

# Echoes from the "BAT" Cave



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## Bill Grumbine Demo



Thanks to a new video system, BAT got a double dose of Bill Grumbine.

## Lucky Save



Steve Lane tells how this ambrosia Maple almost got away. (Photo by Steve Lane)

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## Raffle



## Details inside



Logs of Ash, Yew, Apple, hard Maple, Juniper, Box Elder, Purple Heart, Yellow Heart, and huge (12" diameter) Holly. Woodcraft donated clamps, Deft Clear Wood Finish, and center finder. Craft Supplies USA donated \$30 gift certificate. Thanks !



# Bill Grumbine Demo



BAT watches as . . .



. . . big man Bill Grumbine prepares to turn a big hunk of walnut.



Dave Smith makes final adjustments to video.



Bill suits up in protective gear.



Dave and Wayne adjust camera



Video shows Bill's technique.



Shaping the bottom.

Bill Grumbine came down to Baltimore to turn a tall deep vase. Expectations were high and he did not disappoint. His presentation was larded with his trademark humor: 'Some of us just go against the grain' 'The difference between marital and martial is only two letters.'

He started with a large piece of walnut mounted face plate orientation. This was driven by a chuck spur driven into the wood, a 4-point spur that fits into a chuck. He starts spinning slowly, facing off and beginning to turn the vase's bottom at the tail stock end. He uses his 45-45-45 cut and moves the gouge with his whole body to produce a smooth, facet-free curve. Initially, he takes aggressive cuts which leave a poor surface. After the blank is balanced, he turns up the speed which produces a better surface and form. He recommends thinking of form and surface together – concentrating only on surface can leave a bad form and vice versa. He moves his body through a pre-planned arc, continue to move even if the tool stops cutting.

Next he uses what he calls a Tangent cut, finally a vertical sheer scrape which he had learned from David Ellsworth. In the course of 20 minutes, he had gone from cutting 1/2" shavings to angel hair shavings with the same gouge.

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Video view of hollowing.



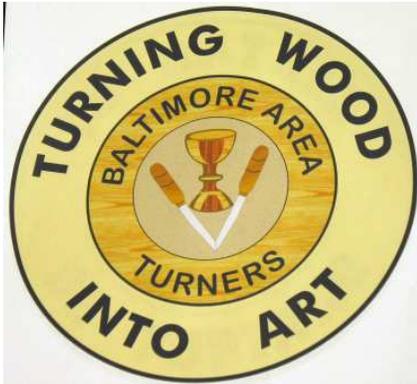
Thanks to video, everyone gets a good view.



Bill shows off his big tool.

*Echoes from the "BAT" Cave*

## BAT Logo



The BAT logo is still in development. Susan Shane and Doug Rogers displayed two prototypes of a BAT logo (*Left and Right*). Bill Grumbine suggested crossed Louisville Sluggers. Other suggestions are still welcome. Contact Susan.



## Announcements

### Video:

Thanks to David Smith for operating the BAT video system in its maiden voyage. Three cameras, a projector and a switcher made for clear views by everyone. Thanks also to Mike Lang for holding a light to lighten the interior of the hollowed form.

The **Baseball Bat Turning Demo**, **Pen Turning Demo** and **Pen Turning for the Troops** will reprise this year.

Check out the **BAT website**:

[www.baltimoreareeturners.org](http://www.baltimoreareeturners.org)

You'll find Links to many useful sites, including websites of BAT members, prior presenters and visitors, turning organizations, vendors, and others. You'll also find a listing of the BAT library, articles written by BAT members, and previous issues of this newsletter.

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### Bill Grumbine Demo (Continued)

He formed a tenon on the tail stock end, being very careful to make square shoulders on the tenon, since the chuck jaws hold the tenon by abutting against the shoulders.

The group took a break while Bill reversed the blank, chucked the tenon, and applied a bowl steady-rest to damp vibration. As he says, 'in turning, there's no such thing as Good Vibrations.' He trued up the face, taking very light cuts on the interrupted surface. Then he began hollowing, following the outside curve. As the hollowing proceeded, he began to get vibration of his gouge. At that point, he switched to a gargantuan gouge that he had made in conjunction with Doug Thompson. Thompson provided a custom made 5/8" diameter steel which, after mounting, extended 14" from the ferrule of the huge 28" handle that Bill had made. Using this harpoon-like gouge, he was able to hollow further. He kept the cutting edge as close to the centerline as possible to eliminate a plug at the bottom of the bowl and smoothed out ridges with sheer scraping: rotating the gouge so that the flute faced away from the center and scraping with the left (bottom) edge of the gouge, keeping the right (top) edge very

close to the surface.

Due to time constraints, Bill stopped hollowing short of reaching the bottom so that he could demonstrate removing the fat bottom from the vase. (The bottom had been kept thick to provide support for hollowing.) The vase is jam chucked between centers, outside walls are turned down to match the interior profile and the cuts are feathered in with sandpaper. Finally the tenon is removed: the bottom is turned hollow and the tenon is reduced in diameter as much as possible then mostly parted off with a 1/16" parting tool. The vase is removed from the lathe and a sharp sweep gouge is used to cut into and remove the remaining part of the tenon.

Bill also noted that he gives lessons in turning. These can be solo lessons or for groups of up to three. Contact him by e-mail for information. One very accomplished turner told me she learned more from one day with Bill than she had during 3 days spent with David Ellsworth.

He also demonstrated his bowl depth gauge which is available on his website. He quoted prices of \$75 for the version for small (8-12" swing) lathes and \$95 for the version for large (12-26" swing) lathes. The price does not include the laser which he demonstrated. His website is [www.wonderfulwood.com](http://www.wonderfulwood.com).

## Lucky Save



Butchering wood.



Check out that figure !

### *Photos and Story by Steve Lane*

Last month I and my fellow wood turners were fortunate to have had a poorly performing saw result in a fortuitous save of a fine piece of ambrosia maple. The story begins with a large limb from a 50 year old silver maple being dropped from the tree onto my wife's car, removing the rear window and leaving a sizable dent. As this was not the first limb to fall from this tree, I figured it was time to have it removed. The contractor showed up with his cherry picker, chipper and stump grinder and proceeded to dismantle the tree. By the time he got to where there was nothing but the trunk of the tree in two large (10 foot) sections laying in the yard, he left saying that his big chainsaw was not running well and that he would have his guy come by in a day or two to remove the trunk. That's the first time I had a chance to see what I had. When I looked at the trunk I immediately saw the beautiful spray of color. This tree was resplendent with ambrosia coloring from the pith to the bark (see photos). I knew this was not throw away stuff. I took the wedge-shaped piece that the tree company cut out so the trunk would fall in the right direction, and rough turned a 6-inch bowl. The color was BEAUTIFUL! Being new to turning, I had no idea just how one goes about sectioning such a log for turning, nor did I have the tools to do it or the space to store it. Fortunately, this happened on Tuesday, August 12, the day before our Baltimore Area Turners (BAT) meeting. I took the bowl and a cross-sectional sample of the tree to our meeting where they attracted the attention of Lou Rudinski and Bill Henry. Bill agreed to come from the other side of town with his nephew, John, to cut the tree into very large



Bill Henry takes a big cut.

(certainly by my standards) sections. Each section was 20 to 30 inches in diameter and 18 to 30 inches long. With the three of us working (Bill and John worked a lot harder than I did) the tree was cut into blanks in a few hours. Bill's truck was big enough to haul the sections in two loads. I believe Bill was pleased with the wood; he suggested that it was potentially of gallery quality. I hope so.

So, had my tree contractor's saw been working properly, he would have finished cutting up and hauling away this beautiful ambrosia maple, and we would not have been the wiser. Sometimes, but not very often, a poorly performing tool can be a good thing

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## 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:**

September 10, 2008 at 7:00 PM

Agenda: Cliff Lounsberry – from Michigan will be showing how he turned the 71/2' tall 4' diameter large turning displayed at the recent ACC show. He will also discuss the use of a router in decorating and finishing bowls and BAT will be raffling his hollowing system in a special raffle. There may be some cherry burl available at the meeting