

Newsletter

Volume 9 Issue 2

February 2009



President Rollie Johnson

AGAINST THE GRAIN

By Rollie Johnson

The January meeting was a resounding success. Nearly fifty woodworkers enjoyed the steam bending demonstration at CMWA member John Caye's shop north of Sartell. John was assisted by Gary Mrozek. John explained how to choose the appropriate wood, talked about the importance of adequate moisture content in the wood and generally amazed and entertained us with his display of how supple wood can be when properly steamed. Great demo guys! Thanks for all the work setting the demo up and introducing us to the tricks of making curved parts.

Especially heartening was seeing so many members from the early days of the CMWA returning to the fold. Welcome back and it's great to see all of you again.

I travel for Fine Woodworking representing them at several Woodworking Show events each year. A trend that I am starting to notice is the increasing number of folks nearing retirement that are becoming seriously interested in woodworking. This doesn't surprise me and I find it a good omen for our hobby. Woodworking is a pastime or profession that can be accomplished in a surprising small shop and can be practiced at any level from basic to complex with a relatively small assortment of tools and reasonable investment in money. Now I'm not trying to say that it's a cheap hobby especially if a person happens to be, like me, a tool junkie, but with a good idea of the type of projects a person wants to construct it can be significantly less expensive than a year's dues at an average golf/country club. And once all of the equipment is purchased and the shop set up the overhead costs become minimal and although wood can be expensive per board foot it's still pretty reasonable when one considers the end results (provided your project is successful and the wood doesn't end up kindling like a few of my furniture projects have). If you know of someone who has shown an interest in woodworking invite them to the next meeting, we might be able to convince them that woodworking is a good alternative to golfing, or at least a good pastime for the months when the greens are white.

We have some great meeting demonstrations coming up but we still need ideas for five month's programs. Let us know what demos you would be interested in and we'll see if we can arrange a demonstration. If you have a skill that you would like to share with the group we would be more than happy to help put a program together.

Rollie



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.

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February 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 mtg	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Next Meeting: February 18th at 7:00 PM at Sauk Rapids - Rice Middle School Shop.

Board Meeting: February 18th at 6:00 PM at Coborn's Deli, Sauk Rapids.

February CMWA Meeting

Jointers

Gary Mrozek will demonstrate how to set up and use a jointer to achieve those perfectly straight boards. He's also going to demonstrate changing blades, which can be a real challenge with a straight knife jointer.

Glenn Street and Rollie Johnson will talk about insert cutterheads for jointers and planers. They will compare spiral and helical and explain how they cut and show some examples of how the helical shearing cut results in minimal tear-out even in typically hard to plane wood such as curly or figured maple.

Outreach Program

The official dates of the Outreach Program this Spring are March 31st, April 7th, April 21st, and April 28th. There will be no April 14th class due to a time conflict with the school. The classes start for the kids at 7:00 pm and wrap up around 8:30. Volunteer should be at the school by 6:45 to help get set up for the class. We have seven volunteers to date: Tom Doom, Fred Knaak, Rollie Johnson, Darren McKeever, Eddie Och, Glenn Street, and John Wilson. Thanks guys.

We still need two more volunteers and if anyone would like to simply help out a couple of nights that would be appreciated also. Our goal is one instructor per two students and we plan for 18 -20 students. To volunteer call Rollie Johnson at 320-968-7194, John Wilson at 320-25- or Tom Doom at 320-845-4214.



Woodworking Events:

Upcoming CMWA meeting programs:

<i>Month</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Presenters</i>
February	Setting up jointer knives Explanation of helical vs. spiral	Gary Mrozek Glenn Street/ Rollie Johnson
March	Vacuum bagging for wood	Dave Blenkush
April	Photograph your projects	Rollie Johnson
May	Drawknives, spokeshaves, inshaves & Travishers Shaping wood with hand tools	TBA

Outreach Program: March 31st to April 28. See Sheet 2 for details.

Wood Expo 2009: February 21st . St. Cloud National Guard Armory.

Woodturners Group: The Woodturners meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Contact Gary Mrozek at 252-2764.

Minnesota Woodworkers Guild:

The Minnesota Woodworkers Guild 's February meeting might be one to attend if you have questions on spray finishing.

Tuesday February 17, 2009: Spray Finishing Techniques and Equipment presented by John Zoia, 3M.

Location: Edina High School Community Room, 6754 Valley View Rd, Edina (Enter at Door 7, NW side, and go up stairs.)

Time: 7 - 9 p.m.

Description: Learn from an expert about the do's and dont's of spray finishing."

The Northern Woods Show in the Southdale center is on April 24th-26th. We have had some CMWA membership participation in the show in the past. Visit their website for details: minnesotawoodworkersguild.com . If you don't plan to exhibit, its great one to attend. The work presented is really quite good. You can view the winning entries (13 categories) for previous shows by visiting their website.



A few years ago, there were about a half dozen CMWA members that gathered at John Skalla's garage and built Adirondack chairs. It took us four Saturday mornings and a lot of coffee and doughnuts to complete them.

We all enjoyed building the chairs as a group. I use mine nearly every day. I sit out in our porch waiting for my carpool ride while drinking a cup of coffee. The picture to the left is the chair that we built.

Around the same time, Cindy Johnson put on a shop apron seminar in her home. She gathered a half dozen sewing machines and some professional help. The three photos below are of that event. It was fun to see George in the biker shirt and tattoo running the sewing machine.



I (Scott Randall) am going to be hosting a chair building project in my home in March. At this time it is scheduled for the last three Saturdays in March, from 9AM to 1 PM. We will be making a replica of the chair shown to the left (a Gustav Stickley arm chair).

I Toured the Purcell-Cutts home in Minneapolis about 5 years ago and this chair was on display in the living room. I fell in love with it then and vowed to make one for myself. It's five years later and I'm finally going to do it.

I will have to limit the number of people in the group to five so be sure to let me know as soon as you know that you would like to attend. I expect it to fill up very fast. You can reach me at 259-4893 for details. If I don't have five people by the next meeting, I will pass around a sign up slip at that time.

Woodturners Group Activities

Segmented Bowls All Day Workshop



Albert Keppers and Chuck Hise sand their rings.



The layers are glued and clamped.

Woodturners Workshop

Ten members participated in the Woodturners Group first day long workshop on Saturday, January 24th at the home of Gary Mrozek. The hands-on workshop ran from 9:00AM to 5:00PM and focused on a specific segmented bowl. All materials, tools and supplies were provided including snacks, beverages and lunch. This pilot activity was held to determine the interest and logistics to plan future workshops. Based on the attendance and enthusiasm, we are sure to see similar workshops in the months and years to come. Also, donations for the Empty Bowl event can be dropped off at the woodturners booth at the Expo.



Bill Larsen cuts his segments on the saw.



Tom Markman shapes his bowl.

WOOD EXPO 2009



The 2009 Wood Expo is almost here; *Saturday Feb 21st *We need club members to help during the show to set up, tear down, assist vendors, sign up new members, and a host of other things. Set up starts at 7:00 and we should be out of there by 5:00. Please help if you can.

We still have some unsold booths, so if you know anyone that could use one, we can probably accommodate them.

There are a couple of changes from last year that you should be aware of. First of all, we will not have a food vendor on-site this year. We will have box lunches available for vendors and club members that wish to purchase them but nothing available for the general public. Second, we have changed the policy for door prizes in that you must be present to win (even the "Grand Prize"). As always, CMWA members and their immediate family are ineligible; sorry.

See you there •

Brad Knowles

January Meeting: Steam Bending

John Caye was this month's speaker, with the assistance of Gary Mrozek. John's presentation was Steam Bending. Steam bending lumber is much better than cutting out curves with a band saw because doing so maintains grain strength the entire length of the stock. Steam bending is ideal for chair backs and legs, both of which can often receive a lot of stresses during use.

First and most important, you must use ABS plastic conduit to make your steamer. A six inch diameter piece of conduit, about four feet long, may suffice for most projects. Avoid using PVC since it can't withstand the kind of heat associated with steam, and will flatten out to a pancake during use. Build a small rack to fit inside of the conduit to keep the stock off the bottom and about a half inch or so apart to get good circulation of the steam.

John says you need to maintain a temperature of between 200 and 212 degrees inside the conduit to do the job, and you'll need to keep your stock in the cooker for 1 hour for each inch of thickness. Use green wood if you can, since high moisture wood is best. Kiln dried lumber takes longer.

Lumber contains Lignin, and it's this Lignin that needs to be heated to plasticize it to make the wood flexible without breaking when it's bent.

To bend wood, you need to use a form to bend it around and clamp it in place to dry it. A jig utilizing a metal strap works best to bend your stock around the form while clamping it at about six inch intervals as you use the strap to bring the wood around the form, doing so will cause the wood to compress at the inside of the bend radius rather than stretch at the outside of the radius, which can lead to failure when bend a sharper radius. Don't let your wood stretch. Use a strap jig instead (Continued on page 7).



John Caye discussing steam bending oak.

Gary Mrozek showed the group his steamer, which was made of 6" ABS conduit, with a cap on one end with a brass fitting for the steam supply, and a loose fitting plug for the other end. He used fibreglas pipe insulation around it.

If you're serious about learning to bend wood, Lee Valley & Veritas's Web Site has a down-loadable thirty page booklet of steam bending.

If you're seeing stains on you wood upon removing it from the steamer, you can get something called Oxalic Acid from the drug store, mix it with water, and rinse the stains off. Enjoy your steam bending!

SPRING IS NEAR

It's still frigid and the snow is deep but before we know it Spring will be here and now is a good time to stage a preemptive strike against the workshop moisture problems we face in our climate of extremes.

Rust on steel becomes a fact of life if your shop, like mine, happens to have a concrete floor that isn't insulated or heated. When we get those first warm spring breezes wafting through our shops they will be happy to condense their burden of moisture on any cool object, which is usually our shop floors and cast-iron or steel tools.

A good coat of wax can greatly reduce surface rust on our saw table tops but it won't do much for the internal workings. A well placed fan circulating that warm spring air will help keep condensation at bay and warm up our tools, supplies and shop floor at the same time.

If the moisture problem is severe or it's a problem circulating air sufficiently put a dehumidifier in the middle of the shop and let it run until the temperatures are equalized.

Your tools will thank you!

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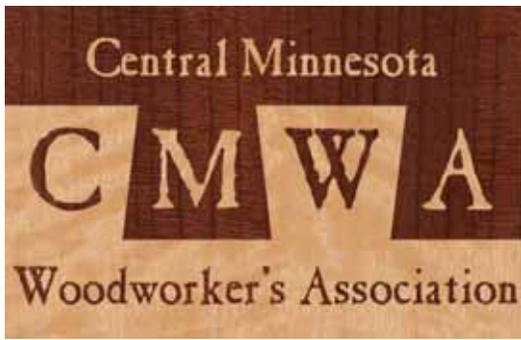
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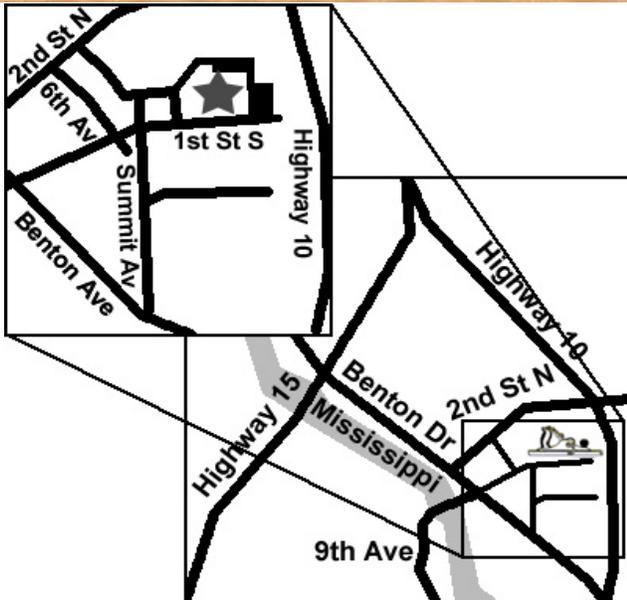
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