmas party at their home on Lake Travis. No one has been more gracious in their support of our club than these two. As usual, we will convene from 9:00 until sometime after the covered dish meal at noon and the following gift exchange, covered by arcane rules usually devised on the spot by either **Marcia Tolly** or **Betty Hager**, or both

of them. If you want to participate in the exchange, bring a wrapped turned item you are proud of that represents the best work that you can do. As always, the club will provide the meat and the drinks for the meal. Participants are expected to bring a covered dish. There will be a sign-up sheet at the November meeting to try to assure that we don't wind up with either all vegetables or all desserts. Spouses are welcome and encouraged at this event. Turners will convene in the shop and some turning is expected to occur. Come and join us for what always is a fun event.

Twenty-five or more CTWA members made the jaunt to **Chris Van Peski's** very well equipped shop in Cedar Creek for our November 3 First Saturday event. **Stacey Hager** conducted another sharpening seminar and he, **Jim Spano, Jack Besperka, Jim Brinkman** and others spent some time on Chris's lathes. All in all, though, this was more a Saturday of socializing than it was of turning. Still, that is an important part of what makes CTWA a successful community of woodturners.

When the turning and talking was all over and done with, a dozen or more of us headed off to Catfish Parlour for a nice, late lunch. It was a nice event and we thank Chris and his wife for being gracious hosts for a second time this year.



Adieu, Again

I find myself with mixed feelings as my one year reprise as editor of your newsletter winds down. Sure, the mechanics of it can be a drag at times, but then there are parts of being a turner that are a drag as well. Who really likes cranking up a noisy, smelly, heavy chainsaw and spending half a day sawing up blanks from big chunks of tree trunk? I'm also told that many among you really detest sanding. Still we do those things because we like the end result, the long curly chips flying from the wood as the sharp gouge

engages it and the shape we saw in our mind emerges before us. It is easy to get lost in that enjoyable process. So it is too with me in doing the newsletter.

Getting the photos organized and labeled can be a drag, as can trying to make all of the appropriate changes in the sections that repeat every month, mostly dates. I hate proofreading my own work, and though I usually do it at least twice on every issue, there is almost always someone to call my attention to something that I missed. Still, though, I love the writing and the editing and getting the whole thing to look coherent and like I want it to look. I get just as lost in doing those things as I do in turning and, most of the time, I am pleased with the finished product. Sometimes, though, just as with turning, I am not completely satisfied with the result. But, it has to be finished and sent on its way and I try to make it better the next time.

I really never supposed that I would be doing the newsletter for eleven of the last thirteen years. I volunteered to do it the first time because no one else would and because I had done simple newsletters for organizations I had belonged to in the past, first on my Royal typewriter, then on my Osborne 1 with a tractor drive dot matrix printer. I figured I would do the job for a couple of years, then turn it over to someone else. That would give me a year to more or less learn what I was doing and a second year to do it pretty well. It didn't work out that way.

It is the custom in most all of the groups we are involved with to spend the last part of the year reflecting on what we have done together in the past twelve months. In doing that,

we try to thank those folks who have made the group's activities successful. As with all things we humans do, however, we almost always miss one or more people that we should have thanked and didn't. That doesn't mean that we shouldn't thank as many of those who made big contributions as we can, however.

One of the things I really like about CTWA is how interactive our members are and how willing people are to volunteer to help in whatever we undertake. So here are the acknowledgements to those who made major contributions to **The Chip Pile** this year.

The newsletter wouldn't be complete without the continuing efforts of **Drew Shelton**. For years, he has provided nearly all of the photographs for the monthly issues and, as with all things with practice, his photos continue to get better every year. That makes my life much easier each month. Recently, his daughter **Kimberly** has begun to contribute a few photos as well. Thank you, Drew. Oh, and perhaps just as importantly, he makes sure that we all maintain our weight by faithfully bringing Round Rock donuts to all of our First Saturday events.

Thanks also to **Hilda Carpenter**. She has provided two lengthy stories in the September and October issues, both related to the SWAT Symposium. One was on her overall impression of the annual event and the other reviewed the tools that she acquired there. And, we should all be grateful that she has agreed to take over production of the newsletter again in 2013. Thank you, Hilda, for your valued input.

Although it was written a long time ago, I thank **Stacey Hager** for letting me reprint his articles on local trees well suited for turning. Thanks, Stacey.

Finally, thanks to our old friend and former member, **Frank Miller**, for three excellent and well illustrated technical articles on woodturning tools,

some of his own invention. He may be a Nevadan now, but he still helps us out here. Thank you, Frank.

Thanks also to all of you that read the newsletter and make suggestions. Yes, and thanks even to those of you who find my boneheaded mistakes. I know for sure that folks are reading it and that they care about the publication. Anyone who puts together a publication like this sincerely appreciates the interest and participation of as many folks as possible.

I thank all of you for the privilege of doing this job again and for supporting me in the effort. I appreciate all that you do.

And so, it is time to turn the reins back over to Hilda beginning with the January issue. I know that you will support and assist her as you have me and that we will continue to have a newsletter that celebrates us all.

Keep on turning,

Charlie Kay

NO DECEMBER ISSUE!

As always, there will be no *Chip Pile* in December. By common consent, since the organization of the Central Texas Woodturners in 1988, the Editor gets a vacation in December. Look for the next issue in January, 2013.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

First Saturday Shop Crawl Schedule

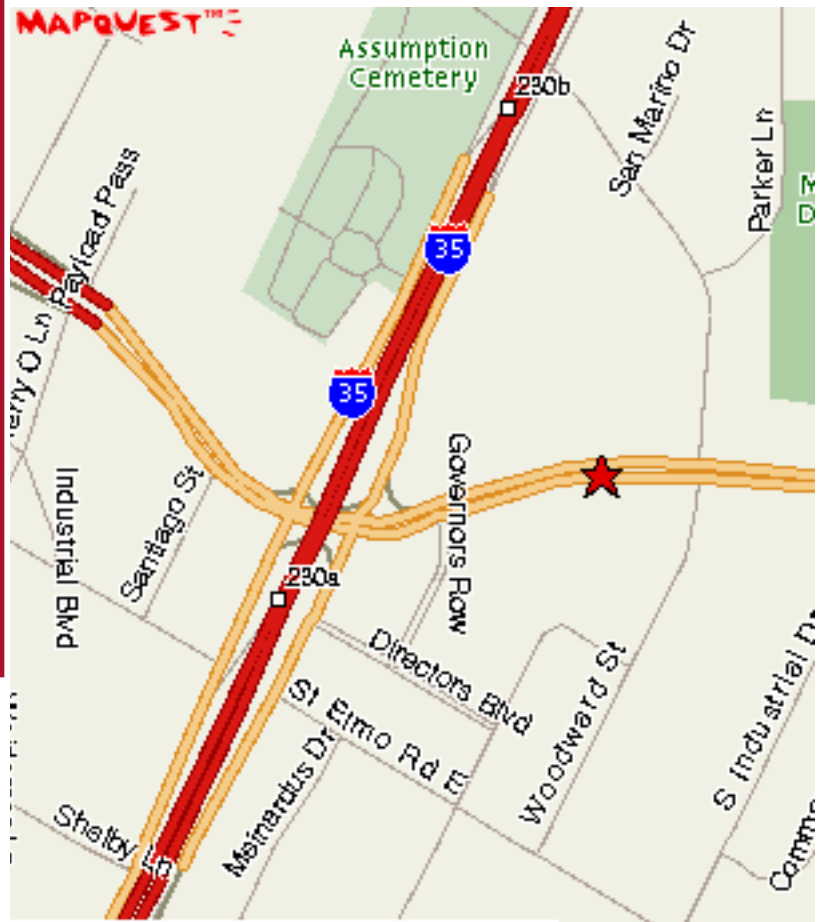
**December 8
January 5, 2013
February 2, 2013
March 3, 2013**

**Christmas Party
to be announced
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 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: