



Shavings



Hill Country Turners
Monthly Newsletter

AS THE HILL COUNTRY TURNS

Volume # 11

Issue # 5

May 9, 2006

MEETING PLACE

Hill Country Turners meet in the basement of the KACC (Kerr Arts & Cultural Center) at 228 Earl Garrett, Kerrville, Texas at 6:30 pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month, **unless otherwise notified.**

HANDS ON TURNING

(See how the pros do things before the meeting starts)

The subject of the 4 o'clock meeting has not been determined at this writing but I'm sure Johnny will have a demonstration candidate at meeting time.

Notes from the Last Meeting

Announcement:

Don Lewis was a guest of the club.

Jim Holzknecht became a new member.

The Hill Country Turners' Picnic at John Jones' home on April 29th, was a real success. About 40 folks attended the festivities and reported great fun.

We continue to need volunteers for SWAT. See Jimmy

If you would like to have an entry at this years furniture show, see John Jones for details.

Demonstration:

Uel introduced our guest demonstrator, Dave Dick, from the Austin woodturner's club. Dave demonstrated his technique for turning and constructing a small wood stool. He also showed an offset turning method to make the table legs. Dave reviewed his turning tools, their use and how he sharpens them.

BRINGBACKS

Note: The bringback situation was a little thin at last month's meeting. If you owe bring-backs from prior months, be sure to get your lathe turning. We still have people who didn't bring back the items they owed from prior months.

Keith Longnecker... 1	N. Huntley 1
Liz Farris... .. 1	Bob Gayer 1
Chuck Felton 1	Uel Clanton 1
Tom Barrow 1	Bill Hussey 1
Bill Peace 1	Don Kaiser 1
Vance Loy 1	

“TURNED EVENTS”
MEETING IN REVIEW

Events:

We welcome George Hatfield as this month's demonstrator.

George lives in Sydney Australia and is starting to organize a U.S. woodturning demonstration tour. He will be conducting two day work shops at each location (demonstrations and workshops) during his U.S. tour.

A brief resume of his experiences:

At the age of sixteen he successfully started and completed a woodturning apprenticeship in a furniture factory which manufactured reproduction period furniture. Almost fifty years later he is still in the field of woodturning. During that time he spent eleven years in the trade of woodturning in furniture factories, and thirty four years as teacher of Wood machining and Woodturning teaching apprentices at a Government Technical Colleges in Sydney Australia.

In January 2003 he retired from a real job but still feel he has a lot to share.

He has recently done a considerable amount of demonstrating nationally and internationally including all states of Australia, in England, USA and New Zealand.

A word from Georgia:

Dear Fellow Woodturners,

We are proud to announce that the **The Georgia Association of Woodturners (GAW)**, dedicated to providing education, information and organization to those interested in woodturning, will be presenting **Turning Southern Style XII Woodturning Symposium**. This year's event will again be held at the Unicoi State Park and Lodge in Helen, Georgia on **September 8-10, 2006**.

As popular as this event has become, you'll want to register early. Registration is limited to 200.

You can download the brochure containing the registration form at <http://www.gawoodturner.org/Symposium/TSSXII2006.pdf>.

If you have questions or would like additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Jim Hutchinson, President
The Georgia Association of Woodturners
404-633-7982, president@gawoodturners.org

***12th annual event to feature world-renowned woodturners,
a woodturning art auction, and educational events.***

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Each year the GAW sponsors this event, which features some of the world's leading woodturners and turning artisans.

This year's featured turners include:

Vic Woods

Vic Wood is an Internationally famous woodturner and a trained teacher with qualifications in Cabinet Making, Woodturning, and a Fellowship Diploma of Gold and Silver-smithing. He has taught in high schools to senior level in all areas of woodworking, and for 12 years was involved in training Secondary Art and Crafts student teachers in the major discipline of woodcraft.

Judy Ditmer

Turning wood professionally since 1987, Judy Ditmer turns everything from small finger tops to one-of-a-kind sculptural bowls and wall pieces; in between are many different kinds of ornaments,

boxes, writing instruments, plates and platters, finely detailed salad bowls and small utilitarian and household items.

Stuart Batty

A second generation woodturner who began at the age of 10 doing production turning for his father, Allen Batty, he developed his tool technique and then began to teach and explore the artistic possibilities of the lathe. He currently demonstrates in many countries and shows his work in galleries in England.

Instant Gallery and Saturday Night Auction

The instant gallery will return as a favorite and we invite you to display up to four pieces of your work for all to enjoy. To help with our woodturning continuing education program, we encourage all who participate in the symposium to donate a piece to our Saturday Night Auction. All proceeds help provide continuing education in woodturning through our scholarship program and help keep the craft alive for future generations.

Pricing

The cost for a single participant is \$125, families are \$145. Youths (ages 11-17) are invited to register in advance for only \$10 with a paid adult admission. *Save \$10 on either adult registration fee by registering by September 1, 2006.* Refunds for cancellations will be given up to September 1, 2006. Registration is limited to 200, so act quickly.

For more information

Please visit our website at www.gawoodturner.org.

Call for AAW Symposium demonstrators '07

If you're interested in demonstrating at the AAW's 2007 symposium, the application deadline is August 31, 2006. The symposium, to be held June 29 to July 1 in Portland, Oregon, is the AAW's largest annual event and generally attracts more than 900 woodturners.

For more information and a demonstrator application, contact the AAW offices at 651-484-9094 or inquiries@woodturner.org.

Carl Voss - AAW American Woodturner Editor
Email - carlvoss@msn.com

For SALE

John C. Chamberlin
830-367-3267
jocar@cebridge.net

I am a good friend of Jim Hill (a turner), and I was a good friend of Doug Clark's (another turner) before he passed away. I live here in Kerrville and I have a Jet JWL1236 wood lathe complete

with a 6" Vic-Marc chuck and a beginning set of Robert Sorby turning tools and a Robert Sorby roughing gouge all for sale for \$850.00. The lathe has roughly 30 hours of use on it and is in perfect condition as I bought it new. I want to sell it and purchase a Jet Mini-Lathe. If you know of anyone interested in purchasing this lathe please contact me at:

James Johnson

General 260 Variable speed lathe with 1 1/4" spindle. Virtually brand new, only a few pens turned before the owner was killed in a car wreck. He was a doctor and bought only the best. It has 5 faceplates, 3 chucks, many Henry Taylor turning tools (no bowl gouge), pen turning chuck, calipers, and an outboard bed. Please contact Linda Delaney at 830-896-1228. Make an honest offer as this lathe is spotless and un-used.

NEXT "GRUBBS"

(Sustenance providers for starving artists)

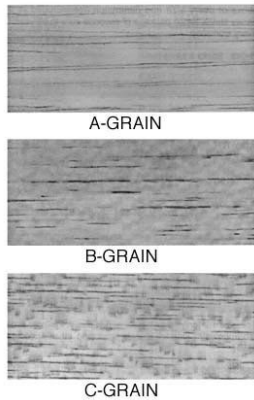
	(DRINKS)	(YUMMIES)
January	Linda West	Vern Hallmark
February	Dale Gleichweit	Raul
March	Keith Longnecker	John Brunswick
April	Bill Hussey	Jimmy Holton
May	John Jones	Phil Hamman
June	Chuck Felton	Bob Gayer
July	Jerry Bennett	Maurice Collins
August	Larry Werth	Tom Ridout
September	Vance Loy	Vance Loy
October	Andy Chen	Larry Werth
November	Martin Addison	Jerry Bennett
December	Santa Claus	Miss Santa Claus?

DEMONSTRATOR OF THE MONTH

Wood Factoids

This month, we present a factoid on: **Balsa wood**

scientific name - ochroma lagopus



Other Common Names: The word balsa itself is Spanish meaning raft, in reference to its excellent flotation qualities. In Ecuador it is known as Boya, meaning buoy.

Distribution: Balsa trees grow naturally in the humid rain forests of Central and South America. Its natural range extends south from Guatemala, through Central America, to the north and west coast of South America as far as Bolivia.

The Tree: There is no such thing as entire forests of balsa trees. They grow singly or in very small, widely scattered groups in the jungle. For hundreds of years, balsa was actually considered a weed tree. They reproduce by growing hundreds of long seed pods, which eventually open up and, with the help of the wind, scatter thousands of new seeds over a large area of the jungle. Each seed is airborne on its own small wisp of down, similar to the way dandelion seeds spread. The seeds eventually fall to the ground and are covered by the litter of the jungle. Six months after germination, the tree is about 1-1/2 inches in diameter and 10 - 12 feet tall! In 6 to 10 years, the tree is ready for cutting, having reached a height of 60 to 90 feet tall and a diameter of 12 to 45 inches.

General Wood Characteristics: The secret to balsa wood's lightness can only be seen with a microscope. The cells are big and very thinned walled, so that the ratio of solid matter to open space is as small as possible. Most woods have gobs of heavy, plastic-like cement, called lignin, holding the cells together. In balsa, lignin is at a minimum. Only about 40% of the volume of a piece of balsa is solid substance. To give a balsa tree the strength it needs to stand in the jungle, nature pumps each balsa cell full of water until they become rigid - like a car tire full of air.

Working Properties: Most people are surprised to hear that botanically, balsa wood is only about the third or fourth lightest wood in the world. However, all the woods which are lighter than balsa are terribly weak and unsuitable for any practical use. The very lightest varieties don't really resemble wood at all. The strength of balsa varies in direct relation to its density or weight - the heavier the wood the stronger it is.

Preservation: No information available at this time.

Uses: Most hobby shops have a large rack of balsa sheets, sticks, and blocks that you can choose from if you are going to build model airplanes. Undoubtedly, because of the nature of balsa, the actual weight of each piece of wood of the same size can vary slightly.

Toxicity: No information available at this time.

“THE BIG CHIPS” of KTC

Hill country turners is a chapter of the American Association of Woodturners dedicated to providing education, information and a place to meet and discuss woodworking and woodturning.

President: **Jimmy Holton**
(830) 257-1773

Vice President: **Johnny Jones**
(830) 537-4503

Treasurer: **Larry Werth**
(830)995-5225

KACC Liaison: **Uel Clanton**
(830) 896-5288

Special
Events **Bill Hussey**
(830) 896-8093

Newsletter **Jerry Bennett**
(830) 249-2004

Library **Joe Ripkin**
(830) 336-4836

Video/Audio **Don Kaiser**
(830)966-3314

OUR WEB BOWL

www.hillcountryturners.org

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