

Echos From the "BAT" Cave

Baltimore Area Turners

BALTIMORE AREA

TURNERS

DORMAN'S, WOODWORKING SHOW, AND SPINDLE TURNING DEMO



In December, the BAT display opened at Stan Dorman's Lighting store. (Above: a few of the pieces.) For the 6th year, BAT members demonstrated and displayed at the Timonium Woodworking Show. (Below left: Ron Ford sands a bowl.) At the meeting later in the month, BAT was treated to an excellent demo on spindle turning (below right).

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Brad McCalister scrapes out a living using Easy Wood tools.



BAT's Wayne Kuhn turned a set of crab mallets.



BAT's Jim Conlon does emergency repairs on Mark Supik's lathe.

WOODWORKING SHOW

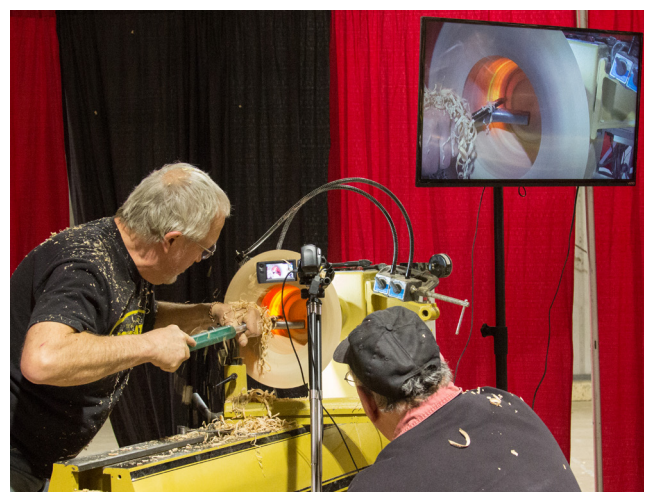
Once again, BAT proudly participated in the Woodworking Show at the Timonium Fair Grounds. Numerous BAT members volunteered to man the booth greeting visitors and demonstrating our craft. We had turned items on display, a video slide show, and two lathes in constant operation. Chesapeake Woodturners, Mark Supik, Barry Gross, Hannes Michelsen, and others were also present. Everywhere you turned, wood was spinning.



BAT's Bob Pegram talks and turns.



Barry Gross talks buffing



BAT's Paul Elliott mans camera as Hannes Michelsen turns Hat #2301



Stan Dorman (upper left) hosts BAT members at the BAT Show-room Grand Opening. Items were tastefully placed among the other goods in the store.



DORMAN'S RECEPTION

Last month, about 25 folks converged on Dorman's Lighting and Design at 1524 York Road in Towson to witness the Grand Opening of the BAT showroom. Several dozen excellent pieces by many BAT members were on display mingled among the lamps throughout the store. The pieces were discretely labeled with turner, type of wood, embellishment and price. There was food and drink for the crowd and, as usual, lots of discussion of wood, turning, finishing, displaying, and strategies for sales. During the reception, a lady came in looking for lamps and ended up buying three bowls! Thanks to BAT member Stan Dorman for opening his doors to display BAT wares.



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MORE DORMAN'S

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A sampling of the items on display.

Zoom in on these photos to see the exquisite detail.





Louis Harris knocks off corners with a spindle roughing gouge and a continental gouge.

SPINDLE TURNING DEMO

Louis Harris and Bob Pegram demonstrated techniques in spindle turning. They lead off the demo by reviewing AAW Safety rules for turning, including using a face shield, tying back long hair, checking speed before starting lathe, making sure all adjustments on lathe are tight, and rotating the piece by hand before powering up.

Louis started turning by finding the center of both ends of the spindle blank. He mounted it between a Steb drive center and a live tailstock center. He demonstrated roughing out with a spindle roughing gouge, a continental gouge, and a skew chisel. All cut at or above the center line. He especially likes the skew for giving a smooth finish. He hones the skew with a Diamond card lubricated with Marvel Mystery Oil. (He said that water lubrication can lead to corrosion of the diamond card.) He discussed modifications of the standard skew – rounding the short point to a curve, rounding the short point side of the shaft of the chisel to facilitate rolling beads. He discussed oval skews (good for planing cuts and coves but not very substantial), round



Planing with a skew



Making a V-cut



Turning a bead with a spindle gouge

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(Above) Turning a bead with a skew;
(Right) Skewed and gouged beads



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skews (good for beads and easily manipulated), and the Spindle Master (limited in cuts possible; good for pens). Having established a cylinder, he started making V cuts and Line cuts with the long point of a Skew. To make a bead between two V cuts, he first used a spindle gouge. He said he prefers to have his thumb aligned with flute to turn counterclockwise and his index finger aligned with flute to turn clockwise. Bob also turned a few beads with the spindle gouge. Finally, Louis turned a lovely bead with a skew chisel, making the cut with the short point. They also demonstrated cutting coves.

Louis then demonstrated the parting tool. The best cut, he said, is made coming from below the centerline. This is used for sizing diameters.

They finished up by showing and using a Taper Mate – a silicone reamer for a Morse taper. They emphasized the importance of keeping the tapers clean to allow proper mating of inserted attachments.

This was a thorough demonstration of basic spindle techniques. Louis and Bob took many questions and answered all thoroughly. There was plenty of information for novice and experienced turners alike. Thanks, guys!



Using the parting tool



Parting to a diameter



Parting leaves a rough edge



Louis shows the Taper Mate



BAT BIOS

For 2015, we begin a new series of biographical vignettes about your fellow BAT members.

Wayne Kuhn has done the legwork, interviewing and photographing the members. Participation is strictly voluntary.

This month we feature our President Ron Ford and member Pat Amtmann.

RON FORD

Board Position: President

I am pleased and honored to be the President of BAT going into 2015 and look forward to learning and sharing a lot with my fellow members.

My wife, Janice, and I live in West Friendship (western Howard County). Janice teaches school art at a local Howard County elementary school and will be retiring at the end of this school year. I worked as a Sales Director for AT&T and Lucent Technologies for 32 years, retiring almost four years ago. Since I signed off from corporate life I have found my dream retirement job, working at a local hardware store 2 ½ days a week. The store has been owned and operated by the Kendall family since 1947 and provides a welcome alternative to the big box stores with helpful advice and a real dedication to customer service.

Janice and I have two terrific children. Our son, Matt, is a chemical engineer and works at a local firm as their senior architect in providing monitoring and correction services to gas and oil pipeline companies. He and his wife and our two grandchildren, ages 5 and 1 ½, live in Catonsville. Our daughter, Allison, is a Patent Examiner for the US Patent and Trademark Office and lives in sunny San Diego CA with her husband and three dogs.

I have been a lifelong woodworker, but rediscovered woodturning soon after my retirement. I don't recall exactly what rekindled my interest, but I took the "Learn to Turn" class at the then Towson Woodcraft store and it was an instant match for me. Wayne Kuhn was kind enough to provide me with a day of hands-on training at his home soon after I joined BAT and that really solidified my interest in the hobby. I have since been fortunate to take classes with David Ellsworth, Cindy Drozda, and many with Mark Supik here in Baltimore. I joined BAT in the spring of 2012 and enjoy turning on my Jet 1642 EVS in my basement workshop.

Like many of you, I started with pens and bowls, and have since expanded into salt and pepper grinders, candlesticks, children's toys, rolling pins, lidded vessels, plates, and goblets. I have made some preliminary segmented pieces and plan to expand more into that area. I have no one favorite and really enjoy experimenting with different forms and in using many different kinds of wood.

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I don't sell any work at this point, preferring to give it away as my enjoyment comes from the process of creating the pieces. I may well get to the point where my friends, relatives and neighbors reach the 'enough is enough' point and I will rethink it then. I have no website but do enjoy finding the many bits of woodturning information to be found on YouTube, and frequent www.lumberjocks.com. If you have not seen it, give it a look. It has forums for all kinds of woodworkers, and includes one specifically for woodturning. Lots of great ideas and advice to be found there.

Probably my favorite woodturner is [Cap'n Eddie Castelin](#) who has produced many, many highly entertaining and informative YouTube videos. Cap'n Eddie has been offline for the past few months with a medical situation, but we hope to see him back soon.



BAT Member
Pat Amtmann

Pat currently lives in Dundalk MD where she works as a machine tool operator with CNC machines at the U.S. Coast Guard Yard in Curtis Bay. She is not married and has no children.

Pat has been turning for 5 years and has been a BAT member since 2012. She turns on a Jet 10 inch mini lathe in her basement studio.

Pat enjoys turning pens, salt and pepper mills along with general spindle work. She does not have a website and does not sell her work. However, she does like gifting her work and does the occasional commission for adaptive equipment for people with disabilities.

One of Pat's favorite turners is [Ernie Conover](#).

Along with woodturning Pat enjoys general woodworking, choir singing, playing the piano and guitar, as well as doing embroidery, "I have a lot of interests" says Pat.

"The beauty of an object is in its practicality"
-Pat Amtmann



RAFFLE NEWS

To begin the new year, Spectrawood and Box Elder blanks, Mahogany, Ipe, Poplar and Birds-eye Maple bowl blanks, a Cherry split and a PSI Pen Chuck were donated to the raffle by BAT members.

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:
February 11, 2015 at 7:00 PM

Agenda: Chuck Engstrom - Lidded Box demo



SPECIAL RAFFLE

The square box Jimmy Clewes turned in November was raffled. The lucky winner was **Tom Szerek**. Congratulations!



AMERICAN CRAFTS COUNCIL SHOW

BAT has been invited to demonstrate at the American Crafts Council show on February 20-22 at the Baltimore Convention Center. For the fourth year, we will be one of over a dozen artisan groups demonstrating our craft. The show is an enormous display of works of top drawer artists in textiles, glass, jewelry, wood art, furniture 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. While you're there, come and visit the demo area.

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

BAT President Ron Ford has announced the first President's Challenge for 2015:

February – Turn a gavel.

(This is the first entry in the Third Susan Shane Memorial Iron Man Challenge.)