



# Shavings

Hill Country Turners  
Monthly Newsletter



August 1, 2022

## Next Meeting August 11, 2022

### Meeting Place

**Hill Country Turners** meet in the basement of the KACC (Kerr Arts & Cultural Center) at 228 Earl Garrett St., Kerrville, Texas, 78028 at 6:30 pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

### July Meeting

Announcements: We had a great turnout for the July meeting. **Tom Canfield** was the sole presenter for show and tell items; see below.

Thank you, Larry Turley, for the photography



## Major points reported

- SWAT Update (see below)
- 2023 Officers (see below)

## Treasurers Report

We Have about \$1,400 in the main account, and \$4,800 in the special activities account. One new member with dues came in.

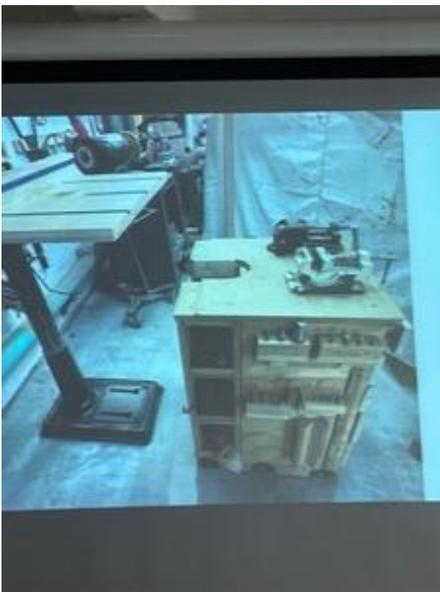
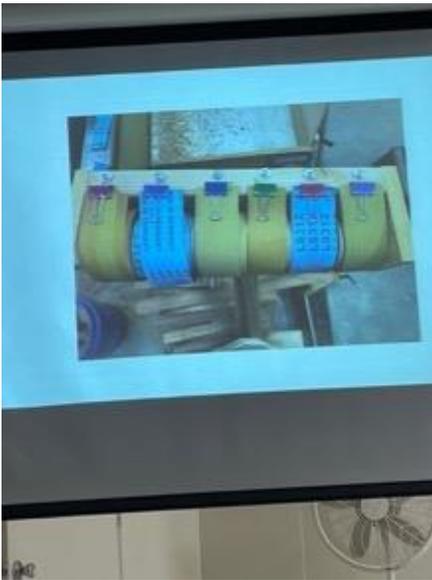
## Safety

LINE OF FIRE: There are two sides of the tool rest. Your side, and the agony side. **BE AWARE** when turning.

## Roger Arnold Demo

**Roger Arnold** provided the evenings demonstration. Roger provided a power point show highlighting his shop improvements for organization. Along with his congenial levity, he showed several of his cabinets: (1) Drill press roll out, (2) Screw/nail, (3) Table saw, and (4) Table saw dust collector. He also demonstrated his Tool Tree, which houses a BUNCH of turning tools in a double lazy-susan tree, a good way to organize sanding rolls and sanding discs. A simple magnetic grinder dust catcher was shown, home grown lathe swing-away, a double banjo, and a way (barn door rail with block) to lift heavy stock onto the lathe. A custom lathe organizer was also presented. This is all the writer can recall, but it was one of those “Should’ve been there!” shows. Many thanks **Roger Arnold** for sharing these fine ideas.





## Upcoming 2022 Calendar

- **August 11<sup>th</sup> Raul Peña Demo**
- **August 13<sup>th</sup> Joe Johnson Open Shop “Sharpening”**
- **October(?) Possible Todd Raines “Bowl in a Bowl”**
- **November George Taylor Embellishing with Epoxy**

## Special Thanks

As always, we thank the **Majestic Ranch Arts Foundation** for their support. Majestic Ranch Arts Foundation makes possible our equipment, upgrades to existing equipment and technological enhancements for “live” internet teaching. The Foundation’s donations helped us weather the COVID-19 crisis.

## Drinks and Snacks

| Month     | Meeting Date     | Drinks              | Sweets              |
|-----------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| August    | 11 <sup>th</sup> | Tim Lutman          | Sue Bates           |
| September | 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Debbie Walker       | Joe Johnson         |
| October   | 13 <sup>th</sup> | Loy A. and Kathy R. | Loy A. and Kathy R. |
| November  | 10 <sup>th</sup> | John Stegall        | George Taylor       |

## Reminders

- **SWAT Update-We still need VOLUNTEERS** for assistance in the video presentations. The next SWAT meeting for the representatives is July 29<sup>th</sup>. Roger may have an update after that date.
- **Club Newsletter**-If any of y’all have any input for the newsletter, please send it along.
- **2023 Officers**-Please consider putting your hat in the ring for an officer position OR nominating someone who would work for our club.
- **Craft Supply**-The last order was received and delivered. ‘till the next one....
- **Klingspor**-Don’t forget that the HCT participates in Klingspor’s woodworking/woodturning discount program. This program gives members a 10% discount on most of their catalog items. To qualify for the discount, you must create an online account before placing your order. Additional details were recently sent to all HCT members.
- **Club Membership Information**-Our primary means of communicating with members is by way of e-mails. If your contact information changes, especially your e-mail address, please let Joe Johnson or Marcy Dunn know so you will continue receiving communications from the HCT.

## 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 them 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 this program. 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   | George Taylor | 972-824-0550 | Bowls            |
| L. A. Cude    | 901-355-7046 | Lacquer Finish   | Raul Pena     | 830-634-2545 | General          |
| James Johnson | 830-895-4170 | All              | Joe Johnson   | 281-961-1209 | General          |
| Tom Canfield  | 903-521-4526 | All              |               |              |                  |

## “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>George Taylor</b>              | (972) 824-0550 | gat54@me.com              |
| Vice President       | <b>John Stegall</b>               | (830) 928-0859 | jrstegall43@gmail.com     |
| Treasurer            | <b>Joe Johnson</b>                | (281) 961-1209 | johnsoj8a@stx.rr.com      |
| Secretary            | <b>Marcy Dunn</b>                 | (830) 739-8797 | marcyrdowney@yahoo.com    |
| Past President       | <b>Tom Whiting</b>                | (443) 243-6933 | twhiting45@windstream.net |
| Newsletter/Webmaster | <b>Tim Lutman</b>                 | (830) 688-3149 | tim.lutman@gmail.com      |
| SWAT Representative  | <b>Roger Arnold</b>               | (210) 287-4571 | arnwood@hctc.net          |
| Audio-Video Director | <b>Tom Whiting</b>                | (443) 243-6933 | twhiting45@windstream.net |
| Website              | <b>www.hillcountryturners.org</b> |                |                           |

## HOT OFF THE PRESS

The club now has a general inquiry email address: [hillcountryturners.info@gmail.com](mailto:hillcountryturners.info@gmail.com)

## Mason County Report

Marcy reports that we made front page “*above the fold*” news. Wow. See the pictures. The Friends of the Courthouse held an auction including 7 of our bowls. Total fetched was **\$8500**, with Roger’s bowl bringing in \$5,000. There is a special buy-back program protects our bowls from under-bidding. Subsequent auction of 30 items brought in **\$4,534. AWESOME!!!**

# Mason County News

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16 pages \$1.00

## Hill Country Turners Create Works of Art Out of Pecan Trees Cut After Mason County Courthouse Fire

By Emily Hilley-Sierczula

There's nothing really remarkable about pecan wood, unless it was once part of the Mason County Courthouse landscape. Around 20 volunteers from a group of Hill Country artisans have been busy as bees creating works of art out of one of the pecan trees that was cut after the courthouse fire last year.

"The night of the fire, one of my cousins who lives in Mason let me know that the courthouse was on fire, and I sat there watching a live news feed with tears just running down my face, watching it burn," said Marcy Dunn with the Hill Country Turners. "My first thought was that I had to salvage a piece of wood so that I could make a bowl and give it back to the courthouse. I later learned that there was no wood left from inside the courthouse,

but that three of the trees had to be cut down. I immediately began to get my woodturning club involved."

She said that Mason County delivered 30 feet of one of the tree trunks to her house.

"I'd lost sleep wondering how I was going to get the wood home, but they were amazing," she said.

Dunn lives in Center Point, in Kerr County, but her family is from Mason.

"I have three cousins who still live there," Dunn said. "It was my great-uncle who planted the pecan trees around the courthouse 112 years ago."

### A WOMAN ON A MISSION

The Turners are based in Kerrville, but their members come from all over the Hill Country.

So far, they have made 155 one-of-a-kind items—in-

cluding many bowls, vases, cutting boards and writing pens—from courthouse pecan wood and more items are being crafted. Some items have been given away to donors and others will be auctioned at the celebration planned when the courthouse reconstruction is finished.

"We still have about a year to keep working on the project," Dunn said. "I see these bowls as being valuable in a historical context, because once we use all this wood from the courthouse, there will be no more. These are clever, unique pieces of art made by people with big hearts."

Each item is signed by its creator and includes the words "Mason County Courthouse pecan."

The pecan tree was alive, she said, which makes the woodturning process more

difficult but also more rewarding.

"Usually, you don't turn wet wood, you want it to dry some," Dunn said. "It splits, cracks and warps. It's part of nature. The wood has bug holes and trails, and I even found a few live grubs while I was working on my pieces. It's all beautifully sanded and sealed, but you can see the history of the tree in the

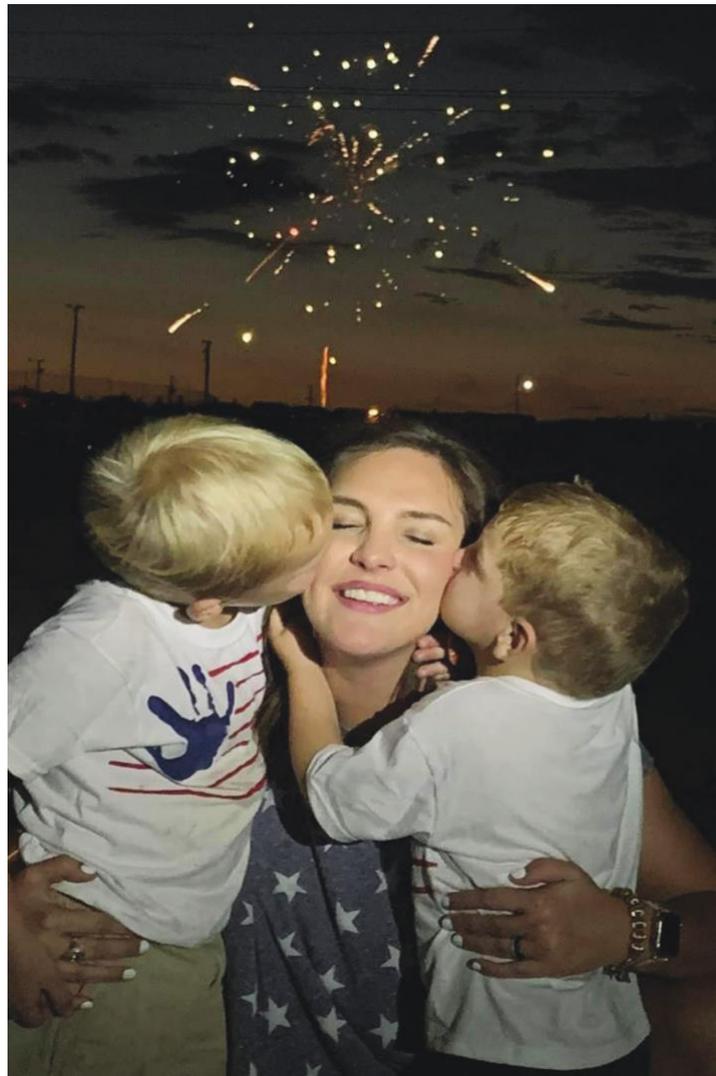
*Marcy Dunn of Center Point chose to leave some of the bark on her bowl as an accent. 'My bowl is very earthy, it looks like its part of the tree,' she said. Dunn, a member of the Hill Country Turners, is spearheading the Mason County Courthouse pecan project.*



See Pecan Continued on page 6



Hill Country Turner Chris Buckingham created this segmented bowl, which incorporates 337 individual pieces of wood from one of the courthouse pecans.



### Welcome to the Jungle: Una Experiencia Unica en la Vida

On June 14, three former Mason High School Spanish Students embarked on a nine-day journey to Chiapas, Mexico, led by local Spanish teacher Justin McFarland. The students were Brennan Watson, a recent graduate who will soon be attending Eastern Washington University, Rylan Jordan, a college sophomore at Oklahoma State University, and Maddy Heath, a college junior at the University of Colorado Boulder. The students were excited to be exposed to a completely different culture and way of life and to hone their Spanish skills. Additionally, they



The travelers enjoy the serenity of a waterfall in the middle of the Mexican jungle. L-R: Brennan Watson, Maddy Heath, and Rylan Jordan.

See Trip Continued on page 14

## Roundup Schedule

Roundup 2022 is here! Events for the 57th Annual Roundup Rodeos & Dance are scheduled as follows: Thursday, July 7

at the gate or \$8 pre-sale at Mason Bank; 12 and under free. Pre-sale tickets will be available until Friday, July 8th, at 3:00 pm. Sponsored by

fast tacos and coffee will be sold by Mason Rodeo Association Committee members. 10:00 a.m. - Parade, Downtown Square. Sponsored by

## Pecan

continued from page 1

wood.”

### MANY YEARS OF CREATING

Dunn grew up in San Antonio and later earned a bachelor’s degree in art education from Texas Tech University.

For the past five years, since she started turning wood, she’s been wielding a chainsaw and manning a woodworking lathe. “This is not what 73-year-old women usually are doing,” Dunn said. “But I’ve been working with wood since I was three years old. I made a lot of my own toys out of whatever I could find.”

Back then, she only had access to her father’s old saw, drill, and a few other hand tools. “I just like to make stuff,” she said. “I’m in hog heaven going through a scrap pile.”

Working on the courthouse project has been healing for Dunn. “This is a feel-good project and a way for me to take my love of turning wood to give back,” she said. “It’s also a way to remember my grandmother, who taught kindergarten for 30 years in Mason. When I was a little girl, my grandmother would take me to the courthouse and pick me up and set me on that beautiful wooden counter. I have good memories of that.”

To view a short video on the evolution of the project, and to see photos of the artisans with some of their creations, visit

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnGV4sL7jos](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnGV4sL7jos)