

Echos From the “BAT” Cave

Baltimore Area Turners

BALTIMORE AREA

TURNERS

September, 2014

Volume 9, Number 9

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PHIL BROWN DEMO



(Above) Phil Brown shows off bowl wall thickness to attentive group of BAT members. (Below)



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MORE INSIDE

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Demonstrator Phil compares bowls

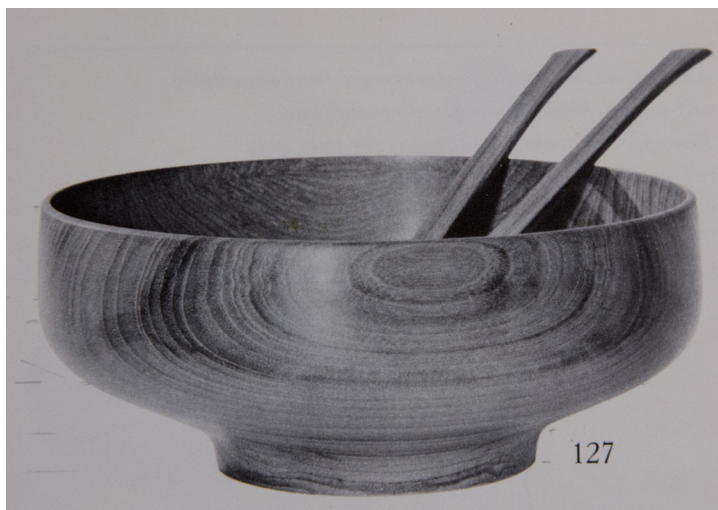
PHIL BROWN



Phil shows gorgeous crotch flare bowl



Discussing proportion



Bob Stocksdale's inspirational bowl

[Phil Brown](#) spoke in depth to BAT about ratio and proportion in bowl form. He said that his awareness of form came early in his turning career when he admired a Bob Stocksdale salad bowl in a gallery catalog almost 40 years ago. (It was priced at \$45.) After some analysis, he realized that the height:width ratio was 1:2.6 - the Golden Ratio. This was the beginning of years of experimentation with multiple ratios of height, width, base width, and other features. He showed numerous examples of different ratios ranging from 'dog dishes' to elegant flare bowls. Many of his bowls had abrupt changes in curvature or straight sides which he said were part of his distinctive style.

He spoke about bowl wall thickness - for functional bowls he uses 1/4"-3/8" walls and uses a film finish to limit

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Mmm. Luscious curves, wafer thin.



Results of blank orientation in trunk:
Half-crotch bowl (*left*) and end-grain bowl (*right*)

MORE PHIL

(Continued from Page 2)

water spots. He primes with sanding sealer, then uses lacquer, water-based poly, or epoxy paint.

He gave examples of results of different orientations of bowls in trees, including end-grain and crotch bowls from a trunk with the pith lined up tangent to the outside. This limits cracking and gives a distinctive grain pattern.

He showed two bandsaw jigs: one for turning circular bowl blanks around a 3/8" hole (the correct size for the Stronghold Worm Screw); the other for turning the blank at an angle to remove most excess wood from a flare bowl blank.

He outlined his workflow: He roughs out green bowls, then coats
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Tilting bandsaw sled (*left*); how blank is mounted (*right*)



The warped rough bowl



Starting cuts



Working down to bottom.

STILL MORE PHIL

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them with [Panel Seal](#), a thin wax emulsion. After they dry, he flattens the bottom with a belt sander, holding his spirit level sticks on top to keep top and bottom parallel. He mounts his pieces in an [Axminster chuck](#) with square jaws and turns them to final thickness. Wood prone to tear-out is hardened with epoxy paint first. He sands with an air powered sander using 3" discs starting at 180, going to 320 or 400.

He proceeded to finish turn a Bradford Pear flare bowl. He turned the bowl very thin using bowl gouges with a short fingernail grind. Lathe speed was 1100 RPM and he did not shear scrape. He said he finishes the bottom by mounting in a donut chuck.

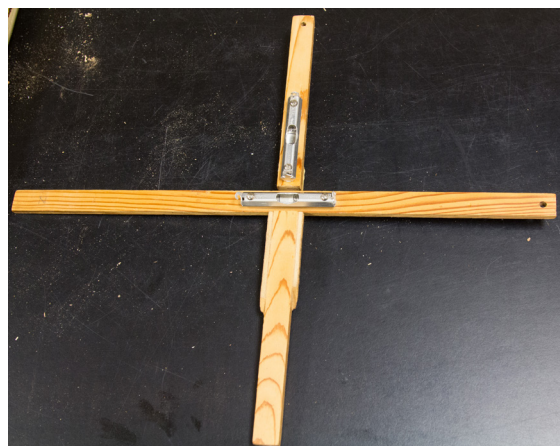
This was an eye-opening demo with lots of tips and excellent thin-wall bowl turning. BAT members will never look at bowls in the same way again. Thanks, Phil.



Ready for sanding



Getting the base svelte



Spirit level sticks

SOME OF PHIL'S BOWLS



Here are three of the bowls Phil Brown brought to his demonstrations. Beautiful wood complemented by beautiful form.

TIPS AND TRICKS

Evaluating a crotch - if you see a bulge on the side of a crotch, most likely there is lots of ingrown bark inside. - *Phil Brown*

Lathe accessory caddy for BAT Jet lathe designed, built and installed by *Wayne Kuhn*. (Right)





RAFFLE NEWS

River Birch and Apple logs, Spalted Maple, Mahogany, Beech, and Brazilian Walnut spindle blanks, Spalted Maple, Box Elder, Oak pen blanks, Treewood crotches, and Gum and Hickory splits were all donated by generous BAT members. Thanks to all.

BALTIMORE AREA TURNERS

Baltimore Area Turners meets every month on the second Wednesday of the month. (Except for the August picnic which is on a Sunday.) The next meeting will be held at the Boumi Temple at

5050 King Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21237-3325

Next meeting:
October 8, 2014 at 7:00 PM

Agenda: David Reed Smith demo:
[Eccentric Tree Ornaments](#)



ELECTIONS COMING

Board elections will be in November.

The following have been nominated or volunteered for office:

President: Yaakov Bar Am
Vice President: Ron Ford
Secretary: Richard Dietrich
Treasurer: Wayne Kuhn
Librarian: Clark Bixler
Program Director: Ron Ford
Webmaster: [vacant]
Public Relations Director: [vacant]
Membership Director: Ron Ford

There's still room for more. This is your club. Help take charge.

Think hard about serving.

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE ENTRY



Ron Ford was unable to attend the August picnic so he brought his answer to Challenge #4 to the September meeting.

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

BAT President Yaakov Bar Am has announced the fifth President's Challenge for 2014:

October – Turn a gift quality piece of jewelry. Rings, baubles, bangles, bright shiny beads and more are acceptable. Make it good enough to proudly give to your mother.