



# THE CHIP PILE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL TEXAS WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION  
AUSTIN, TEXAS

A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

CTWA Meetings

## FEBRUARY MEETING

Tuesday, February 21, 2006  
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)

## FIRST SATURDAY TURNOUT

The First Saturday Turnout for  
March will be held on March 4, at  
Curtis Seebeck's shop, 531 Hunter  
Ridge, San Marcos. See directions  
on page 4.

replace the rickety  
fence and add an  
outfeed table, which  
I remind myself I  
really should have  
every time I have  
to cut a piece more  
than about 2 feet  
long. All-in-all, I  
will end up satisfy-  
ing my table saw  
needs for a long  
time after investing  
about 1/3 the price  
of a new saw. I will  
feel a lot safer using  
the saw now, and all  
because I respond-  
ed to a "squeaky  
wheel."

All of this got me  
to thinking about  
a few shop safety  
issues. In a broad  
sense, it was about  
being more aware of

**Safety Note** - I was reminded again  
last week about the need for sound  
wood; not wood that produces sound,  
but wood that is free of loose bark and  
cracks. Those wonderful "features" in  
my much-admired mesquite can prove  
dangerous without a certain degree of  
awareness. Or, as John Jordan, puts  
it, "if you see a crack in a piece after  
you have gotten down to the finishing  
cuts, the crack was probably in the  
piece when you started." Centrifugal  
force placed on a piece spinning at  
800 to a 1,000 RPM can and will cause  
a cracked piece to separate, especially  
as it gets thinner. Listen to the sound  
the tool makes as it contacts the work  
piece. If you hear an odd sound, stop  
the lathe and investigate. Keeping a  
spray bottle of water handy will allow  
you to bring out the crack that may  
not be visible otherwise. Water, like  
CA glue, will darken a crack. Think  
ahead and be safe, and listen to the  
sound your piece is making. It will  
alert you to imperfections.

From the President's Shop

## Thoughts on a New Year

I always look at each of  
life's little challenges as  
an adventure. Well, I had  
a bit of an adventure this  
month. I had occasion to  
use my oft-ignored table  
saw for the first time in  
few months and it hollered  
loudly for some TLC. Being  
aware of the potential of  
an 80-tooth carbide blade  
spinning at 3,400 rpm, I did  
not hesitate to investigate.  
I began by replacing the  
bearings on my vintage cast  
iron Craftsman. I then real-  
ized that the oversized TEFC  
motor I put on it had eaten  
the pulleys. Having already  
invested in a segmented v-  
belt - which I recommend  
for ALL belt-driven shop  
tools, by the way - I decid-  
ed it was time to FINALLY

your environment in the shop. I have  
to admit that I sometimes get a little  
complacent. For instance, "I really  
should be wearing gloves to handle  
this sheet metal, but I'll be done with  
it faster than I could walk over to pick  
up the gloves." That one only cost me  
a trip to the ER and three stitches.

So, I thought it would be a good idea  
to start a "thread" on safety issues.  
Here's my first contribution:

## Monthly Features

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**Cindy Drozda Demos** - I know a  
number of us are looking forward to  
the Cindy Drozda demos and work-  
shops in April. These should be infor-  
mative and fun for our members. We  
still have a few openings for the one-  
day workshop on Monday, April 10. I  
would also like to encourage you all to  
come to the demos that weekend, and  
bring a friend! If you have a chance  
to talk to the nearby clubs, it would  
be good to encourage them to come  
to Austin for the demos, as well. It  
should be a great opportunity to see a  
very talented turner and great instruc-  
tor.

**SWAT Volunteers** - We are still  
looking for volunteers to help out  
with SWAT. This month, Betty Hager  
volunteered to chair the SWAT Host  
Committee. (Thank you, Betty!) In  
addition, the Brazos Valley club has  
taken on the A/V responsibilities.  
Finally, Clyde Little has signed up to  
coordinate the table decorations/cen-  
ter pieces for the evening event. I

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## 2006 Officers

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### CTWA Web Site

[www.ctwa.org](http://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 512.295.2144, by E-mail at [ckay@austin.rr.com](mailto:ckay@austin.rr.com) or mail them to:

**THE CHIP PILE**  
c/o Charles Kay  
100 Matzig Cove  
Buda TX 78610-3108

really appreciate all of these folks stepping up to handle these responsibilities. But they will all need help in getting their respective tasks accomplished. That is where you, the CTWA members come in. Betty will still need volunteers for manning the registration tables, man the food lines, act as runners, etc. Clyde will need for ALL of us to help produce some 300 weed pots and bowls for centerpieces. And, considering the size of the Brazos Valley club, I'm sure that Joel Crabbe and his members may well need some technical advice and assistance with actually running the cameras. As you can imagine, it takes lots of folks doing their part to make this kind of production run smoothly. So think about how you can help to make this SWAT another great success!

**Board Meeting** – We have not had a board meeting yet this year. I will schedule one for late in February and send out a note. Anyone who is interested in attending or who has issues they would like to raise is welcome to attend.

**AAW Symposium** – I forwarded a note last month about the AAW Symposium in Louisville, Kentucky. It sounds like a it will be quite an event. The door prizes alone might be enough incentive to some of us to attend. Having gone to a couple of these, I would just like to encourage all of you to consider attending. They are a lot of fun and I always learn a lot. Last year, Jan and I made a "road trip" out of the Utah symposium and saw some wonderful parts of the country.

Finally, I wanted to remind you that our webmaster, Larry Walrath, is setting up individual galleries on our club web site for members. If you would like to have pictures of your work posted on the web site, just send him digital photos and, if you like, some biographical information. It's a fun way to share your work with the club and the whole world. On the other side of that coin, browsing the existing galleries may well inspire you for your next great work of art.

Keep the chips flying!

Len

January  
Demo

## Final Touches

Our new President, **Len Brissette** was our demonstrator for January.

Len spent the evening showing us various tech-

niques for enhancing our turned pieces using different media. One of Len's favorite things to do is to enhance the natural cracks (remember that he turns mesquite, so there are usually some cracks)



by first widening the cracks using a Dremel tool. He then fills the cracks with various materials including dyed epoxy and InLace turquoise. He has found that the turquoise fill looks better if

you use a black marker on the inside of the hole before filling it.



Len discussed and demonstrated a number of other techniques as well, including using



chips of egg shell to make a mosaic, using brass filings in either epoxy or cyanoacrylate (CA) glue to hold it in place, frequently in

a flat groove that he has turned with a parting tool. He also showed us how to inlay brass or silver wire.

Len uses various materials, including real turquoise chips to fill large holes in a piece. To retain the CA glue while it sets, he first makes a dam with a bead of hot glue.

Finally, Len showed us how to use a dental drill to carve a design into a finished turning. He glues the pattern onto the piece, then routs out the design with the dental drill.



Thanks to Len for sharing these ideas for decorating our completed turnings.

## Bring Back Raffle

**Joel Crabbe** was the big winner taking home two pieces, an oak piece turned by **Clyde Little** and a mesquite bowl turned by **Jim Brinkman**. **Charlie Kay** had the lucky ticket for an awl with a handle turned from zebra wood by **Joe Kirk**.

As usual, the winners will bring back a turned item to the next meeting. This is when Joel may want to consider how lucky he was, with two items to bring back next month. The bring-back items should be representative of each person's best work.

It should be noted that the Bring Back Raffle is meant to be a fun event. No one is grading you on the quality of your work. Just bring a piece that represents the best that YOU can do. If you don't have a lathe or feel like you have enough experience, contact one of our Volunteer Instructors to help you prepare a Bring Back piece. So buy a ticket and get involved and have fun.

Due to our improvised identification slips at the January meeting and the cursory descriptions written on them, I am only guessing at the specific items, both for the Bring Back and for the Show and Tell. So I am just mixing the photos up.

**Charlie Kay** shared a pair of salt urns, one of gum and one of pecan, following a design by



Keith Gottschall. Both were finished with Minwax and Beall buffed.

**Larry Walrath** brought nested natural edge hackberry bowls, finished with linseed oil.



**Drew Shelton** showed off a pair of Femispheres, laminated of various woods, Beall finished. Funny, they look a lot like



Semispheres. Do we need a naming commission?

**Jack Besperka** brought a pair of nice pieces, one of cedar elm with no finish and one of spalted hackberry, finished with Deft.



**Stacey Hager** shared a large blue vase, turned of hackberry and finished with 60 grit and aniline dye, giving it a suede texture.

**Jerry Whiteaker** showed off a set of Rude Osolnik style candlesticks turned of ash and finished with Deft.

**Frank Miller** brought



along his "Texas candelabra" of mahogany and brass, trimmed with Tabasco and chili peppers.

**H. O. Evans** shared a "junk wood" vase.



**Johnny Tolly** showed a satinwood piece finished with lacquer. Johnny also brought several rolling pins.

**Bill Hammack** brought a seven piece spin top.



Photos for this month were provided by **Drew Shelton**.

## Show and Tell

**Clyde Little** brought three off-center, crankshaft candlesticks turned from mesquite and sourwood.

**Joel Crabbe** showed off two pieces, a spalted pecan bowl with copper frog and a pecan box.

**Craig Timmerman** displayed three pieces, two of mesquite with malachite inlay and one

of mesquite and cedar elm with turquoise inlay, all finished with Deft.

**James Norton** showed three pieces, a lidded box and two shop made hook tools.

**Mack Peterson** brought along three mesquite pieces



## Whatzit?

This month our own **Jim Spano** will be demonstrating a very unusual turned piece. Jim will use his lathe to create a Semisphere. Many turners have looked at Jim's finished product and asked "Whatzit?" One might also wonder how a shape like this can be created on a lathe. Jim shared this project at CTWA's Christmas party in December and created so much interest that several

of our members have asked him to demonstrate it for the club. You will want to see Jim's demonstration and find out how it is done. This complicated design is actually the result of a series of simple tasks that most wood turners will be able to complete easily.

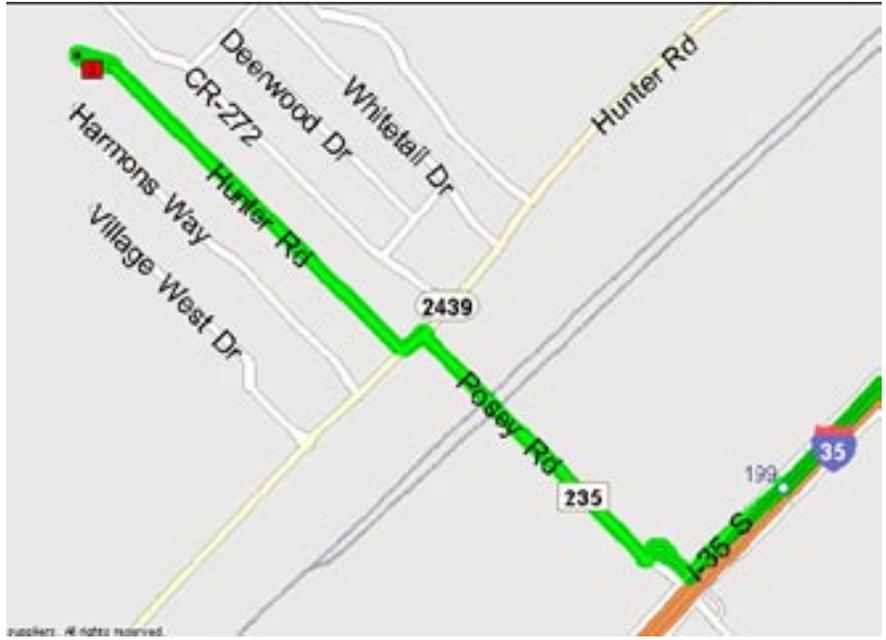
So be sure and attend the meeting and learn how to create your own Semisphere.

Thanks to Jim for agreeing to demonstrate this month.

Gene Stokes

endar, and plan to take a road trip to San Marcos.

Directions: I-35 south to Exit 199 (Posey Road). West on Posey (right, from the interstate heading south) to dead end at Hunter Road. Left on Hunter Road for 50 yards. First right on Hunter Ridge. Go to end of road and enter the paved driveway that is basically a continuation of Hunter Ridge. Go 50 feet or so on the paved driveway and take the gravel driveway on the left. Follow it up the hill to the metal building/shop. The address is 531 Hunter Ridge, San Marcos. If you get lost, the phone number is 512.738.0775.



Our March 4, 2006, First Saturday Shop Crawl will be held at new member **Curtis Seebeck's** shop in San Marcos.

I know. You're already saying that it's too far to go. It isn't any further than it was to Mack Peterson's in Wimberley in January, and we had a good turnout for that, including a carpool or two of folks from the far north. So get your carpool buddies together and plan to make the trek.

This should be a very different experience, as Curtis has a Timberking sawmill and plans to show us how

to use it and let other folks try their hand at running it as well. If you have some large logs or sections of logs that you would like to have cut into blanks, bring them along. Curtis' mill is a bandsaw mill so it wastes very little wood. He has a 30' x 40' shop that is inside a 40' x 75' metal building so he has space for anyone to bring their lathes if they want. Everyone who comes will leave with some mesquite, hackberry, or spalted pecan turning blanks if they want some.

So put the March 4 date on your cal-

## 2006 First Saturday Shop Crawl Schedule

March 4  
 April 1  
 May 6  
 June 3  
 July 1  
 August 5  
 September 2  
 October 7  
 November 4  
 December 9 (Christmas Party)

Curtis Seebeck  
 Len Brissette  
 Bill Hammack  
 Stacey Hager  
**Volunteer Needed**  
 Craig Timmerman  
**Volunteer Needed**  
**Volunteer Needed**  
**Volunteer Needed**  
**Volunteer Needed**

If you haven't already paid your CTWA dues for 2006, now is the time to do so. We need your help to keep providing you with a newsletter, our web site, to finish paying for our demonstration lathe and to pay for demonstrators from outside our club. Your dues also help subsidize, to a limited extent, the world class turners who come to demonstrate for us from time to time, such as Cindy Drozda this coming spring.

Please fill out the CTWA renewal registration form and either send it to Membership Chairman John Cole or

bring it to the meeting, along with your check made out to CTWA for either \$65 (single) or \$70 (family). Filling out the registration form will assure that we have up-to-date information on your mailing and E-mail addresses as well as the best phone number to contact you.

The continued vitality and success of CTWA depends on your participation and your financial support. Thanks for your help.

## Business Meeting

There were 55 attendees at our January 17, 2006, meeting, including seven visitors.

It was good to see **Bob Littlepage** at this meeting.

Stacey Hager gave details for the Cindy Drozda demonstrations and workshops in April. The three-day workshop is full, and there are one or two openings left in the one-day workshop. (See details in a separate article in this newsletter.)

Len advised us that George Hatfield will be demonstrating at the San Antonio Club in May (details in a separate article).

Len reminded us that the SWAT Symposium will be in Temple again this fall, and we will be the host club. We need a Committee Chair and Committee members to get things organized.

Stacey reported that Mike Mahoney was available for demonstrations and workshops in November and asked for a show of hands regarding interest. There were about twenty folks interested, so Stacey will explore further.

## Cindy Drozda

As noted last month, well-known turner **Cindy Drozda** will be in Austin in April for a weekend of demonstrations followed by Hands-On sessions.

Cindy is an outstanding demonstrator, and her tiny, ornate boxes are truly works of art. If you are not familiar with Cindy and her work, you can check it out at [www.cindydrozda.com](http://www.cindydrozda.com).

There will be four different half-day demonstrations on Saturday, April 8 and Sunday, April 9. Cost is \$20 for a single half-day session. For two or more sessions, the price goes down to \$15 per session. Thus you can attend one full day for \$30 or both full days for \$60. Saturday morning - Finial



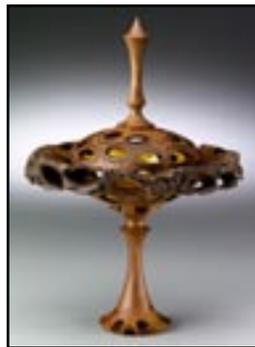
Box, Negative Rake Scraper, Saturday afternoon - Banksia Pod Inspiration. Sunday morning - Triangular Box and other multi-spindle-axis projects, Sunday afternoon - Hollow Forms with the Captured Bar System and Laser Measuring Device



A catered lunch will be available for about \$10 per day, or there are a number of nearby restaurants. Cindy may be giving a

slide show or critique during the lunch hours.

These demonstrations will be followed by a one-day Hands-On session on Monday, April 10, then a three-day workshop (April 11, 12 and 13). (NOTE: These sections are currently full, but a waiting list is being maintained.) If there is enough demand, it might also be possible to add another one-day session on Friday, April 14. Cost for the Hand-On sessions is \$110 per person per day.



## Tolly's Travels

January 26 marked the seventh time that **Tollys** have demonstrated in San Antonio, as **Johnny, Marcia** and big brother **Jimmy** traveled down to the Alamo City, where Johnny demonstrated the use of the Hamlet Deep Hollowing tool. There were more than 40 people in attendance, as both little brother and big brother cut wood with ease using this tool.

Johnny showed how the tools can cut end grain without needing to bore a hole first, although using a drill to bore to the desired depth is still the easiest way to establish that depth. Johnny then demonstrated how the tools are used to turn the outside shape. The Hamlet tools remove wood very quickly and the top adjustment provides for a range of wood removal from very

little to a lot. Johnny has expanded on Stacy Hager's tool post guide idea (see January 2006 **CHIP PILE** write-up on Stacey's November 2005 demonstration), by incorporating a shoulder screw and ball bearing with an adjustable stop or depth collar. He showed how much easier it is to maintain



control by using Stacy's tool post idea. Brother Jimmy provided additional comments (*why are we not surprised? Ed.*) throughout the demonstration.

After Johnny's demonstration Marcia was pleasantly surprised, as John Sherman presented her with a birthday cake for making the trip to San



Antonio on her birthday. Everyone joined in and sang "Happy Birthday" to her.

We're only guessing, of course, but could it be that Jimmy was so busy eating the cake that he forgot to take photos of Marcia and the cake?

Thanks to Jimmy anyway, for the photos that he did supply.

## CTWA Supporters

We don't recognize often enough those businesses that support our club. If you don't already do so, be sure to support those folks that support us, either through discounts or gift certificates.

Hogan Hardwoods  
Woodcraft  
Craft Supplies USA  
The Cutting Edge  
Woodline USA

## AAW Symposium

It is now time to begin planning for the Symposium season for woodturners. Elsewhere in this issue, you will find a table listing upcoming symposiums.

You have 55 BIG reasons to register for the annual AAW Symposium, to be held in Louisville, Kentucky, June 22 - 24. For door prizes, how about FIVE Oneway 2436 lathes free, thanks to special pricing from Oneway Manufacturing, or FIFTY \$100 gift certificates donated by Packard Woodworks?

In addition to the goodies, there are always many other great reasons to attend. There will be 30 world class demonstrators putting on 150 rotations in eleven demonstration rooms. Of special interest to CTWA members, **Craig Timmerman** has been invited to be a demonstrator again this year. The only thing wrong with the rotation list is that you simply cannot see all of the sessions.

There will be a room where Bonnie Klein and Nick Cook will teach hands-on classes for young people, ages 10 through 17. The youth can register FREE when accompanied by a fully registered adult. Just as last year, the AAW will give away 25 JET mini-lathes with stands, 25 sets of Crown tools, 25 Nova mini-chucks and 25 face shields to 25 of the lucky youths. (Bring your kids or grand kids)

As usual, one of the highlights will be the world's largest instant gallery showing over a thousand spectacular turned pieces. Another highlight will be the Trade Show, filled with the world's largest assortment of woodturning tools, equipment, wood, etc., a regular toy store for woodturners.

Of course, you won't want to miss **Step Up to the Plate**, the AAW's juried and invitational exhibit.

Of interest to CTWA members, our own **Gary Roberts** has been invited to exhibit a piece. Anybody want to put money on whether or not it will be a music box?



There will be three panel discussions, featuring world famous artists J. Paul Fennell, Binh Pho, David Ellsworth, Graeme Priddle, Curt Theobald, Clay Foster, Albert LeCoff, Kevin Wallace and Giles Gilson.

Naturally, there will be a great banquet and live auction.

Finally, Louisville has many things to see, and is located in some of the prettiest country in the eastern United States. Make your plans now to be in Kentucky in June!

For more information, go to [www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org).

## George Hatfield

The Alamo Woodturners have arranged for Australian woodturner **George Hatfield** to visit Texas for the month of May. He will be doing a demonstration and two Hands-On days the weekend of May 13 and 14. George will be at the Hill Country Woodturners the weekend of May 20 and 21.

Expect more details soon. If you are interested in taking in these sessions, you will probably be able to get more details on the Alamo

Woodturners and Hill Country Turners web sites.

## E-mail

It is your responsibility to see that Membership Chairman **John Cole** has your correct E-mail address. You can contact him at [john.cole@sematech.org](mailto:john.cole@sematech.org). We regularly use E-mail to advise members of important announcements on short notice. If Drew doesn't have your current E-mail address, we can't contact you.

## Web Site

Check out the CTWA Web Site at [www.CTWA.org](http://www.CTWA.org). If you have comments, suggestions or something for the gallery, get in touch with **Webmaster Larry Walrath** at [larry@larrywalrath.com](mailto:larry@larrywalrath.com).

## Photos

Photographs for this month's **CHIP PILE** were provided by **Drew Shelton and Jimmy Tolly**. If you have digital photos that you would like to have considered for use in the newsletter. Send them to the Editor at [ckay@austin.rr.com](mailto:ckay@austin.rr.com).

## 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.

**February 21 - 7:00 to 9:00 AM**  
CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

**Mar 4 - 9:00 AM to Noon**  
First Saturday - Curtis Seebeck's Shop

**March 21 - 7:00 to 9:00 AM**  
CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

**April 1, 2006 - 9:00 AM to Noon**  
First Saturday - Len Brissette's Shop

**April 8 & 9, 2006**  
Cindy Drozda Demos - YouthWorks

**April 10 - 13, 2006**  
Cindy Drozda Hands-on Workshops - Charlie Kay's Shop

**May 6 - 9:00 AM to Noon**  
First Saturday - Bill Hammack's Shop

**April 18 - 7:00 to 9:00 AM**  
CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

## First Saturday

Twenty or more folks showed up on February 4, at **Steve Gottlieb's** shop on beautiful what used to be Lake Travis before it turned into a puddle in the drought.

There were four or five lathes going at a time, but I must admit that your Scribe was busy turning a couple of salt boxes and missed most of

the action. **Frank Miller** was busy turning another one of his projects. Someone was making a lot of noise on Steve's big Stubby. **Rusty Myers**, who hasn't been seen in



All in all, a good time was had by all, so far as I could tell. At least they were slower wrapping up and heading home, not getting away until 12:30 or later.

As usual, a group of us went for lunch and braved the chilly deck at Carlos and Charlie's.



Start putting your car pools together and plan to head down to San Marcos on March 4. I know a great little Mexican restaurant down there.

awhile showed up on his bike and turned some spatulas in motorcycle leathers. As usual, **Drew Shelton** brought the Round Rock donuts to go with the pot of coffee Steve had going.



## Membership in CTWA

New members are welcome to join CTWA at any time. All you need is an interest in woodturning. CTWA membership also requires membership in the American Association of Woodturners (AAW). Local dues are \$25.00 per year, or \$2.10 per month, prorated for new members joining during the year. AAW dues are \$40.00 per year for individuals and \$45.00 for families. For that, you get a first class quarterly magazine, **American Woodturner**, with excellent articles on woodturning and woodturners, amply illustrated with color photographs.

If you are interested in learning more about membership or want to join CTWA, contact our Membership Chairman:

**John Cole**  
1333 Arena Drive - Apt 137  
Austin, TX 78741  
john.cole@sematech.org  
512.779.8599

## Upcoming Woodturning Symposiums

### Desert Woodturning Roundup

Mesa, Arizona  
February 18 - 19, 2006  
[www.desertwoodturningroundup.com](http://www.desertwoodturningroundup.com)

### Southern States Symposium

Gainesville, Georgia  
April 28-30, 2006  
[www.southernstates.org](http://www.southernstates.org)

### Utah Woodturning Symposium

Provo, Utah  
June 15 - 17, 2006  
[www.utahwoodturning.com](http://www.utahwoodturning.com)

### AAW Symposium

Louisville, Kentucky  
June 22 - 24, 2006  
<http://www.woodturner.org>

### SouthWest Association of Turners

Temple, Texas  
September 29 & 30, October 1  
[www.swaturners.org](http://www.swaturners.org)

## Volunteer Instructors

The following turners have generously offered to open their shops and give their time to any member who wants to learn how to sharpen their tools, sharpen their skills, learn how to make a bowl or "test" the newest tool. Check out the people who bring items to Show and Tell. One trait common to all woodturners is that we all like to share, so just ask!

### SOUTH

Odie Bull	512.442.2687
Bill Hammack	512.282.0832
Stacey Hager	512.282.1036
Johnny Tolly	512.858.4471
Jimmy Tolly	512.894.0686

**NOTE: The Tolly brothers work strange shifts, so they may be available on times other than weekends.**

H. O. Evans	512.282.2830
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**NOTE: Ho would like to confine his assistance to his specialty, segmented turnings.**

### NORTH

Rusty Myers	512.218.1606
Frank Miller	512.335.4768
Judy Williams	512.836.7897

### ROUND ROCK

Larry Walrath	512.255.5379
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### LOCKHART/SAN MARCOS

David Dick	512.357.6517
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## From the Editor's Desk

This is newsletter week. In addition to putting together this issue of the **CHIP PILE**, I am also getting started on the first 2006 issue of **SWAT Turnings**, the newsletter for the SWAT Symposium. It should follow this issue by a week or so, and will cover plans for this year's Symposium as well as photos from last fall's Symposium in Wichita Falls.

They're both running a little late, as I can't seem to stay out of my shop. I've been making bottle stoppers, as my supply was almost completely depleted, and salt boxes.

I also decided it was time to make something out of the piece of purple heart Bill Hammack gave me in the Christmas part gift exchange. Now I turned a piece of purple heart several years ago, when I was just getting started turning. However, I'm not sure it is on my favorites list. That piece splintered worse than anything I've ever turned, even slinging one splinter into my finger. End-grain tearout also drove me nuts, no matter how sharp my gouge was. I must have spent twice as much time sanding as I did turning. I'm beginning to wonder if purple heart is the woodturner's fruit cake. Now Bill gave it to me, but somehow I'd bet that once upon a time Dave Dick gave it to him. Now I'm guessing that Bill said that turning purple heart is a pain, so I'm going to pass it on, just like fruit cake. Not that gimme wood is any problem for me. I turned the purple heart into a box, then used a piece of tiger maple that Dave had given me to make a top. Not satisfied with that, I had to bum another little chunk of purple heart from Dave to make a finial. Thanks for your help, guys.

I am a fan of the late Nobel Prize winning physicist, Richard Feynman. With a freshly minted Ph. D. from Princeton, he worked on the Manhattan Project,

then went on to a distinguished career as a professor at Cal Tech. One of his last public ventures was as a no-nonsense member of the Commission that investigated the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster. He was a greatly revered teacher and one who didn't suffer fools or self-importance gladly. I am particularly fond of a statement he made in a Cal Tech commencement address, "Scientific knowledge is a body of statements of varying degrees of certainty -- some most unsure, some nearly sure, but *none absolutely* certain. He was also a great story teller. I have read a number of books by and about him, and last week read **Classic Feynman**, edited by Ralph Leighton.

Feynman was also a painter and a pretty good drummer. In this latest book, I ran across another quote that I like, and that should apply to us all as woodturners. Having sold a drawing to a man for his wife's birthday, then having to tell the wife, when she came to buy it, that it was already sold, he made an interesting observation: "I understood that to sell a drawing is not to make money, but to be sure that it's in the home of someone who really wants it; someone who would feel bad if they didn't have it. This was interesting." Richard Feynman was a wise man.

Keep on turning,

Charlie

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## 2006 Demonstration Schedule

**March 21 - Drew Shelton** will do his multi-axis candlestick

**April 18 - Charlie Kay** will do his salt shaker

**May 16 - Craig Timmerman** will do a project that he will take to AAW, probably his winged bowl.

**June 20 - TBA**

**July - Bill Hammack** will do his seven piece top

It is time to start making plans to attend the 15th Annual SouthWest Association of Turners (SWAT) Woodturning Symposium, to be held in Temple, Texas, on September 29 and 30 and October 1. This Texas and southwestern tradition is the second largest woodturning symposium in the United States. The symposium is sponsored by the AAW chapters in Texas and Oklahoma, and has drawn 500 plus attendees in each of the last two years. The event this year will be under the leadership of President **Walter Tate** and the Board members representing each of the sponsoring clubs.



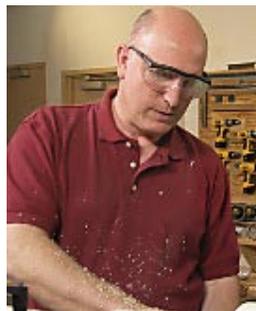
The SWAT Symposium is a great opportunity to try the symposium experience at a significantly lower cost than the AAW national symposium. The national lead demonstrators for 2006 are

**Dave Hout** (metal spinning and basic bowl turning), **Andre Martel** (hook tool and hollow forms), **Andi Wolfe** (pyrography and multi-layer coupling) and **David Nittman** (Native American basket design). Although they haven't been named yet, there will also be a regional lead demonstrator and a large number of regional demonstrators. As with last year, there will also be a separate demonstration room devoted strictly to pen turners.



There will, of course, be an

Instant Gallery and many vendors. The Instant Gallery will give you a chance to show off some of your best work and see what other turners are doing. The vendor's room will give you a chance to get to know the folks that you normally only deal with through their catalogues and web sites. Plus, this is a chance to see and try out (and, yes, buy) some of the toys that you have been wishing for.



Another highlight of the annual SWAT Symposium is the Two-for-One Raffle.

Your raffle tickets go into a bin to be drawn at the banquet on Saturday night for an excellent piece of woodturning art. Winners' tickets then go back into the bin and are eligible to win tools, wood and other goodies at lunch on Sunday. Such a deal!



**Joanie Genender** is hard at work planning another Ladies Program. These activities, including tours, shopping and a Ladies Gallery, have greatly enhanced



the event for the spouses who now have a chance to visit and get to know one another. As she has in the last two years, Joanie is planning a dinner and entertainment for couples on Friday evening.

So start thinking about your plans for the fall and put the SWAT Symposium on your calendar. For further information on the Symposium, go to the SWAT web site, [www.swaturners.org](http://www.swaturners.org).

## CLASSIFIED ADS

*Free personal classified ads are available to all members of CTWA to sell, buy or trade woodworking related items. To place an ad, contact Charlie Kay at 512.295.2144 or via E-mail at [ckay@austin.rr.com](mailto:ckay@austin.rr.com). Ads will be run for two months and then dropped.*

**FOR SALE:** Shop-Vac 16 gallon wet/dry vacuum, 4 peak HP with hose, wand and floor nozzle. Three bags included. Free delivery to club meeting with no taxes and no fuel surcharges. \$35 OBO.

Contact Jim Spano at 512.835.5023 or by E-mail at [jimjoy@austin.rr.com](mailto:jimjoy@austin.rr.com).

**FOR SALE:** TURN BIG STUFF! Tripod style outboard stand for Powermatic lathe. Really heavy duty, tool rest adjusts to work with most large lathes. (I have turned a 6-1/2 foot diameter table top with this stand.) Probably weighs 150 pounds. Like new. First \$250.00 at my shop.

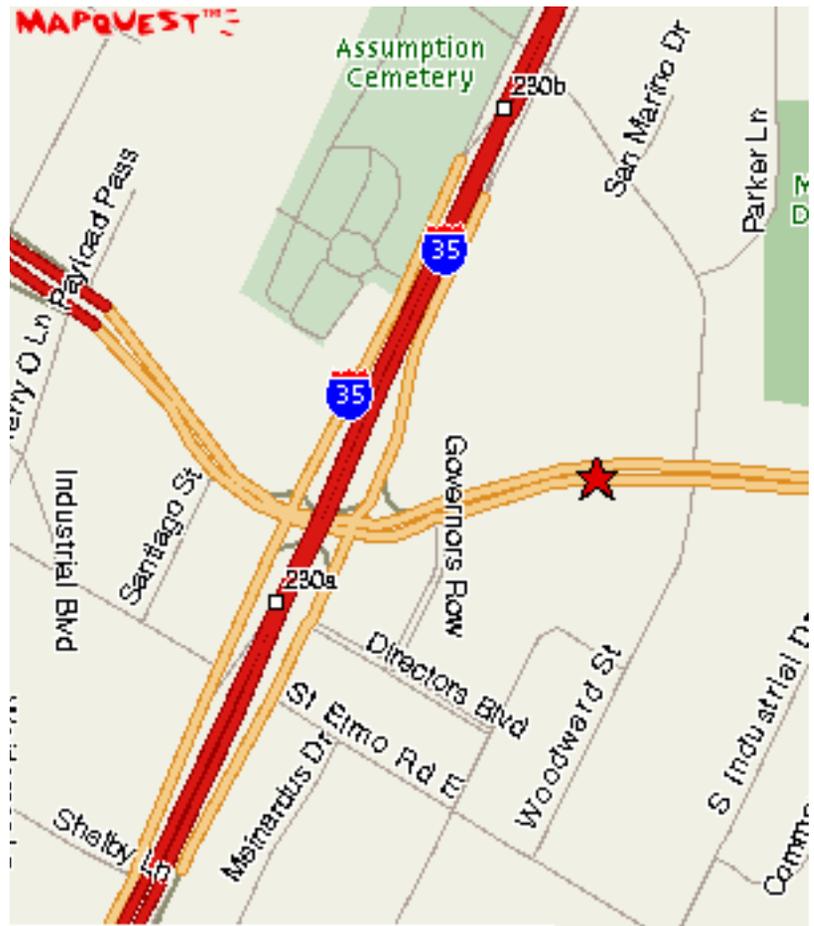
Contact S. Gary Roberts at 512-345-1521 or by E-mail at [Sgicr71@cs.com](mailto:Sgicr71@cs.com).

**FOR SALE:** Johnny Tolly has a pickup topper for sale. It is a white aluminum topper for trucks such as Ford Rangers and other small trucks. It is 87 inches long and 50 inches wide and has three doors one on each side and the back, all with locks. Since it is white, it should go with any color pickup. Price is \$100.00; cost almost \$500.00 new.

Contact Johnny at 512.858.4471 (home) or 512.922.1241 (cell), or by E-mail at [johntolly@austin.rr.com](mailto:johntolly@austin.rr.com).

## Meeting Location

The CTWA meets at American Youth-Works, 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. Because of the construction at Ben White and I-35, folks from the north may want to exit I-35 at Woodward and proceed south on Woodward across Ben White. Folks from the south might do better to go east on St. Elmo, then north on Woodward. Those coming from the west on Ben White will just have to fight their way through until the construction is finished. See you at the meeting.



## THE CHIP PILE

CENTRAL TEXAS WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION  
A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

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To: