

# Echos From the “BAT” Cave

Baltimore Area Turners

**BALTIMORE AREA**  
  
**TURNERS**

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## BOARD TO BOWL DEMO, PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE, AND ACC



February's meeting featured Joe Kramer (*above*) sharing the secrets of turning boards to amazing bowls. Later in the month, BAT demonstrated at the American Crafts Council show in the Baltimore Convention Center. (*Below: Dave Maidt turns a goblet under the watchful photo of Chloe Jones*).

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Start with two planks.



Cut them into rings



Pile the rings and turn into a bowl.

## BOARD TO BOWL DEMO

[Chesapeake Woodturners](#)' own Joe Kramer traveled north to share the secrets of making a bowl from a board. He said he sells his bowls and has found that the 'sweet spot' of bowl size is about 10". This is the size he demonstrated. He had pieces in various stages of the process plus various accessories he had made to complete the job.

He started out with two 10" x 5" x 7/8" boards. Placing the boards side by side, he drew the biggest circle he could centered on the seam. He then drew concentric circles at 7/8" intervals. The pieces are separated and cut along the lines with band saw, scroll saw, or on the

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Sanding the segments for gluing



Cutting a ring on the lathe . . . the cut ring



A striped board for fancy bowls



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lathe. The largest circle is cut at 90°, the others at 45°. The pieces are then glued together into circles which are then flattened and piled into a rough bowl shape. He discussed variations, including fashioning the boards from different colored strips of scrap and gluing a 1/8" – 3/16" laminate to the surface of the board. He said the best clamping technique for the laminate is to use a veneer vacuum bag. If striped boards are used, the rings should be stacked in a pleasing pattern and a witness line drawn on the outside to aid in glue up.

He showed how to make a centering disc by mounting an MDF disc between a 60° cone and an open chuck and cutting concentric circles on the surface with a thin parting tool. He mounts the center ring on a faceplate, then centers each successive ring on the centering disc, blue tapes it in place and glues it to the assembly with Titebond, using the tail stock as a clamp. Once all the rings are glued, he clamps the whole thing in a press.

He showed how to cut the rings on the lathe. He traps the board between an open chuck and cone center, lines up a parting tool with a carpenter's square, and cuts through. He often uses a backboard to limit tearout.



(Upper right) cuts are televised;  
(above) roughing out the shape.

## MORE BOARD TO BOWL DEMO



He gave instructions for dovetail bowls (make sliding dovetails between the boards, center over a dovetail, carefully line up pieces) and checker-board bowls (take striped boards, cross cut and flip every other board and reglue). He also gave up the secrets to his 'dizzy bowls' which involve resawing 1/4" slabs from striped boards, inserting a roofing nail into a drilled center hole, rotating and gluing the slabs into a board, then rotating the bowl rings to follow the pattern.

He ended the demo by turning a glued up bowl inside and out. He turns to about 1/4" thickness. He also used an MDF plate on the tailstock to minimize vibration when finishing the outside of the rim.

He said that his finishing routine consists of shear scraping with the gouge or a bowl scraper, then sanding starting with 60-80 grit and working up to 220, applying sanding sealer which raises the grain, then continuing to 400. He uses [Liberon finishing oil](#) or [OB Shine Juice](#).

This was an excellent demo: well organized, clear, informative and entertaining. Joe is clearly a master of the technique and undoubtedly inspired many BAT members to try to turn a board into a bowl. Thanks, Joe!

(Joe gave the same demo to Chesapeake in December, 2015. This was well described by Ted Michalek in Chesapeake's newsletter, [The Final Cut.](#))

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## MORE BOARD BOWLS



(Clockwise from upper left) Shear scraping the exterior; the final product: exterior; and interior; a checkerboard design board bowl; rim variations on similar bowls.







(Above left to right) Ron Ford takes a turn; Dave Maitt turns a goblet; Stephen Jones cleans shield for Pete Johnson

## ACC SHOW

As the moon approached fullness, Baltimore hosted the American Crafts Council show. For the fifth year, BAT was invited to show how turning is done. Sited on the periphery of the show, BAT was none the less, the center of rotation. BAT members **Chuck Cohen, Richard Dietrich, Ron Ford, Greg Ham, Pete Johnson, Stephen Jones, Don Keefer, Dave Maitt, Bob Pegram, and Tom and Lori Szarek** took turns waxing eloquent on the joys of turning and making shavings. For three days, BAT held sway as hordes of curious people checked out turning.

The show was a feast of colors, shapes, textures, and styles. Some of the big names in turning were present, including Michael Mode, Paul Petrie Jr, Mark Gardner, Craig Lossing, and BAT's native son, Keith Holt, as well as many newer participants.

On Sunday, BAT was visited by Albert LeCoff, [Center for Art in Wood](#) Founder and Executive Director and one of the founding fathers of the AAW.



(above) Lori and Tom Szarek, Richard Dietrich, and Dave Maitt pose with Albert LeCoff  
(right) Stephen Jones tells how a tree becomes a bowl.



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## MORE ACC *(Continued from Page 5)*

Over 500 exhibitors graced the ACC Show.



None of the items on this page were turned.



Unturned items – bowls from boards made by router, beautiful pens meticulously crafted from tiny bits of PVC, and airy ceramic forms thrown and carved.



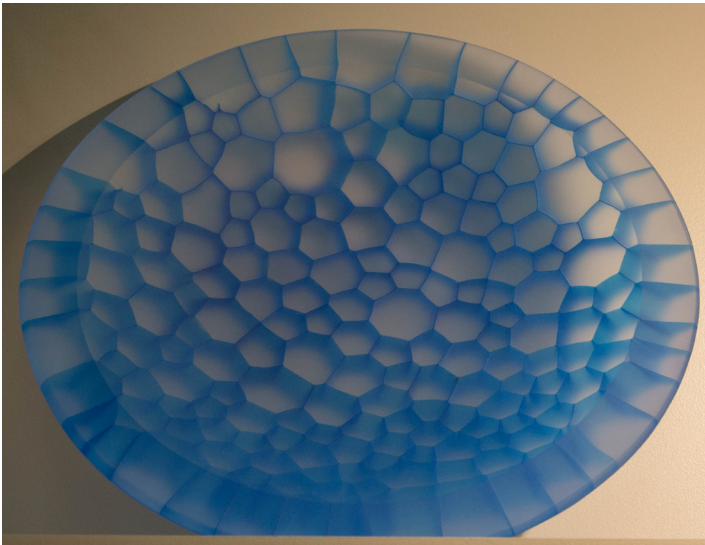
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STILL  
MORE  
ACC  
STUFF



*(Clockwise from left)*  
Adorable turned Kokeshi dolls from Jacob and Lisa Hodson; fused glass platter from Supercooled; Marble (!) jacket by Sebastian Martorana; Stone topped burl hollow forms by Steven Potts; Keith Holt's recent work; Woven solid glass hanging by Mark Lewanski.





## RAFFLE NEWS

Douglas fir and Sapele spindles, a Holly crotch and branch, River Birch, spalted Maple and Beech splits, Box Elder and Osage rounds, Walnut and Ambrosia Maple planks, a scratch awl, a screwdriver and more were donated by generous BAT members to the February Raffle.



## PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE #1

**Charles Stackhouse** brought an untooled handle of Maple with spirals.

**Richard Dietrich** brought an Oak bowl gouge handle with a [Clewes Quick Release adapter](#).

**Bob Rupp** brought entered two Black Walnut (AKA Brownwood) tool handles.

## 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 9, 2016 at 7:00 PM

Agenda: Louis Harris - Hands on Skew Instruction  
Learn how to sharpen and use the skew fearlessly.



## MISSING BAT LIBRARY ITEMS

BAT has an extensive library of turning related books and videos. Unfortunately, some of the items have gone missing. You might have one of them in your home. Take some time to check your nooks, crannies, and cubby holes for items belonging to BAT. If you find any, please bring them in. No questions asked.

## PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE #2

BAT President Ron Ford has announced the second President's Challenge for 2016:

**April** – Turn an Apple or Pear.

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