



MEETING DATE: February 11, 2006
MEETING TIME: 10:00 AM
MEETING PLACE: George Hancock's Business
2401 Neal Street Midland Texas

WOODCHIPS FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have come to the conclusion that the majority of Woodturners are good natured and sharing people. My realization dawned recently while reading the posts on an internet news group about woodturning (rec.crafts.woodturning).

For those who haven't heard about news groups, there are over 31,000 different groups on the internet and you can find information on just about any topic that you can imagine. I personally, have not used news groups very much. While the news groups share a wealth of information, a number of them have group members that seem to delight in belittling others (called flaming), especially new folks that ask questions of the group. I don't have much use for that type of behavior. This woodturning group appears to have helpful and caring members (Woodturners!), not like some of the others...anyway, back to the point.

While reading the questions and answers posted on the group, I realized how blessed we are to have a club like the "Comanche Trails Woodturners". I'm still wading through old (2004) messages, but I have read dozens of unanswered questions that I could have answered using information that our members and demonstrators have shared at our meetings. We are really lucky to have such talented demonstrators and club members freely sharing their experience. If you are having a problem in a certain area, or want to know how to turn a certain project, all you have to do is ask one of these more knowledgeable brother or sister Woodturners. I have yet to see a request for help go unanswered in our club. Please let me know if you happen to experience the frustration of an unanswered question. We will probably have to learn the answer together...but we'll sure find you an answer!

I was asked to remind everyone how much the monthly raffles help our club. The income generated by them will purchase the materials that we will use to make tools this month, help provide snacks and drinks at our meetings, purchase gift certificates and SWAT tickets to give away, etc. We haven't had much to raffle off lately. Please help me jumpstart the raffles. If you have something lying around that you can part with please donate it to the raffle, and remember; if you win something you should bring something to raffle off at the next meeting. The items that we raffle off don't have to be expensive

or extravagant. I have been fortunate enough to win many things at our raffles, but the only things that I remember are the small turned things made by my friends.

I also want to thank all of you that have brought guests to our meetings recently and our many visitors for coming. It is really exciting to see new faces in the crowd. Our club appears to be very healthy, and doing well. We owe that to the fine members that tell their friends about the fun they are having...keep up the good work.

I hope to see all of you at George's place of business (Texas Incinerator, around the corner from his workshop) on Saturday February 11th. We will be making and demonstrating the use of hook tools. If you haven't been able to attend one of the tool making sessions come ready to work. The meeting will last a little longer than normal and we will all pitch in and make enough tools for everyone present. Unless I am mistaken, I heard mention of pizza being brought in for lunch. In my opinion, this is one of our best meetings of the year, you will get to actually work with your fellow club members, have a good time, and take home a new tool. It doesn't get much better than that!

THE PROJECT CHAIRMAN'S RECAP OF THE LAST MEETING AND INFO ON THE FEBRUARY MEETING

It has been said that Keith Hughes is a good teacher and lecturer. After 20 minutes it came to mind, how can Keith go on for another hour talking about lathe tools etc? Well he did and it was all to the point as if it came from a book. In fact our meeting lasted over an hour and a half. The information just kept coming out. Keith that was a job well done. The intent was to help our new turners make better selections of tools and accessories. Keith had some facts that made all of us set up and take notice. This was good information for new and old turners as well.

The point was made; that you must decide what your turning projects will be before the selection of tools can be made. It's interesting when you one look at the show table and sees all the different tuning projects. What tools does a new turner buy? We all buy a tool to do a certain job but when we get the tool we don't know how to use it. The tool and new project may be put aside. An example of this is the way David Ellsworth uses his gouge to make the chips fly and then I think I just have to have one of those gouges. The tool is bought and has the Ellsworth grind. It works great on the VCR tape but doesn't work that way on a piece of wood. Well it does work just like Ellsworth says it does, it just takes time, practice, and the desire to master this tool. Our turning projects seem to be continually changing and because of that we think we need some special tools for each project. For turning 90% of my work, it is done with 4 tools. This brings up the point that if you have a tool and it works for you, it is the right tool for the turning.

Keith's talk may have cost us some extra dollars. He made the comment that the new powder steel tools are more expensive and keep the edge longer but is well worth the extra cost. When there is a choice get the best tool steel that's available. You won't be dissatisfied.

FEBRUARY 12, 2006 MEETING:

This is the meeting where all our Chapter Members get together to make tools. We will have a guest, Raul Pena from Kerrville. For some Raul is considered one of the most skilled Woodturners to date. The Hook Tool is very useful when cutting end grain, the finish requires very little sanding, and when properly used the catches are kept to a minimum.

It is intended that we, (notice I said we) will make two hook tool tips for each member present. The tips are made for ¼ inch 01 oil-tempered rod. This will require heat tempering which Raul will demonstrate. There will be a lathe set where he can show the use of the tool and allow our members how to use the hook tool. It is not wise to try to make bowls or other side grain turning. When Raul turns with his hook tool, it looks so easy, clean, and no catches.

This tool making will be an introduction of several interesting procedures. A Mapp torch will be used in heating the tips for bending and heat-treating. Surface grinders will be used to get the desired cutting shape. Oil quenching and tempering will be used to get the proper cutting tool hardness and chain saw files will be used to get the final cutting edge. The cutting edge can be refined and maintained using the flat diamond sharpener. This tool-making day will be interesting, informative and features a tool that can change the way to tackle end grain turning.

The cost of all material and your lunch will be paid for by your raffle ticket purchase. The normal time is 10:00 till done. Remember some of our best friendly discussions take place between 9:00 and 10:00 before the meeting starts.

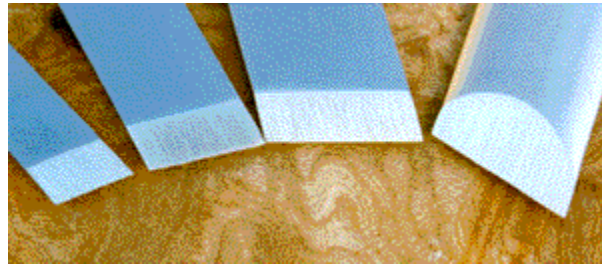
Raffle Reminder:

As a reminder if you were a raffle winner at the January meeting you are asked to bring a turned object or equivalent to our February meeting, Even if you don't win something you can still bring something to raffle off.

FAMOUS TREES

The Treaty Oak is by far the most famous tree in Austin Texas. This 500 year old giant was once one of fourteen trees referred to by local Indians as the Council Oaks. Treaty Oak in particular was revered by both the Commaches and Tonkowas. Legend states that it was under this tree that Stephen F. Austin signed a treaty with the Indians from which its name was derived. This majestic tree once sported a 127 foot spread and was considered to be the finest example of a mature oak in the world. In 1929 the tree was added to the American Forestry Association's compilation of famous and historic U.S. trees. Over the years the Council Oaks were cut down one by one until only Treaty Oak remained. The city of Austin purchased the tiny lot on which Treaty Oak stands in 1937, saving it from planned destruction. The tree that exists today is a shadow of its former self, thanks to a deranged person who tried to poison the tree in 1989. An extensive effort to save Treaty Oak was a success, but at a cost of sacrificing almost two thirds of its canopy. The tree continues to recover however and in 1997 produced its first acorns since the poisoning.

SKEW CHISELS



Having got yourself a cylindrical piece of wood by the use of the roughing gouge (last month's tool), you would probably like to 'plane' this to a nice smooth finish. That is a job for the **skew chisel**. These come in many forms, sizes, and a few examples are shown above. You'll see here that we have chisels of both oval and rectangular cross-sections and in both large (1"/25mm) and small (½"/12mm) sizes. The skew chisel is used 'lying' on the workpiece with its edge forming an angle of around 45° with the axis of the workpiece; the bevel is positioned to rub on the rotating work and the point of contact/cutting should be in the centre to lower half of the cutting edge. It's a tool that may be best left until someone can demonstrate it to you, rather than trying it out 'in the privacy of your own workshop'. The edge of the skew chisel is normally ground to give an included angle between 60° and 80° although some turners prefer a much finer angle. This is a very versatile tool which is also used for cutting across the ends of spindles to face them level, for making vee grooves - and even some things they were never designed for! The name 'skew' chisel comes from the fact that the cutting edge is 'skewed' (angled) at around 70° to the longitudinal axis of the tool

HOW ABOUT A JOKE THIS MONTH

Mike's shop was on fire, he was on the phone to the fire department.

"What is your address sir," the fireman inquired.

"I can't remember," Mike screamed.

"Calm down man, if we don't have your address how will we get there," the fireman asked.

"Use your big red truck with the siren!" Mike retorted.

