

Echos From the “BAT” Cave

ANNIVERSARY, ACC, AND BOX TURNING DEMO

Baltimore Area Turners

BALTIMORE AREA

TURNERS

February, 2015

Volume 10, Number 2

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February was the 10th anniversary of BAT's founding. (above) We knew it was coming so we made a cake. Chuck Engstrom (below right) visited from Annapolis to show how to make a box from a single piece of wood. Later in the month BAT members, such as Tom Szarek (below left), braved the snow to demonstrate at the ACC show.

MORE INSIDE





January entries in the President's Challenge



February entries in the President's Challenge.

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

Though the deadline was not until February, four BAT members got a running start on the 2015 Susan Shane Memorial Ironman challenge by entering their gavels in January. **Bob Rupp** showed a gavel with routed spirals on the handle and head. **Ron Ford** showed a Rosewood and Cocobola gavel, **Wayne Kuhn** had a Maple gavel, and **Louis Harris** made an Osage mallet and an Oak and Silver Maple gavel.

In February, four more folks entered turned gavels. **Charles Stackhouse** made a crepe myrtle gavel, **Pete Johnson's** had an Ipe head and Madagascar Rosewood handle, **Greg Ham** made a pure Walnut gavel, **Richard Dietrich's** had a Walnut head and a handle made of Woodcraft's famous 'Wood7'.

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President Ron Ford's gavel



Wayne Kuhn's big gavel



Louis Harris' gavel



Bob Rupp's spiral gavel



Charles Stackhouse
with gavel



Pete Johnson's gavel



Greg Ham shows his gavel
to the video camera.

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2015 Susan Shane Memorial Iron Man Challenge

HAMMERING DOWN THE PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

	Mallet	Box	#3	#4	#5	#6
Richard Dietrich		x				
Ron Ford		x				
Greg Ham		x				
Louis Harris		x				
Pete Johnson		x				
Wayne Kuhn		x				
Bob Rupp		x				
Charles Stackhouse		x				

TIP OF THE MONTH

Louis Harris has been giving short talks about turning basics. For February, he discussed tool handles. He said they should fit your hand and the job you will do. Some tools need long handles for leverage, some smaller handles for maneuverability. He prefers handles made of hard wood with removable blades. (A big handle can be unwieldy when sharpening a gouge.) He showed several ways to make the blade easily detachable from the handle.

At the beginning of his demo, Chuck Engstrom showed one more way to attach a removable blade using propane compression fittings. He said he secures the blade with the sharp end inserted into the handle to avoid inadvertent punctures while traveling.

(right) Louis Harris contemplates his removable blade.

(below) Chuck Engstrom's propane fitting.





(above) Clark Bixler takes a turn at the lathe.
(below) Weaving warm clothing.



(above) Sculptor Sebastian Martorana
carves letters in slate.
(right) Towson U. 3-D printed items.



(left) Cindy Drozda's fabulous finial
(above) Pete Johnson talks turning

ACC SHOW

For the fourth year running, BAT was invited to demonstrate at the American Craft Council Show.

Thanks to the intrepid crew of **Dave Maitt, Jim Oliver, Don Keefer, Bob Pegram, Stan Dorman, Greg Ham, Don Schultz, Tom Szarek, Lori Szarek, Stephen Jones, Richard Dietrich, Pete Johnson, and Clark Bixler** who braved the unexpected major snowfall to keep us going.

We were one of over a dozen artisans demonstrating our craft in the "Let's Make / Inspiration Stations" area of the show. Others included Baltimore Clay Works, a stone sculptor, Towson University Metalsmithing and Jewelry, the Weavers Guild of Greater Baltimore, and more sandwiched between Union Craft Brewery and the Balvenie Scotch Distillery.

We soberly demonstrated turning continuously throughout the 3 days of the show and supplemented it with our video slide show and a hands-on display detailing the 15 steps of making a segmented bangle.

As expected, the show was replete with eye-popping jewelry, metalwork, glasswork, textiles, furniture, and more. Great inspiration and education.





Parting top from bottom



Hollowing lid



Hollowing bottom

LIDDED BOX DEMO



The [Ray Key](#) style hollowing gouge.

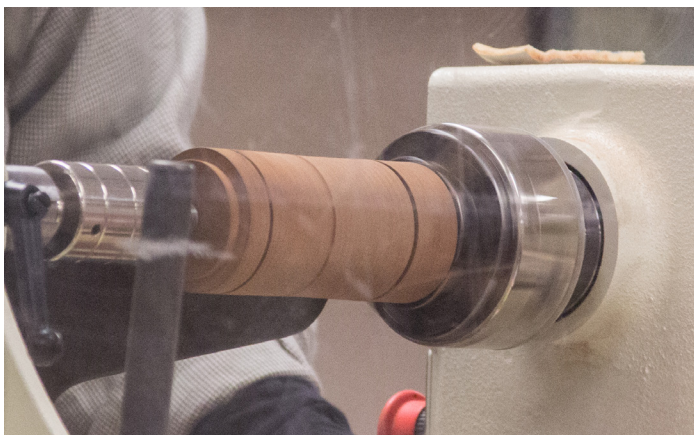
Chuck Engstrom, a veteran member of Chesapeake Woodturners, turned a lidded box. He started by discussing the numerous examples of size, shape and fit he had brought. He discussed ornamentation with chatter tool, burning wire, pyrography, carving, and gilding. He said he uses cloth backed abrasive to sand the interior but can use paper backed on the outside. He said he prefers quick and easy finishes that can be applied on the lathe, such as friction polish.

He showed some of the tools he uses. First was a scraper made from a [1/4" Square HSS steel bar](#). He also uses inside calipers to make sure the inside diameter of the lid flange doesn't taper and uses veneer calipers to transfer the flange diameter from top to bottom.

Using the process detailed in his handout, he turned a lovely Sapele box. His handout follows:

Mark center of each end and mount between centers. Turn to round cylinder and create a tenon at each end. Mark cut line between top (~40%) (at headstock) and bottom (~60%) and separate top from bottom with thin parting tool to preserve grain continuity.

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Top and bottom joined, shaping the exterior



Turning down the top tenon.



Finish turning the base

LIDDED BOX DEMO



The finished box - Beautiful !

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Clean off the exposed face of the top. Remove as little as possible.

Begin hollowing the box top, working from the center outward with a sharp spindle gouge. Leave enough near the edge for the lid flange.

With a sharp square-end scraper, cut the flange about 1/4" deep into inside of the lid.

Be sure the sides are parallel to each other, essential for a good fit with the bottom. Check this with inside calipers. Flange can flare inward just a hair but an outward flare is fatal.

Clean up interior of lid with round scraper, sand, and apply finish.

Measure the depth of the lid and mark the approximate finished height on the exterior with allowance for thickness of lid. Use the thin parting tool to establish a marking cut, then remove top from chuck.

Chuck up the piece for the bottom of the box. Clean up the face of the top removing as little as possible to help preserve the grain alignment.

Make a sharp but shallow clean cut inward about 3/16" from the end to begin forming the inside flange. Do NOT try to make the flange fit into the top just now. Taper it so the lid will just barely begin fit on the outermost end, then stop!

Begin hollowing the inside of the bottom with the spindle gouge and scrapers. Sand as needed and apply finish to the interior only. You want to complete the interior before refining the fit of the flange into the top.

Now improve the fit of top and bottom to get a firm friction fit that will permit the top and bottom to be turned together as a single piece to complete the exterior shape.

Put the top onto the bottom, aligning the grain, and bring up the tail stock to hold them together. Turn the exterior shape as far as possible with the tailstock in place.

Remove top and refine fit of top to bottom for desired fit. Apply finish to bottom flange.

Cut off bottom and form jam chuck for top (not bottom) with remaining wood. Put top on jam chuck and complete shape, sand, and finish.

Reduce jam chuck to fit the bottom, put it on the jam chuck, and refine bottom of bottom.

Sand and finish.

This was a great demo. Beautiful work, well taught techniques. Thanks, Chuck !

BAT IS TEN ! ! !

2005 was, indeed, a momentous year. While war was waged in Iraq and Afghanistan, Congress spent the year debating the budget and Terry Schiavo and interviewing Mark McGuire and Sammy Soza about steroid use in the Bigs.

We had a new Pope - Benedict XVI, a new Chief Justice - John Roberts, and a new Fed Chief - Ben Bernanke. We learned the identity of Watergate's 'Deep Throat' - W. Mark Felt and looked in horror at the aftermath of Katrina.

In Baltimore, though, the big news was of a few folks banding together to buff their turning chops. In February, Baltimore Area Turners was formed at the Towson Woodcraft store, affectionately known to some as the 'Bat Cave.' BAT has changed considerably over the years but remains true to its founding purposes enumerated in the By-Laws:

1. Promote woodturning as an art form and craft.
2. Share ideas about woodturning including lathes, tools, turning materials, turning techniques, and design of turned objects
3. Provide a meeting location for woodturners.
4. Inform members about activities of interest regarding woodturning.
5. Exchange wood and other woodturning materials.

Following are some pix from BAT's early years.

2005



First demo - Mike Schwing



First David Reed Smith demo



First Jimmy Clewes visit

2006



(Above and next page) Younger versions of folks you might recognize.

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2006



2007



These photos are from the Newsletter Archive, which is accessible on the [BAT website](#). Check out the old issues and learn more about the history of your club.





RAFFLE NEWS



Two rolls of cloth backed abrasive - 220 and 280, Walnut, Tree wood and Chestnut splits, Teak and Mahogany spindle blanks, a Maple log, and set of Drawers were donated to the February 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:
March 11, 2015 at 7:00 PM

Agenda: Allen Alexopoulos:
Banksia Pod turning demo.



CAP'N EDDIE TRIBUTE



At its last meeting, the BAT Board lined up to wish prolific turning video maker [Eddie Castelin](#) a speedy recovery. Thanks to Terri for taking the picture.

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

"People examine small objects more closely."

Chuck Engstrom

During his demo, Chuck Engstrom spoke about how people judge big pieces vs small pieces. They are much pickier with the small pieces. Take the time to refine the form, surface and finish of your small pieces to the best of your ability. Small pieces were the biggest sellers at the ACC show this year.

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

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

April – Turn a lidded box with a friction/pop lid. The lid must stay on when turned upside down by a friction fit. The box should not be smaller than 1" outside diameter and can be made from any material.

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