

ECHOES FROM THE “BAT” CAVE

BALTIMORE AREA TURNERS

Mar-Apr 2021
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Eric Krum - Bottle Stoppers

The presentation for the March meeting was on turning bottle stoppers, by Eric Krum.

Eric is a member of the First State Woodturners. He started turning bottle stoppers about 12 years ago as Christmas presents for his family. Being an avid wood collector for more the past 40 years, he decided to turn a stopper from each species of wood. He currently has over 500 bottle stoppers.

Design Concepts:

Stoppers are pushed and pulled, so the top's should be smooth to push in and the sides should have a feature to allow them to be gripped to pull out.

The stopper's metal and silicon body should be washable without damaging the wood in the process. The wooden top should be able to be unscrewed from the body.

Grooves in the sides and the top may look good, but trap dust, making cleaning of the stopper more difficult.

It's important to consider the type of wine for the stopper. For example, a stopper used for white wine should be shorter to allow the bottle to be stored up-right in the refrigerator. Also, if the wine is acidic, plated stoppers can pit or oxidize, so a stainless steel stopper would be better.

Eric doesn't like to make the bottom of the stopper wider than the top (like a chess pawn). He tries to make the bottom at least 1/8 inch smaller in diameter than the top.

There are a variety of stoppers available but generally are of two types. One with a double ended thread and the other with a metal insert that is epoxied into the wood.



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March - Eric Krum (continued)

Preparation:

The typical blank used for a stopper is 1 3/4 inches square and 2 1/2 inches long. Drill out the blank with a bit according to the type of stopper you are using. You can use either the lathe or a drill press.

If the wood is soft and will be threaded onto a mandrel, thread the blank onto the mandrel and remove it. Soak the threads with thin CA glue and allow to dry 24 hours before turning.

If using an insert type stopper, he epoxies the insert into the blank and allows 24 hours for the epoxy to cure before turning. It may be necessary to clean excess epoxy from the insert's threads by running a threading tap through the insert after the epoxy has cured.

There are a variety of mandrels based on the many types of stoppers. Make sure you have the correct mandrel for the bottle stopper you are using.

The T-Handled Stopper:

Eric likes to make a tee-handled stopper that includes a cork screw. The orientation of the handle makes it easy to stopper the bottle as well as serving as a natural bottle opener.

For the tee-handled stopper he uses a blank that is 1 1/2 inches square and 3 1/2 inches long (or longer).

He turns the handle between steb centers and uses a disc or belt sander to finish the ends. He drills the hole for the insert using a drill press. He secures the handle in a drill press vise lined with soft, Baltic birch plywood to avoid marring the handle.



The KrumE Finish:

Eric uses a unique finishing process that consists of Minwax Wipe-On Poly and Howard or Minwax Paste finishing wax.

Apply the wipe on poly as normal. After applying the last coat, immediately wipe on a coat of paste wax. Allow to sit for 20 minutes and wipe off excess. After waiting another hour, wipe off excess again.



Resources:

[Penn State Industries](#)

[Ruth Niles](#)

[Stainless Bottle Stoppers](#)

[Woodcraft](#)

April - Show and Tell

The April meeting was a member show and tell. Many thanks to all who participated. If you passed on sharing your work this time, please consider participating the next time.

Please see the recording of the April meeting available on the BAT website. (<https://baltimoreareaturners.org/new/videos/>) For logon instructions, see the email sent earlier from Bruce Lamb.



The following is a summary of the participants and the projects they shared. Thanks again!

Andy Arconti:

- Maple bowl with piercing
- Maple bowl with carved flutes
- Hollow form vase with lid
- Bowl with wood burned pattern
- Homemade jig for holding chuck when carving

The turners MacAnespie:

- Hollow forms from spalted silver maple

Ed Cohen:

- Thomas Hackel Sphere Jig
- Recommend Tim Yoder YouTube video - "Spheres for Dummies"
- Maple "8 Ball"
- "Tennis Ball" - used yellow flocking to simulate the look and feel of a real tennis ball
- "Golf Ball"
- Robert Sorby Thread Chasing kit
- Daffodill Box
- Bloodwood threaded sphere box
- Large threaded box

Ron Ford:

- Aperture bowl
- Segmented Piece entitled - "A few bricks shy of a full load" (664 pieces)
- His original Buck Brothers and Craftsman lathe tools

April - Show and Tell

Chuck Cohen:

- Shared his experiences on a recent class with Jimmy Clews in Las Vegas
- Charred ash bowl with a colored, figured maple lid
- Oriental box with gold leaf
- Three cornered walnut box with lid
- Purpleheart hollow form
- Chinese Toon hollowform vase with Honey Locust top and Bottom
- Saturn bowl with a large interior bowl

Ken Lobo:

- Sapele goblet with routed slits
- Staved walnut and maple vase arranged in a dazzle pattern. Titled "B Flat" after it's trumpet shape
- Routed mesh (see through) platter

Jim Fischer:

- Sea Urchin ornament with birds eye maple finial

Jim Oliver:

- Banksia pod with holes filled with a mixture of APoxy Sculpt and charcoal powder
- Banksia pod with holes filled with a mixture of APoxy Sculpt and white mica powder
- Catalpa platter with grain enhanced with blue mica powder mixed with water based polyurethane
- Catalpa bowl enhanced with charcoal powder and water based polyurethane

James Crane:

- Skew practice pieces
- Candle stick
- Chess pieces

Bruce Lamb:

- Experimenting with hollow forms and vase shapes
- Maple disc hollowform
- Asymmetrical maple hollowform finished with Waterlox and the Bealle buffing system
- Hollowform finished with black acrylic paint on the interior

Scott Bleakney:

- Greenwood lidded hollow form with hammered steel lid. Based on John Jordan demonstration for the AAW

The President's Turn



The March drop-in call was a trial of a new format focusing on member's projects and problems. We had a good turnout and eight turners stepped forward with projects that included a wide range of topics including Celtic knots, problems with routing on the lathe, jigs for preparing inlays, results from "free wood" and a bunch more! Thank you to all that participated in the call. I had some computer issues that caused a very slow start. Sorry about that. It gave me an appreciation of what teachers are going through with virtual schooling. In any case, we got through it together. We'll continue with this format as long as there is interest. You can also submit/show slides of your shop using this format as well. We'll continue with the option of sharing your screen directly (I now understand the differences between doing this on a MAC as well as a PC) or sending them to me to share.

During these challenging times when meeting in person has not been possible, the club has established a number of ways to help us communicate and stay in touch. These include:

- Monthly Meetings via Zoom
- BAT Website
- BAT Facebook Page
- BAT Drop-in Zoom Calls
- Newsletter (Sent via e-mail and posted to the website)

Please take advantage of them. I realize that some of the above doesn't work for everyone. I am hopeful that we will resume (in some form) in-person meetings prior to the end of the year. Nothing has been finalized yet, but I expect that we will continue to carry the meetings via zoom when we meet in person thus giving you the option to attend either way.

Please stay safe out there and that applies to when you are turning as well.

Regards,

Bruce Lamb
BAT President

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.

Thank you,

Chuck Cohen
Mentoring

What's on Tap?

The May meeting will be a demonstration of by Trent Bosch. Trent will be demonstrating his Sunburst Platter.



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

2020 President's Challenge

First Challenge: for 2021 is to turn a candlestick.

Second Challenge: Turn a nice shaped bowl. [See pdf for more details.](#)

Third Challenge: TBD

Fourth Challenge: TBD

Fifth Challenge: TBD

Sixth Challenge: TBD

2021 President's Challenge Results

Name	Candlestick	Bowl	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Andy Arconti	X	X				
Scott Bleakney	X					
John Elder	X					
Jim Fisher	X					
Ron Ford	X	X				
Lou Harris	X	X				
Tonas Kalil	X					
Steve Kelban	X					
Dave Maidt	X	X				
Jim Oliver		X				

Baltimore Area Turners Meetings

May—Trent Bosch - Sunburst Platters

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 plus free shipping. (www.hartvilletool.com) 800-345-2396
- Penn State Industries - 10% discount for club members. (www.pennstateind.com)
- Klingspor Woodworking Shop – 10% discount on all non-powered merchandise in catalog
- Exotic Lumber (Annapolis and Frederick) – 10% discount
- Freestate Lumber (Timonium) – 10% discount
- Lyle Jamieson Woodturning - 10% discount due to club demo (lylejamieson.com)

New BAT Website

Our Webmaster, Dave Mardt, has been working hard on a brand new BAT website, and it is up and running! New look and feel, and incorporates many new features we will be able to take advantage of now and in the future. The website address remains the same at <https://baltimoreareaturners.org>

One area that needs your attention is the Gallery. Dave has created a wonderful space for everyone to share their work. Please send pictures to bat@diadav.com and they will be posted.

Thanks again to Dave for this terrific upgrade!!

- BAT Board

New BAT Facebook

BAT has a new Facebook page. Close to 30 members have joined, but only a small handful are contributing content or posting information. This is a great way to stay in touch during these unusual times, and everyone is encouraged to take advantage of it.

To join, click on the following link and click on "**Accept**" at the top of the page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/355364505441249/?ref=share>

Please log on today and start sharing pictures, projects, etc.

- BAT Board

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.