



Monthly Messenger

Central Minnesota Woodworker's Association

Volume 3 Issue 8
August 2003

July CMWA Meeting Minutes

Mississippi Heights Middle School
7 PM – July 16, 2003

OLD BUSINESS:

- None covered in this month's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- JoAnn Johnson presented information on Woodcraft Industries, in preparation for a tour of their two St. Cloud facilities. She has fifteen years of service there, which includes seven years in customer service, three years as office manager, two years as assistant to the COO, and three years assistant to the president and also the centralized purchasing for multiple plant use.
- Woodcraft is one of the largest suppliers of doors and components to the kitchen and bath vanity industries. Among the products produced are; Assembled solid wood doors and components; Face frames; Drawer parts; Veneer raised panel doors; Rigid thermo foil doors; and Solid plus Profile Veneer Wrapped architectural millwork.
- The products are made of wood species that include Red Oak, White Oak, Hard Maple, Soft Maple, Cherry, Hickory, Pine, White Birch, and Aspen. Some 75 to 80% of the red oak is purchased from Minnesota, with the remainder from Wisconsin. A small amount of hard maple and white oak is also purchased from Minnesota.
- The on-site pre-drying operation brings the moisture content as supplied, down to some 25%, over about thirty days, with the kiln drying reducing it another 6 to 8% over seven days. The pre-drying capacity is over 1.1 million board feet, and the kiln drying capacity is 300,000 board feet in the St. Cloud facility. The kilns had the white wood boards stickered with composite material that had a dog-bone style cross section, to allow for better air movement and less staining
- Across the six production facilities in Minnesota, Kentucky, North Dakota, and Oregon, some three million board feet of lumber is processed each month.
- The Cabinet Door Facility has some 250 employees and produces seven to ten thousand doors per day, of eight designs and varying size. All door products

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Projects on Display



Richard Pawlenty built this dory over two summers. The dory was invented 200 years ago in Nova Scotia by cod fishermen. The design was so well adapted that it has stood the test of time.



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

Next Meeting: August 20th at 7:00 PM at Mississippi Heights Middle School

Board Meeting: Aug 20th at 6:15 PM at Coborn's in SR

August Meeting

Inlays – A demonstration by Roland Johnson.

Future Meetings

September	Open House & HVLP System
October	Wall Shelf
November	Lee Dovetail Jig
December	Holiday Get Together

*Meeting topics tentative and subject to change.

Mississippi Heights Middle School



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are built to customer orders, no inventory of finished goods is kept. One area produces all doors for one installation (Kitchen-At-A-Time), where the quantity of any size is one to perhaps fifty. The other area does the mass production, where lot size could be from fifty to perhaps 2500.

- An interesting feature in the door fabrication was the use of glue with a dye that fluoresces in ultra-violet (black light) illumination. This allows seeing and removal of glue squeeze out before additional processing and shipment, where the customer applied stain would not adhere to any surface glue. The glue joint strength was mentioned as one to one and a half thousand pounds. The backside of the doors is laser marked with a black light visible stamp that identifies the date and time the doors were produced.
- One impressive door style used a composite core material made of wheat straw which has a raised panel profile machined on it and then is laminated with wood veneer on both sides.
- Most doors were of the conventional rail and stile design, but four to five thousand per week were of a mortise and miter type.
- The millwork section produces some 450 thousand lineal feet of molding per week. It has five machines, which are expected to use less than twenty minutes to change cutters.
- A sincere thanks is given to all who made this tour possible, it was interesting, informative, and likely caused many members to drool at the sight of all that beautiful wood.

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 20th, 7 PM AT MISSISSIPPI HEIGHTS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Central Minnesota Woodworker's Association

President	John Caye
Vice President	Ron McKeever
Treasurer	Dan Iburg
Secretary	Alex Neussendorfer

Board of Directors John Kirchoff, Marty Mahowald, Darren McKeever, Ted Stevens, Roland Johnson

Newsletter Darren McKeever

Woodcraft Industries, Inc.

St. Cloud Facility & Cabinet Door Facility tours

July's meeting included a tour of Woodcraft Industries' two facilities in St. Cloud: the St. Cloud Facility and the Cabinet Door Facility. The St. Cloud Facility manufactures many hardwood components for the cabinet industry; from drawer fronts to moldings. The Cabinet Door Facility can handle orders from one door to truckloads in what seems like countless style/species combinations.

A huge thanks to JoAnn, who arranged the tours, and to Mike, Ron, and Steve, the tour guides. All the members that were able to make it really enjoyed the tours.



Woodcraft has many specialized machines like this clamping station.



Mike leads the tour of the Cabinet Door Facility of Woodcraft Industries.



Woodcraft employees assemble raised panel doors using glue with a dye that fluoresces in ultra-violet illumination.



The St. Cloud Facility can dry hundreds of thousands of board feet of green lumber in their kilns. Scrap lumber from the plant is burned in a furnace to heat the kilns.



Final inspections happen under many lights and any imperfections are fixed.



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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, August 20th at 7:00 PM
at Mississippi Heights Middle School**