

Echos From the "BAT" Cave

Baltimore Area Turners

BALTIMORE AREA

TURNERS

March, 2012

Volume 7, Number 3

DAVID ELLSWORTH



In March, BAT was graced with a visit by Grandmaster Woodturner, David Ellsworth (*above*). His superb turning and excellent teaching kept BAT members enthralled (*below*) .

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Lining up blank between centers



The first few roughing cuts



Determining size of bowl

DAVID ELLSWORTH DEMO

David Ellsworth has been perfecting his style and skills since the 1970s. These, as well as his excellence in teaching, were on display at the March BAT meeting. He turned two bowls during the two hour meeting and left us in awe.

He started with two pieces of wet Sugar Maple from his property in Bucks County, PA. These had been cut into octagons with a chain saw. (He said he almost never uses a band saw - dirt and deposits in the bark will dull the saw blade. It's easier to sharpen a chain saw blade than a band saw blade.) One piece was mounted between centers, using a [spur center](#) from Stubby Lathes.

He put the tool rest at 45° to the ways - this makes the tool cut tangent to the fibers in the wood. Using his signature 5/8" PM gouge, he used a roughing cut (tool flat, bevel at 45°) to nibble at the edges of the piece. Once the corners were knocked off, he dropped the handle 45° to produce the slicing cut. He formed a tenon with a detail gouge.

After securing the piece in a chuck, he cut a base cut to establish the form, shaped the outside with a slicing cut and finished it with shear scraping.

He cut away the pith and about 3/4" past the pith, rounding the edge with shear scraping. Then he hollowed it, finishing with a bevel-rubbing cut with the flute straight up. Thickness was gauged using bent [3/16" galvanized rod](#).

Finally, the bowl was jam chucked into a home-made vacuum cup. This is made of laminated pieces of hardwood, threads tapped to fit the chuck, coated with thin CA, then retapped. For use as a vacuum chuck, it is finished with CA. A piece of foam underlayment was placed between the bowl and the chuck. (The foam should be compressible to 0 thickness, he said.)

After making sure the bowl was centered, the tenon was turned off with a slicing cut and blended in to form with shear scraping. The base was undercut by about 1/8" with a detail gouge.

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Turning a tenon



Using gouge as mallet to loosen spur drive



This pith has to go.



(Clockwise from upper left)

Audience showered with shavings.

Demonstrating finishing cut and then taking the cut.

Caressing the finished bowl - smooth!

Signing the bowl.

MORE DAVID ELLSWORTH

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He then turned a Natural Edge bowl. This went much faster than the cut edge bowl due to lack of time. He roughed it out and formed a tenon. The first try was unsuccessful - the tenon bottomed out in the Vicmarc chuck.

Technical difficulties arose: The spur center was stuck on the spindle. Using his [Signature Gouge](#) as a hammer, he tapped it loose. Later, the lathe headstock loosened up. Thanks to Roland Sheppard for holding it in place and later solving the problem.

Shavings showered the audience. The bowl was so deep that David needed supplemental illumination from Wayne Kuhn's flashlight to view the interior. Finally, the bowl was jam chucked and the bottom turned.

Both bowls were signed, will be sanded, finished and raffled in future BAT meetings.

Thanks to Woodcraft for use of their Nova DVR lathe.

Thanks to all BAT members who stayed after to help clean up the room.

Thanks, David!

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(left to right) Contrasting shavings: Slicing Cut, Detail gouging tenon, Shear scraping.



Roland Sheppard secures headstock.



Another shower of shavings.

STILL MORE DAVID ELLSWORTH

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Wayne Kuhn illuminates interior of bowl with flashlight.



Ellsworth thickness gauge.



Turning off the tenon.

DOWN AND DIRTY LOG CRADLE

Article and Photos by Wayne Kuhn

This log cradle cannot be easier, cheaper or more useful. It is basically a consumable log cradle with no chance of damaging your chain saw chain. I have used this many times; I would hate to go without it when sawing my green wood bowl blanks.

Fabrication is simple, start with 4 equal lengths of two by four. I prefer 12 inch lengths and have cut some very large diameter logs.

Once cut, apply glue to all mating corners and insert 1- 2 ½ drywall screw through each corner.



Drill a hole the size of the dowel in each opposite corner; I use 2-dowels per corner.



Glue and insert dowels. Let assembly dry overnight and remove the screws.

The cradle is ready to use without any metal fasteners. Store outside with your log pile.

When you finally do cut through the cradle and it is no longer usable you can make another one with very little expense.

I hope you find this as handy as I do.

RAFFLE NEWS

To maximize the time available for David Ellsworth's demonstration, there was no raffle during the March meeting. The raffle is one of BAT's major sources of operating funds so there was some concern.

After the Woodcraft Cash Register was closed, David Ellsworth sold copies of his excellent book, **Ellsworth on Woodturning**, his signature gouges, hollowing tools, and several DVDs. He announced that it was his policy to return 15% of his take to the sponsoring organization. True to his word, he gave BAT \$128 which more than made up for lack of income by not holding a raffle.

Thanks again, David.

Don't forget - there WILL BE a raffle at the April, 2012 meeting. Bring your turning-related items to donate.

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:
April 11, 2012 at 6:30 PM

Agenda:
Hands On



PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

BAT President Susan Shane has announced this year's President's Challenges:

June - Turn a wooden EGG. (You may wish to hollow, pierce, or carve it or burn or paint a decorative design. You may also wish to make an egg cup to hold it.)

August - Turn a GOBLET – any size. (You may wish to embellish it as with the egg.)

October - Turn any item with an INLAY of stone, wire, or something else. Be as creative as possible

(This was originally published in January - it will be repeated as a reminder from time to time.)

COMING UP: HANDS-ON

The April BAT meeting will feature Hands-On demonstrations of:

- Skew chisel techniques
- Sharpening (using the new BAT sharpening station)
- Green wood Bowl turning and
- Pen and Spindle turning

Come ready to watch and learn and try your hand at these techniques.