



The Chip Pile



The Newsletter of the Central Texas Woodturners Association

Austin, Texas

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

January 19th Jim Spano & Johnny Tolly Making BoC Boxes 7pm-9pm

American YouthWorks - Austin, Texas
1901 East SH 71

(about 1/4 mile east of I-35 on south side of SH 71)

February 6th 1st Saturday

9 am - Noon

Steve Green

560 Moss Rose Lane
Driftwood 78619

(Near FM150 and 3237)

512-395-7776

If you need help sharpening tools,
bring them!

President's Shop

I know that I'm a little late, but "Happy Holidays" and "Happy New Year!" I love this time of year don't you? It's a good time to look back at all those resolutions we didn't keep and make up a whole new set for 2016. It's a time to look forward and not back AND here in Central Texas we look forward to Spring when its not so blasted cold in our garages and workshops.

Speaking of Happy Holidays, I want to thank **Pat and Clyde Little** for opening their home to us as we celebrated our annual Holiday Potluck and Party. So much to eat and if you were like me, you bypassed the line for dinner and visited the desserts first. You know

the saying "Life's Short, Eat Dessert First". For those who couldn't make it, you really missed a spectacular event and gift exchange. Hilda and I scored big with Hilda bringing home a **Johnny Tolly** bowl and I a trio of snow persons turned and decorated by **Marcia Tolly**.

The New Year also brings in a slate of old and new faces to keep us organized. I'll be asking each of them to introduce themselves at the January meeting so that you can put a face with the name and check out page 11 of this newsletter for the list of current officers and committee chairman. Got a question or suggestion, you can direct it to any one of these officers or send it to me "stevenjgreen@mac.com" and I'll make sure the appropriate person gets it.

"Inclusion" will be my theme for the upcoming year. I hope to include everyone from the club, novice thru advanced. I'll be working closely with our new Program Chair, **Pat Jenkins**, for demonstrations and presentations to interest everyone in the club. President Challenges will be frequent and based on the demonstrations from earlier meetings. For instance, the Presidents Challenge for February will be based on the Beads of Courage boxes presented by January's demonstration by Johnny Tolly and Jim Spano. Judging will take place during the meeting and entries will be separated between novice and intermediate/advanced turners.

Got an idea for a presentation or demonstration, let us know. Know some-

one in another club that demonstrates something you'd like to see, let us know.

You have any suggestions for a National Demonstrator, let us know.

Make some chips safely fly,

Steve Green
President

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EXTRA:

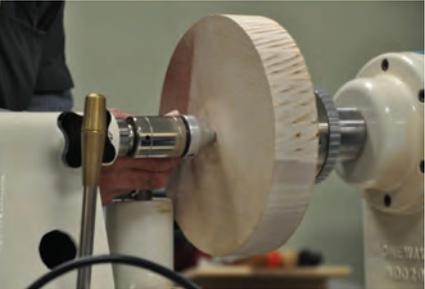
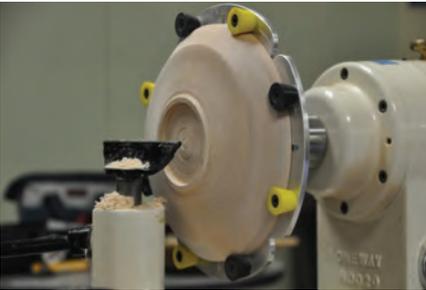
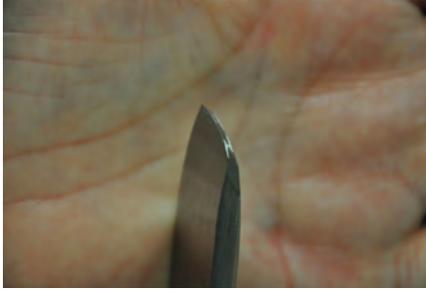
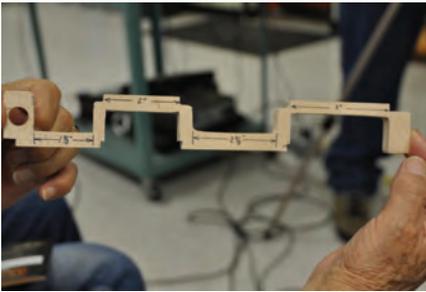
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The American Association of Woodturners is "Dedicated to Providing Education, Information and Organization to Those Interested in Woodturning." In keeping with the standards of our National Organization, the Central Texas Woodturners Association hereby gives permission for all other woodturning chapters, organizations, magazines and newspapers to use any materials contained herein for the benefit of all woodturners everywhere. We ask that credit be given for the source of the material.

Demonstration
Jim Brinkman

Jim Brinkman demonstrated the Easy Wood Tool Chuck and various Easy Wood Tools. CTWA appreciates Jim's demo.

Keeping Austin Turning Since 1988



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.

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. Drew Shelton brings the donuts and asks for a contribution from all the folks who show up to offset his costs.
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.

Confirmed Sites for 2016:

February 6th Steve Green
 March 5th Chris Van Peski
 April 2nd Tom Miller

Editor's "Turn"

I did quite a bit of turning this past couple of months. As life gets busy and I don't make it out to the shop, I tend to forget how relaxing it is to run the lathe, let the chips fly and oh yes, every once and awhile bleed.

I was working on a spindle that was going to hold a duck egg that I carved with my NSK dental tool. I was having so much fun. As you know, in turning it's best to keep your eye on where the tool is addressing the wood. So, it wasn't until I stopped the lathe that I saw a ton of blood all over the tool, my lathe and the piece I was working on.

Well, I had barely touched the piece of wood as I was rounding it. I mean it was a scratch on my thumb and I just ignored it. Funny thing about taking aspirin to keep your blood thin and you from having a stroke, even the smallest little cuts bleed like a son of a gun.

The thing is, it made a lovely piece of cherry darker. I may have to remember this staining treatment.

Now I mentioned duck eggs. My cousin lives near a lady who has pet ducks. She gave me a dozen or so hollowed eggs to decorate for her. I had several choices. I could airbrush them, water color them, and/or carve them. I decided to carve them. I made an intricate pattern, leaving barely any eggshell, so in essence, the egg looked pretty much like lace. I discovered that duck egg shells are harder than free range egg shells, which are harder than regular white shells.

After I finished the shell, I started turning the spindle for it. As it turns out, this day was pretty warm, so I turned on the floor fan. Bad choice, the breeze whipped around the shop, caught the delicate, carved egg and blew it onto the concrete floor. I've never seen that many pieces of itty, bitty shells in my life. Lesson learned, secure the shell before turning on the fan.

Needless to say, I had a blast. It was as if the concept of time didn't exist. If you are just now learning to turn, or if you have been turning for years, I wonder if this same Zen feeling happens to you. It is certainly what keeps me turning on the lathe.

Keep turnin' it on,
 Hilda Carpenter
 Editor

Upcoming Demo's & Classes

January: Jim Spano and Johnny Tolly The January demonstration will be something dear to the heart of us old wood-turning folks. Ok, not so old. **Jim Spano** and **Johnny Tolly** will be doing a duo demonstration. It will be how to make Beads of Courage boxes for children that are fighting serious illness such as cancer and life threatening blood disorders. A lot of wood turners do not have wood that will fill

the bill.

This demonstration will show you how to use flat wood stock, a 6 inch, white, thin-walled PVC piping and a cloth fabric with children designs on it. There will be a discussion on how to cut the PVC piping, how to true up the ends and of course on how to turn the wood to fit the bottom and top of the PVC pipe making a cool box for sick children.

February: tbd

March: tbd

Volunteer Instructors

SOUTH

- 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, Drozda finials, sea urchin ornaments, bottlestoppers
- Jack Besperka** 512.261.4682
 decoration & finishing

NORTH

- Jim Spano** 512.835.5023
 novelty items, tops, shop gadgets
- Len Brissette** 512.258.4004
 bowls, platters, sharpening

ROUND ROCK/ GEORGETOWN

- Ed Roberts** 512.255.3294
 basics, platters
- Drew Shelton** 512-863-4651

LOCKHART/SAN MARCOS

- David Dick** 512.357.6517
 basics, spindles, architectural

Random Ruminations "Rebooting a Life" by Charlie Kay

I have agreed to resume writing a monthly column for the Chip Pile. Those of you who have joined CTWA in the last two or three years are probably not aware that I edited the newsletter for twelve years or so, and for most of those years wrote a monthly column called "Random Ruminations". It started out relating to woodturning, but as time progressed, that connection became more and more tenuous, until sometimes it was simply my musings of the moment. I continued to write the column for a couple of more years until a general malaise began to descend on me and I couldn't summon the inspiration to continue the practice that I had once so enjoyed, and I quit writing it several years ago. As I begin a reprise of those columns, this first essay falls in the second category as I embark on a journey to transform my life and perhaps renew my enthusiasm for woodturning.

That low period reached its nadir about a year and a half ago, as I began a long bout with a deteriorating hip that finally culminated in successful replacement surgery. I was bored with my life and trying to find a way to reboot it and strike out in a new direction that would inspire me again and let me develop new skills. I mused on the situation for almost a year, thinking of things that I had promised myself I would undertake before I die. Tops among these were concentrating on the writing I had dabbled in for years, working on drawing, and spending a year or more on a full time life on the road touring the US. I began to contemplate combining all three of these aims in one grand adventure. As most of you know by now, in August I made the decision to repurpose my life, focusing on these things. Thus began an effort to get started on this new direction and four months of incredibly intense effort, most of it effective, but some not, organizing and rearranging my life and my belongings.

I set out to sell my house and a lot of my possessions, store my furniture and the rest of my possessions, including my most beloved books, acquire a small truck and travel trailer, and set out on a personal quest. Had anyone told me how hard this was going to be, I might never have undertaken it at all. The process of selling my house and many of my possessions, the decisions on what to store, what to get rid of, and what I wanted to take with me (and, ultimately what I realistically actually could take with me) has been exhausting, both physically and mentally, and incredibly stressful. I am nearing the end of that process and hope to get off within a month or so, although the stress continues. I have learned a lot about myself and about the decisions that we all have to face as we grow older. I have come to understand that houses are not really for people. Rather they are for our STUFF! I realized how much stuff I had that I hadn't touched or even thought about for years. I gradually got better at just throwing stuff out, although I already know that when my adventure is over, there will be that much more stuff that I shouldn't have hung on to. Sooner or later, I would have needed to undertake this process in order to fit into a smaller and more manageable space. Either that or, in the end, my sons will be stuck with the task of deciding what to do with it all. I won't claim that I have taken care of all my stuff, but I have made a good start at it. At first it was terribly hard, but as I continued at it and the deadlines drew shorter, I got better at the process.

Eventually, I realized that the things I had planned to work on while on the road were more than I could accomplish. Not only would taking the woodturning stuff I had planned on take way too much room, bringing them along would get me right back in thrall to my stuff, the thing I had most sought to relieve myself of. So, a couple of weeks ago I decided that I would leave all that stuff in storage. Perhaps I will take it up again with renewed enthusiasm when my adventure is done, perhaps not. Among the stuff I found that I hadn't really touched in years were the remnants of a couple of other avocations I was once very passionate about. I had taught myself photography and became quite competent at it, as the many black and white prints I had stored away would attest. Similarly, I taught myself to become a competent wood carver. In time my enthusiasm for both those enterprises waned as I mastered them. I always thought I would go back to them in time, but it seems that the real thrill for me had been in the mastering of a new discipline, rather than the long term pursuit of it. We'll see what happens this time.

Random Ruminations (continued)

This is a grand experiment, as all major changes of direction in life are. I don't know if it is a good decision or a bad one. I may decide that I can't do this at all, I may find that I love it so much that I want to pursue it for another year or two. Either way, I do know that trying it will tell me things about myself and the direction of the rest of my life. At the least, I will put a great effort into it for at least a year and see where it leads. As the beginning of the odyssey draws nearer, I must admit that I have some apprehension about what I am undertaking. That, I think, is normal and as it should be. As I was growing up, when I would be considering undertaking something scary to me and expressing my trepidation, my mother would encourage me with the phrase, "Nothing ventured, nothing gained", an observation that dates back to Chaucer in English. If you don't venture, you will always wonder whether or not you could have succeeded at what you contemplated.

One of the biggest things that gave me the courage to undertake this quest has been the support and sense of belonging that I have received from the CTWA family over the last twenty years. I am by nature a confirmed introvert, and thus not really a joiner. I have always felt like an outsider in any group I was a part of. When I volunteered to do the newsletter back in 1999, I knew that would force me to interact with folks. I didn't know even the rudiments of turning; I barely knew how to turn on the lathe. But, you folks helped me learn to eventually become a competent turner. Perhaps more importantly, you accepted me and encouraged me and supported my efforts to improve the newsletter. That support and encouragement has continued over these last four or five months, and I will be eternally grateful to all of you who helped me sort and price the things I had to get rid of, and especially to those who bought the stuff. I hope that you will get as much enjoyment out of those tools as I did. This series of essays will follow my whimsy and may not have much to do with woodturning. I am taking a sabbatical from that, after all.

I don't know how this column will evolve, but I invite you to join me to see where it leads us.

So, wish me well as I embark on this adventure.

Keep on turning,
Charlie Kay

January 2016

February President's Challenge

Bring a Beads of Courage box based on Jim and Johnny's demo this month!! Two judging categories: novice and intermediate/professional.

Gallery & Bring Back

CTWA thanks the following participants for entering pieces in the Instant Gallery:

- Gary Beers:** "Minion" box
- Jimmy Tolly:** Christmas ornaments
- Pat Jenkins:** Natural edge bowl; Box with insert (2)
- Stacey Hager:** Ogee bowl; Crooked bowl; Sphere with stands
- Mack Peterson:** Vase; Plywood vase with stand; Open segmented plywood bowl
- Jim Spano:** Sycamore and blackwood platter; Sycamore platter
- Gabi Glass:** Calligraphy oblique pen holder, Fountain pens
- John Lovelady:** Grapes & plate & stem goblet
- Ed Roberts:** Round square box
- Jason Tunnell:** Pens
- Gene Berry:** Paint can box
- Pat Jenkins:** Black willow platter, Bowl with stand
- Nowt Peterson:** Segmented vase
- Vaden Mohrmann:** Light up sea urchin ornament, Hackberry bowl
- Randy Brewer:** Box elder hollow form, Mulberry vase



Gallery & Bring Back



Bring Back Winners:

Suzi Parker won Pat Jenkins bottle stopper

Dwight Schaeper won Joe Kirk's pair of bottle stoppers

Jim Spano won Pat Jenkins 3 coco-bolo blanks

Steve Echols won Pat Jenkin's bottle stopper

Keeping Austin Turning Since 1988

Pat Jenkins won Jim Spano's thin platter

Dwight Schaeper won Jim Spano's bowl

Gene Berry won the Easy Wood Tool cap

Jim Spano won the Easy Wood Tool smock

REMEMBER TO RETURN THE FAVOR, if you won a raffle prize—bring back a turning for next month's raffle!!

Business Meeting

Jay Littlefield opened the November meeting by recognizing visitor, **Steve Echols**. Jay then turned the meeting over to President Elect, **Steven Green**, for the presentation and vote on the 2016 officers and committee chairs.

Pat Jenkins volunteered to take the Program Chair. The final slate of officers and committee chairs is:

President, **Steve Green**

President Elect, **Vaden Mohrmann**

Treasurer: **Ed Roberts**

Secretary/Newsletter: **Hilda Carpenter**

Program Chair: **Pat Jenkins**

Membership Chair: **Blair Feller**

Video Super-guru: **Greg Vest**

First Saturday Coordinator: **Eric Peterson**

Librarian: **Suzi Parker**

Master Demo Coordinator: **David**

Wolter (facilitate travel, logistics for the Master Turner)

Spring Novice Training Coordinator:

Jim Spano

Hilda Carpenter moved to accept the officers and chairpersons. Johnny Tolly seconded the motion. With no further discussion required, the motion passed unanimously.

Jay asked for Betty Hager to talk about the Christmas Party. A sign up sheet

for the pot luck was passed around.

Steve went through the instant gallery.

After Steve, Jay then turned the meeting over to our demonstrator Jim Brinkman We ended the meeting with the bring back drawing.

Christmas Party

On December 17th Pat and Clyde Little once again hosted the CTWA Christmas party. Starting at 9 am turners showed up to Clyde's shop for a bit of turning, a lot of gabbing and solving the world's problems. Concurrently the lady non-turners were upstairs making final preparations on a fabulous meal that included meat provided by the club and side dishes and deserts provided by the members. We had a terrific meal, then spent the next couple of hours playing dirty Santa (ok, Marcia Tolly and Betty Hager call it a white elephant—but the turnings are just too pretty for me to call it a white elephant). Here are a few shots of all the fun:



More Christmas Party

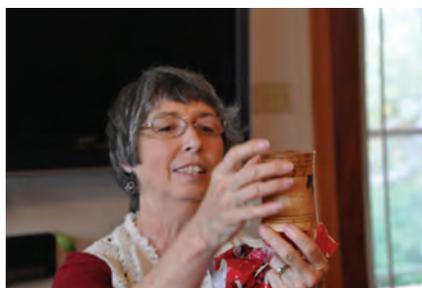
A little-known lore about the CTWA Christmas party is that it seems as if the people who wear red shirts get their prizes stolen more than not. So take heed next year, wear green, blue purple, orange anything but a red shirt (a reference to Star Trek where all the red shirt guys typically died on the episode—yeah, we are all geeks).



More Christmas Party

Honorary Lifetime members:

Pat Little
Clyde Little



1st Saturday

Thanks to Bob Duncan, who hosted January's first Saturday. There were 41 members there!



Members in the News

Jimmy Tolly continues to struggle with his back. Keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Charlie Kay bought his trailer and will be headed out on his life adventure within the month. We hope to see him at the January meeting.

We finished up the party with Drew Shelton presenting an award to Pat and Clyde as honorary lifetime members. CTWA appreciates all that they do!

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. \$45 Family.

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.

CTWA members are also encouraged to join the American Association of Woodturners, AAW. AAW dues are: General (\$55); Family (\$60) includes up to three family members living in same household on the membership card.

Youth, under 19 years of age (\$24)
Online (\$45 per year)

Online members do not receive printed versions of the American Woodturner journal and the "Resource Directory," available through online access. Artist (\$81) business insurance.

For full details and membership form visit the AAW site at woodturner.org.

Classified Ads

Small, Sears table saw. B/O Steve Green 512-395-7776.

2016 Officers

President

Steven Green
stevenjgreen@mac.com
512-395-7776

President-Elect

Vaden Mohrmann
vmohrmann@gmail.com
512-658-7508

Program Chairman

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903-926-5180

Secretary/Newsletter Editor

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512.395-7782

Treasurer

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Membership Chairman

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830-385-2782

Webmaster

Vaden Mohrmann
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512-6587508

Audio/Visual Coordinator

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First Saturday Coordinator

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Librarian

Suzi Parker
suziparker@hotmail.com
512-266-0824

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

2016 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

Jan 19 CTWA Meeting
Johnny Tolly & Jim Spano
Beads of Courage boxes
from flat wood stock

Feb 6th 1st Saturday
Site Steve Green

Feb 16th CTWA Meeting
demonstrator TBD

Mar 5th 1st Saturday
Site Chris Van Peski

Mar 15th CTWA Meeting
demonstrator TBD

Apr 2nd 1st Saturday
Site Tom Miller

Apr 19th CTWA Meeting
demonstrator TBD

Let Pat Jenkins know if you would like to present to the club in 2016 or you know someone who would be a great demonstrator for our club. We need presenters.

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.

