



The Chip Pile



The Newsletter of the Central Texas Woodturners Association

Austin, Texas

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

February 18, 2014 Meeting

Pyrography on Boxes

Charles Kay

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)

membership by supporting our current members and bringing in new members. One way we could work to encourage past members to return is for each of you to contact someone you know or that is in your neighborhood that could use a ride or encouragement to attend.

March 1st Saturday

Mar. 1, 2014 9 am - 12 pm

Location: TBA

If you need help sharpening tools, bring them!

1st Saturday's continue to be one of the benefits of our club as shown by the strong attendance at Dolly and Randy Brewer's wonderful shop in Canyon Lake. We will continue to focus on programs like this as part of our ongoing education.

I look forward to working with each of you throughout the year and want to thank each of you for your support.

Your president,

Pat Little

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President's Shop

I am proud to be a part of our club that is becoming one of the fastest growing and leading woodturners' club in Texas. We will continue our educational programs for new, or less experienced members; and at the same time keep a focus on our more experienced members by bringing in national level instructors. Our experienced members are the heart of the club on which we build our knowledge and skills.

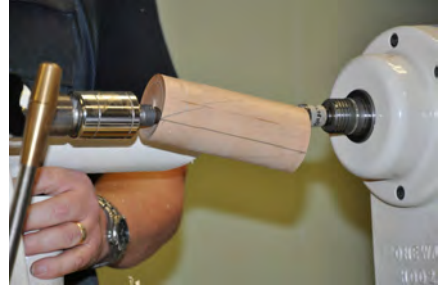
Since we are a host club for SWAT we will establish a committee to formalize our support of SWAT. We will cover this further in the next several meetings. Certainly our Audio/Video has been the leading edge in SWAT and in our club. In order to continue this, we need to increase our support of Greg Vest, as such I am asking for volunteers to establish an A/V committee.

We need to continue to solidify our

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.

January Demonstration
Twist Turn Box
Drew Shelton

Drew Shelton led the demonstration this month with a how-to make a twist box. He had several examples of finished twist boxes. This helped



fix the concept in our minds before he launched into a demonstration of turning wood on different axes. There are complete instructions from Drew located the Chip Pile folder.

CTWA would like to thank Drew for his excellent demonstration.



Photos

Photographs for this month's **Chip Pile** were provided by **Drew Shelton, Charlie Kay and Hilda Carpenter** 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.

Business Meeting

Pat Little kicked off the first meeting of 2014 by welcoming visitors:

Pat Jenkins (Dripping Springs), Diana Van Peski, Misha Ahas, Lowel Williams (Driftwood), and Bill Foster (Rockdale).

Blair Feller reminded everyone that their 2014 dues were now due. Pat then announced that CTWA would continue their \$425 expense for liability insurance (this covers CTWA not only for meetings, but also for 1st Saturday and classes). **Johnny Tolly** announced a big thank you for all who participated in the Bowls of Courage program last year. He read a letter from a mother whose son lost his fight to cancer. She wanted everyone to know that the box meant a lot to her son and that she would keep it, as well as the beads, to remember his cancer journey. We will be participating again this year with *Strictly Pediatrics*, a service provided by Dell Children's Hospital here in Austin. For those of you who are interested in participating by donating a box for the kids with cancer and blood disorders to track their record of their journey— Now is not too early to get started. We will take the bowls to display at SWAT, then deliver them to the kids next September.

Several members brought wood to share (free). The CTWA board executive committee proposed purchasing various adapters for demonstrators who like to bring their own chucks.

Hilda Carpenter made a motion, seconded by **Johnny Tolly**, to approve the expenditure. The motion was discussed that perhaps some people might have the necessary adapters that they could donate to the club. The motion carried with a unanimous vote. Pat then turned the meeting over to Drew after **Jay Littlefield** presented this month's instant gallery. There were 58 people in attendance.

Editor's "Turn"

Beginning to turn is an exhilarating process. I am very excited to see more beginning turners joining our club. Within months it seems they improve their skills to the point where they have produced a bowl or a box or a lovely candle holder. I especially liked Gene Berry's conception of a layered hollowed out bowl. I'd have never thought of that!

I am very delighted that there are now more women turners in the club. When I joined there was only one other woman turner.

Let's face it clubs where men are the majority are just more fun than clubs that are a majority of women. What do I mean by this? Well, the men are friendlier to each other and to newcomers. A women's club is typically rife with hierarchical cliques and disdainful looks.

For example, I attended an art club meeting a couple of years ago that was heavily weighted toward women. No, I don't mean they were fat, I just mean that there were only 3-4 men in the audience. I figure that's about the same ratio as men to women in our club. But the feeling is so different. Maybe it's because we all have the same equipment (gee, I mean lathes . . . where is your mind?) and enjoy the same hobby. So, why are artists who paint, craft or sculpt so different than woodturner artists?

I have a theory, I think that woodturners absolutely admit that at any second they can produce a disaster, whereas artists hold the belief that their creation will be perfect—otherwise why would they ever pick up a brush? Addressing a blank page with the expectation of disaster—nope I just don't think that they would ever put a drop of paint on an empty canvas.

Woodturners on the other hand know that the block of wood could have inherent cracks, punky spots, or that their tool isn't sharp enough. So, living on the edge is just fun, as opposed to

living with the expectation of masterpiece.

When I approach a turning, I have a concept in mind that I want to produce. If I'm lucky, the end result looks something like either my drawing or my minds' idea of the outcome.

However, sometimes disaster looms around the corner. Take for example a Christmas ornament (a la Johnny Tolly idea) that I decided to try. I feel pretty confident that I can turn a finial consistently now. So, the next step for me was to hollow out a ball to form the center of the ornament.

I had a pretty good sphere by the time I was ready to hollow. Rather than using traditional hollowing tools, I decided to use a hooked easy tool. Everything was going smoothly . . . until I had the tool rest too close to the opening of the sphere and the hook tool flipped in my hand and shattered the sphere. Not to mention what that tool did to my hand and arm. Oh, lest I forget, it pretty well buggered the carbide bit.

So, my masterpiece Christmas ornament for 2014 is still in my head.

I started out talking about the difference between predominantly men's clubs versus predominantly women's clubs. I conclude by saying somewhere out there you guys are laughing your A#&s off at my blown-up ornament . . . women would never do that lest they be afraid they'd hurt the other woman's feelings.

I just love that I can be laughed at and encouraged to try again in this club.

Keep turnin' it on,
Hilda Carpenter

Upcoming Demo's & Classes

February Charles Kay *Designing boxes with pyrography*



Some of you may remember Charlie Kay's beautiful lidded boxes that he decorated with pyrography. Charlie will be demonstrating his artistic techniques at the February meeting.

March Johnny Tolly, topic NEW TOOL!

April Jim Brinkman, topic TBA
May TBD

June TBD

No special classes scheduled at this time

Members In the News

Each year, **Johnny, Marcia and Jimmy Tolly** go down to the Alamo Turners Club in San Antonio. This year was no different, on Thursday 23 Jan Johnny did a demonstration for the brave soles that ventured out for the meeting.

The demonstration went well as Johnny presented a new tool. This will be a surprise for our club members as he will be doing the same demo for our club in March. There were about 30 people that braved the bad cold and freezing weather to attend the meeting. Prior to the meeting, Robert, their president, called Johnny and related it would be fine if he wanted to stay in Austin, due to the inclement weather. The Tolly's decided to still do the demo. Johnny et al. did cut the demo a little short as there was freezing rain already. This was a very good choice,

as on the way home he was only going 30-40 mph and fish-tailed across a couple of bridges, Johnny says, ". . . Kind of got the pucker factor going." He had to stop twice as the freezing rain was so bad the wiper blades froze. He had to knock the ice off them. Johnny and Marcia dropped brother Jim off at his house, but his house door was frozen shut. He did eventually get in.

Then the hill that Johnny and Marcia traversed up to get to their house was frozen and there were four cars stuck on the ice. So, Johnny just drove off the left side of the road in the grass and went right up the hill past them. His example gave these other drivers the same idea to off-road so all drivers made it home.

The Alamo turners enjoyed the demonstration and the Tolly's willingness to brave the storm. We at CTWA are happy to have them back home safe and sound.

Charlie Kay attended the annual SWAT directors' meeting on January 25th. He reported to the CTWA board the 2013 symposium summary:

- ca 925 attendees!
- 39 vendors!
- ca 700 pieces in the instant gallery!
- ca 130 Beads of Courage bowls!

SWAT is most likely going to raise the admission and banquet prices for the 2014 symposium, since 2013 only just cleared the expenses. The caterer has held his prices for several years and will need to raise those prices for this year. SWAT will once again be offering a scholarship for the 2014 symposium to a new turner. CTWA has again submitted its willingness to sponsor a room for this year. There were many more details covered in the meeting, see Charlie if you would like to know more, or be involved more closely with SWAT. We appreciate Charlie's leadership in attending this all-important function for SWAT.

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.

January Gallery

Thanks to all the following contributions to the gallery:

Erik Peterson

Stacey Hager: Goblet with ring, mahogany & tung oil

Erik Peterson: WA maple & brazilian mahogany

Charlie Kay: Bottle stoppers, various wood, deft, Formby's, tung oil varnish, or CA glue, Beall buff

Gene Berry: "Practice", poplar, Mahoney's

Jim Spano: Winged hollow form, white elm, sanding sealer & wax

Steve Green: finial box, rosewood & ebonized maple, lacquer

Chris Van Peski: lidded boxes, mesquite & ebony, wax

Randy Brewer: Table Centerpiece, spalted pecan, lacquer

Randy Brewer: bowl of wooden eggs, cherry bowl, various eggs, Mahoney's lacquer, Beall

Randy Brewer: Bowl, red cedar, lacquer, Beall

Jim Brinkman: Bowl, ash?, deft, Beall

Hilda Carpenter: 3 boxes Drozda style, pink ivory, osage orange, Masa, blackwood, friction finish

John Parker: Bowls, Spalted sweetgum large and small, wormy elm small

Jim Spano: Footed triangle box, Cedar elm ?, sanding sealer & wax

Jim Spano: Winged hollow form, white elm, sanding sealer

Dwight Schaeper: Small plate (inspired by **Len Brissette's** demo)

Gene Berry: Pooled bowl, mahogany, Mahoney's

Cortland Hunt: Wormy mesquite with cocobolo finial, walnut oil



January Gallery



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 amnoon. All meetings are 7 PM to 9 PM

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

Feb 18 CTWA Meeting
Presenter Charlie Kay

Mar 1 1st Sat
Place TBD

Mar 18 CTWA Meeting
Presenter Johnny Tolly

April 5 1st Sat
Place TBD

April 15 CTWA Meeting
Presenter Jim Brinkman

Bring Back Raffle

Unfortunately, we have no pictures of the bring back items this month

Greg Vest: Craig Collier
Greg Vest: Dwight Schaeper
Greg Vest: Jim McKinney
Jimmy Tolly: Greg Vest
Johnny Tolly: Dolly Brewer

REMEMBER TO RETURN THE FAVOR, if you won—bring back next month!!

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 \$43 online membership only, \$53.00 for individuals and \$58 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.

Classified Ads

Jet wood lathe 16X42 like new, model # JWL 1642EVS 115 volts 1 phase variable speed about 5 years old hardly used. asking \$1500 cash you pick up. New cost \$2500+tax. contact: Bob Brumage PLEASE CALL Ph. 512 266-6952

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

The Chip Pile
 c/o Hilda Carpenter
 560 Moss Rose Lane
 Driftwood, TX 78619

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 turning, hollow vessels
Charlie Kay ckayda@gmail.com
 boxes & bottle stoppers
 512.636.3492
H. O. Evans 512.282.2830
 segmented turnings
Hilda Carpenter 512-395-7782
 Airbrushing, tool handles, bowls, bottlestoppers
Jack Besperka 512.261.4682
 decoration & finishing

NORTH

Rusty Myers 512.218.1606
 basics, boxes, kitchenware
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 platters

LOCKHART/SAN MARCOS

David Dick 512.357.6517
 basics, spindles, architectural

First Saturday

February 1st broke clear and warm for a change and that brought a big turnout of folks to Randy Brewer's brand new big shop on top of a mountain near the shores of Canyon Lake. The big draw was the huge antique pattern lathe that has been beautifully restored and modernized with a modern motor with electronic speed control. Randy still has to fill the oil cups for the brass plain bearings, however. Quite a few folks took a turn at trying out the big



guy with the big chunk of wood that Randy had mounted on it. Despite the presence of four or five more lathes, no one seemed interested in turning any-



thing else. Still, it was a nice chance to visit with folks old and new to the club and to make the acquaintance of **Roger Hall**, a woodturner visiting from the Seattle area. Socializing is as much a part of our group as making chips, anyway.

When the (limited) turning and the



jawing were done and the donuts and coffee were gone, a dozen or so of us went to Italian Garden Cafe for too

Keeping Austin Turning Since 1988

much to eat. All in all, a good day. Thanks to Randy and Dolly for hosting us.



The Chip Pile

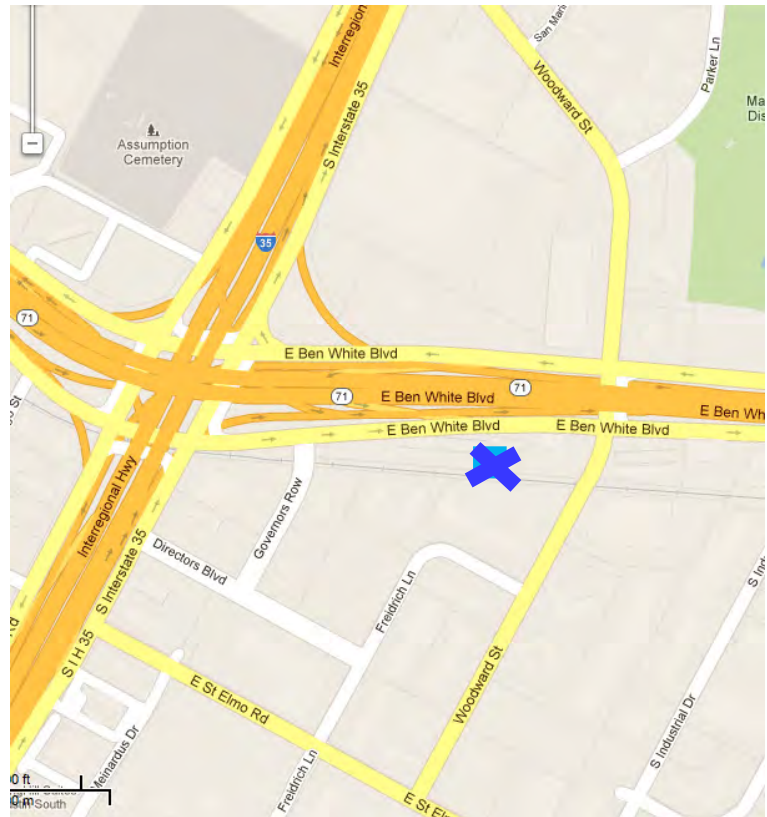
Central Texas Woodturners Association
A chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

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.



I use an appropriately sized burning skew to incise the lines on the piece. That skew needs to be sharp, so I usually hone it before I start. When all of the lines of the design are burned in, I apply mineral spirits to what remains of the paper and peel it off, using a paper towel with mineral spirits on it to completely remove all adhesive residue. Unless you want some blisters on your fingers from the little flames that shoot up, be sure to let all of the solvent evaporate before you move on to the next step.

All of the surface inside the circle that is not your primary design is then blacked out by stippling with an appropriately sized ball point burning tool or tools. When you have completed your pyrography, use a small brass or stiff plastic brush to brush the loose particles from the piece. At this point, your piece will have light brown stains on the surface near where you have been burning. This is the lignin you have cooked out of the wood. Lignin is soluble in ethanol, so use a paper towel and a little denatured ethanol and scrub it off. When the the alcohol has all evaporated, you are ready to apply your favorite finish, let it dry and buff it. You are done. When you are burning the design in, particularly during the stippling step, you will want to get the smoke out of your face. I have a hooded bench top dust collector that I use when I am power carving, and I work under that hood. Using a fan to blow the smoke away would work equally well.

Sources

Adhesive

Scotch Super 77 Multi-Purpose - Michael's or Hobby Lobby

Design Books

- *Traditional Japanese Crest Designs* - Edited by Clarence Hornung - Dover Publications
- *Wildflower Designs and Motifs for Artists and Craftspeople* - Charlene Tarbox - Dover Publications
- *Treasury of Flower Designs for Artists, Embroiderers & Craftsmen* - Susan Gaber

Wood Burners

There are many brands available. I use a Burnmaster by Master Carver as my power source and have used a Detail Master. I have burning tools from Detail Master and Razertip. You will need a skew and a ball tip to execute these designs. To start out, I would recommend a small rounded skew and a medium sized ball tip. Burners and pens are available from most woodturning and wood carving stores, although the selection of tips varies widely with suppliers. You may want to search on line for tip selections.

Charles Kay
February 2014

Pyrographic Designs for Box Lids

Using pyrography is a quick way to turn a simple box into a much more desirable art piece, and it is relatively easy to accomplish.



As you are going to put an eye catching design on your box, you will want a simple box with clean lines and not much in the way of turners fillips. For the same reason, you really want a pretty plain piece of wood. While this technique works well and looks on any wood, the designs will be much more striking on light colored woods.

Turn and sand the box in your usual way. Your last step before sanding the box will be to cut a vee-groove to provide a frame for your design. The frame will set the design off and give you a place to cleanly stop your stippling. That is almost impossible to do at the edge of the top where the transition to the side of the lid occurs. The box and lid should

be turned and sanded to the finest grade paper you use and be ready to apply the finish. You won't apply the finish until after you have completed the pyrography, however. As we will see shortly, a dead flat top would be the easiest to work on, but the box will look better with at least a slightly concave surface on the lid.

Because I like a simple, bold, clean look, I favor more or less geometric designs. While I have drawn such designs myself from time to time, it is easier to find some public domain designs that were drawn by professionals. I keep a couple of folders that contain designs I have cut from magazines and newspapers, many from jewelry ads, that seem like they would be applicable to decorating various turnings. You can also find design books in book stores that contain public domain designs and there are probably similar resources on the internet. I have listed several of my favorites on the resources page. To transfer those designs to the boxes, I take them to one of the office supply stores and copy them to the proper size. I have found the easiest way to do that is to take a page and make four or five copies at different percentage increases or decreases in size. I cut out the designs I want in all of the sizes and file them in envelopes, so that I can usually find one the right size for the piece I am working on.

I use scissors to cut out a circle around the design that is a little smaller than the the vee-groove I have cut in the top. I use spray adhesive applied to the back of the paper with the design on it, let it air dry, then position it on the work piece. That requires a little patience to get it completely flat on the curved top. If you are working on a piece with a more pronounced curve, you can wad the paper up a couple of times and it will then be stretchy enough to flatten on the curve. I try to let the adhesive set for an hour or so before proceeding to burn in the design.



donate now!

Just \$25 sponsors a child in treatment

HOME

Wood Workers

Offer your skills for a good cause.

Woodturners

Every child wishes they had their treasure box to keep their beads within. We gratefully thank all woodworkers who donate their one of a kind, handmade boxes to a child in treatment. Donations can be mailed direct to our headquarters and will be sent to a child.

Guidelines

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.

Compliments of Lou Boudreaux, Woodturner with Dallas Area Woodturners.

Beads

We have found that many woodturners like to use the Beads of Courage ceramic logo bead in their design. We have made available a unit of 20 logo beads as well as 20 certificates of gratitude. [Click here for more information.](#)

For more information, please contact info@beadsofcourage.org



Beads of Courage is a 501(c)(3) - Tax ID #20-2721500
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