



MICHIGAN WOODWORKER

michiganwoodworkersguild.com



Michigan Woodworkers' Guild (est. 1981) April 2022 Vol. 43 No. 4

When / Where:

SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2022

(Virtual Meeting Starts: 2:00 PM)

Real Time Virtual Meeting:

Making Art with a Wood Lathe

Remote Zoom w/Email Invite to Members

Coordinated by: Larry Last

ZOOM MEETING START TIME: 2:00 PM



VIRTUAL MEETING
CONNECTION DETAILS TO
BE SENT BY JERRY ROMITO

APRIL:

Master Wood turners **Vince Hellman** and **Mike Foydel** will demonstrate their phenomenally artistic Wood Turning expertise in their live demonstration "*Making Art with a Wood Lathe*" at our **2:00 PM April 10th 2022 VIRTUAL meeting.**

MAY:

Pipe Organ Restoration is **Dave Wigton's** expertise. At our **2:00 PM May 22nd 2022** meeting he will showcase his skills with examples of his many successful refurbishments.

June:

Our 2022 June Field Trip will feature a one of a kind visit to **Selfridge Air Base** coordinated by **Larry Last**. Join us **June 12th at 1:00 PM** on the East side of Detroit at Selfridge Air Base where you can ride in the F-16 Simulator. Museum entry costs: \$10.00 per person.



Making Art with a Wood Lathe

April 10th

Vince Hellmann and **Mike Foydel** of the Detroit Area Wood Turners will give a presentation on woodturning and their experiences making art using a wood lathe with a variety of materials. This is an impressive presentation; don't miss this one which will be a **Zoom** meeting that starts at **2:00 PM.**





President's Corner

By Jerry Romito



April, 2022

Last month I told you that our April meeting would be in-person with a turning demonstration; however I have to report that this plan has changed. We will still have the turning demonstration, but the meeting will be on **Zoom**. We have made this venue change because your Board has recognized that since the Guild does not have personal liability insurance coverage, it is not advisable for us to have this sort of in-person mechanical demonstration. We expect to have this issue resolved before the next in-person meeting planned for May. I will keep you informed.

I also told you last month that the Board is updating our Bylaws. The Board has approved a revision, and I will be emailing each of you a copy of the revision for you to review. I will then be asking you to vote on approval at our **April 10 Zoom** meeting.

My dust collection monitoring with the **Dylos** air quality meter that I have been reporting continues to show "excellent" air quality throughout the house, even though I have been making a lot of sawdust and sanding dust in the basement. I believe that the keys have been the **MERV 11** furnace filter, and the ceiling-mounted shop air filter, which is a 20 year old **JDS Air-Tech 2000** Hi Efficiency Air Filtration System that I keep running for a few hours after leaving the shop.

I have another note that might be of interest to those of you like me that who have stayed away from trying to hand cut dovetails. There is an article in the April 2022 issue (#295) of **Fine Woodworking** magazine that reviews five saw guides for dovetails – "A helping hand for novices and pros alike." Since I am working on a project that calls for dovetailed drawers, I read it with interest, and became convinced that

I needed one to have a good chance to do the job. The author said that all of the guides worked well, so take your pick. Four of the guides you hold in place with one hand, while the **Veritas** guide has its own clamp. That seemed like a good idea (although the author says that it is not necessary). But when I tried to order it from **Lee Valley**, the backlog time was up to six months, with no promises even at that. So I went with my second choice, the **David Barron** guide from **Highland Woodworking**, which I received three days after I ordered it. I'll let you know next month how it worked out.

Finally, we still have many members who have not renewed their annual membership. If you are one of those, you received a letter in the mail with a self-addressed return envelope asking for your renewal. If you are choosing not to renew, I would like to ask you to respond with a brief reason as to why you are choosing not to renew. I thank you for your reply and membership payment in advance.

Jerry Romito
MWG President

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MEETING REVIEW



By **JERRY ROMITO**

MWG Meeting Review
Project Highlights
13 March 2022

Since **Dale Aushman**, the MWG's regular author of his excellent Meeting Review column, was unable to attend the March 13th Zoom meeting on "*Project Highlights*", I volunteered to write this month's review (which I did once before and said I might not do it again, but here goes anyway). Fortunately, the PowerPoint used for the presentation, along with the complete recording of the presentation, are available for the asking. Plus, **Bill Rigstad** has put many wonderful photos from the PowerPoint on the MWG website. At this virtual meeting, three members (**Dan Holowicki**, **Larry Last**, and **Jerry Romito**) presented building details of projects that they had selected.

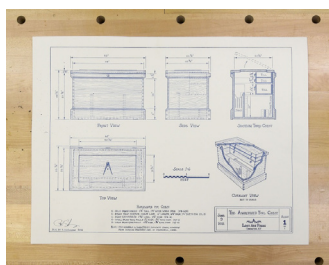
The Anarchist's Toolchest

A variation of the
Chris Schwarz Design



Constructed by
Dan Holowicki - 2018

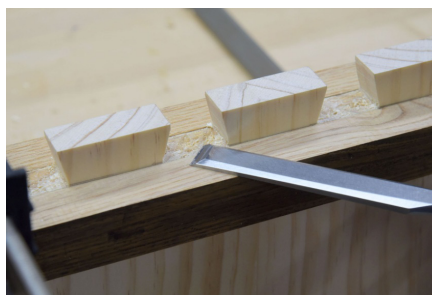
Dan Holowicki led off with his beautiful *Anarchist's Tool Chest*, a variation based on drawings published by **Chris Schwarz** from **Lost Art Press**. (Chris Schwarz has also published a book called "*The Anarchist's Toolchest*," which Dan did not need to use). Dan's



presentation included his own detailed PowerPoint, which featured many beautifully arranged photographs of his build process. He used a skillful combination of hand tools and power tools to create the



complex chest. The case panels were made from 1x6 pine boards, glued up with biscuits for alignment. The chest featured at least 100 hand cut through dovetails, cut with a **Lie Nielsen** 15 tpi dovetail rip saw, and cleaned out with a cop-



ing saw and chisels. Dan used a **Lie Nielsen** low angle smoothing plane to clean the end grain of the pins & tails, which he originally cut slightly proud. The fits looked excellent. The complex case glue up involved "phoning a friend" and cauls to equally distribute the clamping pressure. The chest lid is a frame and panel construction with dovetailed banding boards on three sides, leaving the back side clear for the hinges. The chest has upper and lower dovetailed skirts. Generous bevels abound, all hand cut with Dan's favorite plane, a **Lie Nielsen** low angle block plane. The bottom is made from tongue and groove pine boards, screwed to the case.



Dan used three no-mortise hinges for the lid. (Jerry needed Dan by wondering aloud why he would hand cut all those dovetails, but not mortise the hinges. Dan assured us all that he was fully capable of doing that, and has done so in

other projects that he has presented, but just chose not to on this project). The inside featured compartment dividers, and three tills (long boxes with plenty of dovetails) sliding on runners. Dan included two stylized hardwood handles covered with black leatherette. He painted the skirts, and applied a

MinWax polyurethane top coat to everything else. Since this is one heavy chest, weighing in at almost 100 pounds, Dan has chosen not to store tools in it. In-



stead it has become a beautiful keepsake box for family heirlooms.

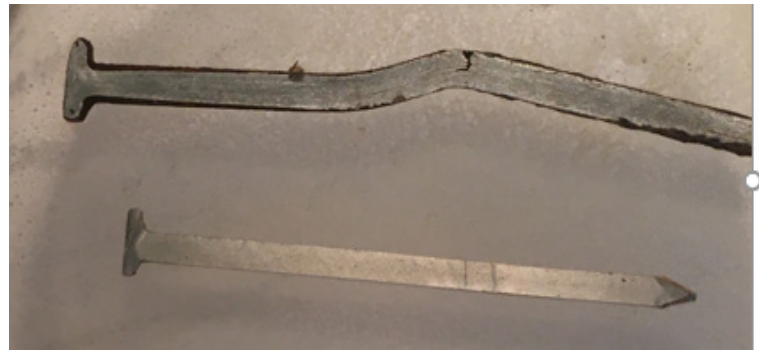
As an aside, I had asked Dan about the meaning of the name "An-

archist." He believes that the name, as applied to the chest, was coined by **Chris Schwarz**, perhaps as homage to the independent, free thinking, creative, hand tool furniture builders of a time gone by.

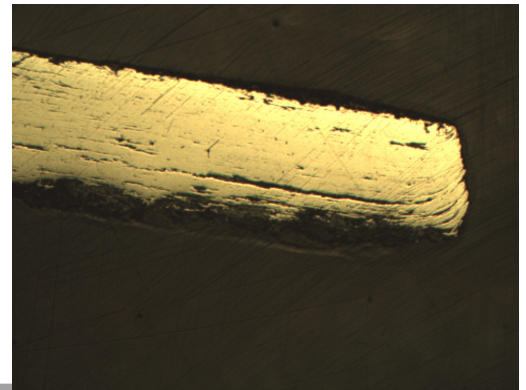
Next was **Larry Last**, who continued with the theme of chests. He started off by showing his versions of a beautifully crafted tool chest inspired by his grandfather's tool chest. His grandfather was a wooden barn builder in northern Ontario, who built his chest



in 1911. You can see the date painted on the front of the well-used chest. (He was 21 years old at that time). It is a painted pine chest with hand cut through dovetails all around. Since the bottom and the molding of Grandpa's chest were nailed to the case, Larry gave a brief metallurgical discussion of the old square nails versus today's round nails. The old nails were hard, brittle, full of inclusions, and broke easily, where



modern nails are softer, smooth, and bend rather than break. In any case, Larry did not use nails in his chest.





Since Larry made six of these chests (five grandkids plus one), and they were all dovetailed, that meant a lot of dovetail work. As Larry quips “some people can make hand cut dovetails and some cannot”, so he chose the **Porter Cable** jig route. But it was not

that easy, since the **Porter Cable** jig only goes to a width of 12”, and he need a 16” width. So he copied the comb and made his own 16” version. His first attempt using ¼” plywood failed since the teeth broke from the router load, so he persisted and made another comb using ½” plywood, which worked.



Though Grandpa’s chest was pine, Larry made three from oak, two from cherry, and one from elm. He confirmed the common knowledge that oak was easy to machine with carbide and that you had to cut cherry fast to prevent burning. Larry was surprised to find that the elm was quite difficult to machine, although it is a gorgeous wood. His elm had come from a felled backyard tree, which he air-dried for 2-3 years in his basement. (Ed Stuckey also confirmed from his experience that Elm is indeed hard and quite difficult to machine).



Although Grandpa’s box used a leather strap to hold the lid open, Larry used high-friction hinges for child safety, an excellent choice. He was surprised to discover that the standard metal handles he used looked identical in style to the original ones— over 100 years old! It was interesting to see how Larry made good use of his available working space for these large projects, alternating between his basement shop and garage space depending on whether he was cutting, assembling, sanding, or finishing.



Larry had one more gem, showing the toy box he made for a friend’s granddaughter, little Hanna and then another one for the grandma (so that Hanna would have the same box at both houses). The design was Larry’s own, but based on a picture his friend provided from a magazine. She asked Larry if he could make it, and he responded – “It’s hard, so I can do it.” (It seems that so many of our projects start with a magazine picture handed to us from family or a friend!)

Again these boxes were all dovetailed,





but this time Larry already had the 16" comb that he needed. Since the boxes were made from pine, he found that fitting the dovetails was a bit easier than with the hardwood.

Larry described a clever way to make the top arch for the back of the box. He started with a 1x4, jointed the bottom, and band sawed out an arch from the bottom about 2" high. Then he glued the cut out piece to the top of the 1x4, creating a 6" tall arch from the 1x4. Slick! As a last note, he pointed out the clearance that he provided under the front of the lid to prevent accidental finger trapping.



Larry represents another great example of woodworkers who build not only for our own enjoyment, but also for the enjoyment of our family and friends. His grandkids are getting older, yet they still keep treasures in their chests, and Hanna still uses hers, even though she is now a teenager.

Jerry Romito (that's me) was the third and final presenter showing collections of jewelry boxes he has made. He started by showing some older boxes he made using various techniques and highly-figured hard woods. These included small cube-shaped boxes with removable lids, bandsaw boxes, small rectangular jewelry boxes with hinged flat veneer tops and



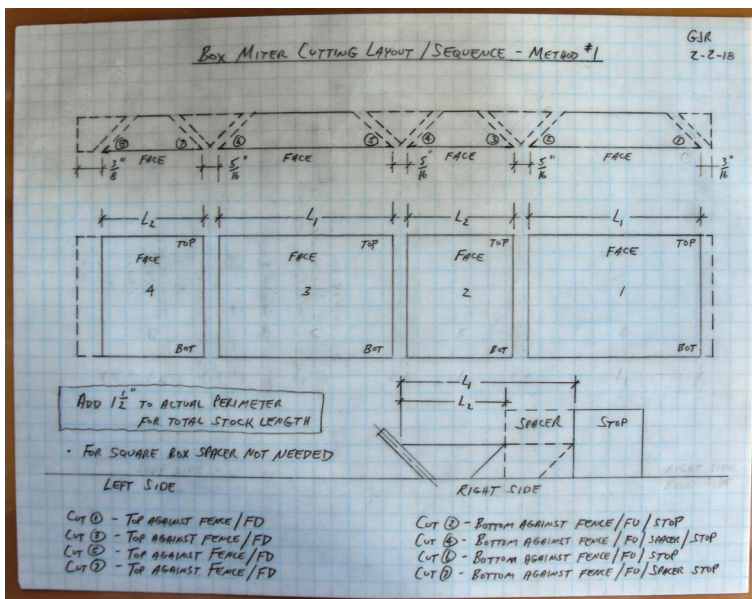
rose inlays, and a larger walnut jewelry box featuring a figured maple top with a hummingbird inlay. The inlays were made using the Multi-Layer Inlay System from **Tarter Woodworking**. This system enables one to easily make elaborate inlays using only a router and pre-made templates, which is great for an inlay beginner.



Then he proceeded to show some of the key techniques used to make three jewelry boxes, each featuring a curved veneered top and different hard woods – walnut, maple, and mahogany. These boxes followed plans published in the book *"14 Wooden Boxes You Can Make,"* edited by **Jim Harrold**. Jerry



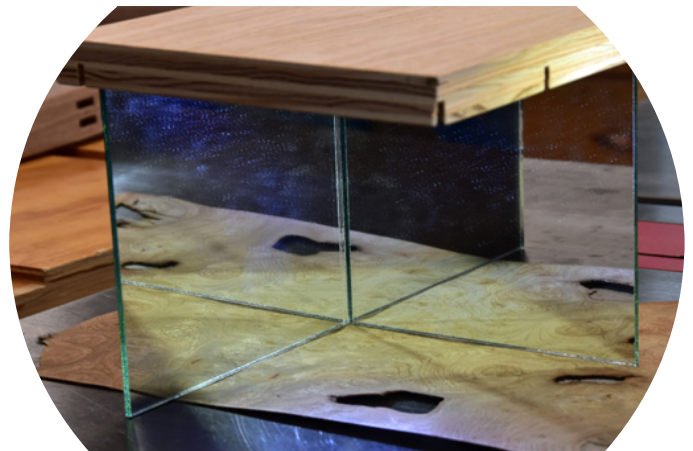
elaborated on his method for cutting the four corner miters, which uses a custom-made 45 degree miter cross cut sled. To set the exact saw blade angle he uses an AngleCube digital angle gage made by iGaging. To help walk him through the proper cutting sequence that ensures matching the wood grains at the corners, Jerry follows a sequence sheet he wrote up and laminated. One sheet is for matching three corners from one long board, while another sheet is for matching all four corners from a resawn book matched board. These sheets help when you don't make enough boxes to have the technique memorized.



In order to then bend the veneered tops, Jerry started with a custom built plywood form, whose 1/8" top was curved to the shape of the box tops by gluing the form

top to pre-cut ribs and placing it in a manual vacuum bag press. The vacuum bag press is called the "Thin Air Press," supplied by **Roarocket Skateboard Company**. (At a cost of about \$75 for the complete kit, this press is a great way to get started in veneering without resorting to high cost power systems).

The highly-figured veneer applied to the outside of two of the box tops featured a four-way match cut from four sequenced sheets in a flitch. Jerry showed



the mirror arrangement, two mirrors fixed at right angles, which he used to determine the exact location for cutting through the stack of four veneer sheets to get the best looking match. The four pieces were then trimmed and taped together with veneer tape. Veneer was applied to both sides of the top core, which was 1/8" thick Baltic birch plywood. Titebond III glue was rolled onto one side of the flat core ply with a small





paint roller, and then the veneer was applied. The core was then flipped over. Glue and veneer were applied. The veneered top was then immediately placed in the vacuum bag press on top of the form for forming and curing, and as the air was pumped out (which took about one minute of hand pumping), the top conformed perfectly to the form.

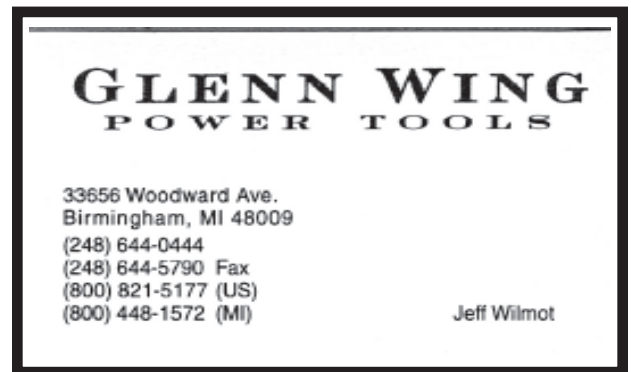


Jerry showed us his custom jig for cutting the four slots on each mitered corner for the decorative miter keys, as well as the method for cutting the top away from the completely glued-up box. He ended by showing how he routed the cut outs for the **Brasso** hinges using the “flipping story stick” technique. This technique was explained by **Doug Stowe** in his book called “*Basic Box Making*”, and enables precisely locating and routing all four of the hinge cut outs without requiring the typically tedious matching, measuring and custom trimming.



As usual, it was inspiring for me to see the creativity and craftsmanship of my fellow members. This is what our guild is all about – sharing woodworking knowledge. I send out my sincere thank you to both Dan and Larry for offering their fine presentations.

Jerry Romito





Your Michigan Woodworker's Guild yearly dues are now payable without expiration through February 2022.

Feel free to get ahead of the renewal process by paying your \$25 dues **Early** and **Often**.

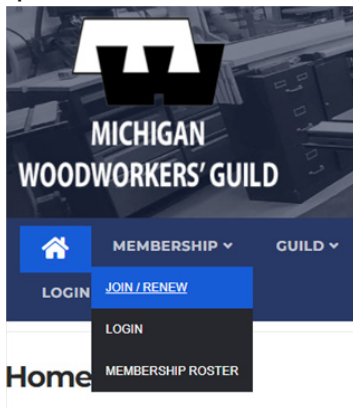
The Membership renewal process is easily completed via the website or by mail. Use the following steps to complete the process.

Step 1: Goto the MWG website:

<https://michiganwoodworkersguild.com/>

(Note: Member website login NOT required)

Step 2: Curser select Join / Renew option under the Membership tab



Step 3: The Membership Application page appears

Membership Application

PAY BY CHECK

[Click here to download the Membership Application Form.](#)
Please print, fill out and attach your check for \$25. Mail to address is on the form.

PAY ONLINE

Step 4: Complete an application using either option shown below:

Option 1: "Pay by Check"

- Curser select Application form image
- Download the form
- Complete the form typing in the data or by hand

(PENMANSHIP COUNTS!)

- Print a hardcopy of the form
- Mail the completed form to the Membership Chair using the address shown on it.

Option 2: "Pay Online"

- Scroll down to "Pay Online" section
- Curser select "New Membership" or "Renew Membership" radio box
- Complete the fields in the online application form (**spelling counts**)
- Select the "Continue to Payment" box

Continue to Payment

- Follow electronic payment instructions
- Upon electronic payment confirmation, an email is automatically sent to the Membership Chair indicating a membership renewal has been received by the Guild website.

Step 5: Upon receiving either the email message or the mailed hardcopy form with a check, money order or some other type of payment (**NOTE:** First Born Male Offspring is **NOT** a valid payment option), the membership chair will process the application and mail your Membership Card to the address shown on the application. At the same time, the Membership chair will update or add your application data to the MWG website to support your login credentials.

The Guild looks forward to receiving your 2022 Membership Dues prior to **28FEB2022**.

Did you forget to renew for 2022?

No issue, just use the above process as soon as possible to renew.

Pat yourself on the back if you are among those who have already made your 2022 dues payments.



**CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL
MWG PROGRAM
UPDATE**



From Ron and Dan

Calling All Toymakers!

Fellow Members, we are still in need of toys and boxes for the Children's Hospital Christmas Snowpile program. We have set a goal of delivering 400 toys to Children's Hospital for many more years than I have been a member. We also deliver plain boxes and somewhat fancier memory boxes. The Christmas Snowpile program is only a part of the toy distribution throughout the year, with the larger, more complex toys given out at that time. Throughout the year a fair amount of simpler toys are distributed to all the clinics within the Children's Hospital Complex. These toys are used by the children in the waiting rooms as they wait to see a specialist or treatment. Some toys are passed out to siblings of child patients when they come to visit. Other toys stay with the children when they are released from the hospital.



Berg's Trucks / Race Cars

If you have made toys in the past and plan on doing so this year we thank you. If you have thought it might be an easy project to put together, yes it can.



On our updated website, we have documents that give plenty of tips, techniques, and guidelines for building the toys. There are also a number of simple drawings with plans for everything from sailboats, to pull-toy animals to some pretty neat race cars. Plus there are many pattern books available and internet websites with designs and ideas. Just remember to keep the design simple, round over all edges, no metal parts and a smooth finish to aid in cleanliness and sanitation.

As has always been the policy, the Guild will provide wheels (1", 1 1/4" or 1 1/2" dia), nylon washers and wheel pegs free of charge to any member who wishes to make toys for this program. The Guild also has an inventory of non-standard wheels and other toy parts that have been recently categorized. While we do have a limited supply and do not plan to stock





these once the current supply runs out, we currently have;

- 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", 2", 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " and 3" diameter standard style wheels
- 1", 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " and 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter grooved tire style wheels
- 2" and 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter wagon style wheels
- 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " and 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ " diameter flanged style train wheels
- Wood shapes such as acorns, beads, balls, caps and discs
- Large and small shaker style pegs
- Three sizes of wood peg people
- Steam engine/steam train parts and smoke stacks
- Various small pieces of poplar, suitable for glue-up

If you need these items, they can be obtained by contacting Ron or Dan. This is the one program MWG does annually to benefit those children who really, really need a reason to smile. Please make every effort to support this Guild program. Why not make use of your extra shop time this year to create a small gift that can bring a smile to a child who would love to have a moment and forget about their reason for being in the hospital.

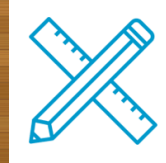
Thank you for your support.

Dan Holowicki & Ron Ross

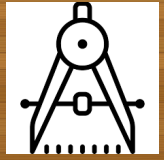
For further information or to arrange to drop off toys, please contact

Ron - 734- 812-5531 - rross1508@gmail.com

Dan - 313-702-5836 - dan56laura@att.net



**MWG
DESIGN
CENTER**



From the Editor

The MWG Design staff has been busy creating new project drawings.

The latest project shown below was contributed by new MWG member, **Paul McCarthy**. Paul created this Grouper inspired cutting board based on his love of Scuba Diving.

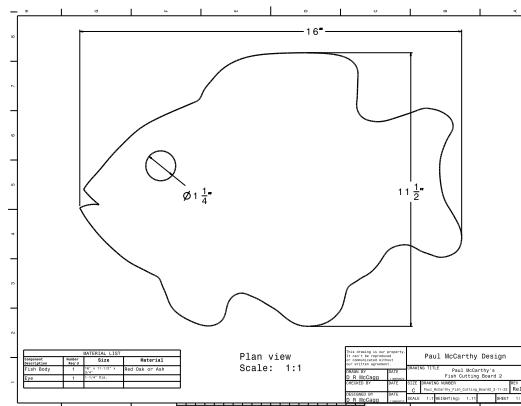
Find the drawing for this cutting board on the MWG website at:

<https://michiganwoodworkersguild.com/programs-projects/>

Everyone is encouraged to make this cutting board and then send your feedback to the MWG Newsletter Editor.



Paul McCarthy's Cutting board



You can find Paul McCarthy's Grouper cutting board plans on the MWG website with the following link:

https://michiganwoodworkersguild.com/wp-content/uploads/designs/Paul_McCarthy_Fish_Cutting_Board2_3-11-22.pdf



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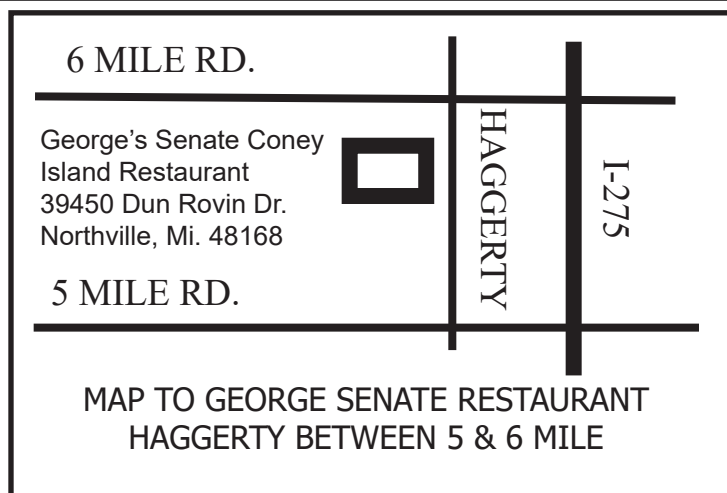
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**For membership information contact
Dave McCagg at: d2mccagg@provide.net
For name tags, sign up with Ed Stuckey at a
regular meeting.**

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Ed Stuckey.....	Treasurer.....	313-345-3671
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Dave McCagg.....	Membership.....	734-482-6764
Larry Last..	Programs/Website Calendar.....	248-207-9386
Bob Mills.....	Mentoring.....	248-535-6718
Ragnar Bergethon..	Bi-Laws Chair.....	248-608-8436
Kevin Goulet	Camera Chair	248-672-5341
Fred Ball....	Web Site Calendar (Backup).....	248-681-3108
Ron Ross.....	Toy Program.....	734-812-5531



Next MWG Luncheon: (Coordinated by Bill Rigstad)
Thursday, 21 APR 2022 at 10:16 AM