

Newsletter

Volume 9 Issue 2

February 2009

AGAINST THE GRAIN

By Rollie Johnson



President Rollie Johnson

The February meeting was well attended with over forty folks braving a cold and blustery evening to enjoy the program. I'm very pleased to see the increase in meeting attendance. It's really great to spend an evening with a large group of enthusiastic woodworkers.

Glenn Street gave a short but thorough presentation on the differences between straight insert cutterheads and helical insert cutterheads for planers and jointers. He produced a comprehensive handout explaining helical insert cutterhead concepts, the differences between straight and helical, and had a model on hand that graphically showed how angling the cutter provides a shearing cut for less tearout and better overall cut quality. Glenn recently purchased a Grizzly 8-inch parallelogram jointer and bought the optional Shellix helical insert cutterhead for it.

I gave a short seminar on setting up jointer knives which can be one of the more frustrating maintenance issues in the wood shop.

Glenn's segment of the program was especially appropriate because insert cutterheads eliminate the hassles of changing knives. Insert cutterheads are the wave of the future for planers and jointers (shapers and molders also benefit from insert cutterhead technology). Powermatic has already changed all of their jointers to insert cutterheads and have a 15-inch planer with an insert head. Steel City, Grizzly and others are also joining the fray.

The 2009 Expo was a great success. Brad Knowles will tell you all about it in his newsletter article but I would like to take some space to thank all the CMWA members who worked so hard to make it the success that it was and especially Brad who has put in many, many hours to coordinate and execute a smooth operation that is a real benefit to not only our club members but also to folks in our community. Thanks Brad.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the Expo this year. Early last summer I inadvertently scheduled a much needed vacation that overlapped the Expo date so I had to suffer in sunny California while everyone was having a good time at the Expo. I have next year's tentative date highlighted on my events calendar so I'll be sure to be a part of next year's woodworking bash. Mark your calendars too; it's an event that shouldn't be missed. March 20, 2010.

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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March 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
29	30	31				

Next Meeting: March 18th at 7:00 PM at Sauk Rapids Middle School

Board Meeting: March 18th at 6:00 PM at Coborns

**March CMWA Meeting
Finishing Demo**

The March meeting was to be vacuum bagging for wood, but due to logistical problems, that demo will be moved out to later in the year. The March meeting will feature a presentation by Rob Paulson from Diamond Vogel Paint. Rob will be demonstrating spray finish techniques as well as showing various finishing products. This will be a good demo; don't miss it.

Outreach Program

The official dates of the Outreach Program this Spring are March 31st, April 7th, April 21st, and April 28th. **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.

Silent Auction Fundraiser

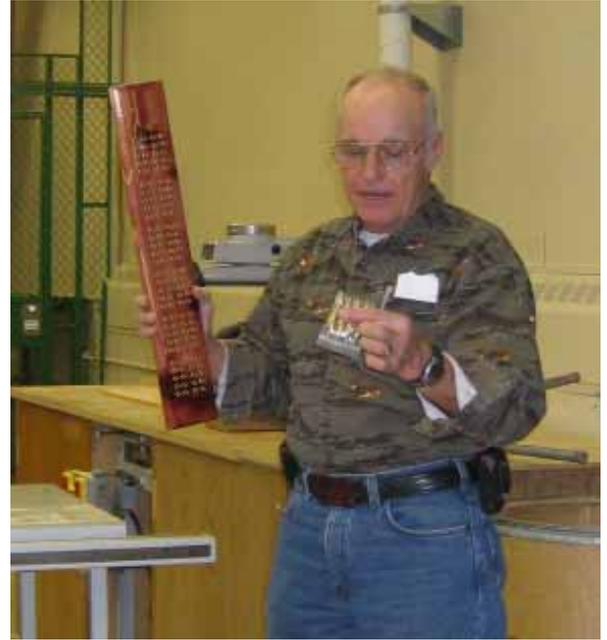
We are planning on starting a monthly silent auction to help raise funds for the club. If you have items around your shop that you would be willing to donate to the club we will auction the items for the benefit of the club. We have a few items that we are going to use to "seed" the program the first month and hopefully we will have enough donated items to keep the auction going in the coming months. Any woodworking related item is welcome: wood, tools, books, etc. Thanks.

The club benefits from our generosity....and your shop gets a little bigger.

February's Show and Tell



Dave Blenkush



Bob Kmitch



Tom Doom

Members experiment with meeting topic inspirations.

It appears that John Caye inspired many of us at the January meeting.

In the photo to the upper left, Dave Blenkush is holding up a heavy chair part that he has steam bent. The photo shows that a thick piece of material can be bent at a very tight radius with the right material selection and preparation.

Tom Doom, lower left photo, shows off a set of snow shoes that he is making.

John Skalla and I are building steam bending forms for the chair building sessions that 4 of the CMWA members will be attending during the month of March. The forms are used on the chair back stretchers.

In the upper right photo, Bob Kmitch talks about his really nice cribbage boards. They make great heirloom gifts.

Please continue to bring your projects in for the show and tell sessions. Everyone loves to see what others are doing.

The February meeting topic was: Jointers and Cutters



Glenn Street

Glenn Street recently purchased a Grizzly jointer. He did a great deal of research on cutter heads before purchasing this expensive piece of equipment and was kind enough to share his findings with the group.

Glenn stated that he looked into 2 types of heads. The Grizzly spiral and the Byrd Helical. The difference was in the cutter orientation. The spiral had the blade edges square with the board and the helical had the blade edges at an angle to the board. A lot like angling a hand plane when pushing it across a board.

Both cutters perform better and are quieter than a straight blade cutter. The helical cutter came out on top for use on highly figured wood, but there is one drawback. The helical cutter leaves fine furrows in the wood. The good news is that they are easily removed with a fine sander. In the end, I would rather do a light sanding than deal with a tearout problem. The helical and spiral heads are the way of the future.

Rollie demonstrated a method of setting up a jointer that has worked well for him over the years.

Place a straight board across the cutter head near the fence. Pick a reference point and put a mark on the board. Next turn the cutter head until it disengages with the board. Place a second mark on the board that will show how much the board has advanced. Do the same process at the other end of the cutter head. Once the distance that the board travels at both ends of the cutter head is equal, the blades are set correctly and the gib screws can be tightened. Tighten the jack screws last.

The blades are to protrude out of the cutter head about 30 thousandths. Make sure that the front edge of the outfeed table and the fence are square with the cutter head.

You may be able to reduce tearout on a straight blade cutter by grinding a backbevel on the blades. You'll want to experiment with this on your specific application.



Rollie Johnson

Exotic Wood from the Amazon

While I was in California I made it a point to seek out some local woodworker's to get a feel for what's happening in the woodworking world there. During my search I ran across an interesting woodworking business in Cayucos that specializes in rare and exotic wood from South Africa, North America and in particular, Peru, South America. The business is called Forgotten Woods (www.forgottenwoods.net) and sells mostly carving and turning blanks and small quantities of lumber. The wood is Amazon rain forest wood that has been almost impossible to get in this country.



Due to rules concerning harvesting and selling rain forest wood, native Peruvians who are homesteading land in the Amazon have been forced to burn the wood that they cut while clearing small farmland plots (typically less than one acre). Working with the Peruvian government, the U.S. government and local farmers the owners of Forgotten Woods have been able to purchase small quantities of wood from the farmers providing much needed cash to the farmers and helping eliminate the waste of such fine wood without exploiting the forest; a win-win situation and a great resource for us woodworkers. The wood isn't inexpensive but it is rare and beautiful.

Rollie

NOTICE:

Our 2009 CMWA membership dues were due on January 1st. The grace period for receiving the newsletter and discount benefits ends this month. If you have not paid your dues or are unsure of your status, see Kurt Zniwski at the March meeting. You can also reach Kurt at 253-3911 or mail your dues to:

CMWA
P.O. Box 1955
St. Cloud, MN 56302-1955

Membership/Discount cards will be distributed at the March meeting or otherwise mailed out.

Veneer Flattening Tips:

There are many advantages to using veneers, but if you've worked with them at all, you know that they won't always remain flat. I've obtained two methods of flattening veneers and would like to share them with you.

The first, was one that I picked up in a demonstration by Tom Schrunk of the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild. There is one limitation to this veneer flattening method. The size of the piece. He places the veneer in the microwave and heats it up until the lignans relax. The amount of time in the microwave will depend on the size and amount of material. It's something you will have to experiment with. Once the veneer relaxes, quickly pull it from the microwave and press it between two warm flat boards. This method uses the same principals as steam bending. This method is clean, quick, easy and costs almost nothing.

The second method that I found was discussed on the in last weeks Fine Woodworking Knots Forum. Don Stephan stated that he has flattened veneer using a flattening solution. You can it buy pre-mixed, or use 3 parts water, 2 parts white or yellow glue, a part liquid glycerin (from pharmacy), and 1 part denatured alcohol. Wet the veneer liberally. Place a fiberglass screen on each side for the first 24 hours so that the drying paper doesn't stick. Use newspaper on each side, changing about 4 times first day, several times each additional day until the veneer dry. Consider moisture meter to know when "dry". If brittle, slowly apply pressure - may start simply with cover piece of 3/4" plywood, then gradually add weight until flat. Another person wrote that there is a product called GF-20 from Veneer Systems, Inc. It is used to soften and flatten veneer. He uses GF-20 and it works well. Spray both sides of the veneer and let it soak in. Then place it between two flat boards with some absorbent paper next to the veneer. You will need to clamp the boards to flatten the veneer, but be careful not to crack the veneer. You may have to do it in stages. Change the paper in 30 minutes, again in an hour, again in 2 hours, and again in a few more hours.

CHECK OUT THE CMWA WEBSITE! <http://thecmwa.com>

Darren McKeever has added a new project section. This enables anyone to post their work on the website. This is a good way to show those large pieces that are hared to bring in to the meetings. It also is a good way to see what type of work others are doing.

Darren and Gary Mrozek are currently working on adding a section to the website where videos of meeting demonstrations could be viewed by those who miss the meetings. This is only in the beginning stages, but promises to be a nice addition to the website.

The Wood Turners Group

The group did not meet in the month of February due to the Wood Expo. The March Turners meeting will be held Saturday, March 14th. It will include an open forum about any issues that members would like to share and a session on deep hollowing tools.

Wood Expo

Another Wood Expo is now history and by all measures it was a great success. I want to thank all club members that took part in this club activity and because of their effort, were responsible for this successful show. A special thanks goes to the committee members:

Tom Doom
John Foley
Tom Homan
Rollie Johnson
John Kenning
Cy Valarius
Kurt Zniewski

I would also like to thank the club members that showed up on Saturday to work on the floor (over 15 members participated) and who work in the club booths (both the general booth and the wood turning booth; too many to count!), and for the great participation in distributing the posters (one member distributed over 75!).

For the first time, the show turned a profit! Last year we pretty much broke even, but then several members contributed heavily of their own funds to make that happen. This year we made about \$200 and we were able to be self sustaining.

Our attendance was about 300, up over 100 from last year, and we signed up 15 new club members.

Our community service projects had 7 kids building bird houses, and many turned bowls for the Empty Bowls project.

Congratulations to Tom Emmeking of Avon who won the Fine Woodworking DVD and Jeff Kuebelbeck of St Joseph who won the Grizzly Planer!

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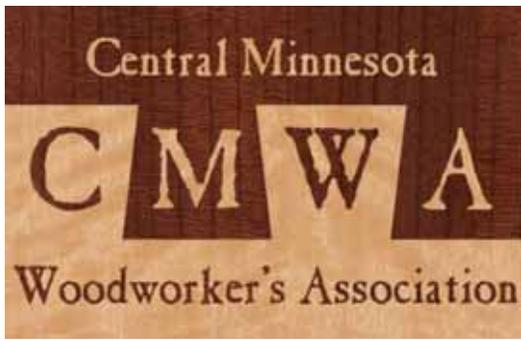
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The American Craft Council Show in St. Paul (April 17th – 19th)

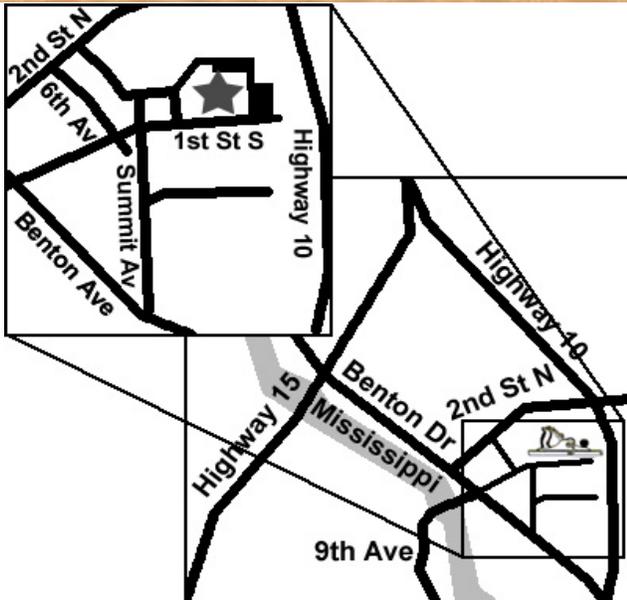
More than 240 new and established artists will present their latest handcrafted jewelry, clothing, furniture and home décor at The American Craft Council Show in St. Paul. The show is expected to draw more than 10,000 visitors. I am going down to see one of the best chair makers in the country who will have a booth at the show. He is Robert Erickson from Nevada City, California. If you haven't had the chance to see his work, check it out at ericksonwoodworking.com.



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St. Cloud, MN 56302-1955

www.thecmwa.com
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Next Meeting
Wednesday, March 18th at 7:00PM
Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School
Enter Door 16 (around back) – Room 916



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