



Monthly Newsletter May 10, 2011

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Jeff Schnell

May 10, 2011 Meeting -





President Phil greeted the group of about 33 participants, and opened the meeting with a note of appreciation to all who donated to the Haddonfield church silent auction. About half a dozen of our members contributed their work, which raised over \$600 for the church coffers !! Thanks to all.....

We are looking for members to contribute articles to include in the monthly newsletter. They can be of recent trips you took, work you've done, family matters, volunteer work you do, etc. Let Mike Zickler know if you have any ideas, or would be willing to be interviewed by Mike as a way of getting to know each other better.

50/50 winner was John Mercurio, \$53: Gift certificates were won by Anthony Cristaldi and Ray Cole. Congrats guys !

Mark Allen has offered to handle a group purchase of alabaster, soapstone or other offerings from the web site for "Neolithic Stone" company. It costs around \$ 0.60 to \$1.35 per pound, depending on color, etc., and Mark says a 30 pound piece can make an 8" diameter x 5" deep bowl. Contact him at mra27@msn.com, or call 856-296-0953 by May 27 to participate.

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Upcoming Events

May 24 – next open house at Phil Hauser's shop, 7 pm.

June 14, 2011 – next regular meeting at Moorestown Friends School. Ed Kelle will be our demonstrator.

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Treasurer's Report - none this month.



Library Report – Club Librarian Robert Jay encourages members to check items of interest out of our growing collection. New donations from the WTC and Phil Schneider. Remember, NO CHARGE !

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Featured Program – Graeme Priddle, well-known turner from New Zealand was our demonstrator this month. Not only is he very talented and an accomplished speaker, but A REAL TROOPER, going ahead with the evening's program even though he was suffering from an injured jaw and stitches resulting from a bicycling incident the previous evening. Could have resulted from the unfamiliar traffic laws in the US, or is the beer stronger here ? We're not sure, but are very glad he carried on!!! Check out his website at <http://graemepriddle.com/> for details of his career.



Graeme provided lots of fascinating stories about his native land, and humorous anecdotes about relationships with the Australian neighbors. He's also fortunate to have so many interesting species of wood available in the country, many on his own property. Better yet, he brought examples of his work (photo above) to display, and explained the creative process behind them. His work has been strongly influenced by growing up in a marine environment, surrounded by excellent indigenous (Maori) artists, whose customs, songs, stories and carvings provide constant inspiration. After years spent production turning of bowls and similar traditional pieces, his current philosophy is more aesthetic. He tends now to use plainer wood, emphasizing the design and creative aspects over practicality. Much of the work is multi-layered conceptually, with designs within designs, and offers surprising changes based on how you view the work. For example, the item Marty is holding, below.



Graeme explained the techniques and tools he uses to turn, grind, carve and otherwise shape his complicated forms. He recommends pneumatic tools in general, and suggested buying the best you can afford, as quality and longevity improve markedly with price. The surface treatments he uses and the content of his work are continuing to evolve over time; he's still striving to create "the perfect piece." Speaking about surface treatments, he explained and demonstrated how he makes a

very sturdy wood burning tool from a NAPA model 85-220 battery charger, by a little rewiring and addition of Lutron dimmer switch, 600 watt single pole, model D-600 PH-EK, designed for incandescent and halogen applications.



With a homemade handle, fabricated with pvc pipe, some “New Zealand duct tape” and assorted hardware and wire, he makes some astonishing designs, as shown below.



No matter what burning tool you use, be careful with it, and try it out on a test piece so you don't botch up something nice that's taken many hours of time. When applying his wood burning surface treatments, he's found that standing over a work surface is not really ideal, and now prefers a more comfortable position, as shown below.



He recommends marine epoxy, not CA glue, to hold inlays of shell or other material to wood, because it holds much better under changing environmental conditions. For paint, he prefers Golden brand acrylic, spread with a toothbrush, and archival quality pigment liner pens.

This was a very interesting and enjoyable evening and we all learned a lot about decorating and design considerations. Thanks so much Graeme, and best wishes for a speedy recovery of the jaw !

Thanks to Ina for the photos. Check out Jeff's other pictures at his web site.