



# Shavings

## Hill Country Turners

### Monthly Newsletter



Volume #22

Issue #5, April May 16, 2016

## Next Meeting, June 8, 2017

### 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.

**Program:** John Stegall welcomed the group and a visiting member, John Jones from Blanco. We are waiting and hoping for a response from Mystic Ranch Foundation on some small lathes and material for future training for the group, but George Taylor, our liaison with the Foundation, is out of town and we will have to wait some more.

In September the Club will host, at KACC, a workshop for new turners aimed at older adolescents and adults to give them a chance at turning a pen and/or a small bowl. We will need some volunteers to help the students. The class will be held in the morning and the afternoon of September 16, the Saturday after our meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>. A few signed up to help already, but we will need a few more. Let John or Tom Canfield know.

SWAT registration is open now and it is time to consider going to a great show. Our club has always had a presence in the largest regional turning meeting in the nation we have had several members who held the post of president and we have usually had the responsibility of supporting one of the demonstration rooms. Tom Whiting or Vice President and Video man put together, with the help of a grant from SWAT a large device for supporting the lights and audio/video system for our room. It is really a chance to see some nationally acclaimed turners doing their thing.

**Demo:** L. A. Cude was our man for finishing with lacquer. This



was a surprise to none of us, since we have all seen his crystal clear – mirror smooth finishes on various woodturnings over the years. The most common statement heard about a really shiny piece is “is that an L. A. finish?”.

L.A. comes from a family of wood finishers and his father was a master finisher who taught L. A. to spray to an accuracy of 6 thousandths of an inch thickness. Natural varnish, he says, is very expensive and as a reasonable practice, it is more practical to use mostly synthetic varnishes, lacquers and shellacs that are commercially offered. The new products have helpful additives to adjust flow, hardness, UV protection etc. and the production is often, but not always, better controlled.

L.A. says that display is important and that, with careful monitoring of the amount of handling, exposure to UV sources and humidity control, finishes with polyurethanes or plastics can only hope to last about 30 years. Heirloom pieces must last a long time and it is essential to remove as much of the resins from the wood and re-dry it in order to prevent chemical reaction gassing of the resins. when the finish is applied. The result of not doing so will result in pimple-like bubbles



that come to the surface and spoil the finish. Although the bubbles can be eliminated by opening the bubbles with sanding and dropping small drops of finish with a pin or other fine point into the individual bubbles the problem is that, although the immediate problem is eliminated, there will be further deterioration of the finish from the underlying sap and resins still in the wood.

The solution is to liberally use a solvent on the wood. If it is a hardwood use denatured alcohol, if it is a softwood use turpentine or mineral spirits. Wipe off the excess and let thoroughly dry before applying a finish. This process will allow you to extract the top 1/16 to 1/8 inch of the surface and give the finish a fighting chance. In very resinous wood even a good long bath might be necessary, but a long-long drying time is essential after the bath.

Sanding is L. A.'s big second finishing focus. HE SAYS to sand all of the marks away. That includes tool marks, heavy sandpaper swirls etc. making sure they are essentially gone by the time you get to 220 grit paper and then stop. He illustrated the idea with a sketch of an imaginary cross section of the surface showing a saw tooth pattern that is supposed to show that this sanding process offers a good surface for the varnish/lacquer to cling to, but that will be readily covered by the medium, and leave a relatively smooth surface on the first coat. Two or three subsequent coats will flow smoothly over this base leaving a very fine finish indeed. If it becomes necessary to further polish the piece, the polish will be applied on this nice surface, not the wood. Sanding beyond 220 burnishes the wood and makes it hard for the finish to hold. Additionally, lots and lots of coats make it hard to keep the level of the surface uniform.

As a caveat, I would point out that L. A. Loves a clear, shiny surface, since it brings out, he feels, the underlying wood textures and features more clearly. The clarity of the lacquer from the surface of the wood to the surface of the lacquer will magnify the wood grain. If a satin finish or simi-gloss is used, the clay used to create those effects diminishes the clarity of the wood grain that shows through the finish. If you would rather not have a high gloss, the wood grain that shows through the finish. If you would rather not have a high gloss, shiny finish, you can always use 0000 steel wool to diminish the sheen but you will still have a more clear view of the wood grain than if you had used a semi-gloss or satin product. He likes the crystal finish. He is not a great friend of satin or semi-gloss finishes from oils or other finishes. He gave a nod to James Johnson's "Easter Island" statue (see show and tell and the attached group of pictures, above). James did the statue almost 30 years ago. L. A. Said that it had really kept its luster, "for an oil finish". You can't please everybody.

L. A. showed a plank that was painted (lacquer with a color in it). It was divided into three parts (1,2 and 3) each square with each square numbered to represent the amount of coatings. A careful examination of the board showed the three steps leading to a fairly nice luster.

L. A. recommended two lacquers, Pratt and Lambert and Mohawk. The only locally available lacquer (that he's aware of) that he recommends is Gemini. He also prefers a pre-catalyzed lacquer. A good way to test your own brand was to use a freshly cleaned piece of window glass divide it into squares, spray your brand, leave a clean square as a baseline, and any other brands to test. Look through the glass from the rear and see how clear the samples are. Then, you should leave it outside in the sun for a couple of weeks and look at it again.  
All in all, it was enlightening. Thanks L. A.

**Show and Tell:** James Johnson, as previously mentioned, brought a copy of an "Easter Island" totem that he carved out of American elm many years ago and coated it daily and liberally with linseed oil when he came home from work. You can see the picture in the second group of pictures in the demo, above. He also showed the various parts of a scepter he is building as practice for a contract he is going to do with Schreiner's Univ. (When and IF they get it designed) I think he is going to give the scepter to SWAT as a shiny ornament for raffle ticket sellers. The pieces can be put together several ways before they are glued and that is the next step. Tom Canfield brought a pine "study" piece to preview a project of a friend who wants table legs carved from pecan wood posts that he has prepared. Tom also showed a nice memosa bowl.





Finally Harold dykes showed a block of Corian that he glued using Well Bond from Gibsons. The join was almost completely perfect and he didn't have to mess with CA glue. He also showed us a nice mask called "Power Mask" available on the net, for finishing and sanding (not turning, no face shield, but he likes it a whole lot. I'm sorry Harold, I just didn't get a shot of either the cube or the mask.

### Treasurer's Report for

<u>Beginning Bank Balance:</u>	<u>\$ 3499.42</u>
<u>Paid Out this Month:</u>	
Total Paid Out	\$ 0.00
Back orders, Membership dues	\$163.25
Total Deposit	\$ 163.25
<u>Current Bank Balance</u>	<u>\$ 662.67</u>
<u>Petty Cash:</u>	<u>\$ 183.50</u>

**Next meeting's program:** John Stegall will turn a small gothic cross for a necklace and perhaps a teardrop for an earring. There will also be a quarterly raffle, so bring money!

Snacks/Drinks List 2016		
	Drinks	Snacks
June	Uel Clanton	Martha Palmer
July	Roger Arnold	Harold Dykes
August	Debbie Walker	Sue Bates
September	Michael Shoup	Barby Hausman
October	Jim Whisnand	George Taylor
November	Jerre Williams	Bill Hussey
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 2017**

<b>President</b>	John Stegall	(830) 928-0859	
<b>Vice President</b>	Tom Whiting	(443) 243-6933	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Wendell White	(325) 656-4226	
<b>Secretary</b>	George Taylor	(972)824-0550	
<b>Past President</b>	George Taylor	(972)824-0550	
<b>Special Events</b>	Bill Hussey	(830) 896-8093	
<b>Newsletter</b>	Jerre Williams	(830) 285-0938	
<b>KACC Liaison</b>	Uel Clanton	(830) 896-5288	
<b>SWAT Representative</b>	Tom Canfield	(830) 997-6236	
<b>Audio-Video Director</b>	Tom Whiting (Temp.?)	(443) 243-6933	
<b>Webmaster</b>	Jerre Williams	(830) 285-0938	
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.hillcountryturners.org">http://www.hillcountryturners.org</a>		

**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.**