



The Chip Pile



The Newsletter of the Central Texas Woodturners Association

Austin, Texas

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

February 17, 2015 Meeting

Jim Spano & Stacey Hager

Tops

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)

Joe Herrmann, Brian McEvoy, Kurt Hertzog, Rex Burningham, Malcolm Tibbetts, Derek Weidman, Dick Gerard, and Ed Kelle.

If you want to know more about what they will be demonstrating, I invite you to go to <http://www.swaturners.org/demonstrators/lead>

I'm looking forward to seeing them in action. Registration will open March 2015 via the Web Site. SWAT has high expectations for 2015 and expect more than 1000 attendees. So attending should be a lot of fun.

The 2016 symposium will be SWAT's 25th anniversary so they plan to ask the originators of the symposium to attend and be demonstrators.

SWAT is now accepting applications for Regional Turners. You can go to the SWAT website, or the CTWA website for the form. The regional demonstrators are a key highlight of SWAT. We have several excellent turners in our club, so I hope to see some of our member's names on the Regional Demonstrator list!

I hope you are working on the February's **Presidents Challenge**, this month's project is to use color. We will have three judges and the top two winners will get a prize. April's **President's Challenge** will be to use Mesquite in your project.

Since our January meeting, I have been learning how to weld—so that I can get my barn finished. Unfortunately

this didn't leave a lot of time for turning. I hope things are better for you.

God bless,
Jay Littlefield

March 7th 1st Saturday

9 am - 12 pm

Location: TBD

If you need help sharpening tools, bring them!

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President's Shop

In the January meeting we had 80 turners attend including 5 visitors. **Len Brissette** gave a great demo on Bowl Turning.

Our Presenters this month will be **Jim Spano & Stacey Hager** doing tops, next month will be Johnny Tolly on D-Way tools. Please thank **Drew Shelton** for agreeing to continue on as our

Program Chair this year.

Pat Little and I attended the SWAT director's meeting a couple of weeks ago. This was the first time I have attended. I learned a lot about the inner workings of the SWAT symposium.

They did announce the Lead Demonstrators for SWAT 2015:

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.

January Demonstration
Len Brissette
Bowl Turning Tips

Len Brissette, one of CTWA's professional turners provided a demonstration of bowl turning that was great for beginners and experienced turners. First he talked about how to cut the



log for a bowl. Then he talked about how to secure the wood on the lathe using a wood screw, and various ways to secure the wood with the tail stock. Rather than risking an unsecure tail stock, he uses a claw hammer to take away enough of the bark so the tail stock goes into the wood, thus securing the piece. Prior to mounting the wood, he looks at the piece to determine the optimal features of the wood. If he has an especially large piece of wood, he will use a faceplate to hold it, rather than the wood screw.



He cleans up the bottom and turns a dove-tail tenon. At this point, he reverses the wood and secures it on a chuck.

Keeping Austin Turning Since 1988



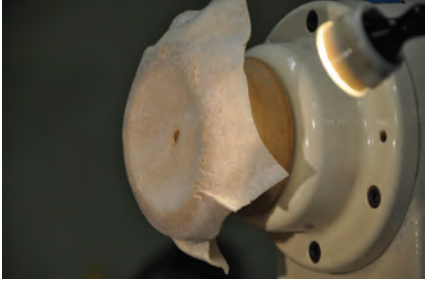
This wood was very green, so he will rough finish it, then put it into his drying system: an old freezer with a hole and a light bulb. He says it will be ready to turn in about 2 weeks. The trick to hollowing out the inside of the bowl is to keep the tail stock up as long as possible. He discussed the option of using a bowl burrow to cut new bowls from the center, rather than just hollowing out the bowl.

Once the bowl is hollowed to the point where the gouge no longer is cutting



on the bevel, he twists the center cone off, removes the tail stock and finishes hollowing evenly.

After the wood is dried and he finishes the bowl, he removes the tenon and finishes the bottom. He mounts inside of the bowl using a padded jig.



CTWA appreciates Len sharing his secrets and tips for bowl making. It was an excellent demonstration.

Editor's "Turn"

For years Steve has used this really, really loud tool to create an orange peel effect on some of his turnings. I have no idea what the tool's proper name is, but I know it's intended to remove rust from metal.

I decided to try to turn something that I had never tried before—a hollow form bowl, with a finial top. I had two problems, first the hollow bowl looked like, well, like a little old man holding his shoulders up to his ears. Not a nice shape at all. So, I started bringing the shoulders of the piece down. I'm still not happy with the shoulders and curve, but I decided heck, this is the first time I've ever tried anything like this so I left it alone.

Then as I was sanding it, I saw that I had tear out in the end grain of the bowl. For any of you that have ever had this problem, it's not good. Almost never can you sand it enough to remove all the tear out. Any finish that goes on it will highlight the error.

I consulted my local expert (husband, Steve) and he said, "Yeah that happens to me, too. That's when I orange peel my finish."

Well I'll be darned. Who knew? So he handed me the pneumatic tool that removes rust and said, "Be sure to wear your ear protection."

I was petrified. First, the darn thing is so loud I figured it was going to be like holding a jackhammer. Second, the pins rattle around as if they will fall out at any minute. So, Steve said, "Gently hold the pins together with your fingers and move it around the piece."

Hold the pins? You have got to be kidding! If it can remove rust, what the heck is it going to do to my hands? He just smiled and walked back over to his own lathe.

I stared at the rust remover in my hand. I pulled the trigger and the darn thing started shaking and pounding. I dang-near dropped it.

Immediately it stopped. I knew I was going to die with this mean, old tool in my hand.

I looked over at Steve and yelled (he has his ear protection in, too) "Can you just show me how to get started?"

Wives rarely ask for what they really want, have you noticed that? What I really wanted was for him to just finish the piece for me.

He looked at me and mouthed: "I did."

Great response, Steve, grr.

I gave him the sarcastic look that all husbands recognize. It is the look that conveys, "I really wish you would not be such a jerk." You know it, you've seen it on your wives' faces.

He turned off his lathe and walked over, took the tool from my hand and started it up. Of course he did it just as he had explained to me. I'm not sure why I thought I would see something different. Then, he says, "Man up, and do it."

Man up? Man up? Well, he did have a point, I was acting like a little, whiney, teenaged girl.

So I grabbed it, put my fingers around the pins and fired it up. To my ever loving surprise it was gently moving with great vibration, but certainly nothing that would tear off my hand or fingers.

I then started working on the hollow form creating the coolest orange peel pattern. Gone was any evidence of my end grain tear-out! Wohoo!

I'm sure I will never understand how such a gentle motion can remove rust, but I was impressed at how easy it was to create this effect on the wood.

So, the next time I ask for help, I'll man up before I whine. And—I'll try to fail before I admit I can't do it.

Oh yeah, and I think I'll work on losing the "I wish you weren't such a jerk"-look. I'm really very lucky to have a talented husband willing to share his secrets.

Keep turnin' it on,
Hilda Carpenter
Editor

1st Saturday Lessons

From **Johnny Tolly**:

If you missed some of the first Saturdays as I have, you missed out on a lot of good ideas. Case in point **Stacey Hager** brought to our attention a very neat idea. Should your banjo seem to stick on the ways, his ingenious solution is to place an expansion spring on the banjo bolt between the banjo and the locking plate. I'm here to tell you that I went and purchased a couple springs for both of my Oneway lathes. Now the banjo moves much smoother. You may want to check the size of the bolt for your lathe before blasting out to the hardware store so you will get the correct size spring. Mine took a 1 inch X 1/2 inch Id spring.

Program Chair Update

Do you enjoy the demonstrations each month? We do too! Please be sure to thank **Drew Shelton** (he's the one with the camera up front) for standing in another year! We will need someone to take this role next year, so please be thinking about it! If you have ideas for demonstrations, please send those along to Drew.

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

Our president has invited the members to participate in a challenge using COLOR this month! Be sure to bring your entries, there will be 3 judges and a prize for the winner!

Photos

Photographs for this month's **Chip Pile** were provided by **Drew Shelton**. If you have digital photos that you would like to have considered for use in the newsletter. Send them to the Editor at hildac@mac.com.

Upcoming Demo's & Classes

February: **Jim Spano & Stacey Hager**, Tops

March: **Johnny Tolly**, D-Way Tools

April: **Hilda Carpenter**: Tips & short-cuts on Drozda finials

2015 Demonstrator: **Jimmy Clews**

Volunteer Instructors

SOUTH

Stacey Hager 512.282.1036
basics, spindles, sharpening, hollow vessels

Johnny Tolly 512.858.4471
basics, open segmented

Jimmy Tolly 512.894.0686
basics, platters

Craig Timmerman 512.288.3598
basics, square turning, hollow vessels

Charlie Kay ckayda@gmail.com
boxes & bottle stoppers
512.636.3492

H. O. Evans 512.282.2830
segmented turnings

Hilda Carpenter 512-395-7782
Airbrushing, tool handles, bowls,
Drozda finials, sea urchin ornaments, bottlestoppers

Jack Besperka 512.261.4682
decoration & finishing

NORTH

Jim Spano 512.835.5023
novelty items, tops, shop gadgets

Len Brissette 512.258.4004
bowls, platters, sharpening

ROUND ROCK/ GEORGETOWN

Ed Roberts 512.255.3294
basics platters

Drew Shelton 512-863-4651

LOCKHART/SAN MARCOS

David Dick 512.357.6517
basics, spindles, architectural

Members In the News

Steve Green will be participating in the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Artisan and Arts annual show. Come out and enjoy the Texas wildflowers and some amazing artists. March 14-15. Next Steve will participate in the Wimberley Blue Hole Art show April 18-19, then the Artwalk in Lafayette on May 2-3 and finally the Kerville Art festival May 23-24.

If you are participating in an art show, or demonstrating for another club or symposia please let the editor know so she can include your events in the Newsletter.

Volunteer Your Shop for First Saturday!

1. It doesn't need to be fancy, or big.
2. We'll bring the lathes.
3. You make the coffee.
4. Drew Shelton brings the donuts and asks for a contributions for all the folks who show up to offset his costs.
5. Have enough room for at least 1-2 turners (easy in the summer).
6. Let Len Brissette lbrissette@austin.rr.com know! Or email the editor.

Business Meeting

Jay Littlefield opened the meeting by welcoming visitors: **Greg Christofferson, Bryant Mitol, Branton Davis, Mike MacMillan and Micha Rodriguez.**

Vaden Mohrmann then announced the decision to move the website to a new hosting site. The members followed the Board's recommendation by approving the expense \$190 for a 3 year contract.

Blair Feller announced that he collected an additional 23 member's dues tonight. If you have not paid, your membership is cancelled. If your membership is current and want a name tag, see Blair to pay the \$5 for the tag.

Len Brissette asked for volunteers to host the 1st Saturday. He reminded the members that they did not have to have a large shop!

Suzi Parker announced the AAW demonstrations from 2014 are in the library.

Jay Littlefield called again for a volunteer for the Program Chair position.

Steve Green presented the Instant Gallery. Afterward, Jay turned the meeting over to **Len Brissette** for the demonstration.

The meeting attendance was 78, including visitors.

Hearing from Members

Frank Miller, a long-time CTWA member who moved to Nevada sent along this interesting article that he wrote on creating the "Feather Touch Fluteless Gouge. Some of you may remember that Frank was especially talented at sharpening tools. We miss

The Feather Touch Fluteless Gouge

By changing the grind of a scraper you can change it into a fluteless gouge.



Top is 80 deg.
Bottom is 35 deg.
These are 1/2"x1/4" steel scrapers, top standard, and the bottom remade

into a fluteless gouge.

You can make your own and with better control than starting with a flat scraper.

A feather touch gouge starts with a 1/4" diameter drill rod (O1) cut to around 8".



Grind two inches of the end of the rod flat to 1/8" thick. 2 inches of flat provides for years of sharpening.



Round the end and increase the radius of the rod under the flat area.

Grind a 30 to 35 degree convex cutting edge to the rounded end of the flat area.



1/4" rod placed in Handle and ground to shape.

Instead of starting with one inch square blanks to support cutting long thin finials, they can be turned with 3/8" square stock with the feather touch fluteless gouge. The lower one is walnut, which



usually does not make good small finials with fine detail. The harder fine grain wood on top allows for more detail. These spindles were both turned unsupported and about three inches long.



Even softer fir can be turned to toothpick size with the lightest touch and no support.

To finish the fluteless gouge you need to harden the shaped drill rod.

First hang a magnet from a thin wire, and heat at least 3" of the shaped end of the tool until it no longer attracts the magnet, this will be past cherry red. Do not overheat because this will destroy some of the carbon in the steel. Immediately quench the heated rod in oil and place in a 400deg oven for a couple hours. Cool, buff clean, and sharpen the edge. Lay a diamond card flat on the top with a few strokes it will keep the fluteless gouge sharp.

Frank Miller 2014 CVW

Frank and Jane and thank him for including us in his article.

January Gallery

Thanks to all the following contributions to the gallery:

- Nowt Peterson: Various segmented turnings**
- Dwight Schaeper: Broken Maple (a reminder to wear a face shield; hollow bowl)**
- Jack Besperka: Spalted Sycamore platter**
- Suzi Parker: Ass't tops**
- Jim Brinkman: Cedar elm crotch**
- Jimmy Tolly: Mesquite & maple cheek ball**
- Stacey W. Hager: Yo-Yo's; Lame**
- Johnny Tolly: Beads of courage box**
- Jack Graham: Black walnut bowl (2)**
- Shaun Graham: various student projects (*bowls)**



January Gallery



Bring Back Raffle

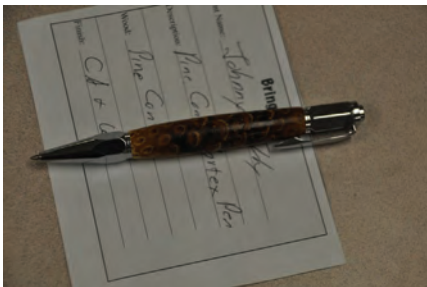


Turner: Winner

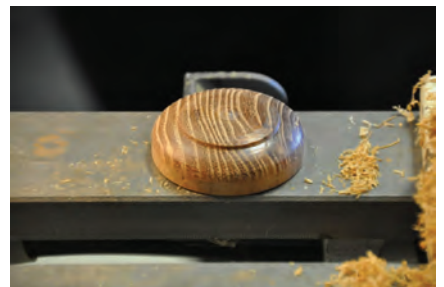
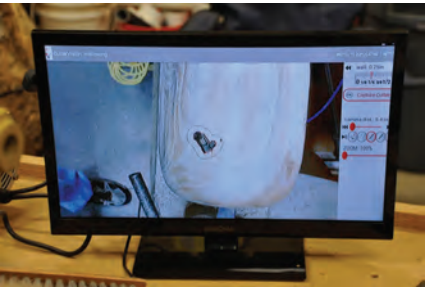
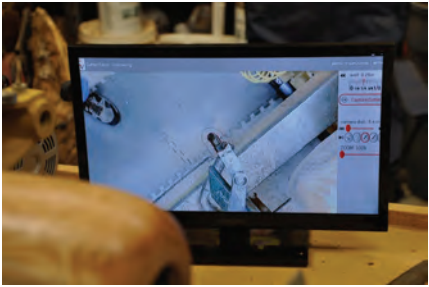
Jimmy Tolly: Judith Walters
Dwight Schaeper: Judith Walters
Johnny Tolly: Doug Chambers



REMEMBER TO RETURN THE FAVOR, if you won—bring back your turning for next month!!



1st Saturday



Membership in CTWA

We welcome NEW MEMBERS to join our band of merry turners any-time. An interest in woodturning is the only requirement. Dues are \$35.00 per year, prorated to \$3.00/month for new members.

With our membership, whether you are experienced or a novice, we will teach you, or learn from you, and build long-lasting friendships based on a common kinship of matching wood, metal, machine and man, or woman as the case may be.

CTWA members are also encouraged to join the American Association of Woodturners, AAW. AAW dues are:

General (\$55); **Family** (\$60) includes up to three family members living in same household on the membership card.

Youth, under 19 years of age (\$24)
Online (\$45 per year)

Online members do not receive printed versions of the American Woodturner journal and the "Resource Directory," available through online access.

Artist (\$81) business insurance.

For full details and membership form visit the AAW site at woodturner.org.

Classified Ads

2015 Officers

President

Jay Littlefield
jay.littlefield@advantest.com
512-917-7316

President Elect

Steven Green
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512-395-7776

Program Chairman

Open

Secretary/Newsletter Editor

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hildac@mac.com

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Librarian

Suzi Parker
suziparker@hotmail.com
512-266-0824

CTWA Web Site

www.ctwa.org

Editorial Information

This newsletter is by and for members. The Editor welcomes any written materials and will provide assistance with getting your information into publishable form if you want. **DEADLINE IS THE FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH.** Contact me with your ideas and drafts by phone at 512.395-7782, by E-mail at hildac@mac.com or mail them to:

The Chip Pile

c/o Hilda Carpenter
560 Moss Rose Lane
Driftwood, TX 78619

Calendar

The calendar listings are an attempt to keep you up to date on upcoming CTWA events, as well as other events of particular interest to woodturners. All regular 3rd Tuesday CTWA Meetings are at American Youthworks. Check Website for latest information.

All 1st Saturdays are from 9 am-noon. All meetings are 7 PM to 9 PM

Events & Dates subject to change, watch for emails or website notifications

February 17 CTWA Meeting
Presenter: Jim Spano
Turning Tops

March 7 First
Place: TBD

March 17 CTWA Meeting
Presenter: Johnny Tolly
D-Way Tools

April 4 1st Saturday

April 21 CTWA Meeting
Demo: Hilda Carpenter
Tips & Tricks for Drozda
finals

May 2 1st Saturday
Place: TBD

May 19, CTWA Meeting
John & Suzi Parker
Kaleidoscopes

Let Drew Shelton know if you would like to present to the club in 2015 or you know someone who would be a great demonstrator for our club. We need presenters.