

Echos From the “BAT” Cave

Baltimore Area Turners

BALTIMORE AREA



TURNERS

March, 2015

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Inside this issue:

President's Challenge	2
Alexopulos Demo	4
Bat Bios	5
Other Stuff	7

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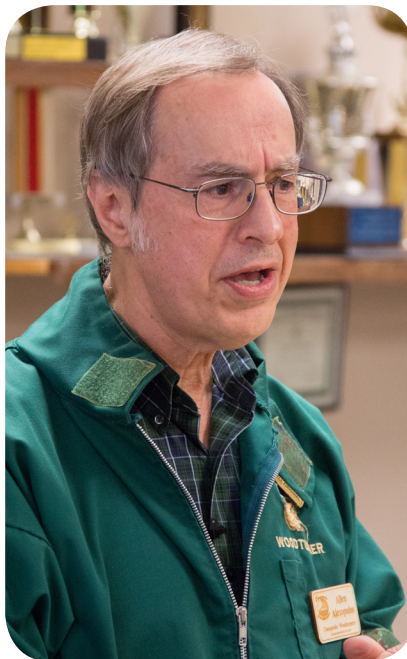
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BANKSIA POD DEMO AND PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE



Alex Alexopulos (*above right*) came to BAT to solve the mysteries of Banksia pod turning (*above left*). The second Presidential Challenge of 2015, to make a lidded box, was answered by nine BAT members. Some gavels (Challenge #1) were also entered (*below*). We have two more BAT Bios.

MORE INSIDE



Visit us on the web at www.baltimoreareaturners.org



Ron Ford's Cherry Box



Richard Kline's gavel



Ernie Grimm's Sapele Box

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

Four more folks entered turned gavels. **Roland Shepard** and **Robert Lindlau** both had Poplar heads and Teak handles. **Clark Bixler** and **Richard Kline** showed a Maple gavel.

Though not due until April, nine folks entered their boxes: **Clark Bixler** showed a Willow box, **Ron Ford's** was Cherry, **Pete Johnson** had a Zebrawood box, **Robert Lindlau** showed a NE Cedar box, **Roland Sheppard** had a Cedar and Treewood NE box, **Chuck Cohen** entered a segmented box



Roland Sheppard's gavel



Louis Harris' Oak box



Robert Lindlau's gavel



Chuck Cohen's Celtic Box

(Continued on Page 3)



One of Greg Ham's boxes



Clark Bixler's Willow box

MORE CHALLENGES

(Continued from Page 2)

of Maple, Cherry, and Bubinga, **Ernie Grimm's** was Sapele, **Louis Harris** had an Oak box. **Greg Ham** brought in four boxes of maple and walnut.

2015 Susan Shane Memorial Iron Man Challenge

		<i>Mallet</i>	<i>Box</i>
Clark	Bixler	x	x
Chuck	Cohen		x
Richard	Dietrich	x	
Ron	Ford	x	x
Ernie	Grimm		x
Greg	Ham	x	x
Louis	Harris	x	x
Pete	Johnson	x	x
Richard	Kline	x	
Wayne	Kuhn	x	
Robert	Lindlau	x	x
Bob	Rupp	x	
Roland	Shepard	x	x
Charles	Stackhouse	x	



The group of gavels



Celtic Box



The bunch of boxes



ALEX ALEXOPOULOS BANKSIA POD DEMO



(Counter-clockwise from above) Pods ready for turning; BAT pays close attention to; Alex discussing Banksia features; Roughing off the outer coating; The infamous red fuzz; Turning a tenon; Showing glue up to hardwood base.

(Continued on Page 5)





Light shines through a hollowed pod



Turning a center dimple



Drilling with tapered spade bit

(Continued from Page 4)

ALEX ALEXOPULOS DEMO

[Alex](#), a long-time turner from Annapolis, came to BAT to show his approach to Banksia Pod turning. He began his demo with a discussion of the tree and the nature of the pods. He uses the large pods from the Banksia Grandis which are native to western coastal Australia. The pods have a solid core pocked with deep eyes and coated with a layer of red fuzz. They are very hard and have no grain. He gets them [here](#).

His usual form is inspired by the Etruscan amphora.

He started by cutting off the ends of a pod. He marked and dimpled the centers, then mounted it between centers. He hammered in the spur drive and used a cup center on the tailstock end to allow for adjustments. Using a spindle roughing gouge, he roughed out a cylinder, removing most of the red fuzz. He used gloves and a face mask for personal protection. He then squared off the end and used a 1/4" parting tool to turn a tenon on one end.

At this point, he said he usually attaches a hardwood pedestal with a recess in the end to accept the tenon turned on

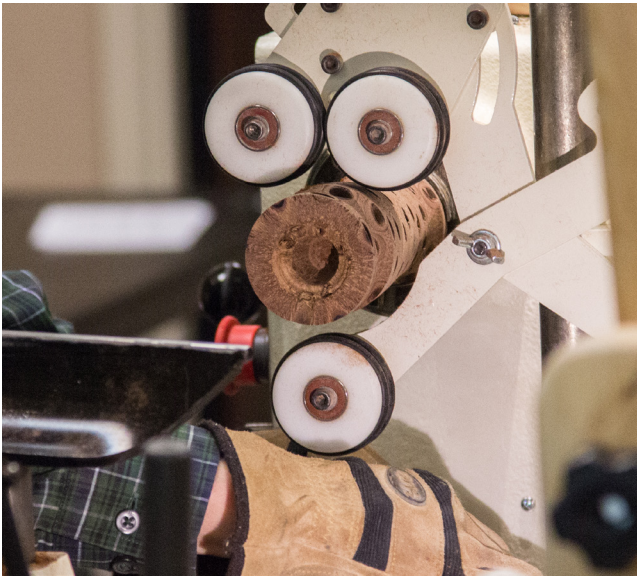
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Showing the drilled depth



Hollowing with a spindle gouge



(Above) Adjusting the spindle steady;
(Right) Using Derry hollowing tool



BANKSIA DEMO

(Continued from Page 5)

the pod. He likes to use Cherry, Mahogany, Padouk, and, his favorite, Ebony. For this demo, though, he mounted the pod in a chuck. He proceeded to begin hollowing. He made a center dimple with a swept back spindle gouge, then bored a hole with a specially adapted spade bit.

He supported the piece with a [spindle steady](#) and hollowed it with a [Don Derry Hollowing tool](#)

He sands the entire structure to 600. Also, he uses a dental pick to clean out each eye and sands the interior of each eye.

He finishes it with Waterlox which is applied with a throw-away brush or a rag.

This was a great intro to the ins and outs of Banksia Pod turning. Alex took his time to answer many questions along the way and provided great instruction in the techniques he uses.



Tapered double pointed spade bit

Tips from Alex's demo

TIP:

1/4" Beading and Parting tool is the same width as the chuck jaws.

TIP:

*Measure point to point on opposite jaws to determine proper diameter for a tenon.
(The corners of the jaws grip first.)*

BAT BIOS



We continue 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 Treasurer Wayne Kuhn and member Chet Talkington.

Wayne Kuhn lives in Columbia Md and is happily married with no children (by choice). Wayne works a 9-5 job as a Mechanical inspector for Baltimore City, which ties in nicely with his trade as a Heating and Air conditioning mechanic.

Wayne has been turning since 2005 ever since he joined BAT at their second meeting. He picked up the woodworking bug from his Dad who was also a woodworking enthusiast. Turning came to Wayne when BAT came to Woodcraft.

Wayne's woodworking shop and turning studio is located in his basement where he works on his craft with a JET 1642 1½ hp electronic variable speed lathe, heating and air conditioning allows Wayne to hone his craft year round.

Spindle turning, especially making tool handles, seems to be his favorite type of turning. Wayne says, "The ability to laminate different woods together, by utilizing other tools in my shop, and making something that is used and has tactile feedback to the user makes tool handles special."

"I do not actively sell my work because I do not want woodworking/turning to become another job. I have a day job and use my hobby as a getaway. I really enjoy giving pieces away and watching the wonder on the recipient's face."

Some of Wayne's favorite turners are Jimmy Clewes and David Ellsworth, he also enjoys Carl Jacobson and Captain Eddie on You Tube.

When not turning, Wayne enjoys fishing and bike riding on the various rail trails located throughout MD, VA, and PA.

If you would like to contact Wayne feel free to e-mail him at wmkuhn@verizon.com or wkuhn21046@gmail.com



Chet Talkington

Chet currently lives in Hereford MD. He is not married but has 2 daughters, and 5 grandkids.

When he is not turning wood, Chet works as an electronics technician on pinball machines, jukeboxes and video game machines.

Chet became a BAT member in 2008 and has been turning wood since high school. He currently turns on a Rikon Mini lathe in his new basement shop where he is still getting settled in.

Chet likes to turn pens and bowls, he does not actively sell his work but enjoys giving it away to friends and family.

Jimmy Clewes and Richard Raffin are a couple of Chet's favorite turners.

When Chet is not turning or working he likes to spend his spare time fishing and bow hunting.

He does not have a website but can be contacted at Chester.Talkington@comcast.net



Walnut and Ash bowl blanks, Chestnut splits, Cherry and Maple logs, Silver Maple cubes, Cherry, Marblewood, Walnut, Ash spindle blanks, Maple pen blanks, a Barracuda Chuck and a Bench Band Saw were donated to the March 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:
April 8, 2015 at 7:00 PM

Agenda: Show and Tell. Show your stuff; learn from each other.



SPECIAL RAFFLE

The lidded box Chuck Engstrom turned in February was raffled. The lucky winner was **Charles Stackhouse**. Congratulations!



MID-ATLANTIC WOODTURNING SYMPOSIUM

Mark your calendars for September 24 & 25, 2016. BAT is joining 9 other clubs to sponsor a regional symposium at the Downtown Lancaster Marriott. Many big name turners have agreed to participate. Volunteers will be needed to help out. We hope for a good turnout from BAT.

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.)