

# Echoes from the "BAT" Cave



May 9, 2007

Volume 2, Issue 5

## Special Triple Crown Issue

No horsing around at BAT. Our own thoroughbreds and a visiting Clydesdale graced BAT with two demos and a workshop for May. Details inside.

Keith Holt's demo ends in a photo finish on Page 2.



(Above) Bill Grumbine shapes a leg on Page 3



(Left) Dave Smith and Wayne Kuhn make the cut on Page 4.

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## Raffle



A rich assortment of woods—box elder, cedar, cherry, magnolia, apple and maple as well as Woodcraft donations—two tool totes and a work light—were awarded in the monthly raffle.



(Above) Librarian Bill Henry inspects slabs of maple included in the raffle.



# Keith Holt: Pouring Vessel



Keith showing layout of blank



Two prototypes with lots of tools in the background.



Cutting the Tenon



Cutting relief for the lip.



Shaping the natural edge



Beginning to hollow



Using light to judge wall thickness.



Final shaping of exterior.



Keith and his creation.

The first event took place on 5/9/07 at Woodcraft. No mint juleps, but extra chairs had been provided to seat the capacity crowd.

Keith Holt's Pouring Vessel looks almost alive. In a well prepared demo, he carefully explained the process step-by-step. It starts with laying out the blank which, he said, was probably the most important step in the operation. He brought a pre-cut blank, which he fixed between centers on BAT's Jet Mini and proceeded through the steps of cutting a tenon, chucking, shaping the lip and exterior, hollowing, shear scraping, and final shaping of the exterior. He artfully used multiple gouges and hollowing tools and gave numerous tips on their application. During an hour of turning, there were only two catches, one of which, unfortunately, removed most of the bark from the natural edge. He personified grace under pressure, continuing diligently despite technical difficulties.

Look for his article on the Pouring Vessel in an upcoming issue of Woodturning Design. Thanks, Keith. Excellent demo.

## Bill Grumbine: Skew Technique and Spindle Duplication



BAT gathers behind virgin Powermatic 3520B



Introductory remarks.



'Pointing' in direction of cut.



Laying out with story stick



Establishing main diameters



Connecting the dots



Laying out decorative grooves



Almost done



Supporting spindle with hand

A record crowd was present on 5/16/07 at Cayce Company's store for the second leg of the BAT triple crown, featuring The Big Man of Turning, Bill Grumbine. Known for his bowl turning prowess, he demonstrated his equivalent skill with a skew. Standing at a brand new Powermatic 3520B lathe provided by Cayce, he regaled the audience with his humorous and informative discussion of duplicating spindles. He discussed lathe safety (apron and eye protection), spindle speed (3000 RPM), skew honing (sharp enough to shave), and centering stock before even starting the lathe. He holds the skew with his forward index finger on top of the tool and the handle tucked into the 'turning muscle.' Planing cuts are propelled by moving the entire body and cutting with the lower segment of the blade. A story stick is used to lay out the main diameters which are then established with a parting tool and outside calipers. He practices V-grooves and other shaping cuts on waste areas of the stock before making critical cuts, first placing his tool on the rest at the proper location, then moving his body into place for support. As the 3520B hummed along, he duplicated a Shaker table leg with a pommel, curved profile, and decorative grooves.

Thanks to Bill and to Cayce Company for providing space, equipment, and refreshments for developing our own 'turning muscles.'

# David Reed Smith: Tool Making Workshop



Ed Smith cleans steel with grinder



Dave's milling machine



Dave coaches Keith Holt in precision drilling



Wayne Kuhn makes sparks cutting steel



Keith cuts drill rod with reciprocating saw



Larry Zeafra turns steel on a One-Way



Wayne heat-treats detail gouge



Keith's hollowing tool rest



Some of the day's production

The third leg was the longest run of the three. On 5/20/07, at his home in Hampstead, nestled in the bucolic countryside of Carroll County, David Reed Smith hosted a small field of 5 BAT members for more than 5 hours for a tool-making workshop. In Dave's well-equipped work area, we were in hog heaven. We used a reciprocating saw, cut-off machine, drill press, milling machine, arc-welder, and surface grinders, and worked metal on wood-lathe and heat-treated steel. Dave took each of us step-by-step through the design, layout, fabrication, assembly, and finishing of our tools. Needless to say, he was busy as a beaver. He had provided all necessary supplies (except for welding wire, which Ed Smith volunteered to go out to purchase) and loads of steel stock which he sold at cost to attendees. Safety was the word of the day with all participants wearing leather gloves and eye protection. Collectively made 7 tool rests of various shapes and sizes, 2 detail gouges, 1 boring bar, 1 right-angle drill press jig.

A wonderful time was had by all. Thanks, Dave.

## Tips and Tricks

- ▶ Cutting through bark with a saw? Mark it out with masking tape—this shows up better than marker on dark bark.
- ▶ Use Ghost Image to guide shaping and hollowing cuts inside and outside irregular shapes.
- ▶ Cut when shaping outside, cut waste to 90 degree angle to allow eye to follow curve of work.
- ▶ Use light to judge wall thickness (beware—end grain is more opaque).

*Keith Holt*

- ▶ Skew chisels—hone on bench-mounted diamond hone, then draw over plywood charged with white diamond compound
- ▶ If tool stops cutting in mid-pass, keep it moving. Stopping at that point will produce a groove or a catch. Pick up the uncut area on the next pass or feather in.
- ▶ Thin spindles? Use one-handed cut—support piece with other hand. Use light touch, Raise speed. Direct more pressure towards head stock.

*Bill Grumbine*

- ▶ Thin spindles? Pull spindle in tension (chuck one end, tape the other end to the tail stock).

*Chris Kuehn*

Do you have a tip?

Send your tips to [Admin@baltimoreareeturners.org](mailto:Admin@baltimoreareeturners.org). Write 'Tips and Tricks' in subject line.

## New Discount

**Cayce Company**  
221 Cockeysville Road  
Cockeysville, MD 21030

Scott Cayce announced a 5% discount on everything in the store for BAT members at all times. Just be sure to present your valid membership card. Cayce Company is a Rockler Partner and has a warehouse full of Jet and PowerMatic machines. Check it out!  
Hours 8-5 M-F, 9-1 Sat.



Scott Cayce (right) welcomes BAT president Wayne Kuhn

## Baltimore Area Turners

Baltimore Area Turners meets every month on the second Wednesday of the month at the Greater Baltimore Woodcraft Store at

1125 Cromwell Bridge Road  
Towson, MD 21286

Next meeting:

June 13, 2007 at 7:00 PM

This will be a Show and Tell meeting. Bring your completed work and problems for discussion with our multi-talented group. Visitors are welcome.

## Treasury

Treasurer's Report

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| 3/31/07 Balance: | \$2,175.75 |
| Additions:       |            |
| Dues:            | \$80.00    |
| March Raffle:    | \$99.00    |
| Subtractions:    |            |
| Library          | \$500.00   |
| 4/30/07 Balance: | \$1,854.75 |