



Michigan Woodworker

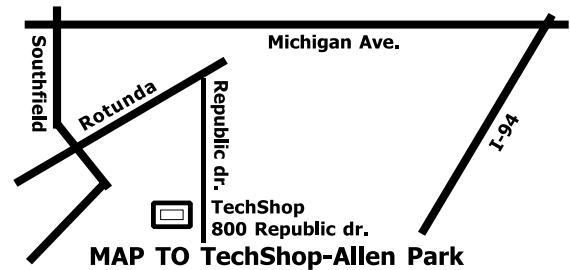
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Michigan Woodworkers Guild (Est. 1981)

Sunday, October 11th, 2015
2:00 PM to 4:30 PM. Jim Smiley of Zar
Finishing will present a lecture on
finishes, and finishing techniques at the
TechShop in Allen Park

The October luncheon will be at Jimi's on Thursday
the 22nd at 1:15 PM.



Upcoming Events

Month	Meeting Date	Topic	Speaker	Location	Luncheon Date
Nov 2015	Sunday 8 th 2:00–4:30PM	Jigs & Fixtures	Various Members	Royal Oak Senior Center	Thursday, 19th
Dec 2015	Sunday 13 th 2:00-4:30PM	Annual Xmas Dinner	TBD	Livonia Senior Center	Thursday, 17th
Jan 2016	Sunday 10 th 2:00–4:30PM	TBD	TBD	Tech Shop in Allen Park	Thursday, 28th
Feb 2016	February 12,13,14	WW Show	Glen Huey (Saturday)	Novi Expo Center	Thursday, 25th
March 2016	Saturday 19 th 12:01–4:30PM ^h	Showcase Of Skills	Member's Displays	Tech Shop In Allen Park	Thursday, 24th
April 2016	Sunday, 10 th 2:00-4:30PM	Intarsia	Kathy Wise	Tech Shop In Allen Park	Thursday, 28th
May 2016	Sunday, 15 th 2:00-4:30PM	Construction Processes	Will Stanford	Tech Shop in Allen Park	Thursday, 26th
June 2016	Currently TBD, both June and July may be part of the annual summer shut down period.				
Notes	All luncheons are held at Jimi's in Royal Oak at 1:15 PM				

The President's Corner

By Gary Assarian

A few days have passed since our program featuring Michael Fortune and his jig extravaganza. The 80 plus members in attendance were not disappointed. I feel that everyone in attendance walked away with a number of pearls. One thing for sure is that he emphasized that one needs to be meticulous regarding the use of jigs. Including, the invention of various applications for using jigs. It seemed that he did not make one piece of furniture that didn't employ a number of jigs. It was very interesting that he never made a piece of furniture as a single event or occurrence. He always seemed to have the future in mind when he built a piece of furniture. Someday, he might need to recreate a piece. In addition, he didn't rely on his own skills but the skills of those around him to replicate what he had created initially.

Michael emphasized preparation, from process to design which is something from which we could all benefit. Jigs are an critical part of the process. They make things safe and repeatable. He showed what jigs can do. He also acknowledged the skills of one of our own members, **Ken Wolf**. He pointed out something that most of us already knew that Ken is an extremely talented woodworker as well as a jig maker. The Guild is indebted to Ken for his diligence and hard work in putting this wonderful daylong program together. In addition, I would also like to thank **Bill Rigstad** and **Bill Gayde** for all of their hard work as well. None of these programs could occur without the commitment of our entire organization. These members have worked tirelessly to make our organization better.

Our next meeting, to be held on October 11, is also sure to be a winner. The meeting will feature **Jim Smiley from Zar Finishng** . Jim will discuss, among other topics, water-based topcoats, patching, hybrid finishes, stains and techniques for application. He will also discuss solutions to finishing problems such as blotching and the safe application of finishing products. It should be a great review on a topic that never ceases to be of interest. It is sure to be a great review of finishing using stains and top coats especially in light of new regulations regarding older formulas. Finishes are going to become more water based in the future. Thus, having manufacturers explain the different formularies and compatibilities of their current products is critical to creating a finish that one would desire. Regardless of what you've done in the past ,water-based products are here and it's important to learn as much as one can about them.

I hope that you will be able to attend our October 11 meeting. It is critical that we continue to have a high level of participation among the membership to support our programs.

In November we will be asking the members once again to demonstrate their own jigs and fixtures either purchased or created to the membership. This is always been a very popular program. We are looking for individuals who are willing to share their experiences with others. If you are interested in making a presentation at the November meeting, please contact me at, pathman98@gmail.com or phone 248-332-0816. As a new twist, at the jigs and fixtures program we will set aside time for a mini Swap meet among the members . You're encouraged to bring any items you wish to sell, exchange or give away. We will allocate the first 30 minutes of meeting for this purpose. I hope that you take advantage of this opportunity to bring in items that you would like to sell or exchange. Historically we have done this at the picnic . The executive committee felt that we needed another venue to have a swap meet. Please bring your items! I am looking forward to seeing you. Please support all of the efforts of the guild to improve our organization..

Thank you for your support, It is critical that the membership be involved in our organization. I know that we've made these statements in the past but we hope they don't fall upon deaf ears. All organizations schools, churches, special interests and the Woodworkers Guild need an engaged membership. Please do your part.

ANNUAL GUILD ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Guild by-laws require that a slate of officers for the coming year be presented to the membership at the November meeting. Nominations from the floor may be made at this meeting or anytime up to the voting, which will be at the December meeting. A majority of those present and voting will determine the winners. The positions open are: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Officers-at-Large.

All non elected members of the Executive Board are appointed by the President with approval of the board. These include: Publications (Newsletter Editor) Committee Chair, Program Committee Chair, Library Committee Chair, Membership Director Chair, Toy Project Chair, Special Projects Chair, and Mentoring Program Chair.

-- Other Committees are created as deemed necessary by the Executive Board

Several of the 16 members who are part of the current Executive Board have been involved in leadership positions for many years and feel that it is time for some of the other 265 members to step up and volunteer. If you can participate, actively contributing to the success of the Guild, in any of the positions listed above, contact any Guild Officer and let them know.

GUILD MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Bill Gayde

As of September 23, 2015 there are 265 active members in the Guild (our highest membership was 370). Our records show that there have been 1,303 individuals who have been members at one time or another since 1981 when the Guild was formed. From 1990 (prior to 1990 the Secretary handled the paperwork) through August 1997 there were five Membership Directors: Mike Dewaele, Ken Romanik, Dave Monk, Jim Coleman, and John Wilking. From August 1997 through 2015 there has been only one, Bill Gayde. I think 18 years is enough. As I mentioned last December, we need to find a replacement before senility finally settles in. So far there have been no takers.

The duties of the Membership Director are pretty straight forward:

- Maintain the Guild database (currently in Microsoft Access 2007)
- Send monthly reminders to renew membership, second reminders to those who have not responded, and mail new membership cards
- Send "New Member Letter" to those who join for the first time
- Maintain and update periodically the Guild's informational brochure

Any or all of the above should be up for review and/or change by the new Director. Just because it is the way it has been done in the past is no excuse to continue to do it if a better way can be developed.

Anyone willing to apply for this position can contact any of the officers of the Guild at any time.

MWG Toy Program Status Update**By Ken Wolf**

Based on inputs received to date the following is the current toy status:

- Dan Howard has 7 toys being painted and 7 more in process
- Elliott Krieger has sanding completed on 20 toys and an additional 50 cutout
- Michael Kwiatkowski has 107 toys completed and ready for delivery
- The West Side Group has 90 toys cutout 60 more started

This gives our guild a total of 341 toys in process toward our goal of exceeding 400 toys this year. At this point we have 2 completed memory boxes with several members planning to build some for December delivery (none currently reported as in progress) toward our goal of 40 plain wooden boxes and 10 memory boxes.

There is still plenty of time to achieve our goals for December if some additional members will dedicate the time to make a few toys or boxes for our Children's Hospital. The deadline is our December 13 meeting to allow us to meet their timing needs. Thanks to all who can support this need for children who must spend their holidays in the hospital.

August-September 2015 Treasure's Report

Expenses	\$2875.36
Revenues	\$1435.00
Current Balance	\$17,392.39

Michael Fortune Seminar

Expenses for presentation, Hotel and Food.....\$1403.83

Revenues \$1250.00

81 members attended the Seminar

MWG Meeting Review
Michael Fortune Workshop
12 September 2015
by Dale Ausherman

Designer/maker, teacher and mentor Michael Fortune is well-known to most woodworkers. We have enjoyed a multitude of inspirational articles in leading woodworking magazines, and many in the Guild have taken both fundamental and advanced classes from Michael at Marc Adam's School of Woodworking (MASW). In fact, Michael teaches some of the two-week Apprenticeship classes which are required for the MASW Masters program, and their Fellowship program for advanced students has been named in his honor. But I did not fully appreciate the international acclaim for Michael's contributions, and his numerous awards, until I perused the Bio on his website (<http://www.michaelfortune.com/BIO.html>). In 1993 he received the prestigious Prix Saidye Bronfman,

Canada's highest award in the crafts, and in 2007 received the Award of Distinction from the Furniture Society the first Canadian to receive this esteemed award.

Michael began the workshop with a short review of his career, accompanied by slides of many incredible furniture designs and innovations he has achieved over the years. His title slide billed him as Michael Fortune RCA, for Royal Canadian Academy of Arts, an organization granted by Queen Victoria in 1880. He had no formal family history of art, design or woodworking. The only tools he recalls in his home were a pair of vice grips which his father had won in a poker game. Michael was studying graphics arts in college when a professor gave him a package to deliver to an associate at the college. By mistake he delivered it to the wrong room, which happened to be a furniture design class. The rest is history as Michael is in his 41st year as a designer and builder. He works from a 4,200 sq ft. studio and nearby home, resurrected by Michael from an abandoned homestead in the Kawartha lakes region of Ontario. He has an onsite mill where he prepares much of his lumber, some harvested from the property itself. He now works for clients in up to six homes at any given time, having supplied multiple pieces over many years. He has a small staff, including interns from around the U.S. and Canada.

He showed photos of a chair, titled Chair No. 1, which he designed in 1979 and has subsequently delivered over 350. Originally he used 12 jigs for this chair. He now uses 38 jigs to make this single chair! He will be teaching the construction of this chair at Marc Adams in 2016 over two one-week sessions, the first in April and the second in September.

He not only makes chairs, but other furniture as well, including dining room suites and sideboards for private dining rooms, and very large "high end" conference room tables for several leading companies. Michael also showed photos of his famous "Spinner Tables," a recurring design theme he started 25 years ago. Later in the program he demonstrated jigs used in the construction of this glass-topped table.

As we know, he rarely if ever designs furniture with straight lines or right angle joints, so his furniture is typically built with a plethora of jigs customized to cut the joinery and surfaces, often with a router or a band saw. Thus he followed his introduction with a review of his process for properly setting up a band saw for maximum performance. Michael has seven band saws in his shop, as they are crucial for creation of his curvilinear designs. To augment his presentation on band saw set up he provided attendees a copy of his Nov-Dec 2004 *Fine Woodworking* article "Five Tips for Better Bandsawing," as well as a handout on band saw set-up. The latter contained many tips on band-saw-specific jigs.

He reported that his preferred band saw blade is a 1/2in 3 teeth per inch skip tooth blade from Starrett. Contrary to intuition the smoothest cutting band saw blades have course tooth spacing, not fine. This enables good sawdust clearing in order not to bind the blade. However, Michael says the Starrett blades sometimes have poor welds. Thus he buys the Starrett blades in quantity and sends them to NAP GLADU (new owners of the former BC Saw and Tool) to be re-welded. He also had some great advice regarding blade drift. He claims that rather than trying to compensate for drift by angling the fence, one can provide for absolutely zero drift by proper centering of the blade on the upper wheel crowned tire. If appropriately centered there will be no drift. His band saw handout has a great diagram which illustrates why this is the case. Michael also related, among many other tips, that high blade tension is not required, and that band saws do not need high horsepower, even 1/3 – 1/2 HP should suffice. He also prefers the older guide blocks (steel or ceramic) rather than Carter style wheel guides,

as he feels the wheels trap more sawdust against the blade and are harder to adjust. He likes to use cigarette paper to set the spacing on the bar guides. Many other valuable tips were discussed, all of which should be discussed in his FWW article, his DVD and the band saw handout. Finally he gave important tips regarding hand guiding of work pieces through the saw when sawing to a line. To closely follow a line one guides and pushes the wood with a single hand, keeping pressure to keep the “saved side” of the cut against the rear portion of the blade.

Michael told of the two books he considers most important to his success. The first is “*Getting the Most out of Your Band Saw & Scroll Saw*,” a Deltacraft operating manual. A search revealed that that this book is available from several sellers via BookFinder.com, where it is described as a “reprint of a fully illustrated Delta Co publication from 1937.” The second is *Encyclopedia of Furniture Making* by Ernest Joyce. Michael had the 1972 second printing of the book originally issued by Joyce in 1970, and indicated that the early edition is crucial in that several important parts were deleted from future editions. I was able to find several used 1970 edition copies on Bookfinder.com, most from AbeBooks.com, all priced at \$4 to \$5 including shipping. At that price I ordered one!

The remainder of the workshop followed Michael as he reviewed the jigs and processes involved in creating some of his famous furniture designs, including the Spinner Tables. Most of his jigs are made from Baltic birch plywood, often with wooden blocks glued on at various angles to enable clamping of curved surfaces. He uses white PVC glue for these, but will put a little dab of hot glue on the edge to hold in place while clamping for the white glue to set. The jig holding surfaces are always faced with sandpaper to prevent slipping of the work pieces under stress forces while clamping. He recommends writing on each jig its intended purpose and concise instructions for use for later reference. The clamping surfaces and or fences need small rabbits where they meet the baseplates to prevent interference from wood dust and chips. The jigs used in this Guild workshop were all made by Ken Wolf, from prior classes and plans provided by Michael. Michael was very complimentary of the precision and quality of Ken’s recreation of the jigs.

Michael provided another handout titled “Workshop Jigs and Fixtures” which included plans and instructions for several key generic jigs, not specific to particular pieces of furniture. He called these fixtures. Other jigs are specific to a particular operation. Fixtures in the handout included a table saw sled or float, a plunge router mortise and tenon jig, a veneer splitter/joiner, a biscuit joiner stationary jig, a small wedge jig, a bench hook, and a mortise/dovetail jig. For routing mortises and tenons Michael prefers using machinist’s end mills (originally designed for milling aluminum) as they are longer and much less expensive. He also demonstrated several specific jigs, too many and tool complex to describe in this report.

Along the way Michael offered sale of his DVD set, which covers the band saw (Set-up, selection of blades, blade drift and tension, and special jigs), wood forming techniques (steam bending, laminating, hot pipe bending, vacuum forming, and kerf bending), jigs and fixtures, adding decorative details, his furniture portfolio, chair design, chair construction, the design process for woodworkers, instructions for building a small table, and many past articles Michael has written for magazines.

I greatly appreciate the club leadership’s effort to have Michael Fortune spend a Saturday with us, and we thank Michael for wealth of information and experience shared with us.

- DAA

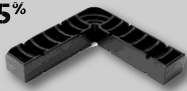
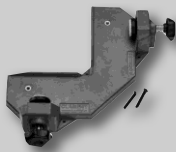
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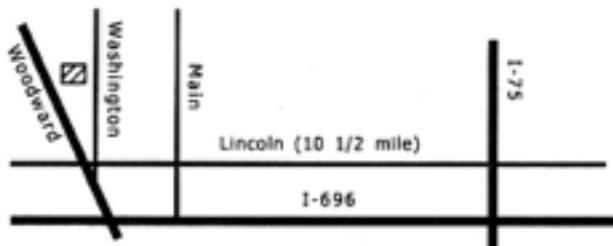
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For membership information, contact Bill Gayde at 25575 York, Royal Oak, Michigan. By phone contact at (248) 543-3487. By email, contact at williamgayde@comcast.net.

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

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Jeff Wilmot



**Michigan Woodworkers Guild
25575 York Road
Royal Oak, Michigan 48067**

September Meeting Scenes



Michael Fortune Presenting At The September Meeting.