

The Chip Pile

The Newsletter of the Central Texas Woodturners Association

Austin, Texas

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

February Meeting

March 19, 2013

Johnny Tolly: Xmas Discs

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)

**No April First
Saturday**

President's Shop

I hope that by the time you see this issue of the Chip Pile you will have finished your entry for the President's Challenge for March -- the Spano spin top box. Jim Spano gave us an excellent demonstration at our February meeting. The project is a simple one that should be attainable by even novice turners. It doesn't have to be a duplicate of Jim's piece, but your effort to approximate it. As always, creativity is welcomed, if you are so inclined. I would also encourage our newer turners to bring their pieces along even if they didn't turn out as well as you might have hoped. We can see that you tried and maybe give you some pointers on some techniques that might have helped you. The Challenge is all in good fun; just do the best you can do and bring it along.

We have had solid interest in

our planned classes and the team planning those classes continues to try to optimize their plans. The prospective students may be beginning turners, but the instructors are novices at organizing and teaching the basics of turning, so we will all continue to learn

together.

Our friend from the north woods, Bill Kingsbury of Appleton, Wisconsin, is in town for a few weeks and will be joining us at our March meeting. It has been a year or two since he has paid us a visit. Being from the land of abundant forests and abundant rainfall, he brought his boat along on this trip. I hope by now he has found at least one fishing buddy in our club and a place to launch his boat in our sorely depleted lakes. This weekend didn't bring a deluge, but an inch of rain isn't to be scorned in our present situation.

Now, get out in your shop and get that Spano top box done!

Charlie Kay

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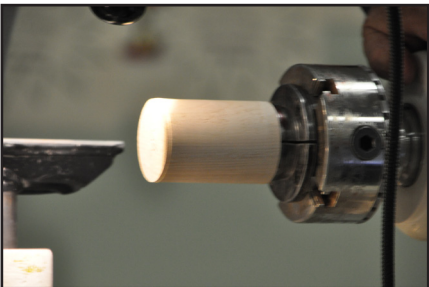
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Demonstration February 2013

Jim Spano



Jim Spano gave a fun presentation on Spin top boxes. First, he rounds a small spindle, then turns the end to



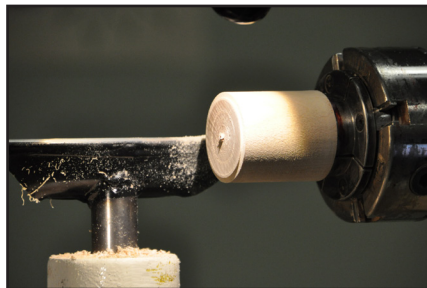
create the side on which the bottom of the “top” will spin. Then he cuts off the top with a thin parting tool, leaving a small width on the perimeter of the



spindle end to use as a jam chuck to hold the top. This also is the beginning



of the inside of the box. Then he places

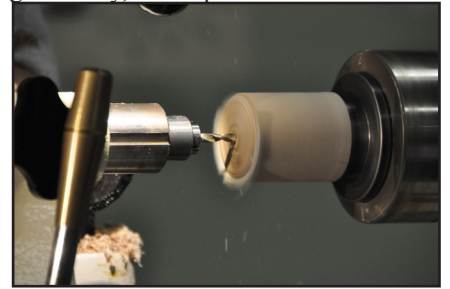


the finial (or box spinner) using a bit to the depth of about 1/8”. He inserts the finial blank into the hole using thick

CA glue and accelerator. Once the



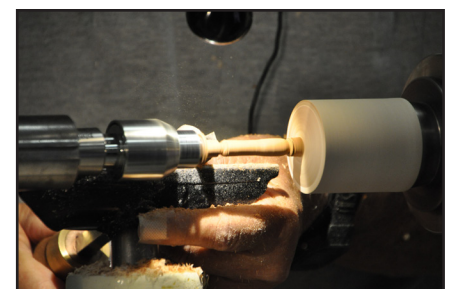
glue is dry, he shapes the finial. If the



lid fit is too loose, he uses toilet paper



to help hold the top. Jim also demonstrated other methods in case the turner

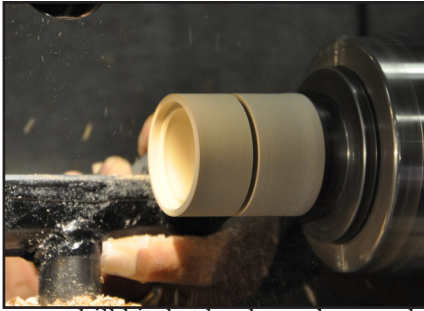


doesn't have a spindle chuck, for example a block attached to the face plate can be used as a jam chuck. Next, Jim hollows out the box. Jim

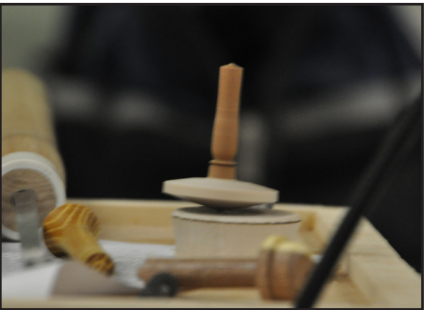
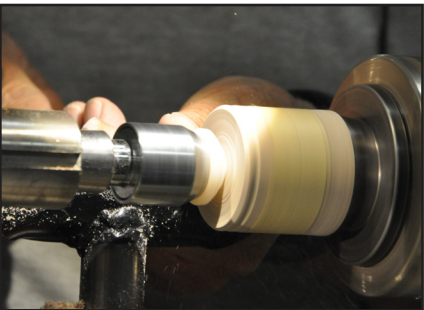


Demonstration February 2013:

Jim Spano



uses a drill bit that has been sharpened like a gouge. After hollowing out the



box, he reverse chucks the box on a

jam chuck to finish off the bottom. He also uses a nylon tip for his tailstock to protect the wood. If the finial isn't straight, then the top spins pretty wobbly! However, Jim's example spun just fine on the bottom of the box. Quite clever, and the item for the next President's challenge. Remember to keep up with all the tools you use!

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 hildac@mac.com.

Upcoming Demo's & Classes

Spring Turning Classes

Plans for Spring Turning Classes are updated. We have new dates, added a class and extended both classes from 1 day to 2 days.

The first class will be on April 6 and 7, it will be for beginners. The second class will be held on May 11 and 12 for intermediate turners. If you already signed up for a class, you should have been notified as to the date change. We will discuss the classes at the February meeting.

March Demonstrator

Johnny and Marcia Tolly will be doing a dual demonstration in March. Johnny will be demonstrating how he turns Maple disks for Christmas Ornaments. The disk when finished will be about 1/8 inch thin. Johnny will demonstrate the use of the Hunter micro tool

the shaping. He will discuss how he prepares the maple wood to save time and wood. He will then go through the process of turning one side, and sanding that very smooth this will be by power sanding. He will then either use a vacuum system or his alternate method to turn the other side and sand it smooth also.

Johnny will then turn the demonstration over to Marcia where she will explain how she decorates the disks with pyrography. Marcia will cover patterns, burning tips, finishing and other secrets that you will not want to miss out on. At the end there will be a hands on time for those that want to try the Hunter tool and or to ask Marcia any questions.

President's Challenge

Remember to keep up with all the tools you use to prepare your Spin Top Box. If you didn't get the instructions at the meeting, let the editor know & you will receive it in the mail.

The spin top box project is an excellent way to learn how to fit tops for boxes, as well as apply finials! Have fun with it, and be sure to bring your entry, even if it's not as perfect as Jim's.

Random Ruminations:
"Sometimes An Accident Is Just An Accident"

BY

Charles Kay

Hilda used to do a column in The Chip Pile that she called Blow Ups! It was useful in the way it pointed out the many and curious ways that we can carelessly injure ourselves in the shop.

I have been working wood with power tools for about 50 years. I am a pretty careful guy and have so far escaped any catastrophic accidents. (I should knock wood if I could find any.) The closest call I had was in 1970 or so. I had a new Sear's Best ten-inch Craftsman table saw. I am glad it was their Best, but I shudder to think what compromises its lesser two stablemates might have had. It had a fence that was almost impossible to align with the blade and that stayed aligned only until you actually tried to use it. The fence, however, was substantially better the kerf splitter and anti-kickback pawls. They were made of stamped sheet metal and were perhaps the best designed anti-safety devices I have ever encountered on a power tool. I was in the garage after the baby had been put to bed, working on cabinets as I remodeled the kitchen. For reasons long since forgotten, I was ripping a short piece of 2 X 4. The anti-kickback device had long been tossed and I knew nothing of push sticks. As usual, the fence was a bit cattywampus and the workpiece bound between the fence and the blade, just before it flew past my ear and into the sheetrock wall behind me. There was no blood, but at that point I decided to call it a night.

Most of my shop accidents have been of a similar nature. Either I wasn't knowledgeable enough about the potential risks of the action I was about to undertake; or I was and decided if I was careful it would be okay ... When that little voice is whispering in your ear, "You probably shouldn't do this," you shouldn't. There have been several scary close calls, and I seldom take those chances any more.

The most interesting shop accidents to me, though, are the bizarre ones that seem to occur in ways that I would never have thought of occurring and that even in retrospect I don't know how I would have avoided them. When those incidents happen, I think back to when I first hired on with Texaco in 1965. I went to work in their R&D Center in Port Arthur, Texas. The lab was contiguous with the gargantuan Port Arthur Refinery and all new hires had to do a five week training program in the refinery. The training office was more than a mile from the gate and only Supervisors and higher were allowed to drive in. So the accepted drill was to go through the gate and wait for a supervisor to stop and give you a lift. I did that one morning not long before I as done with the training program and when they let me out, the guy I was sitting by in the back seat slammed the door before my hand was out of the way and completely blackened a finger nail. The head trainer insisted that I had to go to the plant clinic across the street, where they drilled a hole

in the nail to relieve the pressure. Eventually, the injury healed and the nail fell off and live goes on. However, within a few days after I reported back to my job in the R&D Center, I got a call asking me to report to the Safety Director. It turned out that, as required, an accident report had been filed and it was the Safety Director's job to meet with the injured party and counsel him. We talked a couple of minutes and he handed me his written report, complete with his remarks regarding how to avoid a recurrence of such an injury: "Told engineer to keep finger out of door."

My most recent shop injury was of a similar unlikely sort, although I didn't have to receive professional counseling as to how to avoid it in the future. I was burning designs into the lids of some boxes, using my 1/8" burning skew. Before I started, I decided that it had been a while since I had sharpened it, so I picked up my diamond hone and put a fine edge on it. I was comfortably seated on a stool in front of my work bench and things were going well. I still haven't been able to reconstruct exactly how things began to go wrong -- whether I reached for something and lost my balance, whether I almost dropped the work piece, or something else entirely. But, somehow, I stabbed myself with that newly sharpened, red hot skew into the fleshy part between the thumb and forefinger of my left hand. The incident was accompanied by smoke and the smell of burning flesh. At least, I thought, the wound has been cauterized and there will be no bleeding. I wish. Despite a lot of effort to stop the oozing blood with pressure and a paper towel and the sequential use of several band-aids, that little hole oozed blood for the rest of the afternoon and at least part of the night. I briefly considered using CA glue, but decided that since this was a fairly deep puncture wound, that might not be a good idea. Eventually the bleeding stopped and the wound healed to leave yet one more little white scar on my hand.

Tell woodturner not to stab self with red hot skew!

Keep on turning,

Charlie Kay

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CTWA Web Site

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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 512.395-7782, by E-mail at hildac@mac.com or mail them to:

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basics platters

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David Dick 512.357.6517
basics, spindles, architectural

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. All regular 3rd Tuesday CTWA Meetings are at American Youthworks. Check Website for latest information.

All 1st Saturdays are from 9 am-noon. All meetings are 7 PM to 9 PM

Events & Dates subject to change, watch for emails or website notifications!

March 19th CTWA Meeting

Presenter: Johnny and Marcia Tolly Christmas disks

April 6th NO 1st Saturday

April 6-7 Beginner's Class place: Clyde Little

April 16th CTWA Meeting

Presenter: TBD

May 4th 1st Saturday

place TBD

May 11-12 Intermediate Class

place: Clyde Little

May 21st CTWA Meeting

Presenter: TBD

June 1st 1st Saturday

Place: TBD

June 18 CTWA Meeting

Presenter: TBD

July 6th 1st Saturday

Place: TBD

July 16 CTWA Meeting

Presenter: TBD

Aug 22-25 SWAT Waco, TX

Editor's "Turn"

After the February meeting watching Jim Spano work his magic on spin-top boxes, I decided that I needed to give it a whirl.

For the first time in . . . oh forever, I actually got my lid to fit on the box part. I was stoked. I hollowed out the box part just fine! Next came the gluing of the finial.

What can I say except I failed glue in Kindergarten. Oh, I actually turned the 1/8" little hole in the top, and even managed to get the finial the right size to fit in the top's hole.

Five, count 'em, five times I tried to glue that sucker in and it kept falling out. Yes, I used CA with accelerator, even let it sit overnight. The darn thing popped right out as soon as I turned on the lathe.

As I write this, I'm finding I'm nervous about even going into the shop. Then, I remembered a saying, "Success only follows failure." — Author unknown

So, hopefully by the time of the meeting I'll have another box top done and will enter it into the President's challenge.

As I hollowed out the box, I thought to myself, "I

Keeping Austin Turning Since 1988

would NEVER hollow out a box with a drill bit (sharpened of course) like Jim did." Then again, I can't help but admire anyone who could think up something like that. It's crazy.

So far, I've used the following tools: roughing gouge, bowl gouge, spindle gouge, bedan, skew, easy tool square and round, negative edge scraper, 1/8" parting tool, narrower parting tool, sand paper, and more CA than I've ever used on anything (including cracks).

I am if nothing else, stubborn . . . and if failure is only my path to success—then watch out, because one of these days I'm going to be extremely successful.

However, if you happen to see a spin top box with my name on it, I wouldn't spin the top if I were you. It'll probably fall out.

Keep turnin' it on!

Hilda
Editor

Members In the News

Even though the wildflowers were not as prolific as last year, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center maintained a successful artisan's show. **Steve Green** sold his art and made lots of new friends.

CTWA Board Meeting

The CTWA Board met February 15th in Charlie Kay's home. If you would like to read the minutes of this meeting, they are filed with the business meeting records (aka Chip Pile) at the American Youthworks meeting site.

Business Meeting

Charlie Kay started the meeting by welcoming: **Dave Layland, Paul Nelson, and Dean Ginther** to the meeting. He then updated the club regarding the Feb. 15th board meeting. He has received the AAW Insurance certification that covers 4 events at \$425/year. We will be donating \$1,000 to American Youthworks again this year as a thank you for their community service and allowing our meeting space. **Johnny Tolly** talked about Beads of Courage and offered his BoC beads to the members. There will be no first Saturday in April, since we are having two turning classes. Charlie mentioned the President's challenge to make the same spin top box that **Jim Spano** demonstrated. There were approximately 59 people at the meeting. Charlie turned over the meeting to Jim Spano, the demonstrator.

SWAT is Coming!

It's not too early to start thinking about the Southwest Area Turners symposium in August. To prepare, you may want to go to the SWAT website and check out local Waco hotels that offer discounts for attendees. Next, start building your gallery pieces to show in the instant gallery for SWAT. Of course, you will want to make your Beads of Courage bowl for the children surviving cancer treatments.

If you haven't made up your mind on whether you want to attend, then be sure to talk to some of the members who make this an annual trek.

This show is the second largest show in the US (next to AAW symposia). Vendors offer great discounts, the demonstrators are selected from Professional and club turners alike.

You will not leave the symposium without a new trick, or maybe you'll even win the raffle and bring home a nice new lathe.

February Gallery

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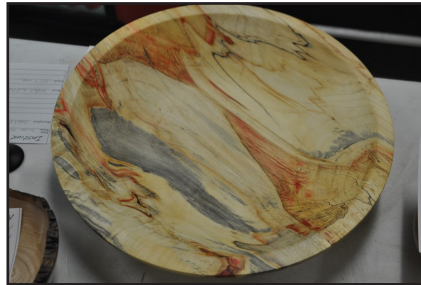
John Parker



Dwight Schaeper



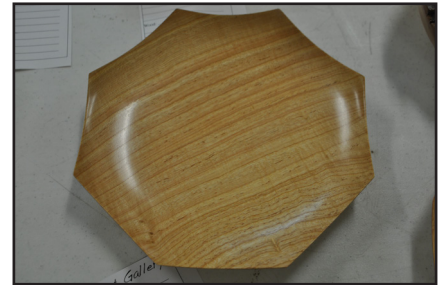
Jimmy Tolly



Larry Robinson



Peter Hawkins



Peter Hawkins



John Parker



Jimmy Tolly



Jim Brinkman



Jimmy Tolly

Johnny Tolly

Dwight Schaeper



February Gallery

Steve Green



Steve Green



Mac Peterson



Mac Peterson



Mac Peterson



Mac Peterson



Mac Peterson



Mac Peterson

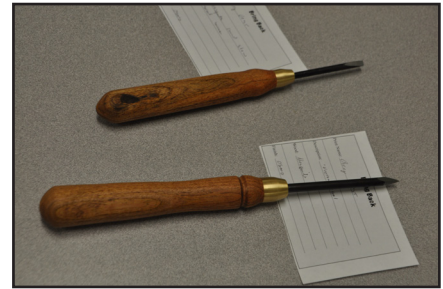


Bring Back Raffle

Greg Vest: Bob Duncan



Greg Vest: Cortland Hunt
Greg Vest: James Patterson



No pictures:

- Darrell White: Greg Vest
- Rick Greenfield: Jim Patterson
- Joe Kirk: Jimmy Tolly
- Orlando Banos: Hilda Carpenter
- Jim Spano's boxes: Marcia Tolly, Jim Howe, Greg Vest, Len Brissette and Jim Howe

Congratulations if you won a Bring Back. You need to bring back a turning to share next month.

Your turning should represent the level of your turning skill. If you do not have a lathe, or don't feel you have the experience, go to a first Saturday, contact one of our volunteer instructors to help you prepare a Bring Back piece. So buy a ticket, get involved and have fun.

It's the end of the year. Think back & if you still owe a bring back, it's a good time to turn it out, or ask one of the volunteers or officers to help your catch up.

You know who you are!

Volunteer Your Shop for First Saturday!

1. It doesn't need to be fancy, or big.
2. We'll bring the lathes.
3. You make the coffee.
4. We'll bring the donuts.
5. Have enough room for at least 1-2 turners (easy in the summer).
6. Let Len Brissette lbrissette@austin.rr.com know! Or email the editor.



Len Brissette

Membership in CTWA

We welcome NEW MEMBERS to join our band of merry turners anytime. An interest in woodturning is the only requirement. Dues are \$35.00 per year, prorated to \$3.00/month for new members. CTWA members are also encouraged to join the American Association of Woodturners, AAW. Those dues are \$38 online membership only, \$48.00 for individuals and \$50 for families. Your membership includes the AAW magazine, American Woodturner, a first-class quarterly magazine full of woodturning articles, tips and ideas with color illustration of the world's master turners' techniques. With our membership, whether you are experienced or a novice, we will teach you, or learn from you, and build long-lasting friendships based on a common kinship of matching wood, metal, machine and man, or woman as the case may be.

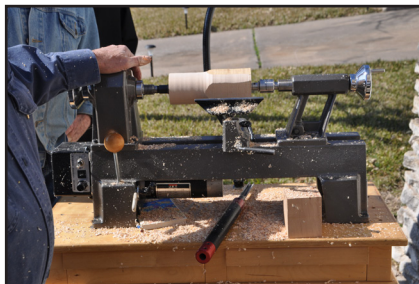
1st Sat. March

Some 15 or 20 folks, off and on, stopped by Jim Spano's shop and less than level driveway on March 2 for our First Saturday get together. We had four lathes, including Charlie Kay's newly painted Jet mini and Jim Spano's Spano Banana Jet mini. However, the best we could do was get two of them used. Bob Duncan celebrated his birthday a couple of days late by turning a Spano Challenge top box on Charlie's lathe and Craig Timmerman was demonstrating a bowl on Jim's Oneway. The rest of the folks seemed content to talk and get their minimum daily requirement of coffee and Round Rock donuts.

When we were done with the turning and talking ten of us headed for Rice Bowl Cafe for large servings of excellent Chinese food.

Thanks, Jim, for hosting our event.

—Charlie Kay



The Chip Pile

Central Texas Woodturners Association
A chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

Hilda V. Carpenter
560 Moss Rose Lane
Driftwood, TX 78619

To:

Meeting Location

The CTWA meets at American YouthWorks, 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.

