



# Michigan Woodworker

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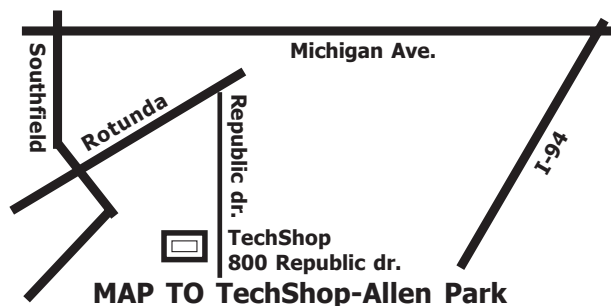
Michigan Woodworkers Guild (Est. 1981) October 2014 Vol. 35 No. 8

**Sunday, October 12, 2014**

**The Housewright**

**Presented by Ron Herman  
At the TechShop in Allen Park**

The October luncheon will be at Jimi's on the 23rd at 1:16 PM



## Calendar Of Events

The November meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 9th** 2:00 - 4:30 PM at the TechShop in Allen Park. The topics are How To Thread Wood presented by Ken Wolf and conquering rust presented by Al Goldstein.

The November luncheon will be at 1:15 at Jimi's in Royal Oak **on the 20th.** (third Thursday due to Thanksgiving)

The December meeting will be held at the Livonia Senior Center on **December 14th** from 2:00 - 4:30 PM. The meeting topic is Photography Techniques presented by **Jerome Burns.**

The December luncheon will be at 1:15 at Jimi's in Royal Oak on the 18th. (third Thursday due to Christmas holiday.)

The January 2015 meeting topic is currently undecided. The speaker and topic is dependent on resolving availability between several candidate speakers.

The January 2015 luncheon will be at 1:15 PM at Jimi's in Royal Oak on the 22nd.

The February 2015 meeting topic is currently undecided. The speaker and topic is dependent on resolving availability between several candidate speakers.

The February 2015 luncheon will be at 1:15 PM at Jimi's in Royal Oak on the 26th.

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

This summer sure went by fast. During the last month I have been re-tiling my basement after the August 11th floods destroyed the carpet. Little did I know that the previous owner had laid carpet on top of carpet. I should be back to woodworking in the next few weeks.

I have been informed that the Woodworking Shows will be back on February 13th, 14th and 15th, 2015. I have been trying to contact the people who run the show. They have not returned my calls. The same thing happened this past February. I will continue to try to make contact with them.

If you missed Chris Swartz you missed a great show on the use of hand tools. Chris showed guild members how to level boards using hand planes. The surface was like glass. Chris gave advice on sharpening and how to cut full blind dovetails by hand. This is one speaker we will have to convince to return in the future. See the meeting review column for a more complete description of the show. Thanks again to Bill and Sally Rigstad for providing lunch.

October 12th, the guild members will present Ron Herman as our guest speaker. See Al Goldstein's write-up on Ron.

Two of our members are on the sick recovery list, Greg Smith and James Howard. Lets hope for a speedy recovery for both.

## **Articles Wanted**

The newsletter is in need of an expanded range of woodworking related articles. Guild members should consider writing an article on any of the following: jigs and fixtures (invented, bought, copied), commercially bought products that exceeded or failed to achieve performance commensurate with their cost, inexpensive yet effective solutions to common woodworking problems, quick tips that save time or cost, and reviews of any training received. Recommendations for instruction or similar materials that are publicly available (youtube or similar) are also of high value.

Any safety items of interest would be excellent for inclusion in the newsletter. These include personal experiences, articles in other publications, or new safety equipment. If you have an idea or an article, please pass it along to me at [plgoddard47@gmail.com](mailto:plgoddard47@gmail.com). I will edit all articles prior to publication, so don't worry about spelling, English usage and similar issues.

## **The Editor's Two Cents by Pete Goddard**

It seems that summer is past, the leaves are beginning to turn, and soon to fall. This is also the traditional return to shop time for the northern parts of the country. The Guild started the process with our first regular meeting since May, an impressive presentation by Christopher Schwarz. Anyone that missed the meeting missed a memorable presentation.

I hope that most of the membership avoided damage from the recent flooding. Many basements were flooded. I, like many other woodworkers, have my shop in the basement. I shudder to think how much damage flooding in my basement would cause.

Our meeting plans for November have changed due to unexpected illness for our originally planned speaker, Greg Smith. We all wish him a speedy recovery. In his place, Ken Wolf and Al Goldstein have put together presentations on wood threading and on conquering rust that promise to be of considerable interest.

Our January and February meetings are still undecided. The Guild tries to schedule in one or more 'big name' speakers early in the year, prior to the various woodworking schools starting classes. This results in a lot of schedule movement as these speakers are in high demand. The plan forward should be known for the November newsletter.

A word of thanks to Bill and Sally Rigstad. Bill and Sally provide the refreshments at our meetings, including the lunches and refreshments at the all day events like the September meeting. They continue to do yeoman's work behind the scene, keeping it all running smoothly. I do not know how the Guild would keep functioning as well if it were not for the ceaseless efforts of the two of them. THANK YOU!

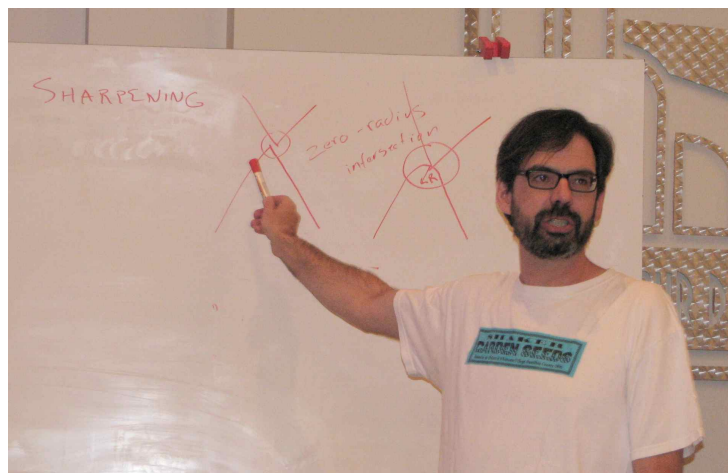
## Meeting Review by Pete Goddard

On September 6th, the guild was able to provide members with an all day meeting featuring Christopher Schwarz, a nationally recognized author and woodworker, speaking on a number of hand tool related topics. As expected, Christopher Schwartz provided an engaging and enlightening presentation. I suspect that all attendees learned a number of interesting things.

After being introduced by John Sanchez, the first topic presented by Christopher Schwarz was sharpening. As might be expected, his approach to sharpening was similar to, but somewhat divergent from, some previous speakers that the guild has hosted. His approach to achieving a sharp tool edge considers sharpening to consist of up to three steps: grinding, honing, and polishing. The first step is grinding, which is usually only needed for newly purchased tools, setting a new bevel angle on a blade, or tools which have been damaged in use or handling. Schwarz's approach considers any edge reforming using very coarse grits as grinding. He makes no distinction between grinding on a bench grinder, shaping on a very coarse stone, or even shaping on a sandpaper based sharpening system. His example was reshaping of an edge on an 80 grit grinding wheel or a coarse diamond stone. He did, however, make a strong recommendation for the use of a conventional bench grinder. The main case for using a bench grinder is that it saves considerable time compared to using coarse stones or sand paper for major re-shaping. He also recommended use a high speed (3600 RPM) grinders rather than the slow speed (1800 RPM) machines. The next step he presented was honing. He considers any sharpening using the equivalent of an 800 to 2000 grit water stone to be honing. The intent of the honing process is to result in an intersection between two planes of zero width. As a part of the presentation, Schwarz reviewed how to visually check for the zero width intersection by looking for a lack of reflection from the edge. This is usually expressed as "If you can see an edge, its not fully sharpened". Unfortunately, Schwarz accidentally dropped his honing stone during the presentation, resulting in significant damage to the stone. Following honing, the last step in the sharpening process that he presented was

polishing. In Schwarz's approach, polishing equates to sharpening using a particle size smaller than an equivalent 2000 grit water stone. This includes the 4000, 6000, 8000, and higher numbered water stones. Polishing using a flat surface of glass or of MDF with green polishing compound is included, as is using a hard black Arkansas stone followed by a leather strop charged with compound. .

As an interesting aside, Schwarz mentioned that there are few ways to equate the variety of sharpening stones and compounds available. For example, what is the relationship between a Hard Black Arkansas stone and a 4000 water stone? As another example, what is the relative sharpening grit between a fine diamond stone and a 1200 grit water stone? Since hard and fast standards which would allow immediate comparison between the various types of sharpening are not readily available, Schwarz uses the micron size of the polishing material for comparison. He has put a link to an Excel table of the relative micron sizes of various sharpening stones and polishes on his blog. [[www.lostartpress.com](http://www.lostartpress.com)]. Link to the Blog, then find the link in the writing posted on September 9th under "Keeping Bloody Promises To Detroit". The table is worth a look. [See also, the article on Arkansas stones in the February 2013 issue of Popular Woodworking.]



**Chris Schwarz Explaining A Sharp Edge**

As part of the presentation on sharpening, Schwarz made a couple of points worth considering. First, one really only needs one device for each of the three steps in the sharpening process. For example, the difference between an 800 and a 1200 or a 2000 grit

water stone is unimportant. You don't need to progress slowly through each of the grits. Once the tool is honed, move on to polishing. Grinding is optional. Most of the time, tools only need the coarse re-shaping due to damage, being new from the factory, or completely re-shaping the primary bevel. He recommends learning to use a bench grinder. They are fast, effective, and control can easily be learned. According to Schwarz, if one quenches regularly as a part of the grinding, 'bluing' of the tool steel should not occur. He also recommended, picking a single primary and secondary bevel and using them for all of your chisels and plane blades. He uses a primary bevel of 25 degrees and a secondary bevel of 35 degrees on everything. He has created a shop made gauge for setting the tool being sharpened at the needed angle into one of the inexpensive jigs that clamp from the sides and have a wheel underneath. Overall, Christopher Schwarz indicated that sharpening should be reduced to as short a time and as little effort as is practical so that the more enjoyable parts of woodworking can be pursued.

After completing his sharpening presentation and demonstration, Schwarz presented a brief discussion of planes and their adjustment. As a part of this discussion, he indicated that only three bench planes are really needed, a jack plane with a small (8-10") radius crowned blade for scrub type planing, a jointer plane set up to flatten and provide initial smoothness, and a #4 or 5 plane set up as a smoother. Chris then demonstrated by planing a board cross grain with his scrub plane, then planing with the grain to achieve a smooth flat surface with his jointer plane, and finally finishing the board's surface with his smoother plane. He then passed the board around with a fully surfaced top and a scrub plane surfaced bottom side.. According to Chris, genuine antiques often have a fully surfaced 'show' side but have the hidden parts of the board remaining as the scrub plane finished them. One of the things that could make one suspicious of any antique would be to have the hidden parts of boards in a piece fully finished. During the age before power tools became widely available, the extra effort to finish hidden parts of a piece was not done. It required too much labor with no return.

Schwarz next presented a slide presentation on campaign furniture. These are furniture pieces that were designed to allow easy shipment and carrying during foreign adventures. These pieces include fold down chairs and various furniture pieces. The intent

of the original designs was to support British military and diplomatic personnel in their work for the British empire. Popular Woodworking magazine has featured articles on several campaign pieces, including a folding library bookcase, in the current month's issue. Previous issues of the magazine have included other pieces. Chris brought a fold down stool and a fold down chair to the meeting and assembled them in front of the audience. The designs are from the Victorian era. Schwarz has a book on campaign furniture which can be purchased through the lost art press web site link given earlier.

As a follow on to the presentation on campaign furniture, Chris demonstrated making a full blind dovetail joint. This joint is featured in this month's Popular Woodworking magazine article on "Portable Folding Bookcase". When making this joint, Chris



### A Campaign Furniture Bookshelf

marked out the dovetails in the expected manner. However, when he went to cut the dovetails, he did not attempt to stop the cut at the baseline which would be inside the cabinet. Cuts which do not stop at the baseline and are only visible in hidden parts of a piece are apparently very common in genuine antique furniture. Extra effort to protect and/or enhance hidden parts of pieces was not commonly done when hand tool work was the prevalent approach.

Following his demonstration of the full blind dovetail joint, Chris demonstrated the method used to produce a 'riveted' joint. This joint was featured in



the article "Rivet Your Furniture" featured in the June 2014 issue of Popular Woodworking Magazine.

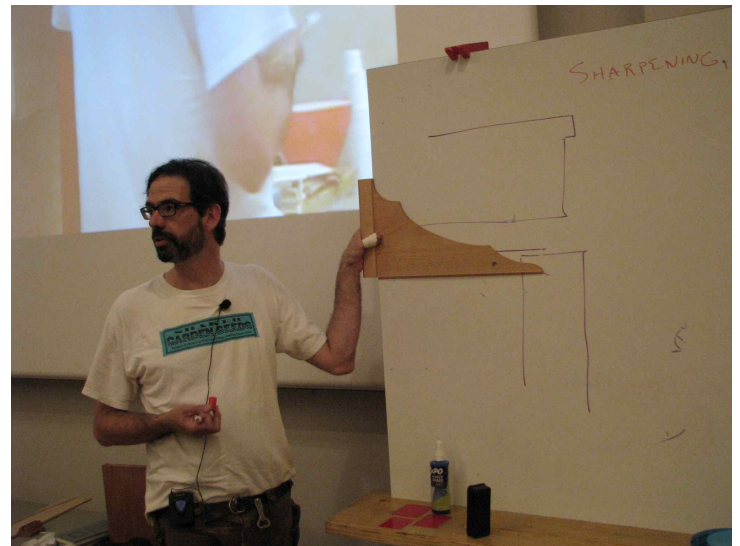


### Drilling For A Riveted Joint

This was another article related to campaign furniture. As shown in the photo, by hand drilling to a controlled depth, installing brass screws and filing the screw slot off, a really attractive 'riveted' joint is created.

The final item of Schwarz's presentation was making a wooden square. Wooden squares, shop made, were common in hand tool shops of previous centuries. Chris showed how to easily lay out and plane to true a wooden square. The simplicity of making a wooden square that is fully accurate is eye opening. Many woodworkers, myself included, tend to think of squares as something with an accuracy way beyond the capability of shop made with hand tools. In fact, making a square with accuracy very comparable to modern metal squares is quite easy and does not require power equipment. Watching Schwarz make a square in real time makes one realize that perhaps some of the money spent in the past on hyper accurate steel tools would have been better repurposed.

Chris provided a limited number of copies of some of the lost art press books for sale. One of his books, "The Anarchist's Tool Chest", sold out very quickly. Most of the other books were selling throughout the afternoon, with more disappearing at each presentation break point. Overall, the presentation was engaging and informative. The guild is lucky to



### Chris With One Of His Wooden Squares

be able to occasionally engage such a talented woodworker, author, and speaker.

## Toy Project Update by Ken Wolf

### Guild Annual Toy Program

September is the month we initiate our concentrated effort to prepare toys and boxes for donation to Children's Hospital. All guild members are encouraged to support this effort by building toys and/or wooden boxes for delivery on December 15. Toys need to be made to hospital guidelines with no sharp corners, no metal fasteners and a finish on the exterior. A more detailed toy information sheet was available at the September meeting as well as guild toy patterns if you need some ideas (your own toy designs are also fine). The guild will furnish the wheels and axles for the toys you donate to the hospital. Let Ken Wolf know the size and quantity you need for your toy donations. Boxes for the hospital can be your design and are used for the personal items of patients (most range from about 5"x 8" x 3" deep to about 8" x 10" x 4" deep) and should

not have hinges—lift-off or sliding lids are fine. These personal boxes need only a seal coat of finish as the children personalize them in their art classes. A few additional “angel” boxes of similar size are also needed fully finished with a picture holding capability in the lid. These boxes are used to return personal effects to the family when a patient doesn’t survive their treatment. All finishes must comply with federal toy finish requirements (which means that a copy of the manufacturer’s CPSIA Certificate of compliance needs to be provided with your items). If you choose one of the following, the certificates are on file with the guild and hospital and no CPSIA certificate is needed:

Rustoleum Painter’s Touch (2X) Spray Paint (all colors)

Watco Spray Lacquer (all types)

Zinsser BIN primer and all shellacs

Minwax Wood Finish, Wood Finish (250 VOC), PolyShades, PolyShades (275 VOC)

Minwax Fast Drying Polyurethane (550 VOC & 450 VOC), Water Based Oil-Modified Poly, Wipe-On Poly, Express Clear Polycrylic Protective Finish – manufactured after 8/7/12.

Minwax Pre-Stain Wood Conditioner, Stainable Wood Filler, Wood Finish Stain Markers, Wood Putty, and Blend Fill Pencils

True Value EZS-P

General Finishes Enduro-Var Satin, High Performance, Polyacrylic Satin, Exterior 450 Satin, Pre-Cat Satin, Pre-Cat Sealer, Arm-R-Seal Satin, Salad Bowl Finish, Milk Paint (Snow White), Dye Stain Merlot, Ext. 450 Stains, & GF Water Stain

Your support of this important guild community support effort will be greatly appreciated. Contact Ken Wolf [wolfkenneth@att.net](mailto:wolfkenneth@att.net) or 734-981-3423 if you have questions on toys or boxes.

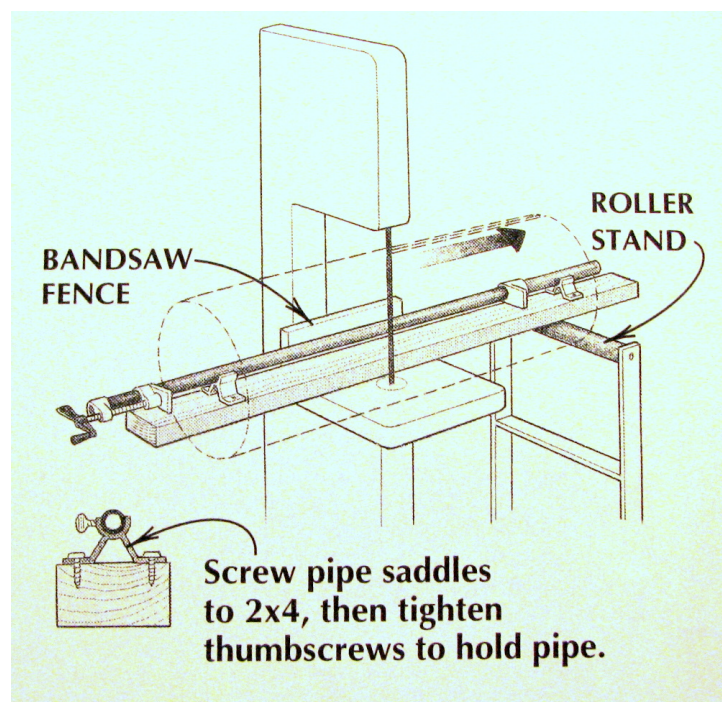
## FYI by Bill Rigstad

### Sawing Skinny Logs

I made the bandsaw jig shown in the drawing to take advantage of the small logs—under 10 in. in diameter—that sawmills pass by.

I screwed two 3/4-in. Pony pipe saddles to a 50-in.-long 2x4. I clamp the log and run it through the saw using the bandsaw fence as a guide. (You may need to make a larger, auxiliary fence and attach it to the original fence.) Pony pipe saddles are stocked by Grizzly Imports, (800) 541-5537.

*American Woodworker 1997*





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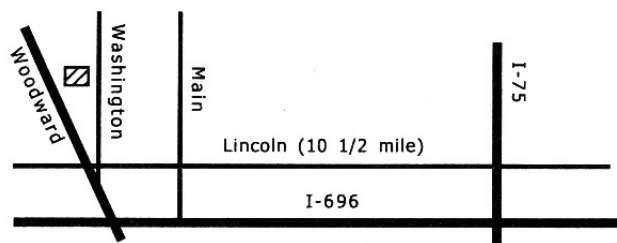
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For membership information, contact Bill Gayde at 25575 York, Royal Oak, Mi, 48067 or by phone at 248-543-3487 or by email at: [williamgayde@comcast.net](mailto:williamgayde@comcast.net).

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



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Jeff Wilmot



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25575 York Road  
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## **The Picture Gallery**



**Some Of Christopher Schwartz's Campaign Furniture**

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