



# Shavings

Hill Country Turners  
Monthly Newsletter



Volume #18

Issue #4 April 30, 2012

## Next Meeting May 9, 2013

### MEETING PLACE

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

### April Meeting

-Ken Morton recognized guest Jerry Maskill a friend of Jim Weir, and James and Kathy Hampton.

#### **-Treasurer's Report from Will Aymond**

**Checking Account Balance \$3,913.47**

**Petty Cash Balance \$ 204.25**

-**Harold Dykes' bowl** in the Kerr Arts & Craft Center (KACC) gift shop sold. He donated the proceeds to the club. Thank's Harold.

-Jim Whisnand, SWAT representative, reported that there will be a SWAT board meeting April 20<sup>th</sup> for the special election to fill the positions vacated by resignations. Registration for SWAT opened online as of April 1<sup>st</sup>. Ken announced that Tom Whiting is the recipient of the first time attendee free registration.

-George Taylor invited all to participate in the Club Challenge to turn a bowl shape out of a 3" thick Arizona Ash blank (donated by Jerry De Groot) into a pleasing form and shape. Results will be subjectively judged at the May meeting. The winner receives the admiration of his fellow turners,

-Upcoming demonstrations include vacuum chuck in May, box making in June, and tool handles in July.

-The May open shop will include a chainsaw demo.

-Ken announced that Thompson Tools has agreed to treat club orders in the same manner as Craft Supplies (10% off and free shipping).

-There will be a top-making demo at Ingram School on May 10<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to volunteer, contact Ken Morton.

-Ken divulged that the Kerr Arts & Crafts show board members had some concerns and would be proposing changes in club participation. A poll was taken to determine the number of participants interested in demonstrating if selling is not an option.

-Gordon Kincheloe from the Alamo Woodturners' Association (aka San Antonio club) detailed the content of the open segmented class to be taught by Lloyd Johnson June 29 – 30 at Woodcraft in San Antonio. A video invitation from Lloyd Johnson was also viewed. The cost of the class is \$150. There were openings for five more participants. Contact Gordon Kincheloe (ghkinch@sbcglobal.net) to sign up or for further details.

#### **Demo Notes**

George Taylor lead the Form and Shape discussion. The expert panel consisted of Ken Morton, Joe Johnson, and James Johnson. Prior to the meeting, George sent an email with form and shape links.

**Q. Approach: How do you start a project? What is your initial inspiration? Do you look at the wood to get an idea, or do you have an idea and look for suitable wood?**

Ken revealed that he looks at the block of wood and sketches his idea to scale. Joe replied that he does both, but looks at wood mostly, asking “What can I make from this piece of wood that is reasonable?” Joe also noted that you do not have to use the whole block of wood, you may make more than one piece out of any given piece of wood. James shared that in the beginning he looked at the wood, now 95% of the time he has a design in mind, then he finds suitable wood. James does not draw to scale because the design **always** changes.

**Q. When laying out a piece, does your idea come from a sketch, pictures, or do you wing it?**

James revealed that he tears pages out of magazines and puts them in sheet protectors to add to his “idea” notebook. His notebook includes a section on textures. James also noted that idea triggers do not have to be just wood turning, ideas can come from ceramics or whatever catches your eye. Joe also has an “idea” notebook which includes things he has made with notes so that he can duplicate later. Joe also suggested you can be inspired from taking a class or reading books (Joe, Ken and James passed around books from their personal libraries). Recommended reading included books by Ray Key (form and design discussed), Bob Stocksdale (classic form), and Burt Marsh (classic form). Ken concurred with creating an “idea” notebook for inspiration, noting that ideas can be scanned; the scanned images can be enlarged to scale to verify that it fits the piece of wood. Ken also looks at pottery books for inspiration. It was also noted that the instant gallery at SWAT is a good place for inspiration. Dan Pfeiffer interjected that he finds form and shape inspiration from Greek art and art from the Ming Dynasty.

**Q. On proportion: Profile, continuous curve or different approach? One third rule? Golden rectangle? Feet (Bowl 33%, Platter 50%, Plate 90%)?**

Ken stated he goes with thirds and his profiles flow into the feet. Joe also uses the thirds rule with utility type pieces. With artistic pieces, there are no rules. Joe used pieces from his personal gallery as examples between utility and artistic pieces. Joe also showed examples of designs that were limited by the size and shape of the piece of wood.

**Q. Thickness: any rules on how thick or thin?**

All the panelists agreed – It depends. Ken stated that he goes thinner on artistic pieces and thicker for functional pieces. His rule of thumb is to pick it up and feel it, asking, “Does it match its intended use?” Ken commented that he strives for uniform thickness, but leaves the bottoms thicker because he likes heavier bottoms. James asserted that when he is turning vases, he turns to 1/4” or less, 3/8” will crack George summarized with the comment “thick or thin, have a reason”.

**Q. Rules for Rims and Feet?**

Joe asserted that there are no rules, it is up to the turner. Ken suggested trying different things; turn a foot, if you don’t like it, you can turn it off. James commented that with big pieces he structurally fashioned the rims to keep the edge from moving. James also noted that going from concave to convex you will always have a flat spot. One solution is to make a ledge transition.

**General Tips**

- If you like a piece, determine what it is you like about it.
- If you don’t like a piece, determine what it is you don’t like about it.

**May Meeting**

Joe Johnson will be doing the May demonstration and he’ll be talking about vacuum chucking. Joe says there are a number of reasons a woodturner might want a vacuum chuck system. Perhaps you are a production turner and you’re simply looking for ways to make things faster and more efficient. Maybe you are a hobbyist turner and want other options for holding a work piece for finishing or repairs. On the other hand perhaps you simply need another tool to enhance your woodturning experience and enjoyment.

Whatever the reason, this demo should give you a better understanding on how to either buying or building a vacuum system.

**Open Shop**

Ken Morton's "open shop" was changed to Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. James Johnson showed Ken how to use his newly acquired boring bar. Some brought tools for sharpening. Lunch was provided and a dandy time was had. Premier photographer Chuck Felton shows us:



### Show and Tell

Sue and Kirk Bates brought a couple of Mesquite bowls. One, with a deer antler display and the other a square edged bowl. Note the turquoise highlights. Ken Morton had a spalted hackberry (wood won in the raffle) bowl made for his veterinarian but claimed by his wife who liked it better. Roger Felps showed us a mesquite bowl with cut-through octagonal sides that had been featured in the AAW magazine some time ago. He had made two of them, sold one and then bought it back at half the price, then sold again. He's going to keep this one.



Uel showed a tool handle made of Ipe as identified by Johnny Jones. Paul Hewett has been making jar lids of Corian. He showed us a couple of these lids that he finds quite useful. He also brought a salt grinder of Walnut that has a white Corian button on the top to distinguish it from a pepper grinder. Rich Grable showed a couple of paper towel holders that he made with a rather clever spring-held arm to allow one hand tearing without unrolling more than you want. He says it is still in the design phase.



George Taylor brought a Cedar plate with walnut oil finish (from wood from Kirk Bates) and a natural edged mesquite bowl. Tom Canfield showed a natural edged crotch bowl of Mimosa and an end-grain turned bowl of Box Elder.



Jerry DeGroot brought a slab of Box Elder with red only in one area, apparently the red was the result of disturbance in that area of a copper jacketed bullet, that can clearly be

seen in cross-section on the slab. Finally, visitor Jerry Maskill showed a ring bowl of rather dark Maple and what must be called an unnatural edge. The bark fell off and to give it some interest he textured the edge with a Dremmel tool and finished with Tung Oil.



### Refreshments 2013

Month	Meeting Date	Drinks	Sweets
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.

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	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	<b>Ken Morton</b>	(210) 833-7148	
Vice President	<b>George Taylor</b>	(830) 751-2109	
Treasurer	<b>Will Aymond</b>	(830) 285-2702	
Secretary	<b>Kathy Hampton</b>	(830) 634-3002	
Past President	<b>Joe Johnson</b>	(830) 896-5924	
Special Events	<b>Bill Hussey</b>	(830) 896-8093	
Newsletter/Webmaster	<b>Jerre Williams</b>	(830) 895-3206	
KACC Liaison	<b>Uel Clanton</b>	(830) 896-5288	
SWAT Representative	<b>Jim Whisnand</b>	(830) 755-8603	
Audio-Video Director	<b>Tom Whiting</b>	(443) 243-6933	
Website	<b>http://www.hillcountryturners.org</b>		

