



MEETING DATE: March 10, 2007
MEETING TIME: 10:00 AM
MEETING PLACE: GEORGE
HANCOCK'S SHOP 1709 CLARK
STREET MIDLAND TEXAS

WOODCHIPS

Wow! Another month is already gone, and here we are preparing for another meeting. There have been a lot of happenings for Comanche Trail Woodturners, and your executive committee and board have been working hard to make sure your club experience is a good one.

The highlight is that the College class has been a resounding success. The students are excited and progressing nicely. Credit should be given to the great instruction given by Keith Hughes and Tom Chandler. Also credit should be given to the "helpers".

Being able to finish a useful project, I believe is one reason for the excitement. I expect a lot of these students will be signing up for the Intermediate Class, and some, if not all, I am sure will become valued members of our club. Some are already members. We are excited to have them and encourage them in developing their skills.

I know the SWAT symposium is a while off, but it's not too soon to start thinking about it and making plans to attend. The website is new. It's going to be first class when complete, and you will be able to make your reservations, and pay with a credit card just like the big boys do. The site in case you don't know is www.swaturners.org. The symposium information is already posted, so give it a visit!

Keith is progressing nicely on our Club's website. It's going to be great, and will put us in the same category as the "elite clubs" in Texas and the nation. I won't steal his thunder, and will let him tell you about it. It should be up and running real soon!

Bring samples of your latest work to the next meeting. It's important that our new members participate. Regardless what you have completed, I can assure you its good enough to share. We all started as beginners, even Jim Davis! Just keep developing your skills, ideas, and practice, practice, practice. If you get stuck on a project, any of us are available to help you. Supporting each other is what makes our club vibrant and growing. Everyone is important.

I hope to see all of you at the next meeting. Come, share, participate, and visit with your fellow club members. Tell us of your wants, needs, and desires. The Officers and Directors will try to make it happen.

George Hancock
(Ghostwriter for Don Farris)

SAFETY

I have decided it might be appropriate to periodically present an article for our newsletter on safety. Last year was not our best year as far as accidents. No one seems to be immune. I currently have a steel sliver embedded in my left eye from not using safety glasses while grinding tools. It couldn't be removed. Even though that was in 1989, I still can hear the tool grinding the steel smooth so it wouldn't catch in my eyelid.

Woodturners, by the very nature of our hobby, are very susceptible to accidents because of what is normally done just to start and finish a project. Consider a Woodturner with a large chunk of wood on his shop floor. He is so excited about mounting it on his lathe and getting started. One problem is he has to get two friends to come over and help because of its size. With that accomplished, he turns it to maximum safe rpm's so his lathe will not walk around in his shop. With the wood spinning around; just because he wants to, he walks up and sticks an iron rod into the whirling mass. From that time until he removes the turning from the lathe, safety is of prime importance. I'll try to help remind us about some of the things that continue to plague Woodturners in hopes of keeping us aware of the ever existent danger that can and will jump up and instantly bite us while in the process of doing one of the things we most enjoy.

Keep thinking while turning.

Don Farris

2007 Officers

President: Don Farris	Vice President: Jake Kemper
Secretary/Treasurer: Chris Hughes	Program Chairman: Tom Chandler
Public Relations: Ernie Showalter	Newsletter Editor: Vance Ford
Midland College Representative: Ken Riley	Historian: Doug Mee
Librarian/SWAT Representative: George Hancock	
Board Members at Large: Jim Davis, Jim Ketcham, Keith Hughes	

For Sale

Ridgid 12"x39" Lathe w/stand for sale \$200 OBO, Model WL1200LS. Used very little, All parts and accessories (inc Manual).
Dave Taylor - 432-559-9890 - Midland

Remember, the Southplains Woodturners meeting in Lubbock. They will be meeting the first Saturday of each month at Target Sheet metal. The time will be 10:00 am.

The AAW and the Southwest Region

I was recently elected to the Board of the AAW, and while the election is national in scope and I represent all Woodturners in the US and abroad, I know that my main base of support is Texas and the Southwest, and I feel that I am that region's unofficial voice at the AAW, which has grown to over 13,000 members and over 260 local chapters.

In late January I made a 5 day trip with the AAW Board. We first went to St. Paul MN, where the AAW headquarters is located. We saw the offices, saw the AAW Gallery and museum, toured the convention center (probable site of the 2011 Symposium), and had an all-day Board training session. We then went on to Portland OR, the site of the 2007 Symposium. We met with the local club liaison people, toured the convention center, toured the several museum locales where AAW exhibitions will be held as part of the 2007 Symposium, and had our first Board meeting. I came away from all this very invigorated with a greatly enhanced view of what the AAW represents, and it is this that I want to share with my fellow Texas and Oklahoma turners. The thoughts and opinions that follow are strictly my own, and do not represent the AAW, its Board or its staff.

The most significant event of the trip was the all-day Board training session. The AAW is just beginning a major overhaul of the way it operates administratively. We have a new Executive Director, Larry Sommer, who has joined with Mary Lacer, assistant Executive Director, to effectively double the administrative leadership of the AAW. Our session was led by Emil Angelica, a consultant with expertise in non-profit organizations, and his sessions were outstanding, both for new Board members like me and for others who had already served one or two years. The committee structure of the AAW will be divided between 1) policy and financial matters, which remain the responsibility of the elected Board and 2) administrative matters, which will now be run by the Executive Director and his staff. In addition, Butch and Pat Titus, who have served as Conference Coordinators for several years, have left and have been replaced by a conference coordinating company which will do many of the tasks previously done by Board members. These changes are important, because up to now the Board members did everything themselves, and the work load on them has become enormous as the AAW has grown in recent years. This represents a major culture shift for the Board, which will now be able to focus on the "big picture", i.e., policy issues and serving the membership which it represents. Look for significant changes in the way things get done, although not overnight – all for the benefit of the membership of the AAW and for woodturning in general

I was impressed by how "pure" the AAW is. There are no politics – everyone is dedicated to the AAW mission of fostering the art and craft of lathe turning. Decisions are reached by consensus, with virtually no dissent.

The financial health of the AAW is sound. Preliminary thinking has already begun about the AAW purchasing its own building to house its offices, merchandise, permanent collection, and museum. I would like the AAW to have its own woodturning school in that building. There are a lot of big things on the horizon – all in the idea stage!!

I was appointed to the Educational Opportunity Grants (EOG) committee, chaired by Malcolm Tibbetts. We are reading 118 applications for EOG's, and we will award money to the most worthy applicants. I encourage more of you to apply next year – I know there are many worthy projects that would receive an EOG in response to a well written application.

We have a new webmaster, Ed Davidson. Look for a bigger and better website. We are retraining the membership to renew memberships and to vote for Board members online. However, we will provide paper Ballots and registration for those luddites (Google that word!) who have resisted the digital age.

Membership growth is important. After my first Board weekend where I really saw the benefits of AAW membership (the American Woodturner magazine together with the insurance coverage is more than worth the annual dues!) I have changed from a so-so member to a very enthusiastic AAW member. Many of the attendees at club meetings are what I call wannabe turners – they sit and watch, but don't really get into it. We want those members to take a class, meet up with an experienced turner, and then get "hooked" onto woodturning like all the more involved members have become. Then you'll want to join the AAW and enjoy all it can do for you. Without the AAW you would all be in little groups with nothing to unite and advance the progress of woodturning. Look at how woodturning as an art form has progressed in the last decade!

One last thing – I bought one of the new design AAW woodturning smocks while I was in the office. This is the best one I have ever tried – it is light as a feather, zips completely up the front, has vented armpits, and a comfortably snug fit at the collar. Buy a biggish size, as they are longer. I got an XXL, and have turned in it – really comfortable. All for 35 bucks!

I hope this article will stimulate more interest in the AAW and will encourage more of you to become AAW members. I plan to travel about our region describing what the AAW does for you, and I welcome any questions you might have. If you'd like me to visit your club and talk about the AAW, please invite me – I'd love to come.

Larry Genender
AAW Board Member



