



# Michigan Woodworker

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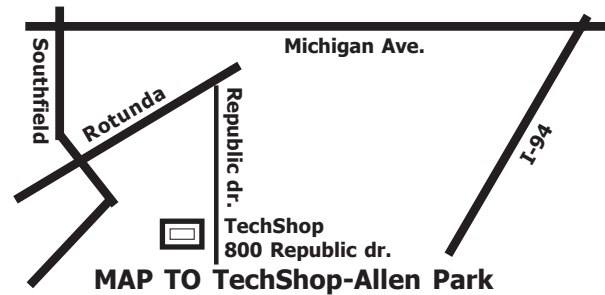


Michigan Woodworkers Guild (Est. 1981) May 2014 Vol. 35 No. 5

## May Meeting Sunday, May 18

At the TechShop in Allen Park from 2 PM to 4:30 PM  
Jigs and Fixtures made and used by Guild members will  
be featured.

The May luncheon is Thursday, the 22nd, 1:16 PM,  
at Jimi's in Royal Oak



### Calendar Of Events

Current plans for June are in question. There will be no regular meeting this month. The special trip originally planned may not occur this year. Please see the Editors Two Cents column.

The June luncheon will be at Jimi's on the 26th at 1:16PM.

There is no July meeting as this is the Guild's one month shut down.

There is no monthly luncheon in July.

The annual Guild picnic will be held Sunday, August 10 at VFW park in Royal Oak.

The August luncheon will be held at Jimi's on Thursday, the 28th at 1:16 PM.

The September meeting will be an all day meeting held at the TechShop on Saturday, September 6th. The meeting will be on Hand Tool Techniques presented by Gary Assarian.

The August luncheon will be held at Jimi's on Thursday, the 28th at 1:16 PM.

## **President's Corner by John Sanchez**

We are half way through April and we did get the snowfall record. Okay, so lets get to spring and some nice woodworking weather. If you missed the April meeting, Clay Bolduc gave a great presentation on scroll sawing. Clay offered suggestions about the different types of machines and blades he uses from his over 20 years of experience. Steve Vaertan followed up with his pen turning secrets that he uses on his mini-lathe. The beautiful pens he displayed were something to see.

It was brought up at the meeting that it was difficult to hear what was being said by the presenters and myself. One of the things that I noticed and one of our other MWG members noticed was that there was too much talking in the audience. For future events I am asking the membership to try and limit the amount of talking and be respectful for our guest speaker. Because this facility has an open air ceiling, the guest speaker's voice gets disseminated into the air. Some of the advantages of this facility are the elevated seating for viewing, the wide screen up front and the hours of operation. At the Livonia site we had to be out of the facility generally by 4:00 PM. There were other groups that followed us at that location. This is not the case at Tech Shop. Both speakers had all the time needed to make their presentations. This past year former President Ken Wolf, the MWG board of directors, and the Tech Shop representatives have worked together to make significant improvements. Both groups will work to make more improvements this year.

One last note about the contributions that Bill and Sally Rigstad have made over the years. Bill has been President for six years and under his leadership increased the membership to over 300 members. When the woodworking shows were in town (Novi) Bill organized the hours for MWG members and helped set up our display booth. Bill and Sally organized the tool box display at Maker Faire, helped organize and set the time for our lunches at Jimmies at 1:16 PM, and brought the lunches during the special meetings (Marc Adams). Sally organizes the kitchen for our Christmas dinner. Both Bill and Sally help setup and take down during our monthly meetings and at every meeting bring in the coffee, sweets and appetizers. For our regular monthly

meetings, Bill and Sally purchase these items. The purchasing is not done by the guild. I am asking that everyone who drinks and eats to please drop a dollar or two in the donation cup. This way we can continue with this tradition. I would like to thank the entire MWG membership for your future cooperation in all these matters.

## **The Editors Two Cents by Peter Goddard**

As is typical with the Guild, an executive staff meeting was held in the hour or two before the main April meeting. A presentation by the treasurer, Ed Stuckey, indicated that the Guild is financially stable and in good shape. Considerable discussion was held on the 2015 meeting schedule as topics, speakers, and plans were discussed. Next year is shaping up to include a lot of very interesting meetings. The schedule is not final, nor have all the speakers been resolved yet. However, next year looks to have the best set of meetings that I have seen in my years as a Guild member.

Discussions during the executive board meeting included the planned June outing. At this time, the outing is not expected to occur. The executive board discussed the need for regular meetings with presentations by speakers during the months of June, July, and August. The consensus of opinion was that meetings would be very lightly attended during the summer months as members were busy with other activities. As a result there will be no regular meeting in either June or July. For August, the regular meeting is replaced by our annual picnic. Regular meetings will resume in September with Gary Assarian's all day presentation on hand tool use.

Because there are no regular meetings in June or July, there will be no newsletter for either month. There will be a newsletter in August.

It has become apparent to the executive board that virtually all of the volunteer efforts in support of Guild activities is being performed by the same twenty or so members. John Sanchez issued a call for more volunteers to help spread the effort more evenly among the Guild membership. In particular, there is a need for volunteers to support the Maker's Fair in July. Please help if practical.. John will provide additional details as a part of the May meeting.

## Meeting Review by Peter Goddard

This is normally Dale Ausherman's column. I am substituting for Dale this month as he was in Texas during the meeting for April. Dale's regular meeting summary column should return with the next newsletter, which will be mailed the first of August.

The April meeting covered two separate presentations: scroll saw work by Clay Bolduc and pen turning by Steve Vaerten.

Clay Bolduc provided the membership with the wisdom he has gained over many years of working with scroll saws. He began the presentation by explaining the features that are highly desirable in a scroll saw. He particularly emphasized that a scroll saw needs to have variable speed, easy and effective setting of blade tension, the ability to change blades without a requirement for special tools, and upfront controls that can be easily reached by the scroll sawyer while the saw is running. Clay also briefly discussed some of the scroll saws currently being offered for sale. In particular, he briefly mentioned the Dewalt, the RBI Hawk, and the Excalibur scroll saws. These are all medium priced scroll saws (\$500 - \$1000) that provide good performance at reasonable prices. He also mentioned some less expensive and less capable scroll saws from Black and Decker, Harbor Freight, and Craftsman.

Clay next discussed some of the various blades that are available. Scroll saw blades use a standard numbering system, originally developed by Olson. Among the commonly available blades, a #2/0 is the finest, and a #12 is the largest. Other blades are available, including "thick wood" blades which are very coarse and #3/0 blades made for working softer metals such as brass. However, these blades are less common and unlikely to be on the shelf of the local woodworking stores. Clay also briefly discussed the woods commonly used for scroll saw fretwork. The woods are commonly re-sawn to 1/2" or smaller, with woods as thin as 1/40" veneer being cut for marquetry.

Clay then presented some material on the patterns and books available for scroll saw enthusiasts.. He specifically identified the books "Creative Wooden Boxes" and "Wooden Bowls For The Scroll Saw", both by Carole Rothman as being valuable guides to some advanced work on bowls and

on boxes using the scroll saw. As a part of his presentation, Clay brought some of his scroll saw work with him. Two of his scroll saw based bowls and one of his boxes are shown in the photo on the back cover of this newsletter.

Clay provided a handout to meeting attendees which included an inlay angle/blade tester, a blade size versus application guide, and a relief cutting gauge. He also briefly provided information on finishes commonly used in scroll sawing, including Shellac, Watco oil finish, and Minwax Laquer.

As the final part of his presentation, Clay provided information on the "Motor City Scroll Saw Club". Their meetings are held monthly between 7:00 and 9:00 PM on the third Thursday of the month at the Taylor, Michigan, Ford Senior Center. In addition to the Thursday evening business meeting, the group usually has a monthly Saturday workshop.

Once Clay had completed his presentation, a brief break was taken. then Steve Vaerten presented his methods of pen turning to the membership. Steve mentioned that the feature of pen turning that attracted him initially was how rapidly a finished product could be produced. In less than one hour, a finished, very attractive, custom pen could be produced. Steve brought a selection of his pens as part of his presentation materials. A selection of these pens is shown in one of the photographs on the back cover of this newsletter.

Steve brought along a selection of the tools he employs in turning pens. Specifically, a pen drilling fixture, a pen press for assembling pens, a pen tube insertion tool, and a barrel trimmer were shown.

Of particular interest to the audience were his method of finishing pens and of adding a Celtic Knot to a pen. Steve finishes his pens using a combination of medium viscosity CA glue and linseed oil. He puts a couple of drops of linseed oil on a rag, then adds a drop of CA glue and presses this mixture against the pen barrel. The mixture penetrates the wood and brings out a high gloss finish which provides excellent protection against handling.

A Celtic Knot can be added to a pen (or any other turned object) using a relatively simple technique. The insert material for the knot must be exactly the same width as the kerf of the saw used for cutting. One takes the turning blank and cuts it at a fixed angle (45 degrees for a pen, often less for other turning blanks). At the same point along the length of a square turning blank:

- 1) Cut the blank at 45 degrees, insert the material into the space cut by the saw, and glue the bottom, insert, and top back together

- 2) Rotate the blank 180 degrees and repeat step 1.
- 3) Rotate the blank 90 degrees and repeat step 1
- 4) Rotate the blank 180 degrees and repeat step 1.

This results in each side having an insert stripe at the top, bottom, and at a 45 degree angle in the insert area. Once turned to circular, a Celtic knot is revealed.

Steve passed around a pen he had turned that had a Celtic Knot with the insert material formed from five contrasting veneer pieces that was particularly impressive. The method he presented for forming the knot can also be found on YouTube.

As the last part of his presentation, Steve turned a pen for the audience.

## Wood Types by Ed Stuckey

SOFT MAPLE    Hardwood

Growth: Maples are famed for their brilliant spectrum of multicolored autumn leaves of yellow, golden orange, and red. Soft maple is provided by both *Acer rubrum*, which produces red maple, and *A.saccharinum*, which provides silver maple, one of the largest and fastest growing of all the maples. It reaches a height of 130ft (40m), but red maple is smaller, reaching only 100ft (30m) with a diameter 2-4ft (0.6-1.2m). *A.macrophyllum* produces Pacific maple.

Appearance: The sapwood is indistinguishable from the heartwood; both are creamy white in color with a close, straight grain and indistinct growth rings on plain-sawn surfaces. The texture is even, fine, and slightly less lustrous than rock maple (*A.sacchorum*).

Properties: The weight of *A.rubrum* is about 381lb/ft' (610kg/m'), while *A.saccharinum* and *A.macrophyllum* are about 341lb/ft' (540kg/m') when seasoned. The wood dries rather slowly with little degrade and there is medium movement in service. Soft maple is of medium density, with good bending and crushing strengths, and low stiffness and shock resistance. It has a good steam-bending classification and works well with both hand and machine tools in all operations, offering only a moderate blunting effect on cutting edges. Nailing and screwing are satisfactory but require care; gluing is variable. The wood can be brought to a good finish. Soft maple is nondurable and moderately resistant to preservation

treatment; the sapwood is liable to insect attack but is permeable.

Uses: This attractive timber is softer and lower in strength than rock maple, but is eminently suitable for furniture making, interior joinery, turnery, and domestic woodware. Numerous specialized uses include the manufacture of shoe lasts, dairy and laundry equipment, musical instruments, piano actions, and sports goods. Soft maple also makes an excellent light domestic flooring. Selected logs are peeled for plywood manufacture and sliced to produce a range of excellently figured veneers for cabinets, flush doors, and architectural paneling.

Where it grows: More than 10 species of this genus grow in the northern temperate regions of Canada and the eastern US as well as on the Pacific coast, but only about five are important sources of timber.

## Mentoring News by Bob Mills

### Summer 2014 Mentoring Workshop Reminders

All Dates, Times, and Locations will be mutually determined by the student and the mentor.

#### "Box Building": by Clay Buldoc

See the February 2014 Newsletter for a description of the workshop. Call Clay at **313-386-1073** to get other details and to register for the workshop.

#### "Plane, Scraper and Chisel Sharpening": By Tony Gigliotti

See the April 2013 Newsletter for a brief description of the workshop. Call Tony at **248-853-8349** to get details of what to bring and to register for a workshop.

"Building a Shaker Night stand": by Dan Reahard  
See the April 2014 Newsletter for a brief description of the workshop. Call Dan at **734-453-6459** for more details and to register for the workshop.

#### "Getting Started in Woodworking Workshops": by various Guild Mentors

See the October 2012, October 2013, April 2013 Newsletters for workshop descriptions. Call Bob Mills at **248-540-8658** for more details and to register for a workshop.



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For membership information, contact Bill Gayde at 25575 York, Royal Oak, Mi, 48067 or by phone at 248-543-3487 or by email at: [williamgayde@comcast.net](mailto:williamgayde@comcast.net).

For name tags, sign up with Ed Stuckey at a regular meeting

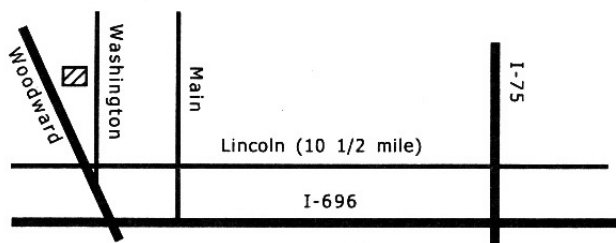


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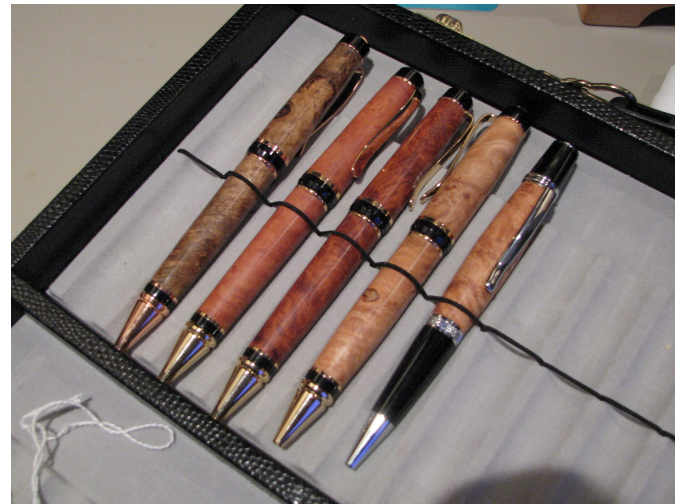


**Michigan Woodworkers Guild  
25575 York Road  
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## **The Picture Gallery**



**Some of Clay's Scroll Sawn Bowls**



**Some of Steve's Custom Pens**