



Shavings



Hill Country Turners
Monthly Newsletter

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July 20, 2011

Next Meeting, August 11

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.

August Meeting

Anna Rachinsky will be the presenter for next month's meeting. This letter is coming out early and she says that she doesn't know yet what she will do. Whatever, it is going to be a big...or maybe a small surprise.

July Meeting

Jim Dandy (make that James Dandy) meeting. After strawberry shortcake and Drinks by the Shimeks and a short business meeting, James Johnson lit into the crowd with tales about how he learned to turn thin pieces. He demonstrated his measuring instruments and passed around several illustrative pieces. Only a couple of those pieces would be safe to sit on a table in even a moderate breeze. He then proceeded to demonstrate the technique of turning a thin-walled bowl using a gouge for both cutting and scraping. He measured the thickness with his measurer and also with a bright light, which will shine through a thin-walled green piece. The measuring tool is handy because it can be used with dry wood and can be made to fit in almost any size or shape of turning.

James prefers to sharpen with a 46 grit wheel (white) because it leaves a serrated edge that he feels slices the fibers easier. Regardless of the sharpening grit, he emphasizes the need for frequent sharpening done just enough to refresh the edge. His grinder has a high rate of speed, so he turns it off and re-sharpens the tool as the wheel loses speed, usually using one pass for each side of the tool.

Really helpful and enjoyable. Thanks James.



Show-And-Tell

Show-and-tell was very nice with a broad spectrum of newer, more experienced and expert turners showing their work. **Paul Hewett** showed two bowls, one of mesquite that started as a natural-edged bowl and ended in a very nice finished edged one after the bark let go. He also showed a beautiful natural-edged walnut bowl with a lovely finish. **Vern Hallmark** brought three small thin bowls of mesquite and hackberry to show fellowship with James Johnson's crusade for thin walled pieces. **Roger Arnold** brought a "Beads of Courage" bowl to help us remember the kids that need all the courage they can get in their cancer fight. His bowl was of box elder and mahogany. **Jim Whisnand** showed a first open-segmented bowl, well executed. **Kirk Bates** showed a "scrap wood" hollow form that was well finished and showed that all pieces don't have to be thin walled to be expressive. **Harold Dykes** showed two sanding sticks made as split turnings. The oak and hickory sticks had maple fittings to secure the sandpaper. **Anna Rachinsky** showed an exquisite little

armadillo box, complete down to the little feet under the carapace. Finally, **James Johnson** brought a box elder hollow form with routed hollows filled with black epoxy and overlaid with skeletonized cactus leaf. It was more than the icing on the strawberry shortcake. Here is the whole group, in order, one of the best show-and-tells ever.



Open Shop Saturday

Open shop Saturday was held at Joe Johnson’s shop. Joe gave a review of the steps in making a vacuum chuck system. He pointed out the ways to make it cheaper and gave several vendors selling the parts. He also pointed out the use and safety considerations of a vacuum chuck system. It is hoped that we can soon place a “how to” item in the “projects” section of our website that will enable anybody with minimal tools to set up the system.

Joe also demonstrated the Beall Buffing System to shine up those lacquer or polyurethane finishes or prepare wood for high gloss finishes.

Next Open Shop Saturday: On August 20, will be at Vern Hallmark’s shop on the Pedernales. See you there!

•Don’t forget SWAT is August 26, 27, 28! Registration is now open. Be thinking about a Beads of Courage entry. Don’t forget that July 26 is the last day for SWAT registration at the lower registration rate. Everyone who registers by July 26 will automatically be entered into a special drawing for merchandise.

HCT Mentoring Program

It has always been a practice to encourage new members to visit in the shops of other members to help them get oriented to turning. Now we are offering for new turners a special list of members eager to help along with their area of interest. Even some less-than-new members who would like to talk to someone in a special area might take advantage of the help with special interests

The following members have volunteered to serve as Club Mentors. If you have a woodturning or tool/equipment question, call one of these individuals. They would be happy to help.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Specialty</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Specialty</u>
Roger Arnold	830-866-3670	Shop Practices	Uel Clanton	830-896-5288	General/Spindles
L. A. Cude	901-355-7046	Lacquer Finish	Chuck Felton	830-792-5249	General
James Johnson	830-895-4170	All	Joe Johnson	830-896-5924	General
John Jones	830-536-4503	General	K. Longnecker	830-257-6033	Split Turning/Pens
Ken Morton	210-833-7148	Natural Edge	Raul Pena	830-6342545	General

Refreshments for 2011

<u>Month</u>	<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Drinks</u>	<u>Sweets</u>
August	11th	John Jones	Vern Hallmark
September	8th	Larry Werth	L. A. Cude
October	13th	Jay Shimek	Anna Rachinsky
November	10th	Jim Whisnand	Roger Arnold
December	8th	Christmas Party	Christmas Party

“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.

President	Joe Johnson	(830) 896-5924	johnsoj8a@stx.rr.com
Vice President	Ken Morton	(210) 833-7148	ken@woodshouter.com
Treasurer	Jay Shimek	(830) 634-7779	taztiger@hctc.net
Special Events	Bill Hussey	(830) 896-8093	huzz@windstream.net
Newsletter/Webmaster	Jerre Williams	(830) 895-3206	jerrew@hotmail.com
KACC Liaison	Uel Clanton	(830) 896-5288	
SWAT Representative	Kathy Roberts	(325) 247-3344	katloy@yahoo.com
Audio-Video Director	Don Kaiser	(830)966-3314	canserv@swtexas.net
Website	http://www.hillcountryturners.org		