

ECHOES FROM THE “BAT” CAVE

BALTIMORE AREA TURNERS

Dave Swiger - Flame Finishing

October 2019
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Our October BAT meeting featured a demonstration by Dave Swiger. Dave is a professional woodturner living in Jefferson, MD, and is also the President of the Mid Maryland Woodturners in Frederick.

Dave shared his process for making a flame finished lidded ash bowl. He starts by carefully selecting an ash turning blank, being careful to cut it so the beauty of the grain pattern will be maximized in the final piece. Ash is his material of choice due to the fact that its' open grain lends nicely to the flame finishing process. For the demo, he brought along a sample measuring about 9" x 2".

He started by mounting the blank on a screw chuck and truing it up to round. He then turned a small tenon on the bottom to hold it in a chuck once it was reversed in a later step. Using the Rule of Thirds, Dave drew a line around the circumference of the blank 2/3 of the way between what will be the top and the bottom. That gave him a “target” to begin rounding and curving the bowl, with 2/3 being below the midpoint. He then began rounding the top portion leaving 1/3 above the line he had drawn. This gave the piece a pleasing balance.

Next step was to begin the flame finishing process. He began by using a brass brush to open and clean out the grain of the ash. Protecting the lathe headstock and ways with a fireproof cloth, he began burning the surface with a propane torch. He noted that some turners using this technique use MAPP gas, but he finds that it burns too hot, and prefers propane. Continue burning until a consistent coverage is achieved. Given the fact that our landlord would be unhappy if we set off the smoke detectors, he did only a small sample to show the process.



Using a prepared flame finished blank he had brought along, Dave reversed the piece, mounting it in a chuck. He then continued the burning process, up to the point where the entire portion of the finished top was blackened. Turning up to the Rule of Thirds line on the top, he was finished with the outside of the bowl.

Once again using the Rule of Thirds, he drew a circle on the top of the bowl to size what would be the lid opening to 2/3 of the overall width. He used a Jimmy Clewes Mate tool to hollow the bowl. This is his standby favorite hollowing tool. After sanding, he applied a coat of Zinsser Seal Cote, a dewaxed shellac available in most hardware stores. This seals the grain prior to later application of lacquer. The bottom portion will later be finished with 8 to 10 coats of spray gloss Minwax lacquer.



Mate Tool



Bottom after Seal Cote

The top is begun next. Dave prefers curly maple due to the lovely chatoyance it shows when finished. He mounts the blank on a 1/4" screw chuck and turns the bottom first. Match the finished size to loosely fit in the opening left in the bottom portion. Adding lines or some other form of embellishment makes it more appealing to the eye.

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Dave Swiger (continued)



Underside of Lid

Turning it over on the screw chuck, Dave then turned a graceful curve across the width. Sand to 400 grit or better. Using denatured alcohol (DNA) he cleans the lid thoroughly to remove any dust and contaminants. He then applied an aniline dye over the entire surface of the top, adding several coats until the desired color is achieved. Dave prefers Chestnut brand stains, but also finds that Transtint brand works well. Like the bowl, he will apply 8 to 10 coats of spray gloss lacquer, hand rubbing between coats. The final coat will be polished using automobile rubbing compounds to give it a mirror finish.



Applying Dye to Lid



Final step is to glue a finial to the top of the bowl, and a "Hershey kiss" shaped button to the underside. In this example, he used holly as a nicely contrasting color.

As you can see below, the finished piece is quite striking. This is a project well within the skills of most turners, and we hope you will try it in your shop.



The President's Turn



The holidays are nearly upon us, as evidenced by the fact that Christmas decorations have been in stores for weeks already. The good news is that it gives us an early warning reminder that now is the time to start working on those special handmade gifts that people enjoy far better than something you pick up off a shelf.

Everyone should have seen the emailed information detailing the 10% program all Baltimore Area Turners (BAT) members now receive at Penn State Industries. Penn State is a favorite of pen turners, for sure, but they also offer a wide range of other project kits as well. They range from the very simple up through ones requiring a bit more skill. Among them are bottle stoppers, corkscrews, screwdriver kits, flashlight kits, letter openers, coffee mills, salt and pepper mills and shakers, ice cream scoops, and many more. All of them are waiting for that unique piece of wood you have been saving for a special project. Go to www.pennstateind.com for their selection, and show them we appreciate being included in their club program by picking up a few items.

Need some help with one of these? Don't forget to take advantage of the BAT Mentoring program if you need a bit of guidance. Email Chuck Cohen at ccohenrpt@comcast.net to get connected with a mentor.

Happy Holidays to everyone!
Ron Ford
President

Tip of the Month

This month's tip comes from Wayne Kuhn.

Tired of waiting 2 or more months for your rough turned green bowls to dry to finish moisture content? Check out this video, and dry your bowls in 2 days.

<https://youtu.be/DaaTbDTUsg0>

But before you pay Rockler's price for indicating desiccant (\$94.99 for 15 lbs.) check out this link, for the same product.

<https://dryndry.com/collections/silica-gel-beads/products/1-gallon7-5-lbs-dry-dry-premium-blue-indicating-silica-gel-desiccant-beads>

Dry and Dry desiccant blue indicating silica gel bead (\$30.99 7 ½ lbs.)
you do the math !!

- Wayne

What's on Tap?



Our Wednesday, November 13th, we will have our long awaited second Show & Tell of 2019. Our first was a huge success with a record number of participating members and it would be great if we can exceed May's participation. Just a reminder, our Show & Tell is not meant as a talent contest, but as a learning opportunity. This is how we see what members are making so we can learn from them. It is a great opportunity to approach a member and ask to arrange a teaching session to learn their technique. You may have a problem with a particular turning and seek the advice from fellow members. Perhaps you have discovered a unique tool you'd like to share with us.

We have learned and been inspired by every member who stood before us and shared their turning experience and so no member is too new to have nothing of interest to present. So please participate and make this meeting a source of inspiration and education for all of us at BAT.

Ed Cohen

Program Director

Interested in sharing a tool, technique or project with the club? Demonstrate your project-in-progress at an upcoming BAT meeting. Contact program director Ed Cohen for details.

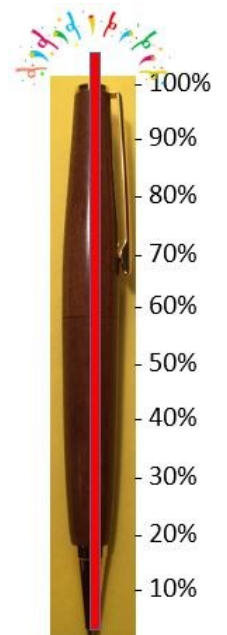
Turn for Troops

Thanks to all who participated in making our Turn for Troops service project a huge success! The club has collected over 1100 pens!

Special thanks to Louis Harris and Tom Szarek for helping to organize the project.

If you still have kits you are working to complete, please finish them and bring them to the October 9th meeting.

The club will deliver the pens to Woodcraft on November 9th, to then be distributed to our servicemen and women.



BAT Mentoring



Please know that free mentoring is available to all paid members. This is a great opportunity to get some one on one expert advice on any questions, problems or other issues you may have in relation to your turnings. So if you're frustrated, unhappy or just not completely satisfied with your turnings this your chance to get help. Our experienced mentors can help you with all aspects of wood turning. Whether it's basic bowl turning, hollow forms, spindle work, sharpening, sanding, embellishments, etc.

No question or problem is too small. In just one free, 3-4 hour session you could take your work to an entirely new level. The sessions are also relatively anonymous. Only I, the mentor and you will know. So please at the next meeting take this wonderful opportunity to fill out a mentoring request form.

This your chance to possibly bring something to the next show and tell in May or an upcoming meeting. We are truly looking forward to some different members to show their work. This is not a competition or a judging. We welcome every one of our members to bring something. No matter what.

Thank you,

Chuck Cohen

Mentoring



2019 President's Challenge

The **first challenge** for 2019 is to turn 10 pens for our *Turning for the Troops* service project.

The **second challenge** will be to prepare a finished piece from an item won from the monthly wood raffle. There is no limit on what the item may be, just that the material came from the monthly raffle.

The **third challenge** will be to turn a lidded box for Beads of Courage. Please note there are specific requirements for size and finish of BOC bowls.

The **fourth challenge** is to add some form of embellishment to you piece.

The **fifth challenge** is to turn a hollow form.

The **sixth challenge** is to turn a holiday ornament.

2019 President's Challenge Participants

Name	Turning 10 pens	Wood Raffle	BOC Bowl	Embel- lishment	Hollow Form	Holiday Ornament
Clark Bixler	X	X				X
Chuck Cohen	X	X	X	X		
Ed Cohen	X					
Jim Conlon	X	X				
French Cornett	X					
James Crane	X	X				
Jim Fisher	X	X	X	X	X	
Chuck Fletcher	X	X				
Ron Ford	X	X	X	X	X	
Louis Harris	X	X	X	X		
Joe Heinlein	X	X				
Richard Hill	X	X				
Don Keefer	X					
Bruce Lamb	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bob Pegram	X					
Ted Rein	X					
Bob Sobczak	X	X	X	X		
Charles Stackhouse		X				
Tom Szarek	X					
John Withtrow	X	X				

Baltimore Area Turners Meetings

November 13 – Show and Tell

December 11 – Holiday Party

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.

BAT Club Discounts

Mark Supik & Company - \$20 discount on instructional classes for members of BAT
(www.marksupikco.com/workshops) 410-732-8414 mark@marksupikco.com

Hartville Tools - 15% discount for club members. See information on following page.
(www.hartvilletool.com) 800-345-2396

Penn State Industries - 10% discount for club members. (www.pennstateind.com)

Marketplace

Have something you want to sell or something you are looking to buy?

Checkout the classified listing on the BAT website (www.batltimoreareturners.org/classifieds.html).

Send an email to the webmaster with the details at webmaster@batltimoreareturners.org

- Free ash stock. Follow this link for details:

https://nextdoor.com/for_sale_and_free/ea74b78e-7807-4359-930e-39e3fe380db7

- Hicksville Planing Mill - 14464 Hicksville Rd, Clear Spring, MD 21722 Phone 301-842-3474

Want to build your woodturning skills?

The American Association of Woodturners (AAW) strives to deliver the publications and services that our members need to grow, connect, explore, and thrive in the areas of woodturning that are important to them. With nearly 16,000+ members and 360+ chapters internationally, AAW's many resources, including our award-winning *American Woodturner* journal, help our members to learn, create, and connect.



By signing up for a complimentary Guest membership, you can have limited access to a sampling of AAW resources for a full **60 days**. You'll be able to explore what the AAW has to offer, kick our tires, and hopefully decide to become a full-fledged, paid AAW member to benefit from everything the AAW has to offer.

Visit us at 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.