

Echos From the “BAT” Cave

Baltimore Area Turners

BALTIMORE AREA



TURNERS

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CINDY DROZDA'S VISIT



Using a small set of tools, Master Turner [Cindy Drozda](#) turned one of her trademark fabulous finials (*above*) at the October BAT meeting. She and the full house listened patiently, as Wayne Kuhn (*below*) explained upgrades made to the AV system for this demo. The new overhead camera added a new dimension to Cindy's excellent presentation.

Thanks to Chris Kunzle and Bob Pegram who provided photos for this issue.

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BAT President Yaakov Bar Am is tickled pink to introduce Cindy Drozda

CINDY DROZDA DEMO

Wearing a SeaWorld smock signed by many famous turners, Cindy started with an introductory slide show showing her family - David Nittmann and two cats ("Dogs have Masters, Cats have Staff"). She also showed pictures of the recent flooding of the Boulder, CO area a few miles from her home, where they got a year's rainfall in 2 days.

She said she started as a cabinet maker. Turning chair legs got her 'bitten by the turning bug.' She started turning pens, took lessons at Craft Supplies USA, then worked her way through vases and candle holders to making boxes, honing her skills along the way. She says her style is always evolving; now it feels like she's refining the finial.

Getting down the demo, she mounted a 1x1" pen blank between her chuck and a live center to make a finial. She explained that the first step is to make a tenon, which provides excellent support without a tail stock. She proceeded to round out the blank, explaining how she uses the opportunity of removing excess wood to practice her cuts. First she demonstrated a pommel cut: a spindle gouge is plunged straight into the wood, the cut follows the bevel and moves the edge to the side. The cut is repeated to make a deeper pommel cut. After making lots of cuts, she demonstrated a planing cut with the wing of the spindle gouge. Then she demonstrated V-cuts, made with the flute in a neutral position and progressed to cove cuts, where the flute is opened

(Top to bottom) Cindy turning and teaching, making V-cuts, turning beads.



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CINDY DEMO

up. Finally she demonstrated a bead. All cuts were made down-hill to avoid tear-out. The tool rest was set so that the tip of the tool touches the wood at center.

Once the piece was rounded out, she gave a lengthy discussion of [finial design considerations](#). She says she draws out the design on composition graph paper to work out the proportions.

She then removed the tail stock support and began to turn the top of the finial, at which point the piece flew off the lathe. Oops! She had forgotten to make the tenon!

Cindy demonstrated various uses of her spindle gouge and when things got tight, she switched to her Vortex tool which she used to clean between beads and to make deep, narrow V grooves.

Shaping of the finial is all done with tools. Sandpaper can remove tool marks but will not remove small amounts of wood in exactly the right place. Starting on the far end, she sands each portion as she finishes cutting it, then cuts and sands the next portion. She holds the paper diagonally to avoid having the edge dig in and keeps the paper moving, going through 400, 600, 1000, 2000, and 4000 grits.

Finally, she undercut the base at the tenon and, after finishing it with Kiwi Natural Shoe Polish buffed with a paper towel, she parted off the finial.

She finished her talk by showing various versions of finials on different shaped vessels. This was an excellent demo. Cindy is a great turner and a superb teacher.



(clockwise from above) Chris Kunzle shoots Cindy, *turning the spire, finish turning the base, *parting off, *one of Cindy's display pieces.
(*photos by Chris Kunzle)

FOUR GUIDELINES TO FINIALS

- 1 - No tail stock - mount with tenon chucked
- 2 - Always cut on well supported material - do the tip element first
- 3 - Back up cutting force with opposing force (rub a finger)
- 4 - Use light touch and careful aim.
- 4a - Use good lighting and good glasses
- 4b - Have contrasting color matte board behind the turning

Cindy Drozda



CINDY'S CLASS

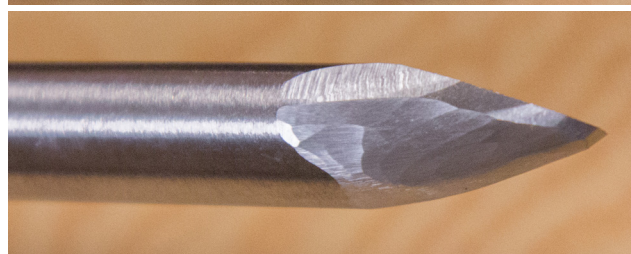


The day after the BAT demo, Cindy gave a class at Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts in Annapolis for BAT members. The class learned to turn a variation of her [Fabulous Finial Box](#). Here are some pictures provided by Bob Pegram.



CINDY'S TOOLS

Here are the grind profiles of Cindy's spindle gouge (right - 40° angle at the cutting edge, heel cut away) and her Vortex tool. (left)





CHESAPEAKE WT DEMO

[Chesapeake Woodturners](#) holds their meetings in Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts. It's a large building with the first floor divided into rooms dedicated to woodturning, sculpture, pottery, and other creative arts. It is run as a co-op where members can use the facilities and equipment whenever they want. There were folks busy in just about every room. In the middle, there is a cafe which can provide refreshments or lunch. The upper floors are gallery spaces.

Cindy gave an all-day demo in the woodturning room to another packed house. She knew the room and equipment well, having taught classes there for the preceding two days. Her demo started with a finial, much like the BAT demo, then she proceeded to discuss burl cutting and turned a dyed lidded box out of a burl. Watching her turn and explain her thought processes and techniques was quite illuminating. She was still full of energy as she finished with a discussion of Banksia pods, one of which she turned to a weed pot. She kept the group captivated for the entire day.



(clockwise from upper left) CWT meeting room, dyeing the finial, sizing up a burl, the finished dyed, lidded burl box (with the finial), a Banksia weed pot.





RAFFLE NEWS

A screwdriver kit, Sycamore, and two other bowl blanks, a Poplar spindle blank, a BAT cap, a BAT polo shirt, and a box of wrenches were donated by BAT members to the Raffle. Thanks to all!

BALTIMORE AREA TURNERS

Baltimore Area Turners meets every month on the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be held at the Boumi Temple at

5050 King Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21237-3325

Next meeting:
November 13, 2013 at 7:00 PM

Agenda: David Reed Smith Demo: Holiday Ornaments



SUSAN SHANE MEMORIAL IRONMAN COMPETITION

Here are the current standings (in alphabetical order):

	Goblets	3W	Box	Platter	Bocce	NE Bowl	Points
Richard Dietrich	x	x	x	x	x		5
John Fisher				x			1
Ron Ford	x	x	x	x			4
Louis Harris	x	x	x	x	x		5
Pete Johnson					x		1
Stephen Jones						x	1
Wayne Kuhn	x	x	x	x			4
Dave Maidt					x		1
Jim Oliver			x		x		2
Bob Pegram					x		1
Bob Rupp			x				1
Roland Shepard	x	x					2
David Smith	x	x					2

Don't forget - you can catch up by submitting prior month's challenges at the December meeting.

To participate in the Susan Shane Memorial Ironman Competition all you need to do is participate in the President's Challenge. Each participation awards one point. There have been multiple President's Challenges throughout the year. The person who accrues the most points at the end of the year will be rewarded. In case of a tie, all winners will be rewarded. We hope that folks will put forth their best effort into each challenge and we look forward to seeing the results.

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

BAT President Yaakov Bar Am has announced this year's final President's Challenge:

December – Turn a lidded box with a 3" or larger fabulous finial.