

# MICHIGAN WOODWORKER



michiganwoodworkersguild.com

Michigan Woodworkers' Guild (est. 1981) April 2021 Vol. 42 No. 4

# When / Where: SUNDAY, APR 11, 2021 (Virtual Meeting starts: 2:00 PM)

#### Real Time Virtual Meeting

# Mary May's "Introduction to Carving"

Remote Zoom w/Email Invite to Members

Coordinated by: Don Hess

**ZOOM MEETING START TIME: 2:00 PM** 



VIRTUAL MEETING
CONNECTION DETAILS TO
BE SENT BY JERRY ROMITO

#### **APRIL:**

Professional Wood Carver, Mary May, will demonstrate an "Introduction to Carving" at our April 11, 2021 Virtual meeting

#### MAY:

Ragnar Bergethon, aka "Berg", details the unique techniques to build a Craftsman Style Side Chair at our Sunday May 9, 2021 Virtual meeting.

#### JUNE:

A MWG personalized tour of the **Ford Piquette Plant**, coordinated by **Larry Last**, is scheduled for our yearly Field Trip on **Saturday**, **June 12**, **2021** 



## **Easter Sunday**

Enjoy your leftover supply of Chocolate Rabbits, Hardboiled Eggs, and Jelly Beans while professional wood carver, **Mary May**, describes and gives us a short demo about the tools, basic start-up and tool sharpening techniques as well as other equipment needed to begin your carving career. Our **April** Virtual meeting is coordinating **Don Hess**.







#### April 2021

This will be a short article again from me this month, since there is a lot of information and new features packed throughout this newsletter. Our Editor Dave McCagg continues to work overtime. Really, if you are not accustomed to reading all of the newsletter give this issue a try and read it through.

Last month's Showcase of Skills Zoom meeting, which featured 17 members presenting their projects, was well received by the 57 members that attended. You can read Dale Ausherman's typically thorough review in his column. By the way, that is a record attendance for a Zoom meeting and comes close to attendance at our in-person meetings. I appreciate that so many of you are adapting to the Zoom sessions.

Our April 11 Zoom meeting features professional wood carver, Mary May. See details in this newsletter. I will be sending the Zoom invitation shortly before the meeting.

Our current plan is to have Zoom meetings for the rest of this year. They are all booked with exciting speakers including three professional speakers. So stay tuned to the newsletters and the website to see the schedule.

Jerry Romito MWG President













Due to the continuing Coronavirus restrictions on large meetings, the Guild held its annual Showcase of Skills via an online Zoom meeting. Members participating sent photos of their projects, which President Jerry organized into a PowerPoint slide show. Members and presenters signed into Zoom from their own devices and when the respective slides came up the member described the key details of their project(s). The exception was the first speaker, Ed Stuckey, who gave a real time video tour of some key furniture pieces from his home. The 2 ½ hour meeting recording is viewable at

https://drive.google.com/file/d/17IMK5HZa3LAqJUA2iAoq9PQxllI2-0v9/view?usp=sharing while the slides themselves are viewable and downloadable at

 $\underline{https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PfWiK3ApzGvCep096jk2DbyVmWBy2OSy/view?usp=sharing.}\\$ 

## **Presenter: Ed Stuckey**



Ed reviewed four superb projects from his house full of handcrafted American period furniture. Ed has been building period furniture for decades and has been a significant contributor to the development of the Society of American Period Fur-

niture Makers (www.sapfm.org), having formed and

led the local Great Lakes Chapter over the many years. He first showed his Secretary Bookcase with primary wood of Cherry obtained from a single log. Ed designed the entire project in CAD, deriving the design details from several 1770-80's originals. The design encompasses



classical elements of a hand-carved gooseneck bonnet with turned and carved Newport finials as well as shell, tombstone figured frame-and-panel doors, can-

dle slides, breadboard-end fold down desktop, lopers, four graduated drawers, and ogee bracket feet. The interior desk gallery has beautifully carved elements with 21 drawers, two document drawers, and four hidden compartments in a serpentine layout. Finish is 12-20 coats of shellac. This magnificent piece took about 1,100 hours over two years to complete. The piece was published in two magazines and has won several significant awards.

Ed also showed a pair of Mahogany period candle stands, with fluted columns and tripod legs featuring ball and claw feet and an unusual hand-carved piecrust top. Ed further showed a Chippendale carved frame wall mirror with 23 carat gold gilding on the mirror frame and carved acanthus leaves making





up a gilded top cartouche. Ed's final piece was a Newport tall case clock recreating an original made by the famed John Townsend around 1770-80. The solid Walnut case has an arched top hood, Newport finials, fluted hood columns, and fluted quarter columns on

the waist and base. The clockworks are from Mike Siemsen's Green Lake Clock Company and the brass clock dial was handmade in England to Ed's specification. Plans for this clock are available online to members of SAPFM.

## **Presenter: Gary Assarian**



Next up was Gary Assarian, who presented a 77" X 44" dining room table and a children's climbing structure. The bungalow mission style table is made of Sapele from LL Johnson in Charlotte, with shop-made veneer on the legs which are attached with





Domino M&T joints. Finish is a Rubio Hard Wax finish. The climbing structure was made for Gary's granddaughter. Developed by Hungarian pediatrician Dr. Pikler, the minimalist tri-

angular climbina structure was designed



to encourage babies and toddlers to gain confidence, stability and strength. Gary ended up making two of these.

**Editor's Note:** The picture of Gary's Granddaughter atop the Pikler triangle is to die for and is precisely why we love woodworking!

#### **Presenter: Dale Ausherman**



I followed Gary to show a variety of work. I started with my first period piece, a solid Mahogany Queen Anne drop leaf table, with knuckle joints to enable two swing out legs a n d

hand cut dovetails connecting the stationary legs to the aprons. Second was a large Pine NY step back hutch, made





from Glenn Huey plans. Third was a walnut bench made with period joinery. I also showed an American Girl doll clothes hutch. and a set of Shaker stacked boxes made in a John Wilson class. I finished with

built-in cabinetry and shelving recently made for a

daughter's recently acquired house.

## **Presenter: Ragnar Bergethon**



Ragnar Bergethon shared his three-year project for a built-in bar in their basement entertainment

area. Measuring 71/2 ft. X 12 ft., it is



made of Red Oak plywood carcasses encased in 3/4 in

> Cherry frame and panels. It has a Granite top, with steel plates to support an overhang. Cabinets have frame and panel doors, drawers are all dovetailed. There are many innovative

features, including a removable face frame around

the appliance section to enable future size adjustment of replacement appliances. Some of the encasing panels are attached with magnet latches to enable access to plumbing and electrical.



## **Presenter: Tom Duke**



**Tom Duke** then wowed us with progress on his plans to make a dozen small-medium sized chests

of nicely figured

wood, all embellished with top-

quality Horton hinges and latches of various design-





appropriate metals. He has completed 7 of these chests and shared 6 with us, all of wonderful wood and beautiful finished such as Curly

Red Oak, Butternut, Curly Maple, Curly Birch and Cherry. Most have dovetails and one has wonderful carved initials added by friend Wm. Brown, owner



of the Maine Coast Workshop. Some chests have wonderful bracket feet, and all have beautiful moldings or other decorative features.

## **Presenter: Chad Habermehl**



Next Chad Habermehl showed a shed he built to enable clearing of space in his garage to make room for a shop. In this shop Chad has turned out several very attractive

projects. Η е

first made a tool bench with drawers using shop scraps and some wood abandoned by his church.



He then made a wonderful

house bench of Curly Maple and Curly Cherry. Chad then showed several projects

made from Soft Maple and Cherry trees harvested from his father-in-law's property. These included Maple and Cherry shelving units, three matching plant stands, as well as



Shaker-style desk with dovetailed drawers. Lastly he showed an outdoor cedar bench made over a single weekend from plans he found online.

## **Presenter: Rich Herbert**



Continuing with period furniture projects, SAPFM member and Marc Adams School of Woodworking (MASW) Master Program recipient Rich Herbert discussed four major MASW projects, three period pieces and a Sam Maloof sculpted rocking chair. Rich

showed a spectacular Federal demilune card table, (MASW instructor Mark Arnold) that included lunette band-



ings, bellflowers, stringing, and incredible inlaid paterae with hot sand shading. His most prized piece is



with a marquetry Eagle, from a weekend class taught by Jeff Headley and Steve Hamilton. The box is a replica of one made previously by Jeff and Steve for President Clinton.

a Portsmouth dressing table from a Steve Latta class, with a curved front which complicated the dovetails for the drawer fronts. This piece included complex bandings, stringing and bellflowers. He also showed a small Federal document box





## **Presenter: Curt Hill**



Curt Hill entertained us with a unique project combining love for woodworking with a passion for restoring antique automobiles. Many early cars had some wooden framing to which body sheet metal was attached. Curt reproduced



the wooden framing for the top roof and window carriages of the passenger/driver compartment for a 1929 Hupmobile. He measured the origipartially rotted nal

complex-shaped parts, including mortises and any other joinery. Curt then showed building a large timber frame shed for wood storage. This two-year project



involved large dovetail and bird's mouth ioinerv. Curt sawed his own beams from available Livonia ash



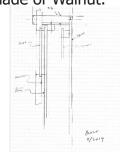
## **Presenter: Neal Hoegemeyer**



**Neal Hoegemeyer** displayed his prowess at design and construction by building a display fixture to hold and backlight his daughter's collection of five antique glass slides of biblical saints. He made a 12 inch circular design, executed in Walnut, with LED backlight-

ing electronics. The display can be hung on a wall

while it also includes the use of a nicely shaped base also made of Walnut.





## Presenter: Dan Holowicki



A wall shelf project of Curly Maple shelves with Walnut drawers was presented by **Dan Holowicki**. Inspiration for the modern wall

s h e l v e s came from a Christian Becks-



voort article in Sept/Oct 2020

FWW #284. He also showed a cookbook stand (of



recycled Walnut, Maple), a Walnut headphone stand, and a current project with planks of Curly Cherry for a planned live-edge coffee table. Dan further exhibited sev-

eral samples of about 25 multi-woodspecies

cars and trucks made this winter for the Guild toy project.



## **Presenter: Larry Last**



Larry Last then entertained us with an early American wooden bucket project from a Sam Maloof workshop. It is recommended as a fun weekend project. The bucket is made from chamfered slats, with groves for the inserted bottom. Larry offers an Excel spreadsheet





to compute the critical angles for various buckets.



He made treasure chests for grandchildren using ½ half barrels as lids.



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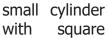
## **Presenter: Pete Padden**

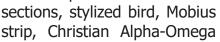


**Pete Padden**, retired for nine years and wintering in Florida, has been trying his hand at wood carv-

ing. He showed many small objects he has carved, including a humming bird/

donkey (depending on viewed end), folding cross, eight pointed 3D star,





plaque, church bulletin logo, dogwood flower crosses,

Clematis vine, Irish knots, and Kettering University bulldog mascot. The wood chips must be piling up in Florida!



## **Presenter: Bill Rigstad**



Examples of the 13 impressive items include a Cherry tall case clock, Windsor chair, Oak chi-



na cabinet, Maple desk on stand, Cherry bath vanity cabinet, computer desk, and a three-piece bedroom set of a large armoire, a four poster bed, with a matching dresser. He then showed his now famous

Furniture and cabinets from his last two houses was the subject of **Bill Rigstad**'s presentation.

shop made and self-installed crown molding, and beautiful replacement stair treads. (Bill is my go-to source for info on installing crown molding!)



## **Presenter: Jerry Romito**



sand shading, and two Hummingbird boxes. Jerry's projects include a Cherry

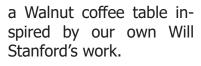
**Jerry Romito** had his own set of favorite projects. He showed inlaid boxes made with the Multiple Layer Inlay Stencils (MLIS) he has demonstrated for us before, including a Rose box with







bookcase, sideboard, parquetry end-grain cutting board, plant stand, pine wall shelves with drawers (from the Becksvoort FWW article again), and





#### **Presenter: John Sanders**



John Sanders was unable to attend the Zoom meeting, but Jerry was able to show and read John's description of the Amish cradle he made from a harvested cherry tree. The cradle was made over forty years ago

John's daughter, but has

also had service with his grandchildren. This beautifully crafted cradle is likely to serve many more generations.





## **Presenter: Bill Vetter**



The biblical story of the widow's mite describes a widow who gives two small copper coins to the temple treasury. Jesus witnessed this offering and described how great her gift was, be-

cause it represented a greater proportion of her wealth than the larger gifts of religious leaders. The Lutheran Women's Missionary League



(LWML), a world-wide auxiliary of the church, honor's this tradition by collecting small "mite" boxes con-

taining small coin donations over each The League vear. has to date collected \$100M over 79 years. Needing new collection box for this purpose Bill Vetter's church asked him to continue his generous





tradition of building furniture and fixtures for the church by supplying a new "Mite" collection box. Bill designed and built a spectacular collection box as a scaled model of their actual church, with wonderful labeling and Lutheran symbols routed into the box then filled with darkened hide glue. The church also asked Bill to design

and build a table to hold the box. Bill responded by building a beautiful custom table on casters.



## **Presenter: Jim Wolnosky**

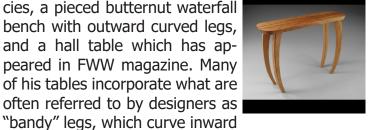


Our final presenter, **Jim** Wolnosky, a professional artist for about 40 years, works almost exclusively in wood, creating fine art furniture, sculptures & mobiles. He impressed us with many examples of his well-known work, including

standing wood sculptures of various exotics, wood sculpture encompassing embedded stones, and wall sculptures including a steam-bent wood sculpture. He included several benches composed of joined

exotic spe-





creating outward pointing "knees." Jim indicated



that his wood and wire mobiles take longer to complete than any of his other works. His presentation finished with a collection of wood/ wire sculptures all "dancing" to his favored jazz music.

We thank Jerry for his long hours in recruiting presenters, collecting their supplied photos, and beautifully integrating the material into a very professional PowerPoint slide show. And we are indebted to the presenters for their inspiring work and time spent in sharing it with us. Special appreciation goes to Ed Stuckey for the generous and impressive tour of his projects in his home.

- Dale Ausherman



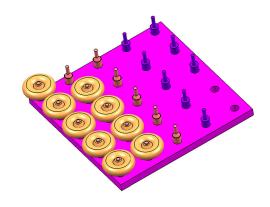
## **MWG DESIGN** CENTER

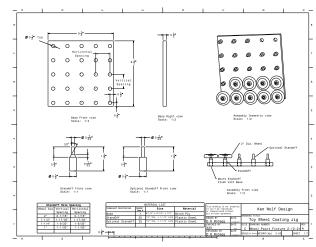


## From the Editor

In support of the MWG Toy Program, Ken Wolf has developed several jigs and fixtures to help in the construction of multiple toys with the greatest of ease. Primarily, Ken has constructed jigs to coat both axle heads as well as wheels.

Below is Ken's jig to coat wheels. It has been initially designed in CAD from which detailed drawings were made followed by a physical sample. For a detailed drawing of this jig please see the MWG website at:









Fellow MWG member, **Tom Duke**, has been busier than a bee compiling as many woodworking resources as "Carter has Pills". In this month's resource reflection, Tom details his positive interactions. Tom writes:

"I attended a wood working class in Virginia two years ago and met and befriended William Brown. He runs a small woodworking school in Camden Maine, with a focus on fine furniture / carving. His list of instructors is amazing and includes Alexander Grabovetskiy and others of note. Bill is a wonderful carver and craftsman. If you have reason to spend time in beautiful Maine, check this out.

#### https://www.mainecoastworkshop.com/

Camden and the coastline is worth the trip. Tom"

Below are more companies from our expanding Resource list.

Category: Schools -Classes - Michigan & Beyond

#### Sam Beauford Woodworking Inst

https://www.sambeaufordwoodshop.com/

#### Michigan Folk School

https://www.mifolkschool.com/

#### Johnston Workbench

http://www.theworkbench.com/

Northern Michigan university School of Art and Design

http://art.nmu.edu/department/index.html

#### **Kendall College of Art & Design**

https://kcad.ferris.edu/programs/

As the website matures, we will be adding more information about these sources for all our members to access.

Once again, we are requesting that everyone send their favorite sources, both local and nationally, to the Newsletter Editor at: d2mccagg@provide.net We are targeting to build a robust listing.

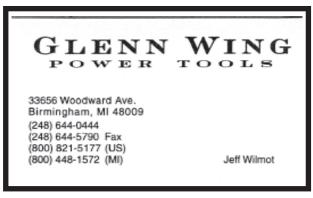


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#### **GUILD to GUILD SHARING**

#### **Editor's Note:**

Recently we have had the pleasure of sharing tips and pointers with the Washington Woodworker's Guild located in the Washington, DC area. **Andy Rudin**, who is the Editor of the Guild's "Wooden Word" quarterly newsletter, has given us permission to reprint his "Old Tools" column. Below you will find his article about vintage workbenches.

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#### OLD TOOLS: WORKBENCHES



By Andy Rudin

workbench is a simple structural form. Basically, a top attached to legs – usually four. Voila - a workbench! You could also call that object a table, but a workbench has a different intended function, which is for building and making. And for that reason, it has evolved differently, on a pathway of its own.

"A workbench and vise are the first, last, and most important tools without which all the others would be only half useful. The bench is the place to measure, set out the work, prepare the wood, and assemble it – the center of a shop. Without a bench there is no way or place to use a vise, and nearly every woodworking operation requires one. So indispensable is this pair of tools that the usefulness of one depends almost completely on the other."

- Aldren Watson, author of Hand Tools - Their Ways and Workings

The first known depiction of a workbench was a lowplaning configuration from the Roman Empire, seen in this image from Pompeii, c. 50 AD. Two Roman

workbenches are on display in the Saalburg Museum in Germany.



A Roman Workbench from Pompeii c. 50 AD Source: Popular Woodworking

For all you'd ever want to know about Roman workbenches (and more) see the article, Roman Workbenches – From Pompeii, Herculaneum, and the Holy Roman Empire, by Lost Art Press.

As tools and techniques advanced, workbenches changed as well, adding different accessories and configurations along the way. "French benches of the 17th and 18th centuries, for example, depended largely on stops and dogs to hold the workpiece, whereas British and American benches relied more on various vises (which first appeared on medieval German benches). How and where vises are fitted further differentiates between different bench types, the most common of which are those known as the standard cabinetmaker's bench (fitted with a face vise and a tail vise), and the Scandinavian bench (characterized by a dog-leg face vise that imposes no limits on the size



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#### OLD TOOLS: WORKBENCHES

(Continued from page 34)

of the workpieces that may be held in it," according to an article in Fine Woodworking, A Short History of Workbenches.

Expectedly, there are other workbenches of historical interest. You can find the Moravian workbench of Karsten Petersen (1776-1857) in the Old Salem Collection. You can find the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Dominy Workbench at the Winterhur Museum in Delaware. The Tiffany workbench is on view at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

The etymology of the word workbench is obscure. Here in the US, Thomas Jefferson referenced the word in his writing in 1781, so it likely existed in the English language before then.

Here's a picture of a workbench my grandfather made in his workshop. I don't know the exact year he built it, but it was probably in the 1950's or '60's.



Workbench built by P. G. Rudin

All the drawers are dovetailed. It's a bleeping heavy piece that's accompanied me in all of my moves since college. It's well used, and largely undamaged except for the fractured plywood on the right side (not shown in picture) which succumbed to my knee when I attempted to improve the bench's position "just an inch or two to

the left.") Today, I'm not so keen on having all those drawers, since I struggle to remember what's in what (the reason for the white labels shown in the picture). But I'm reluctant to modify the basic structure. And based on my initial exploration, it's clear that my grandfather never intended this piece to be disassembled, much less modified. Still, I think he'd encourage me to make improvements, as long as a chainsaw wasn't involved.

I won't go crazy making changes. I'll probably build extensions for the top on the left and right sides to accommodate open shelving, or equipment that I want to roll under the bench top. The capacious, sturdy drawers have plenty of utility. Flaws and all, I greatly enjoy using this bench. Every time I make something on it, I feel like I'm using a piece of history.

Do you have a special bench in your workshop? Share it in the Wooden Word! Send a picture of your bench along with its story to Andy Rudin, Newsletter Editor:

arudin@contrarydomino.com







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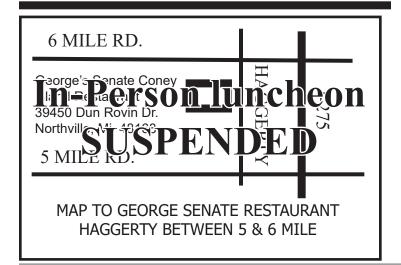
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