



# Newsletter

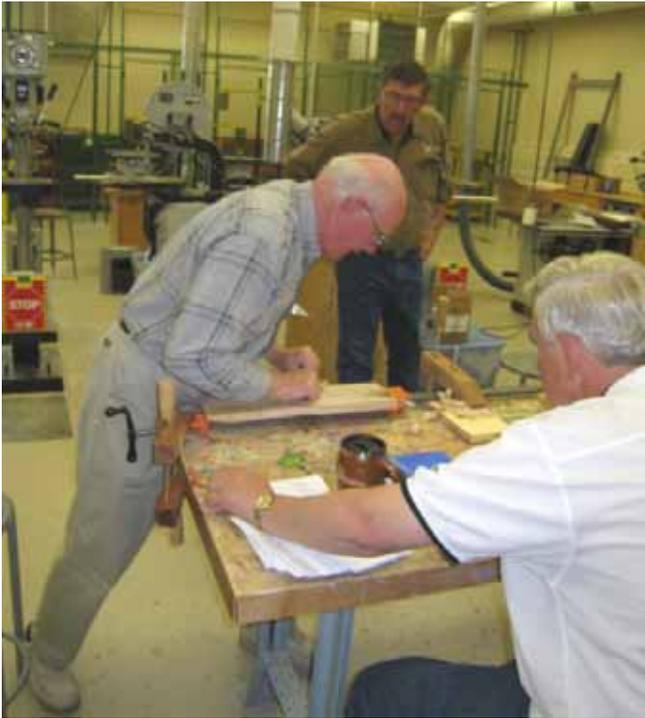
Volume 8 Issue 6

June 2008

The meeting topic for the month of May was

## “SCRAPERS”

Alex Neussendorfer and Rollie Johnson co-presented the use of 3 common scraper tools. Alex was up first and demonstrated the Stanley #80 cabinet scraper.



This tool is a combination of a spokeshave, a card scraper and a scraper plane. The blade is set at a fixed angle and is similar to a card scraper in thickness. The cabinet scraper may be used in place of a belt sander. They work well for removing dried glue, leveling joints or smoothing wild grain or veneers. Some woodworkers hone the cutting edge of the blade to a 45 degree angle while others create a burr on the cutting edge. (See the continuation of this article on creating a burr later in this newsletter.) This is personal preference. You should experiment and see which works best for your situation.

The blade is set by placing the sole of the scraper on a flat surface and loosening the two set screws that hold the blade in place. Press the blade down until it touches the surface all the way along the cutting edge. When the cutting edge of the blade is even with the sole of the scraper, tighten the two set screws. There is a blade camber screw in the center of the scraper body. The depth of cut is set by flexing the blade slightly forward by tightening this screw. When the blade flexes, the cutting edge extends slightly beyond the sole. The more you flex the blade, the deeper the cut will be.

These are great tools but they have short soles and you need to realize that there are two potential pitfalls. The first is that if you work an isolated area too much you may create a dip or depression. The second is that the blade may catch or dig in as the scraper runs off the end of the board. Once you've experienced these phenomena you will quickly learn how to avoid them.

The Stanley #80 runs about \$50 and the blade is around \$6. You can find used ones much cheaper on Ebay. Pick one up and set your belt sander aside. You'll enjoy the quiet therapeutic act of creating shavings.

## June Meeting Notice

Be aware that the June meeting is at Tom Homan's shop in St. Joseph on Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. The meeting topic will be "NAILERS". Please bring a set of safety glasses and your own chair. (See map on last page of newsletter)



**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: Tom Doom
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- Board of directors: Greedo Goldenstein,  
Brad Knowles  
Jay Eggebrecht  
Gary Mrozek
- Director of Marketing: Tom Homan
- Newsletter Editor: Scott Randall
- Website Manager: Darren McKeever

**June 2008**

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
29	30					

**Next Meeting:** June 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at Tom Homan's Shop in St. Joseph.

**Board Meeting:** June 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at Tom Homan's Shop in St. Joseph.

Rollie Johnson has made arrangements with the Hartville Tool Company who will now offer a 20% discount to all CMWA members who purchase from their new catalog. If you have any questions or would like a copy of the catalog, you should contact Rollie at 320-968-7194.

Don't forget that September is our "Bring a friend" meeting. We would like everyone attending the September meeting to bring a guest so that we can expose more woodworkers to all of the great things that we're doing as a group.

Acme Tool has provided us with discount cards other than our standard CMWA card. They offer a 10% discount to CMWA members. New cards were passed out at the May meeting. Any cards that remain after the June meeting will be sent out to individuals with the July newsletter. If you would like yours sooner, call Scott Randall at 320-259-4893 and he will get it out to you.

There we a number of members who felt that video taping the meetings would be beneficial. At this point, we're not sure if we can make them available on the website due to their length, but we're working on it. We may be able to keep them on file in the form of DVD's in our library. The idea of being able to view a great meeting presentation that we missed is something that we all would appreciate.

Please welcome new member Chuck Lateral of Sauk Rapids.

Our monthly door prize winner was Jake Schneider. He took home two nice Rockler gluing clamps.

Here are two more websites that are worth a look if your cruising the net: [thewoodwhisperer.com](http://thewoodwhisperer.com) and [woodweb.com](http://woodweb.com). They both have a great deal of information for the woodworker.

## ***CMWA STUDENT OUTREACH PROGRAM***

The spring student outreach program is now completed. Each of the fourteen students completed a Lasso Lawn Golf Game. We would like to thank Jay Eggebrecht for chairing this Springs program, as well as all of those members who were gracious enough to assist Jay in making this Springs program a great success.



## Scraping Presentation – (Continued from page 1)



Rollie Johnson picked up where Alex left off by bringing out the big gun. The Lie-Nielsen Large Scraping Plane. It is based on the Stanley #112 which was discontinued in 1944. This is a great tool for smoothing large surfaces such as table tops. Its advantage over the card scraper is with the large flat cast iron base which helps maintain a flat surface. The comfortable handle and knob make scraping enjoyable.



Note that the blade is tipped forward on a scraper plane. The bevel side of the blade faces towards the rear or handle.

There are four blade options. There are two standard straight blades available: one at 0.140" and one at 0.125" thick. Two toothed blades are also available: one with 18 teeth and one with 25 teeth. The toothed blades are used for working difficult woods and preparing surfaces for veneering. The blades are made of A2 steel which will take and hold a very fine edge.

The manufacturer recommends honing the blade to a fine edge and not using a burr until you have a feel for how the plane performs. A burr will yield a more aggressive cut.

The blade angle should be in the neighborhood of 15 degrees off vertical. This angle will vary with the wood you're scraping. In order to find the optimum angle for a specific application Rollie recommends dragging the blade by hand until the desired result is achieved. Measure that angle and set the plane accordingly.



Above: A homemade jig to remove the work hardened steel and put a nice square edge on the card scraper. Its just a piece of scrap wood with a file inserted into a saw kerf.

Rollie also provided us with a very informative and inspiring demo on card scrapers. Card scrapers are mostly used for smoothing hardwoods with difficult grain where tear out may occur. They work well for removing ridges from machining or planing and can replace sandpaper in many instances. Rollie warns that if you have a project where you have used both sandpaper and card scrapers, you should sand the entire piece because the two types of surface preparations will finish differently.

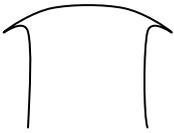
Card scrapers can be very frustrating unless you understand how they actually cut and the behavior of the steel itself. Once you understand, you'll fall in love with them because they do such a nice job. There have been plenty of woodworkers that have said that they just can't get them to work. The secret is in the sharpening process. Fine honing and burnishing will work harden the steel edge. When the edge becomes hardened, it's almost impossible to get a good burr. You will need to remove the work hardened steel with a file. Once a fresh edge has been established you can begin the sharpening process. According to Rollie, the scraper edge will need this "refreshing" after about six reburings.



A typical burnishing tool



A typical set of card scrapers



A card scraper edge after burnishing.

The sharpening process is as follows. Because of its importance, we'll back up and state it one more time. Remove the work hardened edges. Rollie uses the simple jig shown in the bottom left hand corner of sheet 4. Next hone the two large faces using the same type of system that you would use for plane blades. Go ahead and hone the edges. It's a good idea to alternate between the faces and the edges to remove any wire edge that may be created in the honing process.

It's now time to burnish the edges. A burnisher is just a hardened steel rod. Place the card in a vice so that it's standing vertically. Lubricate the burnishing tool with any sharpening lubricant. Many people use kerosene. Using a lubricant prevents the burnisher from tearing the card edge. Run the burnishing tool about a half a dozen times along the edge at 90 degrees. Your goal is to push the corners of the scraper out like a mushroom (See the figure below). Next, tip the burnisher at a slight angle and make 6 more passes. Do the same thing on the other side by tipping the burnisher in the other direction. You are working to get the edge to mushroom out further. The steeper the burnishing angle, the more aggressive the cut. You'll have to experiment to see what angle works best for you. It's the hook that you've created that does the cutting.

It's a good idea to sharpen all edges of the card scraper so that you can just switch edges when one gets dull.

When using a card scraper, keep your hands grounded on either the piece or the table. This gives a greater degree of control than if your hands were touching the scraper only.

When scraping for long periods of time, your fingers can get tired or hot. There are card scraper holders available if this becomes a problem for you, but most people are just fine with the blade only.

## ***TIPS & TRICKS***

If you're having problems with blow out on the bottom face of your boards when you cut them on the table saw, try under scoring them. This is a two pass process. Set the fence at the desired width and then set the blade height about 1/16<sup>th</sup> inch above the table. Run the board through. The kerf on the bottom of the board should be clean and free of chips. Now raise the blade to the appropriate height and run the board through for the second time. This should result in a nice clean cut on both sides of the board.

## ***QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS***

Why is Spanish cedar used in cigar humidors? The species is rich in aromatic oils that enhance the flavor of cigar smoke. It is also esthetically pleasing and decay resistant.

How do I know when a saw blade or router bit is dull? A dull bit cuts more slowly. Look for rough edges, uneven kerf and signs of burning. Pitch build-up can also be another sign of a dull blade.

## *The Marketing Group is settling in.*

The marketing group met at Scott Randall's home in St. Cloud on June 7<sup>th</sup>. It was a beautiful day so we grilled and ate lunch outside. Our business identities were discussed and each of us shared the type of work that we would be doing as well as how we wanted to begin marketing. We were each going to do a few things on our own, but we also had other needs that were common to all of us. We agreed that we needed to create a joint website and get our products listed on Ebay and Etsy. We divided up the research workload and adjourned.

## *The Wood Turners were at it again.*



Dick Beumer gives it a whirl.



A comparison of finishes.



John Skalla applies finish to a bowl.

The June 14<sup>th</sup> gathering of our Wood turners Group was at the shop of Tom Homan. The subject was products and application methods in finishing a bowl. Twenty bowls of various sizes and shapes that came from the same birch tree were used for the demonstration. John Skalla and JoAnn Johnson brought their Jet mini lathes. Fifteen different products were applied including boiled linseed, Tung, almond, walnut and Danish oils as well as shellac, urethane and a variety of waxes. After the product was applied they were staged on a table along with the product container so members could take a closer look and compare them. It was helpful to have all the bowls from the same tree to get a true feel for how each product performed. Finishing products can be an expensive experiment if it does not perform the way you had hoped. This was a great opportunity to “try before you buy”.

Our July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting will be at the shop of Dick Beumer, 3750 15<sup>th</sup> Street NE, Sauk Rapids. We will continue our series on bowl turning with methods of shaping the base or bottom of the bowl. We will demonstrate both “shop built” jam chucks and jaw accessories for your 4-jaw chuck. See the enclosed map for the location of Dick's shop.



**Member's items displayed at the May meeting**

The wood turners group showed off more turned bowls and weed pots as part of their second challenge on the lathe.

Brad Knowles showed off another twisted cherry candle stand.

**Items for Sale:**

Kurt Zinewski has granite sharpening slabs for sale for \$20 each. They are twelve inches square.

Greg Pont has about 1000 board feet of cherry for sale at \$1.30 per board foot.

**July CMWA Meeting:**

The July meeting will be held at Greg Pont's saw mill near Little falls.

**Always practice shop safety!**

Be sure to wear your safety glasses and use guards when possible.

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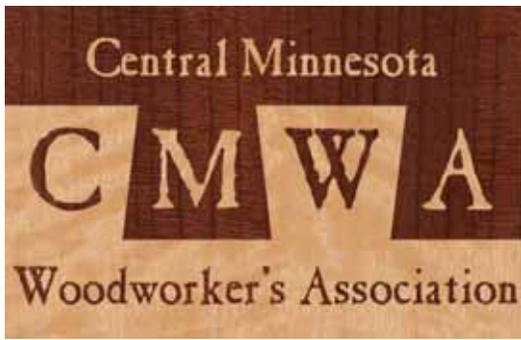
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**Next Meeting**  
**Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM**  
**Tom Homan's shop in St. Joseph**  
**Tom's number is 363-1486**

There is a sheet of maps enclosed showing where Tom Homan's shop is located in St. Joseph for the June 18<sup>th</sup> CMWA meeting.

See the same sheet of maps for the location of Dick Beumer's shop. The July 12<sup>th</sup> wood turner's meeting will be held at Dick's.

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