



Newsletter

Volume 9 Issue 4

April 2009

AGAINST THE GRAIN

By Rollie Johnson



President Rollie Johnson

Our March meeting was well attended again with 47 woodworkers taking advantage of a fine Spring evening to listen as Rob Paulson from Diamond Vogel answered lots of finishing questions and gave us some great examples of stain and dye combinations. Thanks Rob.

For most woodworkers applying a finish to their project is a nerve-racking ordeal. After spending hour upon hour carefully constructing a beautiful piece of woodwork the chance of quickly ruining it with finish makes some woodworkers dread the ordeal.

There are dozens of finishes, scores of stains and dyes and enough misinformation about all of them to make finishing a real challenge.

I finish most of my work with acrylic lacquer applied with a spray gun but I'm also fond of alkyd varnish for a brushed or wiped-on finish and shellac is a great finish for small projects, especially turnings. I guess what I'm saying is that there is no single finish that is universal and taking the time to become familiar with different finishes and application methods is the real secret to successful finishes.

Practice makes perfect and like learning any craft it takes practice to become comfortable with the processes we use. I'm always amazed that folks will spend a lot of time learning the intricacies of setting up a router or fine-tuning their table saw techniques but expect to apply a dazzling finish without so much as producing a single sample stain and finish panel. I want to know what the outcome of my finishing process is before I apply it to my woodwork so I make samples to see how well my processes are going to work and what the finished look is going to be.

My advice to any woodworker is to take a weekend and devote it to messing around with finishes. Buy a good quality natural bristle brush, a pint of alkyd varnish, a pint of shellac (any kind just make sure the date on the can is less than a year old), and experiment. Have a quart of alcohol on hand for thinning the shellac and a quart of high quality mineral spirits for thinning the varnish and then experiment. Cut a bunch of one foot square maple or oak plywood samples to use as test panels or just use scrap lumber, just make sure it's sanded like the piece your going to finish. Apply finish with the brush, apply finish with some cotton cloths, and experiment. Have fun, be creative, and you'll soon find that finishing doesn't have to be the gremlin who spoils the party.

Rollie



April 2009

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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12	13	14	15 mtg	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Next Meeting: April 15th at 7:00 PM at Sauk Rapids Middle School

Board Meeting: April 15th at 6:15 PM at Sauk Rapids Middle School.

April CMWA Meeting

Chair Making

We have a group of four members who are making replicas of a Stickley arm chair. The group consists of Tom Zak, John Skalla, Jim Pruesser and Scott Randall. They will be discussing their experiences of working as a group, demonstrating a few of the tools they used and sharing some of the problems they encountered.

Outreach Program

The dates for the Outreach Program are as follows: March 31st, April 7th, April 21st, and April 28th. To volunteer call Rollie Johnson at 320-968-7194, John Wilson at 320-253-3432 or Tom Doom at 320-845-4214.

WoodTurners Meeting

The Woodturners Group will meet Saturday April 18th at the home of Gary Mrozek 1314 West Oakes Drive, St. Cloud.

The subject is EXTREME turning - the construction and use of a steady rest. The challenge project is an egg (plain or decorated). Bring items for the silent auction.

Call Gary (320) 252-2764 for more details.

March's Show and Tell



Tom Doom

In the photo to the left, Tom Doom is displaying his new snow shoes. Tom was inspired by the groups steam bending demo in a meeting this winter. Tom used nylon for the webbing because it was about half of the price of sinew. He said that if there was enough interest, he would be willing to host a snowshoe building group.

Eldred brought in a couple of really nice wooden cars and a wooden crucifix.

Dave Blenkush shared his experiences with his stool/steam bending project. He talked about drying his bent parts in the oven. He found that heating the bent parts up for drying caused them to loose the shape of the intended bend because the lingams were reheated to the point the point were they relaxed.

Darren McKeever showed us a set of interlocking train tracks that he had built for his son.

Our first Slilent Auction was held in March. We raised \$114 for the club. Below is a list of items auctioned off:

Handsaw	2 Handplanes
Table Top Lathe	Old Wooden Clamp
New Wooden Clamps	10" Saw Blade
Calipers	Hinge Drill Set
Wide Oak Baord	Quick Grip Clamp
Hand Held Honing Stones	

Silent auction donations :

Thanks to all the folks who brought items for our silent auction. The funds generated from these auctions will be used for our newsletter production and for purchasing equipment such as a video camera to help make our presentations better and more beneficial for everyone. Again, thanks.

Donations for April's meeting will be greatly appreciated. Time to clean that shelf off...

Thanks to: Jim Preusser, Chuck Latterell, Greg Pont and Rollie Johnson

The March meeting topic was: Q&A Session on Finishing



Rob Paulson

Rob Paulson from Diamond Vogel was in to help us with some of our finishing questions. He was asked and answered a wide variety of questions. Some of the questions were:

Q: What type of finish should be used on outside furniture?

A: Spar Varnish works well. A high solids laquer with UV protection. It runs about \$65/gal and comes in satin and gloss.

Q: What kind of finish would you use on a dining room table?

A: A vinyl sealer under laquer works well to avoid moisture rings.

Q: Can any finish go over vinyl?

A: Yes, but not the other way round.

Q: Are there other finishes that you would use on tables?

A: Yes. Another good one is a conversion varnish. It's a 2 part finish and you need to sand between coats. It's both chemical proof and waterproof. Be careful though. You should only use stainless steel equipment with this finish.

Q: What types of things have you found work well when matching stains to older cabinets and furniture?

A: Sometimes using a dye under a stain is required. Also, fogging with a stain/finish mixture is a trick that is sometimes used

This is just a sample of the Q & A session with Rob. Many other topics were discussed.

In the March meeting, Greg Pont announced that he will be opening a retail store on Hwy 10 in Royalton. The store will be opening on April 15th. The store will be open 7 days a week for a total of about 60 hours per week. It is located across from Treasure City in the log cabin building. Greg has is accepting work to be displayed at the store and will charge a 25% commission for all work sold. You can reach Greg at 320-584-5573 if you are interested in displaying any work.

Charlie Meyer with Ferche Millwork, Inc. announced that they have some nice exotic woods left over from projects. The prices are great. If you have a need for butternut, tigerwood, Spanish red cedar, Quarter sawn Jatoba, brazilian cherry or others, give him a call at 320-393-5700.

We've added 3 more suppliers to our CMWA member discount listing: Sommerfelds Tools for Wood, Woodhaven, and Peachtree Woodworking Supply, Inc..

March Woodturner's Meeting

The Woodturners Group met on Saturday, March 14th at Gary Mrozek's shop. There were 21 members and guest present. In addition to our monthly show & tell, the meeting included an open forum Q & A session. Member's shared current and past projects and the successes and frustrations they encountered while other members shared suggestions and possible solutions.

Ken Petersen brought several bowls in different stages of completion. Among his questions is the problem when a piece warps as it dries. This results in the inability to chuck it securely on the base or the rim for final turning. Dick Beumer shared his experience of using a jam chuck in this situation. One can easily be made from scrap wood and will effectively drive a variety of odd shapes. This solution proved to be very intriguing, so much so that it inspired the topic for our next months meeting. Dick also showed the group a sample of the finish that can be obtained using a Bedan (*pronounced Bee-Dan*) turning tool. Dick says nice tool to have, but may not be on the top of the "Must Have" list.

The demonstration this month was the use of a Jamison deep hollowing tool. Gary Mrozek had fabricated a similar tool to fit his Powermatic 3520B and a down-sized version to fit a Jet mini lathe. The members were encouraged to come up and give it a try on either or both lathes. The device uses a laser pointer to maintain a precise wall thickness. Options are being pursued to sponsor a seminar where members can make a similar tool of their own.



Gary demonstrates the Jamison deep hollowing tool.



Jay gives it a go.

We had another successful silent auction at the turners meeting in March. This months proceeds were used to purchase three new DVD's for the Woodturners library; Woodturning – A Foundation Course by Keith Rowley, Bowl Turning by Dale Stubbs and Turning Between Centers – The Basics by Dennis White. These were purchased with the club discount at Hartville Tools. These and all titles are available for checkout by all CMWA members.

March Woodturner's Meeting (cont.)



Brad Knowles had also brought some pieces that he had worked on including a beautiful platter made out of a piece of red gum. It was a remake of a lazy Susan he made in high school (*how many years ago Brad?*). Brad had long intended to rework this cherished piece of wood when he had the proper equipment to handle it. His new Delta X5 fit the bill. He also showed the group an exquisite segmented bowl that he made following a step-by-step process from a Ray Allen book and materials purchased from Youndblood Lumber Company.



The next meeting of the Woodturners Group will be 9:00AM, Saturday April 18th at the home of Gary Mrozek 1314 West Oakes Drive, St. Cloud.

The subject is EXTREME turning - the construction and use of a steady rest. The challenge project is an egg (plain or decorated). Bring items for the silent auction.

Call Gary at (320) 252-2764 for more details.

The Chair Makers:

Below are photos of the four members who are in the process of building chairs as a special interest group:

Top left: Tom attaches a ¼” pattern to a rough cut 8/4 leg. He’s routing the excess off with a 2” long bit on the router table.

Top right: Scott is mortising the legs for the stretchers.

Bottom left: Jim is cutting out corbels on the bands saw.

Bottom right: John is cutting tennons on the stretchers. They are compound tennons, tipped 2 degrees to the side and 2 degrees forward.



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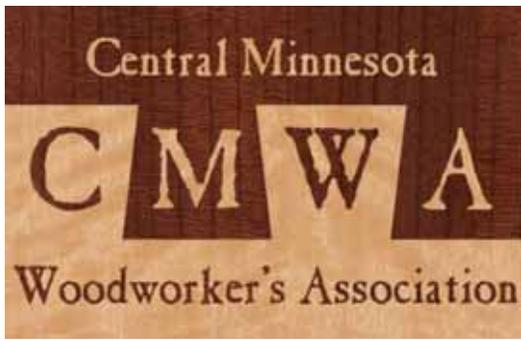
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The American Craft Council Show in St. Paul (April 17th – 19th)

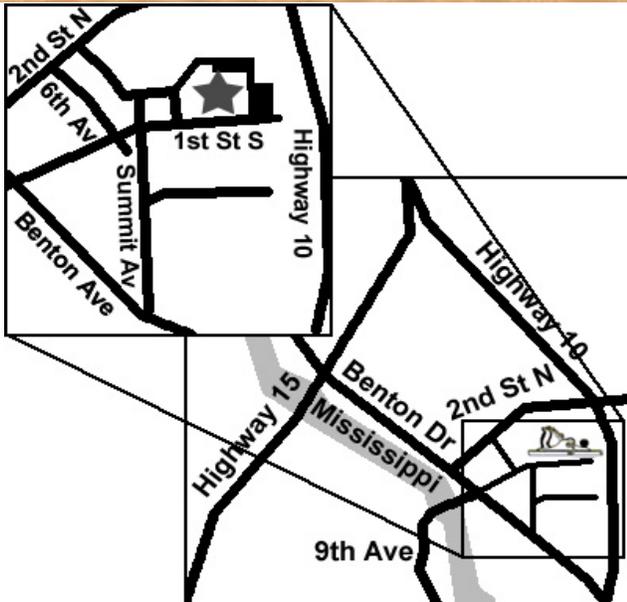
More than 240 new and established artists will present their latest handcrafted jewelry, clothing, furniture and home décor at The American Craft Council Show in St. Paul. The show is expected to draw more than 10,000 visitors. I am going down to see one of the best chair makers in the country who will 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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Next Meeting
Wednesday, April 15th at 7:00PM
Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School
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