

Newsletter

Volume 8 Issue 11

November 2008

October's Meeting: "Ornamental Mill Demo"

**Presented by
Brad Knowles**

Brad Knowles, this month's presenter, gave a great demonstration of his new Legacy Ornamental Mill. Brad bought his model 900 Mill about a year ago on Ebay for \$1,750 dollars. He chose a Porter Cable 3-1/4 hp router to compliment it, to which he added a quick-change collet, to facilitate quick bit changes. The mill has a capacity of 48" stock length. There is also a larger Mill available, capable of 72" stock length, which sells for around \$3,095 dollars. Brad explained that this mill is essentially a router table with the ability to turn the stock while simultaneously moving the router. The router can be moved in the X or Y directions freely by hand, or by lead screws as desired. Brad's machine has both the capability to make twisted objects such as the candlesticks he created and displayed, but also fluted objects, as well as tapered objects such as table legs. The mill takes standard router bits of any size. He demonstrated that it's quick and easy to turn square stock into any size dowel. Brad pointed out that his mill comes with seven different travel speed gears. He also purchased an accessory table to create Rosette's and Patera's, which he displayed as well.

Wow! What a tool. I'm making space for one in my shop right away, then I've got to get my lottery ticket.



Brad demonstrated his ornamental mill.



A candle holder turned on Brad's mill.

November's Meeting: "Boxes by Lennie"

**Presented by
Lennie Merdan**

Our guest speaker this month is Lennie Merdan. Lennie specializes in building boxes. He is an excellent resource for information related to joints, inlays and material selection. He is very down to earth and downright enjoyable to converse with.

Nomination of officers will be part of the November meeting. There is a detailed description of open positions for which we will ask for nominations on sheet 2 of this newsletter.



Central Minnesota Woodworker's Association

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: Tom Doom
- Vice President: Roland Johnson
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- Board of directors: Greedo Goldenstein,
Brad Knowles
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Gary Mrozek
- Director of Marketing: Tom Homan
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Novemeber 2008

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Next Meeting: Nov. 19th at 7:00 PM at **Sauk Rapids – Rice Middle School** Map page 4.

Board Meeting: Nov. 19th at 6:00 PM at Coborn's in Sauk Rapids.

OFFICER NOMINATIONS:

November is officer nominations month, to be followed by December elections. The Board of Directors will be seeking members to fill the following vacancies:

- 1st Vice President, (currently held by Rollie Johnson).
- Director of Marketing, which is currently held by Tom Homan.
- Newsletter Editor, which is currently held by Scott Randall.
- Two "At Large" Board Member seats, currently held by Greedo Goldenstein and Brad Knowles.

CMWA WOOD EXPO & SALE:

Mark your calendars! The tentative date for the CMWA Wood Expo has been set for February 21st and Brad Knowles, this year's Wood Expo Chairman, is seeking energetic volunteers for the upcoming event. Please let Brad if you can help out. It takes so little of your time to volunteer, and it makes such a difference to the success of the event.

POP TABS FOR THE 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.

CMWA NEEDS CAMERA:

The CMWA is lookingofr a working video camera and tripod to record meetings and demonstrations. Please contact Gary Mrozek or Rollie Johnson.

DECEMBER MEETING:

The December meeting is our Holiday meeting. Everyone should bring a dish and their spouse.



The CMWA Woodturner's Coming Events:

- We'll put the lathe and tools away in December and invite our spouse or guest to a holiday get-together on Saturday December 13th at the home of Gary and Faye Mrozek. Come around 1:30 and bring a hors d'oeuvre to share. RSVP's are appreciated (Gary Mrozek, 1314 West Oakes Drive, St. Cloud, 252-2764). December's project is a toy with wheels that turn. Bring your toy to display.
- January challenge project is GO GREEN! Make something out of "found material" (something that was discarded or used for a different intent). Examples could include; an old fence post, a bookcase a neighbor is throwing away, old studs or flooring – be creative. Pictures of the "before" should accompany your finished item.
- Details are being worked out to invite Connie Orth to our January 10th Woodturners Group meeting. She will talk about the Empty Bowls event that was mentioned at our October meeting. She is very excited to hear about the turners group and our interest in participating. This would be the first year they offer wooden bowls.

Here are a few details:

- This year's event will be March 22nd at the Paramount Theater.
- There are two types of bowls they need:
 - High End Art - generally defined as bowls that would be sold on the silent auction for \$100 or more.
 - Community bowls - Everyone who buys a bowl (of soup) gets to pick a bowl off a table. Community table bowls range in quality from "you call that a bowl?" to "very nice". They need about 25 high end bowls for the silent auction and over 1000 bowls for the community tables (obviously not all from the woodturners).
- They strongly encourage the artist to sign their work no matter which type of bowl they submit. Our wooden bowls will be presented as "Donated by members of the CMWA". It's best if all of the bowls would be food safe, but if they are not, they need to be labeled as such. All donations must be made by March 1st for this year's event. Vases and other item are also accepted for either category.
- We would like to proceed with the member's pictorial handbook we talked about at our September meeting.

To review what and why:

 - An organization like the CMWA should be a fun, informative and social event. Many of us never forget a face. Most of us never remember a name. To put a name to a face is the first step in building new friendships. By having a few generic facts about the person behind the name and face, helps initiate conversation and exchange of shared interests.
 - Plan to have your "mug shot" taken at the November meeting. If you have a digital picture of yourself you'd like to use, feel free to email it to Gary at gmrozek@charter.net
 - Our goal is to distribute the first edition at our January meeting. We'll review the handbook quarterly and make updates as necessary.
 - Complete as much of the attached Members Profile form as you like. Any additional information you would like to share is welcome. It's intended to be a casual, fun and voluntary. Bring the complete form along in November or December.

Photos of the Woodturner's from the October meeting.



Byron John is using a skew chisel



Bill Larsen is checking out a homemade chisel.

Woodturners Meeting Recap

Last month's woodturners meeting was on Saturday, October 18th at Dick Beumer's shop. The meeting began around 9:00AM and the turners were going to begin their series on lidded boxes, or at least that was the plan....

The meeting began with a "show and tell" of the group's challenge project for October - a candle stick or candle holder. Those who brought items talked about everything from the wood the piece was made out of to the type of finish they used.

After the show and tell, Bob Sauer, a member of the Central Minnesota Blacksmith Association, shared several of the lathe tools he hand forged. Bob showed up towards the end of our September Turners meeting seeking input on the preferred design and grind angles from more experienced turners than him, a relative newcomer to turning. Dick Beumer worked with Bob to design a bowl scrapper, which Bob then fabricated. Dick shared this new tool and introduced the man who made it for him. Bob brought with him a bunch of knives that he had made and explained the materials and the process used. The raw material of choice is the leaf springs of trucks. By removing the temper in the steel it can be shaped and finished and re-tempered to a hardness very close to high speed steel. Bob was seeking input from the group on his designs and whether the tools would cut and hold an edge. So it was input that he received. The remainder of the meeting was spent with different members testing the tools on Dick's Oneway lathe. Many of the members felt this was one of the best meetings yet. The informal, hands-on activities are what this group likes best! Thanks Bob!

Information was presented on the Empty Bowls fund raiser. This led into a discussion on the importance of always using "food safe" finishes whenever you give bowls as gifts. Several finished bowls were discussed. Some expectable finishes



are Shellac and bee's wax. Les Sova shared his process of applying mineral oil before he uses bee's wax. Nut oils (walnut, almond) are expectable, but avoid vegetable oils due to the potential to become rancid. Always read the label for precautions.

Curing Green Wood Bowl Blanks with Alcohol

as presented by

Dick Beumer

Rough turn green blank to uniform wall thickness of approximately 1/10th the diameter of the bowl (i.e., a 5" bowl would have a wall thickness of 1/2"). At room temperature, submerge the rough turned blank into full strength denatured alcohol bath allowing it to soak for 4 to 12 hours, depending on blank size. Remove the blank from the bath after the soak time and let it drip dry for 1 hour. Wrap the backside to the bowl rim with brown Kraft paper securing the paper with masking tape at rim edge. Place the bowl upside down on open wire rack to dry.

Allow 4 to 5 days for the bowl to dry during the "evaporation cycle". An odorless blank indicates that the drying cycle is complete. The blank is now stable and ready to be turned to final profile and thickness then sanded and finished. The wood will be considerably harder than when it was rough turned – 4 to 5 times harder.

The alcohol can be reused, although you will notice discoloration of the alcohol each time. From my experience to date it does not appear to affect the color of the finished bowl. I have also use Isopropyl alcohol with equal success. Any alcohol should work. There are four basic types of alcohol:

- Ethyl (whiskey) C₂ H₆ O
- Isopropyl (rubbing) C₃ H₈ O
- Methyl (wood) C H₈ O
- Denatured (a blend of Ethyl and Methyl) C H₄ O

These instructions are not absolute, but a guideline or starting point. Above all, remember safety first! Alcohol is extremely flammable. Always wear protective gloves and eye protection when working with alcohol.



I received an email from a gentleman by the name of Spike Carlsen. He is a local author who lives in Stillwater and has written a book titled: “A Splintered History of Wood”.

He has asked me to include a few words in our newsletter about the book. If you have a computer and a few minutes, check out the website listed below as it has a more in depth description of the book with photos, etc...

A SPLINTERED HISTORY OF WOOD:

Belt Sander Races, Blind Woodworkers and Baseball Bats

A great read for wood lovers

The world of wood is inhabited by a unique assortment of eccentric craftsmen, wacky woods and ingenious tools. Together they've combined to create some of the world's most beloved musical instruments, feared weapons, awesome architecture, stunning works of art, sacred relics, and bizarre forms of transportation. In *A Splintered History of Wood: Belt Sander Races, Blind Woodworkers and Baseball Bats*, Spike Carlsen introduces us to the best of the best:

- * Meet the artisan that carves life-size wood Ferraris—then drives them through the canals of Venice.
- * Discover 50,000-year-old wood mined from the bogs of New Zealand. And track down the world's most expensive lumber.
- * Meet president and woodworker extraordinaire, Jimmy Carter—as well as the Toothpick King, a world-champion chainsaw carver and the man that makes \$10,000 pool cues.
- * Read the inspiring stories behind three blind woodworkers, The Miraculous Staircase and Antonio Stradivari's incomparable violins.
- * Tag along with the author as he competes in the World Championship Belt Sander races.
- * Visit the shops and people that craft record-breaking baseball bats, ancient archery bows, exploding table saws, James Taylor's guitars, the Spruce Goose and more.

Whether it's cracking the Lindbergh kidnapping case, raising a 400 year old sunken ship, spending a day with championship lumberjacks and lumberjills, or touring a 36 year long remodeling project, the 55 stories in this book are sure to amuse, amaze, inspire and inform.

A Splintered History of Wood [Collins, ISBN 978-0-06-137356-5, \$24.95] is available through Barnes & Noble and other bookstores, as well as Amazon.com and other Internet retailers.

More information (and some intriguing photos) at www.asplinteredhistoryofwood.com

Mr. Carlsen has put together a show-and-tell presentation that he's been giving at bookstores and for other groups in the Midwest. Please let me know if you have any interest in inviting him as a speaker for a future meeting.

FOR SALE:

Greg Pont always has a deal on many species of wood. Give Greg a call at (320)584-5573.

- Alder \$1.50/bd ft
- Red Oak \$1.35/bd ft
- Cherry \$1.35/bd ft
- Black Ash \$1.35/bd ft
- Walnut \$3-\$4/bd ft

John Wilson has been approached by a local tree trimmer, and was asked if anyone is interested in very old white pine lumber, bluish in color. The lumber will be sawn from old deadheads that were dredged up from the bottom of the Mississippi River and still have the logger's brand on the end of the logs. The logs are bluish n color.

WANTED:

If anyone has any files, rasps, rifflers or spokeshaves that they would be willing to part with, Scott Randall is looking to tool up to do a bit of sculpting.

OCTOBER MEETING:

Guests included: Dennis Layne, Alan Sias, and Jim Perterson.

Please welcome new members: Dennis Dahl and Tom Markman.

Door Prize: Jake Schneider won this month's door prize consisting of 3 hinge mounting bits and 4 diamond files.

STUDENT OUTREACH PROGRAM:

We are now seeking a volunteer Chairperson for the Spring 2009 session. It requires four 1-1/2 hour evenings to teach the class at the Sauk Rapids/Rice Middle School. The classes have historically been held on four consecutive Tuesday evenings from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm at our usual middle school woodshop meeting place.

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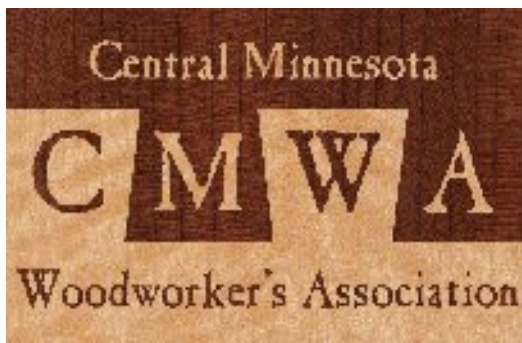
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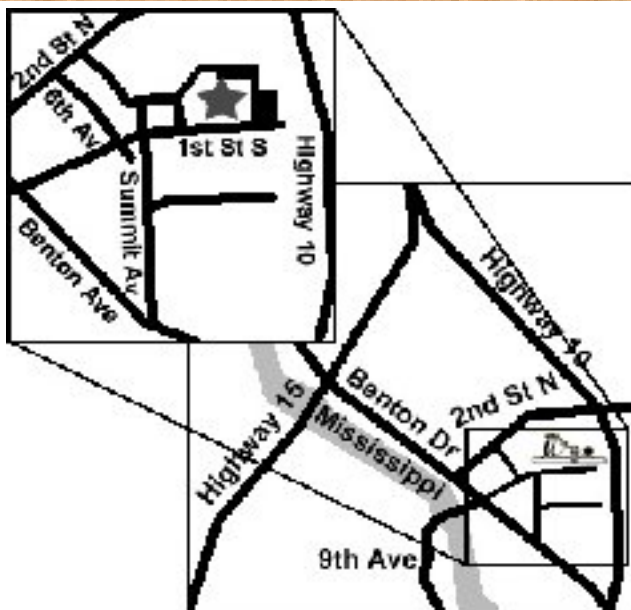
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Next Meeting
Wednesday, November 19th at 7:00PM
Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School
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