



The Chip Pile

The Newsletter of the Central Texas Woodturners Association

Austin, Texas

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

CTWA Meetings

NOVEMBER MEETING

Tuesday, November 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 January will be held on January 6, at Doug Green's shop, 23800 Colorado Canyon Drive, Marble Falls.

Wood / dust toxicity

I have had a few queries about wood toxicity. Inspired by off-hand comments in demos and discussions at meetings, folks have become more aware of the exposures we encounter in woodturning.

There are, of course, a number of precautions we should all be taking., but dust control is one that often gets overlooked. There are a number of high-quality dust masks on the

market. These are well worth the investment. Dust collection systems go a long way toward reducing the exposure as well. Also don't forget the contact-allergy aspect of some of these woods either.

At any rate, I came across this re-print of an AAW summary, which you might find interesting: <http://www.ovwg.org/New-OVWG-Site/Techniques/toxicitywoodandwooddust.htm>. Although it does not list all of the woods we regularly encounter, it does

Monthly Features

Calendar, page 10
Classified Ads, page 10
Demo Schedule, page 9
First Saturday, page 6
Membership Information, page 10
Shop Crawl Schedule, page 6
This Month's Program, page 5
Volunteer Instructors, page 10

give you a flavor of what to look out for in your turning.

First Saturday volunteers

I am still trying to put together a schedule for next year's First Saturday events. If you would like to host the club's hands-on workshop/social event sometime next year, please contact me so I can put you on the schedule.

If you have not participated in these informal events, I would like to encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to try out new tools, visit members' shops, get some help and guidance from your fellow members, and just socialize with a great group of woodturners. This event is held the first Saturday of each month (except December) and is really a lot of fun!

Christmas party

Our annual Christmas party will be held at Charlie Kay's home again this year. We should all thank Charlie and Janie for hosting this event again. It's become a tradition which I really look forward to each year.

We will pass out a sign-up sheet for the party at the meeting. I'm sure you all will bring your specialties to this potluck dinner.

November Demo

Stacy Hager and I will be facilitating a hands-on sharpening workshop for the November meeting. Gene has put together a description below. I would also encourage you all to bring in your own sharpening set-ups and/or tools you would like help in sharpening.

Cindy Drozda drawing

The drawing for the Cindy Drozda items will be held at the November

see President, page 2

Parting Thoughts...

Since this is my last column as your outgoing president, I thought I'd wrap up a few ongoing items this month.

First, and foremost, I want to say that it has been an interesting and enjoyable experience being club president. There have been challenges. We were able to accomplish a lot with the help of many volunteers. And we have seen a number of new members join the club, due to our exemplary newsletter and community outreach efforts. Thank you all for your participation and interest in the club. I hope it continues to be as active, lively and congenial in the future.

From the President's Shop

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

2006 Officers

President

Len Brissette
512.838.0584
mesquite@austin.rr.net

President Elect

Drew Shelton
512.863.4651
dcshelton@gmail.com

Program Chairman

Gene Stokes
512.255.4869
gstokes1@austin.rr.com

Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Charlie Kay
512.295.2144
ckay@austin.rr.com

Treasurer

Ed Roberts
512.255.3294
eroberts6@juno.com

Membership Chairman

Drew Shelton
512.863.4651
dcshelton@gmail.com

Webmaster

Larry Walrath
512.255.5379
larry@larrywalrath.com

Audio/Visual Coordinator

Frank Miller
512.335.4768
millerstexas@msn.com

Librarian

Betty Hager
512.282.1036
staceyhager@hotmail.com

CTWA Web Site

www.ctwa.org

Editorial Information

This newsletter is by and for members. The Editor welcomes any written materials and will provide assistance with getting your information into publishable form if you want. **DEADLINE IS THE FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH.** Contact me with your ideas and drafts by phone at 512.295.2144, 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

meeting. Tickets are still available at \$5.00. I'm sure some lucky winners will really enjoy these elegant little boxes!

San Antonio Club demo

Stacy Hager and I demonstrated at the October meeting of the San Antonio woodturners' club. We did our "Back to Basics I" demo, and it went over well.

The club is pretty small, but quite enthusiastic. If you ever have a chance to visit, I'm sure you would find their meeting enlightening and enjoyable.

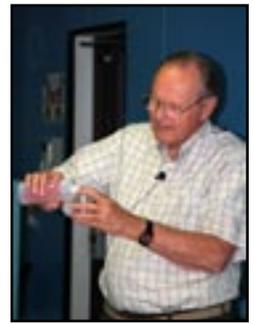
Spring Workshop

Our club has traditionally had a nationally known turner hold demonstrations and workshops in the spring. We have not started working on this year's program yet. If you have any thoughts about whom you would like to see, or if you would like to participate in organizing the workshop, please let me know. These workshops have been very well attended in the past, and they have proven to be educational for all levels of turners.

Keep the Chips Flying,

Len

his surface treatments and decorations. He brought along numerous examples of his work, and told us how he had achieved the effect that he wanted.



His techniques include burning the surface with a torch, sometimes then



turning through the burned surface down into the unburned wood before finishing. He also explained how he



uses automotive lacquer to finish parts of his pieces, again sometimes turn-



ing through the colored lacquer to enhance the effect.

Jack demonstrated how he achieves his partly bleached pieces, using commercial wood bleach. This despite



see Demo, page 3

October Demo

Thoughts on Design

For the last couple of years, **Jack Besperka** has impressed us with his turnings month after month. Jack consistently brings in beautifully shaped bowls and platters. In addition, he has gotten more and more creative with his surface treatments and decorations.

At our October meeting, Jack shared his approach to designing pleasing shapes as well as discussing how he achieves many of



making the non-chemists in the crowd a little leery when he mixed the hydrogen peroxide and the sodium hydroxide solution.

Among the decorative effects Jack is known for are his textured surfaces. He explained how he uses a Dremel tool and an air tool to achieve these effects.

Thanks to Jack for an interesting and informative evening.

Bring Back Raffle

Stacey Hager was the winner of a mini birdhouse and stand turned from oak and mesquite and finished with Deft by **Gary Roberts**. **Ed Roberts** took home a "walking bowl" turned from spalted elm and finished with lacquer and wax by **Joel Crabbe**. **Craig Timmerman** picked up a segmented Christmas ornament turned from maple and cocobolo by **H. O. Evans**.

In addition, **Clyde Little** and **Craig Timmerman** each won a \$15 gift certificate provided by Craft Supplies.

As is the custom, each of the winners of the turned pieces will bring back a turned item to the next meeting. The winners of the gift certificates are not



obligated to bring anything back. 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.

Show and Tell

Jim Spano brought a "box inside a box" turned from maple and walnut and finished with wax and a shop made "round tool" and handle.

Stan Spell showed off three bowls of cedar elm, mesquite and blackjack oak, all finished with Deft.

Ed Roberts displayed an ash vase, finished with lacquer.



James Norton showed a hollow form of spalted elm, finished with Deft.



Doug Green brought along a hostess tray of maple and walnut, finished with friction wax.



Dave Dick showed three finials, in size extremes, of Spanish cedar, bubinga and bocote and a lidded box of satinwood and yellowheart with a blackwood finial, finished with wax.

Bob Waltz shared pieces of mesquite and ash, finished with polyurethane and Mahoney's respectively.

Marcia Tolly brought another of her pyrographic masterpieces, this one entitled "Who?", a platter turned from maple and finished with Deft.

Craig Timmerman showed four pieces he has prepared for an upcoming show of miniatures planned by the gallery that shows his work. These



pieces, entitled "Walking Around" (palo blanco, ziricote and mun ebony, finished with Livos Kunos oil and Deft), "Tripod II" (banksia and spalted hackberry), "Broken Windows" (mesquite and ash finished with Deft) and "Rosebud" (rosewood and mun ebony finished with Deft).



Len Brisette brought a mesquite flute finished with wipe-on polyurethane.

Charlie Kay shared six bottle stoppers of sinker cypress, mountain laurel, manzanita, walnut, Chinaberry



and bois d'arc. All were finished with Behlen's Master Gel and Beall buffed.

see Show, page 4

Show & Tell

David Pugh showed off four more of his beautiful bangle bracelets and a fine segmented pen.



A Competitive Edge

November's program will be different! **Len Brissette** and **Stacey Hager** will team up again, this time to help us hone our sharpening skills. Undoubtedly the biggest obstacle that most woodturners face is the proper use of our tools, and nothing is more important than beginning with razor sharp tools and keeping them sharp throughout any turning project. Len and Stacey plan to share some of their brightest wisdom

on the subject. Various grinders and other sharpening instruments will be set up around the room allowing us the opportunity to "sharpen" our skills using some of their techniques, and with the assistance of other club members. Please bring some of your own tools to the meeting. This will be an excellent time for you to dust off some of your gouges, skewers and other tools that just never seem to have that keen edge that you would like for them to have. You may be pleasantly surprised what a difference it can make once a tool is properly sharpened.

Gene Stokes

We had 46 attendees at our October 19 meeting, with no visitors.

Len opened the Business Meeting by thanking everyone from CTWA that had helped out in making SWAT XV a big success. Special thanks were offered to **Betty Hager** for organizing all of us.

Drew Shelton explained the new Dues paying rules and offered to assist any that don't have computer access in paying their AAW dues on line.



Johnny Tolly, as our SWAT Board member, asked our assent in welcom-

ing the newly formed club in Amarillo into SWAT. Consent was unanimous.

Len reminded us that we will hold our election for 2007 officers at the November meeting. We have volunteers for every position now.

Once again, it is time for us to be electing the folks who will lead our club over the next year. We will be nominating folks at our October meeting, then elect them at our November meeting, as we have no meeting in December.

President Elect Drew Shelton will automatically move up to become **President**. In addition, we now have volunteers confirmed to fill most of the offices. The following

have agreed to be nominated for open offices:

President Elect - Craig Timmerman
M'bership Chairman - Clyde Little
Program Chairman - Gene Stokes
Librarian - Betty Hager
Secretary/Editor - Charlie Kay
Ed Roberts - Treasurer
Frank Miller - A/V Coordinator.

It will still be in order to nominate people at the meeting. However, if you choose to nominate someone you should have talked to anyone that you propose to nominate to be sure that they are agreeable to being nominated.

We are now actively collecting dues for 2007. Since the AAW is having a drawing for a Powermatic lathe as an incentive to renew online, we're focusing on collecting just the \$25 local dues for 2007. Anyone who doesn't want to renew their AAW membership online can still pay us the additional \$40 AAW dues (\$45 for family) and we will pass it along as we always have in the past.

You can pay me at the November meeting or mail a check to:

Drew Shelton
112 Oakland Drive
Georgetown, TX 78628

If you choose to pay your dues on line, go to the AAW web site, www.woodturner.org. If you have lost the user ID, you can get a new one by clicking

on Password Retrieval at the top of the home page.

I'll turn over the club's membership materials to the 2007 Membership Chairman, Clyde Little, in December.

Drew Shelton

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. At our August meeting, we began selling special raffle tickets for these items. These five-dollar raffle tickets will continue to be sold at the November meeting, followed by a drawing to see who the lucky winners are.

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

These three items will be available for viewing at the meeting. So, get your



tickets for these valuable, finely done boxes and help raise money for our club.

All four of the **Tollys, Jimmy, Deborah, Marcia** and **Johnny**, traveled to Greenville, Texas, where Johnny presented the program for the Hunt County Woodturners Club on November 9.

Johnny demonstrated the use of the Hamlet deep hollowing tools, the Big Brother and the Little Brother.

Johnny included the use of his shop made captured tool post and the new tool post now offered by Craft Supplies. Johnny showed how to use the tools to rapidly remove wood for bowl preparation, both on the outside then the inside. He then demonstrated how to use the tools to hollow out a couple of vases. One had been prepped with three

see Tolly, page 6

Tolly Travels

sides cut away which allowed the audience to see the cutter in action as wood was being removed from the inside of the hollow form. There were over 40 people in attendance and all seemed to have a good time and several indicated that they wanted to move up to hollowing.

One highlight of the visit was meeting President Clyde Marks. We did not know that he was the person who won



the "Illusions" bowl that Marcia and I turned and donated to SWAT. What a surprise for us to see the bowl there. The trip was great and the Tollys got back home about 2 AM.

Johnny Tolly

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. 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.

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**

First Saturday

Our January 6 First Saturday Shop Crawl will be held at **Doug Green's** shop, 23800 Colorado Canyon Drive, Marble Falls.

Doug offers the following directions to his place:

From the intersection of US 183 and FM 1431, go west 11.2 miles to the stop light in Lago Vista. Continue 6.2 miles past the light and turn left on Singleton Bend (the first paved left you come to). Go 2.5 miles and turn left (the first left you come to) on Singleton Bend EAST. Go two miles, and turn right on Brasada, into Chimney Oaks. Enter the gate code, 1347, on the key pad and the gate will open. Go one mile, and take the first right, onto Colorado Canyon Drive. Our lot is the corner on the right. Go past the first driveway (dirt) and go to the second driveway (gravel) marked with the address 23800 (the address is inside a large hole in a large rock), the house/shop is about 600 feet down the drive, park anywhere. Our phone number is 512.267.6007 if you get lost.

Although our address is Marble Falls, we are not in Marble Falls, but are just past Lago Vista. Our address does not come up on Mapquest. However, I do have a map that I can fax to you. Call me at 512.267.6009 and I will fax you a copy of the hand drawn map.

2007 First Saturday Shop Crawl Schedule

December 9, 2006 (Christmas Party)	Charlie & Janie Kay
January 6	Doug Green
February 3	Volunteer Needed
March 3	Volunteer Needed
April 7	Volunteer Needed
May 5	Volunteer Needed
June 2	Volunteer Needed
July 7	Volunteer Needed
August 4	Volunteer Needed
September 1	Volunteer Needed
October 6	Volunteer Needed
November 3	Volunteer Needed
December 8 (Christmas Party)	Volunteer Needed

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

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 **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.

SWAT Advertising

SWAT would like to begin an aggressive advertising campaign for their 2007 Symposium. They are looking for someone with working knowledge or business experience in the advertising industry. If you have such experience and would be willing to help with the campaign and want to volunteer or have any questions, you can contact SWAT President Walter Tate at:

Walter.tate@sbcglobal.net

Home: 903.534.8808
Cell: 903.520.1492

First Saturday - November

About a dozen of us made the journey out to Lockhart and **Lynn Kramer's** for the November First Saturday get together. **Frank Miller** was showing folks how to use a skew, only to be challenged by **Dave Dick**, **Stacey Hager** and **Jim Spano**, all of whom had differing opinions on which skew to use, which way to grind it and how to use it. Dave was also showing off a specially sharpened gouge he seems to think is the answer to a prayer. **Jack Besperka** brought a long a big glued up walnut slab, to take advantage of Lynn's wide belt sander. Dave Dick also demonstrated making a barley twist on Lynn's special machine. All of this was topped off by some good Lockhart barbecue there in the shop.



Youthworks Auction

With short notice from American YouthWorks, we still managed to get a number of pieces donated for the annual Help Clifford Help Kids fund raising auction. Your scribe failed to get the names of those making donations, and the photos may or may not represent all of the donations. At any rate, thanks to all who contributed to the effort.



Several people have expressed interest in the glossy finish I put on some of my turnings. It is not a difficult finish to do, can be done rather quickly, and is suitable mainly for turnings that will be displayed or not used a lot. I don't use it on salad bowls or something of that nature. I use clear gloss Deft which is a brushable lacquer. Semigloss Deft could be used but will be slightly cloudy (barely noticeable) as compared to the gloss Deft after curing.

If you decide after doing this that the finish is too glossy, the gloss can be reduced with a fine steel wool.

Having stated that it is a brushable lacquer, it can also be sprayed, and is available in spray cans. I usually spray it using a small gravity feed gun although any good spray gun is okay. Some of the advantages of lacquer are that it does not skim over in the can, can be left in a spray gun for a few days without clogging the gun, cleans up easily with lacquer thinner and has excellent clarity, depth and rubbing properties. The disadvantages of lacquer are primarily health and environmental concerns, in that the solvent is toxic, flammable and air polluting in the uncured state. It is only moderately resistant to heat, wear, water and solvents. Proper ventilation and use of an organic-vapor respirator is a necessity as lacquer thinner can damage your nervous system, liver and kidneys. Deft and other lacquers are evaporative finishes. When the thinner has evaporated the finish is cured.

I usually apply the finish while the turning is still on the lathe, letting the lathe do the work. Sand your turning to 220 grit or finer removing all rough spots, grooves, etc. At this point you can wet the wood with mineral spirits if desired. This will help reveal any defects that might show up after the finish is applied and also give an indication of the color of the finished piece. After allowing the mineral spirits to evaporate, either apply a coat of Deft sanding sealer or a coat of thinned Deft. When dry, sand lightly with 220 grit or higher paper as described below. Next apply a coat of unthinned Deft, either with a brush or spray gun. Try to get it as heavy as possible without a sag or run. If using a brush there is a fine point between keeping the brush loaded but not overloaded, try not to go back over the area that you have already done. It's just trial and error learning the technique. Deft has good self-leveling properties, properly applied. Avoid runs even if it means adding more

coats. If you have a variable speed lathe that will run very slowly, doing that will help avoid runs. I run my lathe very slowly when spraying and until the finish is tacky enough not to run, usually about 10 minutes. If you do get a run you might be able to remove it by brushing or spraying with lacquer thinner, otherwise you can remove it by sanding. Deft or other lacquers can be applied without sanding between coats. Additional coats blend with previous coats and leave no line between coats after sanding. I usually sand at least a little between coats, which helps in seeing missed areas when applying the next coat. One hour between coats is usually adequate drying time.

Here is how I sand Deft (400 grit is usually about the correct grade; use a coarser grade if needed to remove a run or sag then come back to 400 grit). I have a plastic squeeze bottle containing mineral spirits that I use to wet my sandpaper. I keep it less than half full, so that if it gets knocked over, it doesn't spill. I also use a paper towel (kitchen paper, if you are British) that I keep wet with mineral spirits. Put on disposable gloves, and with the lathe running slowly hold the wet/dry type sandpaper in one hand and the wet paper towel in the other, so that the area you are working on will stay lubricated. You do this until the desired smoothness is achieved. It may seem strange to use mineral spirits instead of mineral oil, but should you sand through to the wood, spirits will evaporate, but the oil will not. Oil is also incompatible with lacquer, according to Flexner (see below). Mineral spirits softens Deft slightly, but once it evaporates, the finish will return to its approximate original hardness. You will find that a layer of sludge will build up on the sandpaper, but it can be washed off with mineral spirits. A small bowl with spirits could be kept nearby to rinse the sandpaper or just to catch the drips. Mineral spirits are flammable, so be careful with lamps, etc. When you are satisfied that the surface of the finish is smooth and that enough coats have been applied, wipe with a clean paper towel wet with spirits, then dry with a paper towel. Paper towels are preferred over cloth rags because of safety. A rag caught on a turning can cause an accident; a paper towel doesn't have the strength to do that. If your lathe will not run slowly enough to keep from slinging off the mineral spirits, you will just have to do it by hand. You may also want to hand sand near the center of a bowl or center of the turning anyway.

At this point the finish can be brought to a higher gloss by using pumice

sprinkled on a paper towel dampened with mineral spirits. As a final step do the same thing using rottenstone, which is finer than pumice. Remove any traces of pumice before proceeding to rottenstone. Paper towels, on their own, seem to be slightly abrasive. The above process is really just finishing the finish and it might be adaptable to other finishes, but I haven't tried it. It works for me and is fairly fast and easy, and that is why I like it.

My favorite book about finishes is ***Understanding Wood Finishing*** by Bob Flexner. His book doesn't say much about turning, but it does cover finishes in a way that anyone can understand. Pumice is available in two grades. I don't know the grade I have, but suspect that it is the finer grade. Pumice and rottenstone are usually sold in one pound containers for about \$6.50. One pound is all that most turners will ever need. Woodcraft and others list it in their catalogs. I'm not sure if Woodcraft has it in the Austin store.

Jerry Whiteaker

CTWA Christmas Party

As is customary, there will be no regular meeting in December, nor will there be a First Saturday. The CTWA Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 9 at the Kay's home. As usual, the club will provide the meat, the drinks and the utensils, etc. You will need to plan to bring a covered dish to go with turkey and ham. A sign-up sheet will be provided at the November meeting.

The Kays are located at 100 Matzig Cove, west of Buda on RR 967. The Ruby Ranch subdivision is located about half-way between Buda and the Salt Lick Barbecue on RR 1826. You can get to RR 967 from I-35 by taking the Buda Main Street exit and turning west on RR 967 at the traffic light. Alternatively, you can get there from FM 1626 by following either Brodie Lane or Manchaca Road to their southern ends, then following FM 1626 south until it intersects RR 967. From the RR 967/FM 1626 intersection at a traffic light, proceed west for 2.5 miles and turn left on Ruby Ranch Road. From RR 1826, turn east on RR 967 just before the Salt Lick and go about six miles and turn right on Ruby Ranch Road. You will go 0.5 miles on Ruby

see Christmas, page 9

Christmas Party

Ranch Road and take the second left on Matzig Cove. It will be the first house on the right. If you are hopelessly lost, call 512.295.2144.

Bring your lathe and some wood if you would like. I have two lathes, but there should be room for several more if you want to bring your own. We have a circular drive. If you are bringing a lathe, go to the second driveway entrance and follow the "rut road" around to the shop. If you aren't bringing a lathe, plan to turn in the first entrance and park.

Newsletter Holiday

This is a reminder that, as is the custom, there will be no **Chip Pile** in December. That is when, as Click and Clack say about the weekly Puzzler, the **Chip Pile** goes on vacation. So, you will need to save this issue to keep up with the timing of events in January. I was assured when I took on this job in 2000 that this was a long tradition, and I have been sure to keep it alive. If you have items that you want included in the January issue, you can go ahead and send them whenever you like, and I will hang onto them until I undertake the January issue.

Charlie Kay

From the Editor's Desk

As another year draws to a close, we all begin to reflect on what has passed and what is still to come. The older we get, we begin to understand that there is far more of the former than the latter. I have never been much of one to dwell on birthday milestones. Just because it is divisible by five doesn't automatically make it a bigger deal. However, when I got my Medicare papers from the Social Security Administration last summer, I decided that maybe this birthday divisible by five might actually be a bigger deal. However did I get to be this old?

The older I get, the more I find myself drawn into reading, and spending less time on my other major interests, including turning. It isn't that I have less interest in the other things, it's just that I have so many things that I would like to

Demonstration Schedule

November 21
December 9
January 16
February 20
March 20

Hager & Brissette - Tool Sharpening
Christmas Party
To be announced
To be announced
To be announced

If you are interested in being a Demonstrator at one of our meetings, or want to suggest a demonstrator, get in touch with Program Chairman Gene Stokes.

know more about. All this reading is also one of the reasons I have begun to be almost chronically late getting the monthly newsletter out. I just can't put my book down!

If you, like me, were drawn to wood-working and woodturning as much by the beauty and mystery of wood and the trees it comes from, I would like to commend to you one of the books that I read last week. It is **The Tree**, by Colin Tudge. Subtitled "A Natural History of What Trees Are, How They Live, and Why They Matter," it is a well-written and engrossing discussion of what a tree is, how they evolved, how they have solved different problems in different ways and what the trade-offs are for taking a given evolutionary approach to solving a problem as opposed to other approaches. He starts with a provocative definition, "A tree is a big plant with a stick up the middle," and proceeds to show how many ways an organism can meet that definition. You end up with a great understanding what great architectural and engineering wonders these organisms are.

This week I am back on history, my favorite topic, with Niall Ferguson's **The War of the World: Twentieth-Century Conflict and the Descent of the West**. The writing is first rate, and he is taking a different point of view than I have seen before in looking at the causes and effects of the almost ceaseless conflict and blood-letting that made up the twentieth century. I am looking forward to his insights. Now I have to finish this issue and get back to the book. At 650 pages or so, this one may take me more than a week to make my way through it.

As always in the November issue, it is time to thank all of the folks who make my job easier in turning out these scribblings month after month. I greatly enjoy doing this, but sometimes the muse isn't as effective as others. Many of you have contributed written pieces and photographs to enrich the publication, and I thank you for your efforts. I should name

you all, but I won't take the time to go through all of the back issues to see who you all are, so you will just have to settle for a general and heartfelt Thank You. Examples this month include the article on finishing by Jerry Whiteaker and input from Johnny Tolly (a regular contributor).

Special thanks are due to several people, without whom no issue would be complete. **President Len Brissette** has been faithful in getting his column to me every month. That is pretty much the piece that I build the rest of the issue around each month. **Gene Stokes** has promptly provided me with the write-up for the upcoming demonstration each month. Many, many thanks to **Drew Shelton** for faithfully providing me with photographs of both the regular meetings and the First Saturday events. They are invaluable to making this newsletter as effective as it is. With Drew's new responsibilities as next year's President, we may have to recruit a back-up photographer for 2007!

Finally, thanks to all of you who have supported and encouraged me over the years. Winning the AAW Newsletter competition for our club would not have been possible without the help of all of you. I'm looking forward next year and the challenges of trying to make this publication interesting and readable for another year.

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

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.

To learn more about membership or want to join CTWA, contact our Membership Chairman:

Drew Shelton
112 Oakland Drive
Georgetown, TX 78628
dcshelton@gmail.com
512.863.4651

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.

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

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

Jan 6, 2007 - 9:00 AM to Noon
First Saturday - Doug Green's Shop

Jan 16, 2007 - 7:00 to 9:00 PM
CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

Feb 3, 2007 - 9:00 AM to Noon
First Saturday - To Be Announced

Feb 20, 2007 - 7:00 to 9:00 PM
CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

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.

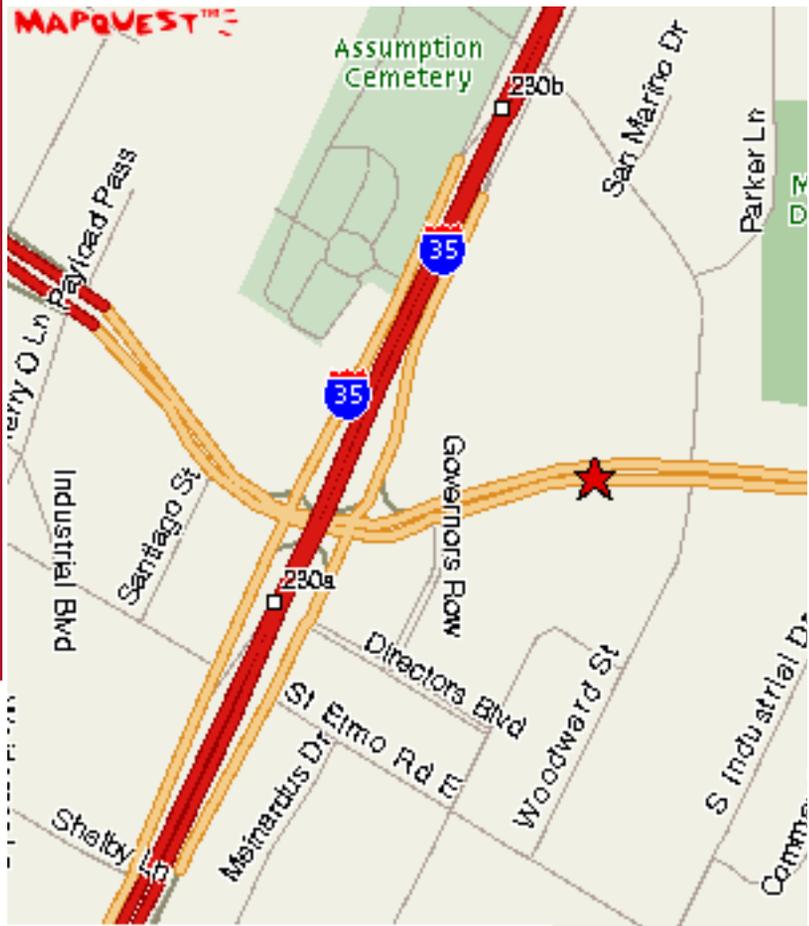
FOR SALE: Partially assembled workbench made from 3/4" plywood and 2x4's. Top is assembled as well as two cabinets for drawers. Drawers are cut but not assembled. Could be used with a bench lathe or as a center for other woodworking. Almost FREE. You have to pick it up in North Austin. Contact Judy Williams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

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



The Chip Pile
Central Texas Woodturners Association
A chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

Charles Kay, Editor
100 Matzig Cove
Buda, TX 78610-3108

To: