



Monthly Messenger

Central Minnesota Woodworker's Association

Volume 6 Issue 7
July 2006

Adirondack Chair Project

Several CMWA members (Tom Zak, Ron McKeever, Scott Randall, Cy Valerius and John Skalla) have been meeting on Saturday mornings at John Skalla's shop to make Adirondack Chairs. They have met four consecutive Saturdays for about three hours each.

All the chairs are made of cedar, which is a very good material for outdoor furniture due to its light weight and weather resistance. The design is a contemporary version of traditional Adirondack Chairs.

The group had an opportunity to sharpen their techniques using some tools they may not use often. They also found that some homemade jigs and templates are more useful than those bought in stores. Another lesson learned is outdoor furniture is not fine furniture, so utilizing high precision is less important than simply making parts fit together and look good.

See [Adirondack Chair History](#) page 3



Tom Zak and Ron McKeever work to fit parts together.



Scott Randall (left), Tom Zak, John Skalla, and Ron McKeever enjoy their Adirondack chairs.

CMWA Meeting Recap

Sauk Rapids / Rice Middle School on June 21st, 2006 at 7PM Recap adapted from secretary's meeting minutes

Spraying Finish Demonstration

Ben Carlson, a representative from Hirshfield's, gave a demonstration on spraying finish. He explained the different types of spraying equipment as well as the benefits of each type. Thank you, Ben, for sharing this valuable information with the CMWA.

See [Spraying Finish](#) page 3

Annual Swap Meet Date

- The annual Swap Meet date has been set for **September 30th, 2006** and it will be held at the Saint Cloud Armory.

Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

- Tom Homan asked members to continue to collect pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. You can bring your pop tabs to an upcoming meeting.

CMWA Member Discounts

- Lee's Hardware will be giving a 10% discount to CMWA members.
- Hirshfield's will also be setting up a discount.

Habitat for Humanity

- A group of CMWA members will be helping build cabinets for a Habitat for Humanity home that is being built on the south side of St. Cloud. The home will be completed in October. The group will be working at Tom Homan's workshop in St. Joseph. Please contact Ron McKeever, Scott Randall, or Tom Homan for more information.

Next Meeting

- Our next meeting will be held at Sauk Rapids / Rice Middle School and will feature a demonstration by Scott Randall on how to make dovetails on the table saw.
- John Skalla will share his knowledge on files, rasps, and rifflers.

July 2006

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

Next Meeting: July 19 at 7:00 PM at **Sauk Rapids / Rice Middle School Shop** Map page 4.
Board Meeting: July 19 at 6:00 PM at Coborn's in Sauk Rapids

Central Minnesota Woodworker's Assoc.

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 in Sauk Rapids and share information, techniques and topics of interest in the area of woodworking.

July Meeting

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Central Minnesota Woodworker's Assoc.

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Spraying Finish

Ben Carlson, a representative from Hirshfield's, gave a demonstration on spraying finish. In spray finishing, it is important to have good atomization. Atomization is the process of creating very fine particles of finish; the better the atomization, and therefore smaller particles, the smoother the finish. Another important spray gun factor is transfer efficiency, or the amount of finish that adheres to the work piece surface. Spray guns have a wide range of transfer efficiencies, from 25% to as much as 85% depending on type and quality of spray gun. Cup spray guns have a container attached directly or close to the gun and can either be a gravity feed or siphon feed. Gravity feed cups are above the gun and, as the name states, gravity forces the finish into the gun. Siphon feed cups are below the gun and air pressure is used to push the finish up to the gun. Neither type of gun is better performance-wise; it is a matter of preference.

Spray equipment can be further broken out into three main categories, HVLP, conventional gun and compliant gun systems. HVLP is the most common spray guns and often are sold with a turbine which supplies air at a specified rate to the spray gun. HVLP systems allow a better transfer efficiency but are slower than conventional guns. The automotive industry almost exclusively uses conventional spray systems because of the high atomization and speed. Conventional guns, however, do produce a lot of overspray. Compliant guns are a blend of both HVLP and conventional offering better atomization with better transfer efficiency.

Hirshfield's offers classes at their Contract Service Center in Blaine on spraying techniques. There are three one day classes; 6 hour class on Lacquer, 8 hour class on stains, and 9 hour class on special effects. Contact Hirshfield's for more information.

Thank you, Ben, for sharing your experience with the CMWA.



Adirondack Chair History

by John Skalla

Thomas Lee designed the first Adirondack Chair in 1903. He was on vacation in Westport, NY and he needed outdoor chairs for his summer home. He tested the first designs on his family.

The original Adirondack Chair was made with eleven pieces of wood, cut from a single board. It had a straight back and seat, which were set at a slant to sit better on the steep mountain inclines of the area. It also featured wide armrests which became a hallmark of the Adirondack Chair.

The Adirondack Chair might have stayed in Lee's back yard, except for his friend Harry Bunnell. Bunnell had a small carpentry shop and needed a source of winter income. He used Lee's idea and started to create the chairs.

In 1905, Bunnell received a patent for the "Westport Chair". For the next twenty years, Bunnell produced these chairs. All of his "Westports" were signed, made out of Hemlock and painted green or dark brown.

The Adirondack Chair has changed over the years, while maintaining the same style and comfort. Today's Adirondack Chairs usually feature a rounded back and contoured seat. The style has also been translated to other pieces of furniture, anything from Gliders to Love Seats. Modern Adirondack chairs can also be made of many materials from cedar to recycled plastic.

John Skalla (below) shares the history of the Adirondack chair.



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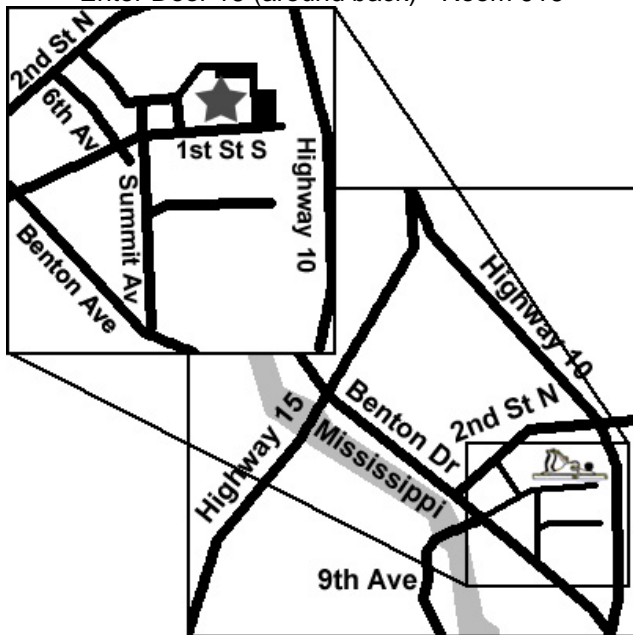
www.thecmwa.com
320-968-7005
newsletter@thecmwa.com

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Sauk Rapids - Rice Middle School

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Next Meeting:
Wednesday, July 19th at 7:00 PM
at Sauk Rapids / Rice Middle School

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