

Newsletter

Volume 11 Issue 5

May 2011

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 and share information, techniques and topics of interest in the area of woodworking.

Visit us at:

www.thecmwa.com

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Against the Grain by Roland Johnson

I had the pleasure of being one of the judges for the 28th Annual Minnesota Woodworkers Guild's Northern Woods show. The show has 14 different categories that include best design, best detail, best turning and more. The number of entrants is down from a few years ago (I imagine another victim of our sagging economy) but the quality of the woodworking is still top notch. If you've never been to one of their shows, it's well worth taking the short drive to the



Southdale Shopping Center in Edina where the show is traditionally held each year. It's inspiring to see so much creativity and to get a chance to visit with a bunch of nice folks. For more information visit www.mnwwg.org and look for the Northern Woods link.

I think it would be great to have a bunch of folks from the CMWA carpool down to the show next year. The show is inspiring and it would be nice to participate in a few of the Guild's activities. The folks at the Guild mentioned that we should do some combined events. It would be great fun and it would also help bring our groups together. They plan on having a booth and possibly a demo at next year's CMWA Wood Expo.

And speaking of woodworkers from outside our area, I have this habit of searching out woodworkers when JoAnn and I travel. Before we head out on a trip I check the Internet for local woodworking clubs, schools or events. Last year we headed southeast with the goal of spending a few days in Asheville, NC. On the way we visited Marc Adams' woodworking school, spent several days in Berea, Kentucky, (which was THE hotbed of woodworking through the seventies and eighties), visited Curtis Buchanan (Windsor chairmaker), stopped by Drew Langsner's Country Workshops School (WAY back in the woods of NC), visited with Brian Boggs (Windsor chairmaker), spent a day at the John C. Campbell Folk School and visited a few other small shops and interesting woodworking sites. There are tons of interesting woodworking schools, shops and stores all over the country. Stopping by to say hi is a good way to get to know a few folks in those areas

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Membership Information

Dues: \$30
Mail to: CMWA
PO Box 1955
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Benefits:

- Informational monthly program including seminars, guest speakers, demonstrations and hands-on sessions
- Instructive monthly newsletters
- Card entitling you to discounts at the following suppliers: Acme Tools, Youngblood Lumber, Renneberg Lumber...

Current Membership: 59

and also to make a connection to the area. Plus most of the schools and shops are inspiring. So the next time you're planning a road trip, check out woodworking sites along the way. It's a great way to make new friends and have a great woodworking experience. Even your travel mate will enjoy these places!

The topic of April's meeting was workbench design. Brad Knowles was gracious enough to lead an interactive discussion on the basics of workbench design. Several members were actively involved in the discussion, sharing information about their workbenches and what they liked and didn't like in benches. As always, Brad came well prepared with an outline to follow and good information that he gleaned from experience and a book he recommended called *The Workbench Design Book* by Cris Schwartz.

One thing I pulled out of the discussion, that as a novice, helped explain why some woodworkers prefer the large heavily constructed hard wood benches. For those who regularly use planers, the beefy construction ensures that the table stays stationary when planing. In contrast, for those who are primarily power tool users, lighter weight tables may be entirely adequate.

Brad's outline is presented below. If you see any items of interest and you weren't able to make it to last month's meeting, I'm sure Brad would be happy to discuss them with you if you can catch him at one of our meetings.

DESIGNING WORKBENCH OUTLINE

Personalize your Workbench

- Buy or build
- Type of work you do (power or hand tools)
- Size of projects
- Frequency of use
- Cost

Design Considerations

- Customize to your needs and physical attributes
- Size of bench
 - Can be too light (>200 lbs for planing)
 - Can't be too long [although this was debated]
 - Can be too wide (2-3' recommended)
 - Can be too tall or too short (33" for planing)
- Bench should accommodate working on the face, edge and ends of boards
- Face (requires space under top)
 - Dogs and end vise
 - Wonder dog & pup (\$37)
 - Hold downs (std \$15, Veritas \$76)
 - Veritas surface clamp (\$72)
 - C clamps, F clamps, QuickGrips
- Edge (requires co-planer front and variably spaced holes in front)
 - Dogs and clamps
 - Sliding deadman
- End (requires either face or end vise)

Construction

- Top
 - 2 1/2" minimum
 - No edge overlap (top co-planer with base)
 - Glued up dried 8/4 stock on edge
 - Southern yellow pine
 - Oak, ash, maple or other
 - LVL beams
 - Barn beams
- Base

Material (same as above except no LVL)

- Leg styles (usually glued up to 8/4 stock)
 - Legs mortised into top
 - Roubo style with thru dovetail bridle joint
 - Standard blind mortise
 - Saves need for upper stretchers
 - Can't be knocked down to move
 - Legs mortised into upper and/or lower trestle
 - Upper and lower stretchers mortised into legs
- Stretcher styles
 - Mortise and tenon
 - Half lap face dovetail
 - Bed bolt system (short tenon, buried nut, bolt from end)
 - Veritas bolts (\$30 set of 4)

Finish (50-50% BLO and varnish, thinned with mineral spirits, 3 coats ragged on)

Vises

- Face vise (usually on the left facing the side)
 - Standard screw vise (\$60)
 - Standard quick release vise (\$100-175)
 - Veritas twin screw (\$230)
 - Leg vise (wooden screw kit \$150, glide vise kit \$340)
- Crochet
- End vise (usually on the right side)
 - Standard screw vise (\$60)
 - Standard quick release vise (\$100-175)
 - Tail/shoulder vise (screw only \$30, with guide \$75)
 - Glide tail/wagon vise (\$360)
 - Veritas twin screw (\$230)

Accessories

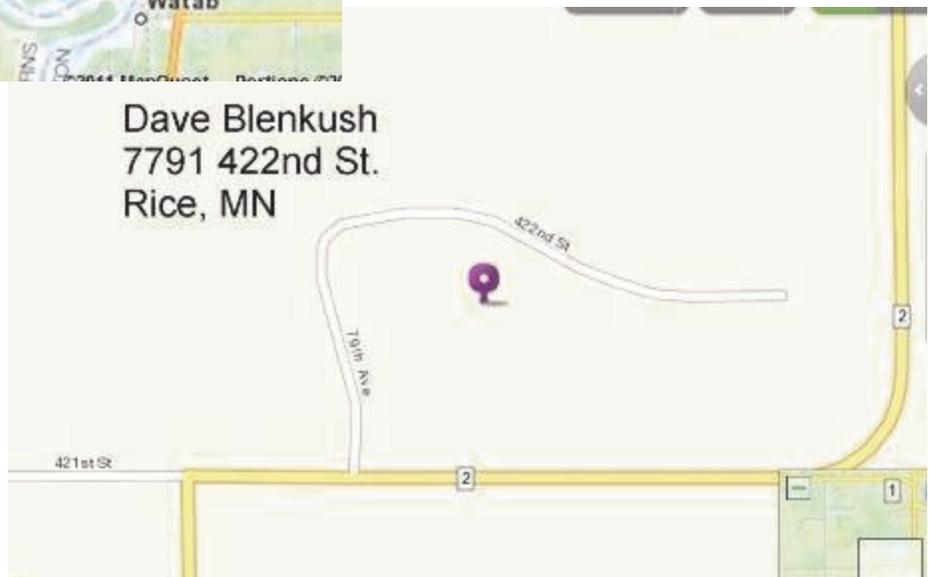
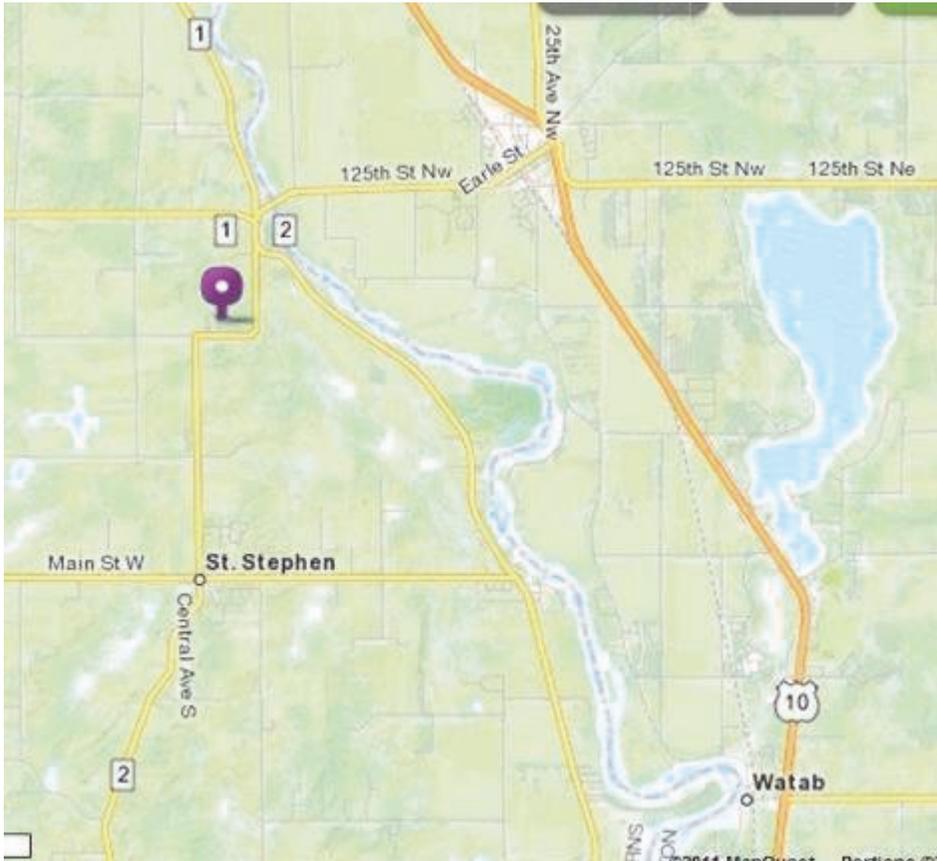
- Dogs (square or round)
- Double screw vise
- Bench slave
- Bench hook

Calendar

MAY

14th— Presentation of 4-jaw chucks and chuck safety, 10:00 am, Paramount Visual Arts Center.

18th— CMWA Monthly Meeting. Wednesday's meeting will be held at Dave Blenkush's shop north of St. Stephen. Dave is going to give us a vacuum pressing presentation. He has some pretty interesting projects in progress and we'll get to have a look at them as well as a tour of his most impressive shop. Dave's shop is a full-boat woodworking shop, complete with his own CNC machine, and a complete machine shop shares the building with his woodworking shop. Dave has built quite a few of his own woodworking machines and they look like they were produced by a major tool manufacturer. This is a meeting you don't want to miss!



JUNE

15th— Next month's CMWA meeting. Topic to be announced later.

24-26th— The American Association of Woodturner's annual event is being held in St. Paul this year, and it should be a great time. This year is the 25th anniversary and it will feature a bunch of top name turners who will be giving seminars all three days of the show. The event will be held at the St. Paul River Centre, June 24 – 26. The Instant Gallery, Trade Show and all of the Special Exhibits are open to the public. A fee of \$300 (\$360 for non-members) is the cost to attend all the seminars and special events. The Gallery and the Trade Show alone are worth taking a day and venturing to the Cities.

DECEMBER

2-4th— The Wood Working Shows, Canterbury Park, 1100 Canterbury Road South, Shakopee, MN.

For Sale

Approximately 25 rough sawn white oak boards (~5' x 5 1/4" x 1 1/8"). \$2.50 each or best offer. Eldred Schreifels, 320-253-2122.

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