



# Newsletter

September 2012

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.

[www.thecmwa.com](http://www.thecmwa.com)

Greetings from the CMWA President's Chair. By John Wilson

The evenings are getting cooler now and it's one of the first signs that fall is just around the corner. Fall, with all of its magnificent color, is my favorite time of year as you may have guessed. And as the nights grow slowly cooler my wife Sharon and I start comparing notes as to where we'd like to go to take in the best that fall has to offer. Lutsen is always one of my favorites, but Cannon Falls is a close second. The State Parks are always calling my name too. It's also a time of year that I start asking myself what I'd like to accomplish in the shop over the course of the long winter ahead. Maybe I'll finally be able to finish that dust collection system that I started five years ago. The cyclone has already been mounted to the wall in my mechanical room, and the wiring was completed a few years ago as well. All I need now to complete it is the ductwork. Oh yea, and the time to install it. Being this year's president has certainly helped me to expand my horizons, but it sure has taken a monster of a bite out of my time in the workshop.



Our August CMWA Meeting was a good one. Denny Myers, our current Vice President, and next year's President, was gracious enough to present on hand cut dovetails. It was a great presentation in itself. He started the meeting off by polling the audience to see how many had never before cut dovetails by hand. I've always cheated and used my band saw, but I gave it a shot at the meeting. I was quickly reminded of why I use my bandsaw in the first place. The presentation brought with it some challenges though, since it required the use of a good workbench (of which the Paramount has zero on hand). Our Treasurer, Kurt Zniwski, generously offered the use of his recently purchased workbench for the meeting. It's a very well made, very heavy, woodworkers bench. Did I mention it was very heavy? It also presented a significant challenge to four of us to get it from Kurt's pickup down to the lower level studio where we meet. It took fifteen minutes to accomplish the task, a lot of wrestling to get it in and out of the elevator, and another fifteen minutes to get it back out after the meeting. It was clear we needed a good, readily accessible, woodworkers bench at the Paramount. It's a good reminder why we need a good workshop there as well. No more hauling large shop accessories in and out for our presentations. Our Paramount Woodshop Committee is working on that at present, and I like to offer here seventeen good reasons why we as a club should make this a priority over the long winter as well.

(Continued)

1. Permanent well lit, warm, fully functional, fully stocked workshop with additional access to other meeting rooms for larger venues.
2. No rent, no utilities, or insurance costs for the club (A huge savings to our club).
3. Well-built fully functional work benches with wood vises, numerous major power tools, hand tools and secure hand-tool storage will create an environment that will give the club the ability to have hands-on seminars for the club and special events for the general public.
4. The shop will move member's skill levels forward
5. Enhance woodworking's image in the community
6. Support the Paramount by bringing new artisans and new creative opportunities to the facility.
7. Provide a social venue and support network for our members
8. Increase our membership through the ability to provide better meeting programs.
9. Bring a new level of enthusiasm to the club.
10. Thanks to Work Sharp & Cy Valerius we'll soon have a very good tool sharpening station to sharpen our personal shop tools of all types.
11. Community involvement and involvement in the arts.
12. Open to all members on a set schedule determined by the Paramount.
13. A place to bring artisans as well as art collectors & art lovers together.
14. Provide an annual opportunity to showcase each interested artisans handiwork.
15. Provides great opportunities to get involved in the Paramount sponsored Art Crawls to demonstrate your skills and handiwork.
16. Sufficient tools for hands-on participation in Demo's.
17. Opportunities to build new relationships and a valuable free support network.

I wanted to be sure and get this into this month's Presidents Letter since we, the CMWA Board, as well as our Paramount Woodshop Committee, will soon be sending out Pledge Appeal letters to our membership to gauge their interest in contributing towards a funding this workshop. Please consider the above seventeen reasons before you send your response to our Pledge Appeal.

Your CMWA President,

John Wilson

**September's CMWA Meeting** will be a DVD titled "Unlocking the Secrets of Traditional Design", with George Walker. Join us on Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Paramount, St. Cloud.



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