

Echos From the “BAT” Cave

Baltimore Area Turners

BALTIMORE AREA

TURNERS

May, 2011

Volume 6, Number 5

KIWI SHINE



Graeme Priddle enchanted a packed house with his discussion of New Zealand geography, history and culture and demonstrated his trademark techniques of surface embellishment.

He brought numerous examples of his art, such as the his abalone form (above) and his boat form (below).

Inside this issue:

Graeme Priddle	2
Media Review	4
Other Goodies	5

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Also inside, **Clark Bixler** reviews a BAT library CD-ROM set.

MORE INSIDE





BAT (above) sits enthralled by Graeme Priddle (left)

GRAEME PRIDDLE DEMO

Thomas Edison is famously quoted as saying that genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration. World-renowned, self-proclaimed 'Wood Shaper' Graeme Priddle demonstrated how his art is also a combination of inspiration and perspiration at the May BAT meeting. As he described the intensity of his work, sometimes taking 3 weeks or more of 14 hour days to complete a single work, the proportions of his inspiration and perspiration seemed to approach Edison's. His presentation, though, was more half and half. He began his presentation with a description of his native New Zealand, its geography, varied climates and cultures. He went into detail about the inspiration for his trademark shapes, the boat shape, the beach, the abalone and their intricately detailed embellishment.



Graeme shows one of his Beach-inspired forms.

Speaking with a broken jaw, ("It's OK, we'll box on.") he outlined his career - he was a production turner for 10 years before being awarded a residency at the [Wood Turning Center](#) in Philadelphia. Despite having fellow Kiwi, Rolle Munro, as an associate, he said he became so homesick that he dreamed of a boat to sail home, which provided the inspiration for his boat shape. Over his residency, he experimented with asymmetrical turnings and textures.

He takes inspiration from everything around him. He takes the strong elements from shapes and patterns he's encountered and applies them to wood. As a diver, he encounters coral, sponges, and sea urchins which are represented in his textures. He has a lifetime of experience with New Zealand's native Maori culture and was married to a Maori. The Maori have no written language - their history and culture is passed on orally or through their intricate carvings. Their bodies and faces are ornately tattooed. Every line of the tattoos has meaning about the person's life. The ornamentation in Graeme's work also conveys meaning.



Former BAT President Chris Kuehn and former BAT Vice President Keith Holt admire Graeme's work.

After a break, he demoed his techniques. He went step by step through his work: He roughs out the work on the lathe (this was done ahead of time), then carves. He uses a pneumatic Micro Die Grinder powered by a 16+ CFM compressor with a water trap. He oils the tool at the beginning and end of the day and every 2 hours in between. He uses single cut burs and ball burs which he gets from [Riogrande.com](#). He uses cup cutter

Continued on Page 3



Graeme's big box o' burs.



Using knees for carving vise.



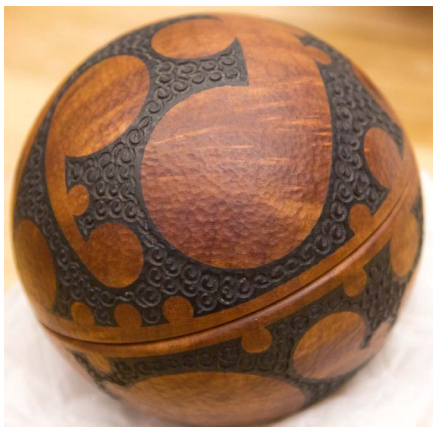
Working fine details.



Cutting lines with burner.
(Enlarge image to see details.)



A hemisphere of Matai with a textured core.



Madrone textured spherical box.

burs to get raised dimples. He uses his knees as a carving vise; at home, he does this seated in a bucket seat from a 1985 Toyota Corolla.

Donning his magnifiers, he demonstrates the fine art of branding. He makes his own brands from nickel-chromium wire to burn patterns in the wood. He has designed a [DIY wood burner](#) made from a battery charger. *[Pay heed to the warning and disclaimer if you follow the hyperlink. The disclaimer also applies to this author and BAT. The link is provided for informational purposes only.]* The wood is not simply burned, it is vaporized, allowing him to shape wood rapidly. He fashioned a spiral brand and burned some spiral impressions. In Maori culture, the spiral symbolizes birth and death.

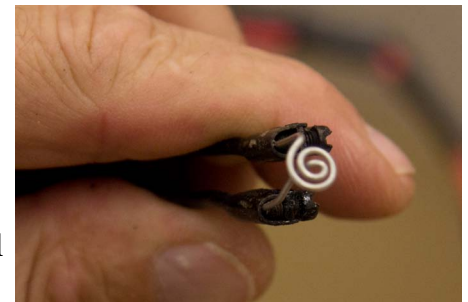
Finally, he demonstrated masking with punch masks and auto detailing tape prior to applying acrylic paint with a medium to firm toothbrush. He recommends Golden brand Carbon Black paint. He also uses Acrylic Molding paste to make raised dots on the surface.

The demo was over all too soon. Graeme was such a font of useful information, we could have gone on for hours. His explanation of his native culture was entertaining and gave greater insight into his marvelous work.

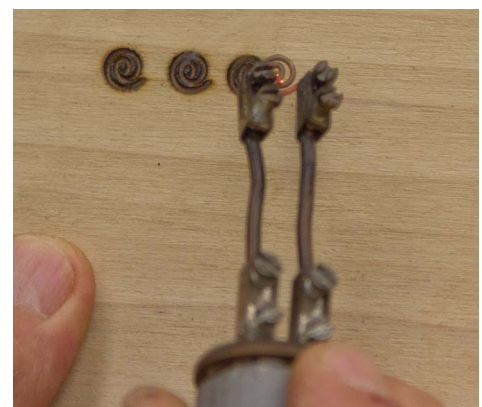
What a fun demo. Thanks, Graeme!



Bending nichrome wire.



Finished spiral brand.



The brand in action.

MEDIA REVIEW: AMERICAN WOODTURNER CDs

by **Clark Bixler**

American Woodturner, the Journal of the American Association of Woodturners

The discs contain the first newsletter, June 1986, and the Journal, from Volume 1, Number 1 through Volume 21, Number 4 of the American Association of Woodturners. There is no Number 5, Volumes 3 or 4.

Viewing these Journals is like a trip in time. It is really fascinating to see the early beginnings of the AAW, through its growing pains, and the development into the well polished organization that it is today. The first volumes are black and white and mostly text. The Fall 2001 edition (Volume 13, Number 3) was the first to be printed in color and allowed readers to see the beauty of the turned wood projects at their best.

Dedicated to Providing Education, Information, and Organization to Those Interested in Woodturning is the slogan of the AAW and the Journal has proven to be a useful tool in accomplishing this goal.

Every volume contains a letter from the association president, letters to the editors, articles about turning projects, updates on club activities and symposia, book reviews, tool tips and tool reviews, and a member's gallery where members submit pictures of their work.

Early editions have articles by members who are now well known in woodturning. David Ellsworth, the first AAW president, Bonnie Klein, Alan Lacer, Ray Key, and Mark Sfirri are just a few names familiar to us from their tools, turnings, books, and videos. There are even submissions to the "tool tips" section of the newsletter from a Maryland turner by the name of David Reed Smith.

Instructional articles cover everything you would need to know to be a woodturner. Planning projects, selecting woods, turning green woods, and drying woods are covered. Included are lessons on both spindle turning and bowl turning. There are also articles on finishing projects from the sanding through applying the final coats in any of the various methods of finishing.

The Journals are filled with projects small and large and ranging in difficulty from easy for begin-

ners to more difficult projects for the experienced turner. The projects included in the Journal range from the common bowls, cups, and saucers to the exotic multi-axis candlesticks and various pieces of artistic turnings. Other projects include the ball and mallets of a croquet set, a gavel, goblets, and boxes with smooth or threaded lids. No matter the skill level, turners can get plenty of project ideas from the magazines.

In conclusion, these discs are full of information and are a great resource to have. In addition to the articles, tips and tricks, and discussions, these discs provide a look at the history of the AAW through the eyes of its members. Sign it out today.

[You will need to insert these discs into the CD-ROM drive on your personal computer. You will also need software to read PDF files. (Adobe Reader is a free download from the internet).]

PHOTO UPGRADE



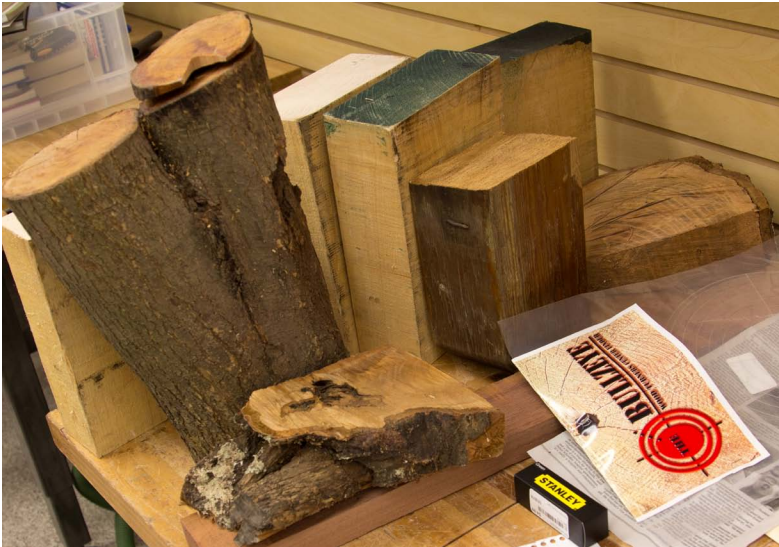
Over the coming months, we will be working out a process to produce higher quality images of Show-and-Tell items. We would like the photos to look more like the one *below* than the one *above*. Please bear with us as we work the kinks out.

(Photo below by Keith Holt)



RAFFLE NEWS

There will be a special separate raffle at the June meeting for the [Nano Revolution](#) hollowing tool (*below*) which has been donated by its creator, [Steve Sherman](#). BAT members are encouraged to scope out Raffle items prior to the meeting.



BAT members contributed a Bradford pear crotch, a birch log, several hunks of S&S Hard Rock Maple and more to the May raffle. Woodcraft donated a Bullseye Center Finder, a Stanley mini Tripod Light, and a Stainless Steel Bottle Stopper. Thanks, all



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:
June 8, 2011 at 6:30 PM

Featured:
Show and Tell



PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

The President's challenge for JUNE will be to turn a small box, threaded or not, with a detailed finial on the lid. Be as creative as possible. Bring it to Show and Tell at the June meeting.

BY-LAWS TO BE SIGNED

BAT By-Laws have will be signed at the June meeting. They are available for viewing at the [BAT website](#).