



# CAPITAL AREA WOODWORKERS

## WOODSHOP ADVISOR



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### Upcoming Meetings

#### January 3 , 2011 Meeting

**Social Time 5:15 to 6:30**

**Dinner starts promptly at 6:30**

**MCL Cafeteria**

**2151 Wabash Ave, Springfield**

#### Program

#### Our Annual Planning Meeting

*A meeting to get input from the members regarding the planning and organizing of club activities for the entire 2011 year.*

#### January 8, 2011

#### A Special Event with Marc Adams

**Jim and Dianna Copper's shop**

**8AM to 5PM**

*Marc will make presentations on two subjects of interest regarding wood working taught at his Indiana school*

#### Club Web Site

The address is: <http://www.cawspi.org/>. You will find meeting notes, the monthly portrait, and pictures of show-and-tell items, as well as meeting and open shop schedules.

The **WOODSHOP ADVISOR** is a monthly publication of the Capital Area Woodworkers Club. Its sole purpose is to keep members of the club aware of the club activities, special events and new developments in the field. The Advisor is the right of paid membership. Dues of the club are \$20/year if you receive the Advisor via e-mail and \$25/year for the Advisor sent by mail.



### Dec. Meeting Notes

By Dick Metcalf

Roland called the meeting to order at 6:30 and asked for introductions of members and guests.

Announcements:

- The CAW Officers remind everyone that Marc Adams will visit us on Jan 8, 2011, for a special event and make presentations on two subjects. You won't want to miss this event to be held at the Copper's shop.
- Bob Fox said the horizontal mortising machine kit that he and Roland have been working on for several years is ready to ship. A manual and prints are ready also as part of a package deal. And for this month only, he is offering the sale of the kit to members for \$150, half the sale price to the public. For anyone interested he asked that they put the kit together, use it and make notes on problems or suggestions for improvement, then give that feed back to Bob or Roland. Bob wants the kit as good as possible and CAW members participating in this final trial of the kit should make that possible. Please contact Bob or Roland if interested.
- Roland said some CAW members and others are saying we don't have a chance to show—except to our own group— things that we make. We could, for example, have some of our woodwork displayed at the Prairie Arts Center, as part of another show. Is there interest in having a woodworker's show so that the public can see what we are doing? We'll discuss this at a future meeting.

## SHOW and TELL

**Chuck Frank** showed a cradle he made out of construction pine for his five year old grand daughter. The plans came from an early edition of Woodsmith. Chuck also showed a cutting board made out of birch, maple and persimmon.

**Bob Fox** showed a frame made on a molding cutter recently purchased at James Machinery. He had also purchased a dovetail cutting system at the same time and showed the dovetail cut into the mitered frame. Bob said he could—using the newly acquired machine cutters— cut, glue and assemble a picture frame in ten minutes.

**George Wilber** showed a cutting board made out of poplar and said cutting boards should have a mineral oil or vegetable oil finish if used with water. George also showed an ink pen made from Brazilian Cherry and another made out of corn cobb.

**Dick Metcalf** showed a pizza peel kitchen accessory made from hard maple.

**Gary Smith** showed a wine stopper made of mahogany wood and another made of diamond wood (man made colored plywood). He also showed us a pen made from acrylic.

**Roland Folsø** showed a tray he made with walnut sides and a veneered bottom of figured maple. He also showed a two tiered bent wood table with mahogany veneer.

**Dennis Gross** showed a trivet made of oak. He also showed us a cutting board made of a variety of woods and turned Christmas tree ornaments colored with Mizol tint.

### Final Notes

Each of the spouses received a gift selected in a raffle. The gifts were all made by CAW members.

CAW members also brought in a gift of non-perishable food to be given to one of the major charitable organizations.

Roland thanked the officers and members for their participation in the club's programs for 2010.

Chuck Frank, speaking for all CAW members, thanked Roland for his fine leadership in planning and directing the CAW programs

## CAW Member & Spouse Pictures



**Steve Scaife** gave the scheduled presentation.

He was dressed in the traditional Scottish dress and began with playing a medley of familiar tunes. He had our attention!

Strangely enough, the Bagpipes didn't originate in Scotland. The Egyptians were the first to dev



of a bladder (the insides of an animals) to make the bagpipes ready for producing a continuous tone. The Romans were most responsible for the spread of the bagpipes when— some four thousand years ago— they took the instrument out of Egypt and into Israel and the British Isles. The bagpipes then spread throughout Europe. The bagpipes became very popular in the middle ages as an instrument played at celebrations where there was singing and dancing, such as weddings. During this period other musical instruments, such as the violin, came along and replaced the European bagpipes in popularity because the bagpipes could only produce a soft, low quality sound. Not so in Scotland, where the instrument was developed on a grand scale. Scotland was very isolated at that time and had virtually no contact with Europe. By the time Scotland eventually had contact with England and other European countries, the Scots had highly developed intricate music using the bagpipes. What sort of wood did they use? At first they used native wood, predominately oak and fruit wood ( apple and pear). There was much diversity among the makers of bagpipes at that time. Today, bagpipes are made of African woods such as bubinga, cocus and ebony. How did the Scots get their hands on these exotic woods? By being cheap some would say. As the spice trades developed, the traders would go to places

places along the African coast to buy spices. Because the spices are so light in unit volume, the ships became unbalanced when loaded, and needed ballast. So a search for heavy, dense wood began. The natives went out in the jungle and found ebony and bubinga wood for ballast. When they sailed back to Scotland and unloaded their spices, they also discarded the ballast wood. At first this wood was used by the poor in need of firewood. Later, some enterprising Scots saw the use of this wood for bagpipes. The oil from these exotic woods also made it very ideal for woodwind instruments. The extensive use of these woods eventually led to a shortage. It takes 60 to 70 years for these exotics to grow to maturity for use as a musical instrument. Preservationist have now been able to have sections of the forests set aside for the exclusive growing of these exotic woods.

Questions: If you stop blowing air into the instrument, how long will you be able to play? About three or four beats.

What is the white part of Steve's instrument? It is elephant ivory, made at a time when it was OK to do so. The story is that because bagpipes were such a ceremonial instrument, it called for human bones and then elephant bones.

Where did you (Steve) learn to play the bagpipes? In 1992 in Springfield with the understanding that he would play in a local band.

*That's a small part of a presentation by Steve Scaife, a very popular speaker in high demand. His talk on the history of bagpipes and demonstrations had CAW members talking and laughing about the special entertainment as they left the meeting..... Dick*