

Newsletter

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July 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

Email us at:

newsletter@thecmwa.com

Against the Grain by Roland Johnson

Midsummer's Eve

It's hard to believe that July is nearly past. Here in Minnesota we wait patiently, or not so patiently, for winter to release its icy grip only to find that summer moves at a comet's pace; a flash of heat and light and then gone. It must be the frigid arctic air that slows the passing of time in the winter, but here's the really cruel part: even in the heat of midsummer I'm thinking about next winter.



That's not to say I'm looking forward to it, but I am anticipating the return of the white death and have decided I need to do a very serious and comprehensive shop cleaning.

I find that my shop shrinks a bit each year, mostly due to cleanup and organization projects put off in the dead of winter because it's just too cold to be moving stuff out of the shop and into cold storage. As one unfinished chore covers another, the piles accumulate and before long I can't see the walls of my shop. So this year I've made a solemn promise to myself that before the slightest inkling of fall arrives I will have my shop space back and order will rule. Don't ask me how it's going so far!

It's always interesting when a seemingly simple project starts to blossom into a monumental undertaking. To eliminate the clutter in my shop I needed a place to move the clutter to. So I resolved to make space in my cold storage building (pole barn). But numerous little reorganization projects there turned that phase into a full-blown overhaul. So after a couple of weeks of moving, arranging, discarding and constructing, I finally have most of the overflow from the woodshop firmly ensconced in the pole barn. Now that the pole barn is reorganized and functional, I can finally start in earnest to move, arrange and construct some efficiency in my woodshop! Of course I need to put a new screen door on the shop, what with the hot weather and all, and then there is.....

Have a great summer!

Rollie

2011 CMWA Officers

President:	Rollie Johnson
Vice President:	John Wilson
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Board of Directors:	Tom Harlander John Kenning Albert Keppers Denny Myers
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Membership Information

Dues: \$30
Mail to: CMWA
PO Box 1955
St. Cloud, MN 56302-1955

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

CMWA Member in need of your Help!

Lou Czarnowski is moving to a smaller woodshop and is seeking your guidance on how he can downsize. Please contact Lou at louc61@meltel.net if you can help with any spacesaving ideas.

The CMWA met in the basement of the Paramount Theater and Visual Arts Center in downtown St. Cloud for its June meeting. A brief discussion was held about the possibility of using the Paramount as the future home for CMWA monthly meetings.

The topic of the meeting was shellac led by Rollie Johnson. Interestingly, shellac is obtained from insect secretions. Tiny red insects (*Laccifer lacca*) produce these secretions from sap. The adult insects process the sap and secrete it to form hard protective shells over their young larvae. These shells are collected and refined, with India and Thailand being the major producers. The end product at this initial stage is a hard resin from which most of the impurities such as insect remains and twigs have been removed. This product called “seedlac” is what is sold to shellac manufacturers. The manufacturer further refines the product, with the end product usually being flakes of what we know as shellac.

The seedlac naturally contains wax and colors. The manufacturer can leave the wax and colors in the end product, which is known as “Garnet” shellac. The manufacturers can remove various amounts of the natural wax found in shellac (up to total removal). When completely removed, it is known as “dewaxed shellac” and is preferred when using shellac as a sealer. Top coats adhere better to dewaxed shellac. Various amounts of the natural colors found in shellac can also be removed by the manufacturers. The colors can range from light amber to extremely pale straw.

More details on the harvesting, refining and manufacturing of shellac can be read at:

<http://www.naturalhandyman.com/iip/author/zinsser/shellac.html>

and viewed at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lQcQoyuekZo>

This “youtube” video is a must see!

Calendar

JULY

20th— July’s CMWA picnic hosted by Denny Myers and Roxanne Wyatt at 7505 Hillton Road, Royalton, 7 pm. A \$5 donation would be appreciated.

DECEMBER

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

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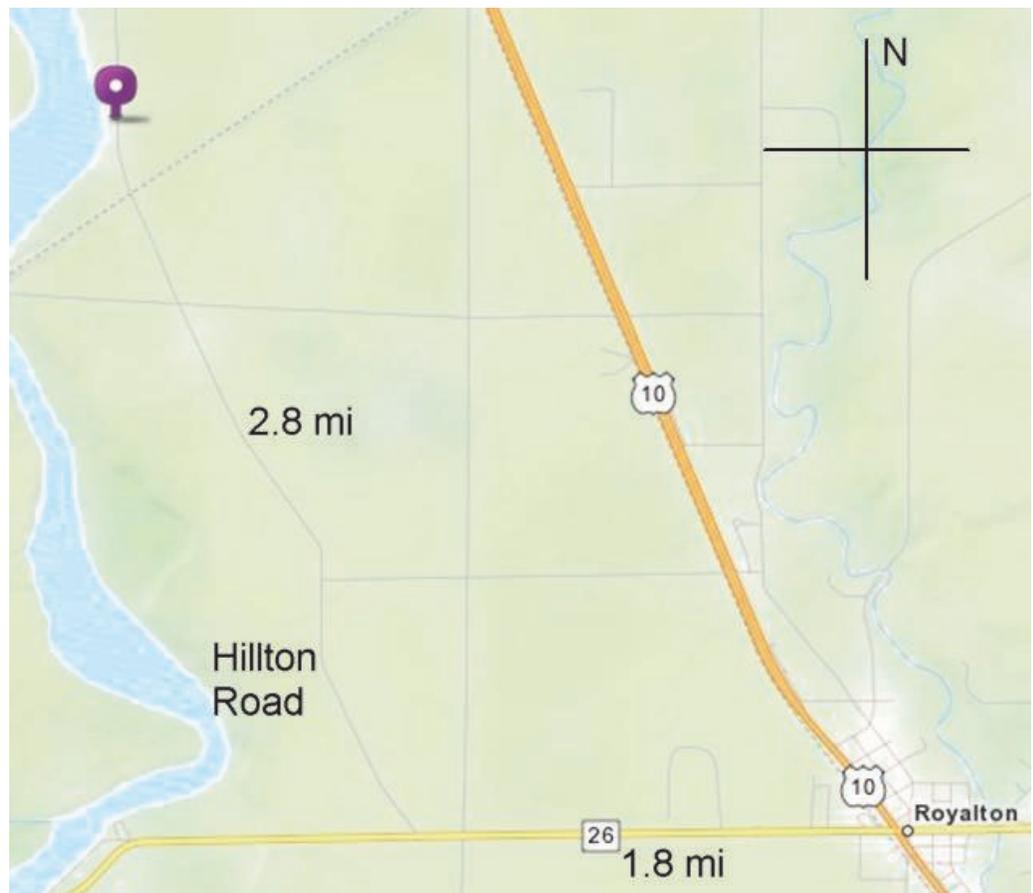
Congratulations to Rollie's father, Roger! Rollie wrote the following:

"My dad (Roger) turned 100 on June 8th. He was the first dues paying member of the club and is still a member, although not too active in woodworking anymore. The photo is of four generations. Roger holding great-granddaughter Ellie, son Rollie and granddaughter Kate (Ellie's mom and my little girl, who is going to have another baby in late August). Egad, we get old too soon! Thanks."



CMWA Summer Picnic

The CMWA summer picnic is being hosted by Denny Myers and Roxanne Wyatt at their shop near Royalton (7505 Hillton Road, Royalton). The club is providing the meal; a donation of 5.00 per plate would be appreciated. There will be several grills set up if you would prefer bringing your own grillables, but the CMWA will be providing brats. Bring a dessert to share and be a hero. Bring your family and join us for a great evening of camaraderie and food.



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