

Newsletter

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September 2009

AGAINST THE GRAIN

By Rollie Johnson



President Rollie Johnson

Another summer come and gone and it wasn't much of a summer even by Minnesota standards. The only good part of summer being over is that most of us will soon be finished with summer distractions and the woodshop will beckon once more. There is something immensely satisfying about spending a day working on a project in the shop when the weather is cold and blustery. Now, if only I could convince my insurance company that a woodstove really is safe in a woodshop I could add the warmth of burning my woodworking mistakes to a good day in the shop. I heated my shop for over twenty-five years with wood without incident and I really miss the warmth, as well as the cheap heat. Maybe I need a new insurance company...

This month's meeting topic, presented by Bill Simpson, is about Intarsia. Intarsia is similar to Marquetry; it is the craft of using various shapes and colors of wood pieced together to create a mosaic-like picture.

The biggest difference between Intarsia and Marquetry is that Intarsia utilizes different thicknesses of wood to produce a three dimensional image. This added depth opens a whole new world of creative possibilities creating texture and shadow to produce 3D images and patterns.

Intarsia isn't exactly a new craft, it originated in Italy in the thirteenth century where woodworkers started inlaying ivory and decorative woods into wall murals and tables. The craft was soon overshadowed by Marquetry and became more of a stonemason's art where marble was inlaid with different stones. The craft has experienced a revival in this country in the last couple of decades and Judy Gale Roberts has been the most renowned of the present day Intarsia crafters. www.intarsia.com

The tooling needed to create Intarsia pieces is essentially a good scroll saw and a variety of sanding equipment. Of course woodworkers know no bounds on how much tooling is really necessary for a project and like any woodworking endeavor we could quickly fill a shop with all of the "necessary" equipment, but fine Intarsia work can be accomplished without breaking the bank.

Combining Intarsia and furniture is an interesting concept. Years ago I saw a table that had an Intarsia river running down the middle of the table. It was complete with top profiles of fish hiding in the rushing current and even a few real creek stones included. That's the beauty of learning about all aspects of woodworking, you just never know where a new skill set could lead you.

Attention Turners:

Scott Randall has a number of 18 inch lengths of birch ranging in diameters from 4 to 12 inches. **They are free for the taking.** Call Scott at 320-259-4893 or email at scottrandall@clearwire.net if you are interested and he will bring them to the next meeting.

Future Meeting Topics:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September 16 th | Intarsia basics by Bill Sampson. |
| October 21 st | Make the perfect inlay by Rollie Johnson. |
| November 18 th | Shaping wood with hand tools, spokeshave's, inshaves & travishers |
| December 16th | Annual Christmas Party. |



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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September 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 mtg	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Next Meeting: September 16th at 7:00 PM at Sauk Rapids Middle School.

Board Meeting: September 16th at 6:00 PM at Coborns.

Fall Outreach Program Fails:

Our fall Outreach Program was a bust. No one stepped forward to head up the program, so we had to take a pass on the fall schedule. I was disappointed that we couldn't find a volunteer straw boss for the program. It's not terribly time consuming and it's a real benefit for the kids that are lucky enough to take the class plus its fulfilling for those who volunteer their time. In the past we haven't had problems recruiting a program leader but too often the responsibility falls on the same shoulders over and over. If you would like to help out a bunch of kids and help our club in the process please take some time to consider heading up our spring outreach program. The spring project is going to be a Petersen bluebird house; simple to build but complex enough to teach kids the basics. Plus we should be able to recruit someone from the local Audubon Society to come to the final night's class and talk to the kids about how to attract bluebirds. It will be fun.

August Tour of Woodcraft:

This month's meeting was a tour of Woodcraft Industries arranged by CMWA member Joann Johnson. Our membership turnout for this tour was good, with better than forty members showing up for the tour of Woodcraft's west building. Historically they've manufactured about 60,000 cabinet doors and furniture components per week when times are good. Our tour guide's pointed out that Woodcraft has the capability of kiln drying much of it's own hardwood lumber used by them. They manufacture their components primarily from six species of hardwoods, Red Oak, White Oak, Maple, Cherry, Hickory and Lyptus, of which Maple is about the most popular. Their turn-around time for an order is an impressive 3 to 7 days, depending on the size and type of order. Their plants are kept at a consistent 43% humidity to control the manufacturing process. They have a new optical lumber scanner used in maximizing good usable lumber and minimizing waste. According to our guide, the average board yields only 55% useable lumber. The remaining 45% of each board, consisting of knots, splits, natural defects, chemical stains, etc. is discarded as un-useable. Most of their cabinet panels are composed of edge glued lumber, usually no more than three inches wide strips, and glued with Aliphatic resin glue containing fluorescent die mixed in to aid in detecting the glue's presence on surfaces after sanding is completed.

Wood Turners:

There will be a hands-on demonstration of the Beal 3 step buffing system as well as microwave drying techniques for green wood. See how you can cut the tree today and apply a finish tomorrow. Bring your latest creations to display. We're not far from purchasing our next DVD (Turning it Up with Jimmy Clewes). Bring a silent auction item or support this cause with a purchase.

Box Elder Bonanza Wood Harvest Event



Now is the time to gather wood for the cold winter months. The CMWA has an opportunity to help themselves to box elder branches, burls, trunks and stumps from a site located minutes from Sartell. These trees have been bulldozed to clear the land. We can take what we want and leave what we don't. If you have an interest in coming together as a group on a Saturday morning in September/October, come to the Woodturners meeting on September 19th for more information or contact Gary Mrozek @ 252-2764 or gmrozek@charter.net

September Woodturners Group Meeting

Saturday, September 19th
 at the home of Gary Mrozek
 1314 West Oakes Drive, St. Cloud
 0.00 AM

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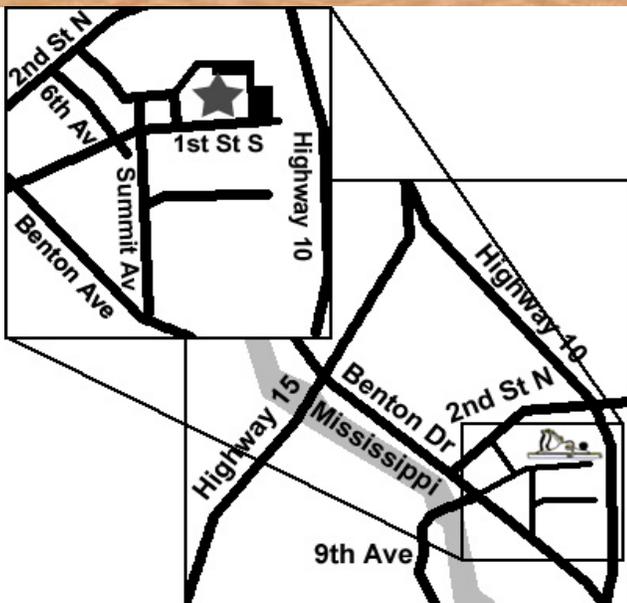
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Next Meeting
Wednesday, September 16th at 7:00PM
Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School
Enter Door 16 (around back) – Room 916



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