

Echoes from the "BAT" Cave



February 13, 2008
Volume 3, Issue 2

Dual Demos



Court Robinson demonstrates the Oneway Termite.

Jerry Kermode shows one-handed hollowing at Mark Supik's Shop.

BAT was blessed with multiple demos during the short month of February. Court Robinson revealed the secrets of the Oneway Termite Hollowing tool and Jerry Kermode demonstrated how to be mellow at the lathe, turning a bowl, a plate, two spinning tops, and a mushroom in less than 2 hours.

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Mark Supik's shop has been turning since 1981. They make stair parts, railing, columns, furniture parts, and tap handles. Shop is loaded with industrial-strength hardware, ranging up to an 8-foot swing lathe. They specialize in making beer taps turning poplar rough-outs (left) into shiny Natty Boh's (right).



Raffle



Logs, expansion slides and slabs in the February raffle.

Apple and dogwood logs, Red cedar and walnut slabs, dining room table expansion slides, and an adjustable bowl gouge sharpening jig were raffled.

Oneway Termite Demo



Court explains hollowing end grain.



Hollow forms made with the Termite.



Nice shavings cutting end grain.



Court makes it look easy.



Close up of cutting end grain. Tape marks the orientation of the tool.

Court Robinson gave a demonstration of the Oneway Termite Tool. He came well prepared with a sharp tool and several pieces of wood to cut. He explained that it was used for hollowing end grain. He mounted a piece of green cherry in a chuck, drilled a pilot hole in the center, then proceeded to hollow with ease. The Termite cut cleanly and jammed minimally. Other members were invited to use the tool and showed that the learning curve is not entirely flat. He then demonstrated sharpening technique – Oneway supplies a honing bit which fits into a router. The HSS blade is sharpened in seconds using this technique. Finally, he demonstrated its use on dried wood. He also had several examples of hollow forms he had made with the Termite. Thanks, Court!

Show and Tell



Steve Lane (left) gave an extended discussion and demonstration of the Craftsman Digital Miter gauge (lower left). It is accurate to 0.1° and has an attachment to set the blade tilt of a table saw to the same 0.1° accuracy. Best of all, it sells for only \$70.

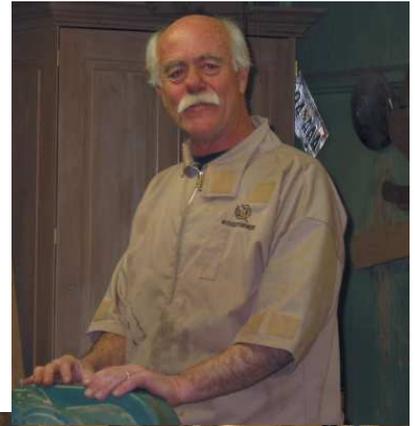
This degree of accuracy is necessary for segmented turning. Steve showed a 42-stave bowl (right), made with 'bowl from a board' technique and several icosahedrons (20-sided solid forms) which he had formed from segments carefully cut at a 20.9° angle. He uses the Irwin 60 tooth thin kerf sawblade 'cheap and good.' He said he does not sand his segments prior to gluing.



Jim Oliver (lower right) showed a home-made 'mini Jumbo Jaws' technique. The holders are bolts covered with plastic tubing which are then screwed into the jaw-slide screw holes of a large chuck. The plastic is heated to 212° F, slipped over the bolt then allowed to cool. The resulting 'jaws' have a 0-12 cm range.



Jerry Kermodé Demo



(Clockwise from left)
 Roughing out bowl blank;
 Cutting slot for biscuit;
 Stitched bowl—still rough;
 Jerry showering BAT VP Lou
 Rudinski with shavings;
 Jerry Kermodé;
 Hollowing plate;
 Coloring top.



Mark Supik hosted BAT and Chesapeake Woodturners in an evening with Jerry Kermodé. Jerry turned a stitched bowl, a platter, several tops, and a mushroom while regaling the audience with tips and stories from his 35 years of turning. He started in Hawaii, now turns in Sebastopol, CA. He uses a Vicmarc 300 lathe.

Jerry started by sizing up a slab of Horse Chestnut. He discussed how to find the bowl in the tree, laid out size by marking with chalk around a disc, and cut it to size with a giant band saw. After chiseling away some bark, he mounted the piece between centers and made quick work of roughing out the exterior and turning a tenon. He recommends a tenon about 1/3 the diameter of the bowl. He emphasized the importance of carefully turning the angle of the tenon and the surface of the exterior adjacent to that angle – this gives support for the chuck. (At the first pass, he made the tenon too big for the chuck and had to re-turn it.)

He discussed sharpening – uses a platform set at the correct angle and grinds the whole bevel to keep the bevel angle. His grind is only slightly swept back.

He chucked the tenon and started hollowing. He cut coarse cuts which showered the audience with shavings. Once the bevel was engaged, he was able to easily guide the gouge with one hand. As he approached the bottom, though, the bevel no longer engaged so he switched to a very blunt gouge (80-80° angle) which cut like a charm. He turned it down to about 1/2" wall thickness.

Normally, he would let the green wood dry for 6 months before final turning, after which it would have changed its shape. He simulated this by mounting the bowl off center prior to final turning, mounting it in a jamb chuck to turn the tenon, then chucking the tenon to even the rim. The bowl had two cracks – no problem for Jerry!

He applied his trademark technique: Using a Lamello biscuit joiner, he made slots across the cracks, filled the slots with thick CA and tapped in 1/2 a walnut biscuit. He squirted on accelerator, trimmed the corners with a chisel, and proceeded to turn the bowl to final thickness.

He sands with Eagle brand sandpaper up to 1200 grit. He backs up the sandpaper with a neoprene pad to apply even pressure.

After the bowl's interior is finished, it is jam chucked using 1/4 folded paper towel to protect the finished inside and the foot is finally turned.

Next, he made a plate. He starts with a round slab pre-drilled with center hole which is mounted on a screw chuck. He planes the bottom of the plate, then marks out the mortise and outer edge of the base. He cuts away the outside, then cuts a mortise 1/4" deep with a shaped scraper. He cuts 3 grooves in the bottom signifying 'good luck.' He sands to 320, signs with a Sharpie®, then finishes with mineral oil and wax finish. The plate is reversed, then hollowed to depth of drill hole. He is careful to blunt the sharp edge of the plate. He says he can make 9 of these an hour when using pre-drilled stock.

Next he made Bonnie Klein tops. He chucked a square spindle blank, roughed out the form, leaving a stout tenon, turned the top's spinning point, decorated it with chatter tool and colored Sharpies®, finish turned the spinning handle and parted it off. Then, he turned another top from the next segment of the blank.

Finally, he made a mushroom out of a green hornbeam branch. He mounted the branch between centers, turned the cap on the headstock end, making an ogee cut. Then he hogged out the center, gave final shape to the stem, hollowed the cap, then parted off at the top of the cap.

All items were raffled with trivia questions. Jerry patiently answered all questions and ended with a discussion of marketing techniques.

Quote: "Woodturning is a subtractive art – use the OFF switch a lot to check the piece."

Mark Supik: Turned Vessels

March 12 - 29, 2008

Creative Alliance at the Patterson
Amalie Rothschild Gallery 2nd floor
3134 Eastern Ave, Baltimore MD 21224

Each of Mark Supik's turned vessels is unique, capturing the essence of a recently felled tree and turned while still green to retain traces of mold, fungus, accentuated grain, bark, knots and burls. Supik's architectural work, furniture and custom beer taps are shipped around the country. For the opening, he demos the art of woodturning with an industrial lathe borrowed from his Highlandtown shop.



Wed Mar 12, 5:30-7:30 pm. Opening Reception.
Woodturning demo 6:30 pm

Saturday, March 15, 7:00-7:30 pm. Meet the Artist.
Woodturning demo.

Saturday, March 29, 3:30-5:00 pm. Meet the Artist.
Woodturning demo.

Gallery open Tuesday-Saturday 9:30 am - 5 pm

For more information: www.marksupikco.com 410-737-8414
www.creativealliance.org 410-276-1651



Announcements

Coming up:

March 15, 2008 (Saturday) – Loch Raven HS Craft Fair. Loch Raven HS is at 1212 Cowpens Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21286. BAT has rented two 8'x10' booth. The booths will be set up to display, demonstrate, and sell our work. Any sale proceeds will go to the seller. The booth will have electricity. All interested in participating should E-mail Susan Shane at MRShane@aol.com.

Tips and Tricks

TIP: When sanding a segmented piece, apply sanding sealer before sanding – this keeps the dark dust out of the light wood's pores—*Steve Lane*

Tips: Rub gouge with Wax Paper to remove sap and other sticky stuff and restore surface.
When wood is making your tool jump, don't press the tool into the wood. Instead, press tool onto the toolrest and apply edge to the wood to cut out uneven areas.
Feel for unevenness with fingers, mark with pencil, then cut until mark is gone.—*Jerry Kermode*

Baltimore Area Turners

Baltimore Area Turners meets every month on the second Wednesday of the month at the Greater Baltimore Woodcraft Store at 1125 Cromwell Bridge Road, Towson, MD 21286

Next meeting:

March 12, 2008 at 7:00 PM

Agenda: Show and Tell.

Membership Dues: \$20 annual BAT dues are due at the next meeting. Pay by cash or check. See David Smith, Treasurer.