



## Monthly Newsletter May 11, 2010

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<http://www.del-val-turners.com>

### May 12, 2010 Meeting -



President Phil welcomed everyone, including about 25 members, including new member Katie Kellom (welcome Katie) and 1 visitor, Tom Gall. The meeting began with the solemn announcement of the April 17 death of Nelson Brown, long time member of several clubs in the area. Jeff Schnell went to the funeral service and gave a short eulogy for Nelson, who will be sorely missed by his family and friends. Phil reminded us that our next regular meeting will be held on June 8, with multiple demos scheduled by at least 4 club members. The next open house at his shop will be held on May 18, from 7 – 9 pm. The next club challenge for a weed pot, no size or wood material restrictions, is due at the September meeting. The 50/50 drawing this month, worth \$27, was won by Andy DiPietro. Congrats Andy !! By the way, Andy will be demonstrating at the Bucks Woodturners regular meeting on Monday May 17.

Phil and Marty Richter discussed a tentative collaboration with Camp Darkwaters in Medford this summer, where our club is trying to establish dates and volunteers to use mini-lathes for demos and instruction to teenage campers. If you have some time available between mid-June and mid-August to help with this program please let Phil know. Regarding the annual summer club picnic, the date has been set for Saturday, August 14 at the home of John and Sandy Coles, in Moorestown. More details will be forthcoming, but in the meantime save the date, and hope for a sunny day so we can enjoy the pool!

## Upcoming Events

May 17 – Demo by Andy DiPietro at Bucks Woodturners meeting

May 18 – open house at President Phil’s shop

May 25 - Executive committee meeting at MFS wood shop

June 8 – next regular club meeting at MFS wood shop

June 18-20 AAW symposium, Hartford, Conn.. (Discount if signed up before May 15)

June – August Camp Darkwaters demonstrations (actual dates tbd)

August 14 – summer picnic at home of John and Sandy Coles

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Treasurer's Report - none this month



Library Report – none this month

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## Featured Program –

The program this month was a fascinating demonstration by Keith Holt, who lives in northeastern Maryland and does a unique combination of turning and carving to produce amazingly lifelike



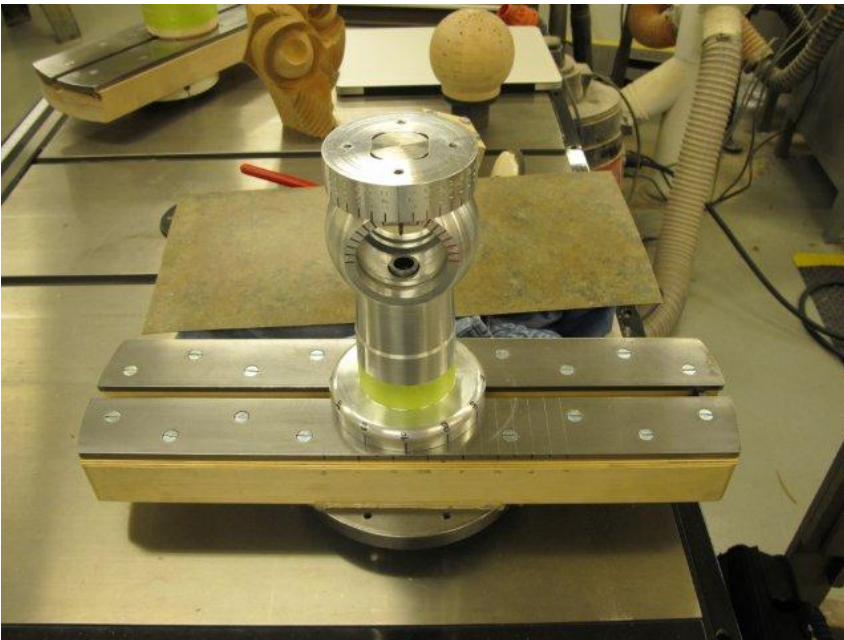
animal masks and 3-axis “meditation” masks, among other creative objects. Keith provided a little background on himself, having had a background in fine arts (pastels) as well as the owner of a gymnastics center for 17 years before moving full time into the creative wood work he now does. Starting out his demo, Keith acknowledged his debt to Mark Sfirri, Trent Bosch and others for sharing their “off-center” knowledge and inspiration with him in the past. Keith described how he tries to use the orientation and natural grain pattern of the wood, along with eccentric movement from multi-axis turning to create both recognizable and unusual “attitudes” in the finished pieces. He generally turns green wood initially, lets the roughed piece dry for a while, then completes the form and sometimes uses a flame to finish the inside and ensure final drying. His tools of choice are a Thompson shallow gouge with a 32-35 degree grind, adapted from Mark Sfirri, the Sorby mini-hollowing hook tool, along with the Oneway “safe centers” which help prevent damage in case of a catch. Other tips included using a white sheet or curtain as a background, with the light source positioned behind the work to create a clearer “ghost image” to judge progress.

His cat masks start out as 4” x 4” blocks, which are rough cut using jigs made from scrap plastic laminate as a guide. The turning work on the lathe is then accomplished, which still represents only about 15% of the total effort involved, with the carving, sanding and finishing representing the remainder. However, for some of the abstract pieces he is experimenting with recently, using the eccentric arm jig, these percentages are reversed.

He then showed how he uses the 3 axis approach on the lathe for the meditation mask blanks, with the profile, sides and back arc representing each axis. He designed a unique arbor which enables him to turn two masks blanks at a time and also maintains balance on the lathe. He marks out the placement of the chin, lips, nose and eyes on the tool rest to guide his progress.



Finally, he demonstrated the “eccentric arm sphere jig” he designed and is patenting, machined from aircraft aluminum and providing the variability of a “freehand Rose Engine” machine. He uses a Master Carver tool with down spiral router bit with this jig, adapted to a Oneway Drill Wizard tool, for some of the carving work. He also uses a strobe light to visually “freeze” a spot on the turning piece to make it easier to observe cutting progress. When Keith asked at the end of the demo if there were any questions, the audience was so blown away by the complexity of his work that they just sat there in stunned admiration.





This program was a lot of fun, and we all appreciated the humor, insights, creativity and fine craftsmanship displayed by our guest, Keith Holt. If you have any comments or suggestions for him as he refines his demo for Hartford next month, please email him at [spinner65@gmail.com](mailto:spinner65@gmail.com).

Additional photos from the meeting are available at our Yahoo site, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DelValWoodturners>.