Keeping Austin turning since 1988



The Chip Pile

The newsletter of the Central Texas Woodturners Association Austin, Texas

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

Mar. Meeting 3/18, 7 PM At American Youthworks

Demo: by Neal Brand, **Program:** Turning small things that sell

Apr 5 First Saturday Host: Bill Stuewe

President's Note By Kelly Shaw

March Madness!

Last month we had such a productive and informative meeting that I was left struggling with an idea for this month's article. We broke ground with our new permanent Zoom meeting and it was a big hit - we even had members who have moved out of state like Craig Timmerman and Saleem attend!

As of this month our demonstrators will be able to see what the camera sees due to Len Brissette donating a monitor to our AV setup! We also now have a dedicated laptop and brand new microphones that clip onto your collar. Moving

forward we have video of last month's tips and tricks as well as Roy Martz's lung doctor guest at Learn and Turn so when we get the new website up that Clint is working on you will be able to use your log in to catch up on anything that you missed. We have Don Doan to thank for capturing the video of the Learn and Turn. We've had two learns in a row so I think you'll be excited about the Turn coming up! Show and tell went very well with Zach at the helm last month. All of the art and utility items that are brought in are a huge encouragement to others. I would really like to ask those of you who participate in Markets, trade shows, galleries and online sales as well as having YouTube videos and demonstrations for other clubs or classes that you teach or maybe items showcased in a museum, please email Dan so that you can be recognized in the newsletter and then on the new website. It's a way for us all to get to know each other just a bit better and gives you a chance to pop in on the people and say hello if you are near their market- like the Tolly's every

week! You can learn a lot from those three.

Possibly taking a class from someone like David Dick to learn or support him. Visiting the State Capitol and knowing where to find one of Gary Robert's items on display, or traveling to a symposium to see Craig Timmerman doing demos. Over 30 people took on the President's Challenge last month! If you haven't turned your blank yet you have a little over a month to go - so don't let crawfish season get in the way of what could potentially be the biggest gathering of Austin Art we've ever had. I believe it would be great if we take all of the pieces to SWAT this year as a group - but Gary Roberts has pledged to put together an article for the AAW Magazine about it soon -- so HAPPY TURNING! Kelly

Feb 2025 Meeting Minutes By Beth Watkins

President Kelly Shaw called to order the February monthly meeting of the Central Texas Woodturners Association (CTWA) at 7:03 p.m. on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at the American YouthWorks (AYW) facility.

Members approved the minutes of the January 2025 meeting as written.

Kelly announced that the meeting was on Zoom.

Kelly thanked several members for carrying out important tasks on behalf of the club in the past month.

A discussion of benefits received by members led to a consensus to raise annual dues to \$60/member and \$85/family. Additionally, the cost to members for nametags will increase to \$10 to cover the increased cost to the club.

Kelly recognized visitors Amy Bohinsky, David Gibson and Andrew Jenson as well as members watching the meeting on Zoom.

Kelly then explained the President's Challenge, whereby 29 members who brought turning blanks would draw a number for a blank to turn and bring back in April. At the April meeting, members will draw for a blank to embellish and bring back in June.

Aaron Story recommended that the Club contract with Club Express to manage our website. The members' consensus was to approve an expense of \$44/month for the services of Club Express.

Kelly then asked members to approve expenses of approximately \$1,000 for the laptop and hard drive needed to provide meetings on Zoom, and this was approved by voice vote.

Zack Rubin presented the Instant Gallery turnings.

Mike Josephs introduced ten members who shared their Tips and Tricks.

The meeting concluded with the President's Challenge drawing and the Bring Back Raffle.

CTWA Outreach John Chatelain

We always can use your donated turnings for out outreach programs. These donated turned items are sold at our outreach events to help fund our club. I will have a cardboard box near the front door at every meeting. Please place your donated turned items in the box. I know that all the turnings that our members create cannot all fit in your living rooms, so any extra turnings that your spouse says is taking up too much room would greatly benefit our club. So please bring them to the next meeting.

Upcoming events:

- 1.Pflugerville Arbor Day event, November 8, 2025
- 2.Pioneer Days event... will not be happening this year
- 3.Pens for Vets... I have an email out, but have not heard back yet

- 4.Texas Woodworking
 Festival... September 13th &
 14th... We may or may not be at
 this event. Depending on the
 availability of unsold booths to
 commercial vendors. We may be
 at this event if there is extra
 unsold space. We have budgeted
 \$250 for a booth, but booths cost
 a lot more than this. Hopefully
 there will be extra space for us. I
 will let you know as the time
 gets closer.
- 5. American Youth Works pens for Graduates event... I do not have a date for this yet.

John Chatelain

Program Chair Mike Josephs

Our March demonstrator will be Neal Brand from the North Texas Turners Club. He will be demonstrating turning small things that sell. Skipping forward to May, please remember to mark your calendars for our special guest for First Saturday, Alan Lacer. Alan will be demonstrating on the Skew Chisel beginning at 9:00 am on May 3 at American YouthWorks, our usual meeting spot. We will break for lunch, which will be provided by the club, and in the afternoon, Alan will demonstrate Lidded Boxes. If you are wondering why our First Saturday has been replaced by a demonstration, it's because Alan had scheduling conflicts and can't come to Austin around our 3rd Tuesday meetings. Many of you signed up for our first hands-on workshops of the year with Alan, which will take

place on May 4 and May 5 at Pat and Clyde Little's shop. These workshops will also focus on the skew chisel and lidded boxes. I appreciate everyone's enthusiasm; it will assuredly be a very special weekend. Huge shout out to Pat and Clyde for being so generous and allowing us to gather at their home. Speaking of May, it's going to be an action-packed month. After we catch our breath from Alan Lacer's visit, Noah Peters from Oklahoma will be here to demonstrate at our 3rd Tuesday meeting on Bowl Coring. If you've attended SWAT, you will have certainly seen Noah at his booth with hundreds of large and beautifully cored bowl blanks for sale. His production is astounding, and he will share his coring methods with us. His demo will be complimented by hands-on workshops, the details of which are still being finalized. I will arrange a sign up for Noah's classes once the dates and locations are secured. so keep that in mind. I'm having a blast as the Program Chair. I'm in conversations with several clubs throughout the state, coordinating future demonstrations and workshops from artists such as Kirk DeHeer from Provo, Utah and Tomislav Tomasic from Zagreb, Croatia. I'm also trying to arrange visits from additional talented Texas and traveling turners, so you won't want to miss a single meeting!

Mike Josephs

Learn & Turn Roy Martz

Well, the class is called Learn and Turn for a reason. We learned quite a bit during our March class from a professional pulmonary therapist, fellow class members, and a knowledgeable sales representative from Rockler, Round Rock. Our guest speaker, Bob Williams, spoke about how breathing any foreign particles can cause significant health problems. Danger lies in particulates, chemical fumes, metal powder, and species of wood. It's the finer particles that pose the greatest health risk Williams said.

Here's a breakdown:

- * Fine Dust (10 microns and smaller):
- * These are the most harmful because they can penetrate deep into the lungs.
- * They can bypass the body's natural defenses and cause respiratory problems.
- * Long-term exposure can lead to serious conditions, including chronic bronchitis, asthma, and even certain types of cancer.

While pulmonary disease cannot be cured, it can be arrested and more importantly prevented with good health practices. Your physician can take a baseline respiratory test but they typically do not do so unless respiratory symptoms are present. Different types of woods have different reported health effects. For a detailed article on this topic, courtesy of Beth Watkins, please see this

link. It's long but worth the read.

https://billpentz.com/woodworki ng/cyclone/medical_risks.php#s ummary

Yes, most of us already know that breathing contaminated air is not healthy. No surprises there. Then why did most of the class members confess that they did not wear protective masks most of the time. The consensus was, "We are lazy". We rationalize with "I'll only sand a tiny bit." "It's too hot"." "Something is going to get you." So what I learned was follow Nike's line, "Just Do It!" With sufficient age related maladies already in our lives, why tempt another medical problem when prevention is fairly effortless? Your first line of defense is your mask. The audience members shared their favorite products with the majority choosing the 3M mask with 2097 filters being the most popular.

https://share.icloud.com/photos/ 00eocjyNCVBnkSWRtNlmsxYi Q

Finally, Rockler employee and accomplished woodturner, Zane, showed us a number of products including a personal N95 face mask, a powered face shield with positive air pressure, dust collectors, and two shop dust filters. He summarized the three product lines with data on their power, CFM flow, Filter efficiency, Decibel Rating, and Cost. One figure that caught my attention was that the full size air filter had more than twice the

cfm than the compact model for just \$80 more. Its air exchange was amazing as well. Good comparison of dust collection machines too. Time to go shopping. Your lungs will thank you. See:

https://share.icloud.com/photos/ 0a6HJxR0_JkczYjxiAlvaYoGQ

Turn and Learn has been a fun and interesting addition to our programming. Brave the traffic and join us. If you could not attend, Don Doan has posted an edited video on YouTube.

See. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7AQCqbxV4PA

Stay tuned for our exciting April meeting when four of our club's many accomplished members will turn their version of a winged box during the class. The four turners will be Drew Shelton, Jim Spano, Len Brissette, and David Dick. Thanks for volunteering. It's going to be impressive to watch what they come up with in a relatively short time. Your own personal demo. April 3, 3:00 at Rockler, Round Rock. Hope to see you there and in the meantime, Wear Your Mask, PLEASE.

Roy Martz

Bring Back By Don Doan

What is it? A chance to donate to the CTWA, all monies collected go back to the CTWA to continue to support our organization. This is not gambling, it is a donation, you

do not have to accept the item – you can donate it to another member or guest if it is not a bring back. You can also just donate without getting a ticket. [If it is a Bring Back item, then we'll accept your monies as a gift and pull another ticket.]

It's been decided that during the raffle if participant is picked for more than one Bring Back item, they are obliged to turn only one item. So, if you get a bowl, box, finial, and/or other creation, then you only bring back one turning. We respectfully ask that you bring your turning to the next regularly scheduled 3rd Tuesday meeting.

If there is a special donation to the Bring Back Raffle, the ticket will be blind picked during the first drawing.

Not everything is a Bring Back... the coordinator with discussion with members determines what is a Bring Back item, our goal is to only have turnings (except for the "special donation") be in the Bring Back category.

SWAT News By Drew Shelton

This year's Southwest Area
Turners (SWAT) event will be
held on August 22-24 in
Waco. Registration opened
March 3rd, and hotel
reservations opened on February
10th. The two symposium
hotels are the Hilton and the
Marriott Courtyard. They tend
to fill up quickly, so get your

room ASAP if you want to be within walking distance. There are also other hotels in the area as well.

If you've never been to SWAT, you really should give it a try. Lead demonstrators from all over the country and regional demonstrators from the SWAT area will be doing demonstrations on topics you might not have tried before. And if any of those topics require tools you don't have, lots of vendors will be ready to sell them to you. You'll find woods you might never have seen before and tools you suddenly realize you can't live without. The Instant Gallery will both amaze and inspire with hundreds of beautiful turnings. There is also a 2-for-1 raffle where you have chances to win donated gallery items, tools, and even lathes.

As CTWA's SWAT rep for this year, I attended the Board of Directors meeting on January 25th. I brought up that the concrete floor in our demonstration room causes reverberation with our audio. SWAT might be able to get us some floor pads to help. We'll see if that actually happens or if it even helps.

Another topic at the meeting was the Texas Woodworking Festival. Festival producer Austin Waldo contacted SWAT president Pam Thompson about merging that event with SWAT at a single venue beginning in 2026, perhaps even with a single event registration. This would have the potential to introduce

many new people to woodturning. While I don't have a final count of SWAT attendees for last year, the preregistered total was 661. Last year's Festival had over 2000 attendees. The SWAT vendors would likely benefit from so many new potential customers, though the rest of us might feel seriously outnumbered. Nothing was decided at the board meeting, but I came away with the feeling that this merger is unlikely to happen. For one thing, we'd have to find a much larger venue in a larger city. My personal opinion is while I like the idea of bringing in new people, I greatly prefer keeping SWAT as it is.

Drew Shelton

CTWA Board News

The Central Texas Woodturners bylaws state "Any vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors of the corporation shall be filled by appointment by the remaining members of the Board of Directors for the unexpired portion of the term." Members Vaden Mohrmann. Len Brissette, Drew Shelton and Pat Jenkins unanimously voted to appoint Orlando Banos to fill the position vacated by Gary Roberts through 2027. Please thank Orlando for his willingness to serve.

Pat Jenkins Board Secretary

CTWA Club Benefits

Rockler, Round Rock gives CTWA members a 10%

discount if you wear your CTWA badge.

We receive 10% off on abrasives and finishes at Craft Supply online.

Group orders at Craft Supply of anything over \$1000 gets 13% off.

The Wood Depot

Gary Roberts, a CTWA founding member, donates his RV parking spot at his home to serve as a Wood Depot for our club.

Club members please be considerate of other members and don't take all, or almost all, of one species. Give other members a chance at some wood too.

Members who have, or find, extra wood can bring it to the wood depot so other members have access to free wood. Tools and material are available to seal the ends and mark its species. It is visible and accessible 24/7. Gary has a hydraulic lift table and a heavy duty 2-wheel dolly in his garage which are available if Gary is home.

Gary's Address: 8613 Honeysuckle Trail Austin, TX 78759 (Near 183 & Mopac) Cell: 512-345-1521

CTWA Membership

We welcome NEW MEMBERS to join our band of merry turners anytime. An interest in woodturning is the only requirement. Dues are \$60/year, prorated \$5/month plus \$10 badge fee for new members. \$85/ year for a family membership.

http://ctwa.org/pay-dues/ Is a link to the CTWA website page where you can join the club, pay your annual dues online, and subscribe to the CTWA.org email group. Members need to subscribe to this email group to keep up with what is going on in the club.

A \$1 fee is charged for membership or renewal done online.

With your membership, whether you are experienced or a novice, we will teach you, or learn from you. You will 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 provides an extensive resource for articles, tips, and videos for all areas related to woodturning. AAW has several types of memberships. Please visit the following link to review membership types and pay for your membership. Link to AAW

membership page

https://www.woodturner.org/Woodturner/Woodturner/Landing-Pages/Membership-Landing-Page.aspx?hkey=fa7a8cba-7884-4b5a-a5a2-ba3a39675e05

Hints & Tips

This space is provided for members to share tips and tricks they learn or read about. Please email your tips and tricks to Dan Gillen at degillen@gmail.com.

2025 Calendar

This calendar listing is an attempt to keep you informed on upcoming CTWA events and other events of interest to wood turners.

Mar 1 First Saturday Host: Hap Parkinson

Mar 18 Club Meeting Program: Neal Branch, North Texas Turning small things that sell

April 3 Learn & Turn Rockler, Round Rock

Apr 5 First Saturday Host: Bill Stuewe

Apr 15 Club Meeting Program: Kirk Deheer, Provo, Utah

May 1 Learn & Turn Rockler, Round Rock

Sat May 3 American Youth Works Alan Lacer Demos, Skew in Morning Lidded Box in afternoon

Sun May 4 – At Clyde &Pat Little's Alan Lacer Workshop – Skew Chisel

Mon May 5 – At Clyde & Pat Little's Alan Lacer Workshop – Lidded Box

Volunteer your Shop

The first Saturday of every month a member of the club opens their shop to host a club get together

For First Saturday

- 1. It doesn't need to be big or fancy.
- 2. We'll bring the lathes.
- 3. You make the coffee.
- 4. Drew Shelton brings Round Rock donuts and asks for donations from all who attend to help offset his costs.
- 5. Have at least enough room for 1-2 turners (easy in the summer).
- 6. Contact Jim Brinkman to volunteer

February 2025 Instant Gallery – Photo credits – Drew Shelton				
TURNER	DESCRIPTION	WOOD AND FINISH		
Mike Josephs	Wedding Vessel	Sycamore, Deft Beale Buff		
Beth Watkins (Turnings), David Linkletter (everything else)	Swordfish	Fish-Sycamore, Sword-Oak, Boiled Linseed Oil & Deft, Base Chinaberry, Intrensic Dye & Deft		
Roy Martz	Sunset Bowl	Ash dyed, walnut Base, Deft & coyote Paste		
Dave Wolter	Lidded Vessel w/ Carved finial	Walnut/Maple, Wax		
John Chatelain	Basket Weave Illusion 4 x 8 Segmented Maple 4080 Bead Segments	Faber-Castell Pitt Artist Pens for color Finished w/ Krylon Aerosol Matte		
Zack Rubin & Gary Roberts	Jewelry Box	Mesquite & Maple, Deft lacquer		
Johnny Tolly	Box w/ one epoxy inset round	Box Elder		
Johnny Tolly	Jar Lid inspired by Gary Roberts 1 st Sat. Demo	Beech, Epoxy round inset		
Johnny Tolly	Box w/ two Epoxy inset rounds	Olive wood		
Johnny Tolly	Corn Cob Holders	Texas Mesquite, Hunts Wax		
Nikii "Nee-Chee"	Tea Cup & Saucer	Walnut, Oil & Tongue		

February 2025 Bring Backs				
Winner	Item	Donor	Notes	
Jim Moyle	Black Walnut Box	Hap Parkinson	Only one bring back	
Dan Upchurch	Kobalt Case Stack	Donated pfds llc		
John Chatelain	Finials	Stacy Hager		
Jim Moyle	Bottle Opener	Clint Hoyle	Only one bring back	
Hap Parkinson	Hollowing Carbide tool	Pat Jenkins Rockler		
Len Brissett	Bottle Stopper	Clint Hoyle		

2025 First Saturday Schedule

MONTH	HOST	ADDRESS	City
January 4th	Rockler	2701-A Parker Road	Round Rock
February 1st	The Littles	14307 Geronimo St.	Volente
March 1st	Hap Parkinson	7002 Treasure Cove	Austin
April 5th	Bill Stuewe	1901 County Road 153	Georgetown
May 3rd	Alan Lacer	American Youth Works	Austin
June 7th	Matthew Wright	4312 Dos Cabezas	Austin
July 5th?	Chris Van Peski	364 Colorado Dr.	Cedar Creek
August 2nd	David Crabb twice Turned	708 Wagon Wheel Trail	Pflugerville
Sept 6th	Betty Hager	9215 Chisholm Lane	Austin
October 4th	Drew Shelton	112 Oakland Dr.	Georgetown
November 1st	David Wolter	11504 Kempwood Dr.	Austin
December 13th	The Littles, we hope!	14307 Geronimo St.	Volente

Jim Brinkman needs volunteer demonstrators for all first Saturday event. Please contact Jim at jsbrink21@sbcglobal.net or text at 940.231.8325 if you can demonstrate at a first Saturday.

CTWA 2025 Demonstrations and Workshop Schedule			
Month	Turner	Demonstration	
January	Jim Brinkman, Austin, TX	Beads the EASY way	
February	Club Members	Tips, Tricks, Jigs, Fixtures & Cool Tools	
<mark>March</mark>	Neal Brand, North Texas	Small Turnings that sell	
April	Kirk DeHeer, Provo, Utah		
Sat May 3	Alan Lacer, River Falls, WI	Skew Chisel Morning, Lidded Box Afternoon	
Sun May 4	Alan Lacer, River Falls, WI	Hands-on workshop-Skew Chisel	
Mon May 5	Alan Lacer, River Falls, WI	Hands-on Workshop, Lidded Box	
May	Noah Peters, Bixby, OK	Bowl coring, classes available weekend preceding demo	
June	Herb Ingram, Austin, TX	Twice Turned Scalloped Edge Bowl	
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			

CTWA Member Profile

By Phil Sherburne

Gary Roberts

Gary is a long time woodworker, wood carver and wood turner with over 50 years experience on the wood lathe. One fun piece of info about Gary is he is a native Texan whose family has been in Texas since before it was a Republic!



Gary had been a wood carver for sometime when his brother Larry got him involved in turning using a Shopsmith Gary had inherited from his Dad. It was from this start that he became the amazing turner

that he is today. This led to Gary publishing a book on turning that is still available on Amazon if you are interested.

Masterful Woodturning: Projects & Inspiration for the Skilled Turner by S. Gary Roberts, Sterling Publishing 2002 shown above.

Gary met with some other folks interested in wood turning down in San Marcos in 1986. They were discussing forming an association for wood turners with the intent to share interests and techniques of woodturning. This led to the start of the American Association of Woodturners (AAW) for which Gary filed the original paperwork with the Texas Secretary of State's office. Gary paid the \$25 filing fee himself. Gary is AAW number 16!! This past SWAT (2024) Gary was presented a special award and a reimbursement check for the \$25 which is on the wall of his house!

Gary was on the AAW board in those days and suggested that in order to keep growing it would be good to form local chapters of the AAW. This led to the forming of CTWA in Austin as the second chapter (the first was formed in Seattle 2 weeks prior). He has spent much time traveling to other cities and giving demos and assisting locals in forming their own chapter. From those humble beginnings, AAW has grown to approximately 360 chapters and 13,000 members across the globe!!

One activity Gary is especially proud of is his engagement through the International Executive Service Corps and USAID with projects in various countries around the world including Barbados, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent, Ecuador, Russia and of particular note the African country of Malawi. In this latter case, Gary and his wife Gene formed a school teaching women the art of woodcarving (no electricity for lathes) and associated business practices help them to establish businesses to sell products and generate income for themselves and families.

With regard to CTWA, Gary was instrumental in forming the chapter which started with ~30 members in 1987. This led to establishing the "Bring Back Raffle" and "First Saturday" which remain part of the CTWA traditions to this day. Also of note is Gary makes available space for the CTWA wood depot at his house.

Gary was actively involved with a few others in the start of what today is SWAT. The original chapters involved were Houston, Arlington, San Antonio and of course CTWA in Austin.

Today, Gary finds most of his woodturning activity revolves around mentoring and advising others on the art of woodturning. His one key piece of advice for turners – both new and old – is to do things safely. This means to be very conscious of acquiring and using good Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

A few of Gary's pieces he has created over the years:







February 2025 Instant Gallery Photo Credits – Drew Shelton









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February 2025 Bring Back Photos

Photo credits to Drew Shelton







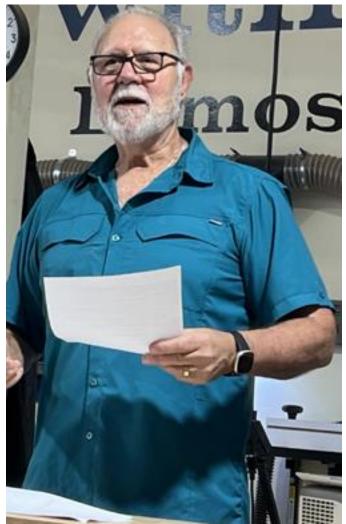






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March 6 Learn and Turn Photos Pulmonary dangers while Woodturning







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March 2025 Member Tips and Tricks Demos

Photo credits Drew Shelton



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March 1, 2025 First Saturday

Hosted by Hap Parkinson

Thanks for hosting Hap!

Photo credits to Drew Shelton









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Johnny Tolly 512.858.4471

basics, open segmented

Jimmy Tolly 512.694.0321

basics, platters

Southwest

Orlando Banos

512-773-1099

Metal Working Projects, Light Machining, sheet metal work,

Welding, etc.

North

Len Brissette

512.258.4004

bowls, platters, sharpening

Gary Roberts

512.345.1521

Wood Turning Projects

Jim Brinkman

940.231.8325

Lidded boxes, spindles, finials

Northwest

John Chatelain

281.798.8025

Beginner Segmenting