



# The Chip Pile

The Newsletter of the Central Texas Woodturners Association

Austin, Texas

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

CTWA Meetings

## AUGUST MEETING

Tuesday, August 15, 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 September will be held on September 2, at 9:00 AM at Ed Roberts' shop, 3901 Doris Lane, Round Rock

## Opportunity

It seems that just about the time you think things are settling into a regular pattern and everything is under control, a new "opportunity" presents itself. It doesn't really matter what particular aspect of life you're contemplating, little surprises always seem to pop up. I tend to view most of these as part of life's big adventure; just think how boring it would be without these challenges.

A case in point is our meeting time and location. For some time, there has been an undercurrent of dissatisfaction over the travel time required for some of our members to attend the meetings. The biggest source of dissatisfaction seems to be the traffic delays, as opposed to the

actual distance traveled. So, a few of us have been kicking ideas around.

The ideal solution would be a nice, air conditioned facility in central Austin with adequate locked storage for all our stuff. That way, all of our members would be equally inconvenienced with the travel time. However, despite the best efforts of a number of folks over the last seven years or so, we haven't been able to locate such a place. Oh, yeah, did I mention

our weekend events when we have big name turners in town. If someone were to come up with a central location that met all or our criteria as well, then maybe relocation would be worth considering. However, it seems to me that relocating to another edge of Austin doesn't solve the problem. It just changes the folks who are unhappy about the location.

A novel solution that has been proposed is to change the time or our meetings. Several clubs have Saturday meetings, which largely avoids the traffic issue. For me, this suggestion was one of those Ahah! moments. Having Saturday meetings would have several advantages while addressing the travel time concerns for everyone. It would allow us to follow the model used by the Kerrville, Houston and Temple clubs, who all have their business meeting, demos and hands-on "First Saturday"-type meetings all at the same time. (Yes, I know Kerrville meets on a Thursday afternoon/evening, but their meetings are structured quite differently from ours.) And it would let us keep our present excellent meeting facilities.

One downside to this idea is the potential for impacting folks who have other commitments on Saturdays. For those members who have children or grandchildren involved in various activities, this meeting time might force them to make a hard decision about where to spend Saturday mornings once a month. However, this proposal would definitely address the time and traffic concerns with our current situation.

In summary, I am willing to work on this issue in order to come up with an approach which works best for a majority of the members. What I need from you is some thoughtful insight into how to best approach the problem. I appreciate the concerns

see President, page 2

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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 or mail them to:

**The Chip Pile**  
c/o Charles Kay  
100 Matzig Cove  
Buda TX 78610-3108

## President's Shop

about Tuesday evening traffic, and the equity of picking a location, and I am open to constructive suggestions as to how to address this problem. So spend some time thinking about the issue and discussing it with your fellow members and we will take a poll next month to see if there is a consensus as to where we should go from here.

Len

## Spinnin', spinnin', spinnin'...

Our July meeting saw long-time CTWA member and past President **Bill Hammack** demonstrating his seven piece top. The hollow top was inspired by the old-fashioned sheet metal tops with the spiral ratchet drives.

Bill's first challenge was in coming up with a way to drive his top. He came



up with a method of using a nail, a dowel, a piece of PVC pipe and a wooden handle. A string is then used to spin the top. All in all, the drive system contains five pieces.

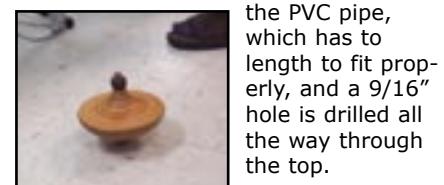
The top itself is a lidded box, consisting of two pieces. Hence, a seven



piece box. Bill glues up layers of hard maple to make the bottom, and fewer layers of your wood of choice. The top and bottom are then hollowed like bowls, with a mortise in the top to accept a tenon in the bottom like a lidded box.

Bill uses a jig to cut a slot in the PVC

pipe. A hardwood dowel is then sized to slide easily inside the PVC pipe. The ball for the top is turned to about 1 1/4" diameter using a short pen mandrel, after first drilling a 1/4" hole in the blank. A short blind hole is drilled in the bottom to accommodate



the PVC pipe, which has to length to fit properly, and a 9/16" hole is drilled all the way through the top.

The outsides of the two pieces of the box are now finished and sanded.

A hole is drilled all the way through the dowel shaft about 1/4" from the bottom end to accommodate a nail that will slide easily in the slot in the PVC pipe. The shaft is marked at its minimum and maximum extensions above the top of the top and a 1/8" hole drilled all the way through for the string. The top of the dowel is then turned down to 1/4" diameter for a length equal to the handle ball plus 1/4".

The PVC pipe is now glued to the top and the drive shaft is inserted and the top and bottom are glued together. Glue the handle on the shaft, get a string and you're ready to start spinning.

## Bring Back Raffle

July was a good month for those purchasing raffle tickets, with six items available. **Joel Crabbe** was the winner of a walnut vase turned by **Bob Hrehor** and finished with Deft. **Stan Spell** took home a Scottish quaich drinking bowl of mesquite and copper, turned by **Joel Crabbe** and finished with wax. **Dave Dick** picked up a mesquite pot turned by **Fred Stidman**. **Marcia Tolly** had the lucky ticket for the pregnant goblet turned from mahogany by **Bill**.



**see Raffle, page 3**

## Raffle

**Hammack** (at least he says he turned it, but it was a big goblet) and finished with Mylands and Deft. **John Thompson**

took home a nice lathe tool tray made of curly maple by **Dave Dick** and finished with Waterlox. In addition, **Jimmy Tolly** won an autographed copy of **Gary Roberts'** book, generously donated by Gary.



As usual, the winners of the turned items 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, get involved and have fun.

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**Joel Crabbe** brought several items, a pendant and earrings of Texas ebony and copper finished with wax and a small vessel called "Curious Geckos" of ash and copper, finished with lacquer and wax.

**James Norton** showed off a box elder and bocote lidded box finished with Deft.

**Bob Duncan** displayed a

Cindy Drozda style triangle box of bubinga, finished with Deft.

**Gary Roberts** also showed several pieces, an elm candle with mulberry sphere and ring, another elm candle on a mahogany base Rude Osolnik's candlesticks with Gary's elm candles.

**Charlie Kay** brought along three Jim Spano style Bic filled pens of various woods, finished with Behlen's Master Gel and Beall buffed.

**Johnny Tolly** showed a pair of mesquite plates with limestone inlays, finished with Mahoney's.



**Jimmy Tolly** shared three small plates, of pecan, afromosa and maple and a bowl of honey locust, all finished with Mahoney's.

**Curtis Seebek** brought four beautiful pens turned from prickly pear skeleton impregnated with dyed epoxy.

**Larry Walrath** showed a soup bowl of cedar elm finished with oil.



## August Program

### Where the tool meets the wood

In response to several requests from members, we have decided to undertake a series of demonstrations centered on basic wood-turning skills and principals. We hope to bring some of our newer members up to speed, as well as providing an opportunity for more experienced turners to re-examine why and how we do some of the things we do. Everyone should pick up some good tips during these sessions.

The first of these demos will focus on the principles and basic techniques for using turning tools. Stacy Hager and I will talk about the "hows and whys" of using various tools. We will talk about taking advantage of the basic structure of wood, what makes a tool cut and how to get the "kindest cut" from each type of tool. With any kind of luck we will even make a few chips fly in the process.

So please come with your questions and comments to make this session as educational and entertaining as possible.

Len

## Business Meeting

We had 34 attendees at our July 18 meeting, including three visitors.

**Len Brissette** gave a report on the AAW Symposium in Louisville.

**Len** reported that we still had a First Saturday opening for September. Contact Len to volunteer.

**Clyde Little** announced that all of the SWAT bowls and weed pots will be displayed in August, and will be judged. If you haven't gotten yours in yet, be sure to bring them to the August meeting.

**Len** announced that Librarian **Betty Hager** had purchased several new DVDs in Louisville. She is proceeding with the project to burn lending copies of VHS tapes to DVD. If you can assist with this project, let Betty know.

On behalf of the club, **Len** presented Charlie Kay with a certificate honoring



him as an Honorary Lifetime Member of CTWA in recognition of his work on the CTWA newsletter.

**Steve Gottlieb** brought us up to date on SWAT. We already have more registrations than we did this time last year. SWAT weekend is also a Baylor football weekend, and it is expected that motel rooms in Temple will be tight, so reserve a room now.

## Cindy Drozda Box Raffle

During her workshops in the spring, Cindy Drozda kindly donated three of her demo pieces to the club to be used as a fund raiser. We have



struggled with the best way to take advantage of her gift while being fair to all the members. After some consideration, we came up with the idea of having a raffle specifically for these items. So, starting with the August meeting, we will sell special raffle tickets for these items. Five-dollar raffle tickets will be available at the meetings, with a drawing to be held at the November meeting.

These boxes are superbly executed, and signed by Cindy. Although they are well sanded, they are not finished to Cindy's usual gallery standards. I



have included photographs of the items, but will bring the actual items to the regular club meetings for your perusal. So, get your tickets for these valuable, finely executed boxes and help raise money for the club.

Len

We have 36 bowls and 14 weed pots and more are coming in. Thanks to all of you for your participation and further consideration.



## SWAT Centerpieces

At the August meeting we will have a contest for the best bowl and best weed pot, within both novice and experienced categories. Silent judging will be by the attendees, based on artistry and workmanship. So bring your bowls and/or weedpots for last minute entries. Prizes will be awarded to the winners. If you still need blanks, contact Clyde Little at 512.413.6931.

## Board Meeting

The CTWA Board met of July 16, prior to the regular monthly meeting.

Len reported that we have about \$1,200 in the treasury. We broke even on the Cindy Drozda sessions, which was our objective. After discussion, it was agreed that we would raffle off the demo boxes that Cindy turned at the weekend sessions with special five dollar tickets.

Board members were reminded that it is time to begin thinking about officer nominees for 2007.

**see Board, page 5**

## Board

Frank Miller has applied for a grant from the AAW to prepare videotapes of long time CTWA members.

Len is to contact YouthWorks to find out when they need our contributions for this year's fund raising auction.

There was a lengthy discussion of meeting place location. There has been grousing among the membership over the distance and time involved in attending the meetings. Short of finding an ideal centrally located facility that meets our needs, location will be a problem, given our spread out membership. It was agreed than one possible alternative might be to change the meeting time.

## Sandpaper Source

A number of you have expressed interest in the foam backed sanding sheets that I had at the July meeting.

The sanding sheets are the Siasoft product, a foam backed padded abrasive available from Vince's WoodNWonders that is very long lasting. Siasoft has a resin on resin adhesive product that provides extra strength to this abrasive.

Siasoft is available in 80,120,180 and 220 grits and costs \$40.00 per 10 yards or \$5.00 per yard for smaller quantities. Vince will ship your products directly to you. A suggestion may be to get with a fellow turner or two and split the cost of a roll for your shop. You may order from [www.VinciesWoodNWonders.com](http://www.VinciesWoodNWonders.com) or 812.284.4661.

Johnny Tolly

## First Saturday - July

On July 8, some 20 folks gathered at **Frank Miller's** shop in northwest Austin to swap lies and do a little turning. **Drew Shelton** brought along the Round Rock donuts and **Jane Miller** provided some extra goodies. **Jim Spano** brought along a new toy that he picked up in Louisville, and talked a good many other folks into trying it. We made a big mess in Frank's nice clean shop, then headed off to Hoover's for lunch without cleaning it up. It was good to see Judy Williams at the First

Saturday event. We hope to see her more frequently than we have of late. Judy could use a ride to the meetings, so if you live close to her, get in touch with her.

A few photos follow.



## First Saturday - August

On August 5, 15 or 20 members headed to southwest Austin to Craig Timmerman's newly cleaned shop. Either Craig had convinced us that it would be too hot to turn, or else we were afraid to make a mess in his new shop. Despite a couple of mini-lathes, no one could be enticed into turning. Craig did a little turning on his Oneway, just to leave some chips lying around. He is doing an interesting variation on his flat vase by using an inlay in the side. Maybe that will be his September demonstration.

When all was said and done in the shop, eight of us headed to the Salt Lick for barbecue. Drew Shelton says that he can't come that far south without going to the Salt Lick.

A few photos follow.



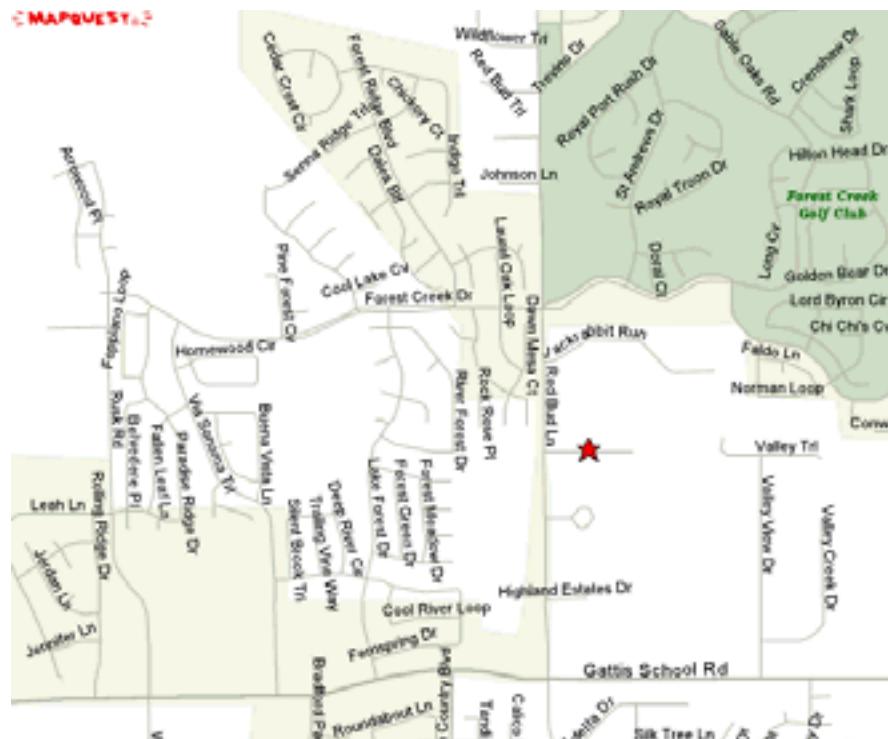
## First Saturday

Our September 2, 2006, First Saturday Shop Crawl will be held at Ed Roberts' shop, 3901 Doris Lane, Round Rock.

Doris Lane can be accessed by going east from I-35 to Red Bud Lane. Take a left on Red Bud Lane to Doris Lane. Take a right on Red Bud Lane and look for 3901. If you get lost, you can call Ed at 512.255.3294.

## 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).



## 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:

**Drew Shelton**  
112 Oakland Drive  
Georgetown, TX 78628  
[dcshelton@gmail.com](mailto:dcshelton@gmail.com)  
512.863.4651

July 8

August 5

September 2

October 7

November 4

December 9 (Christmas Party)

Frank Miller  
Craig Timmerman  
Ed Roberts  
Jerry Whiteaker  
Lynn Kramer  
Charlie & Janie Kay

To volunteer to host a First Saturday Shop Crawl, get in touch with President Len Brissette.

E-mail

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

Photos

Photographs for this month's **CHIP PILE** were provided by **Drew Shelton, Doug Green, Jim Brinkman** and **Charlie Kay**. 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).

CTWA Support -  
ers

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**

## From the Editor's Desk

I don't know about you, but this miserably hot and dry summer has sapped my interest in doing much of anything. Even with an air conditioned shop, I can't talk myself into spending much time out there turning.

I have been working on variations on bangles, and have several good ideas going. I've also spent some time making more pens for gifts.

I've been accepted into the Buda Fine Arts Festival on the weekend after SWAT, so I need to get out and turn a bunch of stuff before then. So far the date is sufficiently far in the future that it hasn't motivated this old procrastinator to get off his butt and get to work.

While it is certainly hot, the drought and dry air have made it very pleasant to sit on the back porch after breakfast every morning to do the papers and the crosswords. Then, in my lassitude, I move to my latest book in the afternoon, and finally make my way out to the shop after supper in the evening.

There is a new short biography out on Francis Crick, the genius who helped figure out the structure of DNA, then figured out the genetic code. If you are at all interested in scientific research and how scientists think, I highly recommend it to you. It is a short book that you can read in a few hours: ***Francis Crick - Discoverer of the Genetic Code***, by Matt Ridley.

In a similar vein, I'm currently about half-way through a very interesting book on how the virologist solved the polio problem and developed vaccines. Fifty years ago, in weather like this, everyone would have been in a near panic about the possibility of a polio epidemic. Though it was never a very common disease, its effects were terrifying. Most of us of a certain age can well remember lining up in the summer heat as the whole community turned out to get their shots of the Salk vaccine.

Now, if I can just hide my books, I can get out and do some turning for a change.

Keep on turning,

Charlie

## 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
Craig Timmerman	512.288.3598

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

H. O. Evans 512.282.2830

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

### LOCKHART/SAN MARCOS

David Dick	512.357.6517
Curtis Seebeck	512.738.0775

## Upcoming Woodturning Symposiums

### Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium

Loveland, Colorado  
September 16 - 17  
[www.rmwoodturningsymposium.com](http://www.rmwoodturningsymposium.com)

### SouthWest Association of Turners

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

By the time you read this, there will be a little over a month and a half before this year's SWAT Symposium in Temple.

Registration is up over the same time last year, boding well for a good turnout of turners. We have more than sixteen vendors definitely lined up for the show, and several others are expected. This includes old favorites as well as some newcomers to SWAT. Start saving your money.

Joanie Genender has put out a panic call for the Ladies Program. She needs 50 ladies to sign up for the tours for them to succeed, and only has 15 at this point. So, guys, if your

wife is coming along and isn't a turner and wants to participate in the Ladies Program, get to the last issue of the SWAT newsletter on [www.swaturner.org](http://www.swaturner.org), and find the Ladies Program. You will also find prices and contact information there. For this event to come off, Joanie needs some more commitments soon.



Speaking of commitments. The SWAT Symposium weekend is also the weekend of a home football game at Baylor. Since there are limited motel rooms in that area, spill over into Temple motels is already occurring. If you haven't already made your room arrangements, you should do so as soon as possible. Information on accommodations is available in your SWAT brochure as well as in the last SWAT newsletter. A new SWAT newsletter should be posted by August 25.

## 2006 Demonstration Schedule

- August 15** - Hager & Brissette - Basic Tool Use
- September 19** - Craig Timmerman
- October 17** - Jack Besperka - The Design Process
- November 21** - Hager & Brissette - Tool Sharpening
- December 9** - Christmas Party

## 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.

**August 15 - 7:00 to 9:00 PM**  
CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

**Sept 2 - 9:00 AM to Noon**  
First Saturday - To Be Announced

**Sept 19 - 7:00 to 9:00 PM**  
CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

**Oct 7, 2006 - 9:00 AM to Noon**  
First Saturday - Jerry Whiteaker's shop

**Oct 17 - 7:00 to 9:00 PM**  
CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

**Nov 4, 2006 - 9:00 AM to Noon**  
First Saturday - Lynn Kramer's shop

**Nov 21 - 7:00 to 9:00 PM**  
CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

**Dec 9, 2006 - 9:00 AM to Noon**  
Christmas Party - The Kays

## 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:** Partially assembled workbench made from 3/4" plywood and 2x4's. Top is assembled as well as two cabinets for drawers. Drawers are cut but not assembled. Could be used with a bench lathe or as a center for other woodworking. Almost FREE. You have to pick it up in North Austin. Contact Judy Williams at 512.836.7897 or by E-mail at [Judy@lace-bobbins.com](mailto:Judy@lace-bobbins.com).

**FOR SALE:** Sears air compressor, Model No. 919.156580. 1 HP 120/240 volt motor (wired for 120), 12 gal tank on wheels, 2 cyl compressor, 100 psi max pressure, 5.8 cfm @ 90psi, 7.0 cfm @ 40psi, pressure regulator. Only used in a home shop. \$30.

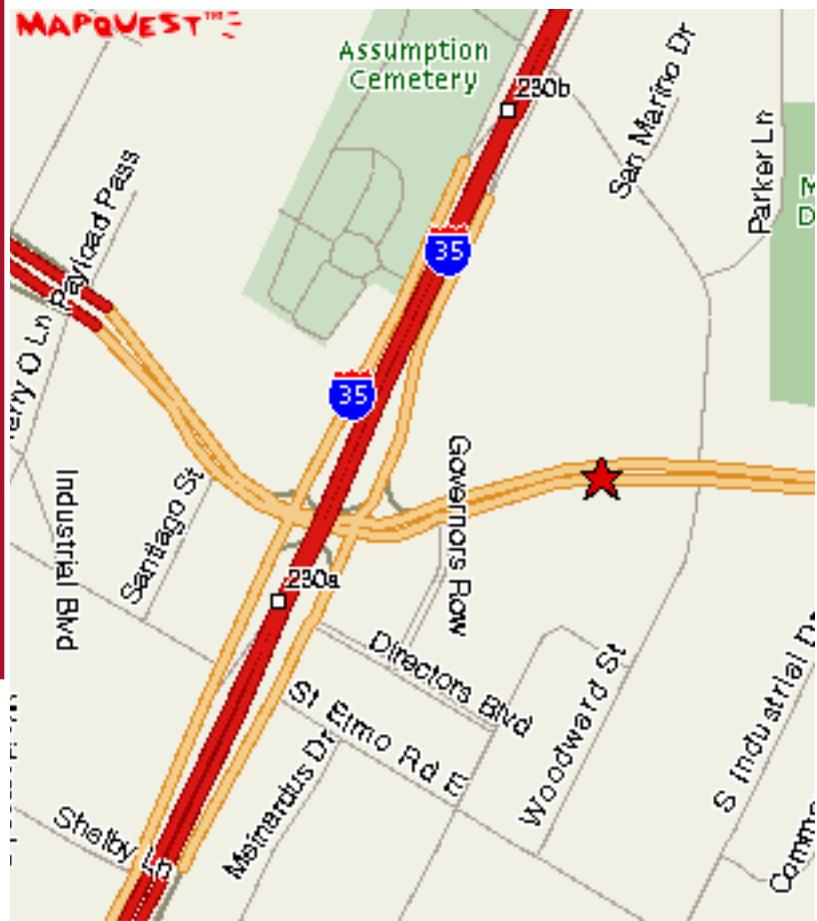
Call Jerry Whiteaker at 512.231.0288 or by E-mail at [wudturner@earthlink.net](mailto:wudturner@earthlink.net).

**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).

## 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. Folks coming from the north may want to exit I-35 at Woodward and proceed south on Woodward across Ben White.



## **The Chip Pile**

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A chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

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