

# Echoes from the "BAT" Cave



June 13, 2007

Volume 2, Issue 6

## Inside: Graeme Prittle, Kiwi turner



First State Turners (above) try to hold down a runaway lathe as Graeme Prittle turns off-center.

*Photograph by Keith Holt*

While we were meeting, things were hoppin' in Delaware.

See article by Gerry Meekins on page 4

## 9/1/07: BAT invited to Bat Turnathon



Mary Winkler (above) announces Baseball Bat Turnathon

Mary Winkler, owner of Towson Woodcraft, announced a Baseball Bat Turnathon to take place Saturday, 9/1/07 from 10-5. She requested volunteers from BAT to coach turning miniature baseball bats on mini-lathes. Interested parties should call her at 410-828-7426 or e-mail her at woodcraft332@verizon.net. Free lunch will be served.

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## Raffle



A variety of items including woods, white-tailed deer antler, corian tiles, and a 1/2 HP motor (above) were raffled at the June meeting. Samantha Cockrum draws first winning ticket (right).



## Show and Tell



Tool rests, bowls, big and tiny gobslets, gouges, box, Candle Holder, pepper grinders, and vase were on display.



Wayne Kuhn shows home-made gouge.



Scott Tatina shows candle holder.



Abe Goldstein shows bowl with his gobslet in foreground.



Jim Oliver explains ebonizing.



Frank Martin (above), Larry Zeafra (below)



**Wayne Kuhn** – Detail gouge made at Dave’s with handle made of Beech from raffle. **Jim Oliver** – tiny antler gobslet, 2 Bradford pear bowls which had been ebonized with  $\text{FeSO}_4$ . **Rick Dietrich** – offset tool rest, detail gouge with Red Oak handle made using Sorby skew handle as template à la Grumbine. **Larry Zeafra** – curved tool rest, handled Allen wrench. **Abe Goldstein** – Cherry gobslet / Dogwood bowl, Ambrosia Maple Chip and Dip tray with blown out edge due to catch. **Scott Tatina** – 4-legged pocked platter, candle holder (funky wood shaped and drilled to hold candle insert), Pussy Willow 4-legged NE bowl. **Frank Martin** – crush grind Pepper Grinders, Maple Vase (made with Jamison Hollower). **Soma Jobbagy** – Egg-shaped Osage Orange Box. **Chuck Aaron** – Bowls – Red Oak and spalted Maple.

# Tips and Tricks

## Ebonizing Wood

Place about ¼ of a pad of fine (0000) steel wool in a container (empty yogurt container, baby food jar, whatever). Slowly pour vinegar onto the steel wool until it is more-or-less saturated and there is a thin layer of vinegar over the bottom of the container (don't immerse the steel wool completely). Cover loosely or not at all (you don't want to completely exclude air) and allow to stand at least overnight. Fold a piece of a paper towel so that it fits into a small funnel (a coffee filter would probably work fine too). Use several small portions of water in succession to transfer the liquid portion of the dark mixture through the filter and into a second container (a final volume of filtrate of about 20 mL (2/3 ounce) is fine; this volume is not very critical. The resulting light brown solution, probably still containing a few small particles because of the porosity of the paper towel, is ready to apply to your wood. I use a ½ inch paintbrush, but a rag, cуетip, or anything else will work as well. Brush the solution liberally onto the wood and allow it to dry. Darkening of the wood surface should be evident within a few minutes. [An alternative is to directly rub the wood with the dark, rusty steel wool pad. This is messier, and applies insoluble iron oxide along with the soluble iron acetate.]

A second application is optional. Often, since the wood grain is raised a bit from application of the water solution, I sand the dried work with 220 grit sandpaper, make a second application of the ferrous acetate solution, and, after the wood has dried a second time, sand with 320 and finer grits as appropriate. I typically apply several coats of water-based polyurethane finish after the second sanding.

Let me stress the necessity of good housekeeping while working with these materials. Keep all other projects well away. Clear a work area, spread a newspaper, and keep everything on the newspaper until you're finished. Thoroughly wash your hands, gloves, glassware, paintbrush, etc., and pick up and throw away any paper towels, sandpaper, steel wool, etc. before turning to another project. A small splash or smudge on another piece will produce a larger sanding job than you will enjoy doing.

*By Jim Oliver*

Do you have a tip?

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

## Meeting Site Discussion

David Welch reported on behalf of the search committee.

His committee has looked at 5 locations. Three were deemed unsuitable for various reasons. Two remaining options were Woodcraft and Cayce. He listed the benefits and downsides of each location which were discussed by group.

Chief issues appeared to be location (rush hour traffic up I-83 vs I-695), ease of finding (Bill Henry said he couldn't find

Cayce for the Grumbine Demo), foot traffic (a source of new members - more at Woodcraft), HVAC, room size (Cayce's was deep but narrower than Woodcraft's) and room configuration (if the large tables at Woodcraft could be moved out, there would be much more room)

After much discussion., the issue was tabled.

## 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:

July 11, 2007 at 7:00 PM

## Treasury

Treasurer's Report

4/30/07 Balance: \$1,854.75

Additions:

Dues: \$20.00

March Raffle: \$58.00

Subtractions: \$175.00

Grumbine Demo

5/31/07 Balance: \$1,757.75



Coincident with our meeting, they were having a wild and crazy time in Delaware.

*Photography by Gerry Meekins.*



## Graeme Priddle visits First State Woodturners

*By Gerry Meekins*

Graeme Priddle gave a demonstration at the Delaware Woodcraft store for the First State Woodturners on June 13th. Jeff Turi, president of First State Woodturners extended an invitation to Woodturning clubs in several surrounding states. Members from Del-Val Woodturners, Bucks County Woodturners, and Capital Area Woodturners, along with several members from Baltimore Area Woodturners attended the event.

Graeme is from New Zealand and his designs come from the natural surroundings from around his 100 acre bush block in Whangarei, the sea and coastal environments, and his dreams and life experiences. Recently one of Graeme's creations achieved the distinction of being featured on a New Zealand postage

stamp.

Graeme started the demo by showing how he does his initial roughing out. He usually reverses the lathe and places a gouge "under" the tool rest. This makes the shavings go to the floor rather than all over the shop. This method sure got everyone's attention! ( Don't try this at home kids!)

Rather than completing a demo for just one piece, Graeme showed his approach to two of his different designs. One of his demo pieces was his Star Fish Vessel. He uses Rolly Munro hollowing tools with a negative rake. After the hollowing, the piece is power carved with a Mini-Arbortech tool.

The second Demo piece was his from "Against the Tide" series. He makes a pattern on a round rough out using grain

orientation as the direction of simulated water flow. He then off-center turns three "rocks" which are bowl shapes. He then uses his home made branding tool to decorate the bowl shapes. Graeme uses a home brew "Woodburner" which is made from an automobile battery charger. He says the available pyrography tools are not powerful enough to complete his designs quickly. Some of his brands are followed up with a coat of black acrylic paint to finish the design. He then uses oils as a finish coat.

Everyone in attendance seemed to enjoy themselves. And it was great to meet and talk to turners from other clubs. Hats off to Jeff Turi and First State Woodturners for a wonderful day.

Graeme's homepage:

<http://www.graemepriddle.co.nz/>