



# Shavings

## Hill Country Turners Monthly Newsletter



Volume #21

Issue #3 April 2, 2016

### Next Meeting, April 14, 2016 MEETING PLACE

**Hill Country Turners** meet in the basement at the KACC (Kerr Arts & Cultural Center) at 228 Earl Garrett, Kerrville, Texas at 6:00 pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month. The formal meeting starts at 6:30.

**January Meeting:** John Stegall, opened the meeting with the usual prelims.

*Treasurers Report* – Roger Arnold:

<u>Bank Balance:</u>	\$2314.16
<u>Paid Out this Month:</u>	
Craft Supply	\$1221.86
Klingspore	\$ 633.45
	<u>Total</u> \$1855.31
<u>Deposit this period</u>	
Bring Backs	\$ 21.00
Dues	\$ 35.00
	Total \$ 56.00
<u>Checking Account Balance:</u>	
Present Balance	\$ 514.85

Of course this does not include the pay-backs for the Craft Supply orders or the revenue from the drawings.

Merle Olson presented a proposal, on behalf of the Majestic Ranch Arts Foundation in Boerne. The foundation has offered to give us a grant equal to the dues paid by our members for us to use to bring in "known" turners. Since the foundation has made a similar offer to the San Antonio club this would place both clubs in a better position to bring these turners into the area. We are to give them a certified list of the number of paid members as soon as possible.

**Demo:** Jerre Williams gave a short demo of box finials. He pointed out that finials are, for the most part, decorative for mounting on churches, flagpoles, boxes, etc. Some may serve additional purposes as lightning rods, handles, or even antennae. His focus was in making small finials for boxes or Christmas ornaments. A printed handout is available at the end of this newsletter. The picture is of the piece, later finished at home. Note the undercutting of the half-ball below the onion and the added sanded cross-coves to highlight the undercut.



**Next month's demo:** John Stegal will be demonstrating how to make an awl.

**Show and Tell:** Tom Canfield led off with a turned and carved and a "hollowed in reverse" hunk of sycamore that showed the wood off well at several levels (artistic, technical etc.). Debbie walker used Uel Clanton's demo of last month to selectively inlay turquoise in a bowl of mesquite to good effect.

Phillip Medghalchi showed three small boxes and of highlighted spalted pecan, redtip and a small bowl of spalted hackberry.



Rick Webster is coming along with a black jack oak bowl with a natural edge.



**Ingram Elementary:** Our annual visit to make tops for the Ingram elementary school was a success, as usual. Bill Hussey, Uel Clanton and Joe Johnson turned tops and were ably assisted by kid wranglers and technical skills provided by Tom Whiting, Roger Arnold, Chuck Felton, John Stegal Roger Arnold and Jerre Williams.



**Bringbacks:** The first bringbacks of the new, trimmed, bringback program will be due in May. The winners have until May to make something they feel represents a good effort at their level of expertise to offer to be drawn as the bringbacks of the May meeting. Did I mention that bringbacks are due in May?

The Winners last February were:

- Joel Haby
- Chuck Felton
- Uel Clanton
- James Hampton
- George Taylor
- Loy Arbaugh
- Harold Dykes

Snacks/Drinks List 2016		
	Snacks	Drinks
April	Martha Hill Palmer	Uel Clanton
May	Darrell Korman	Debbie Walker
June	Harold Dykes	Roger Arnold
July	Kathy Roberts	Philip Medghalchi
August	Sue Bates	Windall White
September	Kathy Hampton	Debbie Walker
October	Larry Walton	Don Kaiser
November	Barbara Hausman	John Latour
December	-----Christmas Party-----	

### 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.

Name	Phone	Specialty	Name	Phone	Specialty
Roger Arnold	830-866-3670	Shop Practices	Uel Clanton	830-896-5288	General/Spindles
L. A. Cude	901-355-7046	Lacquer Finish	James Johnson	830-895-4170	All
Joe Johnson	830-896-5924	General	John Jones	830-537-4503	General
Ken Morton	210-833-7148	Natural Edge			
Raúl Peña	830-6342545	General			

### THE BIG CHIPS” of HCT 2016

<b>President</b>	John Stegall	(830) 928-0859	jrstegall43@gmail.com
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b>	Kathy Roberts	(325) 247-6266	katloy@yahoo.com
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>	Tom Whiting	(443) 243-6933	twhiting@stx.rr.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Roger Arnold	(830) 866-3670	arnwood@stx.rr.com
<b>Secretary</b>	Darrell Korman	(830) 895-5984	darrellkorman@gmail.com
<b>Past President</b>	George Taylor	(972)824-0550	gat54@mac.com
<b>Special Events</b>	Bill Hussey	(830) 896-8093	huzz@windstream.net
<b>Newsletter</b>	Jerre Williams	(830) 895-3206	jerrew@hotmail.com
<b>KACC Liaison</b>	Uel Clanton	(830) 896-5288	
<b>SWAT Representative</b>	Tom Canfield	(830) 997-6236	t.canfield@att.net
<b>Audio-Video Director</b>	Tom Whiting (Temp.?)	(443) 243-6933	twhiting@stx.rr.com
<b>Webmaster</b>	Jerre Williams	(830) 895-3206	jerrew@hotmail.com
<b>Website</b>	http://www.hillcountr yturners.org		

**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.**

## Turning Box/Ornament Finials

Jerre Williams

Finials are, for the most part, decorative for mounting on churches, flagpoles, boxes, etc. Some may serve additional purposes as lightning rods, handles, or even antennae.

One minor rule, don't get too attached to your block of wood. Finials don't take long to make, a small amount of wood is used and, after all, it isn't rocket science...unless you are putting a finial on a rocket.

The easy part of turning finials is the technical part. The preferred tool is a 3/8" spindle gouge with the heel of the cutting head ground back to allow you to present the tool at a greater angle to the narrow wood. The hard part is the esthetic balance such as the flow of curves, placing of decorations, wood type and color or finish. Try to have an idea of what you are going to do before you start. If you wait for the muse to strike you mid-task, it may only be a glancing blow, if at all. Usually it is nice to keep the decorations fairly simple.

The blank must be fairly fine grained and very straight grained with no inclusions or knots. Great wood is poplar, maple and blood wood in order of increasing strength.

The size of the blank is the decision of the turner, and suit the project size. Since he works on boxes or Christmas tree ornaments, the blanks he uses are an inch square by 8-13 inches.

To hold the blank use long jaws in the chuck (to keep your hands away from the chuck) or a collet chuck (Beal or Artisan) in the largest insert size collet, about 3/4 inch. This is important, because the larger the size of the grip, the less vibration at the end as you turn it smaller and smaller and help to strengthen and reduce vibration toward the tip. Leaving the blank square until you reach the working area helps.



Start at the distal end of the finial and work back toward the chuck in 2 to 3 inch increments, leaving the untouched area as support. With each section turn the work down, refine shapes, sand it down (rough) and finish sanding (fine). Don't go back to this section unless you are willing to take the consequences.

This rule varies from absolute to easily ignored, depending on the strength of the wood you are using and the size of the finial. You can use the rough sanding to further thin out the finial if the wood will take the strain. If it won't, you will learn soon

enough.

It is not absolutely necessary to support the far end of the blank on the live center, but it is a good idea to start that way. It is a good idea to support the first section, parting off the tip of the finial, while it is supported, as a final task of that first section. Then pull the live center well away. This leaves the rest of the work unsupported, but with reasonable care, and with the bulk support of the rest of the blank you should be fine. At all times, feel free to support the back of the working section with your fingers. In such small diameters, the speed of the wood will not greatly heat up your skin and it will help reduce the effects of vibration on your cuts.

As you progress down the blank, cutting thin segments, start each new section by trimming down the cross section of that part about 1/3 to 1/2. Then work back from the finished area paring the wood to form a cone of 45 to 55 degrees. Then cut the cone to the finished dimension until you run out of cone, then paring back a new cone. This slope away from the rear while getting thinner eases the gouge's entry into the wood so that there are fewer catches in this increasingly delicate area. Do this until you get to where you will form decorative items. Generally, for esthetic reasons, the finial will get larger as you approach the end, with balls, disks half disks, "onions" etc. At the bottom of the finial, form a skirt then turn a tenon. The skirt will serve as a decorative feature as well as cover the place where the tenon is glued. Begin cutting the tenon carefully to avoid tearing the base of the skirt. Undercut the bottom of the skirt so that there will be no interference with putting the tenon into the mortise, even on a curved surface. The skirt should sit on the mounted surface cleanly with no gaps. A nice tenon size is 3/8", but that, as in all finial work, is up to your sense of taste. Finish the finial on the lathe, color or dye it if you wish and part it off.