



# Shavings



Hill Country Turners  
Monthly Newsletter

Volume #15

Issue #11

**December 9, 2010**

## **MEETING PLACE**

This month's meeting is the annual Christmas party at the Inn of the Hills Resort and Conference Center in Kerrville at 1001 Junction Highway. There still may be time to get your name in for the Christmas Party so whip out your \$23 per person and get it to Jay Shimek 142 Deer Park, Center Point, 78010, (830) 634-7779, or [taztiger@hctc.net](mailto:taztiger@hctc.net).

If you bring a guest or spouse, send an e-mail or call Joe Johnson ([johnsoja8a@stx.rr.com](mailto:johnsoja8a@stx.rr.com) or (830) 896-5924) and tell him so that he can make a suitable name tag.

Don't forget the gift exchange. If you decide to participate, bring a piece (one you would be proud to give) and your card (or remember your name). At the party you will put your name in the pot and your gift on the shelf. When your name is drawn you will get the piece from the previous person, will say a FEW words about your piece and draw the name of the person who will get it...and so on.

## **November Meeting**

The meeting was brought to order for the last time by Larry Werth as president. Since he won't be here next month for the Christmas Party. Thanks to Larry for his hard work.

Jerry DeGroot was the presenter and we had lots of fun with him. He is a fairly new turner, but an old hand at presentations. (He is a professional scientific glass blower and demonstrated his art/craft around the country.) By working hard at learning he has already had many of the experiences and achieved a skill level that it has taken some of us longer to acquire.

Like many people who have demonstrated, he had some trouble with our Oneway lathe, which has controls which are not, to put it kindly, intuitive. Jerry was the second person recently to use the "pressure" method of securing a turning blank and it seems to focus the attention of the crowd, especially those in the front. He did, however, control the blank and the turning speeds quite well and was careful to check the security of the piece frequently. The crowd gave him pointers from time to time and he accepted them with good grace and the wood chips flew. With his example, I am thinking of trying the pressure method with something light as soon as I check on my insurance. It is not as secure as using two centers, but it is faster by not having to change from drive center to chuck.

Jerry focused on letting the wood provide some of the stimulus for the final shape and produce a nice and serviceable bowl.

Thanks Jerry.



## Business

### 2011 HCT Club Challenge

The Club Challenge this year is to turn the very best lidded box you can make. It can be made from any wood, in any style and with any finish. The winners will be determined by secret vote of all attendees at our January 13, 2011 club meeting. You may vote for yourself, but you also must vote for all four places. The completed box, signed by the maker, will be donated to the “Beads of Courage” project. Surface enhancement with pyrography or coloring is permitted and encouraged. A cash award will be given to the four highest vote getters as follows: \$50 first place, \$25 second place, \$15 third place, \$5 fourth place.

**After the judging, all boxes will be sent to the Beads of Courage Foundation for distribution to children with serious illness.**

#### General Guidelines

Turned boxes for the Beads of Courage program need to be about 6 inches in diameter (5 inches minimum). If you choose to make a non-turned box, i.e., a rectangular lidded box, it should be about 4x6x4 inches. If possible, have “Beads of Courage” engraved or burned in the lid. Make sure the lids are loose fitting and easily removable by a small child. If a finial is used, it should be safe for a small child, easy to grasp, and not too elaborate. (Note: The “Beads of Courage” website doesn’t specify the height of turned boxes. However, their 4”x6”x4” rectangular box would have a volume of 96 cubic inches. A 6” diameter turned box should be 3.5” high and a 5” diameter box should be 4-7/8” high to have the same volume as the rectangular box)

Additional information and design ideas can be found at the following web sites. Visit the Beads of Courage homepage for additional information about the organization and a list of participating Children’s Hospitals. There are over 75 participating Children’s Hospitals in the United States and 7 in Texas with the closest being in San Antonio.

<http://www.beadsofcourage.org/pages/woodworkers.htm>

<http://www.swaturners.org/cpg>

### Show and Tell



This month’s Show and Tell featured several bowls by **Jerry DeGroot** of mesquite and Cypress including one with a decorated edge.

**Roger Felps** brought a large figured maple platter with a rosewood stripe and **Dale Lemons** a pecan hollow form with inlay and walnut. Next years Vice President, **Ken Morton** brought a nice large walnut bowl and a pecan bowl. New turner and member Andrew Prather brought a nice cherry platter and a mesquite cup, some of his first turnings. Welcome Drew and thanks everybody for showing us your stuff.



### **“THE BIG CHIPS” of HCT**

*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.*

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