



# MICHIGAN WOODWORKER

michiganwoodworkersguild.com



Michigan Woodworkers' Guild (est. 1981) April 2020 Vol. 41 No. 4

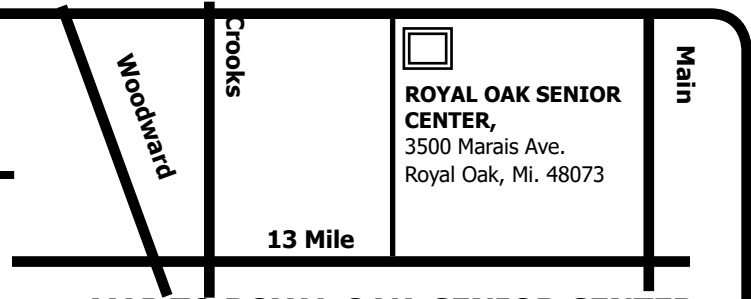
When:

**SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2020**

TOPIC:

SHOWCASE OF WOODWORKING SKILLS  
- COORDINATED BY ED STUCKY

The Guild luncheon will be at the George's Senate Cony Island on **April 23rd** at 1:16 pm (see map on page 7)



MAP TO ROYAL OAK SENIOR CENTER

**THEATER WILL FEATURE:** Unknown topic which will be determined by Bill Rigstad before the movie starts. Movie starts at 12:59 PM. Whatever the movie is, it will be fascinating!



Long time member Tom Rowley and Bob Hough updated the Guild with the great progress they are making with "The Humble Design Dresser Build Project". Young Drew Buatti was very impressive while he talked about his tasks and experiences in the production build of the dressers. Can we say "Future Guild Member"?

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The **April 19** meeting will be our annual **Showcase of Woodworking Skills** at the **ROYAL OAK SENIOR CENTER**. Members interested in participating should contact **Ed Stucky**.

This month's luncheon will be at George's Cony Island on **April 23rd** at 1:16 pm

Members of the **Rockler Woodworking Store** staff will give demonstrations at our **May 17** meeting at the **LIVONIA SENIOR CENTER**. (Topics to be determined)

The monthly luncheon will be at George's Cony Island on the **May 28th** at 1:16 pm

A field trip to **MICHIGAN HARDWOODS** in Clinton is scheduled for **SATURDAY, JUNE 13**. Details later.

The monthly luncheon will be at George's Cony Island on the **June 25th** at 1:16 pm

Due to the summer shutdown, there is no July member meeting. All are encouraged to enjoy the month with family and friends as well as making more sawdust.

There is no monthly luncheon for the month of July. We look forward to restarting August 27th.



## President's Corner

By Jerry Romito



Well, this article certainly finds us in a difficult and disruptive time with the Corona virus health crisis, and I probably don't need to remind all of you to follow the many safety guidelines we've been given. But please do so and stay safe. Of course our April meeting and luncheon have been cancelled. I'll make a decision on the May meeting later as we see how the crisis evolves.

On a happier note, I want to send out a tremendous thank you to the ten presenters who showed us photos of their shops at the February meeting. It was rewarding to hear many positive comments from members in the audience who found the talks interesting and informative. Since a March newsletter was not published due to Bill Gayde's illness, Dale Ausherman's typically detailed "Meeting Review" column for the Feb. meeting will be included in the May newsletter. However, you can also see a sampling of the photos now in the gallery on the website at [www.michiganwoodworkersguild.com](http://www.michiganwoodworkersguild.com).

At the February meeting I told the story of how I just happened to meet three woodworkers the previous week, who collectively gave me a little insight into why we like to work with wood. The first was one of our members who needs to make a downsizing move and asked for help to sell his tools. As he took me through his home, he simply beamed as he showed me his fine toy making and furniture making craftsmanship, and he was likewise proud of his shop that evolved over his 40 year woodworking career. The second was at Woodcraft, where I saw a man at the counter showing one of the salesmen his beautiful handmade bowls, which one would assume were turned, but in-fact were made only with a bandsaw and sanding. The man was looking for an opportunity to teach a class there on his bowl-making technique so he could spread his joy. That didn't pan out, but I talked to him about making

arrangements to give the MWG a presentation next year. (In-fact it turned out that he had been to the free-time at two of our Livonia meetings recently to show them off). The third was meeting a new member, who was already pleased at what he was learning at meetings and in the newsletter and website, and was eager to improve his skills. So, as I talked to each of these men, I could just see in their eyes the joy they take in their woodworking. We all like to create, and it makes us feel good about ourselves. It's hard to beat that.

Our March 8, 2020 meeting at Livonia was our annual "Jigs and Tools" meeting. Slightly different from past years, members presented not only jigs that they have made for various purposes, but also purchased tools that they wanted to comment on. Dale Ausherman's fine review is included in this month's newsletter, and you can see a sampling of the photos in the gallery on the website at [www.michiganwoodworkersguild.com](http://www.michiganwoodworkersguild.com).

On the subject of meeting presentations, you might not be aware that the Board of Directors plans out the meetings for each year in the summer of the preceding year. That means that this summer we will be working on the 2021 calendar. With that in mind, I would again like to encourage all members to submit ideas for topics and/or presenters that they might like to see at next year's meetings. You may have an interesting talent yourself that you would like to present. Please feel free to email any suggestions to me at [gjromito@aol.com](mailto:gjromito@aol.com).

So again, please stay safe, spend time in the shop, and hopefully we'll be back in business together in May.

**GLENN WING  
POWER TOOLS**

33656 Woodward Ave.  
Birmingham, MI 48009  
(248) 644-0444  
(248) 644-5790 Fax  
(800) 821-5177 (US)  
(800) 448-1572 (MI)

Jeff Wilmot



## MEETING REVIEW

By Dale Aushman



MWG Meeting Review  
Jigs and Tools  
Livonia - 8 March 2020

Our “annual” jigs and tools meeting was held on 8 March in Livonia. When I saw the planned topic I said to myself, “Good Heavens, (like all periodic events in my accelerating life timeline,) these meetings sure seem to come much quicker than once a year.” E.g. my monthly haircuts seem to come once per week. But low and behold, when checking my record of meetings I see that we had our last “Jigs” meeting in October, only five months ago. Nevertheless I was pleased and relieved at this because; 1) I wish to slow my life’s clock down a bit; and 2) as a still-learning woodworker I can use all the “jig and tool” ideas I can get!

Regardless of the compressed time since last jig reporting, our members came through with a great assortment of ideas, all showing excellent skill and innovation on the part of the presenters. We had seven presenters, along with an eighth for which we ran out of time to present. And several of the presentations covered multiple tools.

**Fred Ball** kicked things off with demonstration of a V-Drum sander made from a kit and plans from the Stockroom Supply company. Fred’s model was a wood kit version of Stockroom’s Flat-master drum sander. V-Drum originally

stood for Velcro™ Drum, but the Velcro Company objected to use of the name. Paul Moore, its creator, explains “essentially, the V-Drum is a surface sander. Its drum sits just slightly below a flat table with a slot in it.

The drum spins fast enough so that the paper, which is held on by Velcro®, expands slightly off the drum due to centrifugal force. As a result, when the drum is turned on, the paper lifts just enough off the drum for the paper to now be slightly proud of the top of the table. How proud depends on the size of the grit. The upshot is that you no longer sand by pressure of the drum, but rather by the size of the grit. The high speed of the rotating drum, which must be at least 2,050 rpm, is crucial to making the paper lift properly and consistently. The company sells the moving and mechanical parts, along with plans to build the wooden case. The user makes the case and supplies the drive motor. Fred uses his Shopsmith as the driving power. The V-Drum approach is great because the dust falls down into the case, aided by a vacuum port to the case. The company sells a roller attachment to hold longer pieces of wood flat to the table, but Fred devised his own design for these. [www.stockroomsupply.com/shop/2009\\_catalogue.pdf](http://www.stockroomsupply.com/shop/2009_catalogue.pdf)

Fred also showed his shop-made dovetail jigs, made from a Milescraft DovetailTemplateMaster, which provides a reusable template for making one’s own router dovetail guides in MDF or other suitable material. The TemplateMaster comes with step-by-step instructions and a complimentary DVD which shows how to properly align, secure and adjust the dovetail guide to cut both pins and tails for full, spaced and angled dovetails. The template often comes with an 8-deg dovetail bit. Plans and instructions may be downloaded from the Milescraft website without actually purchasing the template, to see if one might be interested. I notice that the template “kit” can be purchased online at Home Depot and other various sources. [www.milescraft.com/product/dovetailtemplate-master/](http://www.milescraft.com/product/dovetailtemplate-master/)



Next **Dave McCagg** showed an interesting project of making custom jigs to facilitate production of large numbers of enlarged “Lincoln Logs” as an update to the classic children’s toy. The logs are larger than the toy logs we grew up with,



making the parts easier to handle. And simple jigs speed up the process of making complete sets of identical parts, which in Dave's case was a total of 500 parts. He found this "Linkin' Logs" project in the October 2015 Issue (#221) of Woodsmith Magazine. For inexpensive materials Dave was able to acquire wood from shipping pallets received by Ford Motor Co. (FCSD). Dave's judgment that the jig designs in the article tended to put one's fingers too close to the table saw blade and so he used his CAD skills to produce modified designs for the specialized jigs and sleds. The jigs needed to be accurate and repeatable since the logs eventually needed to be assembled with precise interlocking notches. He implemented registration pegs much like those used in making finger joints, and made a single "mirrored" two-sided jig to accurately position the opposite sides of interlocking notches. A 2nd sled was made to clean out the notch waste. Dave showed a wonderful log cabin made of the parts, and at conclusion revealed the interior to contain two toy bears making themselves at home. Unlike the Goldilocks bears, these found the cabin "just right." Dave sought suggestions from members as to how to efficiently put a finish on the 500 or so parts.



mat. He gave instructions on the necessary sharpening of even new veneer saws. Steven recommends using the heavier X-ACTO or equivalent mats, finding the cutting wheel mats found in fabric stores to be easily damaged by the knives or surgical blades. A good source of inexpensive scalpel blades and handles is Havel's ([www.havels.com/surgical-blades](http://www.havels.com/surgical-blades)). As cutting guides he recommends the double-thick Rockler Woodworker's acrylic triangles, along with multiple widths and lengths of steel rules. He also uses sets of shape templates, such as one available from Marc Adams School of Woodworking (MASW) which contains various shapes. (May have to call their office and indicate you have attended a class there.) He also showed a special "ripper" hand jig made to hold a double-sided razor blade for cutting long thin strips of veneer. Steve's favorite instruction book is The Marquetry Course, by Jack Metcalfe and John Apps. He also recommends the Stress Less Coloring book "Paisley Patterns" as a good source of various shapes. Both are available at Amazon.

We were given a refresher by **Steven Vaerten** on Marquetry tools and techniques. Following recovery from back injury Steven has found that Marquetry and Parquetry are satisfying ways of keeping active in the shop without



requiring handling of large wood pieces and excessive moving around. He reminded us that both Marquetry (making pictures with potentially curved pieces) and Parquetry (only straight pieces) are forms of veneering and are not "inlay," which involved inserting pieces of wood into matching evacuated areas of the wood surface. The many pieces of various veneer species and colors are typically glued, (glue one surface only,) to an MDF or other stable substrate, with both sides of the substrate veneered to discourage later cupping of the piece. The many pieces are generally cut with a hobby knife (X-ACTO or surgical blades), or a veneer saw, on a self-healing cutting



A back saving Bench Top Mini Bench was shown and discussed by **Dan Holowicki**. He had originally planned to make this mini bench

in a MASW class by Jeff Miller, but the class had to be cancelled, so he made his own plans from photos of the Miller mini bench. (There is also an article on the Miller



Benchtop bench in the #176-Mar/April 2005 issue of Fine Woodworking Magazine (FWM). There is also an article and plans on Steve Latta's famous Minibench in the #244 FWM 2015 Tools issue.) The Miller bench project requires appropriate lumber and Pony #6712 12" heavy duty veneer press screws or equivalent, and related washers and installation screws. The side legs between the top and bases are attached with mortise and tenons; the stretcher between the legs is attached with large dovetails. The 24" x 12in x 1 1/2" top is glued up from maple boards, with dadoes for press screw clearance and 3/4" holes driller for bench dogs. Dan showed slides of typical applications of his beautiful bench on bench.



Our own MASW Master's Program graduate **Rich Herbert** demonstrated the skills and tools required to perform typical Federal period furniture inlays, including Celtic patterns, line and berry, straight and curved stringing, and

bell flowers. He perfected many of these techniques in MASW classes, and even made several circular stringing radius tools in the classes. These are as effective but less expensive than the Lie Nielsen (L-N) Steve Latta radius cutter, albeit not so beautiful in some minds. Rich also uses a Dremel with a StewMac precision router base and



downcut inlay router bit to cut stringing channels. ([www.stewmac.com/Luthier\\_Tools/Types\\_of\\_Tools/Routers\\_and\\_Bits](http://www.stewmac.com/Luthier_Tools/Types_of_Tools/Routers_and_Bits)) He made a base of Plexiglas to cut radiuses with this tool. Rich does like the L-N Latta straight line cutting gauge. Rich also

uses the L-N small router gauge (or equivalent from Lee Valley) for clearing out the cavity for inlaying of paterae and other shaped elements such as bell flowers. He also showed a brass and multi-plywood straight edge from Schurch Woodwork for straight line knife cutting or veneer sawing.



(I notice that Schurch has closed their online store and say that if you wish to buy products such as educational DVDs and booklets, canvas, tape or other supplies, to contact them and they will correspond to see if they have what you need.) <https://schurchwoodwork.com/products>. Rich showed a little syringe for applying white glue in the stringing channels (Monoject 412 Syringe from [www.kitkraft.com](http://www.kitkraft.com)). He uses hide glue for installing the paterae and bell flowers to avoid final finish glue marks. As for references, Rich recommended any of the Steve Latta L-N instructional DVDs covering various inlay topics.



Of course when it comes to jigs and tools, our jig master and former Guild President **Ken Wolf** had many new and innovative things to teach us. He showed a Fastcap company SafeCut ruler, a guide with a non-slip rubber base, for cutting

any material with a utility knife (\$44 for a 24" rule). The rule has a raised "handle" for keeping ones fingers distant from the knife blade. Ken then showed an equivalent



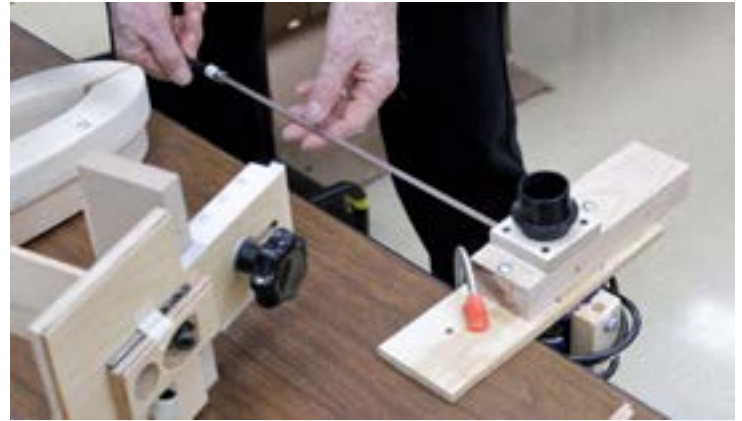
wooden/aluminum plate (with non-slip router mat base material from Peachtree Woodworking Supply) he had made for much less cost. Next he had a pair of Rockler router collet wrenches, whose offset ends reach below the table surface for easy bit changes without skinning your knuckles (\$20). And he had made a pair of cool wooden deep-reach clamps from a set of plans for five shop-made clamps from Woodsmith Plans ([www.woodsmithplans.com/plan/5-shop-made-clamps](http://www.woodsmithplans.com/plan/5-shop-made-clamps)). Also from this set of plans he showed a pair of wooden cam clamps.

Ken also showed jig work he has done to enable the



assembly of small mitered boxes using diagonal dowel splines to strengthen and beautify the corner joints. The problem is how to precisely drill the mating diagonal holes at the spline locations in the miter joint. Ken designed jig to do just that. While there are designs for this online, the results are restrictive as to placement of the “pins.” Ken’s jig allows placement of the dowel “spline” anywhere along the joint edge.

To use this joinery method on thin-sided boxes requires the use of very small diameter dowels, which are not generally available, especially not for exotic woods desired by many box builders. Ken solved this issue by making a jig for producing small diameter dowels from any available wood species. The jig uses a combination of a small “palm” router in conjunction with an electric drill to drive a rotating square-cross-section blank through the jig. Ken got the basic idea from several online designs intended for larger dowels, and combined the relevant parts of the designs for his own unique version. (Incidentally,



Highland Woodworking has an article on a similar looking device to the one Ken made. ([www.highlandwoodworking.com/dowelmakingjig.aspx](http://www.highlandwoodworking.com/dowelmakingjig.aspx)) It’s a shop-made wooden arm with coaxial guide blocks, mounted on the base of a router (in a router table, perhaps). Two blocks guide a square-section blank chucked in an ordinary hand drill across a straight bit running in the router, which cuts the spinning blank into a clean cylinder. Another block (or two) farther out prevents the dowel from whipping as it spins.) Ken’s results showed that his jig worked very well.

Next **President Jerry Romito** presented his experiences with the MicroJig GRR-Ripper 3D Push block for use with table saws, router tables, band saws, and jointers. Jerry attests that the push block is engineered to give



one the most accurate cuts possible while protecting the hands at all times. The GRR-Ripper web page states that “no other push block offers this level of precision, control, and safety to make difficult cuts with ease, and prevent kickback like never before.” (<https://www.microjig.com/products/grr-ripper>)

For his presentation Jerry played instructional videos which accompany the product to show its use in various scenarios. It does require two of the devices to “walk” a longer board down the machine in use. The basic Gripper sells for about \$60 each, and can be purchased online at Woodcraft, Rockler and various other outlets. The device does look very useful for several difficult and risky cutting situations.



**Bill Rigstad** stood ready to wrap up the meeting with a presentation of his shop built horizontal router, intended for making wide moldings such as for crown moldings. Unfortunately we ran out of meeting time and Bill did not get to present the tool, but many members viewed the router and talked with Bill after the meeting. A horizontal router allows you to route wide moldings using



different router bits, whereas a normal vertical router table is almost impossible to make the same moldings. Bill made his employing a configuration

similar to a jointer, with a rectangular wooden base, a long Melamine “table,” and a high aluminum fence to which the router is affixed in a manner which provides vertical adjustment. Bill displayed pieces of molding which had been made on the horizontal router.

We thank the program chairman for organizing this information-packet meeting, and all the authors for their hard work in organizing and giving these inspirational presentations.

- Dale Ausherman

In Memoriam:

On a sad note, we were notified by MWG member Greg Smith that fellow Guild member **Richard Fryer** passed on March 3, 2020.

As explained by Greg, Richard was a great practical and theoretical engineer; he also enjoyed woodworking as well as model making. Richard has created furniture for his home and built radio-controlled model boats, cars and airplanes. He was an active member of the Michigan Woodworker’s Guild and was involved in making toys for Children’s Hospital as well as designing and making wood boxes for both the children and parents of DMC patients. Richard is known as “The Box Joint King”.

Richard was a good friend and happily shared his knowledge, assisting many woodworkers with their building projects.

A memorial service had been scheduled for March 29, but that has been cancelled by the venue due to the Corona virus restrictions.

**Michigan Naturals**  
 DECORATIVE CABINET HARDWARE  
 www.MichiganNaturals.net  
 Ann Ivory  
 313-506-1963

**GRACE WHITE GLASS**  
*Art You Can Grasp*  
 DECORATIVE CABINET HARDWARE  
**Ann Ivory**  
 call (313) 506-1963  
 www.GraceWhiteGlass.com

**MARSH POWER TOOLS**  
 SALES AND AUTHORIZED FACTORY SERVICE  
 20579 Middlebelt  
 Livonia, MI 48152  
 (248) 476-7744  
 Fax: (248) 476-1090  
 7187 Grand River Ave.  
 Brighton, MI 48114  
 (810) 220-1122

**TREE-PURPOSED**  
 CUSTOM WOODWORK & MILLING  
 Live Edge Slabs & Urban Lumber  
 Barn Wood & Salvaged Wood  
 Firewood  
**JASON COJAN**  
 Office (734) 751-6746  
 Cell (734) 658-2840  
 TREEPURPOSED.COM



Translucent body lets you see when canister is full

1" ID Port

1 1/4" ID Port

1 1/2" ID Port

3/4" ID x 1 1/4" OD Port

**NO DUST COLLECTOR?**  
**CONTAIN DUST AT THE TOOL!**



**\$19.99**

**DUST RIGHT® FLEXIPORT DUST CANISTER**

- Reusable dust filter captures particles down to 10 microns
  - 4 flexible couplers that fit most hand held power tools
- SKU: 50319

**ROCKLER**  
CREATE WITH CONFIDENCE

NATIONAL WOODWORKING MONTH SALE PRICING VALID 4/3-4/30/20

26160 Ingersol Drive • Novi, MI 48375 • (248) 543-5110 • Rockler.com

Store Hours: M-F 9 am - 7 pm • Sat 9 am - 6 pm • Sun 11 am - 4 pm

**For membership information contact**

**Dave McCagg at: [d2mccagg@provide.net](mailto:d2mccagg@provide.net)**

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

**Executive Board Members**

Jerry Romito.....	President.....	248-475-5976
Tom Rowley .....	Vice-President .....	248-895-1597
Ed Stuckey.....	Treasurer.....	313-345-3671
Don Hess.....	Secretary.....	734-207-8427
Tony Gigliotti .....	Officer at Large .....	248-853-8349
Ron Ross.....	Officer at Large.....	734-812-5531
Rich Herbert.....	Officer at Large.....	248-628-0644
Bill Gayde.....	Officer at Large.....	248-859-3949
Ragnar Bergethon....	Officer at Large.....	248-608-8436
Pete Goddard.....	Officer at Large.....	248-828-3038
Dave Hinkle.....	Officer at Large.....	734-513-6836

**STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Jule Ann Clough....	Library.....	248-977-4131
Dave McCagg.....	Transition Newsletter Editor.....	734-482-6764
Dave McCagg.....	Membership.....	734-482-6764
Jerry Romito.....	Programs.....	248-475-5976
Ken Wolf.....	Toy Project.....	734-981-3423
Bill Rigstad.....	Special Projects.....	734-459-3374
Dave Hinkle.....	Web Site.....	734-513-6836
Bob Mills.....	Mentoring.....	248-540-8658
Fred Ball.....	Web Site Calendar.....	248-681-3108

