



Shavings

Hill Country Turners
Monthly Newsletter



Volume #18

Issue #4 March 29, 2012

Next Meeting April 11, 2013

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.

March Meeting

- The meeting opened with two new members, Don Fraser and David Gray. Welcome guys!
- Will's Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$3,978.35 and Petty Cash of \$204.25.
- The "Beads of Courage" boxes were delivered to the Methodist Children's Hospital. (See Below)
- Jim Whisnand, our SWAT rep. delivered his report and passed around a sign-up sheet to volunteer for the Instant Gallery assistant shifts.
- Ken announced that Tom Whiting will be taking over the Audio Visual duties from Ken Rogers.
- The Alamo Woodturner's Association (the San Antonio club) sent an invitation for anyone interested in an open segmented class taught by Lloyd Johnson to be held June 29 – 30 at Woodcraft in San Antonio. The cost of the class is \$150, contact Gordon Kincheloe (ghkinch@sbcglobal.net) for details.
- George Taylor reviewed the upcoming demonstrations which include April's "Form and Shape" discussion (with associated Club Challenge to turn a 3" thick bowl shape Ash blank into a pleasing form and shape) and in May a demonstration on box making or vacuum chucking.

Demo The demo on sharpening was presented by Ken Morton, James Hampton and George Taylor. Each brought their own sharpening systems. George's presentation will be sent out with the newsletter for easy reference of the basic points to sharpening.

Ken has a custom built combo system which allows him to utilize both the Wolverine and Tormek jigs. Ken prefers to sharpen his scrapers and remove the burr. Ken also reminded us to watch our right hand placement, keep close to the platform to avoid the tendency to rock if holding at the end of the handle. Ken's has a Cubic Boron Nitride (CBN) 180 grit wheel on his system. Three advantages of this wheel are that it always runs true (balanced), doesn't get dips and it runs cool. It works well on high speed steel. It is not good for carbon steel, unless you use Jerry De Groot's trick of getting it up to speed then turning it off. This keeps the carbon steel from getting too hot. (You will see little sparks with high speed steel and long, sparkler-type sparks with carbon steel when sharpening.) Ken extended the invitation to bring tools for sharpening to the open shop in April.

James has a Tormek system with a Japanese wheel that produces a shiny, mirror finish. He observed that his Japanese 800 grit wheel removes very little material, lengthening the life of your tools. He remarked that using the Tormek system to shape is a slow process. So shape and angle on the standard grinder, and use the Tormek to sharpen. James demonstrated the different jigs available for the Tormek system. He noted that if you are trying to match the angle of your skew, draw a line on the wheel, and record the angle shown on the jig. Additionally, a good way to keep track of your settings for each tool is to record the information on tape and put the tape on the collar of the tool handle.

George's system is a standard grinder with CBN wheels and a robo rest. He has a chart which lists the angle for each tool. George observed that there are tons of sharpening videos available on the internet. Additionally, if you sharpen often, you are basically just doing touch ups. With a straightforward system, you can easily touch up three tools in no time. George polled the people that "free hand" sharpen (no jigs used). Some sharpened tools before there were jigs. The consensus on which way is best (jigs or freehand) is whichever works and gets you back turning the fastest.

General Tips

- Each presenter touted the utility of magnets – very handy in holding things like little allen wrenches.
- Use a marker on your tool to get the exact angle if not a standard setup.
- Start with the sharpening at the heel and finish at the tip
- Use wax or Teflon spray on rods to keep jigs moving smoothly
- A grater will smooth or rough a stone, a wheel dresser removes dips in stones
- Use half-speed (17/35) or variable grinders, full speed will burn the tips of your tools.



Raffle

Lots of good stuff was raffled. The big winners were Kathy Roberts (tool), John Stegall (Beall buffing system) and Vern Hallmark (texturing tool). Bring-back winners were James Hampton (scratch awl by George Taylor), Uel Clanton (ornament by Jerry De Groot) and Dick Layman (candle holder by Kathy Hampton).

April Meeting

April's "Form and Shape" discussion will include a Club Challenge to turn a 3" thick bowl shape Ash blank into a pleasing form and shape.

Show and Tell

Cathy Hampton brought a votive candle holder in a stand of spalted pecan. With jute macramé and bead tie embellishment. Tommy Jeffers showed a product of drill press work to produce a cube captured within a cube of walnut. He said it was done with a Forstner bit and careful carving to free the cube within. James Johnson brought a dandy big Oak burl carved (with a chain saw) into a bowl with scallops underneath. It isn't finished, but it already carries a heavy air of primitive artistry. George Taylor showed a natural edge Osage Orange bowl with its striking yellow. It will, of course, oxidize to brown but one can protect it with UV blocking finishes and dyes to overwhelm the oxidized portion.



Tom Canfield had two displays, two very wormy Mesquite bowls and a China Berry sermon about safety and the problems of life. He was working on the piece and going well until, while hollowing near the center, he had a very bad catch and the piece ripped the tenon from the chuck and sailed across the shop. Turn safely. Thanks for the lesson Tom. Anna Rachinsky also had a message about how much Cherry Laurel shrinks with a four piece demo of the distortion of blanks due to shrinkage. Anna also had a nice, undistorted box of Arizona Ash and spalted Pecan.



Uel Clanton showed us a tea light of very nice Box Elder. Roger Felps showed a Dark piece of Box Elder. He didn't especially like it, but his wife did. Dale Lemons brought some Big Leaf Maple bowls and an Interesting Box Elder plate that looked almost like a landscape at sunset. Dan Pfeiffer brought a nice construction of mixed media and here it is, but the time and flow of the meeting caused me to miss another larger work, also in his "Tree of Life" series (see last meeting). I also missed a piece by Vern Hallmark , a very nice Cedar Elm Bowl of Box Elder given to him by Bayou Bend (Ima Hogg's estate in Houston) with whom he has a vendor relationship. My apologies to Dan and Vern.



Beads of Courage: Joe Johnson, his wife Debbie and Ken Morton delivered the "Beads of Courage" boxes to Methodist Children's Hospital. Pictures from that event were displayed on the projection screen prior to the meeting. Here are some of them:



Refreshments 2013

Month	Meeting Date	Drinks	Sweets
April	11th	Liz Felton	Tom Canfield
May	9th	Debbie Walker	Martha Palmer
June	13th	Roger Arnold	Harold Dykes
July	11th	Keith Longnecker	Joe Johnson
August	8th	Uel Clanton	Kirk Bates
September	12th	Dale Lemons	Jim Weir & Kathy Hampton
October	10th	Jim Whisnand	Bill Hussey
November	14th	Larry Walton	Don Kaiser
December	12th	Christmas Party	Christmas Party
January '14	9th	?	George Taylor

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

“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	Ken Morton	(210) 833-7148	ken@woodshouter.com
Vice President	George Taylor	(830) 751-2109	gat54@mac.com
Treasurer	Will Aymond	(830) 285-2702	waymond@stx.rr.com
Secretary	Kathy Hampton	(830) 634-3002	
Past President	Joe Johnson	(830) 896-5924	johnsoj8a@stx.rr.com
Special Events	Bill Hussey	(830) 896-8093	huzz@windstream.net
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