



Newsletter

Volume 8 Issue 12

December 2008

November's Meeting: "Boxes by Lennie"

Presented by
Lennie Merdan



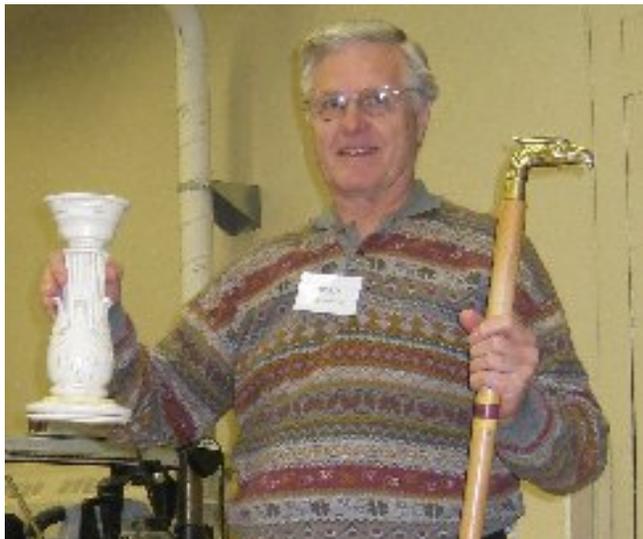
Lenny explains how he made this beautiful box.

Lenny Merten spoke on the subject of Marquetry and Decorative Box making, two of his favorite woodworking hobbies.

He first showed off two framed quilted Marquetry examples of his handiwork. He uses $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick exotic stock cut to 60 degree angles for his quilted wall plaques, using Titebond II glue, and rubber bands or strap clamps for clamping the numerous pieces together while drying.

Lenny uses a sliding miter saw to cut the pieces out. He sands incrementally to 400 grit, and prefers finishing his handiwork with extra virgin Olive Oil, since it won't raise the grain or turn rancid, or else he uses Beeswax mixed with Turpentine.

His sources for exotic wood are Mathew Hall and Rockler. He says he loves combining many different exotic species of wood in the various boxes he makes and sells. He likes to make the top of a box first, and only after it's done does he decide just how to design the box for it. Most of Lenny's boxes are clamped with Irwin Quick-Grip clamps and Rubber Bands. He doesn't recommend using too fine a saw blade, because it can polish the cut too much and glue will not stick as well to the polished edges. He recommends an 80-tooth blade. One of Lenny's best recommendations is to use the best burls or ornate pieces of scrap to make the center of the box cover. It really brings out the Wow in every box. He sells many of his custom made, one-of-a-kind boxes for \$300 to \$400 dollars at Art Fairs.



Thanks for showing and telling Brad!

December's Meeting: "A Holiday Social"

Although election of officers is on the agenda, December will primarily be a social event. See the listing on page 2 for a detailed description of who was nominated at the November meeting.

All members are encouraged to bring their spouse or friend along with a "pot luck" dish to share for the December meeting. Beverages will be provided.



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
- Vice President: Roland Johnson
- Treasurer: Kurt Zniewski
- Secretary: John Wilson
- Board of directors: Gredo Goldenstein,
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Gary Mrozek
- Director of Marketing: Tom Homan
- Newsletter Editor: Scott Randall
- Website Manager: Darren McKeever

December 2008

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Next Meeting: Dec. 17th at 7:00 PM at **Sauk Rapids**
– **Rice Middle School** Map page 4.

Board Meeting: Dec. 17th at 6:00 PM at Coborn's in
Sauk Rapids.

OFFICER NOMINATIONS:

December is officer elections month. Nominations are as follows;
Vice President, Brad Knowles
Director of Marketing, Cy Valerius
Newsletter Editor, No nominations, position still open.
Two "At Large" Board Member seats, Albert Keppers, and John Koenig.
Rollie Johnson will take over the Reigns as our incoming President.

CMWA WOOD EXPO & SALE:

Mark your calendars! The tentative date for the CMWA Wood Expo has been set for February 21st and Brad Knowles, this year's Wood Expo Chairman, is seeking energetic volunteers for the upcoming event. Please let Brad if you can help out. It takes so little of your time to volunteer, and it makes such a difference to the success of the event.

POP TABS FOR THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE:

Tom Homan is collecting pop can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Please Collect your pop tabs and bring them to a future meeting.

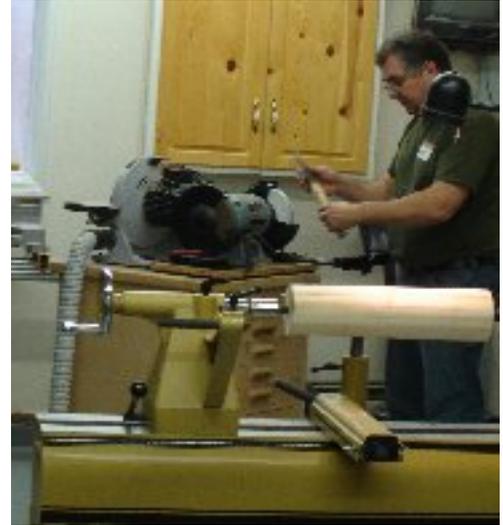
JANUARY MEETING:

The January meeting topic will be "Steam Bending" and will be presented by John Caye.

Photos of the Woodturner's from the November meeting.



Bill Baker is using a skew chisel



Gary demonstrates sharpening techniques.

Woodturners Meeting Recap

The Woodturners Group met on Saturday, November 9, 2008 at 9:00AM. The topic this month was the skew chisel. The skew chisel is a tool that is used to “plane” one’s stock, much the same way a hand plane is used to smooth a board. It is one of the hardest tools to master, where perfecting it can reduce or eliminate sanding. This meeting was dedicated to the planing cut. Future meeting will address the many other uses of the skew chisel.

In the dictionary, skew is defined as to be a slant or set at a slant. The cutting edge of the skew chisel is just that. Typically, the two slants (angles) that make up the skew chisel are approximately 70 degrees from tip to heel and 20 degree side angles to form the cutting edge. The center one-third cutting edge is referred to as the “sweet spot,” where one would be getting the best shearing cut. The tip and heel of the chisel make it a difficult tool to work with. These are two points of the tool where the most frequent catch happens. This was reiterated during the hands-on sessions with example of right way and unintentional...whoops!

The demonstration included basic sharpening of skew chisel. A jig, such as the Oneway Wolverine, insures proper grind angles. The skew chisel is one tool where it is recommended to use a wet stone, oil stone or diamond plate to hone the edge after the angles are established on grinding wheel.

Denny Dahl, one of our newest members, brought his Alan Lacer signature skew chisel. The Laser skew features a radius cutting edge. This gives the user more surface in that “sweet spot” mentioned earlier. Denny invited other members to use his tool during the hands-on session. Rollie Johnson and John Skalla also brought their skew chisels to share. The typical beginner’s set of tools include a flat, straight grind $\frac{3}{4}$ ” skew, some of the tools that John and Rollie shared were made of oval bar stock and with the radius grind.

After the demonstration, three lathes were set up with green box elder. The group had ample opportunity to experiment with different skew chisels from a $\frac{1}{2}$ ” traditional grind to the Allan Laser $1\frac{3}{8}$ ” wide radius grind.



Jim Preusser was our only member to take on the monthly project challenge – a utility item. Jim brought a rolling pin he's working on. Looking good Jim! Maybe next month he'll bring the Christmas cookie he will make with it.

We also had a short talk about the Empty Bowls event in March by Tom Markman, another new member to the group. Tom will be our contact person with the event coordinator. Details are being worked out to have a representative from the event talk to us at our January meeting. It was recommended and is under consideration to have a bowl turning workshop in February. This would consist of anyone who has a portable lathe to bring it along. The afternoon would be spent making bowls for the event. Anyone interested in turning a bowl or learning to turn a bowl is invited to attend.

January Woodturners Meetings – Yes Plural!

The Woodturners Group will meet at 9:00am, January 10th at the home of Gary Mrozek at 1314 West Oakes Drive. Connie North will give a presentation about the Empty Bowls event at the Paramount Theater on March 22nd. All CMWA members and guests are welcome to attend this meeting to learn more about this event and how we as an organization can help.

If you've ever had an interest in making a bowl on a lathe, now is the time. We'll begin a detailed demonstration on the basic turning for the beginner, starting with how best to cut the log. We'll be roughing out bowl blanks mounted on face plates, screw chucks and 4-jaw chucks. We'll discuss the differences between a spindle gouge and a bowl gouge and the different sharpening profiles. There'll be hands-on opportunity to shape the inside and the outside of a bowl and learn different techniques from different members.

The January Challenge Project is "Go Green". Members are encouraged to seek out unique recycling opportunities to make an item out of a previously used or discarded piece of wood. A before picture or sample scrap should accompany your item if possible. Photos will be taken for our website.

Details are being worked out for a second January meeting. This meeting is a segmented turning workshop. The event will run from 9:00am to 4:00pm on Saturday January 22nd at Gary Mrozek's home. This is a hands-on workshop of the basic design and construction of a segmented bowl. There will be a small fee (to be determined) to cover materials, supplies and lunch. Details will be shared at the January 10th meeting. Call Gary at (320) 252-2764 for more details.

Empty Bowls Soup Feed Benefit

When: 11 am - 6 pm March 22.

Where: The Paramount Arts District, 913 St. Germain Street.

What: A benefit where participants can show their support of the work of hundreds of St. Cloud area students and volunteers who have made a new bowl for them. Each attendee receives a handmade bowl, soup, bread and a beverage and there will be a variety of entertainment.

Benefactor bowls are kept as a reminder that someone else's bowl is always empty. All proceeds will go to benefit local agencies who serve those in need. Contact: Connie North, Lutheran Social Service at 654-1090 or scloudcn@lssmn.org.

Cost: \$10 per individual, \$30 for family.

On November 22 Brad Knowles and Jay Eggebrecht attended an all day wood turning demonstration in Minneapolis on turning wood hats. The event was sponsored by the Minnesota Woodturning Association and featured nationally recognized JoHannes Michelsen, the wood turning artisan that developed the turning techniques. He starts with a 50 lb green wood blank 16" in diameter and ends up with a hat weighing 5 oz! Not all of the removed wood ends up as shavings; he recovers a blank suitable for a mirror or picture frame and another blank suitable for a smaller object (which he usually turns into a mini-hat). The hat is turned to a thickness of 3/64 and is no heavier than a felt hat. In addition to showing his turning techniques, he also showed how to size the hat to a persons head, how to distort the round turning into a typical oval, snap brim hat, and how to dry and finish the hat. It was an interesting and enjoyable and learning experience.

Jay is pictured modeling one of the hats below.



FOR SALE:

Tom Homan has a 12-1/2" Delta planer for sale. Tom can be reached at 363-1486.

STUDENT OUTREACH PROGRAM:

We are now seeking a volunteer Chairperson for the Spring 2009 session. It requires four 1-1/2 hour evenings to teach the class at the Sauk Rapids/Rice Middle School. The classes have historically been held on four consecutive Tuesday evenings from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm at our usual middle school woodshop meeting place.

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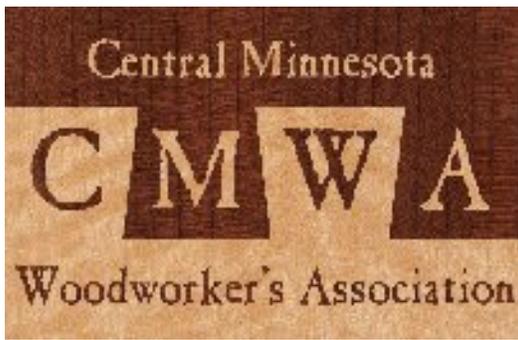
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Next Meeting
Wednesday, November 19th at 7:00PM
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