

Newsletter

Volume 10 Issue 3

March 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

Offcuts... by Brad Knowles

I think most club members would be surprised at what it costs to operate the club for one year. Last year's expenses were \$5,981. Our income was \$4,678 leaving us with a deficit of \$1,303. Last year was unique in that we had no outreach program to support which usually runs close to \$1000 for two sessions. Fortunately we had reserves on hand that allowed us to cover the shortfall. We also increased the dues for this year to \$30, and discontinued the door prize and refresh-

ments. A little belt tightening was in order. As most of you know, our reserve fund was the result of Rollie's work at Fine Woodworking. After tool evaluations were done, Rollie was able to get some manufacturers to donate the tools to the club. These would be sold and the proceeds put into the reserve fund. Rollie has informed us that Fine Woodworking has established its own shop in Connecticut and future tool evaluations will be done out there. Thus we will no longer have this revenue

source to rely on. It is the intent of the club to keep yearly dues to a reasonable level so that members can actually pay for their memberships through club negotiated discounts at tool and material supply houses. It is also the intent of the club to operate "in the black." In the coming year you will see other programs proposed, initiated and/or evaluated for new sources of income. If anyone has some ideas along this line, bring them up to a board member for evaluation.

Turning Bowls for the Empty Bowls Fundraiser

The CMWA Woodturners Group gathered February 20th and produced 42 more wooden bowls for the "Empty Bowls" fundraiser, bringing the total to 115. At the March 21st fundraiser, attendees will pay \$10 (individual) or \$30 (family) and receive one of these handmade bowls, soup, bread, and a beverage, and enjoy a vari-

ety of entertainment. Attendees keep the bowl after the event as a reminder that someone else's bowl is always empty.

Many thanks are extended to Greg Pont for donating wood that was used to make many of the bowls and to the many wood turners for their contributions to a worthy cause.

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



Woodworkers' February Meeting (gs)



Dave Blenkush is shown to the left competing in the planing event. Note the shaving was so thin and uniform it was transparent. Shown below from left to right are participants Bob Kmitch ripping a board, Lenny Merdan drilling a hole and Mike Siemsen working on his dove tails.

February's meeting started with volunteers signing up to help with the Outreach Program. Thank you to the volunteers for their willingness to provide young boys and girls with an opportunity to work with hand tools, a potentially life-changing experience for the kids.

Mike Siemsen and his assistant,

Dean, officiated the Hand Tool Olympics. Two teams of CMWA members, "Pine Pointers" and "Lost Cause," finished in nearly a dead heat. The Pine Pointers (comprised of John Caye, Bob Kmitch, Charlie Meyer, Dave Blenkush and Rollie Johnson) took first, with the Lost Cause (comprised of Lenny Merdan, Al Ernst, Lyle Knopp and Tom Homan)

coming in a close second.

The remainder of the meeting was spent with many taking the opportunity to learn more from Mike and Dean about using hand tools. The rest of the members mingled and shared woodworking tales and information.



International Harvester Tractor (gs)

Farmall 460

At February's meeting, Lenny Merdan brought a replica of a Farmall 460 tractor that he had built.

It was interesting to hear how he built the rear tires. The body of each rear tire was made of two halves, right and left. He did this so that he could diagonally slot each half at a different angle to form the herring-bone tread pattern. After slotting them, the two halves were glued together with the slots staggered. Finally, individual raised treads were glued into each slot.



CMWA 5th Annual Wood Expo and Sale (gs)

What?

Local woodworkers, wood turners and wood carvers will be demonstrating their work.

Demonstrations will also be presented.

When?

Saturday, March 13, 2010

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Where?

St. Cloud National Guard Armory

1710 Veteran's Dr. (8th St. North)

St. Cloud, MN

Schedule

9:30	Wood Carving Demo
10:30	Making Musical Instruments
11:30	Scroll Sawing
1:30-3:00	Building a Birdhouse for Kids (11-15 years old, accompanied by an adult)

Door Prizes

Craftsman Oscillating Sander

Fine Woodworking Magazine Archive Collection DVD

Many other items.

Vendors

Tool Vendors

Lumber Vendors

Including:

- ACME Tool
- Ferche Millwork
- Several Sawmills
- Woodcraft Stores
- Woodworker's Hardware

Admission Fee

Only \$4.00

Woodturners February Meeting (gm)

The Woodturners met Saturday February 20th at the home of Dick Beumer. There were 26 members and guests packing Dick's shop.

Several show and tell items were presented to the group including unique pens from one of our newest members, Nadine Nelson. Nadine is shown below explaining that she primarily uses domestic and exotic woods but also incorporates materials such as cactus, pheasant feathers

and even bowling balls.

Ken Peterson brought his Easy Rougher, a robust tool with a replaceable carbide insert for the cutting edge. Ken stated that after a short learning curve, he really likes how it performs.

Gary Mrozek shared his experience with Waterlox sealer/finisher, a product that has been around since 1916. It's a deep penetration Tung

oil based product that recoats overnight. The sheen can be controlled by the number of coats applied. Gary also showed his Trend Air Pro face shield/dust protector as pictured below. The unit has a two stage filter, powered by a self-contained fan and 8-hour rechargeable battery. Gary stressed that inhaling dust from some domestic and many of the exotic woods can be harmful and even fatal, so personal safety must be taken seriously.



Future Woodturners Meetings

The March meeting will be incorporated into the Wood Expo. The April meeting will be on April 24th at Gary Mrozek's home. Gary will demonstrate a jig that mounts an electric chainsaw to his lathe to rough out logs up to 20" in diameter.

Making a Feather Pen by Nadine Nelson

Overview

When one hears “feather pen” many of us probably think of the precursor to the fountain pen, a quill pen. In the last few years “feather pen” in the world of penturners, means using a “feather blank” to make a pen. Due to the cost of equipment, time, and skills needed to make this type of blank, most penturners buy the feather blanks from pen making supply vendors or directly from artists.

Making feather pen blanks requires using fly tying equipment, a supply of game bird feathers, cyanoacrylate glue (“Superglue”), thread, and casting equipment and materials. The process involves turning wood end plugs for the brass tube (s) from a pen kit, gluing the plugged tube onto a wood spindle aligned on the lathe, tying the feathers to the wood plugs, making a mold out of sheet metal, and then casting the tube so it is encased in a clear poly resin. Once the

resin hardens, the blank needs a couple of quick passes through a band saw to remove the outer part of the end plugs, a drill and punch to remove the inner part of the plug on each end and then it is finally ready for turning, polishing and assembly.

Pheasant feathers were some of the first feathers used in producing the feather pen blanks and since their introduction I have seen grouse, partridge, wild turkey and woodcock feather blanks. Any feathers that are

Making a Feather Pen Blank

As shown to the right, a brass tube, painted black, with ends plugged is being held in a lathe. The lathe acts as a large fly tying vise and enables the tube to be rotated by hand as the feathers are tied on.

(Continued on page 6.)

What is a pen blank?

A pen is basically two tubes threaded or pressed together. These decorative tubes are known as blanks. They are turned and polished, and house the pen mechanism.

used for fishing flies are also being used to make feather blanks. The newest variations of the feather blanks use dyed feathers or feathers in combination with wood.



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Acknowledgment

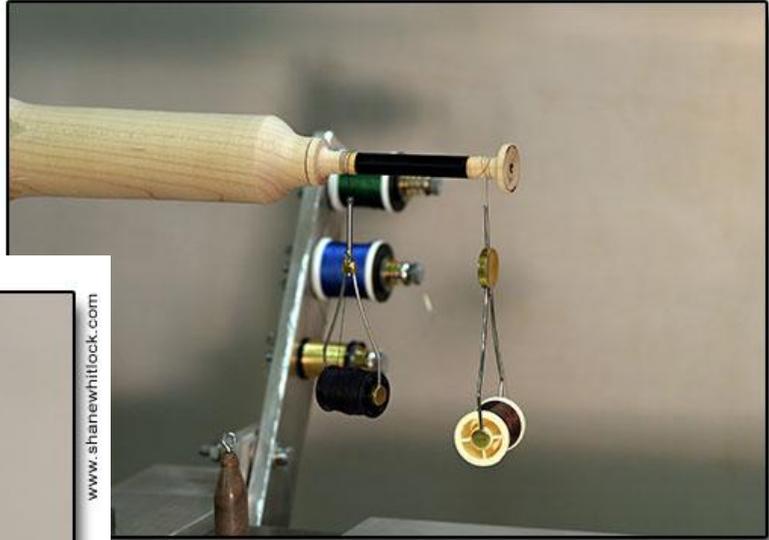
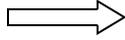
A special thank you to Shane Witlock for allowing me to use his photos of how he makes feather pen blanks. Shane's feather pen, shown to the right, was chosen Pen of the Year by the International Association of Penturners (IAP) for 2007.



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Making a Feather Pen Blank (cont.)

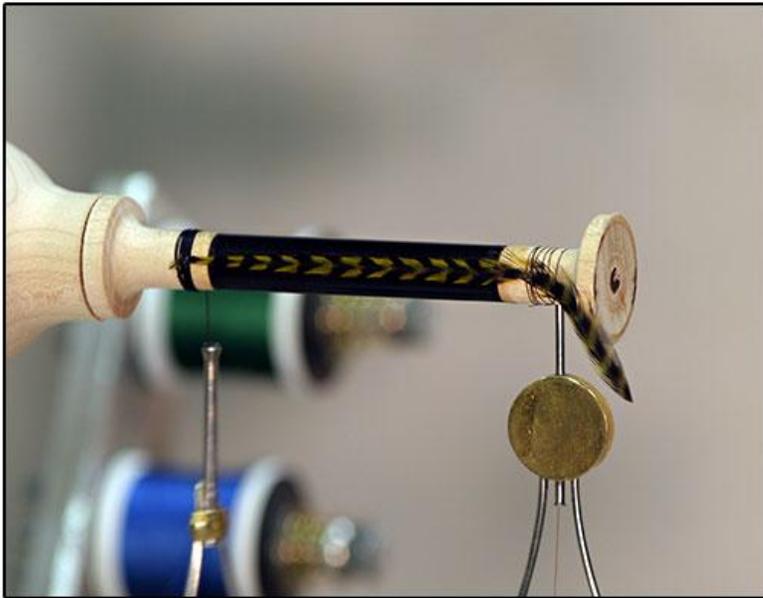
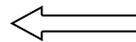
The fly tying bobbins are used to wrap the thread around the feathers. The color of the threads isn't important since they will not become part of the finished blank.



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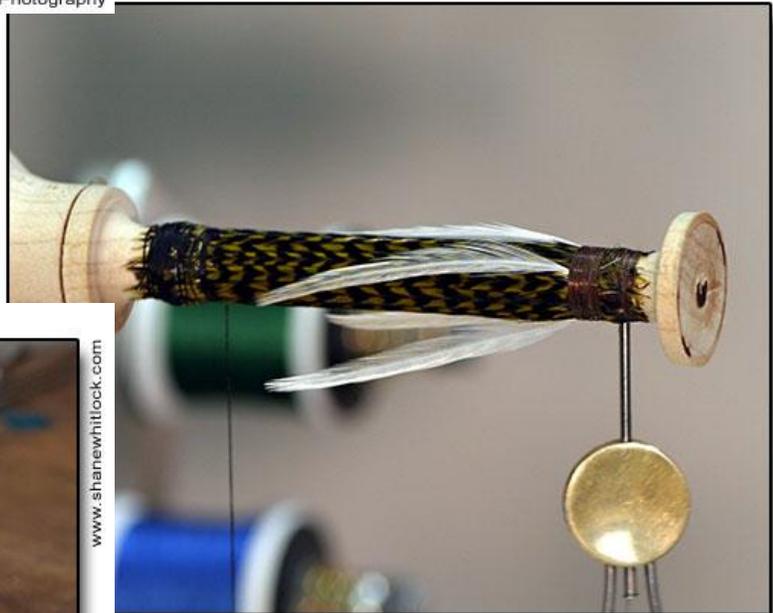
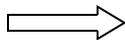
The first feather (dyed Grizzly Heckle in this example) is attached to the plug by wrapping thread three to four times around each end of the feather. The feather is pulled tight before wrapping. This is repeated until the entire tube is covered.



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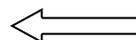
Adding some contrasting white feathers makes the blank more attractive. Only the one end of the white accent feathers are tied. The free end is poked under the dark feathers and glued down with a drop of cyanoacrylate.



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The feather pen blank has been cast in a clear liquid resin and under 40 psi of pressure. The pressure helps force the resin into the feathers, forming a very solid blank for turning.



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Making a Feather Pen Blank (cont.)



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← The blank has been turned, polished, and assembled. More information about casting pen blanks can be found on the IAP website.

Upcoming Events

- March 13, Saturday, 9 am–3 pm, CMWA Wood Expo and Sale, National Guard Armory, 1710 Veteran's Drive/ 8th Street North, St. Cloud.
- March 17, Wednesday, 6:15 pm, CMWA Board Meeting, Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School.
- March 17, Wednesday, 7 pm, CMWA Monthly Meeting (Tool Maintenance and Repair), Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School.
- March 21, Sunday, 10:30 am–6 pm, Empty Bowls Fund-raiser, Paramount Arts Center, 913 West St. Germain Street, St. Cloud.

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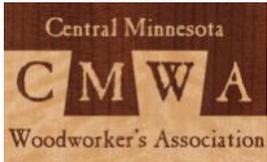
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Upcoming Meetings

Woodworkers

Tool Maintenance and Repair (Dave Oman),
Wednesday, March 17, 7 pm, Sauk Rapids-Rice
Middle School. **Bring items for auction to
raise money for the club.**

Woodturners

Demonstrations at the CMWA 5th Annual Wood
Expo & Sale, Saturday, March 13, 9 am—3 pm, St.
Cloud National Guard Armory, 1710 Veteran's
Drive/8th St. N., St. Cloud, MN.

