



Newsletter

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October 2009

AGAINST THE GRAIN

By Rollie Johnson



President Rollie Johnson

I was in Portland, Oregon the week of September 14th teaching a finishing class at Gary Rogowski's Northwest Woodworking Studio. Teaching is a large part of what I do for a living whether it's teaching through written articles or in person and one of the things that makes teaching so enjoyable is the folks I get to interact with. My class at the school consisted of seven students; two artists, a radiologist, an organic vegetable farmer, a machinist, a forensic engineer and a retired County Sheriff. It was quite the diverse grouping and made the class stand out as a favorite of mine.

The machinist and forensic engineer were drawn to the technical side of finishing, wanting to know about exact formulas and precise processes while the artists were drawn to the color possibilities of dyes and stains and the subtle shading of glazes. The organic vegetable farmer was interested in all aspects of finishing and was determined to learn how to finish his freshly constructed kitchen cabinets the most practical way possible. The radiologist and retired Sheriff were simply enjoying the idea that the many unfinished pieces they had at home- they both have taken numerous furniture making classes from Gary- will finally get

finished and their anxiety about ruining a piece that they had a lot of time and money invested in was gone. They all were curious, motivated and diligent and we accomplished a lot in one week.

The variety of backgrounds made the class not only interesting but their questions covered very different aspects of finishing making the class a much more complete learning experience for all the students. This diverse group also brought home the point that woodworkers come from all walks of life. Woodworking as a hobby also bridges gender and age; there were two women in the class and the ages of the students ranged from late twenties to mid-sixties. None of them were interested in making woodworking an income generating business; they simply wanted to learn something that was out of the realm of their everyday experiences, the essence of a hobby and what a great hobby woodworking makes.

If you have ever considered taking a woodworking class, do it. Not only will you find new ways of working wood but you'll meet interesting people and have a great time. We did.

October's Meeting Topic *“Creating the perfect inlay”*

Rollie is going to demonstrate creating an inlay at the next meeting. This will be a hands-on demonstration so if you would like to try your hand at inlaying bring the smallest router you have with a 1/4in. straight bit installed, a chunk of wood at least a couple of feet long and the wider the better, 1/4in and 1/2in. bench chisels, mallet, razor knife and a couple of clamps to secure the board to the shop workbenches. This should open up some new design possibilities for your upcoming projects.

November's meeting topic will be “*Shaping Wood With Hand Tools Like Spokeshaves, Inshaves & Travishers*”

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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October 2009

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	20	21 gen mtg	22	23	24 wt mtg
25	26	27	28	29	30	

- Next Meeting:** Oct 21st at 7:00 PM at Sauk Rapids Middle School
- Board Meeting:** Oct 21st at 6:15 PM at Sauk Rapids Middle School
- Turners Meeting:** Oct 24th at 9:00 AM at Gary Mrozek's

September meeting showcases Bill Sampson and His Intarsia Work

This month's meeting was a presentation by Bill Sampson on Intarsia. One of Bills favorite books is written by Garrett Hall. Barnes & Noble also has several books on Intarsia on their shelves. Intarsia is the art of cutting and assembling pieces of wood, like puzzle pieces, to create pictures, such as those examples he displayed of a Deer, a Hummingbird, an Eagle, a Rooster and a Snowman. Getting started is easiest by simply selecting a picture from one of the many Intarsia catalogs available, or even children's coloring books, but you can create your own drawings as well. Any picture can be copied, blown up of shrunk down to the desired size at a copy shop, and then used as a template for all of the various pieces used in creating your picture. Using contrasting types of wood or different colors of stains, or a combination of both, produces the most striking results. Bill says it's easiest to cut your pieces with a Scroll Saw. After each piece is cut to the proper size sanding is next. Bill says he uses several methods including a belt sander, a Dremel with a sanding drum mounted on it, and a Flap Wheel mounted on a drill. He usually sands his parts to about 220 grit. When assembling the pieces he uses Titebond III glue. As each of the pieces are cut they are glued together on a flat surface being sure to take measures to prevent the pieces from sticking to your work surface. Gluing your pieces together on a warmer surface, such as a warmed up slab of granite, will speed the drying process along. Once all of the pieces are cut, sanded, and glued together, the entire assembly is then glued to a piece of MDF or plywood backer board, usually about 1/8" thick or more, depending on the reinforcement needed for your picture. There are many Web sites available on the art of Intarsia and Bill encourages you to check them out.



Darren built Ron a beautiful set of oars.

The Woodturners Group met Saturday, September 18th.

The discussion included the use of a microwave oven to speed up the drying process when turning green wood. Gary Mrozek demonstrated his version of a process he discovered on the internet. This process is successfully used by woodcarvers. The object was wrapped in paper towels and placed inside a Zip-Loc bag. The bag is placed in the microwave. With the temperature on high, the bag is closely watched. The steam generated will inflate the bag. The microwave should be stopped before the bag pops. Leave the bagged object in the oven until it cools and the bag deflates (approximately 30 to 45 minutes). Remove the object from the bag, wipe the bag dry and wrap the object in dry towels. Repeat the process for 6 to 8 cycles. During Gary's demonstration, the moisture content dropped from 26% to 6%. At 6% the wood is considered super dry. The object could then be final turned, sanded and an oil finish applied. The dry wood will draw the oil deep into the wood. The article on the internet recommended if the object was not going to be finished in oil that it should be left in the room for a week to reach its equilibrium moisture content (EMC). You can read the woodcarvers article at: www.woodcarvingillustrated.com/forum/f60/drying-wood-microwave-7833/#post53483

The Beall buffing system was also demonstrated. This is a three step process on three separate buffing wheels. After the object is finished and dried, it is sanded with 400 grit paper. The first wheel is charged with Tripoli, (a brown buffing compound). This will remove all the sanding marks and put the initial finish on the object. This is followed by the second wheel that is charged with White Diamond polishing compound. This step removes any of the residue left by the Tripoli and puts a luster to the finish. The final wheel is charged with Carnauba wax. This gives it shine, depth and durability. Each step is performed at 1800 rpm's. The Woodturners silent auction was a huge success with \$127 raised. The money was used to purchase two new DVD's for the Woodturners Library. The new titles are "Turning It Up" (box set) by Jimmy Clewes and "Beyond the Basic Bowl" by Bill Grumbine.

For those who weren't able to attend the Box Elder harvest in September, we will have logs available you.

The Group is planning another purchase of ANCHORSEAL end grain sealer, direct from the manufacturer. The cost is \$15.00 per gallon. Let Gary know if you're interested. You can pre-order at or before our October 24th Woodturners meeting.

The next Woodturners meeting topic will be making and using an indexing jig and how to "flute" the outside of a bowl.

**It will be at the home of Gary Mrozek, 1314 West Oakes Drive, St. Cloud, MN, at 9:00AM Saturday October 24th
Gary' phone is 252-2764**

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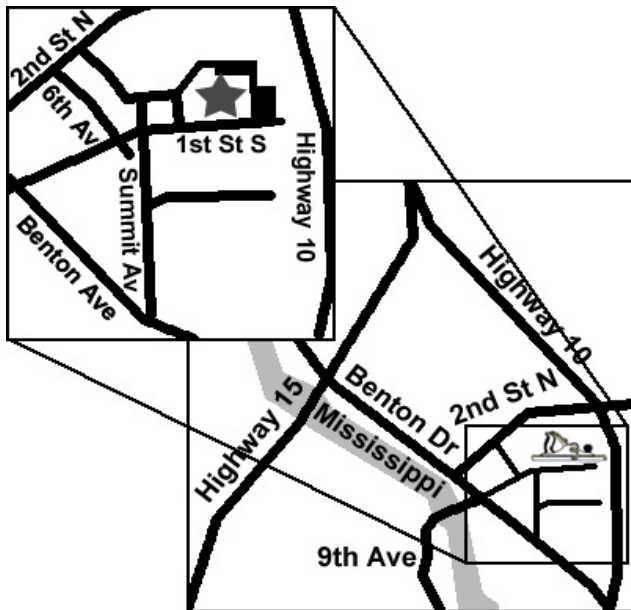




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Next Meeting
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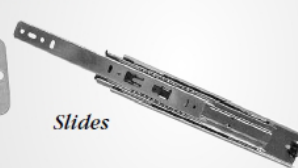
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