

# ECHOES FROM THE “BAT” CAVE

## BALTIMORE AREA TURNERS

May/June 2018  
Volume 13, Number 4

### May Meeting: Natural Edged End Grain Bowls with Mark Supik



At May's meeting, lifetime BAT member and Baltimore woodturner Mark Supik showed attendees how to turn a natural edged, end grain bowl. Why turn end grain? "I got started turning end grain because no one ever told me it was the hard way to do it.," says Mark. "I stuck with it because I love the way the end grain of the log draws your eye into the center of the bowl."

Mark currently offers basic bowl turning classes as well as spindle turning classes. For class information, you can visit [www.marksupikco.com](http://www.marksupikco.com).

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# June Meeting: Member Show and Tell



Richard Ellerbee



Tom Szarek



Lou Harris



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Ed Cohen



## June Meeting: Member Show and Tell



Bernard Pulliam



Jim Oliver



At the June Meeting, BAT members were also given the chance to sell or swap tools, kits and lathe accessories. It was a great success!

**Interested in sharing a tool, technique or project with the club? Volunteer to demonstrate your project-in-progress at an upcoming BAT meeting. Contact program directors Lou Harris or Bob Pegram for details.**



# 2018 President's Challenges

**New Challenges have been announced!**

Challenge #4: Toys! Turn a item that can be used as a toy, or, make a toy that uses a lot of turnings.

Challenge #5: Holiday Ornament. An ornament in your style of turning.

**Progress so far—**

| Member Name     | Problem Solve | Embellish | Extremes (largest & smallest) |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| Lou Kissel      | X             | X         |                               |
| Alayna M.       | X             |           |                               |
| Bob Pegram      |               | X         |                               |
| Bernard Pulliam |               | X         |                               |
| Robert Sobczak  | X             | X         | X                             |
| Louis Harris    | X             | X         | X                             |



Louis Harris, from May's meeting



Bob Sobczak, from June's meeting



Bernard Pulliam and Louis Harris (leaf bowl), from May's meeting



Lou Harris, from June's meeting

# Wood Allergies and Toxicity: A Brief Primer

By Gynene Sullivan

As woodturners, we all love working with “found” wood. Besides usually being free, we are saving perfectly good wood from a municipal boneyard, hiking trail, or a friend’s property from just rotting away or ending up in the landfill. But a question that, I confess, I rarely think about is **is this wood safe?** And, more importantly, **is this wood safe to use as a food receptacle, like a plate, bowl, or cutting board?**

Eric Meier over at The Wood Database has assembled [a detailed chart on different species of woods](#) and their potential allergens. This is a handy non-handled tool in your woodturning resources. Because not only do we evaluate wood on its quality, grain, porosity and hardness, we should be considering its toxicity as well.

A few caveats that Meier includes are:

- ♦ Just because a wood is not listed on the chart, it does not mean that it is completely safe to use. It simply means that no adverse reactions have been reported yet.
- ♦ All woods produce a fine dust when worked, which can damage your lungs and cause a number of other adverse health reactions.
- ♦ Despite the long list of woods that appears on the website, very few woods are toxic. They do, however, have the potential to cause allergic reactions in sensitive individuals.

Applying a food-safe finish can greatly lessen the impacts, but the potential for an allergic reaction is not fully eliminated. Even if you haven’t encountered any woods that have given you an allergic reaction, keep in mind that someone with sensitivities may eventually come into contact with your piece. Hopefully this chart, and further research about other woods that don’t appear on the chart, will help us continue to create beautiful and safe pieces.

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## Registration Now Open for Mid-Atlantic Woodturning Symposium

You can now register online for the 2018 Mid-Atlantic Woodturners Symposium, to be held at the Lancaster, PA Marriott from Friday, September 28 through Sunday, September 30. The \$185.00 registration fee includes access to the Friday evening “Meet the Demonstrators” event, access to all 24 rotations on Saturday and Sunday, buffet lunch on Saturday and Sunday, and the closing event Sunday afternoon. There will also be a gathering of the Women in Turning group, an Instant Gallery, and a Silent Auction.



The all-star line-up of demonstrators this year includes John Jordan, Malcolm Tibbetts, Beth Ireland, Art Leistman, Michael Kehs, and Mark St. Leger. There is truly something for everyone in this third year and we are excited to bring it to you.

As a charter member of the group of clubs supporting the event, we hope to see a large turnout from BAT. To sign up, go to [www.mawts.com](http://www.mawts.com) and follow the “Registration” link. There is also a link allowing you to book a room at the Marriott at a special discounted rate. The number of rooms is limited so don’t delay!

**Join the BAT Board for a two-year term (2019-2021)! Elections are coming up this year. For more information and to find out what’s involved, email [bat@baltimorecreaturners.org](mailto:bat@baltimorecreaturners.org)**

# Baltimore Area Turners Meetings

July 11—Kevin Bedgood will demonstrate. [Read more](#) about his work.

August 18 — BAT Picnic at the Boumi Temple

September 11 — Demos and hands-on with BAT Members

The club 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!

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## BAT Classifieds

Nice looking cherry wood, near route 32 and 29. Cut into manageable pieces and looking for a good home. Contact Beverly Westermeyer at [westbev12@gmail.com](mailto:westbev12@gmail.com)

Flowering plum tree available. Will be cut into moveable pieces. For more information contact [president@baltimoreareaturners.org](mailto:president@baltimoreareaturners.org)

Groff & Groff Lumber in Quarryville, PA offers BAT members a 5% discount on any purchase. [Visit their website](#) for a current inventory list.

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 **SIGN UP**  
<http://tiny.cc/TM2040>

Visit us at [woodturner.org](http://woodturner.org)

BAT is a local chapter of the American Association of Woodturners (AAW) which serves the Baltimore metropolitan area. A wide range of skills and interests are represented by our members. Work ranges from small utilitarian project to galley art and includes pen making, bowls and platters, hollow forms, small projects, furniture spindles and architectural work. We are fortunate to include professional turners and published authors among our members. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in woodturning, and guests are always welcome.