



Newsletter

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July 2009

AGAINST THE GRAIN

By Rollie Johnson

Curiosity and Passion



President Rollie Johnson

I never cease to be amazed at what we learn every time we build something. We start to get comfortable with what we think we know about working with wood, or the tools we use, or some process that we often repeat, then out of the clear blue sky comes a revelation that changes everything. It may be a new way of making a joint, a new finish or the trick to finally conquer a complex process. Whatever it may be, it's always a Hallelujah moment and woodworking is fresh and new again. I sometimes think it's the desire to push past what we're comfortable with that keeps us coming back again and again, taking those rough piles of wood and making beautiful, practical, enjoyable objects that bring smiles for our accomplishments. Taking something and creating something else from it is the essence of fulfillment and woodworking can be as fulfilling as anything I've endeavored to do. I find great satisfaction in using something that was not there before I applied my mind, hands and heart. To sit on, dine at and be entertained by my own handiwork is truly a reward worth the sweat, frustration and toil that it takes to create. I guess I'll grow old being curious and passionate about that most fundamental of avocations: woodworking.

Rollie



Greg Pont

July CMWA Meeting will be a Hog Roast at Greg Pont's

Greg has graciously offered to host the July meeting at his lumber mill. The event will also be B.Y.O.B. and we are asking for a \$5 donation to cover costs associated with the meal.

We plan on serving around 6:00, but if you would like to come a little earlier or later or bring a side dish that would be fine.

Greg's mill is indoor with a large enough area to seat us all in the event of rain. It would be a good idea to bring a chair.

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.

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July 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 gen mtg	16	17	18 wt mtg
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	28	29	30	31		

Next Meeting: July 15th at 6:00 PM at Greg Pont's mill.

Board Meeting: No board meeting. Contact Rollie if there are urgent issues.

Turners Meeting: July 18th at John Skalla's.

Hackensack National Chainsaw Sculpting Invitational

Shelly Meyers, the event coordinator, sent a message to our club asking us to advertise the event and ask if there was any interest in doing demonstrations or displaying items for sale at the event.

This will be the fifth annual invitational. This year they have RD Coonrod of the LogHoggers and his team of 6.

They would like to bring hand carving to the event this year. They are looking for individuals to travel to Hackensack, MN this September. They have a building with tables for demonstrations in addition to space to retail your items. There will be no charge to sell your items.

Last year they drew over 7500 people over the course of 3 days, so the selling potential is large.

Shelly's number is 651-768-8068(home) or 651-286-5624(work).



June CMWA Meeting Recap



Left: Al Ernst made a neat wooden CMWA key chain. You can purchase a copy of the key chain for \$5 and the money collected from the sales of the key chains will go to the CMWA. A very nice gesture by Al!

Vacuum Clamping

Dave Blenkush, one of our founding members, shared his knowledge and experience regarding vacuum bagging this month.

First, just let me say that Dave's shop is a modern marvel to behold. Dave, as anyone can instantly see, is an inventor, and his shop gives testament to that. He has made many automated machines to create a wide variety of millwork components, mostly hard to find items for renovations, for the housing industry, which he manufactures himself.

Dave first wanted to note that vacuum bagging holds an advantage over other clamping means in that you can easily see right thru the bag to see if your components have shifted well before the drying gets too far along to readjust things.

Vacuum bagging requires just 5 cfm of vacuum to achieve good results. He says a 20 mil bag is sufficient although a 30 mil bag is better, and a polyethylene bag is best because it doesn't puncture as easily as plastic, from sharp corners on items placed in the bag. Gluing is not a problem since a vacuum will actually enhance the gluing process by sucking the glue into the woods pores more easily.

Placed inside your bag, you'll need either a Platen which is just a board with grooves sawn into it, or a heavy screen on some type, there are several on the market actually. Using one of these two items will help to evacuate the air, minimizing or altogether eliminating trapped air inside the bag.

Dave uses one of three different molds to bend wood when in the bag. One such mold is a solid Styrofoam backing with bendable plywood laminated to it. Using such a mold eliminates distortion of the mold when under outside pressure. A second type of mold was a shop made form with ribs inside for reinforcement at approximately 3 to 6 inches apart depending on the thickness of the plywood used for the form. A third form was hollow, was to be used with an internal bag. Bendable plywood is available for purchase from Renneberg Hardwood Specialties in St. Cloud.

Right: Dave demonstrated that a vacuum system is capable of exerting tremendous forces. He went on to say that the force exerted on one square inch is one atmosphere or about 14.7 pounds per square inch. That translates to about 2000 pounds per square foot. WOW!

Dave put a piece of ¾" particle board across two supports inside the vacuum bag. Once the bag tightened around the board, it was just a matter of seconds before the board snapped.

The demo really showed the power that these systems have.



June CMWA Meeting Recap (cont.)

Dave cautioned against using PVA glue (yellow glue) with vacuum bagging. It's a poor choice because it dries flexible, something you don't want. A better choice would be PVA Acetates, or Urea Formaldehyde (2 part) glues. PVA glue is bad in sunlight because it can soften too much from the heat and let go. Dave uses Unibond 800 glue. It offers a ½ hr dry time, while Rollie says he uses Hide glue. MDF is a good choice for a backing for veneered components. It's very stable. Dave cautioned not to use veneer thicker than 1/16th of an inch since anything thicker cannot stretch while under vacuum but will tear instead.

For those interested in giving vacuum bagging a try, a good starter kit, which includes a vacuum pump, bag and hose, will cost around \$600.00



Dave shows us the difference between PVA and Uni-bond 800 glue. PVA remains flexible, while the Uni-bond 800 is very brittle.

Shown above is a vacuum clamping form with a rubber seal. There is a hole in the middle of the form with a connector on the other side of the board. The form is fixed to a table and your work piece lays on the form. When vacuum is turned on, the work piece is held in position for routing. To remove the piece, just turn the vacuum off.

CMWA News and Events

NEW MEMBERS:

Lets be sure welcome Shawn Jarvis our newest member to the group.

STUDENT OUTREACH PROGRAM:

Our club is now seeking a volunteer chairperson for the Fall 2009 session. It requires four 1-1/2 hr Tuesday evenings to teach the class at the Sauk Rapids/Rice Middle School.

Ideally we need 9 volunteers to mentor the eighteen expected enrollee's.

To volunteer, call Rollie at 320 968-7194.

June Woodturner's Meeting

The **CMWA Woodturners Group** met Saturday, June 20th at Gary Mrozek's shop.

The meeting began with show-and-tell and lots of idea sharing. John Caye brought his Glaser Screw Chuck that he has mentioned several times at past meetings. This chuck is of superior design and construction and performs outstandingly. It's available at www.HighlandWoodworking.com.

Brad Knowles brought a beautiful box elder bowl to display. The wood for this bowl was the product of a group effort from several members that harvested a donated tree. Brad explained how the microwave helped to speed the curing. This bowl will be presented to the benefactor of the tree as a thank you gift.

Gary showed a few pieces that he's working on and how he overcame a few challenges. First was a hollow-form box elder vase turned pith on pith. The wood was turned green and was unstable. Past experience from other woodturning members has shown that soaking the wood in alcohol displaces the moisture, speeds the curing time and hardens the wood. The down side of this practice is it takes several gallons of alcohol to submerge the item. Gary wrapped the vase in multiple layers of stretch wrap and injected approximately 6oz of denatured alcohol into the hollowed center. The vase was then shaken and rolled until the alcohol migrated through the wood and was visible between the plastic wrap and the outside of the vase. It was left wrapped for 24 hours, drained and set aside to dry. This achieved the desired result. The wood dried without warping or cracking while stabilizing and hardening the wood.

The other item Gary showed was a bowl made from a spalted maple burl he received from Greg Pont. The challenge was to fortify the soft wood without losing its natural beauty. Gary used a mixture of 4 part Deft Danish Oil and 1 part Defthain™ (a formula he got from a YouTube video). The bowl was submerged in the mixture for 24 hours. It was then drained and set aside to cure. Gary expects this will take several weeks before its ready to sand and finish.

The group was introduced to www.etsy.com. This site is exclusively for buying and selling handcrafted items. Another opportunity to market your product includes www.woodnstuffmn.com. One other possibility may be to work as a group to seek out other businesses who offer consignment sales. If there is interest within the group, Gary has offered to host a seminar for woodturners interested in marketing their work. Contact Gary if interested.



Left: Albert Keppers gives it a try.

Right: JoAnn Johnson and Lyle Knopp discuss how to use a skew chisel.



June Woodturner's Meeting (cont.)

This month's demonstration was on spindle turning and getting comfortable using the skew chisel and spindle gouges. Gary shared a couple basic methods. There were three lathes set-up and an ample supply of green soft maple to play with. Anyone "brave enough" had the opportunity to make some shavings.

The July meeting of the Woodturners Group is scheduled for Saturday, July 18th at the home of John Skalla, 234 Kings Way, Sartell. John will be demonstrating the basics of pen turning. There will be hands on opportunities for those interested.



Upper Left: Larry Sampson and Eddie Och watch as Jay Eggebrecht takes a turn.

Upper Right: The group watches as Gary Mrozek demonstrates how to turn a bead.

Lower Left: Larry Sampson and Gary Mrozek watch as Bill Langen gives it a try.

MEETING NOTICE:

The next turners meeting will be held at John Skalla's at 234 Kings Way, Sartell, MN 56377. John's number is 255-5293.

Rich Blenkush has kindly donated a Stanley 80266 Router and Black&Decker 7450 Belt sander to the CMWA. Stanley Router model 80266, 1/4" chuck, 3/4 hp, 23,000 rpm, 6 amp, 115 volt Includes an assortment of HSS bits and a #82907 router guide. Black/Decker model 7450, 3" x 24" belt sander, 5.2 amp with a max. of 1200 belt feet/minute. These items will be brought to the July meeting at Greg Pont's. There will be a silent auction for the tools; proceeds to benefit the CMWA Outreach Program. Please bid and help support our Outreach Program.

Thanks Rich.

Goods from the Woods® (GFTW) combines an 'Up North' specialty forest products marketplace and a Living Green celebration of our northern forests and promote a vibrant forest-based economy. GFTW will be held September 19, 2009 at the Sugar Lake Lodge in Grand Rapids, MN. For more information see the attached or visit www.goodsfromthewoods.org.

For Sale: Jet 4" Numerous dust collection fittings and 14 feet of flex hose. Contact Tom Homan at 363-1486.

For Sale: Ferche Millwork workbenches made from finger-jointed red oak. Top only (\$100) or kit including legs and hardware (\$199); 2"x25"x96" - 40" tall. Multiple bench top sizes available. Order in July, pick up in August. Contact Ferche at 393-5700.

Remember to bring items for the auction at the end of each meeting. One man's junk is another man's treasure.

The next few meeting topics will be as follows:

July	Pig roast at Pont's Logging
August	Possible tour of Woodcraft
September	Intarsia basics by Bill Sampson
October	Make the perfect inlay by Rollie Johnson
November	Shaping wood with hand tools Spokeshaves, inshaves, travishers,



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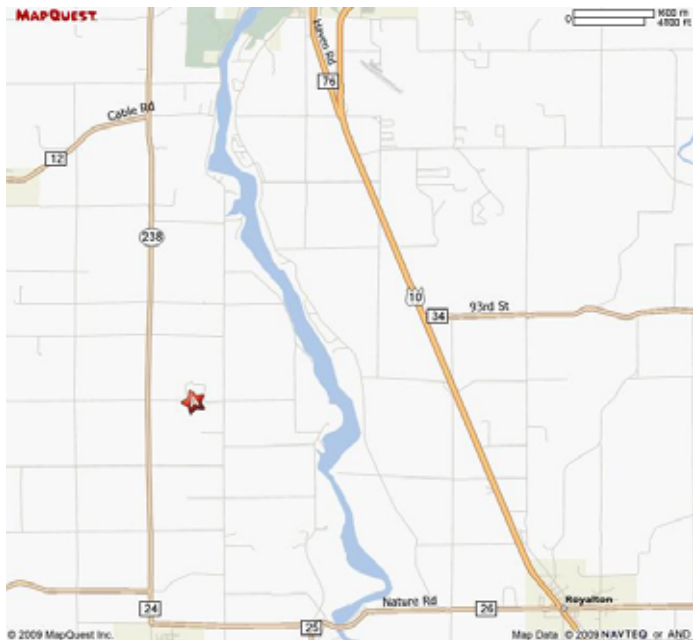
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The July general meeting will be at Greg Pont's mill.
Gregs address is: 12633 80th St., Little Falls, MN 56345
Phone #: 584-5573 / email: pontslogginglumber.com.



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