

Echoes from the "BAT" Cave

BALTIMORE AREA TURNERS

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BAT Picnic and a Hollowing Introduction

BAT Members enjoy their picnic

The BAT picnic was held on Saturday, August 12 at Stan Dorman's beautiful and tranquil farm north of Baltimore along the Gunpowder Falls river. Our Public Relations officer, Steve Jones (with help from his wife Kristen) organized a great picnic with plenty of food and fun for all.

Several members took up Stan's offer to drive and drop them off up-river so that they could lazily float down river back to Stan's farm.

Several of the kids enjoyed the canoeing and kayaking on Stan's large pond and I saw one of our party-goers try his hand at fly fishing.

We had a large raffle with several pieces of wood and quite a few wood turning tools and accessories.

Our thanks to all who attended the picnic and helped make it another success.

Our PR officer and official BBQ grillster Steve cooking our burgers and dogs while President Clark keeps a watchful eye



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BAT Picnic Picts



An Inexpensive Introduction Into Turning Hollow Forms

(by Edward R. Cohen, M.D.)

Turning hollow forms is more challenging than open bowls for two main reasons: lack of tool rest support and difficulty measuring wall thickness. Both issues may seem daunting to turners who are considering giving hollow forms a try. Several tool manufacturers have recognized these issues and produced their unique solution. Here is a partial list of available hollowing systems:

1. Bosch
2. Brother
3. Carter
4. Elbo
5. Gizmo
6. Hollow Fast
7. Hope
8. Jameison
9. Kobra
10. Monster
11. Simple
12. TAZ
13. Ultimate

Of course, they all come with a price, a hefty one at that. We are talking about \$500 or more to investment in a system with the assumption that we will enjoy making hollow forms. I admit, it's a lot of money for a type of turning that we may not embrace.

Inexpensive Entry to the Hollowing World

It might be wise to begin by turning smaller forms, perhaps no deeper than four or five inches with progressively narrower openings and wider shoulders. These can be turned with very simple, inexpensive tools and do not require any other special purchases. The two issues described above become more evident when turning deeper forms with small openings and wide shoulders.

There are two less expensive options to consider. These tools are similar in concept and price (less than \$200). They both use an outrigger for rotational support and a spring tickler caliper to determine wall thickness. The spring is set at the selected wall thickness and will rub against the side of the piece until the desired thickness is achieved.

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Hollowing (cont'd)



This is the Crabtree Hollowing King (shown to the left). It comes in five sizes depending on the size of your lathe and size of your blank. I would opt for a smaller version to start. If you like this system you can purchase larger ones or move on to a more robust system. This is the tool that I own.

The D-Way system (shown to the right) is slightly different. There is one size with two versions, one for turning on the left side (traditional) and one for turning on the right side with the lathe in reverse. The system utilizes a forearm support rather than a handle.



There are YouTube videos available for both tools.



I would be remiss without mentioning David Ellsworth's tool (shown to the left). It is by far the least expensive (\$65 for both straight and forty-five degree/unhandled tools) but also the most difficult to master. He uses an ordinary bent wire as his caliper. David said at a recent demo that he is asked more questions about his bent wire than his turning techniques. I am aware of a half- dozen club members who took his class but were unable to adopt his method, including yours truly.

By the way, for those of you who already own one of the deep hollowing systems listed at the beginning, you might consider purchasing one of the inexpensive tools for turning small hollow forms without the need for complicated, time consuming setup.

If you have any questions or comments, email me at polodoc@erols.com.

Raffle News

This is a sampling of the raffle items that were available at the club picnic.



Sect'y/Newsletter Editor Needed !

Richard Deitrich had to resign from his post as our Secretary/Newsletter Editor due to unforeseen family circumstances. Your Webmaster (Dave Maidt) is currently attempting to fill the extra large shoes that Richard left behind. Richard did a **stupendous** job during his many years of service to the club. If you think you might have an interest to fill the position, please speak with any board member. They'll be glad to fill you in on what would be required. Come on! Join the elite BAT Board !

Baltimore Area Turners

Baltimore Area Turners meets every month on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm Our meetings are held at the Boumi Temple located at:

5050 King Avenue
Baltimore MD 21237-3325

Drive around to the parking lot at the back of the building and enter thru the set of glass doors. If the door feels like it's locked, it's not, just give it a tug. :-)