

# Echos From the "BAT" Cave

## DEMOS AND MORE DEMOS

Baltimore Area Turners

**BALTIMORE AREA**  
  
**TURNERS**

February, 2012

Volume 7, Number 2

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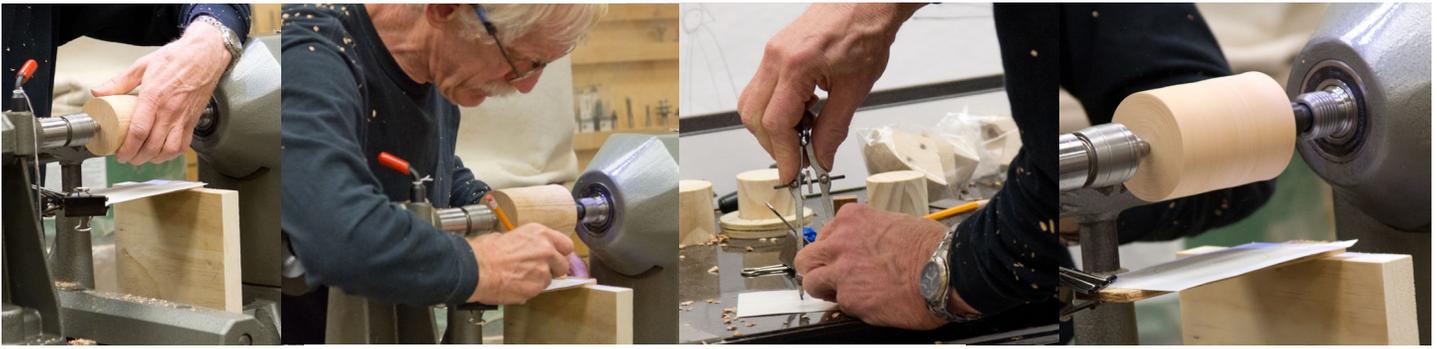
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At the February meeting, David Reed Smith (*above*) showed a novel technique for turning spheres and showed how to embellish them on the lathe. Later in the month, Jerry Kermode (*below*) demonstrated to several area turning clubs at Mark Supik's amazing shop. Finally, BAT demonstrated at the ACC show.

### MORE INSIDE





*(Clockwise from upper left)*

Paper guide is secured, marked, scribed with circle, then resecured to the platform.

With lights out, using the shadow as a guide, David removes wood from tailstock side, then from the headstock side and finally turns down the nubs with a shear spear. (The nubs were ultimately sawed off.)

## SPHERE SEMINAR

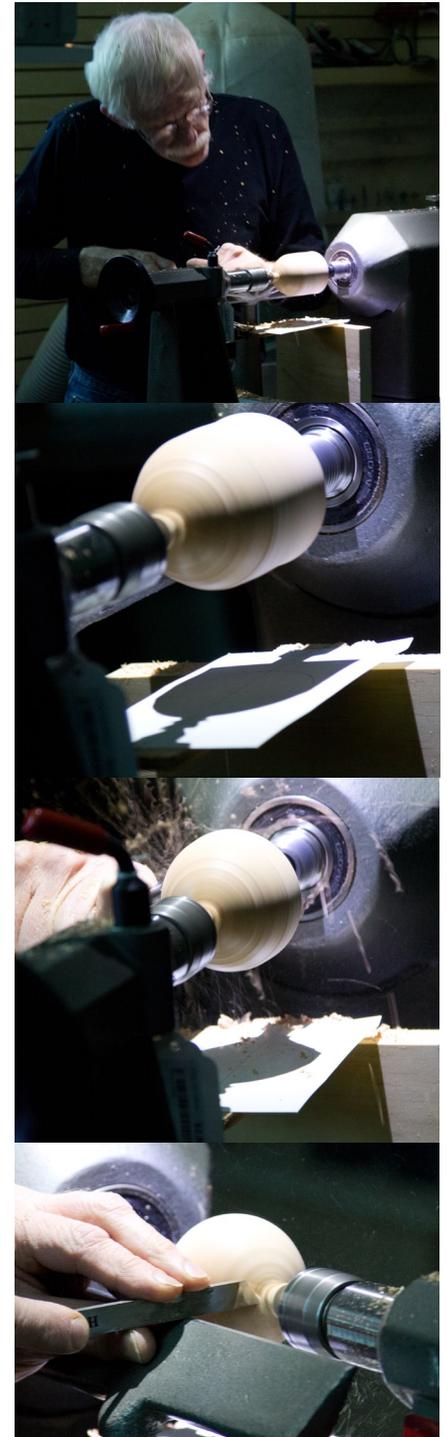
David Reed Smith treated BAT to another of his excellent demos. He had devised a new technique for turning spheres. He discussed other techniques, such as the polygon technique and mechanical jigs, each of which has their problems. He stated that his new technique, utilizing the shadow cast by a point source of light, is easier and more accurate than those. Then he set about proving it.

He had constructed a platform which was held by magnets on the lathe ways. The platform held a piece of paper about 6 inches below the spindle center.

For the demo, he attached an LED flashlight from a frame over the lathe. (It can be attached to the ceiling in a home workshop.) A line was drawn from the shadow of the spindle drive point to that of the tailstock live center point. (This line was drawn on the paper and on the wooden platform so the paper could be replaced in the same location.) The wood was roughed to a cylinder of desired size, then lines were drawn on the paper along the shadow of the cylinder. The paper was then removed and a compass was set between the center line and the edge line and a circle was scribed.

The paper was replaced on the platform, the lights were lowered and the wood was cut on the tail-stock side until the outline cast a shadow along the scribed circle. The procedure was repeated on the head-stock side. Small nubs left on either pole of the sphere were cut with a [shear spear](#) to very small diameter, then sawed off.

Continued on Page 3





*(Clockwise from upper left)*

Wooden cup centers are drilled and tapped and used to secure the sphere.

Eccentric compression chuck used to drill and tap mounting holes. 'Tape-assisted Jam Chuck' set up and used to turn eye form.

## MORE SPHERE SEMINAR

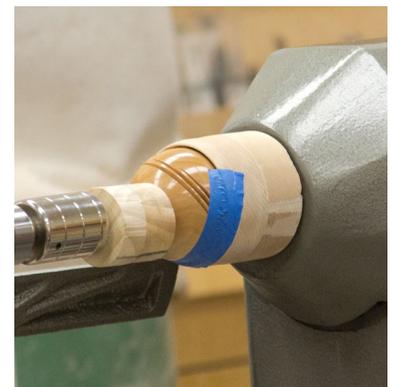
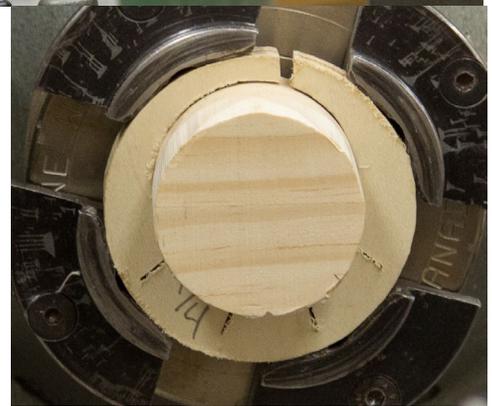
*(Continued from Page 2)*

Having quickly completed a sphere, David then made cup centers to hold the sphere. The first was bored and threaded to fit the [Oneway live center's](#) threads. The other was held in a chuck. Both had their faces hollowed out. The sphere was placed between the cup centers for sanding.

Inspired by Keith Holt's eccentric sphere jig (demonstrated in September, 2011), he showed a variation of the cup center. These are placed in an eccentric compression chuck (3" diameter with 2" diameter hole offset by 1/4"), bored and tapped. The head-stock cup center was prepared the same way and secured in a piece of 3/4" 10 TPI All-thread which was held in a chuck. He used the shear spear to cut grooves in a ball.

Finally, he showed how he turned the eyes and mouth of his creation "Self Portrait of a Young Man," using a 'Tape-assisted Jam Chuck' (a very deep large cup center threaded to the lathe spindle) to hold the sphere.

This was a fascinating presentation chock-full of tips, techniques, and tools. I expect that it will serve to inspire items in future show and tells. Thanks, David!





Mark's famous Beer Tap Gallery



Jerry cores out the natural-edge bowl (left) and inserts his signature 'stitch' (right).

## JERRY KERMODE DEMO

Jerry Kermode was in town for the ACC show. He was hosted by Mark Supik & Co. to share 'the art of nonviolent woodturning' on 2/19/12. The standing-room-only event was attended by members of all local turning clubs, including good representation by BAT.

Jerry warmed up by turning a brass-pointed spinning top which spun upright for at least one minute. He did two demos - a NE bowl with an ogee profile and a cored-out center and a plate turned from scrap Sapile. Between the demos, Mark Supik turned an architectural column made of recycled Fir from the Fleischman's Vinegar company. There were refreshments and a drawing for two sweatshirts and the demo items.

Thanks to Mark and Nancy Supik for sharing their digs and their friend, Jerry. And, of course, thanks to Jerry for a great demo.



Nancy and Mark Supik



Mark turns a Fir column.

Jerry gets ready to mount the Sapile blank.



The finished plate. Superb!

# BAT WORKS THE ACC SHOW



On February 24-26, 2012, the Baltimore Convention Center was packed with spectators and exhibitors at the American Craft Council Show. BAT was invited to demonstrate turning. Thanks to Bob Pegram and his team who made it all happen.



Zoom in on these photos to see the exquisite detail.



Pictures spiraling clockwise from upper left, Wayne Kuhn at BAT demo area, [Jerry Kermode](#) bowls, [Cindy Drozda](#) HF, [Mark Nantz](#) inlaid platter, Mark Nantz bowls, Cindy Drozda HF, [Warren Carpenter](#)'s imaginative use of walnut shells.



## RAFFLE NEWS



A modest collection of Dogwood, Chestnut, Ambonia, and spalted Maple were in the February BAT Raffle. Thanks to all who contributed.

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## DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

In the January, 2012 Newsletter, two of the three mentions of BAT member **Herman Debner** contained a misspelling of his last name. We apologize for the errors.

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## 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:  
March 14, 2011 at 6:30 PM

Agenda:  
David Ellsworth Demo !!!



## NEW BAT WEBMASTER



Please welcome Stephen Jones, BAT's new Webmaster. He replaces John Meyer, who, due to prolonged absence, was no longer able to act in that capacity. Thanks to John for his years of service.



## BAT SHARPENING STATION

BAT Treasurer, Wayne Kuhn, worked his fingers to the bone designing, fabricating, and painting a portable self-contained sharpening station for use at BAT demos. It features a slow speed grinder, a Oneway Wolverine sharpening jig with a Oneway Varigrind jig. Thanks, Wayne! Great job!