

# Monthly Messenger

Central Minnesota Woodworker's Association

Volume 3 Issue 6  
June 2003

## May CMWA Meeting Minutes

Mississippi Heights Middle School  
7 PM - May 21, 2003

### OLD BUSINESS:

- Several members had arrived for the April meeting which was not held due to bad weather conditions. Ron McKeever mentioned that if weather may cause a meeting cancellation, to listen to the local radio for a notice of the school activities closing.

### NEW BUSINESS:

- Kurt Zniwski brought in a Rubbermaid Tub with a hinged cover and lock as a temporary storage for library materials until a more permanent storage unit is built. He also has a three-ring binder for material checkout inside. He mentioned that the tub was too light and might be carried off, so he included several "anti-theft" granite blocks, requiring two people to carry it. In case you didn't know, granite products are Kurt's specialty. How about a granite slab insert in your next end table project?
- A video by Richard Raffan on woodturning was shown. It included his sharpening methods for the turning tools, and was obviously adequate by his rapid production of chips during the rest of his demonstration. The sharpening demo covered gouges, skewers, scrapers, and parting tools. The rest of the video included correct stance and body/arm movement including tool gripping. It had most emphasis on gouge and skew tool use. Several articles were produced, including a tool handle, a turned box with lid, and other smaller products.
- Following the video, a discussion on suggested brands had a comment that Crown and also Sorby brands work well, and that the Crown brand seems to stay sharp longer.
- Member-supplied turned projects were displayed at the meeting. These included vases and weed pots.
- One reply for projects for the next meeting was that a tugboat is too difficult to haul to the school.

NEXT MEETING: JUNE 18th, 7 PM AT MISSISSIPPI HEIGHTS MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Hot Hide Glue - The traditional way to bond wood by Roland Johnson

Hide glue has a long history in woodworking dating back to ancient Egypt and the pharaohs. Beyond a historical past, hide glue has many attributes for the modern woodworker such as long open clamp time, quick "grab" for initial assembly, and unless the glue is attacked by mold it will never lose its ability to bond wood fibers together. We have all seen veneer lift on antique furniture and lots of old glue joints fail, but the reason is usually that the glue has been subjected to excessively dry conditions, such as a wood heated farmhouse in a Midwestern winter, and the glue has simply crystallized. If the glue is moistened it will reconstitute and hold as good as when it was new. Old veneer that has let go of the substrate can be repaired by simply using a damp cotton cloth and a clothes iron to create heat and steam that will penetrate the veneer and rejuvenate the old hide glue beneath. Luthiers and reproduction furniture makers still use hide glue exclusively, not only is hide glue traditional in their trades, but it also has the ability to be reconstituted with heat or water providing a means to disassemble musical instruments or fine pieces of furniture for repairs. The biggest drawback to using hide glue is the very fact that it is water-soluble and can literally dissolve if subjected to high moisture conditions.

The protein found in animal hides is what makes hide glue stick and another name for this protein is gelatin, just like the stuff of favorite Midwestern desserts. In fact, the only difference between edible gelatin and hide glue is that the edible stuff is more refined with all of the fats removed, puts a whole new light on "there's always room for Jell-O". The protein is also the reason that fungi can destroy hide glue; the fungi will feed on the glue.

Hide glue is available in dry "pearls" or in crystalline form. Reconstituting hide glue requires soaking the dry glue in water and heating it to around 150degrees. I make my hide glue by putting the amount of dry glue I think I can use in a day or two into a small glass container. I cover the dry glue with water and stir for a few seconds. Within a few minutes the glue will soak up the water and become gelatinous. I place the glass jar in my glue pot partially filled with water. I could put the glue directly into the pot, but I don't like cleaning the aluminum pot and the pot is too large for the small amount of glue I usually make. In the glue pot the gelatin will liquefy from

See **HIDE GLUE**, Page 3 >

## June 2003

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

**Next Meeting:** June 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at Mississippi Heights Middle School

**Board Meeting:** June 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 PM at Coborn's in SR

### June Meeting

Photography - Roland Johnson will be demonstrating his talent for photographing woodworking projects.

### Future Meetings

<b>July</b>	(Open Date)
<b>August</b>	Inlays
<b>September</b>	Open House & HVLP System
<b>October</b>	Wall Shelf
<b>November</b>	Lee Dovetail Jig
<b>December</b>	Holiday Get Together

\*Meeting topics tentative and subject to change.

### Central Minnesota Woodworker's Association

<b>President</b>	John Caye
<b>Vice President</b>	Ron McKeever
<b>Treasurer</b>	Dan Iburg
<b>Secretary</b>	Alex Neussendorfer
<b>Board of Directors</b>	John Kirchoff, Marty Mahowald, Darren McKeever, Ted Stevens, Roland Johnson
<b>Newsletter</b>	Darren McKeever

### The Monthly Messenger Newsletter

Have a good idea for an article? Is there anything you would like to share with the group? Contact Darren McKeever at one of the meetings, call him at 255-0463, or send him an email at [newsletter@thecmwa.com](mailto:newsletter@thecmwa.com).

### Want Ads

Send to [newsletter@thecmwa.com](mailto:newsletter@thecmwa.com)

### For Sale:

Ball rollers for making your own roller stands or outfeed tables. Asking \$1.25 each (half price of new). These are great items. I have about 50 more than I need and thought some members could use them instead of having them sit in my shop. See or Call John Caye 253-2875



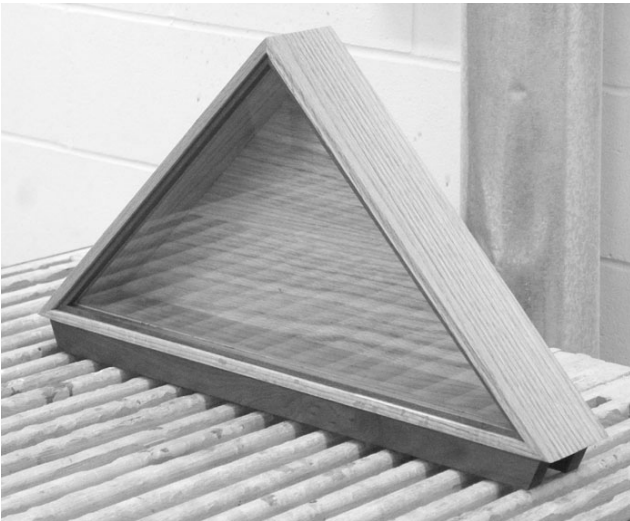
### Mississippi Heights Middle School



### Projects on Display



Dick Beumer brought a sampling of his wood turning projects. After watching the wood turning video during the May meeting, we can all appreciate the hard work Dick has put into his projects.



Tom Homan shared his patriotic project, a flag case. The front was glass covered and had a beautiful two-toned look.

### Hide Glue from Page 1

heat and then I can add a bit of water to bring the glue to the consistency I want.

If I accidentally add too much water I can simply let the glue simmer for a while, uncovered, and the excess water will evaporate. When I am done working for the day I simply remove the jar from the glue pot and put a lid on the jar; easy storage. The glue will become semi-solid when it is cool and will require reheating for the next use.

Commercial glue pots can be purchased for about a hundred dollars and work like double boilers with a heating coil inside a pot with a removable second pot that the glue is heated in. The glue pot is thermostatically controlled and will hold the glue at the appropriate temperature.

Hot hide glue sets as it cools. By varying the viscosity of the hot hide glue it can be customized to fit precise gluing needs. The thinner the glue the slower it sets giving reasonably long open times for repair work. Thick hide glue gels quickly and is great for work where a clamp would be impossible to use. Traditional hide glue has a short shelf life once it is reconstituted. Because it is a protein mold will quickly start to grow on the glue and destroy its strength. A few days are about the maximum length of time hide glue will useable after being mixed with water. In the granular state hide glue will last indefinitely.

Liquid hide glue, made by Titebond, is ready to use right out of the bottle. Urea is added to traditional hide glue to keep it liquid at room temperature. It is premixed and has preservatives to keep it from deteriorating. Though not as versatile as the hot hide glue, liquid hide glue does save a lot of hassle and is the easiest way to reglue projects that were originally bonded with hide glue. Modern adhesives such as aliphatic resin glue will not stick to hide glue and all remnants of hide glue must be removed from the wood before the modern adhesive will stick. This is a good reason to use hide glue when making repairs to old furniture

Hide glue has fairly low gap filling ability and tends to be a bit brittle when applied in a thick layer. Resistant to moderate heat and solvents, hide glue also has good shock resistance and will hold up under moderate moisture conditions.

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# Have a Great Summer!

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Woodworker's Association

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Inside This Issue

Meeting Minutes	1
Hot Hide Glue Article	1
Calendar of Events	2
Future Meetings	2
Want Ads	2
Projects on Display	3



**Mathew Hall** supports the Central Minnesota Woodworker's Association. Thank you for your business and input on new products. In order to keep up with your needs, please inform us of new products and services you would like to see us provide.

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**Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM  
at Mississippi Heights Middle School**