Echoes from the "BAT" Cave

February, 2017
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Secretary/Newsletter Editor NEEDED !!

The club is in need of a new Secretary/Newsletter Editor. Volunteer and become a member of the elite BAT board! More details on Page 3 of this newsletter! :-)

Bottom's UP !!

This month's featured demo

You've seen those long slender necked vases with a bulbous bottom or those oval hollow forms with the ridiculously small openings and wondered; how do you hollow them out?, how do you get a hollowing tool down that long slender neck?, how do you get a hollowing tool inside that tiny opening?

Some samples of Chuck's vases and hollow forms all hollowed from the bottom up.

Well, this month's demo by our very own Chuck Cohen showed us a technique for solving that very dilemma. The technique is clever, sneaky, and relatively easy. It's called "hollowing from the bottom up". The technique involves hollowing the turning from the bottom thru a decent sized access hole, then plugging the access hole and concealing it at the end of the project. If at any time during this following write-up you get confused, you can access a copy of Chuck's hand-out notes by clicking here. The hand-out includes step-by-step instructions as well as some drawings.

Chuck's demo was to turn a vase with a long slender neck and a hollowed out base. He started with a previously roughed out cylinder of dry soft pine about 4 inches in diameter and 12 inches long. He prefers to use dry wood for his closed forms because it helps avoid the cracking that can come when the wood dries out later. He started between centers and turned a tenon on both ends so that he could later mount it in a chuck. Then he parted off the last ¾ of an inch from the end of the cylinder at the tailstock. He put that disk of wood off to the side and saved it for later. It would be used for the bottom plug.

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He then mounted the remaining 11 inch cylinder in a chuck and cleaned up the bottom. Then comes decision time, designing the shape of the bottom of the vase. Chuck deftly carved out a pleasing shape. When he got to the neck end of the blank he left it large with extra "meat" to maintain strength when hollowing out the bottom later.

Now came the hollowing, which Chuck started by drilling a hole (about 1 inch dia) up thru the bottom of the blank with a Forstner bit. Chuck then made quick work of hollowing the bottom out with a hand-held Easy Woods hollower.

Hollowing the base of the vase thru the bottom access hole.

After he was satisfied with the hollowing, he drilled out the inside of the neck. He prefers to drill out the neck now rather than plug the bottom, turn the blank around, and then drill out the neck because it can be hard to get all the drilling debris out thru the long slender neck hole. He then removed the hollowed blank from the lathe.

Next he remounted the cutoff piece from the bottom onto the lathe and sized a plug that would fit into the hole he had previously drilled into the bottom of vase. He glued the plug into the bottom of the vase. You can use any glue you like but he used "5-Minute Epoxy" so it would cure fast for the demo. You want to be careful and line up the grain of the plug with the grain in the bottom of the vase.

Chuck has sized the plug so that it will fit into the access hole in the base of the vase.

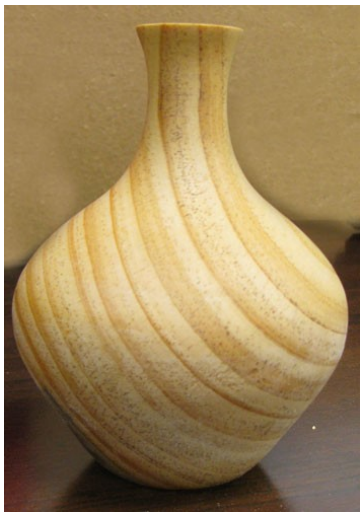
While the hollowed vase is glued to the plug base which is mounted in a chuck on the lathe, Chuck finished turning the neck which he had previously left "meaty". He also took the time to clean up the inside of the neck opening giving it an artistic flair. Now's a good time to sand and finish the body of the vase while it's on the lathe.

PVC pipe in the chuck for reverse mounting the vase.

Now comes a tricky part, reverse mounting the vase to finish off the plugged bottom. Chuck uses a section of PVC pipe, held in a chuck. He inserts the neck of the vase into the pipe and brings the tail stock up to hold it in place. He spends some time centering the assembly. He uses some thin foam and a paper towel to cushion between the edge of the pipe and the vase body. The paper towel goes against the wood to prevent the foam from possibly "staining" the wooden vase. He also applies a LOT of duct tape to hold the vase and PVC pipe together.

Reverse mounting the vase with the neck extended into the PVC pipe.

This is the time to clean up the bottom of the vase by parting off the excess plug material and smoothing up the bottom of the vase. He turns several rings on the bottom of the vase using a diamond point tool. He makes one of the rings coincident with the plug hole to disguise it. After sanding and finishing the bottom, the vase is DONE!



Voila! The finished, hollowed vase ! ——>

Raffle News

We had our usual cornucopia of wood samples for the raffle. We also had a screwdriver socket set and a 25' tape measure. The photo below shows it all.

Baltimore Area Turners

Baltimore Area Turners meets every month on the second Wednesday of the month. Our meetings are held at the Boumi Temple at:

5050 King Avenue
Baltimore MD 21237-3325

Drive around to the parking lot at the back of the building and enter thru the set of glass doors. If the door feels like it's locked, it's not, just give it a tug. :-)

Sect'y/Newsletter Editor Needed !

Richard Deitrich has had to resign from his post as our Secretary/Newsletter Editor due to unforeseen family circumstances. Your Webmaster (Dave Maidt) is currently attempting to fill the extra large shoes that Richard left behind. Richard has done a **stupendous** job during his many years of service to the club. If you think you might have an interest to fill the position, please speak with any board member. They'll be glad to fill you in on what would be required. Come on! Join the elite BAT Board !

American Crafts Council Show

BAT has been invited to demonstrate at the American Crafts Council show on Feb 24-26 at the Baltimore Convention Center. For the sixth year, we will be one of several artisan groups demonstrating our craft. The show is an enormous display of works of top-drawer artists in textiles, glass, jewelry wood art, furniture, textiles and more. Not only can you see the works but you can talk with the artists It's a great opportunity for getting inspiration and information. Come visit the BAT ~~cave~~ booth!

President's Challenge #2

The second President's Challenge has been announced!

This challenge will be to make a stool with three or four legs. This challenge will not have beginner, intermediate, and expert levels. Instead, it will be size based on your lathe capacity.

The stools can be plain or decorated in any style you choose.

For complete details, see the BAT website.

President's Challenge #1

The first batch of Challenge entries were on display at the meeting. (Starting at the top and going around clockwise) There was a segmented rolling pin by Kris Kazmierski, a candle holder by Ron Ford, a blue dyed lidded box by Louie Harris, a potato masher by Roland Shephard, a box with an elliptical inset by Robert Sobczak and another rolling pin by Alayna MacAnespie.