



Monthly Newsletter February 12, 2008

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February Meeting

Despite some awful winter weather, the February meeting was attended by 13 stalwart members, including one new member, Walter Palmer, who also attends Bucks meetings. Walter stated he was impressed by the level of activity of our club, and we certainly welcome him into the fold.

The 50/50 winner was Joe Parson, who collected \$29. Congrats, and don't spend it all at once!

President Hauser reminded us of the next club challenge, a miniature piece which must fit into a 3" x 3" x 3" cube. It is due for the March 11 meeting, which will also feature a pepper mill demo by Mike Cunningham.

Andy DiPietro has prepared the HOW schedule for this year. There are plenty of excellent instructors and events to choose

from, so let's make this a real success by signing up for several sessions. Don't forget, these are brought to you by fellow club members who are generously volunteering their time and hospitality to share valuable information in a "no pressure" setting. There's no better way to learn new skills.

The **featured item** this month was a



discussion and demonstration by Dennis Fuge, the man from "Planet Earth" ! He pointed out he's been in 35 countries on 3 continents, but is impressed that only in the USA can you find such a variety of "free wood." Dennis distributed several handouts, and provided an interesting display of NJ "roadkill" wood types and finishing materials during this fast paced demo.



Dennis provided so much interesting information during our meeting that I hardly know where to start. He covered wood identification, problems to look for, and cutting and preserving tips (hint: when dealing with burls start your cut at the midline of the tree to save the valuable ray formations).



He provided an overview of his cutting style, which uses a 45 degree angle on both tool and body language. He emphasized the critical use of spigot cut and chuck application, demonstrating how to gauge both with the protractor.



He then moved on to a comprehensive discussion of surface texturing and decorating techniques, using a platter as a vehicle to demonstrate a wide variety of creative possibilities.



Ever heard of “ostrich skin” finish? This is accomplished by drilling small holes, cutting most of the dimples away, then steaming the remainder to cause a “pop out” effect that is really cool. He showed how to make and turn a pewter insert; use copper wire plugs for a “starry night” effect; ebonize woods using various dyes and burning tools; interesting finish effects using gesso, liming wax, paints and dyes in a nasal spray bottle applied over cut out silhouettes; and last, but certainly not least, he uses cracked up egg

shells with colored backgrounds to get a fascinating three-dimensional texture.

WOW ! Thanks Dennis, for a fascinating presentation on your unique approach to woodturning and finishing. Those of us who attended were a little breathless with the wealth of information covered in just a couple of hours.

Show and Tell – none this meeting due to time constraints

Upcoming Events

Feb 19- Open House at Phil's, 7 pm.

Mar 11- next regular club meeting in Haddonfield. Mike Cunningham demonstrating.

George Morris has agreed to organize a follow up visit to the Nakashima workshop this Spring, and will send out invitations.

HOW Program- Andy is coordinating this year; the schedule is out, so please sign up for several sessions.

June 20, 2008 – annual AAW meeting in Richmond, VA.

Treasurer's Report – none this month

Library Report – none this month

Club Challenge- Due for the March 11 meeting, a 3"x3"x3" miniature of your own design.