



Monthly Messenger

Central Minnesota Woodworker's Association

Volume 4 Issue 10
October 2004

Fellow Woodworkers

Anatole Burkin

Executive Editor, Fine Woodworking Magazine

By Roland Johnson

Born in New York City, Anatole Burkin spent his formative years on the East Coast. After completing high school, Anatole moved west and attended San Francisco State University where he earned a degree in journalism. He worked for a number of newspapers in the SF Bay Area before heading north to Washington State in search of better salmon fishing and more affordable housing.

While working for the Tacoma News Tribune, Anatole became interested in woodworking; taking classes from several area furniture makers including Ross Day who taught Anatole, among other things, how to correctly sharpen a hand plane.

An avid reader of Fine Woodworking magazine, one day Anatole saw an ad in the magazine for an associate editor position. He applied for the position and joined the magazine's staff in 1996, resulting in a move back to the East Coast. Several quick moves up the editorial ladder brought Anatole the Executive Editorship in 2002.

Anatole lives with his wife Robin in Oxford, CT, and enjoys touring the back roads of New England on either his Harley-Davidson Electra Glide, or his pedal bike. Anatole has just finished putting a new shop together and is looking forward to building some new pieces of furniture over the long Connecticut winter.



CMWA Meeting Recap

Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School September 15th, 2004 at 7PM

Recap adapted from secretary's meeting minutes

• Sharpening:

- Our September meeting was held at our new location, the Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School. Dave Blenkush and John Kirchoff gave a wonderful demonstration on the steps to sharpening our dull tools. Many thanks go to Dave and John for sharing with all in attendance.

• Items for Sale:

- OK folks its fall clean-out-the-shop time. I have a few items that I would like to move to someone else's shop. Here goes:
 - Dupli-carver T-110 carving machine with leg/gun stock accessory. Guides and bits included. This is a router motor powered 3-D duplicating machine. www.terrco.com for more info. \$325.00
 - Delta 8 inch jointer. 1-1/2 horse TEFC motor Cutter head needs new bearings and the motor needs to be installed (currently has a 3-phase motor installed) \$550.00
 - Powermatic Model 50 6 inch jointer excellent condition \$675.00
 - Contact Rollie Johnson @ 968-7194
- Delta 6" variable speed bench jointer for sale. Hardly used!!!! \$100.00 Call Diane at 258-1400.

• Next Meeting:

- Wednesday, October 20th, 7 PM at the **Sauk Rapids – Rice Middle School** (See Map)

October 2004

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	19	20	21	22	23
24/ 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

Next Meeting: October 20th at 7:00 PM at Sauk Rapids – Rice Middle School

Board Meeting: October 20th at 6:00 PM at Coborn's in SR

October Meeting

Meet Anatole Burkin, the editor of Fine Woodworking magazine and find out what goes on behind the scenes at Taunton Press. He will talk about how editors develop articles, tell what really happens on photo shoots, and describe the editorial process of developing a typical issue of Fine Woodworking magazine.

Our New Permanent Home

The Sauk Rapids – Rice School District has kindly allowed to the CMWA to use one of their shop facilities for future meetings. We will be meeting at our new home at the Sauk Rapids – Rice Middle School. The old Mississippi Heights Middle School is now an elementary school and the new middle school is in the old high school.

We will need to enter the Middle School through the back of the building. The room number is 916. See the map for more details.

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Hand Planes

by Roland Johnson

Hand planes are invaluable tools for taking warps out of boards, smoothing difficult grain, trimming tenons for a perfect fit and many other wood removal tasks. Bench planes and block planes are the most common types of planes used for flattening wood. Bench planes are more complex with a "frog" that holds the iron. Block planes are "the open end adjustable wrench" of the plane family and are simple in design, easy to keep tuned up and work great for small planing operations.

The most important consideration when setting up a plane is to make sure the iron (some folks call it the blade) is properly supported by the plane body, especially at the throat opening. If the iron is not supported across the throat it will flex minutely when cutting and that can cause chatter, which I am sure many plane users have encountered.

The usual sharpening angle for a hand plane iron is 25 degrees. If you are working primarily with hardwoods sometimes it is advantageous to sharpen to a steeper angle, maybe 28 or 30 degrees. Softwoods prefer a bit more of a blunt angle, maybe as low as 20 degrees. Experiment with the angle to see where your "sweet spot" is.

Flatten the sole of the plane for easier and more consistent planing. If the plane body has a high spot or hollow in the sole, it will result in uneven contact between the iron and the wood surface. It is hard to get good consistent results with a crooked sole. When you flatten the sole make sure the iron and iron cap are mounted in the plane body to the normal tightness. There are stresses exerted on the plane body by these parts and can cause the body to flex minutely which could result in a crooked sole if the sole is flattened without the parts and pressure. Keep in mind that the iron should always be able to be adjusted without releasing the iron cap.

Hone the back of the iron smooth before sharpening the angle. There are small milling marks on the back of the iron that will cause a less than perfect sharp edge. Eliminating these grooves will help get that "scary sharp" edge.

Try to learn to sharpen the iron without the use of any angle guide or other blade-holding device. It helps to keep your sharpening equipment at the same height and always sharpen at that height to enable your arms and brain to get the angle "set" for quick, easy and accurate

sharpening. The easier it is to sharpen your tools the more often you will sharpen them and the better your workmanship will become as a result of sharp tools.

Keep the sole of your plane clean and waxed. Remember to avoid any wax that contains silicone. Carnuba wax, candle wax (paraffin), or even cross-country ski base wax will work. Top Coat, a spray used for table saws and the like, will work too.

Once the plane is tuned up and sharp, spend some time planing different types of wood. Practice straight cuts and cuts holding the plane at a skew. The more time you spend practicing the easier planing wood with a hand plane becomes and you will soon find it to be a valuable tool around your shop.



Dave Blenkush explains the different grinder wheels.



John Kirchoff demonstrates flattening the back of an iron.



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Sauk Rapids - Rice Middle School

Enter Door 23 (around back) - Room 916



Next Meeting:

**Wednesday, October 20th at 7:00 PM
at Sauk Rapids - Rice Middle School**

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