

Catoctin Area Turners



Next meeting: Saturday, June 12, 2010, 9:00 am
Location: Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve,
Leesburg, VA



Volume 2 Issue 6 - June 2010

It's Picnic Time!

Hopefully you have all previously received the email notification by Tom Boley of our upcoming summer time picnic. As a reminder to all, here are the details once again.

We have a date for our picnic! The date will be the

12th of June, the Saturday AFTER our usual meeting date. We will NOT have a meeting in June because of the picnic. Please plan on coming at about 9:00 am. If any of you have a mini-lathe which you'd like to bring to set up for the day, feel free to do so. Of course, anyone doing any turning at this club event must be a member of CAT as well as a member of the AAW so we have the liability insurance we need in case someone is hurt.

This will be a potluck lunch. To make it simple, the club will purchase barbeque pork and

those attending will need to bring all the side dishes and desserts. The club will also supply plates, forks, cups, and drinks. I don't think that we can have alcoholic beverages in the park. For the membership, please bring a dish to share.

A - M Side dish or salad (such as baked beans, cole slaw, macaroni salad, green salad, green bean casserole, etc)

N - Z Dessert



This is important -- please let Tom know at tboley@erols.com how many from your family will be coming so that we have some idea of how much barbeque to order. As always, if you find at the last minute that you can come but didn't tell me, no problem. Just come anyway. I just need a reasonably good idea of how many to expect.

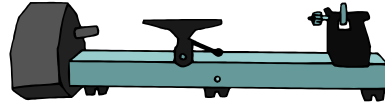
These woodturning club picnics are great fun. There is a lot of turning plus just sitting around enjoying the day. Banshee Reeks has miles of trails to hike, too. Last year was well-attended and great fun. Please join your fellow woodturners on the 12th.

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chicken at Red, Hot, and Blue in Leesburg and

The Call of the Lathe



by Tom Boley

The weather generally keeps giving us a chance to throw open the garage door and spend the day turning. Gone are those days of bitter cold and deep snow. I spoke of it last month but the weather as I write this is once again delightful so I wanted to encourage you all to spend time turning! If you keep putting it off, one of these days you'll be saying something like, "Wow. Where did summer go? I sure wish I had spent more time turning when the weather was good," but it will be too late. Do it now!

Thanks to both Jeff Greene and to Jeremy Baker for their articles in the newsletter. Jeff continues his series about being a new guy at the lathe and Jeremy writes of the differences between hardwood and softwood in "From the Arborist." He really is an arborist and, as such, is a wealth of knowledge about the subject. Go ahead, ask him anything.

This month is the picnic and I sure hope everyone will try to attend. We have been going to the annual picnic held by Capital Area Woodturners for years and they are always a great pleasure. We plan to buy pork and chicken from Red, Hot, and Blue and are counting on the membership to bring side dishes and deserts. See the article about it to find out what you are supposed to bring. For those of you who wish, you may also bring a mini-lathe to set up out in the yard by the classroom to do some turning. Remem-

ber, anyone who turns at a club event must be a member of the club as well as a member of the AAW in order for our liability insurance to be in effect. We'll gather between 9 and 10 that morning and eat somewhere around noon. We can hang around after lunch for more turning or for hiking on the many trails in the park and then close up at around 2 to 2:30 or so. If you bring a lathe, you will be able to drive down to the classroom to unload, but please don't drive on the grass and do return your vehicle to the parking lot for the day. Last year's picnic was a great time and I am sure this year will be the same. Please let me know at tboley@erols.com if you can come and how many you will be so we can order barbeque.

Right now, the Call of the Lathe is echoing strongly in my ear and I am once again drawn to the shop to answer the call. I am still surprised that I have found a hobby which I not only enjoy so much but which I have turned into an actual business. Who knew?



Tom Boley

Upcoming Demonstrations

June: Our CAT summer picnic. Location: Banshee Reeks Reserve—See page 1.

July: Patrick O'Brian of Capital Area Woodturners

He will be demonstrating one of his winged natural edge vessels that he makes from limbs. If there's time, he will do something else from limbs, like mushroom.

He lives in Alexandria, VA and has been turning since 2001. He has attended numerous woodturning courses from many of the well known woodturners. In 2003 he opened his studio in Alexandria and recently moved to a permanent studio in Building 10 of the new Workhouse Work Center in Lorton, VA. His workhorse is a One-way 1640 lathe. Patrick has taught woodturning fundamentals in 2007 & 2008 at the JC Campbell Folk School and currently teaches skill enhancement workshops twice a month for the Capital Area Woodturners.



Patrick certainly encourages you to visit his web site “OhBeWood” at <http://www.ohbewood.com/index.html>

August: TBD

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Brian Sullivan - Bulk Purchases
Jeremy Baker - Arborist Extraordinaire
Tom Boley - Newsletter Proofreader

The Editor's Bench

by Ron Cote

June 2010, I'm particularly looking forward to this month, as I will be headed to the AAW Symposium in Hartford, CT 19—20 June. I have never been to the National symposium, and as next year's symposium will be out in St. Paul, MN, I thought that this trip would be much more acceptable. Besides, I have a cousin that lives only 45 minutes away from Hartford and his Bed and Breakfast is at a very acceptable cost, FREE. I will probably spend a couple of extra days there as I haven't had a chance to visit with he or his wife for a couple of years.



Bob and I recently purchased a couple of rather large re-conditioned vacuum pumps from a guy located down with the Blue Ridge Woodturners. If size counts, then I think we won. My trip to his place was to see how he was setting up his sys-

tem.



DuoSeal Vacuum Pump—Approximately a 60 lbs monster

I gather that after three days of seminars that my head will be spinning like a Bonnie Klein spinning top. Once I get home and stop spinning, I will hopefully have some good and entertaining stuff to print in the July Newsletter.

Over the past month I had the pleasure of visiting with Bob Rosand and his wife Susan at their home in Bloomsburg, PA. Bob is a past AAW vice-president, who has written countless of articles for the American Woodturner Journal, teaches out of his studio on his property, and is a frequent demonstrator at clubs and symposiums. Driving up to Bob's place, via route 11 runs adjacent to the Susquehanna river for at least 30 miles. If you enjoy scenic rides this is one for sure.

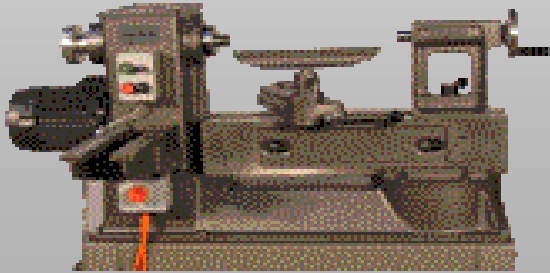
I hope to be able to make another trip to his place in July for a couple of days for some hollowing lessons. One of his many specialties are his Christmas ornaments of which he has made and sold thousands of them.

Ron Cote

What I've Learned — Month Ten

Jeff Greene

As the last remnants of a wonderful spring give way to the hot and sticky days of summer, I am reminded of how much I need an air conditioned shop. Even with the heat, I managed to turn a couple of small projects this month. The key word here being small. I really need to man up and get a full size Lathe. I want a Stubby 750 but OUCH, that's a



really big price tag! So I continue to struggle with my little Delta for now. Please let me know if you find anyone looking to part with some nice gear..

Pens seem to be the hot gift item right now. I made several pens this month for my wife's friends. So to date, I've sold about 15 pens and about 20 bottle stoppers. That's certainly nothing to get excited about, but it IS exciting. For those of you who haven't sold any of your work, let me tell you it is very gratify-

ing. It turns out at least for me that people actually willing to pay money for something I've created is the truest form of flattery, Isn't it weird how the mind works..

I have two recommendations this month. First my wood of the month is Myrtle Burl, interestingly also called Mountain Hemlock or Spice Tree. According to the internet the leaves are used by spice companies as Bay Leaves, which I guess is where the spice tree name comes from. No clue where the Mountain Hemlock name comes from. Myrtle is a West coast tree common to California. The wood is gorgeous, dark honey brown with streaks of black and is a real joy to work. I'll bring an example to the next meeting. My second recommendation is Abranet sand paper. It's a little expensive but I think it's worth it. Check it out at Woodcraft.

See ya at the picnic ..

Jeff Greene

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Musing of a Pro

About three years ago on a visit to Costa Rica I rather accidentally met a renowned woodturner named Barry Biesanz. Barry is an American Expatriate who has been turning wood in Costa Rica for many years. He is also a great musician and I was invited on two different occasions to his beautiful mountaintop home in Escazu and later to his preserve near the western coast and enjoyed some great gala music jam sessions and several days of wonderful one-on-one exchanges of views on art and music.

Barry grows and harvests much of his own wood, has a sizable shop/factory near San Jose with a number of employees where he creates fine production items and adjacent to this is his own gallery featuring his works of art.

Today I got Barry's friendly permission to offer the following notes from his on-line writings because I think his intellectual views on woodturning are very inspiring, and go a bit beyond simply raw technique.

Chet Olson

From the Biesanz Woodworks Facebook Page by Barry Biesanz

Our collectors:

My bowls and boxes are in the collections of many dignitaries and celebrities, including Presidents Clinton, Carter, Bush, Reagan, Pope John Paul II, Prime Minister Jiang (China), Prime Minister Hu (China), President Vincent Fox (Mexico), President Collar (Brazil), Menem (Argentina), Prime Minister Kohl (Germany), the Duke of Kent, Queen Sophia of Spain, and the permanent collection of the Taipei Fine Arts Museum. Celebrities include organizers of the Lollapalooza Tour, Whoopie Goldberg, Billy Bob Thornton, Bon Jovi, and many others. Some notes on bowl design

I've had no formal art or design training. I was vain enough not to want to make something ugly, so I was pretty cautious for the first 5-6 years. If I'd read *Art and Fear* (and if it had been written back then!) I would have saved some time and learned faster. In bowl turning I concentrated on making a simple curve, tighter on one side, more relaxed on the other end, but always a curve, no flat sections. Really, I spent years at this, much of the time with the lathe stopped, and me looking at the bowl, trying to see where to improve the curve. Sometimes I'd get it right, and then the proportions of the next hunk of wood would call for a variation.

Years later, reading the book *Chaos*, I found that these curves were in fact solutions in graph form to fractal equations. We evolved and live among fractal forms, so there's a reason we find these curves beautiful.

The edge of the bowl merits some attention. I admired Bob Stockdale's salad bowls, with their clean curves and matching rims, where the interior made a tight curve to end abruptly

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Advice from The Arborist

Jeremy Baker

Well, I didn't get any feedback one way or the other on a previous article, so I'm going with the old adage 'No news is good news'. I certainly enjoyed reading it... The second in the series follows, and as always I welcome ideas for future articles or questions regarding this one. jeremywbaker@gmail.com

Hardwood vs. Softwood

Sounds straight forward, right? Hardwood is hard and softwood is soft isn't it? Not always.

Hardwood and softwood differences actually have to do with plant reproduction. All trees reproduce by producing seeds, but seed structures vary. Hardwood trees are angiosperms, plants that produce seeds with some sort of covering. This might be a fruit, such as an apple, or a hard shell, such as an acorn or hickory nut.

Softwoods, on the other hand, are gymnosperms (conifers) with "naked" seed. These plants have seeds that fall to the ground with no covering. Pines, firs and spruces, which grow seeds in cones, fall into this category. In conifers, seeds are released into the wind once they mature. This spreads the plant's seed over a wide area.

Typically, angiosperms lose their leaves during cold weather while gymnosperms trees keep their leaves all year round. So in general terms, you can say evergreens are softwoods and deciduous trees are hardwoods.

Some 'hardwoods' are actually hard while others are soft and vice-versa with 'softwoods'. You'll see by looking at the list of hardwoods below that the term hardwood or softwood has less to do with the density of the wood and more to do with the reproduction/biology of the tree itself.

Common hard Hardwoods

ash, beech, birch (yellow and sweet), black walnut, buckeye, cherry, American chestnut, dogwood, rock elm, hackberry, hickory, holly, locust, magnolia, oak, plum, poplar, red alder, sassafras, sugar maple, sweetgum, sycamore, tupelo

Common soft Hardwoods

aspen, basswood, birch (paper, river, and water), black cherry, box elder, buckeye, butternut, catalpa, cottonwood, elm (most species), redbud, red maple, royal paulownia, yellow-poplar, willow

This is definitely not an exhaustive list, just a sampling of some trees that I have encountered to help drive the point home. I have found great uses for all types of wood and the reality is that you just have to match your project to a specific wood species based upon your desired outcome.

Remember to always use the appropriate safety equipment while working. Keep your eyes, ears, and hands safe. Safety equipment is replaceable – you are not!

Jeremy W. Baker

May Meeting Minutes

Ron Cote

Dale Bright, CAT vice-president, conducted the May 13, 2010 business meeting of the club.

- There were 26 members in attendance. Dale began by going over about 10 “Show and Tell” items.



such as Monster Articulated Hollowing Rig, and tools from John Jordan and Jim Vogel from Tidewater Turners.

Ron Cote

- He also reminded everyone about personal name tag pick-ups and also how to order one.
- Discussion about the possibility of a summer picnic at Banshee Reeks and a look for a coordinator. Jeff Greene, CAT Operations Director, will lead this effort with able help and support of Harriet Maloney.
- Mark Kaplan, CAT Treasurer, handed out the new 2010 membership cards.
- Dale Bright then conducted the monthly

Show and Tell

Just a few of the Show and Tell that were brought in at this month's meeting.



presentation. The presentation included the review of a number of hollowing tools



Mentoring Program

by Terry Lund

We have established a mentoring program for CAT members, so Terry Lund is looking for volunteers to be mentors as well as requests from any of our members who would like to be paired up with a mentor in one of the following areas of interest for turning skills, or for general mentoring activity. Terry will have sign-up forms for those who want to be a mentor as well as for those who would like to be matched up with an assigned mentor at the next meeting on June 10. If you are interested in either opportunity but will not be at the meeting, please contact him via email at terry.lund@gmail.com or call him on his cell phone 585-455-2517. Please include your name, address, phone number, email address, and indicate your level of experience as Beginner, Intermediate, or Experienced when requesting a mentor.

We will try to match interested individuals with a mentor who lives “reasonably close” whenever possible, and if we get enough mentors to sign up, we will also try to match based on one of the following areas of interest, or feel free to mention another area of interest.

Areas of interest for mentoring

Functional turning	Ornaments and small items
Artistic turning	Pens and Pencils
Bowls	Lidded Boxes
Natural Edge Bowls	Segmented turning
Square Bowls	Spindle turning
Hollow forms	Turning/Chasing Threads

Odds and Ends

Photographer Still Needed

We are still in need for someone to be able to take photos at our club meetings, especially for our "Show and Tell". Jeff Greene, our club's Operations Officer, has graciously volunteered for the additional duty until someone else volunteers. So please, get involved and you too could be the next newsletter editor, I mean photographer. Isn't that right Tom??



Newsletter Submissions

I would like to encourage everyone to submit an article to the newsletter. Some subjects that could be submitted that I would think would have in interest to all, would be such things as reviewing a good turning book or DVD.

CAT Web Site

[www.catocinareturners.org](http://www.catocinareteturners.org)

Remember to check our CAT web site from time to time for new information and the schedule of demonstrations for our meetings. Chet Olson has moved to Florida but is still our web master, for which we are very grateful. He has done a great job of getting it up and running and it is now a source of a lot of information about our activities.

Newsletter Contributions

A special thanks has to go out again this month to Jeremy Baker for his article on "Hardwood or Softwood".

Thanks to Chet Olson providing the article, "Musing of a Pro".

Have Fun Turning

Member Discounts

Woodcraft of Leesburg



Leesburg Plaza

512 E. Market

Leesburg, VA 20176

Phone: 703-737-7880

Fax: 703-737-6166

Leesburg@woodcraft.com

Store Hours: Sun: 9 AM— 5 PM Thr: 9 AM— 9 PM
Mon: 9 AM—9 PM Fri: 9 AM— 9 PM
Tue: 9 AM— 9 PM Sat: 9 AM-- 6 PM
Wed: 9 AM— 9 PM

Show your CAT membership card and get a 10% DISCOUNT! Valid Thursday thru Sunday of each monthly meeting week.

Dunlap Woodcrafts

Located near the Dulles Expo Center at
14600F Flint Lee Road, Chantilly, VA 20151
Tel (703) 631-5147 Fax. (703) 631-7103

Discounts are available to CAT members

Purchase \$100 and receive a 10% discount

Purchase \$250 and receive additional discount

I would suggest that you give them a call prior to making the trip to ensure that they are open and to further understand the additional discounts.

AAW Tidbits

Are you a member of the AAW? Well if you aren't, you might consider the following as an added incentive. Each month your name is automatically entered into a drawing.

Take a look below at this months prizes.

June 2010 drawing will be for the following prizes:

- A 16 oz. bottle of walnut oil and an 8 oz. container of wax, from Mike Mahoney - <http://www.bowlmakerinc.com>
- \$100 gift certificate provided by Thompson lathe tools – <http://www.thompsonlathetools.com/>
- \$100 gift certificate provided by Hunter Tool Systems – <http://www.hunterwoodturningtool.com/>
- \$100 gift certificate provided by D-Way Tools - <http://www.d-waytools.com/>
- \$100 gift certificate provided by Turningwood - <http://www.turningwood.com/>

Go to the AAW web site to see the June and July prizes.

<http://woodturner.org/>

at the outer edge, where just the sharpness was softened. I was given a neighbor's long treasured wedding present to polish up, and saw this in the wood, as it were, and understood how elements of a form should harmonize.

Having that principle in mind, when I began making closed forms, tight ovoid's with small openings, making a tiny cove in the rim reflected the outer curve was an easy solution.

I used to break bowls by going through 4/5 of the way down, working on the inside, and it took a while to get the discipline to stop and measure, and to keep a consistent wall thickness, with only a small increase by the base for stability. If the bowls were footed, I'd carve out the foot to keep only a small thickness differential – as that is what leads to cracking.

Listening to the sound while turning a thin bowl tells you when to ease up. And a note to the beginners: learn to use a bowl gouge for thin bowls. I like a 1/4" long and strong, Glaser if I can get it, and grind the sides back, and ease it into the wood.

For the bottom, though, the 1/2 or 5/8" round nose scraper is the tool. I still recall the moment I managed to make the inside bottom look like the inside of a basketball, with no dimple or pimple. Demoing for beginners, this is always what they want to learn, so here goes. Adjust the tool rest so that with the handle raised a bit, the tool edge is just under the center horizon of the bowl. After truing it up and getting close to the desired thickness, ease the tool right under the center, and gently raise it up to level, and then ease it away to the left to blend the curve. And practice!

Next step was to reverse the curve, making S shapes. Japanese rice bowls are a kind of standard for that, and I fooled around with exaggerating the rim until the inside and outside were confused. Then enclosed forms, rather like what John Jordan and David Ellsworth were doing. This led to variations on pre-Columbian pottery, which I'm still doing.

Having some constraints makes design easier. I worked mainly with Cocobolo, mostly with the bottom of the bowl being from the center of the log, giving a natural edge option. Sometimes the sapwood was dull or rotten, sometimes there would be a hole (sometimes with dark honey!) and other times there would be nice spalting.

Over time, you evolve a series of design solutions to the variations you find in each chunk of wood. I always wanted to turn spontaneous, fluid shapes, like you find in the classic Tea Ceremony pottery. Some of these are now National treasures of Japan, but they were made at top speed in high volume, by small children. Ego did not enter into it!

Only after I had evolved a series of shape solutions that I felt at home with, could I begin to approach that kind of work, and I did it by tricking myself.

I was turning green wood thick, with a year or so of drying after roughing out the form, which leaves a fair amount of room for shape changes in the finish turning stage. So I would tell myself, "well, I can always modify it later." But I rarely do, because the lack of second guess-

Continued on page 14

ing and worry let me make a shape that originates in a place without fear or critics. The book Art and Fear goes into this method.

Ego has no place in good work and art; it throws sand in the gears, and becomes about the Great One, and not the piece itself. I'll close this with an illustration:

I had some production work which soon bored me, so I looked about the shop (I was designing furniture all this time as well) and called the nearest guy over, and spent a couple of hours showing him how to turn. In two or three days he was doing a fine job, and I went off on a trip. When I got back, I found that he had also done some decent bowls in one of my styles, which certainly filled me with mixed emotions! After all, it took me years to get to where he was in a month. But I thought it was neat that he had learned so fast.

That guy quit eventually, and I called over another worker, and this time deliberately gave him only a half hour of training, mostly on safety, and left him to it, with much the same result. When yet another time five minutes did the trick, I finally asked the guy how he had learned so fast. He said that he had been in my shop for two years, and saw me turning, and picked up the idea by exposure. Unsaid was the thought I'm sure was present..."Hey, if HE can do it, ANYONE can..."

During all this, I had had several American apprentices, who learned much slower. The key difference was that I was enjoying being the Artist expounding, while my workers were remarkably unimpressed by me! Ego gets in the way!

Now I was not without ambition from the start. I thought it unlikely that I would become by anyone's standard the best of my field, but I thought I could aspire to be among the top ten. Well, as it happened, I was invited to show at a Portland gallery along with eight or nine turners that I thought were among the best, and was thrilled. The show got one review, with the most positive comment being that some of the pieces were mildly interesting! And nothing sold!

Now I had noticed that a lot of turning strove for an originality at all costs that often made for work I found ugly, but sometimes found favor among collectors. After this experience, though, I decided to ignore the existence of collectors, and to stick with doing what I understood and liked. Not being all that unique myself, it turned out (sorry!) that there were other people out there that like the turnings and bought them. I was especially happy when people who had never bought a craft piece before bought one of mine. And I still am!

Website: <http://biesanz.com>

Blog: <http://biesanz.com/biesanz-woodturning-blog/>

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/?ref=mb&sk=messages#!/biesanzwoodworks?v=box_3&ref=search

Symposiums

2010 American Association of Woodturners (AAW): June 18 - 20
Hartford, CT
<http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2010/>

The first Deadline for *early registration is 15 May*; Cost is \$250.
After 15 May, \$290
After 14 June, \$330

2010 Virginia Symposium

Fishersville, VA

http://www.virginiawoodturners.com/symposium/symposium_info_home.htm

2010 Virginia Woodturners: October 23 - 24

Augusta Exposition and Entertainment Center

Fishersville, VA (Expoland)

The nine woodturning clubs in Virginia are collaborating once again to produce the fourth biannual Virginia Woodturning Symposium the weekend of 23 and 24 October 2010 in Fishersville, VA, the same location as in 2008. The Virginia Woodturning, Inc, web site at <http://www.virginiawoodturners.com/> has much more information and also has a list of the motels which will offer discounts for the symposium. Making an early reservation will help VWI convince more vendors that attending and setting up at our symposium would be worthwhile. The more attendees we have, the more vendors will be willing to come. This will very much be a hands-on symposium. Save some money by sharing a motel room with a fellow woodturner.