



# Newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 12

December 2007

## Wood Turning

**Demonstration by Gary Mrozek**

**Written by John Wilson**

You wouldn't know it from his mild mannered personality, but Gary Mrozek is quite an accomplished Wood Turner, and the many pieces of artwork he showed off at the November CMWA meeting gave witness to that. The first thing one would notice about Gary's workshop/3 car garage is that it is so clean that I'm sure most of us who attended the meeting felt as though we really ought to spend more, or as in my case, a lot more time cleaning our shops and less time messing them up.

Gary says he bought his lathe about two years ago, a Delta X5 variable speed reversible lathe. He's got it mounted on casters so he can quickly wheel it out of the way to make room for his vehicles. He chooses Robert Sorby lathe chisels, and says they serve him well. What surprised me most is that Gary says that green wood is far easier to turn and finish than kiln dried wood. It's easier on the chisels and the results are equally as good

as using kiln dried wood. He stresses the importance of finishing the piece the same day in which you start it, and immediately sealing it with an applied finish right after you complete it, lest the green wood begin to warp from open exposure to the elements. Gary says that it's easy for him to acquire plenty of green wood for turning. He just keeps trading a bowl or two for more logs from



*Gary Mrozek shows how to cut a log to turn a bowl.*

friends and co-workers. Boxelder and Red Elm are two of his favorites because of the beautiful red streaks inherent in them. Gary showed off one of his favorite home made tools for stock removal from the inside of vases. He calls it his laser-guided gouge, which it literally is. He

## CMWA Meeting Recap

Gary Mrozek's shop in St. Cloud on November 21, 2007 at 7PM. Recap adapted from secretary's meeting minutes

### Wood Turning Demonstration

Gary Mrozek provided a hands-on demonstration on wood turning in his shop.

See Wood Turning this page

### CMWA Student Outreach

Student Outreach Chairman John Wilson reports that two of the four Tuesday evening Sauk Rapids/Rice Community Education Woodworking classes are now completed, with two more Tuesday evenings to go. He would like to take this opportunity to express his gratitude to John Kirchoff for donating his cabinet shop as well as his services re-sawing eighty board feet of rough-cut Basswood used in the making of the students Treasure Boxes. Also, he would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members for making this Falls program a success; Bob Burnett, Alan Mendel, Fred Haack, Brad Knowles, Tom Homan, Dave Schwanke, Alex Neusendorfer, John Caye and Scott Randall. These volunteers are the ones who work wonders bringing it all

together making John's seat-of-the-pants plans a smooth reality. Our many thanks to these members for their time and skills in making this essential semi-annual event a reality.

### 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.



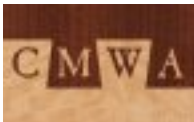
### Monthly Door Prizes

John Wilson won a Walnut Vase made by Gary Mrozek.

John Kenning won the monthly door prize, which included a Scratch Awl, Sanding Mat, Tack Cloths and a Rubber Sanding Belt Cleaner.

### Next Meeting

Wednesday, December 19th at the Sauk Rapids/Rice Middle School Wood shop. This will be our annual Pot Luck Christmas dinner. Please bring a dish to share with others.



## 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.

**President** Scott Randall

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**Newsletter Editor** Darren McKeever

# December 2007

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

### Next Meeting:

Dec 19th at 7:00PM at SR-R Middle School

### Board Meeting:

December 19th at 6:00PM at Coborn's in Sauk Rapids

incorporates a laser pointer, mounted in a strange looking bracket mounted gouge, which he made from scratch, to quickly remove stock from the inside of small-necked vases. He demonstrated it in action and it worked great. The Laser, when properly mounted and adjusted in the tool, performed fantastically to quickly indicate how much of the wall thickness remains. Gary then uses a drum sander, mounted on a right angle Milwaukee reversible drill, to spin the vase or bowl in alternating directions, while stepping through the various sanding grits through 220 grit. He says that doing so keeps the wood from getting that hairy texture from sanding. Although Gary's



many different finishes, his favorite is just still plain old Beeswax. He holds a piece of hard Beeswax to the work piece while the piece is still spinning on the lathe. He then holds a lint-free piece of cloth against the cold applied wax, pressing firmly to build friction to

simultaneously heat the wax and the wood to the point that the wax melts and absorbs quickly into the warm wood, bringing out a nice satin finish.

For those interested in learning woodturning, Gary recommends picking up the CD "Turning Wood" by Richard Raffin. He says he's learned more from that CD than from any books he's read.


Gary would like to start a spin-off group of interested wood turners, both experienced and not so experienced, meeting once monthly. He says he'd be happy to Chair the new group through it's first year.





**Projects on Display**

John Skalla showed several bowls he recently made, including a Red Elm Bowl and a Curly Maple Bowl.



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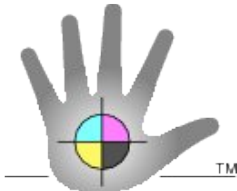
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**Next Meeting**  
**Wednesday, December 19th at 7:00PM**  
**Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School**  
Enter Door 16 (around back) - Room 916



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