



MICHIGAN WOODWORKER

michiganwoodworkersguild.com



Michigan Woodworkers' Guild (est. 1981) April 2023 Vol. 44 No. 4

When / Where:

SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2023

(Socializing Starts at 1:00 PM, Business meeting starts at 2:00 PM)

In-Person Seminar:

Making Beautiful Bowls by Larry Buettner

Meeting Coordinated by: Jerry Romito



IN-PERSON SEMINAR AT:
Royal Oak Senior Center

APRIL:

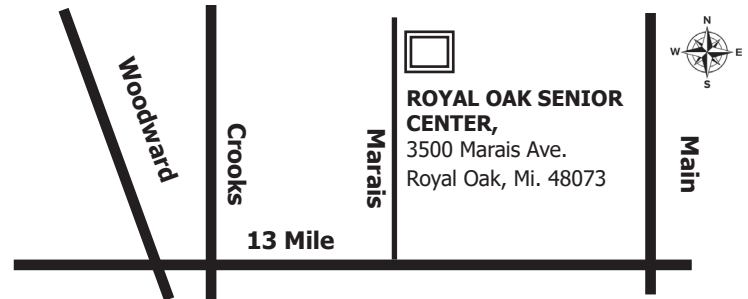
Larry Buettner makes beautiful bowls using a band saw and sanding instead of a lathe. To look at them you cannot tell the difference. Come to the **Royal Oak Senior Center** to see his process, sample glue-ups, segments, and a variety of his finished bowls at our **April 16th 2023** meeting coordinated by **Jerry Romito**.

MAY:

When a band saw cannot make the tight curves you want, reach for a scroll saw. **Pete Goddard, Vince Choraszewski and Neal Hoegemeyer** will explain scroll saws, their blades, and accessories. Join us at 2:00 PM on Sunday, **May 21st 2023** at **Livonia Senior Center** coordinated by **Ragnar Bergethon**.

JUNE:

Our annual guild field trip coordinated by **Jerry Romito** will feature **Chris Davis** showing us his Henry Ford II High School wood shop where he makes custom paddle boards for celebrities. Meet at the High School on **JUNE 3rd 2023 at 1:00 PM**.



MAP TO ROYAL OAK SENIOR CENTER

Making Bowls on a Band Saw by Larry Buettner

April 16th

Coordinated by **Jerry Romito**, our April 2023 member meeting will feature **Larry Buettner** who will show off making beautiful bowls using only a band saw. Larry will explain his process with sample glue-ups and segments. Tales from South Carolina's Greenville Woodworkers Guild will abound.





President's Corner

By Jerry Romito



April 2023

The March meeting was our very successful annual professional seminar, which featured Mike Belzowski. There were 50 attendees, which included 8 new members. See Dale Ausherman's column in this newsletter for his detailed review.

I would like to share a topic that is always on the mind of your Board of Directors. Most of you are probably aware that our membership is an aging population, with many members being in their 70's and 80's, and having 20-30 years seniority. Since we all have a strong interest in sharing and spreading our hobby of woodworking, we want to ensure that the guild stays relevant well into the future. We are currently vibrant, with about 180 members (22 joining in the past six months), and a savings account of \$16,000. But we are always on the lookout for what it will take to retain our existing membership and to attract new members. With that in mind we have established a "Marketing Subcommittee" within our board to address this issue. They are currently listing ideas and setting priorities to address these goals. Sometime in the future they will be reaching out to the membership to solicit information, ideas, and participation to help maintain and grow the guild.

One source of new young members are the high school woodshops in our area. Many schools participate in the Michigan Industrial and Technical Education Society (MITES), which holds, among other things, an annual student project competition. This year the event is being held in Kalamazoo at the Wings Event Center on May 11. MITES has put out a call for volunteer judges. This is an excellent opportunity to be amazed at what students are capable of building. Last year MWG member Steve Vaerten and I were judges. We had a great time, and I plan to do it again. Many more of our members have been judges

in the past, and MITES definitely needs judges, so think about volunteering. You can do it! I will be sending out details later.

If any member wishes to talk about guild activities, please feel free to contact me at:

GJRomito@aol.com

Cell: 248-891-5331.

Note that the April meeting will be held at the Royal Oak Senior Center.

Jerry Romito
MWG President



THANK YOU



Note from Ron Ross,

Ken and I recently had the opportunity to meet a wonderful woman named Joanne who unfortunately a short time ago had lost her woodworking husband following a long illness.

She had no idea what to do with all the tools and wood her husband had accumulated, so I offered to help her with a tool sale. Since I had not prepared for a tool sale before, I asked Ken if he could help.

It was a great experience to help someone plus it turns out Joanne is a chef and provided us with superb lunches as we prepared for the sale.

I want to thank Ken and all the members who came to take part in the sale. To show her gratitude, Joanne gave us a nice donation for the Toy Program.

Thank You Joanne.



MEETING REVIEW



By Dale Ausherman

MWG Meeting Review

Mike Belzowski All-Day Seminar

Wood Bending, Veneering and Tool Sharpening

11 March 2023

Mike Belzowski's all-day seminar at the Livonia Senior Center was an excellent post-Covid continuation of the Guild's tradition of having full-day instruction on a topic of interest each year. Mike is owner of *Belzowski Woodwork and Design* in Northwest Indiana. He received formal training from *Marc Adams School of Woodworking* and has been featured in Fine Homebuilding's Master Carpenter series. His presentations at the annual Johnson's Wood Expos in Charlotte have been a highlight in many years. We thank Ken Wolf for arranging and hosting this super seminar.



It turns out that Mike was our excellent speaker at the January 2015 Guild meeting, about eight years ago. His topic then was solely veneering and he reviewed similar materials and project. From memory, this

Jerry Romito introducing Mike Belzowski presentation was also excellent. Many of us may not have been members at that time and can find my re-

port on that session in the February 2015 Newsletter on our website.

<https://michiganwoodworkersguild.com/newsletters/>

Mike's morning session was dedicated to several **wood bending** demonstrations, including kerf bend-



Kerf Bending

ing, laminate/tapered laminate bending, vacuum bending, hot pipe bending and steam bending. The afternoon session was dedicated mainly to **veneering**, including tools, materials, methods and finishing. With some time remaining at day's end Mike shared his favorite tool sharpening approaches, including sharpening media, abrasive grits, and various tool-holding jigs. Mike is a talented woodworker as well as an excellent presenter, enabling our attending members and guests to learn a great deal about these crafts. Throughout the day Mike sprinkled in a myriad of tips and tricks he has learned over the years. Some of these have been captured in this report, but due to the sheer magnitude of information not all.

Kerf bending is the process of cutting multiple saw kerfs into the stock to be bent, allowing it to be easily bent by eliminating wood compression due to the removed kerfs. The kerfs are cut about 1/8th inch shy of the opposing surface. Spacing of the kerfs is dependent on the radius of the desired bend, tighter radii requiring closer kerf spacing. Curvature limit is when the kerfs close completely. With the kerf wood removed one is really only bending a board 1/8th inch thick. As part of the process of clamping this kerfed wood onto a curved form, a glued-one-side laminate (backer) is applied to the kerf side of the piece. This



largely restores the structural rigidity in a manner analogous to making a honeycomb structure, albeit in one dimension in this case.

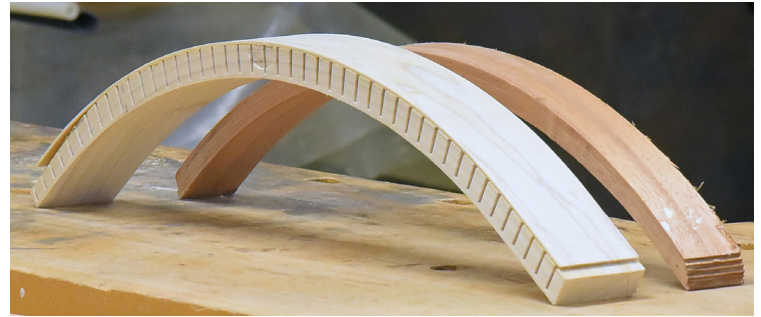
There could be a question as to whether the kerfed side with its glued backer should be on the inside of a design curve (kerfs closing) or on the outside (kerfs expanding). The kerfs closing situation has a small structural advantage but the key question is how the piece will be seen in the final product. In the likely case that the kerfed board is of secondary wood which should not be visible, the backer must be of primary wood which will be on the show side, regardless of whether it is an inside or outside curve. If the kerfed substrate is also of primary wood (with a primary wood backer) then one could optimize structural integrity by always having bends with kerfs-closing geometry. And there are instances where a piece might have BOTH inside and outside curves, such as for a serpentine drawer front. In that case you have both closing and opening kerns and one cannot avoid the minor loss of structural integrity.



Kerf Bending Clamp Strategy

up workpiece from sticking to the form as it dries. And there are 4-6 thin clamping cauls tabs stacked along the outside curve of the piece to spread the clamping force. As the clamping force from a clamp spreads through work in roughly a 45 deg. conical shape, camps are applied about every 2-3 inches along the circumference of the form, with extra clamping blocks at the ends of the workpiece to ensure the very ends of the piece are tightly compressed to the form. There are also radial edge tabs on the form to enable axial clamping across the curved pieces and cauls to ensure alignment as the glue cures.

The surfaces of the curved form are covered with clear packing tape or other releasing substance to prevent the glued-



Kerf and Laminant Bending

Mike next demonstrated **laminated bending** by using multiple thin strips with glue applied to both sides of the strip and clamped around a curved form. Un-glued cauls top off the stack. These thin laminates require little wood compression to bend and so are easy to individually bend around the form. Again the form is heavily waxed or protected by packing tape to prevent workpiece sticking. He also demonstrated an elegant variant of laminated bending whose goal was a gently curved “beam” which varied in thickness along its length. Such might be used as a decorative element on a bent wood chair, or in larger form as a ceiling beam in a vaulted ceiling. For this purpose Mike made a separate jig to hold long prospective laminates in a manner which enabled a hand plane to put a slight longitudinal taper along each individual laminate. When glued together against a curved form in same direction the resulting beam is tapered as well. Mike also shared how he prepared the laminates on a table saw and jointer, via a process of “saw/join/saw/join/saw/ join/etc.

Vacuum forming to make curved wood panels, such as used for curved panel doors or bow front cabinets, was the next bending approach discussed. Mike showed making curved panels by use of bendable plywood stacks. He basically follows the techniques reported by **Michael Fortune** in *FWW Magazine* “Curved Panels Made Easy,” #210 Jan/Feb 2010. The panels are made using bendable plywood layers over a curved form in a vacuum bag system. The tremendous pressures in a vacuum bag requires a strong form. Mike makes his of plywood, with multiple particle board ribs and a curved surface also made



Lament in Vacuum Bag

from bendable plywood. A table saw kerf is cut along the entire bottom deep enough to make vent slots in all ribs so that the vacuum pulls air from all chambers in the form.

Bendable plywood has three plies, a very thin inner ply sandwiched between two thicker plies, with grain on the outer plies running in the same direction. The rigid core for the final curved part is made of five layers; two layers of bendable plywood with grain running in same direction, a cross-grain piece of veneer between the two, and then two cross-grain veneers on the outer sides. This stack is pressed in the vacuum bag with a thin plywood caul on top and left to dry overnight. Mike then edges the trimmed core sides with solid hardwood. He then applies the show veneers last, also using the vacuum bag. Important details of the process can be seen in the FWW article. Bendable plywood can be purchased at L.L. Johnson Lumber in Charlotte, MI or at local lumber and plywood sources. (See Resource tab of MWG website: <https://michiganwoodworkersguild.com/programs-projects/resources/>)



Hot Pipe Bending

Mike next demonstrated bending of narrow thin wood strips using hot pipe bending. He mount-

ed a length of iron piping to a vertical board held in a bench vise and positioned a clamped propone or MAP gas torch blowing into the mount side of the pipe. The pipe's exterior surface gets very hot, then a pre-water-soaked wood strip is slid back and forth while gently bending around the pipe. When wood is heated the lignin softens to allow the wood to be bent/squashed/stretched/twisted into new forms.

Steamed Bending: Lignin can be temporarily softened by subjecting it to unpressurised steam (212°F) for a period of time, typically an hour per inch of wood thickness. Only air-dried wood of an appropriate species should be used. Kiln-dried wood must not be used because the lignin in the wood has been permanently set during the hot, dry kilning process. This fact of nature is the basis of Mike's demonstration of steam



Steam Bending Box

bending. Early in the day he set up a wood steam box just outside the exterior door of the class room, pre-steaming a number of wood blanks for the late morning demo. Mike showed that steamed (or "plasticized") wood must be forced around a jig in the form of the desired bend, and that it must be kept under compression during the bending process. This is because plasticized wood will compress to an amazing degree, whereas wood fibers will stretch only a small amount before they fail, usually less than 1/2 of 1%. Thus the outside edge of a bend will split if not kept in compression. Mike indicated that the Lee Valley Veritas line of clamping equipment, with metal strapping, was developed to bend wood while keeping it under



Blank Being Stretched Around Form

a special jig to hold and clamp the heated leg blanks to enable a double diagonal bend. The steamed and clamped wood must be left on the form (or transferred to a “drying” form) to cool for a specific time duration, depending on the wood and shape.

Mike pointed out that Lee Valley has published an excellent free 16 page pdf booklet which explains the process, use of their bending tools, cooling times, as well as many other bending situations and approaches. One can download a copy here:

<https://assets.leevalley.com/Original/10105/31161-steam-bending-instruction-booklet-c-01-e.pdf>

The afternoon session was primarily dedicated to veneering instruction, with tool sharpening as time permitted at the seminar's end.

Veneering, or the covering of a wood surface with a thin layer of decorative wood, has many forms. Such as using a single sheet of veneer to add exotic species or grain figure to an otherwise less exciting and cheaper substrate, to adding attractive open “fields” of exotic woods surrounded by bands and borders of contrasting wood (separated perhaps by highlighting stringing or *filleti*), or making recognizable pictures from numerous small shaped pieces of contracting species or figure (**Marquetry**), or making appealing repetitive geometric patterns (**Parquetry**) as in chess boards or diamond patterns. Another common form is making a smaller isolated motif of marquetry, such as a flower or bird, which is then inlaid into a broader field of veneer with decorative borders. The tools and techniques for doing these things have developed over centuries and are numerous. Obvi-

ously Mike could not cover all such material in just an afternoon, so he demonstrated the fundamental basics by implementing a veneered panel with a central field of 4-way-matched Walnut burl, surrounded by a narrow filleti of black-dyed poplar that was then surrounded by a wide cross-banded (grain perpendicular to all four edges) boarder of a contrasting veneer. The tools and methods demonstrated by Mike are fundamental and are applicable to all of these various forms of veneering. As background for us to carry-on on our own, he recommended the book *The Marquetry Course*, by John Metcalf and John Apps (UK Copyright 2003, Amazon, paperback \$30) as being the best single source of instruction.

ously Mike could not cover all such material in just an afternoon, so he demonstrated the fundamental basics by implementing a veneered panel with a central field of 4-way-matched Walnut burl, surrounded by a narrow filleti of black-dyed poplar that was then surrounded by a wide cross-banded (grain perpendicular to all four edges) boarder of a contrasting veneer. The tools and methods demonstrated by Mike are fundamental and are applicable to all of these various forms of veneering. As background for us to carry-on on our own, he recommended the book *The Marquetry Course*, by John Metcalf and John Apps (UK Copyright 2003, Amazon, paperback \$30) as being the best single source of instruction.



Vaneer Tools

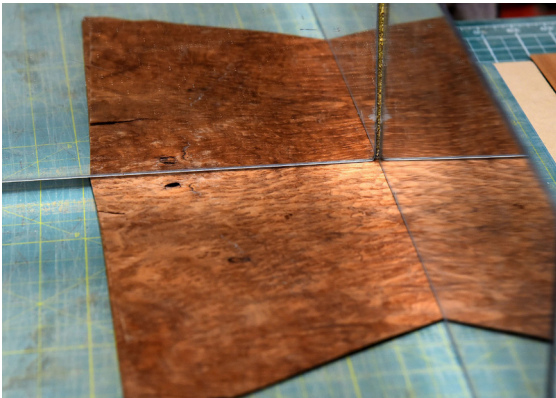
Mike listed the required tools:

- Grammercy or inexpensive veneer saw (both need tuning even when new)
- Self-healing cutting mat mounted on a board with fence
- Straight edge(MDF or metal) for cutting with the saw or knife
- Homemade or commercial veneer slitter
- Plywood filleti maker with width-setting screws (Paul Schürch design)
- 1 in. chisel
- Veneer tape with dispenser
- Blue tape
- 2 in. low tack purple tape



He then went through the fundamental steps (simplified here):

1. Cutting and glue-joining pieces of veneer with blue tape to form the central field, using right-angle mirrors to select the desired figure
2. Piece together parts with blue tape on "substrate glue" side of panel (sequentially field, add narrow filleti, then add cross banding boarder)
3. Veneer (gummed) tape over show face to hold all pieces and strengthen weak or brittle edges, then remove the substrate-side blue tape
4. White glue (or Cascamite glue for longer assembly or setting time) on substrate only, then stack and tape as a packet the substrate, panel, and caul
5. Process in vacuum bag (Mike uses *VacuPress* pumps and bags. *VacuPress* invented and brought the vacuum bag system to woodworking.)



Vaneer Setup Using a Mirror

Mike also very briefly reviewed the processes for making marquetry assemblies. He discussed the differences between perpendicular-edge veneer packet cutting (multiple colors or grain directions and redundant part) versus bevel cutting of both piece and surrounding veneer. The former results in a small generally manageable kerf between adjacent pieces, the latter results in zero kerf but only makes a single copy of a pattern in a background.

To close out the day (about 30 minutes) Mike quickly demonstrated his preferred methods of **tool sharpening**. He covered sharpening card scrapers, bench



Sharpening Spokeshave

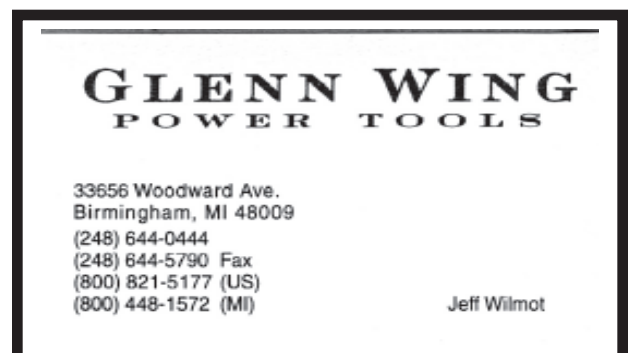
chisels, spokeshaves, and hand planes. Limited space for this report does not allow reviewing his techniques, but suffice it to say they are basically versions of approaches familiar to most of us. He sharpened by hand, achievable with lots of practice, but has no qualms with using sharpening guides, especially if one does not sharpen often enough to develop suitable habits of stability and motion.

He said he preferred Hock replacement plane blades (\$40-55), which should be installed with the companion Hock chip breakers (\$30-40). I just learned that Hock has been acquired by Lee Valley tools, so some transition in ordering and shipping is underway.

We thank Mike for spending the day with us, and sharing his tremendous skills and knowledge. To see the high quality of design and construction work he performs in his own business check out his website and view his portfolio: <http://www.belzowski.com>.

And we thank all the members and guests who enrolled and dedicated a valuable weekend day to learning from Mike.

- Dale Ausherman





**CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL
MWG PROGRAM
UPDATE**



From Ron and Dan

Toy and Box Makers:

I only have a short article planned for this month focusing on a couple topics. For those of us planning toys for donation later this year I thought it would be beneficial to contact our liaison at Children's Hospital for input. Over the past several years our liaison has been **Sinead Nimmo**. She, along with others involved in the Snowpile Toy Program, have been very appreciative of the toys we donate. Comments in the past have remarked about the quality and finish we provide on the donated toys. I asked her for some thoughts on what type of toys the hospital would prefer or has a need.

Her response indicated that we are getting it right. The cars and trucks are the most popular with the children. In fact anything that contains movement, such as rolling wheels or rotation, are sought after by patients. Aero planes, trains and boats would also be quite acceptable. This is not to say that stationary toys are not desired. Pull toys shaped like various animals would also be very acceptable. The Hospital will gladly take any toys we deliver. As has been said a number of times, children like bright colors on their toys. Parents, however, tend to go after toys made with hardwoods or interesting grain patterns with a clear finish. *Go figure.*

I asked Sinead if there was a need for larger items such as doll beds or cradles. She indicated that although nice, these larger toy items do present real problems with storage. So once again, if you intend to make plain boxes keep them about the size of a shoe box. She further mentioned that the memory boxes are also wonderful. These boxes are cherished by families who receive them.

In planning your toy or box making, please remember to follow the guidelines listed in our website. With so many government regulations coming forward we have to be very careful that toys and boxes conform to the appropriate standards. Within the Toy Project section of the website, under the Programs/Resources tab, click on the link "Toy Guidelines for Children's Hospital" for more specific requirements.

During the February meeting, longtime member **Don Detter** donated a wooden train set that he purchased a number of years ago. His intent was to copy the train cars and make a few sets but as happens to all of us once in a while he never got around to it. The design is rather simple and could be easily produced. I have included a picture of the unfinished set.



Don Detter's Train Set

While on the subject of trains, I am also including a picture of a couple trains that were made some time ago by member **Vic Bonaro**. Made with stock wheels and stock diameter dowels, construction is rather basic. They are quite colorful and would be an eye grabber to any child.

Don also donated a road grader. Slightly more elabo-



Vic Bonaro's 2021 Colorful Trains



rate but would be a delight with children due to its movable plow.



Don Detter's Road Grader

As has always been the policy, the Guild will provide standard 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. We have plenty on hand and if you need these items as well as an inventory of non-standard wheels and other toy parts, can be obtained by contacting Ron or Dan.

We will continue to set a goal of delivering 400 toys to Children's Hospital for the Christmas Snowpile program. This program is only a part of the toy distribution. Throughout the year a fair amount of simpler toys are distributed to all the clinics within the Children's Hospital Complex.

The hospital also has a need for boxes, both plain ones, which the children can use for activities during their hospital stay and somewhat fancier boxes, usually made with hardwoods and more intricate joinery, which are presented to family members of children who did not survive their afflictions. The hospital does like boxes that are about the size of a shoebox. Also the picture frames on top of the memory boxes are well liked by the hospital staff but not necessary. Once again, thanking all of you toy makers for your support along with the Guild's board for allowing funding to purchase wheels to distribute free of charge to all the makers.

For further information on our toy program, request wheels and axles or to arrange to drop off toys,

please contact

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

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



- **What did the woodcutter say to the tree?**
May I axe you something?
- **What does a stick say when it falls down?**
Wood you help me up.
- **What sound do dogs make when they catch a stick?**
Bark bark

These phrases are provided purely for your humorous enjoyment. Feel free to send your favorite woodworking pun to the MWG Newsletter Editor for possible future publication.



Michigan Woodworker's Guild yearly dues are now payable as of January 2023. Please make payment right away.

Note: We have updated our roster and mailing list to reflect all current paid memberships. To continue receiving the benefits of a MWG member, it is important for everyone to pay their annual dues by day's end. Feel free to make your \$25 payment **Early** and **Often**.

A membership renewal form can be found on the website dropdown menu under "Membership - Payment/Renewals" (Member login not required)



LUMBER OF THE MONTH SPECIAL BUYS!

\$3⁹⁹ BD. FT.

CHERRY S3S 13/16"

SKU: 63434

While Supplies Last

IN STORE ONLY



\$11⁹⁹ BD. FT.

**OSAGE ORANGE
S2S 15/16"**

SKU: 35802

While Supplies Last



**IN STORE
ONLY**

FREE UPGRADE

**ON ANY NEW SAWSTOP
PROFESSIONAL CABINET SAW**

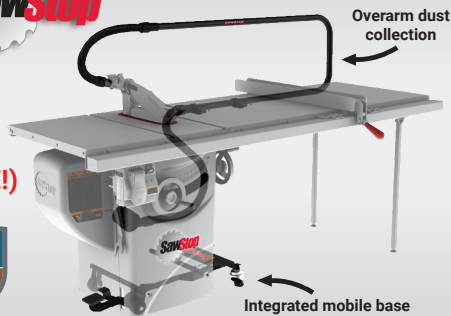
Choose an integrated mobile base
or overarm dust collection (**\$289 VALUE!**)

ONLINE REBATE ONLY

Direct from SawStop

See Rockler.com/links for more details

Offer ends: 4/30/2023



ROCKLER®
WOODWORKING AND HARDWARE

NATIONAL WOODWORKING MONTH SALE PRICING VALID 3/31 - 4/27/23

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

Please check Rockler.com for current store hours.

SAVE OVER 20%

\$9⁹⁹

**HAVE YOU
SEEN THIS?**

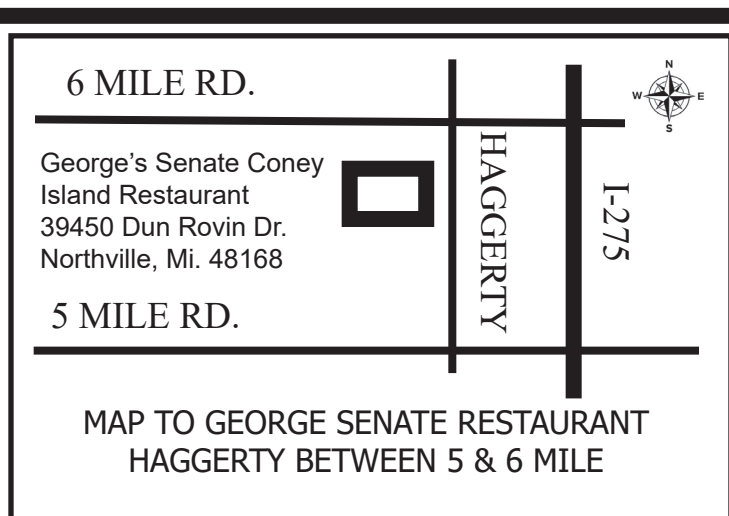
**3-WAY ATTACHMENT
FOR F-STYLE CLAMPS**

Attaches to most F-style clamps
to convert it to a 3-way clamp
Reg. \$12.99 SKU: 65539

For membership information contact

Dave McCagg at: d2mccagg@provide.net

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



**Next MWG Luncheon: (Coordinated by TBD)
Thursday, 27 April 2023 at 10:16 AM**

Executive Board Members / Committee Chairs

Jerry Romito.....	President.....	248-475-5976
Dan Holowicki.....	Vice President.....	734-283-9898
Ed Stuckey.....	Treasurer.....	313-345-3671
Don Hess.....	Secretary.....	734-207-8427
Dan Holowicki.....	Officer at Large.....	734-283-9898
Tony Gigliotti	Officer at Large	248-853-8349
Bill Gayde	Officer at Large	248-859-3949
Ron Ross.....	Officer at Large.....	734-812-5531
Rich Herbert.....	Officer at Large.....	248-628-0644
Ragnar Bergethon...	Officer at Large.....	248-608-8436
Ken Wolf.....	Officer at Large.....	734-981-3423
Dave McCagg.....	Officer at Large.....	734-482-6764
Tim Kolassa	Library	248-765-3758
Dave McCagg.....	Newsletter Editor.....	734-482-6764
Dave McCagg.....	Membership.....	734-482-6764
Larry Last..	Programs/Website Calendar....	248-207-9386
Bob Mills.....	Mentoring.....	248-535-6718
Kevin Guolet	Camera Chair	248-672-5341
Fred Ball....	Web Site Calendar (Backup).....	248-681-3108
Ron Ross.....	Toy Program.....	734-812-5531
Kevin Guolet.....	Officer at Large.....	248-672-5341
Kevin Guolet.....	Food Coordinator.....	248-672-5341