



Shavings

Hill Country Turners
Monthly Newsletter



Volume #18

Issue #8 September 6, 2012

Next Meeting September 12, 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.

August Meeting

George Taylor called the meeting to order in Ken Morton's absence. Guests were introduced.

Treasurer's Report from Will Aymond

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Checking Account Balance | \$3983.10 |
| Petty Cash Balance | \$200.00 |

Upcoming Programs

George announced the September demonstration will be on inlays – to quote Kirk Bates – “Bling sells”. October presentation will be on finishing, and November's will be Johnny and Marcia Tolly. The Club Raffle will be in October in order to give the Tollys plenty of time for demonstrating in November. George is looking for volunteers interested in helping to establish the 2014 programs.

Joe Johnson reported on Dale Lemons' status. Dale appreciates visitors.

Demo Notes

John Lucas – the making of hand mirrors
You may have seen John's comments on the internet board “Wood Central” or watched one of his many YouTube videos.

John learned to make hand mirrors using router techniques, then adapted the construction to turning techniques.

In fashioning the handle, he has found that a double taper works well aesthetically. He also likes to try different things to get different affects – a little turning... carving... using the bandsaw to shape the handle. John showed a hand mirror where he had carved a basket weave to beautify the area on the back of a hand mirror in an area that the wood didn't have interesting figure. Another hand mirror was fashioned from laminate with a design cutout using a router.



In picking the wood, John has developed an acrylic tool that allows him to see the hand mirror shape and size, and choose where the figure of the wood will be on the finished project. He typically works with 6½” boards.

Although he showed a square shaped mirror, John doesn't make many of these anymore. He pointed out the weak point (the handle tenon going into the square point). His tenons are 3/8”. He sometimes uses a 3/16” steel rod insert to make it stronger.

In making the round mirror part, you need a good and flat piece of wood for a 3” square waste block. John uses CA glue and accelerator to attach a waste block to the back of the mirror (not were the mirror will go). Using the accelerator makes the CA glue brittle and then you will be able to pop the waste block off the good

wood easily with a chisel and a good whack, leaving the good wood virtually unharmed. The grain of the waste block and the good wood should be going the same way.

John demonstrated his cutting technique with his bowl gouge with swept back wings, noting the less bevel, the less friction. He encouraged members to not force cut (which you can tell by the sound and the tear-out), instead, “glide” on the bevel.

After cutting the corners off, John measured the glass (noting that exact measurements are critical and that 4” mirrors are not all exactly 4”). He marked the mirror size on the wood blank. John used a parting tool to cut inside the marked line. He uses a bowl gouge or a scraper to clear the wood out. John has a “go-no go” tool that he uses to gage the cut depth for the mirror. The bottom should be concave (to give adhesive a place to go) and the mirror should be enough under the edge so that when you lay the mirror on its face, the glass won’t touch the surface. The edges should be undercut to allow for the wood to shrink. John noted that if the fit is too tight and the wood shrinks, it is not the mirror that breaks, it is the wood. John demonstrated his technique of undercutting using a gouge and cleaning up the parting tool cut on the way out. Sheer scrape to clean up and sand.

Use a chisel and a mallet, striking the joint fast. The impact breaks the glue joint, not a prying action.

If you don’t have 4” expansion jaws to expand into the mirror insert to work the back, turn the edges off the 3” square waste block just enough to fit where the mirror will be inserted (it doesn’t take much) and use CA glue with accelerator again. The square inside the circle gives you a place to put the chisel when you are ready to break it apart. The 3” waste block can be glued to a bigger waste block or attached to a face plate to work the back.

When shaping the back, you are making an arc. John noted that it is hard to make an arc with a pull cut. He has tried various ways to use a push cut in a comfortable manner. He now uses reverse on the lathe and a push cut from the center out for a very clean arc with a 50 degree bevel. If you have trouble with tear out, try a 40 degree bevel. A 35 degree detail gouge will give you an even cleaner cut. A hunter tool with a 25 degree edge works like a scraper.



John demonstrated his technique for creating a bead. He moved the tool rest up high and rolled the tool from the high point of the bead for the outside, then from the high point the other way for the inside. John then used pull cuts on the non-bead area with the tool rest down below center, raising the tool as he approached the bead.

When shaping the handle, John uses a little bitty live center (~ 3/8”). He has a story stick with nails at each end to mark. (Note: the hole in the body of the mirror will be drilled when ready to assemble.) Turn a 3/8” tenon. John noted that he does tests with 3/8” drill bits and 3/8” wrenches to find ones that create holes and tenons that fit together properly – not all bits or wrenches are created equal – he marks them as a pair (same color mark) and keeps them together. Work the handle from the center out. He used a parting tool to rough in beads, then used a roughing gouge to shape. Working below the middle, with his fingers supporting the spindle to reduce chatter, John used a skew for smoothing and shape cleanup. John suggested if you get chatter marks, change the angle of the skew to cut off the tops of previous chattering and keep the tool from continuing to chatter. John noted that making beads is difficult to learn because the motion requires rolling and lifting the tool. Use the heel of the skew to roll the bead, use the toe to clean up. John demonstrated making a cove. The cleaner the cuts, the higher the sand paper you can start sanding with, the less likely you are to lose the fine details.

When finishing, John uses lacquer because it is easy to repair and Windex overspray does not affect the finish.

To drill a hole in the mirror body, you can use a drill press with a V block jig holder or use the lathe with the drill bit in the head stock and a V block jig holder in the tail stock. Having forgotten the V block jig holder for the tail stock, John used the tool rest to support the mirror body in a horizontal position. Positioning the hole a little off center makes a dove-tail-like detail. You will want this detail on the mirror side.

Show and Tell

Show and Tell Notes

Uel Clanton brought three different sizes of tool handle, all mesquite. Harold Dykes brought segmented pieces made from ColorPly, the smaller made from cutoffs of the bigger piece; the shape determines the color design; the color ply started out a 3x3x12. Tom Canfield showed a mimosa natural edged bowl.



James Johnson brought Diatoms #3, 4 and 5 (#1 was last month's show and tell, #2 didn't work out), and collaboration with Anna yielded #6 and 7 in a pair of earrings; turning them and putting them together is tricky, the end pieces shrink more than the sleeves, sometimes you have to steam the ends to get them into a workable shape; there is a steep learning curve on these! Anna Rachinsky showed an ash and Indian rosewood hair holder with genuine stones, one of which was given to her at SWAT 2 years ago by LA Cude's brother-in-law. She also had a lidded box embellished with wood burned ants and trail. And two lidded spalted hackberry boxes, one embellished with a cat catching snails and the other with a cat and dragonflies.



Jerry De Groot. Here lie the remains of a 16" diameter bowl where things weren't working right. He watched a bowl turning video and figured out where he was going wrong the wood curls were just flying off the piece at that point and he was so enthused he forgot to finish as he went. When he put a sharp tool to the outer edge, it blew up – throwing pieces in every direction. Undaunted, Jerry turned another bowl (not quite as big), finishing as he went this time. Box Elder

(Pictures were courtesy of Chuck Felton and AAW. Mostly Chuck.)

Refreshments 2013

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