

Southwest Tool Collector's Association

SWTCA Newsletter
February 2006

visit our website @ www.swtca.org

They say "what goes around comes around" but I've been going round and round over here for the last two months and only one article has come around yet. My thanks to Bill McDougall who is never at a loss for a great article to contribute. He always seems to have something interesting & ready at a moment's notice to share with the rest of us. Some people are just blessed with more bountiful and interesting lives! My life on the other hand generally lacks that spontaneity and bounteous virtuosity and to produce enough information to pass along to others I have to prod & coax a story out of obscurity (and there's really some dark damp places to be found way down in there). But your articles and stories can change all of this. Send your stories, accounts, quips, and "enhancements" to me for our next newsletter (end of April). It's especially nice to hear accounts about the various tool meetings attended so that those of us who are unable to attend can have an idea of just what took place. I know there is a good bit of information out there concerning these shows so why not share it with the rest of us. Photos taken during these events would also be very welcome.



SWTCA SPRING MEETING NOTICE!!!

2005 OFFICERS

President: Emery Goad, Wichita Kansas
Vice President: Bud Blake, Ada Oklahoma
Secretary: Greg Logan, Edmond Oklahoma
Treasurer: Jim Shipman, Mustang Oklahoma

Editor: Jim Goodson
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 (there is a #1 after springhill)

REGIONAL DIRECTORS:

Oklahoma: Jim Shipman
Texas (south) Jim Goodson
Texas (north) Paul Coppinger
Kansas & Mo. Tom Mitchell
Louisiana & Ark. Bill Clark
New Mexico & Co. Bill McDougall

!! NOTICE !!

At the last minute, running on fumes, on the final lap....It's the SWTCA Spring Meeting notice for a one day meeting in Tulsa Oklahoma on April 15th (yes that's Easter weekend).

Member Tim Hoss has availed himself to the task of setting up a show at the last minute with some very impressive results. Please see the enclosed flyer for all information and a registration sheet to return. The \$5.00 registration fee is unheard of (spouses free) so lets all put some old fashioned effort into this meeting and start this year out by nurturing this club a bit more and treating ourselves to a day out with great friends and lots of tools.

!! NOTICE !! !! NOTICE !!

THE TALKING TOOL CHEST

One of the most intriguing aspects of collecting old tools is discovering the provenance of an item and especially learning something about the craftsman who made and/or used the tool. Generally we have to settle for a manufacturer's mark and sometimes an owner's name stamped on the item.

It's always edifying to purchase tools from an heir of the user and to find out his name, trade, age and the location in which he plied his trade, whether self-employed or working for someone else.

A few years ago I bought a nice tool chest full of tools including many planemaker's tools. Some of the planes which the owner had made had been imprinted with his name stamp which was also in the tool chest. His name was B. Christian and he had worked in the Chicago area among other places probably around 1870. I bought the chest from his grandson in Albuquerque in 1979. I have always regretted not getting more information about his grandfather, but circumstances at the time precluded a lengthy conversation. Of the 37 molding planes in the chest, ten were made by him but not stamped. One plane was marked E & C Carter, one was marked R. Carter, and three were marked Edward Carter, as was a tiger maple plow plane. One old molding plane had no marks. The planes made by Christian, mostly hollows and rounds, were all beech with no finish. They were well made but appear to have had very little use.

Who was B. Christian? We often wish that some of these old tool chests could talk; what things they could tell us!

Let me tell you about one of my tool chests that did talk in a way, and told about its origin.

Several years ago I bought a tool chest from a collector friend. It was a well made, dovetailed, medium-sized chest with brass handles and corners and a one by one-eighth inch iron strap recessed around the top to protect the edges.

It had four nice dovetailed maple trays, the top one having a hinged lid with raised walnut panels. The box was pine. Unfortunately it had been painted red oxide with a black top.

One day I decided to clean and strip it and polish the hardware. In cleaning the inside I noticed that the birch stepped ends were attached with wood screws. So I removed them. What a surprise! On the backside of each, written in pencil was the story the chest would tell.

"This box was built at the Brown Corliss Eng. Co. Corliss Wis.
Mr. E. Krenger Foreman and a (expletive deleted) to. [sic]
August 28, 1903 [Friday]
Written at 10:30 p.m. Lumber bought at Racine Wis."

(Listed were the names of 12 carpenters, one timekeeper and two laborers, and signatures of two witnesses).

"The refreshments were ice cream and baked beans"

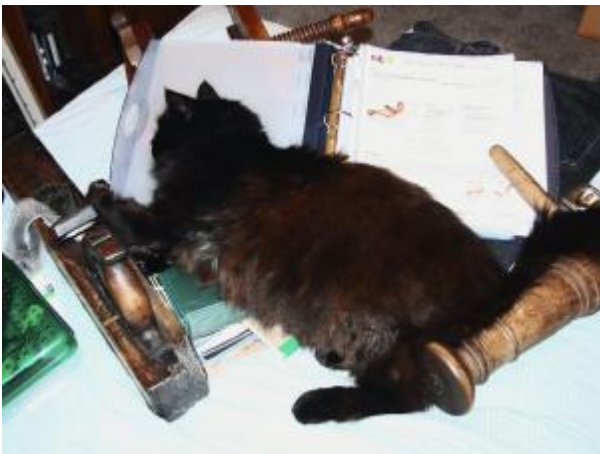
(and probably a jug or two of hard cider). A time card for F. J. Swiebel showing that he had worked ten hours on Aug. 8, and a material ticket made out to F. J. Swiebel were secured to the back of one stepped end.

We have to sort of fill in the blanks here, but my best guess is that this group got together after work on Friday and collectively built this tool chest for F. J. Swiebel who must have been an apprentice who just finished his time and became a carpenter.

Of course all of these men have long since gone to that great workshop in the sky. But because they left this information on the chance that someone might later find it, they do live on in my heart.

Bill McDougall

The Potomac Antique Tool and Industries Association (PATINA) will hold it's annual Spring dealers tool sale and tool auction on Saturday March 11, 2006. BOTH events are on the SAME DAY at the Damascus Volunteer Fire Department Activities Building, 10211 Lewis Dr., in Damascus, Maryland. The tool sale will start at 9 AM, the auction at 3 PM. This event is at the same location as in previous years. There is no buyers premium for the auction and a small (of the hammer price) consignors fee is charged to cover costs. Tailgating is encouraged. For more information please contact:
Tom Graham at (540) 338-7738. tmajgraham@erols.com



"I Get By With a Little Help From My Friends"

Mr.Springhill gives a little dusting while
packing for the next meeting.

.....Editor

“The Sounds of Silence”

It's often heard that “if a tool could talk, what a story it would tell”. Surprisingly I sometimes find that a keen eye and an imaginative mind can reveal if not a story, then at least a small window into the nature of the maker or user's thoughts. Some clues are accidental and others may be gleaned from knowledge of symbols and decorations applied as ornamentation.

One such occasion happened a few years ago after purchasing an early carved European jointer from a tool meeting. Eyeing this beautiful piece of work before I bought it I could recognize the early shape, enlarged throat features and chip carving and could easily deduct its origin in or near Austria and its age at a guesstimate of about 1750. It was relatively clean but had a dark crusty buildup on the toe to points aft for about a foot. I don't clean my tools much more than a cursory wiping with lemon oil or other natural oil to relieve dryness and the wipe down is designed to remove dust and dirt. Anything that remains in the finish is actual patina and not “muck”. Much of the dark crusty powdery substance on the toe easily removed with an oil rub leaving a darkish staining to the area which is integral to the finish at this point and considered patina. Another light oil rub finished the surface off nicely. In the harsh shop lighting and the glint of the newly oiled surface, I thought I glimpsed the crude form of a number within the darkish area just about where it thinned into the natural wood finish. A second glance when the surface was turned just right to the light, not only revealed the number “5” but just before it, the number “6”. Preceding that was a very curvaceous numeral “7” and none of the three particularly lined up very well. Harder to see was the number “1” nearly lost in the dark staining. The date 1765 definitely had been applied to the toe of the plane but apparently not by the original artist. What I could deduct was that the ink used in applying the date was the same used for laying out the geometry for the chip carving on the upper surface of the toe (same coloring and thickness etc.). The numbering seemed to be freehand however and not particularly of an art worthy manner. Did the owner's son get bored on a rainy day and “help” his father out for a while in the workshop? It's rather awe inspiring to look at this hand scribed date and see it exactly as it was seen some 240 years ago when it was applied.

Another instance occurred upon the acquisition of an early Scandinavian hand carved smoothing plane. The plane was shown in a pile of other wooden tools as preview to what was coming up for offer on e-bay. The owner was a professor at a south eastern College and had been a collector of woodworking tools for some time. He apparently had passed away and much of his collection was to be on the table. I could spot some very unusual characteristics about this plane even after seeing only a small part of it sticking out just slightly from the rest of the pile. I was really going to have to keep a close eye on the bid list so I wouldn't miss seeing the descriptive details and photographs in a better context. Turns out it came up for bids within the week and I was excited to see photos of the throat area in its entirety. There was still a lot to be left to the imagination but I was determined to and ultimately did win the plane. First overview was a thrill not just because its features were so unusual but also because they began to align just like the stars. Just at the apex of the throat design was in fact the incised image of a trident. Greek and Roman mythology each had their own God of the Seas (Neptune and Poseidon) and both were constantly shown with trident in hand. The throat carving itself was highly unusual yet somewhat familiar. It escaped my immediate recognition but soon I realized it resembled the back of a horseshoe crab! I later saw the likeness to a cross section of the hull of an early sailing galleon. A friend had just such a model (a cross sectional segment) of a galleon with full sail and deck hardware. The outline of that hull bore more than a striking resemblance to that throat carving. Last but not least, the horn.....not the typical European version but rather shaped like the head and neck of a seal pup. The profile was high as if straining a bit, head forward as if peering off and upon closer inspection.....a closed mouth. I would have to say this plane's roots were definitely by the sea if not on board ship and very much along for the journey. This owner's love of the sea and ships showed in the adornment of the tools of his trade and later remains available to all who care to observe and to understand his legacy.

.....Editor



I was asked recently about the nature of assessing value as it applies to the antique business and to the collector.

This question comes up from time to time and I tend to shudder every time I hear it. Were the theory of relativity or Rubik's cube based entirely on variables rather than constants and solvable equations, then the magnitude of the resolution to this question might have previously been equaled at some point in time. The true answer is much more evasive however and based on variable, cyclical and unforeseen circumstances not to mention the fickle nature of human behavior. I don't recall just how I responded to this question originally but I decided to sit down at some point and do some fact gathering. The following "ponderances" explore the issue by discussing a few of the interactive elements involved in this issue.

AGE comes to mind almost immediately as being a prominent factor in discerning a value for a given object. How often do you hear of an object's condition referred to in relation to its age? "It's in great shape for being over 50/100/200 years old". The fact is though that many objects such as ancient Chinese artifacts and coins and some Roman artifacts and bronze artifacts (just to mention a few) may often be available for a very small sum. So age itself though important is not in itself enough to establish a baseline for antique value....at least without help from some of the other evaluative conditions. (**The only consistent evaluative mechanism of age is perhaps its disposition when describing a human being in which it is typically registered most prominently and descriptively by means of and in accordance with an inverse scale**). Most wives are quite proficient at describing their spouses by this means (worthless ol' ____, get your sorry ol' ____ moving) et al. Here age seems to have a **DIRECT** correlation to implied value!

RARITY is another very important factor in evaluating a particular item. Most any valuable antique may in part or in its entirety be rare in its nature. It's design, coloring, construction, designer, function etc....any one or more of these and other conditions may fall under this category making it one of the broader conditions with which to evaluate an item with. Much like the condition of age, rarity may very well help define an antique's value on the market. It may on occasion however not be a major issue in the valuation of an antique. It can often fall victim to the whims and variables of human nature. See desirability below.

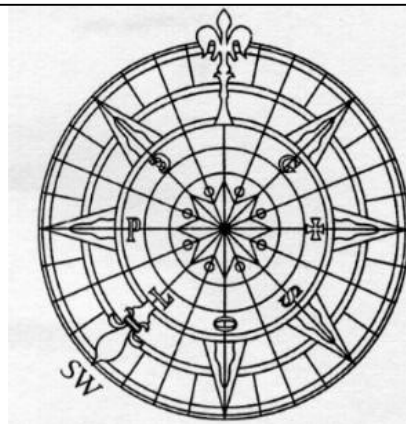
DESIRABILITY. This is the real equation cruncher of the whole evaluative process. It is basically a function of tradition, whim, fancy, current trend etc. and perhaps it deludes any evaluative cognizance at all. In other words, it can easily come and go with the winds of change. Many collections are started on impulse. You can't desire something unless you know it exists so upon happening on to something unexpected, your preconceived evaluative processes very likely may alter or change somewhat (the fickle finger of fate). It is to me the beauty of human nature in that it can impulsively and inexplicably change its mind with any given set of circumstances. So desirability as a measurement of value is strong only as long as the variables line up in its favor when the hammer goes down. For those antiques bearing a long history of being desirable however, the onset of a status change is less likely and their values will be much less affected by variables in the marketplace.

CONDITION. This variable has a major affect on value in that a specimen in perfect/near perfect condition will nearly always be valued far above its counterpart which is missing a piece or suffers from cosmetic issues. No surprise here.

There are of course any number of other factors beyond the major ones mentioned here, but the overall resultant is basically that antique value is generally fluid and the product of spontaneous change. Like the stock market, it is a market of speculation followed by infinite surprises. E-bay for example was responsible for a major re-valuation of a healthy, stable and growing market for many antiques. As the market adjusts and organizes towards stability once again, the imminence of similar but unforeseen changes ahead surely loom large in our future.

Jim Goodson (editor)

**Southwest Tool
Collectors
Association
Spring 2006 Meet
Tulsa, Ok. – Sat., April 15th**



*This is a one-day show with a limited amount of selling tables,
so hurry and be the first on your block to register.*

Show hours will be from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

*We will have an auction, starting at 2:00 p.m., with 10% going to SWTCA.
A limit of 3 items from each member may be placed into the auction.*

*Best Western Trade Winds Central
3141 E Skelly Drive
Tulsa, Ok
1-800-685-4564
From I-44, take the Harvard exit.
The hotel is located on the
northwest corner.*

*For more information, contact:
Tim Hoss
(918) 261-1277*

*We have been given a special room
rate of \$60.00 per night. Be sure to
mention SWTCA when registering.*

*There are many fine places to eat in
the immediate area, as well as a
restaurant at the hotel.*

*Tulsa is a beautiful city. Come visit us
for a day.*

..... cut here cut here

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____

Registration fee: \$ _____ (registration fee is \$5.00 per person – spouses free)
Table fee: \$ _____ (table fee is \$9.00 per table)
Number of tables: _____
Total enclosed: \$ _____

Make checks payable to SWTCA	
Send Payment to:	Tim Hoss 1535 E. 34 th St. Tulsa, Ok. 74105

PRESENT THE 12th Annual Super

Saturday Tool Meet

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2006

BUY - SELL - TRADE ANTIQUE AND COLLECTIBLE TOOLS OF ALL PERSUASIONS

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL
1319 BROWN TRAIL, BEDFORD, TEXAS

(Bedford is 6 miles west of the south entrance of DFW Airport, midway between Dallas and Ft. Worth)

8:30 am - Doors Open

9:00 am - Demonstration - TBD

10:00 am to 2:00pm - Trade Room Open

\$10 Entry for Members and Guests ... Spouses free, \$12 TRADE TABLE
Complimentary community sales table - max 3 items per member

Info: GREGOR MSZAR 817-937-5475 or gregormszar@comcast.net

DON'T FORGET, WE ALWAYS NEED EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS!!!

-----CUT HERE-----

12th ANNUAL SUPER SATURDAY TOOL MEET REGISTRATION

NAME(S)as you want them on the badges

.....

city/ state / zip

of members/guests\$10.00 each - spouse free

of sales tables\$12.00 each

total enclosed \$......

Display Table full table () half table () thanks, but no ()

please make checks payable to SWTCA

mail to: Gregor Mszar, 1409 Circle Lane, Bedford, Texas 76022-6743

19th ANNUAL, 2006

GROUNDHOG DAY TOOL MEET

SPONSORED BY M-WTCA AND SWTCA

BUY, SELL OR TRADE ANTIQUE AND COLLECTIBLE TOOLS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2006

10:00 A.M., TO 2:00 P.M.

Clarion Hotel & Convention Center

Bentonville, Arkansas

Walton Blvd at Exit 85,1 -540 Meet

founded by Clyde Kendrick 1988

ADMISSION: \$6.00 No charge for spouses
REGISTRATION: Pre-registration assures a trade table and name tag all tables \$5.00, each
MOTEL: Sleep Inn, next door to convention center at Clarion
Meet rate \$49 w/breakfast, tele 479-464-4400

Clarion Hotel rate \$59, tele 479-464-4600

In 2005 we had 10 States represented — 2006 notice by email when possible

Mail check payable to : **Emery L. Goad** Call 1 -888-889-3340 for questions

970 N. Santa Fe Leave message 24 hours

Wichita, KS 67214 or E-Mail: [kisinc\(a\)swbell.net](mailto:kisinc(a)swbell.net)

*****Retain top portion for you records*****

NAME:

STREET ADDRESS:

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

6' TABLES _____ X \$4=\$ _____

ENTRY: _____ X\$6=\$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____ List add names of guests _____

SWTCA Tool Ads.

(Please see Gregor Mszar's E-mart listings for a complete list of member tool ads. I will publish randomly as room permits.Editor)

FREE: ADS for the E-M@RT monthly classified newsletter. All TOOL COLLECTORS can place a reasonable number of ads each month. All ads should be received by the 1st day of the month for publication that month. EM@RT will be published during the first week of each month at a random time and date (whenever Gregor can get to it). TIME TO SPRUCE UP YOUR AD??? Let me know! (Gregor Mszar at gregormszar@comcast.net or 817-937-5475)

WEBSITE AND INFO: For more information about The Tool Group of Canada, go to their web site at :
<http://www.thetoolgroupofcanada.com/pages/654400/index.htm>

WANTED: Cash for antique tool collections, big or small. Also cigar box openers, call or E mail Larry Creedon 817-354-4612 larryoldtools@aol.com

WANTED: All sorts of continental tools wanted .Contact thierry@classictools.com

WANTED: Breast drills, hand drills, push drills, bow drills, pump drills and Archimedean drills. Seeking the more obscure made in U.S.A. models for a research project. Even if you are not interested in selling, I'd like to hear about different drills in your collection. If possible send details & digital photos to Mike Urness at PLNCRZY@aol.com or by snail mail to PO Box 6022, Chesterfield, MO 63006-6022.

PAST SAN DIEGO OLD TOOL SHOW : January 19-21, 2006: at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in San Diego, California. Al Bennett, host of the show, promises the event will be Bigger and Better than ever. Woodworkers will be welcome to the show as well as guests so there will be plenty of buyers for all kinds of tools. Make your travel plans now for next Winter and plan to spend a few days in the warm California sun. For more information about the show, contact Al Bennett at albitron2@cox.net or check the TOOLSWAP/USA Web Site www.toolswapusa.com Click on Save San Diego Show.

FOR SALE: A new reference book for patent research. A detailed manual on how to research patents on line on the USPTO website. Includes tables of issue dates and patent #'s up to 1900, together with tables of patent classes. All you need to know to locate and print out patents quickly! 73 pp., 8½"x11", spiral bound. \$20.00 + \$2.50 shipping. Contact Philip Stanley, 36 Stockton Street, Apt. 2, Worcester MA 01610 or at philstan@rcn.com.

TOOL SWAP MEET INFORMATION: TOOLSWAP/USA is the Voice of the Independent Tool Collector, Dealer, and User. The Web Site (www.toolswapusa.com) links to Old Tool Dealers and Tool Events across the country. We also put on nine Old Tool Swap Meets in Southern CA (2 in San Diego, 4 in LA and 3 in Orange County). If you want to be on an Email Reminder List, send your name and email to laura@toolswapusa.com. Plan your next visit to CA around an Old Tool Swap Meet. Check the Web Site for swap meet schedules. Laura Pitney

INFORMATION: Sign of the Jointer, a quarterly journal on wooden planes, has started the 5th year of publication. The journal contains articles covering wooden planes and planemakers as well as unpublished marks and new information. New information is solicited from all those interested in wooden planes by American, English and Canadian makers. Subscriptions are \$16 per year. Please contact Pat Lasswell, 6211 Elmgrove Rd, Spring, Texas, 77389, 281-251-3121, or by email at pmlasswell@evl.net.

WANTED: Seeking material for book. All items marked "The Winchester Store" and all pre-1943 advertising, sports items and paper. Also ARMAX, BARNEY & BERRY, CRUSADER, and HENDRYX items. Tim Melcher, (918) 786-8500. tmelcher@greencis.net and at www.thewinchesterstore.com

A TOOL SOURCE! : We supply antique tools, used woodworking tools and specialist new Cabinetmaker's tools from our retail store where we offer the largest selection of used and antique tools in Europe - over 1500 wood carving tools are always in stock. We also offer a full Mail-order service world-wide. We are also the leading auction house specialising in antique wood working tools. We host four auctions of antique and useable tools each year in Needham Market. Three are domestic auctions containing lots of mixed quality, ranging from tools in "as found" condition, to items of collectable quality. There is also a fishing tackle section, and a 'bygones' section containing items of interest to both the curious amateur or the professional bidder. Every summer our International Auction takes place. For more details, call Tony Murland at 011-44-1449-722992 or www.antiquetools.co.uk. Cheers

CONTINENTAL TOOL AUCTION: Held in France on Nov 6th. 2005 Full catalogue to come printed and on web as well. Send your email to: tcoudert@wanadoo.fr to be informed on time!

PAST SAN DIEGO OLD TOOL SHOW : January 19-21, 2006: at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in San Diego, California. Al Bennett, host of the show, promises the event will be Bigger and Better than ever. Woodworkers will be welcome to the show as well as guests so there will be plenty of buyers for all kinds of tools. Make your travel plans now for next Winter and plan to spend a few days in the warm California sun. For more information about the show, contact Al Bennett at albitron2@cox.net or check the TOOLSWAP/USA Web Site www.toolswapusa.com Click on Save San Diego Show.

CONTINENTAL TOOLS WANTED: On consignment for a Frnch tool auction held on Nov 6th 2005. Some tools vanished from the continent 40 years ago and fetch better hammer prices back home! For more info contact:tcoudert@wanadoo.fr

2006 Tool Collector's Calendar

FEB 4

12th ANNUAL SUPER SATURDAY TOOL MEET, ALWAYS HELD THE SATURDAY BEFORE THE SUPER BOWL, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL, BEDFORD, TEXAS, GREGOR MSZAR , 817-937-5475 gregormszar@comcast.net

FEB 17-18

M-WTCA AREA F MEET, SPENCER, INDIANA MATT BORDERS, 812-824-9318

FEB 18

18TH ANNUAL GROUND HOG MEET, SWTCA/MWTCA AREA I, CLARION HOTEL, BENTONVILLE, ARKANSAS EMERY GOAD , 888-889-3340 kisinc@swbell.net

MAR 4

12TH ANNUAL SCIENCE & RETRO-TECH SHOW AND SWAP, CLARION HOTEL, IRVING, TEXAS SKIP SOLBERG, 817-467-0368 solberg2@airmail.net

APR 7-8

28th INTERNATIONAL SHOW/AUCTION – BROWN AUCTION SERVICES, RADDISON INN, CAMP HILL, PENNSYLVANIA CLARENCE BLANCHARD , 800-248-8114 ceb@finetoolj.com

APR 8

M-WTCA AREA Q MEET, CHARLOTTTE, NORTH CAROLINA BOB FIELDS, 704-393-1282

Apr 15

SWTCA ANNUAL SPRING MEETING, BEST WESTERN TRADEWINDS CENTRAL, TULSA OKLAHOMA (one day meeting) contact Tim Hoss (918)-261-1277 (see insert page)

APR 27-29

EAIA ANNUAL MEETING, WOODLANDS HOTEL AND SUITES (near Visitors Center), COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA ELTON HALL, 508-993-9578 eaia@fastdial.net

APR 28

EAIA TOOL AUCTION BY LIVE FREE AND DIE TOOL AUCTIONS, COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA MARTIN DONNELLY , 800-869-0695 www.mjdtools.com

APR 29

SWTCA HOUSTON REGIONAL SPRING TOOL MEETING Hickory Hollow BBQ Restaurant, 101 Heights Blv'd. Houston, Texas (8:00 AM to 12:00 PM) Jim Goodson (713)-869-4435

SWTCA Newsletter

c/o Greg Logan
805 N. Woodhollow Tr.
Edmond OK. 73003

Address Correction Requested