



Shavings

Hill Country Turners
Monthly Newsletter



Volume #18

Issue #11 December 28, 2013

Next Meeting January 9, 2014

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.

November Meeting

Meeting Notes: George Taylor presiding

Treasurer's Report from Will Aymond

Checking Account Balance \$3,075.05

Petty Cash Balance \$200.00

Secretary Report – The board met on November 2, 2013.

AAW Scholarships – The four applicants responded; all were submitted.

2014 Snacks and Drinks List – There are still a few blanks.

AAW Equal Opportunity Grant – An application will be submitted for a portable Audio Visual equipment set up that can be used for demonstrations at schools, workshops, SWAT, and arts/craft shows.

January Meeting – Come prepared with suggestions for Raffle items. Also, a Craft Supply order will be placed shortly after the meeting, so have your order ready. For 2014, Craft Supply orders will be placed in January, April and August. The January open shop will be at Ken Morton's. Alan Trout will demonstrate his hollowing system.

February Meeting – Raffle night! Don't forget your bring-backs!

Beads of Courage – Instead of at Christmas, Beads of Courage boxes will be collected closer to the SWAT time-frame and will be displayed in the SWAT instant gallery.

Dues – Be sure to bring a check for your dues in January.

Kerr Furniture Show Letter – Thank you to all the volunteers

Elections :George announced that the 2014 Club Officer nominations:

President, George Taylor

1st Vice President, John Stegal

2nd Vice President, Roger Arnold

Secretary, Kathy Hampton

Treasurer, Will Aymond.

Past President, Ken Morton.

All nominations were elected at the General Meeting

Demo Notes

Johnny Tolly demonstrated how he turns thin Maple disks for Christmas Ornaments. Johnny covered basic turning safety: wear a well-built face shield, don't stand in the direct line of fire, wear a smock to keep wood chips out of the house and "DB" (Dearly Beloved) happy, and keep long hair and long sleeves away from the lathe.

He covered how he prepared the wood (in this case maple) to save time and maximize the number of ornaments he could get out of the wood. These ornaments can be made out of cut-offs from a cabinet shop. When finished, the disks are about 1/8 inch thick. When laying out the ornaments on board cut-offs, keep in mind you

will be cutting the board in half. So, if one side of the wood is damaged, instead of getting two disks, you will only get one disk from that area. Using a bandsaw, cut the blocks, mark the center



of the board thickness then slice the blocks into two ornament blanks. Draw circles on the blanks and use the bandsaw or a scroll saw to lob off the corners.

Johnny uses a friction drive to round the blank and make a tiny tenon on one end. Johnny used a mini chuck to hold the blank. Mark the center of the disk to help visualize where the two sides will meet. True up the face of the disk. Johnny demonstrated the use of the Hunter micro tool to shape the disk. He turned one side. Turn the speed on the lathe down and sand to smooth (400 grit) finish. (Sanding supplies from vineswoodnwonders.com) You can power sanding or hand sand. At home, Johnny would use a vacuum system. Using the tailstock adapter, he would screw the chuck on the tailstock and push it up to the vacuum chuck – perfectly centered. In lieu of a vacuum chuck, Johnny’s alternate is a face plate with double-sided stick tape. The particular tape that Johnny likes is from Lowes. (Shurtape, Indoor/Outdoor Carpet Tape, 1.88 in.) Look at the ornament and decide which is the top. Johnny typically picks an orientation with the grain horizontal. Use the point of a compass to make a dimple where the eye screw will go on the pencil center line. True up and shape the backside, leaving the tailstock up as long as possible. Sand smooth. Using a pen vice with a small drill bit, hand drill the eye screw hole before removing the ornament from the lathe. (Meisel has a small drill bit set and McMaster Carr a nice pen vice.) Drill a little bit, pull out, 3 or 4 times, so drill bit doesn’t break off in the wood. When removing the ornament from the double-sided tape, be aware of the grain direction, so you don’t break it in half. If tape residue is on the ornament, use denatured alcohol, rubbing alcohol, or mineral spirits to remove. Screw in the eye screw. If the hole is a little bit large, use CA glue to hold in the eye screw.



You can go as thin as you like. Johnny showed variations he had created using crystal and epoxy inlay. If you plan to use color epoxy, use thin CA glue in the grooves to keep the color from bleeding into the wood. Additionally, you can offset turn the grooves to get non-concentric lines. Christmas lights shine through the epoxy and crystal inlays. Another option is to turn two halves (domes) (| |) and glue together.

Thread a thin cord in a Christmas color through the eye screw for hanging. The thin cord is a seasonal item which can be bought at Wal-Mart, or hobby stores.

Johnny turned the demonstration over to his “DB”, Marcia, for her to show how she decorates the disks with pyrography.

Marcia demonstrated a snowflake pattern. She noted that snowflakes have six points. Using a pencil, lightly mark division lines for the six points. Eye ball measurements using a center finder as a straight edge. When burning, straight lines are the easiest. Always pull toward you to get straighter lines. If your line is not perfectly straight, it is okay. There are not straight lines in nature and no two snowflakes are the same. All disks are not the same either, some are thicker than others.



Marcia’s wood burning unit is a Detail Master 3 and she used a blade point (smaller one from Craft Supply) in her snowflake demonstration. She also noted that when burning, hold the wood at an angle so the smoke will go up and away from you and the heat will go away from your fingers. Not only does the maple contrast nicely with the green of the Christmas tree, but it also has mostly the same grain. Mesquite has soft and hard grain. After burning, erase pencil marks. Remove soot using 100% isopropyl alcohol or 91% rubbing alcohol. Hang on a paper clip and spray with lacquer to finish.

Besides snowflakes, stars, butterflies and feathers are also popular. You can use carbon paper to copy designs onto the ornament. Acrylic paint can be used to color your design.

December Fun

The Christmas Party was merry and bright. Uel has brokered another fine meal from The Inn of the Hills. Here are some of Chucks fine pictures of the turning exchange pieces and a record of our presentation to the Blue Santa project. Enjoy!



Show-and-Tell

Jerry DeGroot showed a Box Elder platter. Vern Hallmark brought a plate of ¿Soapberry? It is the first time he has turned that wood and the first piece to be shown to the crowd. Darrell Korman showed us a “possibly” dandy way to eliminate cracks and distortion on green turned bowls. There was some scoffing, but we shall see whether Darrell has the last laugh. Roger Felps brought a vase with lots of burned texture/ornamentation.



Uel Clanton brought tailswatters from Wildebeest and Zebra, with some inlay work on the handles
Tom Canfield showed an Ash bowl with nice color and a spalted Pecan crotch piece . Kathy Hampton turned a candle holder into an art piece with a wood base and also showed a snowman.



James Johnson showed a beautiful box elder bowl, beautiful wood and, after much effort, smooth on the outside but never really could get the inside well because of the punky wood. Phil Medghalchi brought two Bradford Pear bowls, he used a Mahony Oil finish he felt was too dark and a lacquer finish. James Hampton brought a “Beer” bowl inspired by Jimmy Clews and two end-grain vases of Mesquite.



Jimmy Tolly, Johnny’s more handsome brother, brought a Box Elder bowl from wood he got at SWAT from our own wood mongers, the Hill Country Woods.



2014 Food Sign-Up Sheet

| Month | Meeting Date | Drinks | Sweets |
|-----------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|
| January | 11th | Ken Morton | Tommy Jeffers |
| February | 8th | John Stegall | Sue Bates |
| March | 8th | Liz Felton | Tom Canfield |
| April | 12th | Roger Arnold | Harold Dykes |
| May | 10th | Debbie Walker | Pete Cowger |
| June | 14th | | Will Aymond |
| July | 12th | Uel Clanton | Martha Palmer |
| August | 9th | | Kathy & Jim Weir |
| September | 13th | | C. Herbert |
| October | 11th | Jim Whisnand | John Jones |
| November | 8th | Joe Johnson | George Taylor |
| December | 13th | Christmas Party | 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.

| <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 2013 One Last Time

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.

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|----------------------|--|----------------|----------------------|
| 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 | johnsoj8a@stx.rr.com |
| Past President | Joe Johnson | (830) 896-5924 | huzz@windstream.net |
| Special Events | Bill Hussey | (830) 896-8093 | jerrew@hotmail.com |
| Newsletter/Webmaster | Jerre Williams | (830) 895-3206 | |
| KACC Liaison | Uel Clanton | (830) 896-5288 | jswhizcal@aol.com |
| SWAT Representative | Jim Whisnand | (830) 755-8603 | twhiting@stx.rr.com |
| Audio-Video Director | Tom Whiting | (443) 243-6933 | |
| Website | http://www.hillcountryturners.org | | |