

The Chip Pile

The Newsletter of the Central Texas Woodturners Association

Austin, Texas

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

June Meeting

June 18, 2013

Tool Sharpening Techniques & Specifications

Banos, Brissette, Spano, Timmerman

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)

July First Saturday

July 6 9-12

Greg Stowers, 16 Tall Oaks Tr,
Austin 78737 512-983-0954

President's Shop

Twenty-five Years and Counting

As you see from the mast-head on The Chip Pile, the Central Texas Woodturners Association was established in 1988, meaning that we are in the middle of our twenty-fifth year. Our Program Chairman **Stacey Hager** and others of us have started talking about how we can celebrate that anniversary this fall. I am a relative newcomer, having joined the club in January of 1997. The growth of the club was gradual during most of the time I have been involved. However, the last several years resulted in major growth of our membership and in the activities we are able to share as club members.

As we reach the half-way point of this club year, there are a number of things we need to remember. We reminded you last month, it is time to start making your plans

for this year's South West Association of Turners (SWAT) Symposium in Waco, August 23-25 in Waco. If you register early, you can save a few bucks to apply toward that tool that you are lusting for. Check out www.swaturners.org for details and to register online. As long-time members know, we will soon be passing out sign-up sheets for volunteers to help with set-up on August 22 and to man the demonstration room that our club sponsors.

Speaking of SWAT, you are reminded that our President's Challenge for July is to turn a lidded bowl for the Beads of Courage program. For details, check out the information in the May issue of The Chip Pile. Thanks to **Johnny Tolly** for taking the lead on this worthwhile project. He arranged for our output to go to the program at Austin's **Dell Children's Hospital**, rather than to the bigger SWAT collection which goes to hospitals in Fort Worth. We will take your Beads of Courage bowls to the Instant Gallery at SWAT, then bring them back to Austin for distribution to these kids.

Our First Saturday events are growing in size. The June 1 event was a real success, with many brand new members attending and a nice tool exchange. The Pen

Turning day for graduating seniors at American YouthWorks was a big success again this year, with our largest turnout of turners yet, including several new members. Thanks to all who turned out to assist and to **Johnny and Marcia Tolly** for their efforts in organizing the event and preparing the blanks. These two carry a big load for our club.

Charlie Kay

Monthly Features

- Beads of Courage, p. 7, 11**
- Bring Back Raffle, p. 9**
- Business Meeting, p. 6**
- Calendar, p. 5**
- Classified Ads, p. n/a**
- Editor's "Turn", p. 6**
- Feature Presenter, p. 2**
- First Saturday, p. 10**
- Instant Gallery, p. 8-9**
- Map, p. 12**
- Membership Information, p. 10**
- Member's in the News, p. 6**
- Officers, p. 5**
- Photo Credits, p. 2**
- President's Shop, p. 1**
- Random Ruminations, p. 4**
- SWAT, p. 7**
- Upcoming Demo's, p. 3**
- Volunteer your Shop, p. 10**
- Volunteer Instructors, p. 5**
- Extra:**
- Intermediate Class, p. 3**

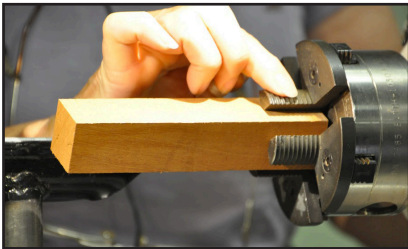
The American Association of Woodturners is "Dedicated to Providing Education, Information and Organization to Those Interested in Woodturning." In keeping with the standards of our National Organization, the Central Texas Woodturners Association hereby gives permission for all other woodturning chapters, 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.

Demonstration May 2013

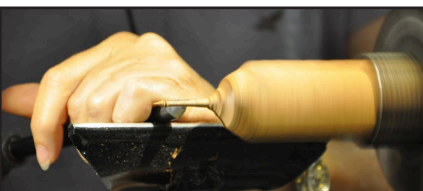
Janice Levi Elegant Finials



Janice Levi, from the Gulf Coast Woodturners, presented her concepts on turning finials. This included design and techniques for attaining a finial that complements the vessel it finishes. She also showed us some of her artwork in pyrography and coloring. But the main event was her finials. Taking a piece of wood, rounding it then conceptualizing the length so it would fit a Fibonacci “golden mean, or number” to attain a beautiful finished product. Stacey Hager will be continuing the discussion on Fibonacci design in August, so be sure to attend that meeting.

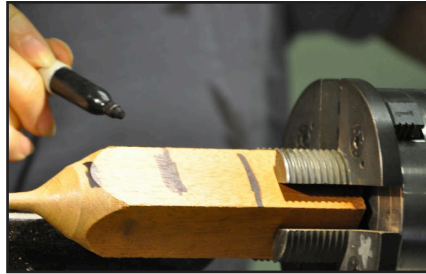


Janice then turns the finial end to what

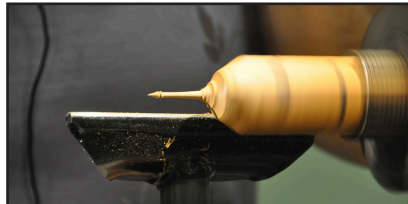


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some might call a teensie diameter, including an element of beads and coves. She then used thirds as her measurement to roughly determine the other elements and marked these spots with a black pen. After sanding



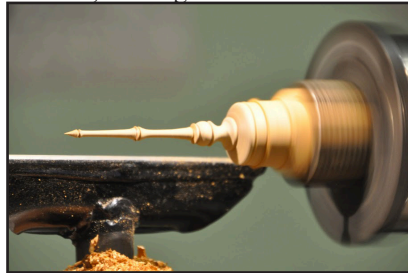
the end, she does not go back to the tip after she begins the next phases. She finishes each phase about an inch at a



time. After all the end of the finial is



finished, she begins to turn off the bot-



tom of the finial (or top if you prefer)



leaving a concave curve and tenon to secure the finial to the vessel. Janice took us through several of her designs to demonstrate finials that were either too small, or bulky, or perfect for the end product. We appreciate Janice’s expertise and great demo.



Photos

Photographs for this month’s **Chip Pile** were provided by **Drew Shelton, Charles Kay & Toby Vest**. 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

June Demonstrators: Tool Sharpening, Equipment, Technique and Specifications Panel

Presenters:

Orlando Banos - Grinders and wheels.

Len Brissette - Tool shapes and specifications.

Jim Spano - Sharpening with a sander.

Craig Timmerman - Sharpening by hand and with jigs.

July Demonstrator: Craig Timmerman, Turning a Perfect Sphere (the way the old masters did it)

August Demonstrator: Stacey Hager, The Golden Proportion, Fair Curves, and

Report from Intermediate Class

Turning Pleasing Shapes

On Saturday May 11th & 12th, the CTWA education continued for intermediate woodturners interested in turning flat-winged bowls and boxes held at Clyde Little's shop. Lead instructor, **Craig Timmerman** helped the students turn a flat-winged bowl. Attendees included **Stephen Van Gee, Al Gaskell, Ryan Hoover, Larry Robinson, Jim McKinney, Blair Feller, Bob Duncan and Greg Vest**.

The wings included a centered bowl. There were a few casualties of hands that hit the "wings", so blue tape was adhered to the

corners of the squares to facilitate "seeing the shadow" of the wings. **Len Brissette, Clyde Little and Jim Spano** served as assistants to Craig.

On May 12th, **Hilda Carpenter** took **Greg Vest's** place in the box turning class. Lead instructor on Sunday was **Jim Spano** with **Craig Timmerman, Len Brissette, Clyde Little and Drew Shelton** as assistants.

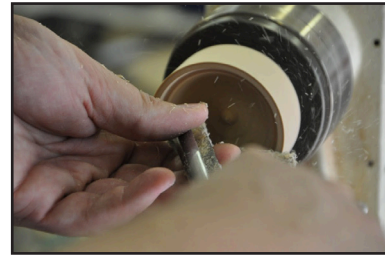
The goals for the box class was to turn a box into an apple shape with a hidden seam and matching grain. The class members joked that there were a lot of shapes of apples, some were Macintosh shaped, others Red Delicious, mine—it was the mushroom-apple shape. Getting the boxes to a perfect fit was a lesson in definitions. Woodturners like for the box to "pop" when removing the lid. Women most likely want the lid to be easy to take off with one hand, e.g., a looser fit. Our job was to make a tight fit, but not popping fit.

The most important learning goal was how to shape a jam chuck in which the bottom of the apple would fit to allow us to turn off the bottom of the box. This was a task easy to understand in concept, and more complicated to actually complete. Jim showed us lots of techniques for using the calipers as markers for the size of the jam chuck. This again, is one of those things that is easy in concept and more difficult in practice.

All members enjoyed both days and appreciate the leaders and



assistants.



Random Ruminations:
"Of Vice-Grips and Duct Tape "

BY

Charles Kay

As with many things in life, working with wood is often an exercise in improvisation. You imagine something that you want to do, but realize that either you don't have the necessary tools or that there is no obvious way to turn your idea into reality. Soon, or at least eventually, your brain usually comes up with a way of achieving what you had imagined. This is followed by an immense feeling of satisfaction. That feeling persists until you conceive of another way of doing it that is better. Sometimes your bubble is really burst when you later learn that problem has already been solved in a simpler or more elegant way by someone else.

At other times, something breaks and you have to come up with a temporary solution just to keep going on your project. Usually these fixes are real kludges, but solve the immediate problem. Our culture's current cliché for these quick and dirty solutions is duct tape. Duct tape, it is said, can fix anything. For my parent's generation, the phrase was "use chewing gum and baling wire." The latter may be a complete mystery to the younger generation with no experience, direct or indirect, with life on a farm.

For many of my generation, especially those who frittered away part of their youth reading *Popular Science* and *Popular Mechanics*, there was a different metaphor for a fix to almost any unforeseen mechanical problem that arose: *Vise-Grips!*

For years, in the back of these magazines there would be a full-page, cartoon-style advertisement for these remarkable locking pliers. The ad assured us no man should be without *Vise-Grips*. The cartoon was done somewhat in the style of "Ripley's Believe it or Not!," complete with lots of exclamation points. Although the specific mechanical challenge varied every month, they all purported to be real events. Some poor soul, usually out in the boondocks with no parts and nothing but his trusty tool box, found himself in a fix where something had broken that had to be put right before the journey or fishing trip or whatever adventure could be completed. After much consternation, it always dawned on the poor unfortunate that he had his trusty *Vise-Grips* to suffice as a temporary fix. One of my favorite stories was the guy on a fishing trip, who when he was getting ready to head home discovered that a nut had come off his trailer hitch ball. Not to worry; he simply used his *Vise-Grips* to capture the

threaded end, clamped it against the mount and was ready to go!

My wandering mind meandered down this path after two unrelated incidents this last week. First, I had my attention called to the purported fact that the sounds of locking and unlocking an iPhone are the sounds of locking and unlocking a pair of *Vise-Grips*. This is probably true—it sounds like an Apple thing to do. Remember the "so sue me" error tone on the first Macs? My youngest son is a music and sound nut who has occasionally made his living for twenty years as a sound designer. I have observed his recording of enough varied noisy things over the years to know that this is the sort of normal sound he would have used in an unconventional format.

The second event, however, was worthy of one of those cartoon ads. My fifteen year-old Honda mower is beginning to show its age. I had to make several repairs to it in the last couple of years. Its most recent problem is that the cable connecting the drive wheel clutch is either stretched or has slipped into another cog, and will not engage. After the clutch gave out, I finished that mowing job, but the mower was heavy and there was quite a bit of drag from those now-manual wheels. So, when I got the mower out the next time I decided that I wasn't up to pushing it again. A quick look at things told me that fixing it was going to require major disassembly. I could do it and in the past would have. But, I'm an old guy and I don't like to tackle those jobs anymore. However, as I fiddled with the cable, I discovered that it had enough slack in it that I could pull about 3/4 inch free at the handle, just enough space for my rusty 45 year-old *Vise-Grips*. It looks funny, and they bounce off my knee when I am mowing, but I didn't have to push the mower! It's too bad that I am 50 years too late to be featured in an ad.

Well, enough of that. I need to get out to the shop and see if I have every thing I need for the pen turning on Thursday, or if I will have to improvise.

Keep on turning,

Charlie Kay

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

The Chip Pile

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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!

June 18 CTWA Meeting

Presenter: Panel—Tool Sharpening, Technique & Specifications
Orlando Banos
Len Brissette
Jim Spano
Craig Timmerman

July 6th 1st Saturday

Place: TBD

July 16 CTWA Meeting

Presenter: Craig Timmerman—Turning a perfect Sphere the way the old masters did it

Aug 3 1st Saturday

Place: TBD

Aug 20 CTWA Meeting

Presenter: TBD

Aug 22-25 SWAT Waco, TX

Sept 7 1st Saturday

Place: TBD

Sept 17 CTWA Meeting

Presenter: TBD

Oct 5 1st Saturday

Place: TBD

Oct 15 CTWA Meeting

Presenter: TBD

Editor's "Turn"

I always enjoy going to woodturning classes. This past May I attended one day of the Intermediate Woodturning class, where we learned to turn a box. Under the careful supervision of Jim Spano, I turned a very funny-looking apple. I was most proud when I learned to use the calipers and turn a jam chuck for the bottom! I had NEVER been successful at this venture. I turned and turned and turned to get the appropriate diameter of the jam chuck. My attempts were either too big, not straight, or other missteps. If we got the jam chuck too wide, then kleenex could do the job of securing the bottom of the box to the jam chuck. However, if the lip of the box was too small, this technique of using "stuffers" fails to do the job, because the stuffer adds depth and the small-lipped bottom won't go in. In my case, I had a small lip, and a dickens of a time getting the jam chuck the right size.

My final class attempt ended in a perfectly fitting piece of wood to hold the bottom. I was most proud of that! Even if my box looked more like a weirdly-shaped mushroom, I was proud!

Then, seeing Janice Levi (last name pronounced like the jeans) turn her finial, I was determined to turn another box WITH a finial. I have the box done and now hope to turn a beautiful, Fibonacci finial.

I'm a little nervous about the

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finial. In my spin-top-box attempt, the finial kept falling out. Before that, the very first box I turned, about a year ago, had a misshaped finial (way too fat) that lists to the side.

I keep trying though, and hopefully will have something for the next CTWA meeting to show (good or bad).

Finally, I encourage anyone interested in improving their techniques to take advantage of the free classes provided by the leaders of our club. They are incredibly talented and make the class a lot of fun.

Keep turnin' it on!

Hilda Carpenter
Editor



Members In the News

There were lots of graduations in our members' families this past month so I won't list them all. However, one of particular interest to our club was our fellow member **Kim Shelton, Drew and Therese Shelton's** daughter. We are all proud of you Kim and wish you the very best for your future education and endeavors.

A big thanks for those that helped with the American Youth Works Senior pen turning on Thursday 06 June. There were 60 plus seniors and staff that turned pens and the smiles on the faces when a pen was completed were priceless.

Those that helped were, **Clyde Little, Pat Little, Jim Spano, Jim McKinney, Len Brissette, Jim Brinkman, Ed Roberts, Johnny Perales, Marcia Tolly, Fred Stidman, Charlie Kay, Bob Herhor, Dwight Schaeper, and Shawn Graham.** I really appreciate everyone that stepped up and made this happen.—Johnny Tolly

Business Meeting

Charles Kay opened the meeting congratulated all the members who attended the beginner's class with special notation of thanks to **Clyde Little, Stacey Hager and Jim Spano** and the assistants for arranging these classes. Stacey asked that anyone interested in another class next fall (beginner or intermediate) to let him know. Charlie then asked if there were any visitors: **John Oblighty** (from Coastal Bend Woodturners), **Patrick Hays, and Randy and Dolly Brewer.** Johnny Tolly reminded members to have their Bowls of Courage ready for July. Johnnie Perales announced that June 6th is the annual pen turning session for the American Youth Works seniors. Johnny Tolly asked for volunteers to help out. Charlie and Pat Little reviewed the gallery items. Charlie then turned the meeting over to Janice Levi for her demonstration on finials. There were 56 in attendance.

SWAT is Coming!

SWAT REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

For the latest information regarding the Southwest Association of Turners (SWAT) symposium upcoming in August you can visit their website <http://www.swaturners.org> for a current list of demonstrators, local hotels that provide discounts for attendees, and general descriptions of Waco, TX. The convention center is a great place for this event, since hotels are conveniently located.

I'll repeat what I said last month, "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."

Beads of Courage

Johnny Tolly and others have mentioned the Beads of Courage activities and invited all the CTWA woodturners to participate in this worthwhile cause. For more information check out <http://www.beadsofcourage.org>

Several of you have asked about the specifications for the boxes:

In order to hold the beads, turned boxes for the Beads of Courage program need to be about 6 inches in diameter (5 inches minimum), rectangular lidded boxes about 4x6x4 inches. If possible, have Beads of Courage engraved or burned in the lid. Make sure the lids are easily removable. Also, finials should be easy for a small child to grasp and not too elaborate.

If you would rather create or donate beads here is the information from

Beads of Courage:

Program Beads are commercially manufactured due largely to the sheer quantity involved. These beads are the ones that you may have seen on bead guides that correspond to specific events in a child's treatment journey.

Act of Courage Beads are the artist-made glass beads that are given to acknowledge the milestones in a child's treatment journey. This year, we expect to need approximately 100,000 of these handmade beads donated so children can continue to receive one-of-a-kind beads for significant treatment milestones. These beads truly bring the arts to our Arts-in-Medicine mission. Thank you!

What is an Act of Courage Bead? Act of Courage Beads can take almost any form that you would like to make-it's an opportunity for you to let your imagination go! The 3/32" mandrel is preferred but other sizes are also usable.

Special Requirements for Act of Courage Beads: Please have nice 'puckers' on the ends of the beads, sharp edges on the bead holes cut fingers and can not be sent out. Overly frilly bits sticking out may break off and leave sharp edges on the surface, be sure that raised dots have solid connections (no undercuts) and that surface decorations are robust enough to take some knocking about.

We ask that you refrain from using reduction frit or glasses that give a metallic sheen on the surface due to heavy metal issues with these materials. We can't send metallic reduction surface beads to the kids.

Anneal your beads properly in a kiln to ensure they don't crack. Cracked beads have to go in the waste basket.

Please make sure that the bead release is cleaned out. Beads with the release still inside take more time for our volunteer staff to clean and this tremendously slows down turnaround time to the hospitals.

Polymer Clay Beads are used in many of our programs including Creative Courage Journal, Beads of Courage Program for Siblings, Arts-in-Medicine Workshops and as a Member's Choice bead in the Beads of Courage Program.

Special Requirements for Polymer Clay Beads: Any size or shape is acceptable. The kids love bright colors! Our preferred hole size is 3/32" with no sharp corners, edges, or protrusions

that would easily break off. Please remember that they beads are worn and handled by children and should be sturdy enough to stand up to wear and tear.

Grinding Tools

This is a reminder that if you want a tool ground, or want to learn how to grind your tools to attend the 1st Saturday.

Each First Saturday will have sharpening instruction as long as there is interest! Let's Keep Sharp!

—Stacey Hager

May Gallery

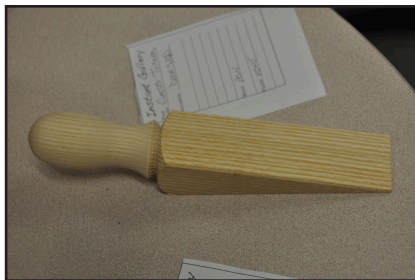
Mack Peterson (5)



HO Evans (2)



Curtis Turner (2)



Steven Green



Jim Spano (3)



Jim Brinkman

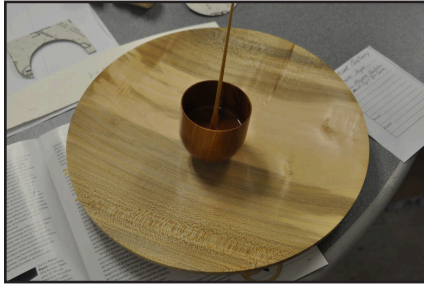


Dwight Schaeper



May Gallery

Stacey Hager (Momento Pendulum)



Joe Kirk: Randy Brewer

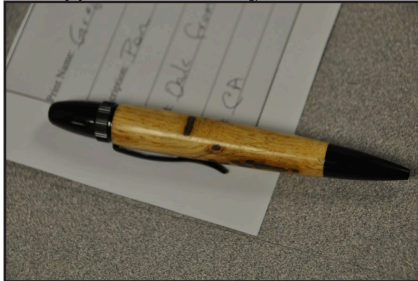


Johnny Tolly (4)*



Bring Back Raffle

Greg Vest: Dolly Brewer



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!

Joe Kirk: Johnny Tolly



Greg Vest: Orlando Banos



*See special article for Johnny's BoC Bowls

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.

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.

First Saturday

The first day of June saw what was probably our biggest First Saturday turnout ever at **Jim Brinkman's** tidy shop in northwest Austin. There were a lot of new members there, including several who had only attended one or two regular meetings. So, there were many good questions.

As promised, a tool exchange took place and seemed to go well. I saw

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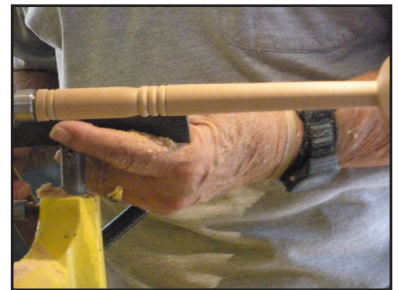
a lot of folks walking away with tools new to them. Probably we should do this at least once a year.

Jim Spano was tutoring beginners on his Spano Banana Jet Mini-Lathe, including hands-on spindle turning. **Charlie Kay** was turning a figured maple box on his Jet Mini and answering questions. **Jim Brinkman's** big Powermatic seemed to be in constant use by various turners (your scribe was busy and didn't get a chance to see who was doing what there), with an occasional catch or piece of flying wood to get everyone's attention.

Greg Vest, with able assistance from his son, **Toby Vest** was filling in for **Drew Shelton** as Official Photographer for this session. Drew was celebrating daughter (and CTWA member!) **Kimberly's** graduation from Georgetown High School. Kimberly will be off to Austin College in Sherman in the fall. She had been a fixture at our First Saturdays until senior projects and events crowded us out for most of this year. We wish her well as she continues her education.

While we had a fine substitute for Drew as photographer, we somehow failed to deputize a substitute for his far more important duty of bringing the Round Rock donuts. So, when the turning and talking and coffee drinking was all done, at least twenty of us went to Moonie's for hamburgers, and settled for fries to make up for the missing donut calories.

Thanks to all who attended and to Jim for his hospitality.



Coloring with Kool-Aid

*Those of you who made it our March meeting will remember the brightly colored vessel that our Wisconsin friend, **Bill Kingsbury**, brought to the gallery (see April issue of *The Chip Pile*). You will also recollect that he had dyed the vessel with Kool-Aid. Bill has sent along some clarifications of his technique for those of you that are interested:*

There were some questions about my Kool-Aid dying technique right after your March meeting. I am sure there were probably some other questions no one asked. These comments will explain the process a little more fully.

The Kool-Aid I use is sugarless. I dissolve a whole package in about three or four ounces of water. The strength of the color can be varied by using more or less water. The coloring can also be made more opaque by letting it dry and dying it over again any number of times. It is just a matter of experimentation to find the look that you want. Depending on how dry the wood is, the application of the Kool-Aid solution may cause some cracking or checking. The best advice is to experiment on something that you are willing to sacrifice. Still, there is no guarantee that all that water won't cause some problem. You just have to go for it. As you could see in the dyed vessel I brought, if the colors are layered it will change the effect. Also, when the colors are layered, the effect will depend on which color is put down first. Again, experimentation is advised. The colors do not have to be set with vinegar. The fact that they will be covered with a clear coat

will do that job.

I used a number of coats of Minwax Gloss Wipe On Poly as my clear finish. The finish will change the color a bit as the poly has some color to it. I have not used any other finish. But, as old saying goes, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." I did use steel wool between coats of the poly but did not rub too hard because that would change the color, although that might be the objective in some cases.

I am using this technique on some more white birch burl turnings. I have not tried any darker woods but may experiment. You never know how something will turn out until you try it.

Keep on turning,

Bill Kingsbury

Beads of Courage: Success Story

Zoe Teemer just graduated pre-school. This precious little girl is fighting cancer and needs our prayers. Zoe is in the midst of her chemo infusion.

We felt you would like to see a picture of her. This is only one child and there are others that need our Beads of Courage Bowls.

As you know, Johnny Tolly is making Beads of Courage Bowls and donates them to the Beads of Courage program. You can check out more by going to, <http://beadsofcourage.org/blog/?p=301>

Here is a photo of Zoe taken this week at her pre-school graduation. Thanks to **Johnny Tolly**, all our

Beads of Courage bowls will stay in the Austin area for precious children, like Zoe.



From our gallery, I've included Johnny Tolly's various BoC bowls.



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.

