



# Newsletter

Volume 9 Issue 8

August 2009

## AGAINST THE GRAIN

*By Rollie Johnson*

I just returned from a four day Bluegrass music festival and I had a great time visiting with woodworkers at the show. Woodworkers? At a music festival? Yep, they're called luthiers and share the same woodworking passion as any member of the infernal brotherhood of knotheads. I had a great discussion with a guitar builder about air dried versus kiln dried wood and about the perceived importance of old-growth wood in musical instrument construction. Then we started discussing the usual things like how to avoid tear-out in figured wood and wound our way through adhesives and finishes and all the other joys and frustrations of working with wood.

The great part about visiting with woodworkers from different woodworking disciplines is that we all share the same basic love of building things out of wood and that most of the processes we use are the same, it's just the details that differ. The same thing goes for wooden boat building, stick-and-rag airplane construction, and virtually any finely crafted wooden contrivance.

Working with wood is an art that's older than agriculture and it seems to be deeply imprinted somewhere deep in our DNA. It's not that all of us are inherent woodworkers but everyone enjoys woodworking whether it's participating or simply observing. Wood lends warmth to our surroundings both physically, through wood heat, and emotionally through the smooth feel, the warm color and beautiful grain patterns in finely wrought woodenware and furniture. Working with wood is understood by so many people at so many different levels; it's comfort food for the soul.

Working with wood is a wonderful way to make new friends and share new ideas, and that's a big part of the reason we find such joy in our endeavors.

So, the next time you attend an event or festival, keep an eye out for fellow woodworkers, we're everywhere.

### CMWA Woodturners Group August meeting is:

The Second Annual Summer Pot-luck Picnic

Date: Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Time: 11:30 AM – Eat at noon  
Location: Gary and Faye Mrozek's Cabin on Grand Lake.  
Menu: Gary and Faye will provide BBQ burgers and fixings, plates and utensils.

Directions: West on Hwy 23 to Rockville. Turn left on Cty Rd 8. In approximately 2 miles watch for the 35 mph speed sign on the right at the start of the road as it curves to the right. At the end of the curve turn left on Hubert Lane. You'll travel a single lane road for about 26 cabins. The house number is 11135.

Parking is very limited, so park tightly. Car pool if possible.

Please RSVP before Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at [gmrozek@charter.net](mailto:gmrozek@charter.net) or leave a message at (320)252-2764.

In the event of inclement weather, we will cancel this event. If in doubt, call ahead at (320)492-9498.

### The July Pig Roast at Greg Pont's was a great time.



Left: Greg BBQ's the pig.

Right: The machine that Greg is feeding a log into is a firewood cutter; it cuts the logs into firewood length, splits them and conveys them up the chute for loading into a trailer.





**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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**August 2009**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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**Next Meeting:** August 19th at 7:00 PM at WoodCraft.

**Board Meeting:** August 19th at 6:00 PM at Coborn's in Sauk Rapids.

**August Meeting**

Our August gathering will be a tour of Woodcraft Industries. The tour will begin at 7:00 PM at the main West plant on August 19th. The tour should last about an hour or so depending on the number of questions.

**Paramount Gallery:**

JoAnn Johnson was kind enough to do a little research on the Paramount Gallery. For those of you who may want to display your work there, here is what she found:

There is a \$50 annual shelf fee which is collected from each artist; this fee allows the artist to display and sell their items at the Gallery but it is not for a specific "shelf" space. They can bring in whatever they want and it will be displayed throughout the gallery, not necessarily on one shelf. The \$50 annual shelf fee is per person and a group of people cannot share this fee; when the fee is paid the artist will be assigned a number which will identify the items as they are sold. They also label the items with the artist's name so that people will become familiar with their work.

The commission is 40%; if the artist is willing to volunteer 12 hours per month (which is four 3-hour sessions) the Gallery reduces the commission to 15%.

Gallery hours: M – F – 11 – 5 p.m.; Saturday 11 – 2 p.m.; the Gallery is also open before "shows" & through intermission.

The Gallery is operated by volunteers. Contact: Ellen Nelson @ 259-5463. Items are given to Ellen; she and a committee decide if those items are a good fit and if it is something that the Gallery could sell for the artist. Not all items are accepted; and they are looking for high end items. They ask their artists to be responsible and rotate their work at least every 6 months; generally Oct/Nov & again in spring. They are not responsible for stolen items. They participate in 4 – 5 art crawls a year, with 400 – 500 people attending their Gallery which gives the artist good exposure.

If you have other questions, please call Ellen.

## The July Woodturners Group Meeting

at John Skalla's shop in Sartell

The meeting opened with show and tell items. Ken Petersen showed a Box Elder bowl that he's been working on and the obstacles he encountered. Brad Knowels brought a bowl he made out of plum, finished in boiled linseed oil. Albert Keppers shared a tooth pick holder that he too made out of plum. John Skalla had a large display of a variety of pens and other unique items he has turned. Gary Mrozek had several items including a maple burl bowl with natural voids in the sides, and a Box Elder vase. He also had a low profile maple burl hollow form, finished with the Beall Buffing system. The system incorporates three buffing wheels; one to apply Tripoli and one for white diamond buffing compound and the third wheel applies carnauba wax. This system will be demonstrated at our September meeting.

The meeting was all about pens. John Skalla talked about the tools and supplies needed to get started turning pens. John's demonstration was an actual step by step process, from rough wood blank to a finished, functioning pen. After John's demonstration, there were three lathes and all the supplies needed for other member's to make a pen of their own. Jake Schneider, Tom Markman and Cyndy Ernst (who has never touched a lathe before) made a pen of their own, start to finish. See the video highlights at [www.thecmwa.com](http://www.thecmwa.com)



John Skalla shares his thoughts on turning pens.

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The next few meeting topics will be as follows:

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| August    | Tour of Woodcraft  |
| September | Intarsia basics by Bill Sampson                                    |
| October   | Make the perfect inlay by Rollie Johnson                           |
| November  | Shaping wood with hand tools<br>Spokeshaves, inshaves, travishers, |



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The August gathering will be at Woodcraft Industries, on Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.



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