

# Newsletter

Volume 10 Issue 2

February 2010

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 and/or woodturning. We meet monthly and share information, techniques and topics of interest in the area of woodworking and/or woodturning.

Visit us at:

[www.thecmwa.com](http://www.thecmwa.com)

## Offcuts... by Brad Knowles

All club positions have been filled for 2010, except the VP slot. Lyle Knopp volunteered for the open at-large seat. Scott Randall agreed to take over the membership duties and John Caye has agreed to lead the outreach program. Thanks for stepping forward.

Your board met a few weeks ago to work on issues facing the club. If you haven't noticed, we seem to have outgrown our present meeting place. Last month we had more people standing than sitting. If anyone has any ideas on an alternate meeting place, let

me or one of the board members know.

The CMWA is chartered as a nonprofit organization but not with charitable (501c3) status. Currently, donations to the club can not be treated as charitable deductions for tax purposes by the donor. The board will be trying to amend the bylaws to include 501c3 status. Also the bylaws need to be amended to include the woodturning subgroup. You will be hearing more about this as the year progresses.

Meeting topics for 2010 were tentatively selected and scheduled. Next month's topic can

be found on page seven of this newsletter.

This month we have the privilege to host Mike Siemsen and his Hand Tool Olympics (see article on page seven). Everyone that has participated or attended his Olympics has had great praise for the event. Here's what Chris Schwartz (editor of Popular Woodworking and Woodworking magazines) had to say. "The Hand Tool Olympics were an absolute blast...Mike is an incredible instructor. He is incredibly skilled, practical, fast and funny." Don't miss it!

## Congratulations

The "box elder bowl" that Brad Knowles turned earned 2nd at the 10th Annual Juried Art Competition and Exhibition in the category of 3-D Art.

His bowl is displayed in the Paramount Visual Arts Center Lobby through Feb. 8th.



## 2010 CMWA Officers

President:	Brad Knowles
Vice President:	Unfilled
Treasurer:	Kurt Zniewski
Secretary:	Bill Reiner
Board of Directors:	Rollie Johnson Lyle Knopp
Membership:	Scott Randall
Marketing Director:	Cy Valerius
Newsletter Editor:	Glenn Street
Website Manager:	Darren McKeever
Woodturners' Liaison:	Gary Mrozek

## Membership Information

Dues: \$30  
Mail to: CMWA  
PO Box 1955  
St. Cloud, MN 56302-1955

### Benefits:

- Informational monthly program including seminars, guest speakers, demonstrations and hands-on sessions
- Instructive monthly newsletters
- Card entitling you to discounts at the following suppliers: Acme Tools, Youngblood Lumber, Renneberg Lumber...

Current Membership: 86

## Welcome New Members!

Matt Hegg of Buffalo, MN.

Doug Konz of Albany, MN.

Joshua Mumme of Sartell, MN.

Nadine Nelson of Sauk Rapids, MN.

## Woodworkers' January Meeting (gs)



As shown above, the January meeting was a full house (~60). Several guests introduced themselves or were introduced by CMWA members who had invited them.

The club thanks Gary Mrozek, John Caye, Tom Homan and Kurt Zniewski for contributing items for the silent auction that raised \$55.

Two new board members at-large, Lyle Knopp and Rollie Johnson, were approved, and Bill Reiner offered to fill the vacant secretary's position, while Gary Mrozek will serve as the woodturners' liaison. Only one position (vice-president) remains unfilled. Please contact Brad Knowles if you are willing to spend a few hours a month serving in this role.

Lenny Merdan showed a couple bowls and an inlaid panel he made (lower left photo). Eldred Schreifels passed around his pivoted oak clock which a few meeting attendees are examining in the lower right photo.

The meeting topic was making shaded inlays and stringing which Brad Knowles is shown presenting above.



## Shaded Inlays – Brad Knowles' Presentation (gs)



### What is an Inlay?

Inlays are  $\sim 1/32$ " to  $1/16$ " thick decorative veneer pieces that are glued into shape-matched  $1/32$ " to  $1/16$ " recessions in a recipient piece of wood. It is common for the inlays to contrast with the recipient wood. After the inlays are glued in place, they can be scraped, planed and/or sanded flush with the recipient wood.

The picture above from the Philadelphia Furniture Workshop website shows the distinctive shaded inlays common to furniture built during the "Federal Period" from approximately 1780 to 1820. Note that each ray is darker on one end or side; hence the name "shaded inlays."

Brad Knowles shared his techniques for making these fan shaped inlays. He recommended that veneer be at least  $1/32$ " thick. He

went on to describe two jigs (bottom left photo) he built to assist in cutting the rays and laying them out in a fan pattern.

Brad starts by cutting light colored rectangular veneer strips  $\sim 25\%$  longer and wider than needed for each ray. He shades ("burns") each strip by placing its edge or end into clean  $>400^\circ$  F sand for 10 to 20 seconds.

All rays are cut to the same angle

and matched so that they have the same amount of shading before laying them out on tape in a fan pattern. He uses a compass to outline the perimeter of the fan to guide him as he arcs the end of each ray with a carving gouge. Ebonized inlay pieces are cut with the same gouge to cap the end of each ray as shown below.

The inlay is glued into the recipient wood, normally with "Hide Glue" that fills gaps and can be worked if heated.



### Ebonizing Wood

The ray caps were "ebonized" by staining them with a vinegar, steel wool solution. Brad places a piece of steel wool in a half cup of vinegar overnight to produce a yellow staining solution that blackens the veneer.

## Stringing—Brad Knowles' Presentation (gs)

Federal Period furniture makers often inlay thin strips of solid wood or veneer. These strips, known as "strings," can be straight or curved.

**Making Strings** Brad described making a 1/16" wide string by gluing three thin layers of veneer together. Once glued together he cut strings from the lamination such that the strings would be proud of the recipient wood's surface when inserted into the slot.

Strings can also be cut from solid

wood.

**Making Slots** The 1/16" wide and 1/16" deep slots can be made in the recipient wood by hand with a Stanley #66 or Lie-Neilsen beading tool, or a knife cutting each side of the slot followed by a 1/16" chisel to clean the slot. You could also make your own 1/16" wide scratch tool.

Alternatively, a slot can be made with a 1/16" bit in a Dremel™ with a 335-01 Plunge Router Attachment. The hard-to-find 1/16" Dremel™ bit

can be found through a CNC bit distributor.

**Gluing and Finishing** Brad oriented his string so that the edge showing the three veneer layers was visible. He suggested smearing glue in the slot with a toothpick. Start pressing the string into the slot at one end and steadily work the rest of the stringing into the slot. Once the glue is dry, use a card scraper to make the inlay flush with the recipient wood.

### Important Tip

The string and slot widths must match closely so that the string that starts to swell as soon as it contacts the glue can be pressed into the slot. Narrow slots can make it difficult if not impossible to insert the string.

*"The hard-to-find 1/16" Dremel™ bit can be found through a CNC bit distributor."*

### Wood for Strings

Traditionally holly has been used for white stringing, but it is expensive and difficult to find. Brad has been experimenting with an inexpensive and readily available alternative: Aspen. He has found it to be easy to work with and attractive.

## Woodturners Upcoming Meeting (gm)

Our February 20th, 9 am meeting will be at Dick Beumer's shop (3750 15th Street NE Sauk Rapids (320) 251-7013). The meeting format will be show-and-tell. Bring a recently purchased tool or supply and your thoughts about them. Bring a few items that you've turned: maybe one you like and one you're not so happy with. As a group, we will offer tips and/or suggestions.

If you're having problems with a tool or technique, Dick's new Oneway 2436 will be ready to tackle the issues. This meeting will begin a series on design. Throughout this year we will have demonstrations on a variety of embellishments to enhance your turned



### Cancelled

The January Woodturners' meeting was officially cancelled because of icy roads. But a few hardy souls showed up anyway for coffee, doughnuts and camaraderie, and to see Dick turn a lidded box, as shown above.

## Article Review (gs)

Everyone Needs a Moisture Meter by Roland Johnson

Fine Woodworking, February 2010, page 64.

In the most recent issue of Fine Woodworking, Rollie authored an article on pinless moisture meters.

The primary use of a moisture meter for amateur woodworkers appears to be to ensure that the moisture content (MC) is the same in all pieces of wood being used for a project. As Rollie pointed out at one of our past CMWA meetings and in this article, if the MC is different in the pieces of wood to be used in a project we risk warped panels, cracked table tops, delaminated glue-ups and split joints.

His article reviewed pinless moisture meters under \$200. Rollie favored the Ligno-Scanner D as shown to the right. He rated a second meter, Electrophysics CT12, as the best value. The Ligno-Scanner D goes for about \$200 while the Electrophysics CT12 is listed at \$112.

### Pin or Pinless?

Pinless seems to be the obvious choice for amateur woodworkers. There are fewer hassles going pinless. You don't need to worry about damaging the wood or the pins. Pinless meters are reasonably priced and accurate. According to Rollie, the only advantage of a pin moisture meter is being able to distinguish between regional MC differences within a piece of wood; something most of us will probably never do.

***“His article reviewed pinless moisture meters under \$200.***

***Rollie favored the Ligno-Scanner D as shown to the right.”***



Rollie included an interesting discussion on how to determine whether your wood has reached an equilibrium moisture content (EMC) level. Wood will always seek this EMC for a given room temperature and relative humidity. You can look up this EMC off a chart at [Finewoodworking.com/extras](http://Finewoodworking.com/extras). You can then compare the current MC of your wood to the MC it will eventually equilibrate to at your shop's temperature and humidity level.

While this was interesting, it seems the most practical use of a moisture meter is to make sure all project pieces have the same MC.

***“The only difference between a good woodworker and a bad woodworker is that the good woodworker knows how to fix his mistakes.”***

### How Pinless Meters Work.

In his article, Rollie indicated that the pinless meters emit a radio-frequency that enters the wood. Some of this signal gets reflected back to the meter. The strength of the returning signal depends on the wood's density and moisture content.

Since its reading is affected by both wood density and moisture content, the user must enter the density of the wood in the meter. The meter subtracts this portion of the signal from the total signal, leaving the portion of the signal that is due to moisture content.

Some meters require that you use a chart to look up a corrected MC based on the wood being tested.

## Router Table Power Switch (gs)

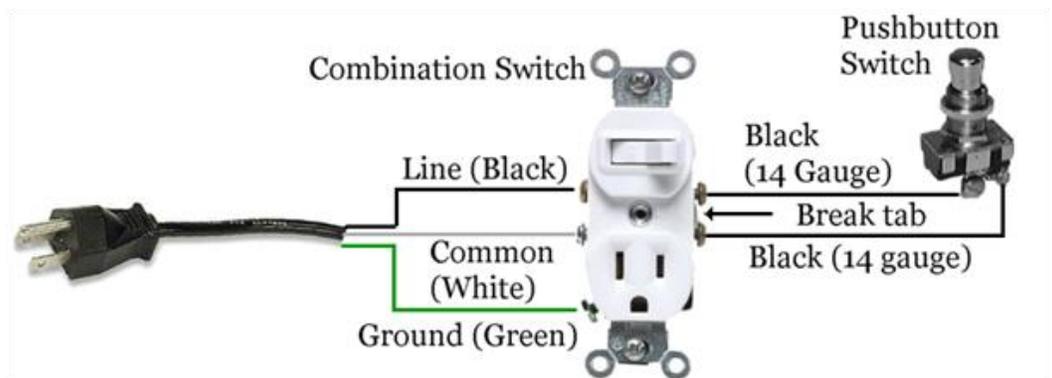
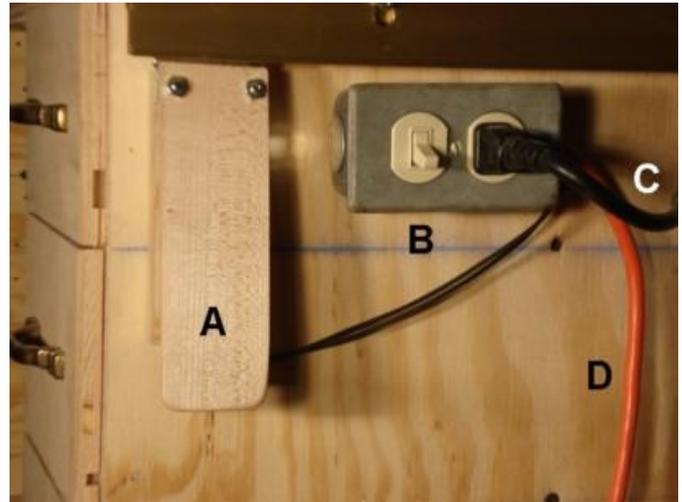
It is safer to have a large, readily accessible target when switching power tools on and off. The power switch of a router tucked beneath a table top is notoriously difficult to locate. This article describes a 15 amp paddle switch added to a router table to alleviate this problem. The hinged paddle switch shown to the near right can be any size or shape and mounted in any convenient location on the router table such as that shown to the far right.

Once the hinged paddle switch is made, it is just a matter of wiring the circuit as shown below. Two switches in series improves safety by allowing all power to the table to be shut off with the combination switch, such as when changing bits. *Be sure to break the tab off the right of the combination switch.* The push-on/push-off 15 amp switch (Selecta SS224-BG) can be purchased at [galesburgelectric.com](http://galesburgelectric.com).

Plug the power cord into an outlet. Plug the router into the combination switch outlet. Turn the

combination switch on and tap the paddle switch with a free knee or hand. Happy and safe routing.

*Paddle switch (A), wired to a combination switch (B), into which the router's power cable (C) is plugged. The 14 gauge cord (D) supplies power to the router table.*



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### Upcoming Events

- February 17, Wednesday, 7 pm, CMWA Monthly Meeting (Hand Tool Olympics), Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School.
- February 20, Saturday, 9 am, Woodturners' Monthly Meeting (Show-and-Tell), Dick Beumer's.
- March 13, Saturday, 9 am—3:30 pm, CMWA Wood Expo and Sale, National Guard Armory, 1710 8th Street North, St. Cloud.
- March 21, Sunday, Empty Bowls Fundraiser, Paramount Arts Center, W. St. Germain, St. Cloud.



# Hand Tool Olympics (bk)

Come cheer on or jeer your friends as they compete in the Hand Tool Olympics or join a team yourself and compete. They are being held Wednesday, February 17 at the 7 pm CMWA meeting, Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School! It is a friendly competition to see which team can most quickly and accurately use **hand tools** to saw, joint, drill, dovetail and tenon wood. Participants will be assigned to a team and will only compete in one event. The fastest and most accurate team wins.

## Its History

At the Woodworking In America (WIA) Conference in St. Charles, IL last summer, Mike of Mike Siemsen's School of Woodworking conducted a Woodworking Olympics for attendees. It was such a success he was asked to repeat it at the WIA Conference in Valley Forge, PA in October. Now Mike has agreed to bring this event to Central, MN. Mike and some friends from the Society of American Period Furniture Makers (SAPFM) will be here to conduct our Hand Tool Olympics.

## Olympic Events

- One Meter Dash: Rip a 36" long 1" x 12"
- Shooting Sports: – Joint and plane the 1" x 12"
- Crosscut Extravaganza: Crosscut a 1" x 12"
- Brace Yourself For a Hole in One: Bore a 3/4" hole in a plank
- Pins First or Tails First: Complete a three-pin dovetail joint on 1" x 4" 's
- Greco-Roman Tenons: Produce a 3" long, 3/4" thick tenon on the end of a 2" x 4"

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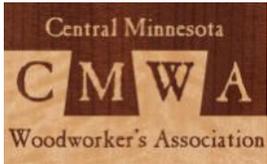
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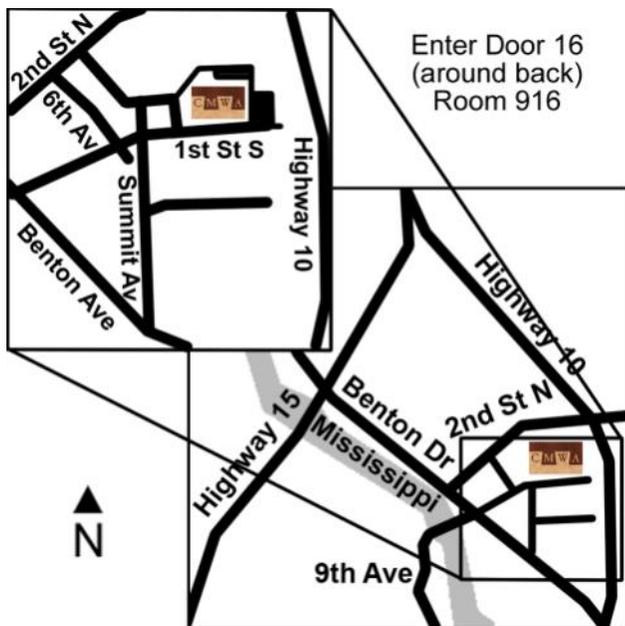


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## Upcoming Meetings

### Woodworkers

Hand Tool Olympics, Wednesday, February 17, 7 pm, Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School. **Bring items for auction to raise money for the club.**



### Woodturners

Show-and-Tell, Saturday, February 20, 9 am, Dick Beumer's, 3750 15th Street NE, Sauk Rapids.

