



MARCH
2024

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 19 * ISSUE 3

President's Ponderings

I'm thankful I have a hobby!!! There are several things I like to do in my 'time off', such as read, sit on my patio and watch the clouds during the day or the stars at night, go for walks, listen to music, take a nap!! But, when I have done one, or some, of those other things, I usually end up out in my shop, enjoying my hobby. Through most of my adult life, I have always thought about, wished for, dreamed of having a little shop someday but I always thought it would be just to have a place to do my wife's honey-do projects or some kind of minor remodeling to our house. But, as time went on, I started getting some experience in woodturning, thanks to my father-in-law, Dale King, and then my dream for my shop started including a lathe and various other "necessities" to be a woodturner. I've come to realize however, that having those necessities is a relative term because some of those must-have necessities would also result in a necessity to build a bigger shop!!!! I'm content with the shop I have so I have to dial down my list of must-haves. There's still a LOT for me to learn to comfortably call myself a 'woodturner', but I'm getting there. And since it's a hobby, I don't feel the pressure to get there like I would if I did this for a living. I know people who are ready to retire, but they have no hobby, so they just keep on working. I'm not ready to retire yet, but when that day comes, I have a shop full of wood that needs turned. I hope you still enjoy woodturning and that no matter how long you've been turning.....you're still glad you have a hobby.

Be blessed,
Brian

UPCOMING EVENTS



March

- 14th - Club Meeting
- 16th - Open Shop

April

- 6th - 7th - Training: Beginners
- 11th - Club Meeting
- 13th - Open Shop
- 19th - 28th - Hunt County Fair

May

- 9th - Club Meeting
- 11th - Open Shop

See next page for details.

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SAVE THE DATE TO THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

BOARD MEETING -

Thursday, 7th 5:30pm
Wesley United Methodist
Church, Greenville

CLUB MEETING -

Thursday, 14th 7-9pm
Wesley United Methodist
Church, Greenville
Demonstration by...
Donna Frazier - turning vases &
Gary Sanders - enhancements

OPEN SHOP -

Saturday, 16th 8am-Noon
Mini-Class - Donna Frazier, vases
Lee Craft's shop, 6207 CR 2560,
Royse City

APRIL

BOARD MEETING -

Thursday, 4th 5:30pm
Wesley United Methodist
Church, Greenville

TRAINING CLASS -

Saturday/Sunday, 6th-7th
Training for Beginners
Place: To Be Determined

CLUB MEETING -

Thursday, 11th 7-9pm
Wesley United Methodist
Church, Greenville
Demonstration by...
Alain Schwarz, Tim White &
Dennis Ogren - Spindle Turning

OPEN SHOP -

Saturday, 13th 8am-Noon
Howard Wellspring's shop
9455 Out Crop Rd., Terrell

Hunt County Fair -

Friday 19th - Sunday 28th
9800 Jack Finney Blvd.,
Greenville

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



- 2ND - Alex Snider
- 9TH - Kevin Young
- 10TH - Jim Stewart
- 11TH - Edrick Eaton
- 11TH - Johnny Hayre
- 11TH - Gary Sanders
- 12TH - Connie Brumlow
- 12TH - John Regis
- 13TH - Keith Clark
- 15TH - Dan Parsons
- 19TH - William Young
- 21ST - Mary Henry
- 21ST - Brian Schrader
- 24TH - Bill Belitz
- 24TH - John Blattman
- 25TH - Maxey Hooks
- 27TH - Kevin Himes
- 27TH - Dennis Ogren
- 28TH - Billy Walker

There is no such thing as
SCRAP WOOD,
it's merely wood that has
not been used yet!

Join in on the Monthly Club meeting through ZOOM meetings using the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84938131255?pwd=ZkpOWVFGa00rUmFUeEZlVjRoSGh3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 849 3813 1255 Passcode: 308416

Prayer Requests & Praises

John Blattman
George Littlefield
Kay Shrode



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Many visitors to our club, as well as many of our own members, have often commented on how friendly and fun our club is to be around. With that in mind, we wanted to be sure that everyone is aware of some of the "unofficial" club get-togethers that take place on a regular basis outside of our sanctioned monthly Club Meeting and Workshops and Trainings, etc.

- ⇒ **Every THURSDAY - Lunch** Several club members, spouses and friends gather for lunch at Burgers and Fries 5360 State Highway 276 W in Royse City. No reservation needed but be there before 12:00 as that's when we order lunch. Come spend an hour or so with friends as we visit, catch up with each other and then return to our daily activities.
- ⇒ **Once a MONTH - Pre-Club Meeting Meal** Every month on the Thursday of the Club Meeting, a group of club members, spouses and friends meet to eat at 5:30pm at TaMolly's Restaurant, 6929 I-30 in Greenville.
- ⇒ **Once or Twice Yearly - Work Party & Lumberjacking** We meet at George Freeman's house to cut up and process trees into blanks for turning. These are not scheduled but you will be notified by email when a date / time is set. Come join the fun and also learn some of the many steps and processes that are needed to produce your own turning blanks. And of course, you can't make blanks without trees, so several times a year, George goes out and cuts down trees to bring back for our Club's use. If you are interested in going on one of these lumberjack excursions, email George woodchipper2011@hotmail.com and he will send you an email notification of when the next trip is planned.

SWAT2024 is coming AUGUST 23, 24, 25

[Register NOW!!!](#)



Registration is open! It opened March 4th, so if you haven't already done so, register NOW. Click on the SWAT website link below to register. The date is set for the weekend of August 23-25th. Set up will be on Thursday the 22nd and any club members who want to go a day early and help set up just need talk with Lee Craft. The early registration cost for the weekend will be \$190 for the 3-day ticket package. The Saturday night dinner cost is \$35. SWAT is held in Waco at the Convention Center, 100 Washington Ave.

Demonstrators: The lead demonstrators will be: Beth Irland, Sammy Long, Jason Breech, Kurt Hirtzon, Stewart Batty, Laurant Nicolot, and Kirk DeHeer. We encourage you to search YouTube for their videos.

There will be Ornamental Turners represented this year (Rose Engine Lathe)

Raffle: The 3-for-1 Raffle this year will offer an American Beauty lathe as the grand prize as well as three Jet 12-21's along with other good prizes.

Hotels: SWAT has coordinated special rates of \$170/night for a block of rooms at two hotels adjacent to the convention center: Hilton and Courtyard by Marriott. Breakfast is included at both of these hotels. These hotels book up fast! Registration at these hotels is already open. Click the SWAT link below for links to these hotels.

Get all the information and registration details at SWATS website. www.swaturners.org

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MEMBERS' HIGHLIGHT

Kevin Evans

I bought my first saw (a Rigid Contractor's Table Saw) in my third year as a public school Graphic Design teacher. I was struggling with class control and came home angry every day. I discovered that not cutting my fingers off required so much concentration, I couldn't mull over how angry I was at my students. It was cheap therapy, and being a teacher, I needed it cheap.

Over the next few years, my saw collection took over the garage and forced the cars out onto the driveway. I tried to interest my two sons in woodworking but failed miserably. It is a solitary pursuit, but truth be told, I like solitary.

Much later, I bought a Harbor Freight full size lathe, and my whole hobby changed. Turned pieces added a ton of potential to what I could make, and my ambitions grew.

I discovered Hunt County Woodturners in 2012. I attended for a year and dropped out. I was so busy at work that I couldn't justify the time to improve my skills. I did, however make friends with Sammy Thompson who was the club librarian, and I blew through the club's book selection.

I planned on spending my waning years as a cool grandfather, but my sons have failed there as well. I retired in 2019, and rejoined HCW. I am the current librarian for the Club.

When I'm not tinkering in my garage, I'm reading; history, literary fiction, and Christian studies mostly. I have a growing library of collectable books and I dabble in binding, so if you need your bible repaired...

I am self aware enough to know that I am an egotistical, vain, creative, and sometimes grumpy old man. I am dangerously trusting in my own opinion, in love with the sound of my own voice, and I count myself fortunate to have found an organization full to the brim with kindred spirits. ■

Alain Schwarz

I have had an unusual but blessed life. My parents were both refugees from WWII. My father was an Austrian Jew who escaped from a train on his way to a concentration camp. My mother was a French Catholic who escaped on the last ship to leave the Vichy regime. They met in Colombia where I was born. When I turned 19 our green cards cleared and we moved to the USA. I joined the Navy shortly after and served 4 years of active duty and 2 in the reserves. I went to Georgetown University where I graduated with a degree in History, Diplomacy and International relations. My degrees were in teaching, but I was offered a position in the International Division of Branson Ultrasonics, later a Division of Emerson Electric, utilizing my degrees and languages to set-up offices around the world. I was fortunate to work in 36 countries around the world, and visit 46. I can honestly say, there are beautiful places out there, but nowhere like the United States.

On my personal life, I have been married to Teresa for 24 years, we have six children including an adopted Chinese boy and Philippina daughter. We are blessed with nine grandchildren, two in Texas, two in California, two in Colorado, two in Connecticut and one in Toronto.

Continue reading about Alain on page 5

As a club, it is our desire to build connectivity between members. This **Members' Highlight** section is one way to learn about each other. Each month we hope to highlight 2 members. If you would like to volunteer your bio info for future editions, let Brian Livingston know and he will email you with the details. Brian's email is bdliving@yahoo.com, or talk to him next time you see him.

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MEMBERS' HIGHLIGHT continued: **Alain Schwarz**

I always enjoyed working with wood, and still have my first project made with my grandfather in 1957. I kept collecting tools, and in 2015 I finally settled down long enough and started turning and setting up my shop. Woodturning frustrated me quite a bit; what with all those catches and bowls flying around my shop I started wondering is this smart. I took advantage of our mentoring program with Tim White as my mentor and went from fear to fun. Sharp tools, slower speeds.... In woodturning I think I have a hobby I will continue to do for a long time. I seem to lose interest in certain things when I master them, but there is always something to learn in turning. I won a couple of Chess Championships in the 1960's, lost interest, took up bridge, became a master, won the South Eastern U.S. in 1972.

Other interests were soccer where I played a season as a semi-pro before our green-cards were issued, I did go on to become a Referee of FIFA and a licensed coach. That was before my broken knees and hips.

If I sum up my life, I have tried to trust God and follow him. I was accepted to the Virginia Theological Seminary In Alexandria Virginia, but God had other plans. It was right when our papers came through to move to the USA. I was drafted by three countries (not always nice to be wanted), and chose to join the USA military even though the Vietnam war was going on. I knew as soon as I visited the first time, THIS IS MY COUNTRY. I have denied all others, and am not a dual citizen though I am still fluent in Spanish and French. After the navy I was guided to a new and exciting future where I was able to influence and spread the Word through other means. ■



URGENT REMINDER: *DUES are due!*

As per our by-laws, Dues will be due on the January club meeting of a new calendar year and payable no later than the March club meeting of the same calendar year. Members who do not pay their dues by the end of the March club meeting shall be considered to have dropped their membership. Such persons must pay their full annual dues to reinstate their membership for the current year. You can either go to our website and pay it there or bring cash or check to the Club meeting on March 14.

QUARTERLY CHALLENGE:

Make something out of

TWO TYPES of WOOD

Bring your creation to the

March Club Meeting for Show-and-Tell.

The members will vote on their favorite item and the winner will get a \$50 gift card!

HUNT COUNTY FAIR SIGN-UP!

The Fair is coming! April 19-28. We will have a booth and there are LOTS of time-slots to be filled. Sign up sheets will be at the club meetings and on the website. Be sure to get the slots you want by signing up quickly. See Tom Nehl for more details.

Also there is opportunity to show our works.

See next page for all the details!

TENTATIVE TRAINING CLASSES

Looking to expand your knowledge and skill? Keep these classes in mind and watch for more details to come!

May: Carving

July or August: Feature Rings

September: Pyrography

November: Beginners

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**YOUR WORKS of WOOD
ARE NEEDED for the FAIR!**

EXHIBITS NEEDED FOR FAIR

At the upcoming Hunt County Fair, there is a competitive event (ribbons) displayed in the Creative Arts Building behind our booth. Member participation is encouraged and this is an opportunity for you to display some of your work! The entry form is available on the Hunt County Fair website or the link on the HCW site. Tom will bring hard copy forms to the March club meeting this Thursday, 14th. The cost is \$2.00 per entry, to be paid by the individual participants. Entries must be delivered to the Fair on Tuesday, April 9, between 2pm and 7pm. As a convenient alternative, member participants may deliver entries to any Board member before or during the next month's Board meeting (April 4). Tom will handle delivery of entries to the Fair at the appropriate time and will coordinate associated details.

RESOURCES!

HCW has a marvelous array of talented **MENTORS** who have graciously agreed to be a resource. They can mentor you over the phone, in person, or maybe even a video call. Give them a call or a text and they will get back to you. Find our Mentors List in the Members Only section of our website. www.huntcountywoodturners.org

For segmenters, George Freeman has 1" square boards that can be cut to various lengths for segmenting. He has this in Pecan, Mesquite, and Walnut. He also has his original stock of turning blanks. Contact George at 214-334-4035 if you are interested in purchasing any of this wood at a minimal cost. We are so thankful for everything George does for the club.

Please help us expand this RESOURCES page. If you can recommend any YouTube links or Tips or Books, please send the information to Brian Livingston. Continually educating each other is part of who we are as HCW.

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Thank you Tom Nehl for hosting this past **OPEN SHOP** on February 10th. We had 29 in attendance. And we thank you, Sammy Thomason, for teaching the Mini-Class in which we all learned some various ways to use the chuck for different methods of holding the wood.

There are still several months available to host an Open Shop, if you are willing to host one any time this year, please let Tom Nehl know.



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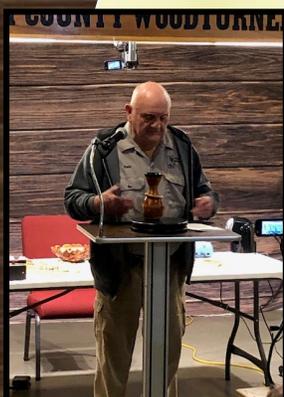
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On February 8th, Brian Schrader did a great job demonstrating embellishments at our **Club Meeting**. The items brought for Show & Tell were all individually interesting and creative. We appreciate each person who brought an item to show.



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BECOME A MEMBER



Become a member of the
Hunt County Woodturners!

Membership is renewable annually for each calendar year and covers individual and family at the same address. The membership cost is \$48.00 per year.

Dues are prorated for new members at \$4 / month.

To get the application, download it [here](#) OR email Mark at m Spencer2112@gmail.com.

Turn in the completed application at the monthly club meeting or mail it to:

Hunt County Woodturners, Inc.
Attn. Mark Spencer
P.O. Box 8191
Greenville, Tx 75404

Membership in HCW, Inc. entitles you to discounts on selected items at these 3 fine businesses you see listed below. ↓



HCW members are encouraged to become a member of the
American Association of Woodturners!

Hunt Count Woodturners Inc. is a Chapter of this National organization. Your membership not only supports AAW but HCW as well. Insurance Protection is one of the many benefits we gain by membership Check out this excellent guide to their membership services and publications at <http://www.woodturner.org>

Rockler

584 West I-30,
Suite 403,
Garland, TX.
(469) 329-0971



Wood World

13650 TI Blvd.
Dallas, TX
(972) 669-9130



Wood World
of Texas LLC

Woodcraft

601 W. Plano Pkwy,
Suite 145,
Plano, TX
(972) 422-2732



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Who's on Board

Serving the Hunt County Woodturners for 2024 are:

Brian Livingston, President

Alain Schwarz, Vice-President

Burt Andrew, Secretary

Mark Spencer, Treasurer

Howard Wellspring, Technology Officer

vacant, Training Coordinator

Tom Nehl, Event Coordinator

HCW Board of Directors meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 5:30pm. Board meetings are open to all members & can be attended in person or remotely via Zoom. Board Meeting Minutes can be found on the website in the Members Only section.

OUR MISSION: Hunt County Woodturners, Inc. (a Texas non-profit corporation) also known as Hunt County Woodturners (HCW), is organized exclusively for educational purposes, and its mission is to educate woodturners and the public in and about the art and craft of woodturning. This mission is accomplished by encouraging and facilitating the establishment of training programs for woodturners; by disseminating information about sources of material and equipment; by exposing the art of woodturning to the public; and by serving as a center of information about woodturning for members, galleries, other interested groups, and the general public. Further, the Corporation is organized exclusively for educational purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Financial records are available for inspection upon request.

Hunt County Woodturners, Inc. is recognized by the United States Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Gifts to Hunt County Woodturners, Inc. are fully deductible for U.S. Income Tax purposes.