



THE CHIP PILE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL TEXAS WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION
AUSTIN, TEXAS

A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

CTWA Meetings

MARCH MEETING

Tuesday, March 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
April will be held on April 1, at Len
Brissette's shop, 10901 Cade Circle,
Austin. See directions on page 4.

will think up appropriate categories, but in addition to the smallest, largest or longest-spinning tops, we should also look for the most original, most artistic and most colorful. A top is something most of us have tried, and this is a great opportunity to do a small, creative project. It should be great fun for all.

Our President-Elect, AKA Vice-President, Drew Shelton has taken on the responsibility for selecting "local demonstrators" for

SWAT this fall. If you would like to demonstrate your specialty, please contact Drew as soon as possible. We have many talented and creative turners in our club. I hope that at least a few take this opportunity to share their art.

If you will remember, last summer a number of us held a workshop for the young ladies at the Settlement Home in Austin. It was such a success that we have been invited to do it again this year. I have not set up a schedule yet, but will do so soon. So, if you can spare a couple of hours during one

week in June or July to teach a small group of high school students, please let me know and I will be sure and include you in the effort.

Finally, one of the ways we raise money for the club is through a periodic wood auction. I would like to hold our next one at our March meeting. Please bring in pieces of wood, which you would like to donate, and we will hold a silent auction to benefit the club treasury.

Hope to see you all at our next meeting on March 21!

Keep the chips flying!

Len

From the President's Shop

Never look back?

First, I want to thank everyone for their understanding about my missing last month's meeting. I won't bore you with the details except to say that, I enjoyed my new-to-me car for almost two months before my latest little accident, and I now look in my rear-view a lot more when slowing down on the interstate.

On another note, we have not had a President's Challenge in a while. One idea, which was suggested to me by a fellow turner, is a top competition. I think this is a wonderful idea.

So, for the May meeting, I would like all participants to bring in their most creative spinning tops. We

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February Demo

How'd he do that?

The inventive and innovative **Jim Spano** was our demonstrator for February, as he showed us how to make his Femispheres. He describes a Femisphere as an object having one side, two edges and four vertices.

There are several options to approaching the project. It can be turned to finished size, then cut in half, or it can be cut in half first, then the two pieces rejoined

either by using a craft paper glue joint or with double stick tape. Jim favors the third option, as the piece is more easily and accurately cut while a square block than after it has been turned. The piece is sawn down the



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CTWA Web Site

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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 or mail them to:

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c/o Charles Kay
100 Matzig Cove
Buda TX 78610-3108

midline with the grain. To assure a good bond, he clamps the two pieces together with the double stick tape using his woodworking vise.

Jim starts with a block that is approxi-



mately one inch longer than the finished diameter of his piece. He rounds the stock between centers



and locates and marks the center of the cylinder with a line. Then he measures the diameter and uses the radius (half the diameter) to lay out two additional lines equidistant from



the center toward each end. The distance between the two end lines must be equal to the diameter. The piece is then parted down to tenons of about 5/8" diameter on each end. For safety's sake, he wraps both tenons and the center line with filament reinforced tape to ensure against the two pieces

coming apart at the double stick tape joint. It is a good idea to check that joint before applying the filament tape, and reclamp the pieces together again if necessary.

Before beginning to turn the finished



piece, Jim uses the radius of the centerline to lay out a quadrant on a piece of card stock and cuts it out to



make a template. He then turns a curve on each side of the center line, using the template as a guide. As the curve continues toward the tenon, the tenon becomes smaller, with the finished diameter equal to the width of the centerline.

When both ends are completed, the piece is sanded completely before it is removed from the lathe, and the tenons removed with a knife or gouge. The two pieces are carefully separated at the tape joint. Jim has found that it helps to use paint thinner to soften the tape for easier separation and removal of the tape residue.

The separated pieces are rotated 90 degrees, glued and clamped. The glued up piece is trimmed with a knife, sanded and finished.

This is a neat project, and makes a nice gift item, as folks are fascinated by them. We expect to see more of them turning up at Show and Tell.

Tell me more...

Like most of us, Jim doesn't claim to have originated this idea, and refers us to the following web sites for more information:

<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/paul.roberts99/index.html>
<http://www.ovwg.org/new-ovwg-site/Techniques/Femisphere.pdf>
<http://www.softcom.net/users/sbmathias/series.htm>

The second site is particularly helpful.

Bring Back Raffle

Jim Brinkman was the winner of a hook tool with a pecan handle made by **Joel Crabbe**. **Larry Walrath** took home a sycamore salt box turned by **Charlie Kay**. **Dave Dick** had the lucky ticket for a box turned from spalted pecan and Texas ebony by **Joel Crabbe**.

As usual, the winners will bring back a turned item to the next meeting. 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.



Show and Tell

Clyde Little brought a salt box turned from mesquite and finished with Hut's.

Curtis Turner showed off a spalted pecan vase finished with wax.

Joe Kirk displayed three Femispheres turned from yellow heart and bubinga and finished with Hut's.

Joe Evans showed a lidded box turned from pecan and left unfinished.

Mack Peterson brought along three pieces: a mesquite egg, a closed form out of ash and mahogany and a piece out of eucalyptus.

Jack Besperka shared two pieces: a decorated plate turned from vera and fin-



ished with wax and textured and bleached bowl turned from cedar elm and finished with liming wax.



Curtis Seebeck brought three pieces: a vase of mesquite finished with satin lacquer, a hackberry bowl finished with epoxy and mescal (Texas mountain laurel) bowl with no finish.



with emu shell mosaic inlays, and a set of three bottle stoppers one each of agarita, cenizo and mescal. All items were finished with Minwax and Beall buffed.



Charlie Kay showed off four items:

a box of purple heart with a tiger maple lid, two Chinaberry boxes with walnut finials, one decorated



Joel Crabbe brought a box turned from mesquite and ebony and finished with friction polish and a vase he called "Mother Lode," turned from a



red oak burl and finished with Deft.



Karl Keip shared a bird house turned from pecan and mesquite and finished with Deft.

It was good to see **Lynn Kramer** back and showing off a plate turned from ash and dyed with red aniline dye as well as an amboyana burl pot. Both were finished with lacquer.



Jimmy Tolly brought along five plates, one each of sycamore, yellow heart, flame oak, machee and teak.

Johnny Tolly showed a pair of figured yellow bowls.



April First Saturday

Our April 1, 2006, First Saturday Shop Crawl will be held at President **Len Brissette's** shop in North Austin. After several events to the south and west, the north Austinites won't have an excuse to miss this event.

This is a good chance to see Len's nice shop and to ponder about what a challenge it must have been to get all the materials back in there to build it. Then there was the challenge of getting the Oneway 2436 down that narrow track as well.

To get to Len's house, take Anderson Mill Road, either from RR 620 or US 183. Turn south on Centennial Trail, go a short block and turn right on Sierra Blanca, go another short block and left on Cade Circle. Len's house is at the end of the cul de sac. A short walk down the driveway and by the pool will take you to the shop.

If you get lost, give Len a call at 258.4004.

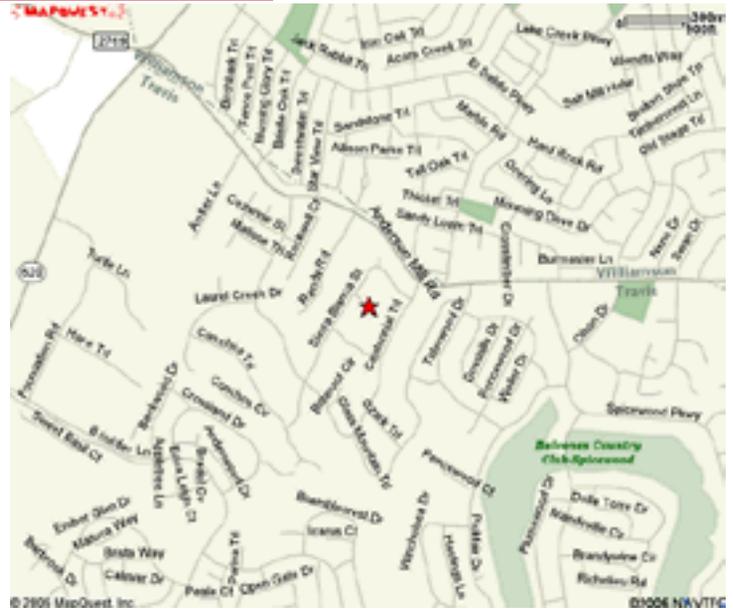
March Program

A Little Askew

Our very own **Drew Shelton** will demonstrate this month at our regular meeting on March 21. Drew will create a multi-axis candlestick. This is a project that Drew learned at SWAT last fall. **Mark Sfirri's** multi-axis candlestick demonstration was one of the crowd's favorites at SWAT, and Drew has successfully developed the necessary skills to create these precarious, odd-

shaped candlesticks. You will really enjoy watching this demonstration. Don't miss it. Thanks to Drew for agreeing to share his talents at the lathe.

Gene Stokes



2006 First Saturday Shop Crawl Schedule

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

Bill Hammack
Stacey Hager
Volunteer Needed
Craig Timmerman
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed

Business Meeting

There were 45 attendees at our February 21, 2006, meeting, including five visitors.

In the absence of Len Brissette, President-Elect **Drew Shelton** presided.

Roger Gardner brought along a salvaged HEPA filter from a computer manufacturing facility. He has a number of others available for \$50 apiece. They should make good dust filters. Contact Roger directly if you want to buy one of these filters.

Drew announced that there will be a silent wood auction at the March meeting.

Cindy Drozda

There is still time to sign up for the two-day **Cindy Drozda** demonstrations in April. 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 ses-



sion on Friday, April 14. Cost for the Hand-On sessions is \$110 per person per day.

Contact **H. O. Evans** to register for these events. Registration for the Saturday and Sunday demos sessions will also be available at the door.



Wood Auction

CTWA is planning one of its periodic silent wood auctions at our March 21 meeting. If you haven't participated before, it works this way. Bring a piece or two of nice wood that you would like to share and put it on the table. There will be bid sheets by each piece of wood. Throughout the meeting, stroll by the wood and put your bid down, and we all settle up at the end of the evening. The proceeds go into the general fund to finish retiring the lathe debt.

It is a good chance to share some interesting wood that you have on hand, take home an interesting piece or two and contribute to the club's finances.

President's Challenge

President **Len Brissette** has issued his first Challenge. He is asking us to bring along a freshly turned top for the May 16 meeting. Although he hasn't made all of the details known yet, he is looking for our most creative spinning tops.

All of the categories have yet to be defined, but will be expected to include in addition to the smallest, largest and longest-spinning tops, such things as most original, most artistic and most colorful.

Most of us have tried tops at one time or another and this is a great opportunity to do a small, creative project.

So put your thinking caps on and bring your best effort to the May meeting.

2006 Dues

If you haven't already paid your CTWA dues for 2006, now is the time to do so. 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.

Sandpaper

Jimmy Tolly has called our attention to a new source of sanding disks. The disks are available Vince's WoodNWonders, 3459 Morgan Trail, Jeffersonville, IN 47130. Phone 812.284.4661 or go to www.vincewoodnwonders.com to order.

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.

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. 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. If you have comments, suggestions or something for the gallery, get in touch with **Webmaster Larry Walrath** at 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.

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.

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

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

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

May 16 - 7:00 to 9:00 AM
CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

June 3 - 9:00 AM to Noon
First Saturday - Stacey Hager's Shop

June 20 - 7:00 to 9:00 AM
CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

Another good crowd of folks made the trek down to south San Marcos on March 4 to visit **Curtis Seebeck's** shop. That even included some folks from the far northern reaches of Williamson County.

Curtis was ready to demonstrate his Timberking bandsaw mill, and **Jerry Whiteaker** took him seriously when he said to bring a log to saw. It took Curtis' Bobcat to get it out of the back of Jerry's pickup. Jerry isn't saying how he got it in there. **Len Brissette** and **Drew Shelton** took home some nice pieces of mesquite, fresh off the saw mill.

We had at least four mini-lathes going. **Frank Miller** was turning a fancy top for a small glass jar. **Charlie Kay** was turning bottle stoppers and coaching others. Several folks were trying their hands at Femispheres and **Jim Spano** talked Charlie out of his lathe to show Jerry Whiteaker how to turn a naked lady.

Meanwhile the rest of the folks were philosophizing and solving the world's problems, or at least swapping lies. Nine of us had an excellent lunch at Rogelio's on the way home



Upcoming Woodturning Symposiums

Southern States Symposium

Gainesville, Georgia
 April 28-30, 2006
www.southernstates.org

Utah Woodturning Symposium

Provo, Utah
 June 15 - 17, 2006
www.utahwoodturning.com

AAW Symposium

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

Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium

Loveland, Colorado
 September 16 - 17
www.rmwoodturningsymposium.com

SouthWest Association of Turners

Temple, Texas
 September 29 & 30, October 1
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

It looks as if the winter that never was is over, and trying to skip directly to summer. The redbuds and mountain laurel are in full bloom and the cedar elms are beginning to leaf out. All of the leaves should be off the live oaks in a week or so, and the new cycle of seasons will have begun. I know, that has already happened in Austin, but we take things a little slower out here.

Despite the change of seasons, one thing hasn't changed and that is the drought. The three species of deerlike animals that plague our place have eaten all of the grass down to bare dirt, and started on trees and shrubs they normally avoid. One of the nice things about living in the country is that you can burn your tree and shrub trimmings, your dead Christmas tree, the boxes your new toys come in and those sections of logs that you never got around to cutting up for turning blanks before they split or began to rot. Not this dry year, though, and that pile is getting pretty big. Now maybe if I just said I had some nice spalted wood to share...nah.

With the Cindy Drozda Hands-On sessions coming up, I am puttering at cleaning up my shop. Some folks think I'm just a good guy for hosting these sorts of sessions. They don't know that it is really to force myself to clean up my mess. I have successfully gotten my wood storage shed pretty well organized and found that I had some nice pieces of wood stored in there that I had long since forgotten about. Plus, you can now walk in there. I've gotten my dust collection ducting pretty well set up finally and now have storage for most of the stuff. That is if you don't count what is sitting on top of the table saw. I'm guessing that about the time I can say I have things like I really want them, Janie will tell me that it is time to move into smaller quarters. Not that

that is likely to happen any time soon, just that it will take me a long time to be done.

I haven't found the time to do as much turning as I would like, having spent way more time than I would like to in front of my computer keyboard. Between the CTWA newsletter and the first issue of this year's SWAT newsletter, I have been pretty busy. In a moment of weakness, I also agreed to do the SWAT brochure this year, so I have started to work on laying that out. The big challenge will come when it is time to print out the mailing labels and stick them on all of the brochures about the end of April. I may be calling on some of you to help with that chore.

Speaking of the SWAT Symposium, as Len pointed out last month, we are again serving as the host club, with help from the Brazos Valley club. Betty Hager has been coerced into chairing that effort, but she is going to need a lot of helpers. So get in touch with Betty and see what you can do to help.

Now I have to wrap this issue up and get ready for our Contested Case Hearing on the air quality permit application for the rock quarry. That hearing gets underway tomorrow and is expected to run for several days. Wish us luck.

Keep on turning,

Charlie

2006 SWAT Symposium

Work is already underway on many fronts to make the 15th annual SWAT Symposium set for Temple



September 29 through October 1. There are quite a number of committees doing all of the behind the scenes work that is necessary to make this event a success. If you can volunteer to help on any of these committees, get in touch with our SWAT Representative, **Johnny Tolly** and let him know that you are available to help.

2006 Demonstration Schedule

March 21 - Drew Shelton will do his multi-axis candlestick
April 18 - Charlie Kay will do his salt box
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

The first issue of the 2006 **SWAT Turnings** newsletter is now available on the SWAT web site, www.swaturners.org. You can go there and read it and download and print it if you would like. It will give you a rundown on plans for the Symposium as well as photos from last year's Symposium. It also lists all of the SWAT Committees and their Chairmen.

If you are interested in being a demonstrator at the Symposium, get in touch with SWAT Demonstrator Selection Committee Chairman **Drew Shelton** to get an application blank and get it back to him. An application is also available in the SWAT newsletter. The deadline for applications is April 1. Drew can be contacted at dcshelton@gmail.com.

So, however you can, get involved and make this year's SWAT another big success. One of the neatest things about SWAT is that it is all a volunteer effort. We do it ourselves.

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

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. 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.

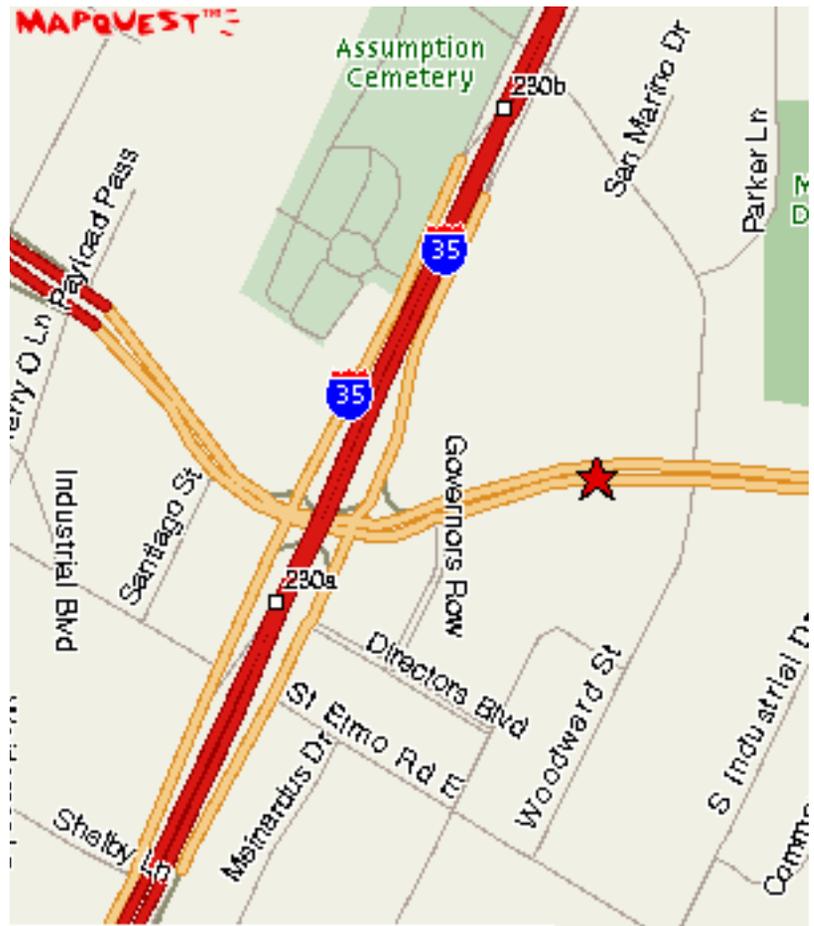
Contact Jim Spano at 512.835.5023 or by E-mail at jimjoy@austin.rr.com.

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.

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.



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