THE TOOL TABLE

The Newsletter of the Richmond Antique Tool Society

VOLUME 17, NO. 2 WWW.RICHMONDANTIQUETOOLS.COM APRIL 2011

Next meeting
Friday April 8th
Agenda

6:00-7:00 p.m.	**Tool talk & sales**
7:00-7:15 p.m.	**Tool auction**
7:15-7:30 p.m.	**General meeting**
7:30-8:30 p.m.	**"Photographing Tools and Collectibles"**
8:30-10:00 p.m.	**Tool talk & sales**

THE TOOL TABLE is the official publication of the Richmond Antique Tool Society and is published bi-monthly, in January, March, May, June, August and November of each year.

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The President's Plane Talk

Lights, Camera, Action! Well, we may not be on the Big Screen in Hollywood, but we will be taking pictures of your tools and teaching you a few photography techniques. Please join us at our next RATS meeting Friday night April 8th at Pocahontas Middle School. Richard Barton and Henry Scott will be showing you some simple techniques in "shooting your tools" (with a camera). Getting good pictures of your tools and collectibles is important for selling on eBay and for insurance. You can bring in a really top shelf tool and practice your skills in photography. At the end of the presentation, we hope to view a slide show with the pictures you took. We can see the results and you can get some feedback on how well you did. As always, fine food, drinks and fellowship will be available. Plus, we will have tool sales and our short tool auction prior to the general meeting.

Sadly, another longtime member of our club, Edward Nuckols, has passed. You may remember he and his wife attended a meeting last year after Edward had a yearlong recovery from his tractor accident.

Our last meeting, February 11th, featured the woodworking skills of Colonial Williamsburg furniture maker, Kaare Loftheim. Kaare demonstrated the different styles of "ball and claw" feet and their carving techniques to a packed bunch of RATS. His PowerPoint presentation featured other furniture reproductions made in the cabinetmaker's shop in Williamsburg. Thank you, Kaare, for a fine job in presenting your skills, talents and passion for craftsmanship!

The PATINA tool show and auction in Damascus, Maryland took place on a beautiful day, Saturday March 19th. I saw many RATS running around in the dark buying tools in the parking lot before the sun broke the morning sky. Jim Hollins and I made the annual pilgrimage and my tool sales were great – so much for the recession. Alan Weber, Lee Feller and Anthony Senunias were outside trying to make a buck or two and several PATINA/RATS guys were selling indoors. Jim and I didn't stay for the auction, but Alan (never misses an auction Webber) snatched up his fair share of tools at reasonable prices, he later reported.

So, no need for a comb on Friday night April 8th, just bring a pretty tool and SMILE!

Plane and Simple,

Rick Long

EAIA MEET AT JEFFERSON'S POPLAR FOREST
By Tom Jennings

On March 19, the Early American Industries Association held its regional meeting at Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest just inside Bedford County, VA.

Early expectations of the number of folks attending was about a dozen or so, but I believe the count ended up being about eighty, with three RATS members. Most of the attendees were from Virginia, but there were folks from Pennsylvania, Tennessee, North Carolina, New Jersey and New York. There was some tailgating tool sales until about 10 a.m. when staff guided tours of Poplar Forest began.

There were tours of the house, the basement and the wing. Here Dave Clauss gives a tour of the basement:

It was good to see Dave Clauss again. Dave gave the talk at K.T. Burchett's RATS get-together last April.

Before lunch Brian Coe, Director of Historical Interpretation, Old Salem Museums & Gardens, Winston-Salem, NC demonstrated wooden plane making.

Some of the topics he touched on were the different angles of the iron for use on different woods, the size of the cutting opening, making and tempering irons, and the use of a 'mother plane' to make multiple molding planes.

After a buffet lunch, Vince Fastabend and Dave Clauss opened the restoration workshop up for visits and questions. This was followed by Travis McDonald, Director of Architectural Restoration at Poplar Forest, speaking on the initial construction and restoration of the house and grounds.

The house itself is really amazing. Where Monticello is fully restored and furnished, Poplar Forest is a slow restoration work in progress. Parts of the interior are literally cut-away, showing the different wall

layers. Personally, getting to see the house, and some of the behind the scenes work areas was a real treat.

A few facts about Poplar Forest

- The house is sometimes referred to as "the unknown chapter of Jefferson"
- Construction began in 1806
- Thought to be the first octagonal house in America
- Added the wing of 'offices' in 1814
- Where Monticello was always loud and full of visitors, Poplar Forest was quiet and Jefferson's 'hide-away"; he would visit there about four times a year and stay from two weeks to two months.

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

- MWTCA Tool Meets in Broadway, VA. Contact Vaughn Simmons (540) 432-0617. (Virginia is now Area S; formerly was part of Area P):
    - Joint meeting Areas P and S: Apr 16
    - Joint meeting areas P and S: June 11
    - Area S meet: Nov 12
- Somerset Steam and Gas Pasture Party, Somerset, VA Sept. 9, 10 & 11
- Field Day of the Past, Sept. 16, 17, 18, 2011
- 2011 Chesapeake Bay Annual Buyboat Reunion and 8th Annual Homecoming, Urbanna, VA, August 11-

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The Richmond Antique Tool Society (RATS) is a non-profit organization serving to promote knowledge of and interest in collecting, making and using antique tools. RATS provides a gathering place where members and guests can gain knowledge and understanding about tools and trades from the past and also buy, sell and trade old tools. Regular meetings are held in February, April, June, September, November and December. Membership dues are $10.00 annually. For membership information, contact Dick Levy at ratsmembership1@verizon.net

RATS Calendar 2011

April 8, 2011	RATS Regular meeting	Pocahontas Middle School, 12000 Three Chopt Rd.
June 10, 2011	RATS Regular meeting	Pocahontas Middle School, 12000 Three Chopt Rd.
Sept. 9, 2011	RATS Regular meeting	Pocahontas Middle School, 12000 Three Chopt Rd.
Nov. 4, 2011	RATS Regular meeting	Pocahontas Middle School, 12000 Three Chopt Rd.
Dec. 7, 2011	RATS Gathering	American Legion Hall, Indale Road, Glen Allen

Visit the RATS website!
www.richmondantiquetools.com