

July 2025 CTWA Newsletter Addendum

I apologize to all but especially to Mike Josephs for leaving out his Program Chair article and to Phil Sherburne for leaving out three member profiles planned for this newsletter. Mike has done a great job scheduling demonstrators this year. Phil has done a great job interviewing members and writing up their profiles. I know everyone enjoys reading these profiles and getting to know our members better.

Dan Gillen



Program Chair Report

By Mike Josephs

As the program coordinator for CTWA, I have asked a lot of people to do a demonstration for our group. I have always attempted to take into consideration the inconveniences this would impose on the demonstrator, things like travel, time away from work and family, and worries over equipment. Our demonstrators have been very generous with their time and knowledge in helping us learn their techniques and processes. Now that I've gotten my first demo under my belt (Spatulas, July First Saturday), I can see how doing one is also quite beneficial to the demonstrator. While there are many positive aspects to demonstrating, for me, there is none greater than the mastery which comes with teaching. The pressure of having to turn in front of an audience while verbally providing instruction, all the while keeping it entertaining and making constant progress, is quite a challenge and requires practice. I must have turned at least a dozen spatulas in preparation for my demo, and I can now confidently say that I know how to make a spatula, and a pretty good one. Without the stress of an upcoming demo, I would never have dissected the process as thoroughly as I did. It not only resulted in teaching a room full of people how to make a spatula, but it made me a better turner. I would encourage anyone who is interested in mastering, or at least improving your abilities to turn a particular piece, to sign up and volunteer to demonstrate it at our Tuesday or Saturday meeting. You'll be a better turner for it.

Speaking of demos, our next visiting guest demonstrator will be Kevin Bassett. Kevin comes from a few hours north of us and he has traveled extensively in the region and beyond, including at SWAT. He brings many new and exciting skills with him, and he will be introducing us to the String Steady in his upcoming lesson entitled "Long and Skinny." This will be very informative and should help us with the project he turns, in addition to any long-stemmed piece you wish to make in your home studio. Be sure to show up in person or if you're unable, log in via Zoom to view Kevin's demo. And if you're so inclined, you might want to try your hand at making a long, thin-stemmed item prior to the meeting so you can pick Kevin's brain on any difficulties you may encounter. See you all Tuesday the 15th!

CTWA Member Profiles

By Phil Sherburne

Drew Shelton



Drew has been a turner and active member of CTWA for nearly a quarter of a century! He began turning in 2000 after making furniture for some 3 years. Like many turners, Drew started by taking a pen turning class at Woodcraft here in Austin. He quickly was completely engaged making many pens on a midsize jet lathe.

In 2001 he decided to take the next step and signed up for a bowl turning class – again at Woodcraft. Drew was fortunate as at the last moment there was a change of instructor and he ended up taking the class from our own Gary Roberts. Gary invited the class to his shop and helped Drew to use a chatter tool on the bottom of his bowl he had made in class! It was through Gary that Drew learned of CTWA and as they say – the rest is history.

One of Drew's favorite memories is taking a class from Stuart Batty – a well-known professional turner that CTWA had brought in for the class.

When asked what he likes most about CTWA it's the unique nature of our club. Drew especially values the camaraderie ranging from interaction and encouragement at the club meetings and First Saturday, the yearly Christmas party and hanging together at events such as SWAT.

Drew has been attending SWAT (then called "Turn or Two") since 2003 when it was held in Wichita Falls. Drew is currently the CTWA representative to SWAT and can't say enough good things about SWAT and highly recommends everyone attend.

Today Drew does most of his turning on a Robust American Beauty lathe although he also has a Jet mini lathe for when he needs to travel with one. He enjoys turning a variety of pieces and can be found in his shop most days. A lot of Drew's focus these days is on burls as shown in the first two photos below.

When asked about advice to new turners he strongly suggests, "Buy the best you can afford" in lathes or tools. You'll have a lot more fun with good equipment.



Pat Jenkins

Pat began his woodturning journey approximately 25 years ago when he started visiting a gallery in Rockport, TX where he and his wife Bea would vacation. There were beautiful pieces in the gallery that sparked a significant interest for Pat. He followed this by attending both AAW meetings and Texas Turn or Two meetings (the forerunner of today's SWAT).



Pat is a native Texan and has lived many places around the state eventually settling in Austin in 2011 where he built his shop and became really active with his turning. While at Woodcraft one day in 2012 a conversation began between Pat and David Dick. David shared with Pat that there was a woodturning group in Austin (CTWA) that he might enjoy. Pat attended a meeting, liked what he saw and he quickly joined.

Pat has been involved in a number of CTWA activities over the years including updating the By-Laws in 2014 and the 501c3 application for our non-profit status. When asked what he most enjoys about CTWA he quickly points to the fellowship and the friends he has made. He notes that people are always willing to help – of course with wood turning but also with other things you might need help with!

Its pretty cool that Pat has also contributed a number of Best Practice articles to the AAW database!

Like many wood turners, Pat began with making pens and then bowls. While he still makes both of those items, these days he is enjoying hollow form as well as perforated items (see the first picture below).

Pat turns mostly on a Robust American Beauty lathe that he won at SWAT a few years back. He also has a Jet Mini that he uses when needing a portable lathe for an event.

When it comes to advice for people new to turning, Pat strongly encourages attending meetings, watching demos and finding someone willing to mentor. He points out not to initially buy a bunch of tools but rather make sure the small set you acquire are high quality. Additionally, Pat reminds everyone signing up for the beginner and intermediate classes offered through CTWA. Definitely worthwhile!!!



John Chatelain

John began his journey into woodturning in 2015 while living and working in Houston. He started turning bowls – Lots of Bowls!!! He joined the local woodturning club in Houston - the Gulf Coast Woodturners Association. By attending classes put on by the Houston association and meeting other woodturners John was able to develop his skills.



John is well known for his beautiful segmented pieces – please look at the photos at the end of the profile. He began working on segmented turning by learning from Andy Chen who is based in Houston and is a widely known, world class turner in the segmented genre.

In 2020 John relocated to the Austin area and joined CTWA. However, it was 9 months to a year before he could attend a meeting in person as the CTWA meetings were held via Zoom due to Covid. He finds the camaraderie among the CTWA members the best part of being part of the association. In addition, the monthly gallery gives him a chance to see what others are doing and learning from the demos.

John began attending SWAT while he was still living in Houston. He finds the instant gallery with all the pieces displayed most enjoyable at SWAT. He notes that we are quite fortunate to have SWAT nearby as it is the top regional show.

John has been focused on segmented turning for a number of years. These days he is also making “Basket Weave Illusions” – again you should take a look at the photos of John’s work at the end.

John turned for a long time on a Jet 1221 creating some beautiful pieces. Within the past couple of years, John has moved to turning on a Powermatic 3520C allowing him to work on larger pieces. He continues to enjoy turning and we continue to enjoy the results!

When asked about advice for new turners, John strongly advises to join a club.

The people you meet and great advice you’ll receive cannot be replicated by YouTube!! Importantly, he advises to take advantage of the classes offered by the club – these will pay huge dividends.

Lastly – and for those that know John this will seem appropriate - he emphatically states *Wear Eye Protection – Safety Glasses and Face Shields!!*

A few of John’s turnings.



