

# Echos From the "BAT" Cave

Baltimore Area Turners

BALTIMORE AREA



TURNERS

November, 2016  
Volume 11, Number 11

## SEGMENTED TURNING AND MAWT SYMPOSIUM



BAT's own Don Keefer and Ron Ford tag-teamed a demonstration on segmented turning, giving away all the secrets to making forms like the one on the *left*.

Coverage of the MAWT Symposium concludes. Derek Weidman (*pictured below*) was one of several outstanding demonstrators.

Thanks to Clark Bixler for contributing photos to this issue.

MORE INSIDE



Photo  
by Clark  
Bixler

### Inside this issue:

Don and Ron Show	2
MAWT Symposium	5
Prez Challenge	6
Other Stuff	7

### 2016 Officers:

<b>President</b>	Ron Ford
<b>Vice President</b>	Stephen Jones
<b>Treasurer</b>	Wayne Kuhn
<b>Secretary / Newsletter</b>	Richard Dietrich
<b>Webmaster</b>	David Maidt
<b>Librarian</b>	Clark Bixler
<b>Public Relations</b>	Stephen Jones
<b>Program Director</b>	Ron Ford
<b>Membership</b>	Stephen Jones





Don Keefer and Ron Ford shared segments of demo



Ron's open segment urn

## DON AND RON DO SEGMENTS

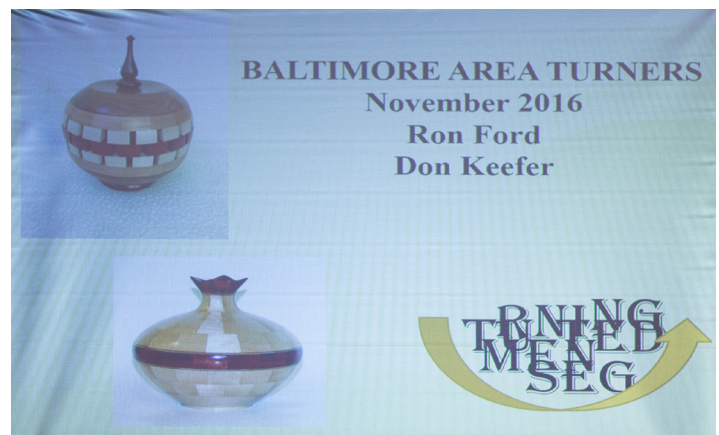
BAT President **Ron Ford** and award winning turner **Don Keefer** introduced BAT to the wonders of segmented turning. Proceeding from their admonition that “No one in their right mind does segmented turning,” they walked the group through the steps of producing their wonderful works.

Traditional turning is a subtractive art – excess wood is removed from a large piece to reveal the item inside. In contrast, Segmented turning is additive – small pieces of wood are assembled into larger works. This allows one to use smaller pieces resulting in less waste. Different species can be combined. There is no end grain turning and many forms can be created – bowls, urns, lidded vessels, and more.

Using PowerPoint slides, they got down to details. Pieces can be cut with a table saw, miter saw or band saw. Both Ron and Don use a saw sled on a table saw. A protractor or miter gauge is necessary. A disc or belt sander and a thickness sander are helpful but not essential.

Step one is layout. This can be done using software such as [Woodturner Pro](#) or [SketchUp](#) but both Ron and Don prefer to use graph paper. Ron uses 1” squares for a full-size pattern, Don uses a smaller grid. The layout establishes the thickness and diameter of the rings. A feature ring could be added. The width and angles of the segments are also determined by the layout.

Step two is cutting. The required woods are cut into strips. The strips are cut at an angle into segments. Adjacent segments can be flipped to conserve wood or not



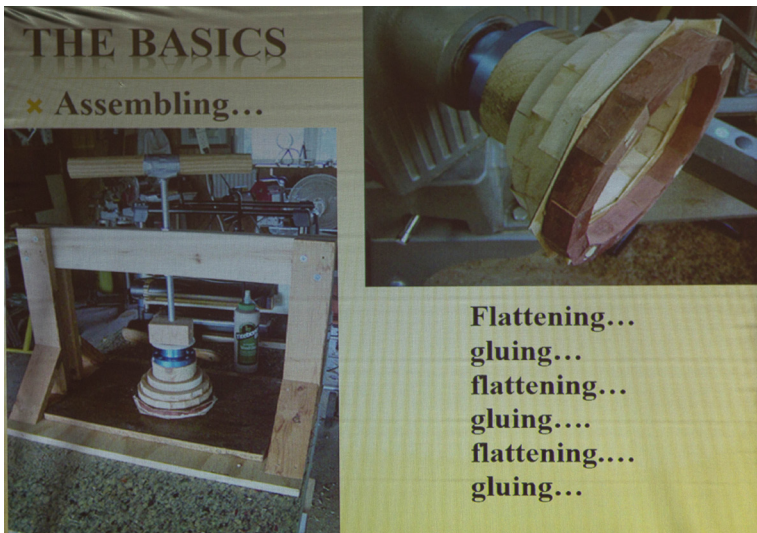
The first slide.



Various stages of assembly.

*(Continued on Page 3)*





(Continued from Page 2)

Don describes the gripping excitement of assembly

to preserve grain pattern along the ring. The base can be one solid piece, a segmented disc, a tapered plug or a floating disc. The cut segments may or may not need to be sanded.

Step three is gluing. Ron glues all segments into a ring or two half rings. Don generally glues pairs of adjoining segments, then glues pairs of those glue-ups and so forth until the rings are complete. The completed rings are clamped with automotive hose clamps for final gluing. They both use Titebond glue. They recommend numbering the rings as they are assembled.

Step four is assembling the rings. They need to be flat and uniform in thickness. Ron uses a thickness sander, Don assembles rings on the lathe, using a scraper or skew followed by 80 grit sandpaper on a block to flatten the ring. The flattened rings are then glued up. Ron uses a locked drill press, Don uses a press to secure them.

The final step is to turn the glued assembly on the lathe. The pieces are then sanded and finished. Don likes to use Formby Tung Oil Varnish; Ron uses many coats of spray lacquer, sanded between each coat.

They concluded their demo by discussing open segment turning and combining segmented and traditional turning, such as a solid urn with a segmented collar.

The demo was resplendent with numerous excellent examples of segmented pieces as well as strips, segments, rings and feature rings which were passed around for inspection. They also brought in several reference books on segmented turning.

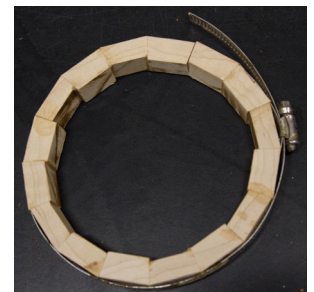
This was a highly informative and entertaining demo. Thanks a lot, guys!

(More on Page 4)

## LITTLE PIECES ADD UP



(Clockwise from above) lathe mounted sanding disk and board mounted sander; glue-up of two half rings; glue-up and clamping of a full ring.



Recommended references on Segmented Turning



# THE HOW AND WHY OF SEGMENTED TURNING

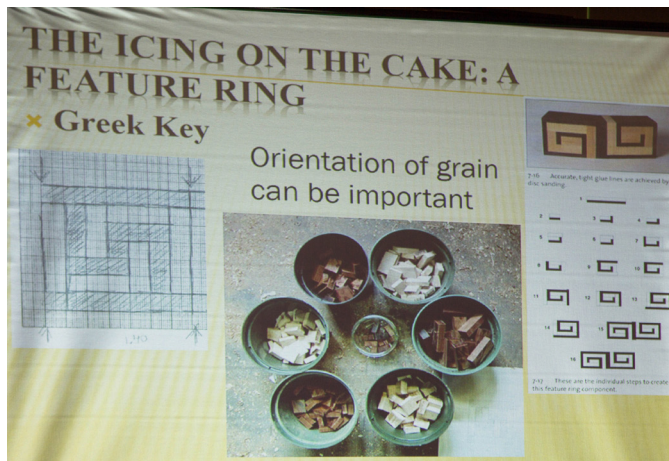
(Continued from Page 3)



Make a nice platter . . .



. . . or serving bowl.



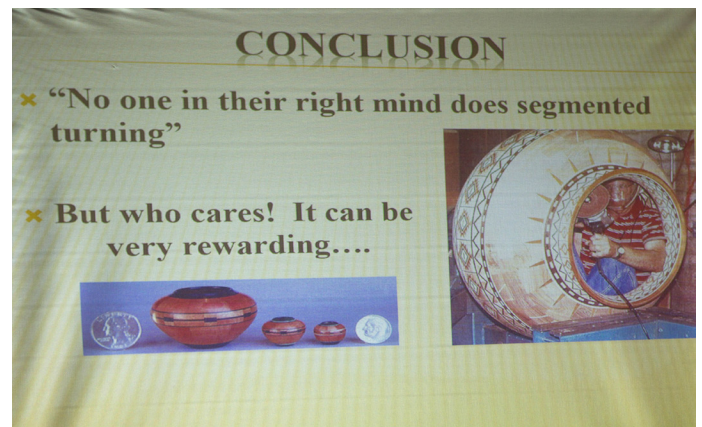
Layout of the feature ring



Feature ring ready for insertion



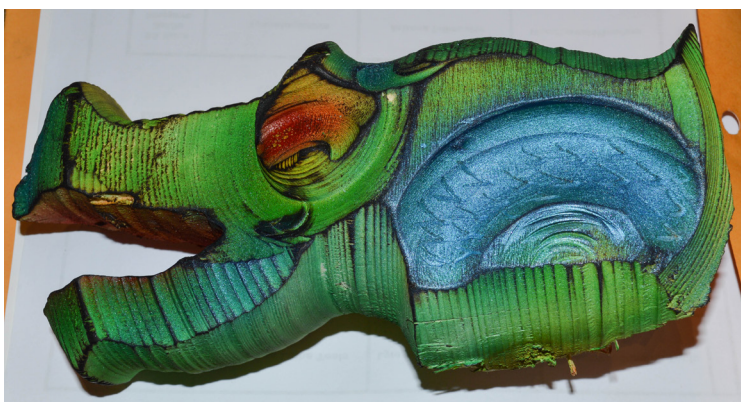
Use multiple species of wood



The bottom line



# MAWT SYMPOSIUM



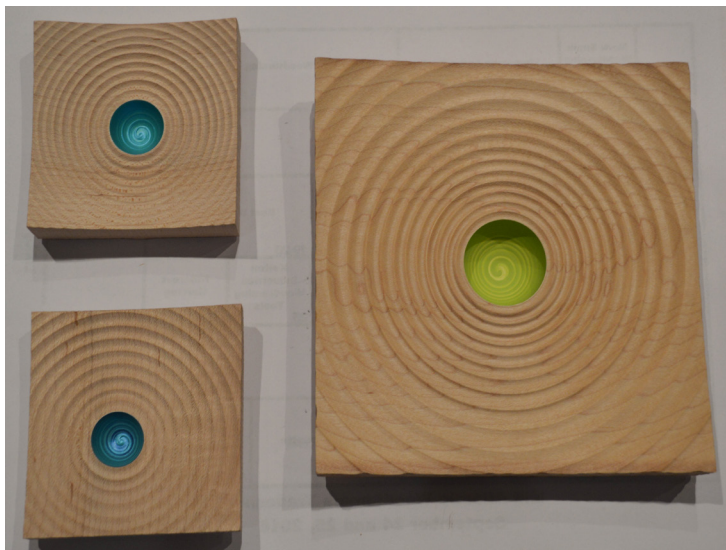
*Above Photos by Clark  
Bixler*

Another MAWT Symposium is in the works for 2017. It will feature another first-rate panel of demonstrators. Stay tuned for more details.



*(Clockwise from left)*

Derek Weidman turned hunks of wood on multiple axes to produce shapes of a Dragon, Tree and Woodpecker; Eric Lofstrom gave an excellent demonstration of turning and coloring his signature square bowls.





# PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

**Richard Dietrich** showed a Cherry apple and a Broomstick whistle, **Ron Ford** showed Eucalyptus and Maple segmented grinders, **Louis Harris** showed Walnut and Maple salt and pepper cellars, grinders and shakers and birdhouse ornaments. **Chuck Cohen** showed some Spectrawood grinders, and **Bob Sobczak** showed a pair of Utile shakers and a Bloodwood whistle. The deadline for 2016 President's Challenge entries is the December BAT meeting on 12/14/16.



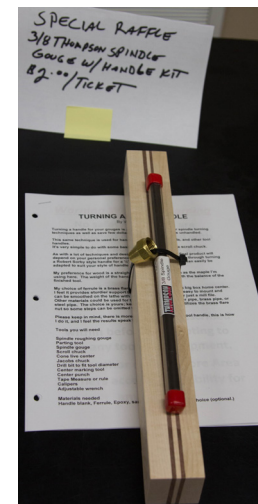
November entries

		Handle	Apple/Pear	Board Bowl	Whistle	Shakers	Ornament
Chuck	Cohen			x	x	x	
Richard	Dietrich	x	x		x		
Ron	Ford	x	x	x	x	x	
Greg	Ham	x	x		x		
Louis	Harris	x	x	x	x	x	x
Don	Keefer			x			
Wayne	Kuhn	x					
Steve	Langrall	x					
Ken	Leister	x	x	x	x	x	
Bill	Marr				x		
Bob	Rupp	x		x	x		
David	Smith				x		
Bob	Sobczak	x	x	x	x	x	
Charles	Stackhouse	x	x	x			

## SPECIAL RAFFLE

There was a special raffle of a Thompson 3/8" spindle gouge and handle kit. **Stephen Jones** was the lucky winner.

Thanks to Wayne Kuhn for assembling the handle kit.



3/8" spindle gouge with handle kit

## RAFFLE NEWS



A maple spindle blank, five Kentucky Coffee crotches, three maple branch crotches, a long Boxwood branch, Oak, spalted Maple and three huge Cherry splits, three issues of Woodturning, an XL BAT Polo shirt, Maple block, Cherry, Olive, curly English Walnut, and Persimmon bowl blanks, Mandolin strings (for burning wires) and a bag of Ghirardelli chocolate were donated by BAT members to the November raffle. Thanks to all.

## BALTIMORE AREA TURNERS

Baltimore Area Turners usually 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:  
December 14, 2016 at 7:00 PM

Agenda: Holiday Party - Goodies to eat, gift exchange, deadline for President's Challenges.



## BOARD ELECTION

### BAT Board Nominees for 2017 -18

<i>President</i>	Clark Bixler
<i>Vice President</i>	Pete Johnson
<i>Secretary</i>	Rick Dietrich
<i>Treasurer</i>	Ron Ford
<i>Webmaster</i>	Dave Maidt
<i>Librarian</i>	Tom Szarek
<i>Program Managers</i>	Lou Harris Bob Pegram
<i>Membership</i>	Steve Jones

The slate of nominees (*above*) was elected by acclamation at the November, 2016 BAT meeting. They will serve in those offices for 2017 and 2018.

The Board presently does not have any at-large members. At-large members attend the once a month Board meetings and offer their wisdom to the group but do not have a specific job, such as Veep or Treasurer. Some of our best ideas have come from at-large members.

Speak to any Board member if you are interested in serving at-large.

## PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE #6

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

**December** – Turn a holiday ornament

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