

Echoes from the "BAT" Cave

Baltimore Area Turners



September 12, 2007

Volume 2, Issue 9

Double Header: BAT Goes Batty and Cindy Visits



BAT President Wayne Kuhn turns a full sized baseball bat.



Cindy Drozda turns one her fabulous finial boxes for BAT.

Details inside

Raffle



Raffle was a rich assortment of woods including osage orange, cedar, spalted, ambrosia, and hard maples, cherry crotch, ash spindle blank, a pre-cut bowl drive threaded for 1"x8 spindle, and an 8" grinding wheel.

Wayne Kuhn displays BAT Raffle Bowl turned by Cort Robinson from Paulownia. Thanks, Cort!

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Show and Tell



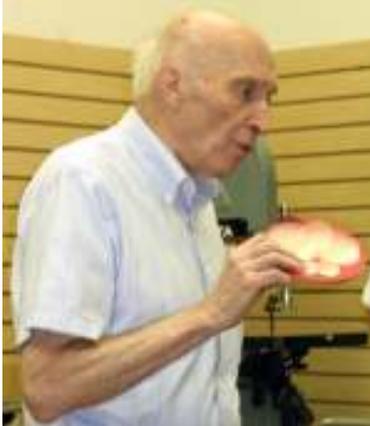
Impressive turnout for Show and Tell



Susan Shane shows a "Bracelet Assistant"



Keith Holt's Walnut Crotch Bowl



Dean Swaggert's Multi center Bowl



Chris Kuehn's NE Bowl



Jim Oliver's Osage Urn



David Welch shows scraper.



John Meyer tells tale of split Holly box.



Tim Jackson's Black Limba Bowl



Gerry Meekins' burned, painted bottle

Dean Swaggert – 6 center bowl, lidded box and bowl decorated with Rose Engine. **Chris Kuehn** – Recently took 3 day course with David Ellsworth. Showed NE bowls of poplar and ash made in the class as well as a finished walnut NE bowl. **Jim Oliver** – osage bowl stained to a ruddy brown hue with Potassium Permanganate, several cherry burl bowls, and an Osage urn with ebonized lid. **David Welch** – Spalted Maple HF, Box Elder NE Bowl dried in a microwave (slowly; a little at a time), hol-

lowing tools with cherry handles, a scraper made of 5/8" cold rolled steel with molding cutter blade bolted on, grinding jig for scraper; **John Meyer** – Holly Box and very close grained Pine Box; **Tim Jackson** – bowls of Big leaf Maple, Black limba, and mahogany, Ambrosia Maple Lazy Susan, and also extolled the virtues of the Guinivere Sanding System; **Keith Holt** – Spalted Locust Bowl, Ladle shaped with microplane turned by the lathe, Maple footed bowl with burned feet, Black Walnut spoons, Buggy Curly Maple HF which had been hardened with 50/50

mix of wood glue, Walnut Crotch bowl, punky Maple Crotch platter hardened with shellac followed by CA glue, a technique described by Jimmy Clews; **Gerry Meekins** – 2 boxes made with help of Ed Kelle, Bottle burned with the techniques of Graeme Prittle and painted with black acrylic, Maple Burl Bowl; **Susan Shane** – a Tulipwood 'Bracelet Assistant,' Prairie Rattlesnake Skin and acrylic pens; **David Smith** – Ellsworth style Sharpening Jig with self-setting gauge, 4 jaw reverse bowl turning Jig made of melamine and Craft foam.

BAT's Baseball Bat Turnathon



Pictures courtesy of Towson Woodcraft Website. Reproduced with permission .

Thanks to Cort Robinson, David Welch, Lou Rudinski, Paul Jackson, Ernie Grimm, Susan Shane, Patrick and President Wayne for participating on 9/1/07 in the Baseball Bat Turnathon. Innumerable bats and carver's mallets were turned from ash blanks provided by Woodcraft.

Cort commented that a tool rest extension he brought which allowed access to the entire length of the blank really helped the kids turn.



Cindy Drozda Finial Box Demo



Cindy addresses BAT.



Prez Wayne introduces Cindy



Parting bottom from top



Reducing diameter of top.



Cutting insert to size.



Perfecting insert recess.



Cutting foot blank from insert.



Cindy's armamentarium.



Finished Box in center front, with friends.

On 9/18/07 Cindy Drozda graced BAT with a demonstration of making one of her trademark finial boxes. Using a Rikon mini-lathe supplied by Woodcraft and a trunkful of her own tools, she held the audience captivated for over 2 hours detailing every aspect of her process, providing a plethora of tips along the way. Starting with a kiln-dried Holly blank, she discussed proportions before parting top and bottom sections. She then proceeded to form the base of the top, turning several tiny beads and inserting a jewel on the inside. Next, she rechunked the box part and prepared the contrasting insert by truing up the faces and reducing the diameter to the appropriate size. This diameter was transferred to the bottom blank and the recess was turned. She used a custom-made negative rake scraper to turn all inner diameters. Then, after gluing the insert and cutting a small recess in its center, she parted out the central portion of the insert for later use as the foot. After roughing out the body shape, she sized a recess in the insert to receive the top, which was then inserted for final shaping. Initially turning between centers, as the diameter

was reduced, she securely taped the top to the bottom for final shaping of the finial. As she turned, she revealed the 4 secrets of turning finials: 1. Get rid of the tail stock; 2. Back up the cut (apply pressure equal to that of the tool with finger behind the piece); 3. Start at tail stock end – always work on well supported material; 4. Use a light touch and careful aim (this is the hardest and most critical). All elements of the finial were cut crisply, sanded to 1000 and finished with wax (Kiwi Neutral Shoe Polish).

Finally, the bottom was hollowed out to about 1/8" wall thickness and finished on the inside. It was then jamb chucked to a small waste block. Final shaping was done between centers, a tenon for the foot was cut and the bottom was sanded and finished. After reinforcing the jamb fit with tape, the foot tenon was completed and the foot glued on and then shaped, sanded, and finished.

She demonstrated her technique of signing – etching with an

(Story continued on next page: Cindy: Continued)

Tips and Tricks

Rose Engine – Dean Swaggert showed several pieces he had made using the Rose Engine he had built. An excellent article on the Rose Engine was published in *American Woodturner* (Page 52, V22N2, Spring 2007). Extra content, including videos of the Rose Engine in action and information about ordering a parts kit from Jon Magill is available online at <http://www.woodturner.org/products/aw/> - scroll down to 'Additional downloadable content from the Spring 2007 AW issue' or search for Rose Engine.

When scribing a diameter on end grain, cut test scribes on the waste side of the stock
Cindy Drozda

Cindy: continued

electric etcher, then filling in the etched area with gold crayon. This is then polished with 4000 grit jeweler's abrasive. She donated the finished box to BAT to be raffled off at the next meeting.

The diminutive Cindy is a powerhouse. Her energy and enthusiasm for turning was evident in her interaction with the group. After the demo, she stayed to discuss her tools and techniques and took time to answer all questions thrown her way. She also had a display of some of her other work and her two DVDs. The newest one, "Cindy Drozda's Fabulous Finial Box" covers all the material in her demo and has close-ups of her specialized tools. Her website, www.cindydrozda.com, also has more information on her turnings and techniques. Thanks for the demo, Cindy. Thanks also to Woodcraft, who assisted in sponsoring the demo, and to VP Lou Rudinski for arranging Cindy's appearance.

Way to go, Soma

Kudos to Soma Jobbagy – mentioned in *American Woodturner* (Page 32, V22N3, Fall 2007) for his turned box entry into the AAW Turning to the Future competition. Despite errors in his name and age, his work was noted to be "of special note for design and originality." Congrats, Soma, and thanks for bringing your boxes to Show and Tell before sending them off to AAW. See them in the age 15-18 y/o section of the AAW gallery:

(<http://www.woodturner.org/gallery/future/>)

Link to the picture:

(<http://www.woodturner.org/gallery/future/soma%20jobbagy%20lidded%20containers%20paduak%20and%20bocote.htm>)

Need to compete?

Something for everyone: whether your work is functional or dysfunctional, there is a competition for you. BAT members, especially past presidents, have won major competitions in the past. Maybe you could be next. Details available on-line.

Competitions:

Woodturning Center – **dysFUNKtional item Challenge**

(<http://www.woodturningcenter.org/challenge7.html>)

AAW – **Turned for Use II Challenge**

(<http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2008/TurnedUseJuryRules.pdf>)

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:

October 10, 2007 at 7:00 PM

Agenda: Dean Swaggert Demo on Off-center Bowl Turning

Coming Up at Towson Woodcraft:

November 10—Pen Turning for the Troops

December 1—BAT/Woodcraft Pen Turning Demo

Treasury

Treasurer's Report

7/31/07 Balance: \$1,838.86

Additions:

August Raffle: \$70.00

Dues: \$30.00

Subtractions: (None)

8/31/07 Balance: \$1,938.86