

Echos From the "BAT" Cave

Baltimore Area Turners

BALTIMORE AREA



TURNERS

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BAT LEARNS ECCENTRICITY

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Keith Holt, treated BAT to a marvelous display of practical eccentric turning. Shown here in his AAW smock, he is discussing skew cuts with his friend, John Amos, who assisted him in the demo. They produced the bottle stopper pictured below. Keith also produced one of the scoops pictured below.

Also inside, pictures from the BAT field trip to a collector's house.

MORE INSIDE



ECCENTRIC TRIPLE DEMO

Keith Holt Demo – Eccentric Turning for Practical Applications



Keith mounts the split square turning blank



Turning sphere at end.



Turning handle



Chucking to hollow scoop.

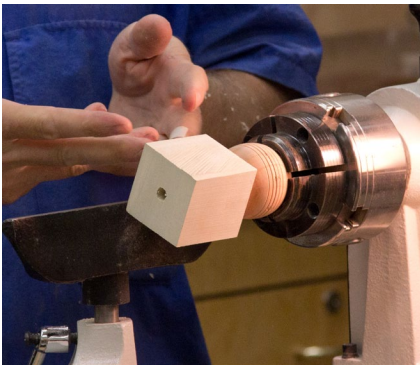
Keith gave us 3 demos for the price of one. He describes himself as a carver who also turns. He emphasizes safety first – eccentric pieces can become deadly weapons. Except for this time, he always uses a variable speed lathe, turning at around 600 RPM. Using a sharp gouge, he takes very small cuts (which he describes as “putting for 18 holes”) which he demonstrated by turning a scoop.

Starting with a split square spindle blank (Poplar – good for test pieces) mounted in a 4 jaw chuck, he rounded it to a cylinder, then turned a sphere at the far end, leaving only a small point of attachment to the base. He then split the halves and mounted one half between two jaws of the chuck at an angle so that the attachment point of the handle to the scoop was in the center. The handle was then turned and parted. Finally the sphere was mounted in the chuck and hollowed, with the handle in the gap between jaws of the chuck. Optionally, it can be reversed and the bottom of the scoop decorated with turning.

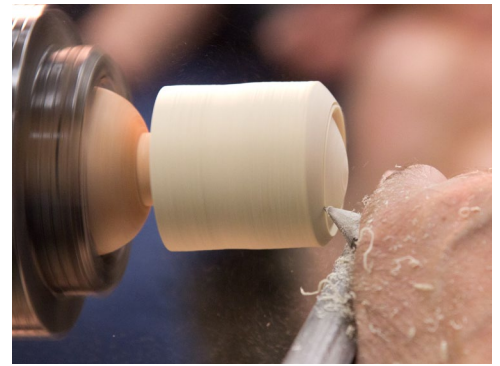
The next demo was an eccentric bottle stopper. He displayed his jig – a sphere with a short cylinder on both poles, with a length of all-thread centered on one end. (The all-thread extends a few mm short of the length of the thread on a bottle stopper base.) He started with a [bottle stopper mandrel](#) in the morse taper of the head stock and threaded a hole in a 2” turning blank. He then chucked the cylinder end of the jig and screwed the turning blank onto the extended all-thread. The blank was rounded to a cylinder and the far end was rounded over. The jig was rechucked so that the sphere portion was held by the jaws. It was rotated so the end of the blank was about 3/16” off-center. The location of the new axis can be visualized by bringing up the tailstock; in his shop, Keith has a laser lined up with the axis of the headstock – the laser shows where the center is. An Eye shape was then turned – circles for the iris and pupil, using a shallow fluted gouge. (He recommends [Thompson](#) gouges.) At this point in the demo, he introduced his friend and neighbor, John Amos, who is a professional cabinet-maker and Skew chisel expert. (Keith eschews the skew.) The blank was placed at various angles and John turned V-grooves into the body. Finally the shape was refined to fit well over the bottle stopper base.

The third portion of the demo was a set of adjustable faceplates which go on the headstock and tailstock to hold spheres for turning eccentric grooves or beads. Keith had developed this with John and Keith Tompkins one day when they were working together. This was version B. The faceplates had sliding inserts which were mounted on a T-slot. The inserts were step-hollowed to grasp three different sizes of spheres and were topped with [Fernco plumbing fittings](#). He carved an eccentric bead on a sphere to demonstrate,

Continued on Page 3



Stopper blank is turned to cylinder and then end rounded over.



Eccentric eye form turned.



John Amos uses skew.

then opened the sphere to show that it was really a box. He said grain orientation can present a problem in this type of turning. He showed a scraper that Keith Tompkins had come up with which cuts through any grain.

After 80 minutes, Keith was finished. Everyone got to ask questions and touch and feel the jigs and works. This was the model of efficiency. Great demo. I bet many of us were inspired to be a little more eccentric in our turning. Thanks, Keith!



Bottle Stopper Jig



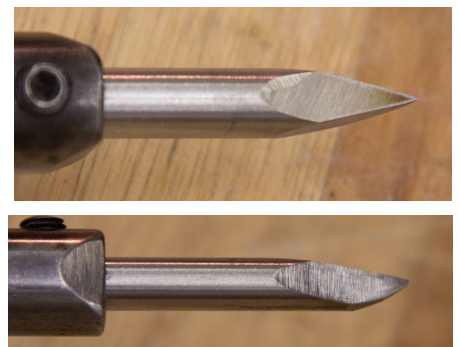
Keith mounts a sphere then cuts an eccentric groove.



Completed bottle stopper



Side and face views of eccentric friction face plate.

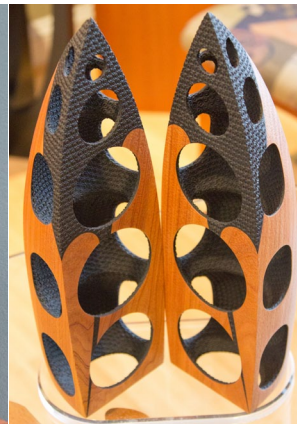
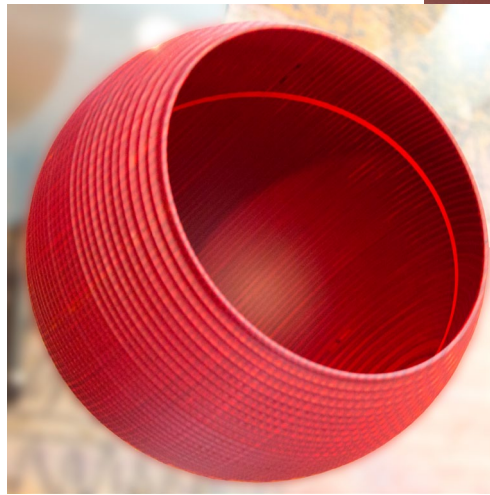


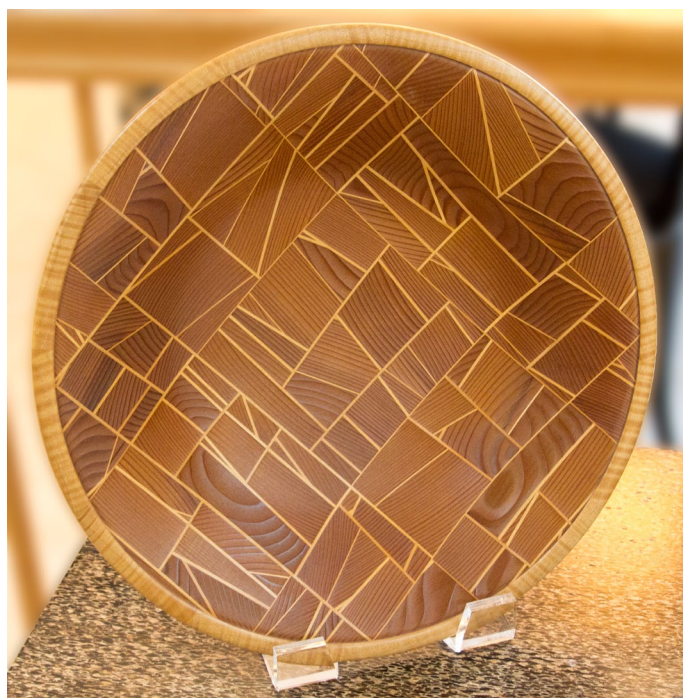
Scraper designed by Keith Tompkins - top and side views.

BAT FIELD TRIP



On September 18, 2011, Dr. Jeffrey Bernstein (*pictured above in center*) and his wife, Dr. Judith Chernoff, hosted members of BAT at their home in North Laurel. Avid collectors of mostly wood art, their home is chock full of superb works. Words cannot describe the wonders we saw. The pictures on these pages are only a small sampling of their collection. Thank you, Drs. Bernstein and Chernoff, for sharing with us.





MARK SUPIK UPDATE

Kudos

Congratulations to BAT member Mark Supik who is profiled in the October, 2011 issue of American Woodturner, the AAW journal! A number of his machines, some really big, are pictured in action. You may recognize some BAT members in the picture of [Jerry Kermode](#) turning at Mark's shop.

How Many Bowls?

About a year ago, 99 pieces of Pine were distributed to 38 turners with instructions to turn each into a bowl. Some BAT members were invited to turn. The bowls will be on display on November 19th and 20th at the [Schiavone Gallery](#) at 244 S Highland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21224. Local turner-artist [Kini Collins](#) has offered to help arrange the show. On Saturday, November 19th, the 100th bowl will be turned right in the gallery at an event from 1-4 pm. The following day, Mark Supik will demonstrate bowl turning. All the bowls will be on display both days.

Classes

Mark has a full schedule of spindle and bowl turning classes. He advertises a 20% discount on the tuition for BAT members. See [his web site](#) for details.



RAFFLE NEWS

BAT Secretary and Newsletter Editor Richard Dietrich won the special two-month raffle for the **Mark Sfirri Candlestick and Squiggle**. Congratulations!

A special raffle will be held at the October meeting for Lyle Jamieson's Cherry Goblet (right).

Tickets will be on sale at \$1 each. Buy a bunch to increase your chances of winning.



It's an ill wind that blows no good. Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee provided a motherlode of wood for the BAT raffle. Hickory, Osage Orange, Holly and Walnut splits, gigantic Cherry splits, Red Oak spindle blanks, Maple trunk with crotch, and, of course, S&S Hard Rock Maple were among the goodies made available by generous BAT members.

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 12, 2011 at 6:30 PM

Featured:
Show and Tell



PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

The President's challenge for OCTOBER will be to turn a segmented piece. It can be any size. Glue at least two pieces of wood together and turn something beautiful.

Susan Shane



(From the Bernstein Collection)