



# Newsletter

Volume 9 Issue 11

November 2009

## *AGAINST THE GRAIN*

*By Rollie Johnson*

### **Happy Thanksgiving!**



President Rollie Johnson

The holiday season is upon us, bringing the hustle and bustle that makes winter fly by a bit faster, thankfully. It's also the season of trying to get those gift projects done in time for Christmas. I sort of gave up on shop-built Christmas gifts a few years ago. It seemed that every time I tried to get something done by Christmas it always became a way more complex project than I originally intended and the recipients just didn't seem as thrilled with the gift in the middle of July, or two years down the line, as they would have at Christmas time; maybe next year, when I have more time...yeah, right.

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. It's a time of getting together with family and friends to eat too much and celebrate the fact that we've made it through another year. This past year has been tough for so many folks; job losses, pay cutbacks, and a host of other not so pleasant results of the country's economic woes. I guess we're all pretty lucky to still be able to spend time with friends and enjoy the camaraderie that a mutually shared interest brings. I feel very thankful that the CMWA has been so successful and that a lot of good friendships have been made through our club, and that we all find joy in sharing our abilities and interests. This club is made up of a bunch of really fine folks and for that we should be very thankful. Have a Happy Thanksgiving.

### **Election of Club Officers**

It's election time again and we will be voting in new club officers. Brad Knowles, our current VP, will become the President in January as Rollie Johnson steps down after his year in office. Brad has been a terrific VP and we are looking for someone to fill Brad's VP shoes.

John Wilson has been our club Secretary for the past five years, and done a wonderful job for the club. He has decided it's time to pass the torch to someone else so we will be electing a new Secretary.

Kurt Zniwski has graciously agreed to stay on another year as club Treasurer or Membership Coordinator. The two positions have always been lumped under the Treasurer banner, and Kurt has done an outstanding job of keeping track of our money and our members, but this year we will be making them separate positions. We will need someone to fill one of those positions; you're choice.

Scott Randall, who does an excellent job of editing our newsletter, is going to give up the position. We have all enjoyed and benefitted from his work but now we will need someone to bring the word to the people.

Darren McKeever is going to keep running our website. He's made our website a very nice place to visit and does a great job of keeping track of our Internet presence plus Darren and Ron McKeever are responsible for getting Scott's newsletter printed and mailed. Thanks guys.

Cy Valerius will remain as our Marketing Director, a position that he has a deft touch for. Nice work Cy.

Every year we elect two new Board Members, those positions will also need a couple of volunteers to help make decisions affecting the success of the club. (continued on page 2)



### 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: Rollie Johnson
- Vice President: Brad Knowles
- Treasurer: Kurt Zniewski
- Secretary: John Wilson
- Board of directors: Albert Keppers  
John Koenig  
Jay Eggebrecht  
Gary Mrozek
- Director of Marketing: Cy Valerius
- Newsletter Editor: Scott Randall
- Website Manager: Darren McKeever

## November 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 wt mtg
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

- Next Meeting:** Nov 18th at 7:00 PM at Sauk Rapids Middle School
- Board Meeting:** Nov 18th at 6:15 PM at Sauk Rapids Middle School
- Turners Meeting:** Nov 21st at John Caye's shop.

### Election of Club Officers (cont.)

So, in a nutshell, here is what we need for new officers:

- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer or Membership Coordinator
- Newsletter editor/ publisher
- 2 Directors for our Board

These are all very important positions that our club desperately needs filled. The success of our club depends on the membership to contribute toward that success. Please, if you have a bit of time you can dedicate to the club step up and help this club continue to be a successful, enjoyable organization. We all benefit.

For more information about any of the open positions please feel free to call Rollie @ 320-968-7194 or email @ [Rolandjohnson@clearwire.net](mailto:Rolandjohnson@clearwire.net) or Brad @ 252-8138

### November's Meeting Topic

#### Time to shave: inshaves, spokeshaves, travishers, and drawknives.

These tools are great time savers when it comes to reducing large chunks of wood to smaller chunks. These tools reached their height of popularity during the 18<sup>th</sup> century when manpower did most of the woodworking and being able to remove a lot of wood quickly was important. Today these tools are used in much the same manner as then, but we also use them for fine trimming and shaping. In fact, Windsor chairs are primarily made using these tools. It will be an eye opening demo.



## October CMWA Meeting Recap

Club President, Rollie Johnson, was our speaker yet again with another topic of interest. This time around it was “DOING INLAY’S”.

He starts by first cutting his pieces of veneer. The veneer he chose for his demonstration was about 1/16” thick. Often he’ll buy more elaborate inlays, available from a variety of sources such as Rockler and Woodcraft. He uses Elmer’s Rubber Cement to temporarily glue his veneer pieces to the work surface he’s going to apply the inlays to. Doing so holds the inlay pieces in place while he scores around each of them with a razor knife prior to cutting the recesses which will receive each of them. Next he uses one of a variety of small routers to create the recess for each piece of inlay. He follows up by cleanup around the corners of each recess with a razor knife and/or a good sharp chisel. Rollie pointed out that he likes to use a solid carbide up-cut router bit to do his recesses. An up-cut bit will keep the recess free of shavings while routing the recess. He sets up the router cut depth just a few thousandths shallower than the veneer he’s going to use. Once the recess is completed and cleaned he brushes on hide glue to the inlay recess as well as the veneer pieces. He uses hide glue because it won’t stain blotchy like yellow glue’s such as Titebond yet dries quite quickly. Once he inserts the inlay into the recess he presses it into place, being sure to press out all of the excess glue to avoid bubbles or blisters. He then applies wax paper over the inlay and a scrap of wood or plywood large enough to cover the inlay pattern, then clamps the block down over the inlay pattern until the glue is dry enough to begin smoothing it. Rollie brought along a bench plane that he modified into a wood shave. Shaving the inlay flat to the surrounding surface is better than planing it because you can shave off just a few thousandth of an inch at a time and end up with a perfectly smooth surface which needs no sanding. It’s just that simple! Give it a try. You’ll enjoy doing it, and it can really add zing to something you’re creating.



Above: Rollie discusses the theory of making the perfect inlay.



Right: Rollie demonstrates the process he uses for inlays when using a router as his tool of choice.



John Skalla showed a pair of Maple bowls both made from the same log, yet vastly different in grain, probably due to the longer aging process the second bowl blank was subjected to prior to turning it. Both were nice.



Brad Knowles brought one of four legs for a Federal table he's making. The leg had a good deal of detailed decorative inlay adorning it.

Bill Langen, showed off a beautiful stringed musical instrument he made, called a Giterne, popular in the 1400's. A giterne is a small eight stringed instrument, about the size of a Ukulele, about two feet long, with a body shaped like an almond, the back nearly half rounded, and slightly convex on the face, and beautifully adorned with considerable inlay detail. Quite a masterpiece I thought.



## Wood Turners Meeting Recap

Nineteen members of the Woodturners Group met Saturday October 24<sup>th</sup> at the home of Gary Mrozek. The meeting opened with an open forum on a variety of topics including theory as to why some Box Elder trees are rich with red streaks while others are void of any color. One theory that came from the internet suggests that wetland Box Elder is more prone to red coloration than high/dry land trees. We're looking for validation of this theory. If anyone has experienced this to be true, contact Gary Mrozek or Dick Beumer.

We had a few show and tell items brought in by Brad Knowles, Les Sova and Larry Sampson. It's the show and tell items that fuel in-depth discussions on specific woods, finishes and techniques. Thanks for sharing!

The Empty Bowls fundraiser is scheduled for March 21<sup>st</sup> at the Paramount in St. Cloud. Empty Bowls fundraisers take place across the nation to help those in need in their area. Each ticket holder is treated to a soup buffet and a variety of live entertainment. When they leave, they're invited to take a donated bowl with them. This bowl reminds the individual that although their soup bowl was filled, many in the world are empty. Last year the Woodturners donated 65+ bowls. This year we will up the challenge to 100 basic bowls. Beginning with the November Woodturners meeting, we will have a box to begin collecting bowls.

The topic of the October meeting was fluting the outside of a bowl. Most midsized and large lathes come with some method of indexing the headstock spindle. Some manufacturers are better than others. Gary demonstrated an indexing device he made from a chain sprocket and other surplus items. This device allows a quick and easy way to hold an object in place while flutes are shaped. The 60 tooth sprocket for a #35 chain provided precise movement and positive hold in 6 degree increments. Gary showed how a 1" sanding drum was used to form 20 flutes in a 9" bowl. Starting with a 50 grit and working through 120 grit sleeves to shape the flutes in the cherry bowl in very short order. Other tools include smaller sanding drums on a Dremel rotary tool, rotary files and rasps, ball tipped engravers, full sized routers or a sharp gouge.

Our next meeting will be Saturday November 21<sup>st</sup> at John Caye's shop. The subject will be sharpening turning tools with the Tormek wet grinder, the Oneway Wolverine and the Woodcut Tru-Grind system. Bring your show and tell items and an item for our blind auction. The Anchorseal end grain sealer will be available for pre-ordered pick-up at the meeting. There are 3 additional gallons available for purchase. The cost is \$15 per gallon. To get to John Caye's shop go about 4 miles north of the Holiday gas station in Sartell (across the river from the paper mill). You need to be on the west side of the river on Riverside Avenue North which turns into hwy 1. Take a right on Pine Point Road. John's place is about 1/2 mile on the left side. Watch for our signs on the right. The fire number signs are 4391 and 4392. John's cell number is 267-6732 if you need directions.

We will be updating our pictorial directory. If you can't make it to the meeting, let Gary know if your profile needs to be added, deleted or updated.

Our December meeting will be a potluck social at the home of Gary and Faye Mrozek. Mark your calendar for Saturday December 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00PM. Bring an hors d'oeuvre to share. Your spouse or guest is encouraged to come.

## Wood Turners Meeting Recap (cont)



Finished fluted bowl.



Bowl on lathe.

## Our First Appearance at the Minnesota Woodworkers Show

Brad Knowles has decided to proceed with arranging to have a CMWA booth at the upcoming Minnesota Woodworkers Show being held on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Show hours are Friday from noon to 6 pm, Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm and Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. There is no charge for a booth and there seems to be sufficient interest among our members to staff it. About a dozen people raised their hands when polled to see who would be interested in helping out volunteering to work the booth. A sign-up sheet was sent around at the room at the club meeting. Jay Eggebrecht will be taking care of bringing a CMWA banner to the booth at the show.

## Something New

2010 Membership renewal notices will be going out before our next board meeting. The annual dues are increasing from \$25 to \$30 per year as agreed upon earlier this year and will be due by December 30<sup>th</sup>.

## CMWA 2009 Wood Expo and Sale

Just a reminder, the Wood Expo & Sale is Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at the St. Cloud Armory. No further discussions were held at the last board meeting.

## STUDENT OUTREACH PROGRAM:

The fall Student Outreach program was canceled due to the lack of a chairperson for the term. We hope to be teaching a spring program if someone will step forward and volunteer to be the chairperson. It's not that difficult. It requires four 1-1/2 hr Tuesday evenings teaching the class at the Sauk Rapids/Rice Middle School. The project could be a simple toolbox. Ideally we need 9 volunteers to mentor the eighteen expected enrollee's. Additional volunteers are usually less difficult to round up than a chairperson, since they have no preparation time required unless they agree to co-chair.

To volunteer, call Rollie at 320 968-7194.

## December's Meeting is our annual Christmas Get Together.

Every year we celebrate the holiday season with a pot luck dinner for all our members and their spouses. Please bring your significant other and your favorite hot dish and join us for an evening of merriment and celebration, it is great fun.

The meeting will start a bit earlier than usual since we will be eating dinner. The doors of the school are open by 6:00 but to be on the safe side plan on being there around 6:15, we'll plan on eating at 6:30.

This is a good meeting to bring show-and-tell items, photos, or anything else you would like to share with the gang. Hope to see you there.

## New Lynx Scrapers

They are great for cleaning up the fuzz and chatter marks on moldings. The Lynx sets offer many of the most frequently used shapes.

The sets sell for about \$11 and can be seen at : [www.woodcraft.com](http://www.woodcraft.com). Fine Woodworking also had a few photos in their most recent issue.

Rollie has asked club members to please consider bring old cast off shop tools, lumber or supplies to auction off at our monthly meetings to help raise money for the club.

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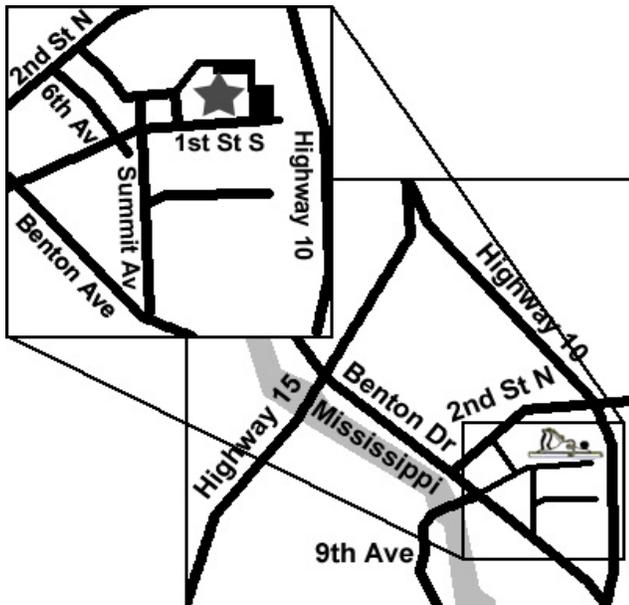
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**Next Meeting**  
**Wednesday, Nov 18th at 7:00PM**  
**Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School**  
**Enter Door 16 (around back) – Room 916**



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