



Newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 5

May 2007

President's Notes

I received a couple of emails from people who were looking for information about our woodworking group. It started me thinking about what the CMWA is really about and how our members benefit from belonging.

I am presently building an arts and crafts style mirror frame and at the time of our last meeting it was still in the design stages.

Rollie Johnson gave a great presentation on grain orientation, proportions and wood movement in furniture design. The next day, I redesigned my mirror frame to incorporate what I had learned at the meeting. Specifically, I tapered the stiles to give a more stable and balanced appearance. I changed out a few boards for ones with more stable grain patterns. I moved the smaller arched base up to the top and replaced it with a wider one. There's no doubt that I learned a number of good tips at the meeting.

The joint design decision was an easy one. I needed to get the project done quickly, so I chose pocket hole fasteners. We had a meeting presentation on pocket hole joints last fall, which made me feel very comfortable using them for the mirror frame.

I'm using ebony inlays in the stiles. From our presentation on glues, I knew that I needed to take special precautions with dense oily woods like ebony. It needs to be glued very soon after machining. This is

Continued page 2.

Wood Movement

Presentation by Roland Johnson

Written by John Wilson

Rollie first pointed out the terms used in cutting lumber.

A "fitch" means lumber that was all cut from the same tree. A fitch is the most preferred by furniture makers since all of the wood is likely to be of the same color and grain and will give a consistent appearance throughout. It is also known as "sawing thru and thru".

Rollie pointed out the differences between the three main types of sawing used in the lumber industry, quarter sawn, rift sawn and the standard method of flat sawing.



Roland Johnson explains how a log is cut into lumber.

Because of its dramatic grain appearance, quarter sawn lumber is the most widely sought after lumber used in fine furniture. Unlike most common lumber, its grain runs 90 degrees to the face of the board. Quarter sawn lumber also has the distinct quality of being the most stable of all three types of lumber, because of the grain direction established by the sawing method used. Unfortunately, because of the large amount of waste created by the quarter sawing method, it is also the most expensive of the three cuts, and is the most difficult to obtain at most retail lumber outlets. Youngblood Lumber is a good source for this type of lumber.

Rift sawn lumber is the second most sought after lumber in the furniture making industry. Its grain runs

Continued page 2.

CMWA Meeting Recap

Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School on April 18, 2007 at 7PM. Recap adapted from secretary's meeting minutes.

Wood Movement

Roland Johnson delivered an informative presentation on wood movement.

See Wood Movement this page

CMWA Student Outreach

John Wilson, reports that the program has now been completed.

See CMWA Student Outreach Program on page 3

Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

Tom Homan is collecting pop can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Please collect your pop tabs and bring them to a future meeting.

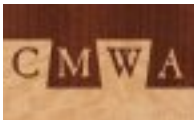


Monthly Door Prizes

Fred Haack won this month's door prize. It included a Shop Fox Square, a Router Mat, and tack cloths.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on May 16, 2007 at 7:00 PM at the Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School Woodshop.



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.

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Wood Movement from page 1

about 45 to 60 degrees perpendicular to the face of the board. It's more stable than common lumber, and displays a more interesting grain, but again is more expensive than flat sawn, but less expensive than quarter sawn lumber. Flat sawing is the most economical of the three types of cuts, but offers the least dramatic grain of the three, as well as being the least stable of the three.

Wood movement is insignificant along the length of a board, but can be quite significant across the width of it, causing a challenge for fine furniture makers during the design process. Each design must be carefully thought out prior to creating a piece of furniture in order to prevent the inherent forces of wood movement from ruining an otherwise beautiful piece or work. Wood movement is the reason old timers have always pinned their mortise and tenon joints. Wood movement is the reason many glued, perpendicular lap joints come apart.

Choosing kiln dried lumber is a wise choice for those involved in making furniture. The kiln drying process causes the cells in wood to collapse thus stabilizing it and minimize the swelling or shrinking caused by changing atmospheric conditions to more humid or dryer seasonal conditions.

All wood varieties move at different rates. If you decide to build furniture pieces with more than one significant variety of wood, be sure that the shrinkage rate of the two varieties are similar. Otherwise you may be disappointed with the end results caused by wood movement at the joints.

The best wood varieties to build with are the domestic varieties found in your region. These are the varieties most of withstanding the climates associated with your area. Maple, Red Oak or Walnut would all be good choices for central Minnesota since they are commonly found here.

May 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 CMWA	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Next Meeting:

May 16th at 7:00PM at SR-R Middle School

Board Meeting:

May 16th at 6:00PM at Coborn's in Sauk Rapids

President from page 1

done to prevent the oils from seeping out to the surfaces to be glued. Ebony is a very dense wood. The surface should be sanded lightly to better accept the glue. As with all oily woods, the surfaces being glued should be wiped with mineral spirits or acetone just before glue application. Glues with longer open times will also allow better penetration of the surface of the ebony.

The surface preparation demonstration convinced me that the extra steps really do make a difference. At this meeting, there were two samples placed side by side. One was run through a standard planer and sanded to 150 grit. The other was hand planed, scraped with a cabinet scraper, a card scraper and sanded to 400 grit. The difference between the two was very obvious. The second case had a much higher degree of clarity and luster. This is the surface preparation that I chose to use on my mirror frame.

I chose an oil based stain and a lacquer finish coat just because I had it on hand. After Scott Beattie's presentation on finishing and wax application, I may experiment with a final coat of wax to get the effects that I'm looking for.

I am a professional woodworker. Yet, almost every decision on my mirror frame project was based on information obtained at one of our meetings. I'm very proud to be a part of an organization that does such a good job of teaching the finer points of woodworking. I will be bringing the mirror frame to our next meeting for our show and tell session.

Scott Randall

CMWA Student Outreach Program

John Wilson, Chairman of this Springs Student Outreach Program, reports that the program has now been completed. The six registered students successfully built a Peterson Bluebird house of cedar. John would like to thank members Allen Mendel, John Caye, Alex Neussendorfer and Rollie Johnson for volunteering their time and talent in making this season's program another success. Also a thank you goes out to Darren McKeever for the capturing the student's progress through his camera lens.

For those of you who have considered becoming volunteers for our semi-annual event, our next Outreach Program will begin again next fall.



Projects on Display

Tom Zak brought along a roll-top desk, which he is working on and hopes to finish it soon.



Gary Mrozek Showed off a segmented vase made up of 668 pieces of maple and trimmed with Purple Heart bands. He finished it with Behlen's Wood Turners Finish, available from Rocklers.

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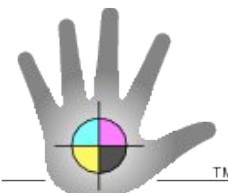


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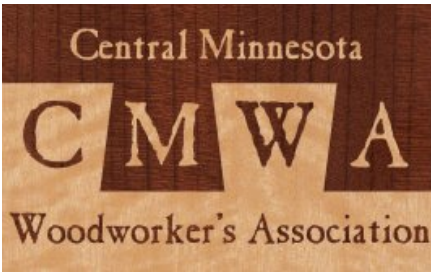
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PO Box 1955
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Next Meeting
Wednesday, May 16th at 7:00PM
Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School
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