



The Chip Pile



The Newsletter of the Central Texas Woodturners Association

Austin, Texas

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

April 19th
Craig Timmerman
Natural Edge Bowl
7pm-9pm

American YouthWorks - Austin, Texas
1901 East SH 71

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

May 7th
1st Saturday

9 am - Noon

Stephen Van Gee

13304 Sleepy Hollow Rd.

Austin, TX 78736

512-291-2118

If you need help sharpening tools,
bring them!

President's Shop

Do you remember the first time you took gouge to wood on a lathe? I sure do and, like most of you, I was hooked. After taking a first timer lesson I began turning all kinds of spindles, bowls and boxes. I purchased all kinds of project hardware so that I could turn pens, perfume holders, pillboxes and birdhouses. These were fun times and the people I gave my turnings to were very appreciated especially as I got better.

I looked forward to the Southwest Association of Turners (SWAT) symposium, as I knew that the demonstrations and gallery entries would inspire me to try different techniques in the use of texture, color and finish. I always came away with new ideas to try when I got home.

One demonstrator in particular had me enthralled. Stephen Hatcher demon-

strated how to carve a design into a bowl or plate and filled it with crystal. Once finished the crystals would jump out at you with their sparkle and really set the piece apart. I attended a couple of week-long classes with Stephen and I was hooked "again." I started turning out piece after piece trying to perfect and improve on his technique.

Then one day I looked around and wondered, "What am I going to do with all these turnings?" —And that little capitalist in me said, I should sell them.

Armed with a borrowed tent (thanks Johnny) and a couple of folding tables I went to my first art show. Wow, what an experience as people came and went many of them expressing how lovely my work was, a major ego boost, and I starting selling. Oh dear, I'm hooked again.

Five years later I realized something profound. I no longer enjoyed what I was doing. I was no longer retired, I was working day in and day out turning out inventory for my next art show and I began to dread going into my shop. I knew a change was in order. So very carefully, I broached the subject of retiring from the art scene with my partner Hilda and she enthusiastically agreed exclaiming, "if you're not having fun, don't do it."

So, I cancelled all of my show appearances for the year, dismantled my latest and incomplete plate from my lathe and determined to "reboot" myself because I wanted to have fun again. Heck, I may even go back to turning pens. Who knows what new adventures await me.

Go out there and have fun because making shavings is good for the soul.

Steve Green
President

**April President's
Challenge: Tea Lights in
time for Mothers' Day**

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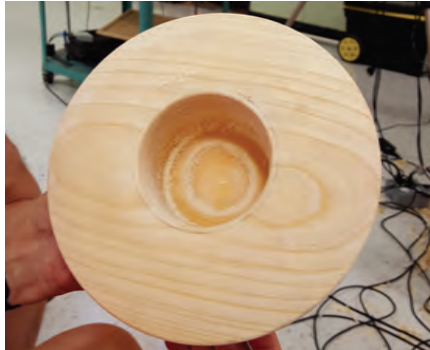
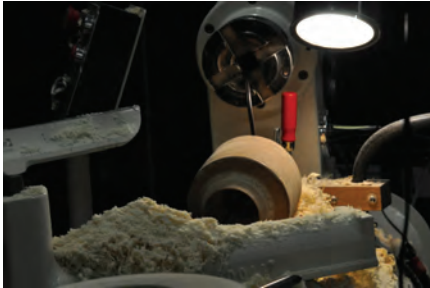
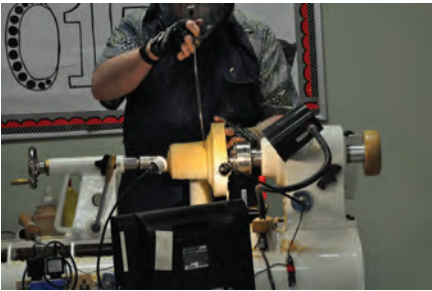
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The American Association of Woodturners is "Dedicated to Providing Education, Information and Organization to Those Interested in Woodturning." In keeping with the standards of our National Organization, the Central Texas Woodturners Association hereby 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
Len Brissette

Len Brissette entertained the club with a fascinating demonstration of turning a wooden hat. If you weren't there, you missed one of the most unique demonstrations we've had in a long time! CTWA appreciates Len's talents and sharing his hat-turning with us.

Keeping Austin Turning Since 1988



For best results, Len says to turn green wood so you can bend the brim.

Editor's "Turn"

I have been "measure challenged" from the beginning. I've improved quite a bit from the days when I'd rather have something unfinished than have to build a jam chuck. Boxes? Oh Heck NO! That means that you actually need to be able to measure with a caliper.

I decided that I didn't have the right caliper for measuring. That joke was on me. Experienced turners would look puzzled at my impatience, as I just simply could not measure something and have the jam chuck, lid or what ever needed to be precise.

Really, I was that bad. I have probably bought about 15 calipers throughout my turning career. I'm not talking about the ones that can measure the thickness of a bowl (I actually understood that concept). I'm talking about the ones that will give you a reading on exactly how many millimeters or inches something round measures. Then, I would make the mistake of measuring the outside when I was really needing to measure the inside. ARGH.

Well, finally I've gotten better. In fact I was turning a box for my bring back the other day. I measured, and sure enough, the lid was great, not too tight, not too lose! Wohoo!

Then came the time when I needed to finish the lid's top. Since I'd already finished the bottom, I confidently made a jam chuck for the lid. Snug, but good. As soon as I started turning, the dang lid cracked. Yep, it was too tight on the jam chuck. ARGH.

So I turned a tea light instead. Practice, practice, practice. Graeme Priddle told me once that he turned 700 bowls to perfect his technique. For me? 50 boxes down, 650 to go.

Keep turnin' it on,
Hilda Carpenter
Editor

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 Erik Peterson erik-sp@aol.com know! Or email the editor.

Confirmed Sites for 2016:

- May 7th **Stephen Van Gee**
- June 4th **Orlando Banos**
- July 9th
- August 6th
- September 10th
- October 1st **John and Suzi Parker**
- November 5th
- December Christmas Party **Pat and**

Upcoming Demo's & Classes

- April: Craig Timmerman** natural edge bowl
- April 9th & 10th @ Clyde Little** Beginner's Class
- If you are coming, be sure to attend 1st Saturday to sharpen your tools
- May: Tips & Tricks**

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 your 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

Robert Sorby RS3F lathe
36" between centers, 6.5" over bed, 1 HP 220 Volt DC variable speed motor 0 to 3200, 1" X 8TPI spindle, #2 Morse taper head and tail stock Indexed headstock Hard Chrome solid steel bed bars, Swivel headstock, Outside bowl turning attachment, Extra interchangeable tool rests Live center, face plates, spur drive excellent condition see www.lathes.co.uk/sorby/ for additional information \$950.00 **Pat Jenkins** jjpen@austin.rr.com

Jet 14" bandsaw for sale, model JWBS-14CSW. Enclosed cabinet model with a 1hp motor and the riser block kit. Also included: fence, miter gauge, roller blade guides, new tires, blades, wheel base. Asking \$450. Contact Craig Timmerman 512-773-9976

Harbor Freight media blasting cabinet. \$50 OBO. Contact **Craig Timmerman** 512-773-9976

Random Ruminations "Hard Won Sculpture" by Charlie Kay

As a former newsletter editor, I know that I have committed the unpardonable sin. I am late for my deadline. The old timers among you know that I am the most accomplished procrastinator in our group, so Hilda and the rest of you will just have to bear with me. I actually tried several times last weekend to write a piece for The Chip Pile, but the muse wouldn't cooperate, and I chucked them all, and then forgot about it.

When I agreed to write this column again beginning January, I knew that I wouldn't have a shop and wouldn't be doing any turning, but I thought it would be pretty easy to come up with things to write about that at least had to do with wood. However, my Great Adventure (GA) has kept me way busier than I expected. Between my blog, my personal journal, and a couple of intensive e-mail correspondents, I am doing way more writing than I expected to. My GA, along with some other unexpected happenings has begun to do what I had hoped for. For the first time in years, I wake up every morning with enthusiasm for whatever that day may bring.

I have seen a lot of trees, particularly in California, that I would love to turn. Most of them are quite familiar to me, although the names of many of them now elude me. I suppose that is to be expected. It has been almost 30 years since they were part of my daily life. That must also mean that I am almost 30 years older as well, so I will take both excuses for being unable to recall them.

As I have commented in my blog, the most inspiring trees I have seen are the tortured, ancient junipers in the red rock country in Utah. These cousins of our familiar Ashe juniper live a much more difficult life. They get very little rainfall, and their roots have to go very deep to get the water necessary to stay alive. They also basically live on rock. You will see a beautifully twisted and sculpted large but short trunk only waist high and with only a few tortured limbs. The trunk may be as big as your leg, assuming your leg had been broken and poorly set many times. Then you see a ten or twelve foot long root as big as your arm crawling across a huge rock and then diving into another crack in the rock in search of the tiny bit of water deep under the rock.

These juniper trunks are at least as sculpted and beautiful as the red rocks that surround them, but that sculpting takes place in a totally different way. In order to cling, however tenuously, to life in the driest years, these little trees will cut off water and nutrients to one or more limbs; so long as they can keep at least one limb, they can photosynthesize and hang on. The strongest limb is the one that survives and now twists what is now the new main trunk in yet another direction, creating the sculpture and what I know is some of the most figured wood that you will ever see.

What tugs at you is that the National Park Service uses big chunks of twisted carcasses of trees that didn't survive for erosion control and to delineate trails. As we know, juniper is highly resistant to rot and insect damage. That is why it makes such good fence posts. It is oh so tempting to want to pick up a couple of pieces from the side of the trail and try to sneak it out. Such behavior is not only frowned on, of course; it is also illegal. So I just enjoy looking at them and contemplating how furiously living organisms cling to life, no matter how difficult it is.

Keep on turning,

Charlie Kay

April 7, 2016

WWW.RANDOMRUMINATOR.COM



SWAT August 26-28

On August 26-28th (Friday - Sunday noon) the Southwest Association of Wood Turners (SWAT) will hold its annual symposium in Waco, TX at the Waco Convention Center. Around 900 people across multiple states attend.

<http://www.swaturners.org/index.php/registration>

This is the second largest wood turning symposium in the Americas. World class demonstrators come from all over the world to share their talents and inspire ideas. Registration is only \$140 for the entire symposium. Guest passes are available at a reduced fee.

Complimenting the national demonstrators there are many regional woodturners who are especially talented in their own right.

Each demonstrator spends one and one-half hours turning a piece that represents their specialty. To say the least, no matter what your interest, there will be multiple demonstrators from whom you can learn, or minimally, be inspired.

Additionally, the caterer provides delicious noon meals where you will join other turners across the states and swap stories. You can buy a ticket for the Burger Bar on Friday night for only \$12.

Lest you think that your spouse would be bored, think again. There are activities for the spouses throughout the symposium. This includes art, tours, and a chance to get to know other folks.

Each symposium includes drawings. You can buy tickets to join the fun (and help keep the SWAT registration fees low). There is the two-for-one drawing—meaning you can win a beautiful piece or tools and still be entered in the grand drawing for a lathe on Sunday.

Another drawing happens for a special

piece that each lead demonstrator typically offers a special piece that you can win.

The grand prize drawing happens after lunch on Sunday! Vendors offer a lathe that you can win.

The two-for-one and lead demonstrator drawings happen on Saturday night at the banquet. Banquet tickets are \$35/person, and definitely will ensure a good meal and a lot of fun.

Even more than the demonstrators, there are vendors that often will sell tools, wood, face protection, sand paper, or lathe parts (e.g., chucks) for a reduced “show price.”

The local hotels offer a show rate if you tell them you are attending SWAT. The best part? The entire show is affordable. In fact, the entry registration is discounted if you register before the show.

No matter your experience level of turning, this show is not to be missed. Plan on attending! Most of the people who attended in the past will go every year. It's that good.

AAW June 9-12

Another symposium worthy of consideration is the American Association of Woodturners. June 9-12 about 1400 people from all over the world will flock to Atlanta to participate in this symposium.

Similar to SWAT, AAW has premier demonstrators across a plethora of topics. Bowl, spindle, finishing, hollowing—you name it and it is there. Registration is Members: \$325, Non-Members: \$360 Spouse/Partner: \$185 Optional Ticketed Event: Celebration Dinner, Saturday, June 11, 6-7:30pm ~ Members: \$49, Non-members: \$59

<http://www.woodturner.org/?page=2016Registration>

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
- 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

Photos

Photographs for this month's **Chip Pile** were provided by **Hilda Carpenter, Charles Kay, Johnny Tolly and Marcia Tolly**. 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.

Gallery & Bring Back

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

Johnny Tolly: Yarn bowl, 3 Beads of Courage boxes

Herb Ingram: Beads of Courage Box, Mesquite burl box

Phil Freeburg: Beads of Courage Box

Dwight Schaeper: Colored maple bowl

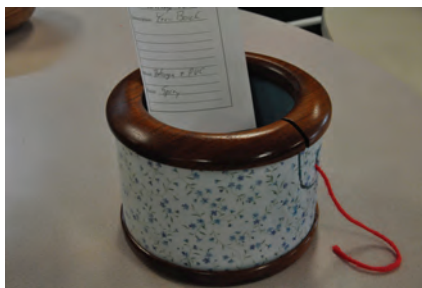
Gene Berry: Beads of Courage Box

Len Brissette: Mesquite bowl with turquoise inlay

Jim Brinkman: Platter, Boxes

Ed Roberts: Mesquite bowls; Walnut femisphere

Jason Tunnell: Carbide tool; Box



Gallery & Bring Back



Bring back winners:
Richard Soslow won Jim Spano's Flanged hollow form
Herb Ingram won Jim Spano's hollowed vessel
Greg vest won Jim Spano's ash platter
Hilda Carpenter won Len Brissette's hat
Dwight Schaper won Pat Jenkins cocobolo and bubinga



REMEMBER TO RETURN THE FAVOR:

if you won a drawing prize—bring back a turning for next month's bring back drawing!!



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Librarian

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 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

Business Meeting

Steve Green opened the meeting by recognizing visitors: **Tony Franciotti and long term member, Joe Evans.**

Steve then recognized last month's winners of the Beads of Courage president's challenge: **Dwight Schaper and Vic Johnson** with certificates.

Next first Saturday will be at **Tom Miller's** house. Remember if you plan on attending the beginner's class to bring your tools for sharpening to the 1st Saturday. **Jim Spano** has the sign up sheet if you are interested, there a few open spots remaining. The cost is \$10 for lunch (unless you bring your own) and \$20 for wood.

Steve turned the meeting over to our presenter this month, **Len Brissette.**

37 members and visitors attended.

Members in the News

Jimmy Tolly continues to recover from his recent surgery.

First Saturday

Tom Miller hosted April's gathering of over 40 members and friends. Tom recently retired and had lots of new fun tools to play with. It was a great day for old and young alike. Drew Shelton was busy sharpening tools for the upcoming classes, so we don't have as many lovely pictures as normal! Thank you Drew for helping get folks ready for the class with sharp tools.



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

- Apr 9th-10th Beginners Class
Clyde Little's Shop
- Apr 19th CTWA Meeting
Craig Timmerman, natural edge bowl
- May 7th 1st Saturday
Site Stephen Van Gee
- May 17th CTWA Meeting
Tips & Tricks (all)
- June 4th 1st Saturday
Site Orlando Banos
- June 9-12 AAW Atlanta, GA
- June 21 CTWA Meeting
Herb Ingram, lidded box
- July 11 1st Saturday
Site TBD
- July 19 CTWA Meeting
Craig Timmerman, Offset turning
- August 6th 1st Saturday
Site: TBD
- August 16 CTWA Meeting
Demonstrator: TBD
- August 26-28 SWAT, Waco, TX

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.

