



# Newsletter

Volume 9 Issue 1

January 2009

## *AGAINST THE GRAIN*

*By Rollie Johnson*



President Rollie Johnson

Hello again. As President of the CMWA for 2009 I'm looking forward to an exciting year. We have some great projects in the works.

I would like to start the year by thanking Tom Doom for his outstanding work as President of the CMWA for 2008. We had a good year and Tom kept us on a steady path. We all owe him a hearty handshake and thanks for a job well done. Thanks, Tom.

I would also like to thank John Wilson and Kurt Zniewski for their hard work keeping tabs on our activities and expenditures. Scott Randall did a great job keeping us all informed through the pages of our CMWA Newsletter and Darren McKeever did a masterful job of reinventing our website.

Thanks to Tom Homan for securing supplier discounts and keeping after our advertising accounts. Thanks also to Cy Valerius, Jay Eggebrecht, Ron McKeever, and Greedo Goldenstein for their work and support helping make our club a great organization.

Brad Knowles has again done a huge amount of work keeping Wood Expo IV moving forward. Brad also contributes a lot of time and energy to making the CMWA tick. Brad's going to be our VP this year and will step into the President's position for 2010.

This year saw the startup of our new associate group The CMWA Woodturners. Gary Mrozek has been the mastermind behind the turners group and has done an absolute ton of work getting it off the ground and making it a resounding success. One of the great things about the turners group is all the hands-on opportunities for learning the basics of wood turning. Gary, Dick Beumer and Jake Schneider have put in a lot of time and effort to make the Woodturners meetings a great place to spend a Saturday morning.

It takes a lot of dedication from our membership to keep this club moving forward. We have a great group and I'm proud to take the helm.

## **Rollie**

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### **CMWA Online**

Darren McKeever has the Project section of the CMWA website up and running with a new easy-to-use format and a bunch of new stuff to look at. Check it out and add your own projects while you're there.

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### Central Minnesota Woodworker's Association

The CMWA is a group of men and women from around the St. Cloud Minnesota area who share a common interest in the art and business of woodworking. We meet monthly in Sauk Rapids and share information, techniques and topics of interest in the area of woodworking.

- President: Rollie Johnson
- Vice President: Brad Knowles
- Treasurer: Kurt Zniwski
- Secretary: John Wilson
- Board of directors: Albert Keppers  
John Koenig  
Jay Eggebrecht  
Gary Mrozek
- Director of Marketing: Cy Valerius
- Newsletter Editor: Scott Randall
- Website Manager: Darren McKeever

## January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 mtg	22	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

**Next Meeting:** January 21st at 7:00 PM at John Caye's Shop.

**Board Meeting:** January 21st at 6:00 PM at John Caye's Shop.

## January CMWA Meeting

### Steam bending

The January meeting will be held at CMWA member John Caye's shop on Pine Point Road, north of Sartell. The topic for the evening is steam bending wood. John's going to show us how to set up a steam bending system, how to choose the right wood for bending and then he's going to fire up the boiler and bend some wood for us.

### Outreach Program

Our Outreach Program is going to be held during the five weeks starting March 31<sup>st</sup> and finishing up on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Due to scheduling one week will be skipped so the class will still be four weeks just not concurrently.

The project is going to be the tool tote that we built with the first two Outreach groups. The tool tote teaches the basics of reading plans, layout, measurement, cutting to a line with a handsaw, drilling holes for fasteners, glue-up, sanding and possibly finishing, time permitting. It's a very useful project that doesn't require power tools for its construction.

We need volunteers for the program. PLEASE VOLUNTEER. It's really enjoyable working with the kids and our kids really need to learn how to work with their hands.

If you're interested in helping contact Rollie or John Wilson, and thanks.

## December's Pot Luck Extravaganza

As depicted by the photos below, the meeting attendance and the food were great. Some members brought in projects to show the group.



# WOOD EXPO 2009



Brad Knowles

The 2009 Wood Expo and Sales event is only one month away and things are quickly falling into place. You should all have gotten a copy of the poster which covers the event quite thoroughly. The Expo committee has done a great job in putting this event together and now it is time for the rest of the club to lend a hand.

One of the new features of the Expo is the bird house building event. We will be providing material and instruction to kids 11 to 15 years of age, to build a bird house that they can take home. The houses will be precut and ready to assemble. John Wilson has volunteered to head up this event, but he will need help from other club members. Volunteers will be needed to both help cut out the houses and to assist in the assembly at the Expo. If you can help in this capacity, please contact John W.

Another new feature of the show is the club will have its own wood selling booth. We are purchasing 2 pallets of wood from Ferche Millwork and breaking it down into smaller lots for sale to the general public. John Kenning has volunteered to head this event. John will be needing help from other club members to repackaging this lumber into smaller lots. If you can help in this capacity, please see John K.

The wood turners will be having a live demo in their booth under the direction of Gary Mrozek and Dick Beumer. A different turner will be demonstrating each hour. All you turners can contact Gary or Dick to reserve your time slot.

Everyone can participate in the exhibit part of our show. This is our chance to show the public what we are all about. A good exhibit should have projects at all levels of skill. We are not looking for "perfect" projects (I have yet to build something that I didn't think could be improved or done better; we are all our worst critics). If all of our projects were "perfect" or at the advanced level, we would turn away potential members as they would think the club was too advanced for them. Likewise, if all projects were at the beginners level, some potential members would be turned off as some would think it too basic. Our club has something for every level and that is what our exhibit should illustrate. That said, every member should bring something to exhibit; no excuses!

Finally, we will need many hands on the floor the day of the show helping vendors load/unload, marking out booth space, moving chairs and tables, manning the club table, handling door prize drawings, cleaning up, etc. There is work for everyone. If you can't spend the entire day, come for what you can. Set up begins at 7:00 am. See you there!

**Brad Knowles**

# Woodturners Group Activities

## *Empty Bowls*



Connie Orth, coordinator of the Empty Bowls event was the guest speaker at the Woodturners Group meeting, Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. This 8<sup>th</sup> annual Empty Bols event will be Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Paramount Arts Center in downtown St. Cloud from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

This year's proceeds will support the Family Crisis Center of Stearns County and Place of Hope. In addition to the bowls, they welcome any and all handcrafted items, large and small for the silent aution. All CMWA members are included in the invitation to donate. It is not limited to the turning group. Donations need to be submitted by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Contact Gary Mrozek (320)252-2764 or Tom Markman (320)356-9534.

Here are a few event details:

- This year's event will be March 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Paramount Theater.
- There are two types of bowls they need:
- High End Art - generally defined as bowls that would be sold on the silent auction for \$100 or more.
- Community bowls - Everyone who buys a bowl (of soup) gets to pick a bowl off a table. Community table bowls range in quality from "you call that a bowl?" to "very nice". They need about 25 high end bowls for the silent auction and over 1000 bowls for the community tables (obviously not all from the Woodturners).
- They strongly encourage the artist to sign their work no matter which type of bowl they submit. Our wooden bowls will be presented as "Donated by members of the CMWA". It's best if all of the bowls would be food safe, but if they are not, they need to be labeled as such. All donations must be made by March 1<sup>st</sup> for this year's event. Vases and other item are also accepted for either category.

### **Woodturners Group January Meeting:**

To support the Empty Bowls event, the topic of the meeting was turning a bowl, from tree to table. The meeting began with an open forum and demonstration on how to get the best cut for a bowl from a log. The center or pit is always the top consideration; ideally you want to cut through the pit. Knots are second and potential figure and other physical features are considerations as well. A log was then cut with an electric chainsaw. Next, Gary Mrozek demonstrated his center pivot miter sled on his bandsaw to cut this log into a round bowl blank. A 9/32" drill bit was used to drill a hole in the center of the freshly cut surface of the log. This hole mates with a 1/4" adjustable pin on the miter sled to pivot the log around the bandsaw blade (visit [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com) and enter CMWA to see a short video of the miter sled in action).

### Woodturners Group January Meeting (cont.):

From the bandsaw the bowl blank was mounted to the lathe on a screw chuck using the same hole that was drilled for the miter sled. The outside of the bowl was shaped and a tenon formed on the bottom. This tenon is used to “chuck” the bowl when it is reversed to hollow out the inside. With the help of a video camera, a close-up view was displayed on a monitor so everyone could see and ask questions during the process.

Members had been encouraged to bring an extra piece of wood or other items to donate to our first monthly silent auction. This event was a huge success with \$41 collected. The money will be used for our coffee fund. It is hoped that this will become a monthly event with future funds used to add items to the media library and the future purchase of video equipment.

The February Woodturners Group Meeting will be during the CMWA Wood Expo on March 21<sup>st</sup>. The Woodturners will staff a booth where they will be producing bowls and other items for the Empty Bowl event. CMWA members are welcome to stop by and give it a try.



John Caye gives hollowing a bowl a try.



Ken Peterson shares his bowl turning experiences with the group.



Gary Mrozek tests the demo camera which will enable better viewing of demonstrations for all.

Ask someone in the Woodturners group about their directory of members. The directory contains a photo of each member along with a short description of the members interests. A list of suppliers as well as member provided tips and suggestions are included. It's really nice.

## WINTER IN THE WOODSHOP

Historically winter is the time for woodworking and furniture making. Until the mid-eighteenth century America was a largely agrarian society that lived close to the land and was mostly dependant on what could be produced locally. The local furniture maker was most often a farmer who spent his winters making furniture for the local folks. Not only was this a way to while away the long, dark winter, it also turns out this was the best time of year to build furniture.

Most of the wood available to these craftsmen was locally sawn, air-dried lumber that was probably of questionable dryness. Furniture makers would often dry lumber for several years before using it for a project, but the moisture content was often still higher than what we consider optimum today. The result of that lack of consistency is one of the reasons that floating panels, pinned joinery and a host of other techniques came in to being. Wood moves as the seasons change and winter offers the driest weather resulting in wood with the least moisture content. It is relatively easy to accommodate wood that will expand during the moist months, much easier than dealing with wood that will shrink considerably when the weather turns dry.

Wood moisture content is still an important concern today. Our climate controlled environments help keep wood movement to a minimum, but wood will still move and we have to accommodate. Wood that has been stored in a heated shop will have a very low moisture content in the dead of winter since there is virtually no source of moisture for our shop air. The cold, low-moisture outside air expands when it gets heated increasing its ability to hold water, literally pulling the moisture from wherever it can and that often means the wood stored in the area. Keeping this in mind will help determine what type of joinery to use and how to accommodate that expanding wood come summertime.

If the wood is brought into the shop from an unheated storage area it is a good idea to let it acclimate for a few weeks before being milled.

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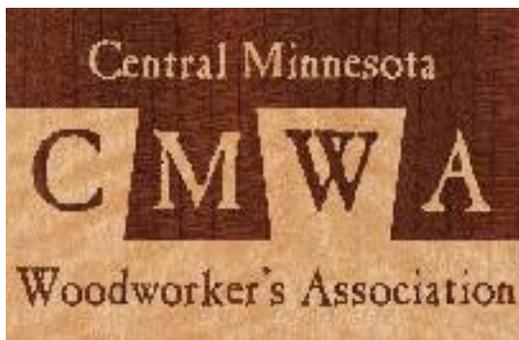
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**Next Meeting**  
**Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00PM**  
**John Caye's Home Shop**

To get to John Caye's shop go about 4 miles north of the Holiday station in Sartell (across the river from the paper mill). You need to be on the west side of the river on Riverside Avenue North which turns into hwy 1. Take a right on Pine Point Road and John's place is about 1/2 mile on the left side. The fire number signs are 4391 and 4392. He has 3 lighted snowmen and a seasons greetings sign out front. John's cell number is 267-6732 if you need directions.

John's driveway is long and only wide enough for one car. There is parking at the end of the driveway near the shop. If this parking area fills up, parking out on the side of Pine Point Road is fine.

If you will need to sit down during the meeting, you should plan on bringing your own chair.

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