

Newsletter

Volume 11 Issue 10

October 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

Time Flies

Red and gold tinged with shades of green are the splendorous remnants of another summer come and gone. It's always hard to bid goodbye to our too-short season of warmth and green grass but winter is a great season for woodworkers. Winter brings us drier weather, which is good for building furniture, and it also is a time for us to hibernate in our cozy shops while Alberta Clippers barrel down from Canada and do their best to freeze us blue, a less splendid color.



Now is the time to start planning those winter projects. Getting a head start on woodworking projects is a great way to get revved up for the building season and it's also a good time to buy your project wood and get it stacked in the shop. In the June 2011 CMWA newsletter I talked about EMC (Equilibrium Moisture Content) and how important it is for minimizing unwanted wood movement in our projects. Buying your project wood and getting it into your shop a couple months before you start building will give the wood a chance to reach the same MC as your shop, resulting in equalized moisture. Be sure to sticker your lumber stack so air can circulate around the boards for even drying.

Another good thing to do before the weather gets too cold is to "blow-down" your shop. Every year in the spring and fall I open all the shop doors and, starting at one end of the shop, use compressed air to blow all the dust off equipment, high shelves, light fixtures and all the other horizontal surfaces dust likes to land on. Make sure to wear a good dust mask. There are several good reasons for doing this. First, the shop is simply nicer to work in when you don't get a face full of sawdust every time you take a board off that top lumber rack and a dust cloud doesn't erupt when you start moving stuff around on the shop's shelves. Secondly, having a relatively dust free shop is healthy; wood dust is not a real great thing to inhale frequently and keeping residual dust at bay eliminates a big part of what we inhale. And

2011 CMWA Officers

President:	Rollie Johnson
Vice President:	John Wilson
Treasurer:	Kurt Zniewski
Secretary:	Bill Riner
Board of Directors:	Tom Harlander John Kenning Albert Keppers Denny Myers
Marketing Director:	Cy Valerius
Newsletter Editor:	Glenn Street
Website Manager:	Darren McKeever

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

finally a clean shop is much less of a fire hazard. Fine dust, especially around electrical equipment or gas-fired heaters, can be a recipe for disaster. I also take a damp cloth and wipe down all my fluorescent light bulbs. It's amazing how much dust will stick to those bulbs and how much brighter your shop is after they've been cleaned.

Clean and bright makes a shop nice to work in.

With another year flying by we are quickly arriving at our year-end club duties. The biggie every year is electing a new bunch of officers and directors. John Wilson will be taking the helm in January, but we need volunteers to fill some of the other posts. One post that will be up for grabs is the CMWA Marketing Director. Cy Valerius has done a great job of being our Marketing Director and has made the position a vital part of our club's continued success. Cy reinvented and refined the post to the point that it has become a fill-in-the-blanks position for his replacement. Cy has also said that he is very willing to work closely with his replacement to make sure the transition goes smoothly and to be able to refine the job even further.

Here is a list of the duties:

- A) Help prepare any marketing materials for the CMWA (posters, forms, etc.)
- B) Assist Board of Directors and Club officers, in promulgating any ideas for benefit of members and general public
- C) Assist in preparations for the Wood Expo and any other club promotions
- D) Obtain advertisers for the club newsletter
- E) Visit potential advertisers via visit and/or letters, emails, etc.
- F) Attempt to prepare a club marketing plan to interest new members in club
- G) Work with club treasurer to obtain and maintain advertisers' billing procedures
- H) Assist in any new promotional ideas that may come at the direction of the Board or Officers of club
- I) With input from the treasurer, help keep club discounts with suppliers active and current

I can't emphasize enough the importance of volunteering to help keep the CMWA alive and active! Without a Board of Directors and a strong Executive Officer group the club could easily disappear, something none of us want to see happen. All of the club officer positions are important and we've had a great group of volunteers over the last decade. Let's keep the ball rolling.

September CMWA Meeting — gs

Master blacksmith, Ken Zitur from Avon, and his wife, MaryLou, brought some of their work to our September meeting and described the basics of blacksmithing. It was an absolutely fascinating discussion. The following photographs show some of his impressive pieces. A woodworker/turner would benefit by picking up basic blacksmithing skills, if for no other reason than to make basic tools such as chisels. Or if you wanted to take it to another level, you could learn to make such things as ornate hinges and handles for cabinetry, furniture and doors.

If any of you are interested in taking a class from Ken, he and MaryLou are offering a few Beginning Blacksmithing Classes this coming January. To get more information about their shop (Ken's Custom Iron), their classes and the local blacksmithing club, visit their website (<http://kensiron.com/>) or email them at ken@kensiron.com.

September CMWA Meeting (cont.)

Blacksmithing

Blacksmithing is forging (heating and hammering) and shaping a piece of hot metal with a hammer.

Ken's Custom Iron

37634 Co. Rd. 9

Avon, MN 56310

320-746-2557



Left: Ken shown fielding questions at September's meeting.

Below: Items he brought to show the types of chisels that can be made.



September CMWA Meeting (cont.)

Here are several other pieces he had made and brought to the meeting. The chain encircling the rose is welded so that it maintains its shape.



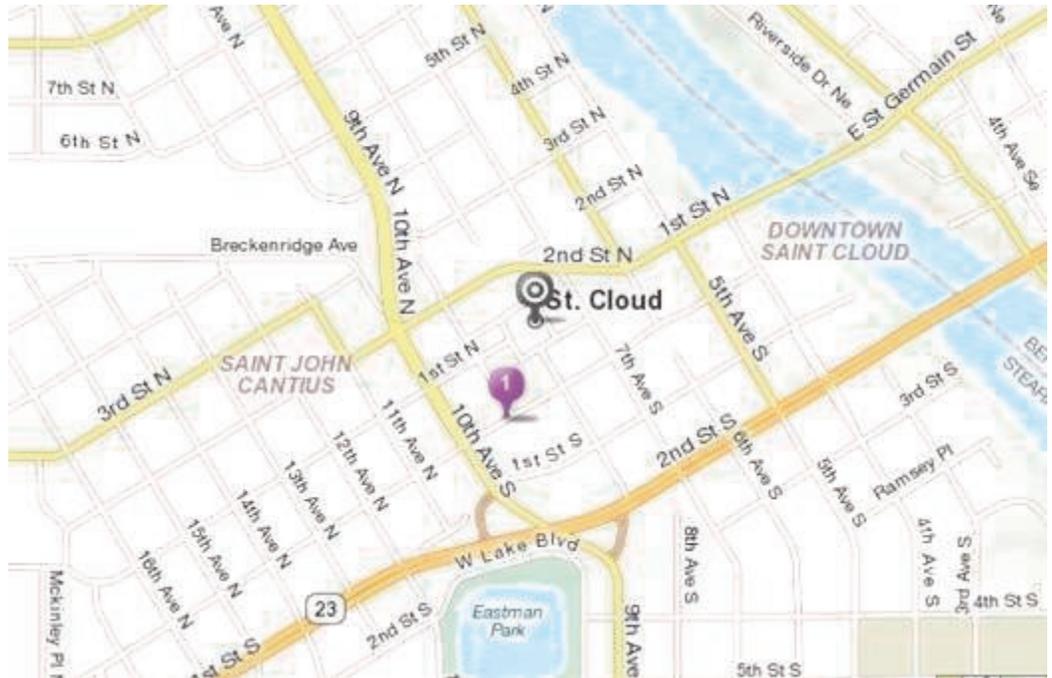
Calendar

OCTOBER

19th— Alex Neussendorfer will show carving tool sharpening and carve a simple Tudor Rose as a demonstration. The meeting will be at 7 pm, in the Paramount Theatre and Visual Arts Center (Basement).

DECEMBER

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



This month the CMWA will be meeting in Studio C at the Paramount. It's the studio at the end of the entrance hall, the one with the hardwood floor and all the nice lighting.

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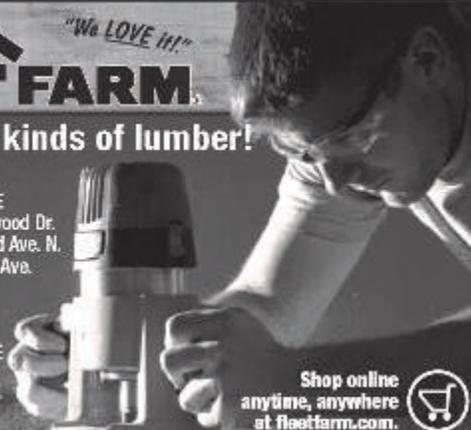


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