

# **MICHIGAN** WOODWORKER



michiganwoodworkersguild.com

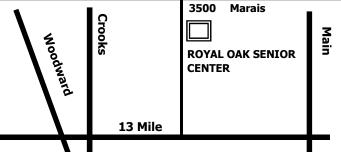
**April 2019** Michigan Woodworkers' Guild (est. 1981) Vol. 40 No. 4

**SUNDAY, APRIL 14**At the Royal Oak Senior Center from 2:00 to 4:30 pm.

The raffle and other activities from 1:00 to 2:00 pm

Ragnar Bergethon will demonstrate how to build band saw boxes with limited woodworking machinery and building **passive amplifiers** with enhanced performance.

The West side luncheon will be at the Senate Conev Island on the 25th at 1:16 pm (see map on page 7)



MAP TO ROYAL OAK SENIOR CENTER

MWG THEATER WILL FEATURE "ROUTER JOIN-**ERY"** by Gary Rogowski. Starts at 12:30. Demonstration of how routers can be used to cut a variety of joints.







**BILL DAMICO** 

#### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

the Livonia Senior Center. **Ed Stuckey and Ed Thom**as will demonstrate various Sharpening Techniques.

The **May 19** meeting will be at The **June 9** Field Trip will be a visit to the Yankee Air Museum at Willow Run Airport.

OR LUNCHEON IS SCHEDULED **FOR JULY** 

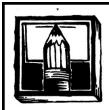
NO MEETING

The annual picnic and swap meet will be on Sunday, August 11 at the Royal Oak VFW Park from noon until....

The May luncheon will be at George's Cony Is-

The June luncheon be at George's Cony land on the 23rd at 1:16 pm | land on the 27th at 1:16 pm The August luncheon will be at George's Cony Island on the 22nd at 1:16 pm





# President's Corner



By Pete Goddard

I managed to have to miss the March meeting due to a severe cold. This happens to me once every five or six years. Dale Ausherman has written an overview of the meeting elsewhere in this newsletter. I have heard nothing but positive feedback on the meeting, which was unusually well attended. Thanks to Ed Stuckey for pulling together an outstanding meeting.

I attended the Metro Wood Carvers annual show on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March. It was interesting, with a lot of talented carvers showing their work. However, the show seemed a little smaller than previous years. This is an annual show that is worth the low (\$4) price of admission for anyone interested in wood carving. Other shows/expositions worth considering include the Great Lakes Woodworking Exposition in Adrian, Michigan on May 4th and 5th. This show has expanded from one day to two and includes a Lie-Nielsen hand tool event. Unfortunately, the show is on the same days as the SAPFM at the DIA. Also, for members that have an interest in woodcarving or in turning, consider attending the Artistry in Wood show, October 12th and 13th, in Wilmington, Ohio (South of Dayton). The Artistry in Wood show is considered to be the most prestigious carving show in the country. I have attended it a couple of times and it is a really impressive exposition.

Our April meeting features band saw boxes and passive amplifiers presented by Ragnar Bergethon, at the Royal Oak Senior Center. I'm really looking forward to this presentation. I have built many band saw boxes of different types over the years. It will be interesting to see Ragnar's approach and pick up some new ideas. I'm particularly interested in his designs for passive amplifiers. One of the major limitations of modern smart phones and tablets is their diminutive size and the need to maximize the screen size within the size constraints. As a result, the speaker on these devices

often gets placed in a less than optimum location, commonly the rear or an edge of the tablet or phone. By using a passive amplifier to hold the device and echo/amplify the speaker's sound, the usability of the device is improved. However, the need to design carefully to get good amplification is crucial.

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, the executive board of the Guild met to begin planning for 2020. We developed a preliminary set of speakers and topics for the year. Action items were assigned to various individual board members to follow up and get firm commitments for the monthly meeting speakers. More information on the planned 2020 speakers and topics will be available once the speakers have been contacted and confirmed. We also discussed the December meeting for 2019 as part of the executive board meeting.

Over the past several years, attendance at our December meeting has been declining. Board members felt that part of the problem is that the holiday season is so active for many members that there is often conflict between the Guild meeting/luncheon and other activities. In the past, the Guild has tried to make the December meeting have broader appeal through the use of professional speakers and by focusing on topics that, while of interest to woodworkers, are not focused on woodworking. The intent was to encourage attendance by member's spouses. This has not been entirely successful. The December meeting includes a luncheon which requires lot of work in the kitchen area by various spouses, led by Sally Rigstad. The board felt that the amount of labor required for such a small attendance was excessive. After kicking around several ideas for the December meeting, the board reached a consensus that eliminating the December meeting was the most practical solution. Members have enough conflicting activities that eliminating the December meeting was considered appropriate. As a result, the 2019 (and 2020) schedule will not include a December meeting. Nominations for the various elective offices in the Guild will be moved from November to October. Election of officers will move from December to November.





# MWG Meeting Review Member Showcase Livonia 10 March 2019

The March meeting was our second running of the new member showcase, where members volunteered to share their favorite or latest projects in a show and tell format, giving key details of design sources, construction methods, and challenges. This approach replaces the prior showcase format which lasted an entire afternoon with the public invited to attend. The new format is highly successful and much less stressful of membership resources. Presentations were to be limited to 12 minutes each so presenters had to work fast with their presentations.

Organizer of this year's showcase Ed Stuckey started the proceedings with discussion of his 18th century Federal Demilune card table. The swing-leg round table is beautifully hammer-veneered and inlaid with an Oak leaf marquetry and wonderful inlays and stringing, in-



cluding bell flowers on the legs. Ed focused his discussion on the making of the curved dentil bandings using a vacuum press method. The curved aprons are made by a bricked method, then smoothed and veneered.

Ed's primary wood is Mahogany, with veneers of Mahogany crotch, curly Mahogany, Satinwood crotch, Brazilian Rosewood, Ebony, curly Maple, Walnut, and Holly. The finish is shellac with French polishing. This table has won numerous show awards and has been featured in Fine Woodworking magazine.

Jerry Romito followed Ed with a presentation of a matched pair of Oak plant stands, each with a circular top, bottom shelf, and ring for mounting the tops of the curved legs. He cut these circular pieces using a router with a circle jig. Key to Jerry's presentation



was discussion of two approaches used to bend the legs. For one table he used a shop-made steam box (with a steamer from Rockler) and steam-bent the legs against a custom bending form. The second leg was made by cutting thinner strips for laminating and then gluing them up clamped to the template form. The design of the stands was based on a design from the March 2007 Wood Magazine. The bending methods came from The Complete Manual of Wood Bending: Milled, Laminated, and Steambent Work November 1, 2001 by Lon Schleining.

Detailed wooden toys, fine boxes, and carvings were the specialties presented by John Morningstar. He showed a jeep, a touring car and an aviation biplane, each with many detailed parts, along with a great small box made of Cedar. He also showed a wonderful stylized duck carving. John emphasized that he likes to make relatively small items so they do not take a lot

of space to display in his home. As he enjoys making toys, John is a regular contributor to the Guild's toys for Children's Hospital project.



Following John, Clay Bolduc exhibited a variety of small-sized projects as well. He reviewed his solid Walnut Pennsylvania spice box, with a beautifully inlaid door and multiple small drawers inside. The drawers were all dovetailed with tiny dovetails. Spice boxes were originally used in England in the 17th and 18th centuries and the form followed the colonists to the New World. They were generally part of the parlor furniture and were used for the storage of valuable jewelry, silver spoons, gold buttons, silver shoe buckles, ivory combs, spectacles, pincushions, etc. as well as expensive spices such as nutmeg, cloves, ginger and allspice. The door on Clay's beautiful rendition is inlayed in a traditional Pennsylvania line and berry motif.



Clay also showed several cool scroll saw projects including an amazing small decorative lozenge-shaped box with a banded wooden ribbon and bow. The color bands of the ribbon are cut from exotic species of wood then glued up as a lamination before shaping the various parts of the ribbon and bow with the scroll saw. This project and others came from Creative Wooden Boxes from the Scroll Saw: 28 Useful & Surprisingly Easy-to-Make Projects February 1, 2012, by Carole Rothman. Clay had other small projects including puzzles, a clock with decorative wooden gears, and an interesting cypher lockbox, modelled after a similar mechanism which appeared in the movie adaptation of the book The Da Vinci Code.

Bill Damico showed his prowess at making detailed wooded toys including an amazing bulldozer and a detailed antique touring car. The bulldozer had working articulated tracks just like the real thing. He indicated that the tracks took many many hours to complete, as much or more than the rest of the bulldozer combined. Bill also in an avid contributor to the Guild toy project and he showed many excellent examples of toys he had contributed.





A custom designed side table was next described by Steve Skowronski. He designed this table completely from scratch and built it from Ash. The table has a molded edge top, and grooved Marlboro type legs. There are two drawers with hardware pulls. Steve stained the Ash to darken a bit, and then used a handrubbed varnish finish.



Next up was new member Larry Carignan, who wowed us with a set of string inlaid nested tables. Except for a couple of Winsor chair classes Larry has learned most of his considerable woodworking skills on his own, and is excited about the prospect of learning more from Guild meetings. He learned the inlay and stringing methods from Steve Latta YouTube videos



and bought some of Steve's custom tools online to facilitate the work. Larry got the design from a book found at a flea market, Masterpieces of Furniture in Photographs and Measured Drawings, by Verna Cook Salomonsky, still available on Amazon. These nested tables are incredible pieces of work. They include curved stretchers with really tight curves which Larry produced using laminated pieces glued to a form. He used a special glue which minimizes spring back.

A spectacular tool chest was displayed by Dan Holowicki. He made the chest based on the plans of Christopher Schwarz as offered in the DVD Make a Traditional English Tool Chest. (The DVD is still available on the Popular Woodworking website for about \$30.) Dan made his from glued up six- and twelve-inch boards. The large case has dovetailed corners and Dan cut them all by hand. He modified the storage tills

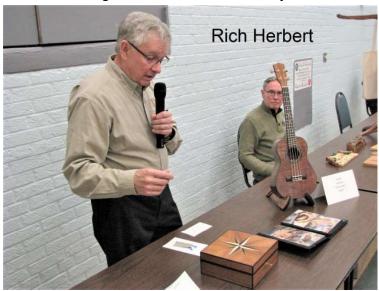


to suit his own needs. Dan's bottom boards were made from tongue and groove lumber from Menards, rather than cutting his own T&G edges. As any great project demands a new tool. Dan was able to use a new Lie Nielsen low angle smoothing plane for this project. Dan reports the plane to work wonderfully well. He finished the chest with poly finish, the last coat being applied as a wiping varnish.

Next, Rich Herbert wowed us again with recent projects undertaken at Marc Adams School of Woodworking (MASW) (www.marcadams.com). Rich has been attending MASW for 19 years and is a MASW Masters Award Recipient. While he has taken Doug Stowe box-making classes before, typically involving solid wood box parts, this year Rich reports on a box class taught by Marc Adams involving Baltic birch box parts which are then beautifully veneered for the final form.

Rich's box had wonderful veneers include a large compass star on both inside and out, a recovery from a mistake which actually enhanced the final product. The box had high quality hinges and lock.

Rich also displayed a ukulele made in a class at MASW, instructed by well-known guitar builder John Ressler (<a href="www.resslerguitars.com">www.resslerguitars.com</a>). (Wikipedia says the ukulele originated in the 19th century as a Hawai-



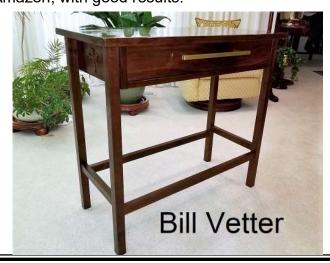
ian adaptation of the Portuguese machete, a small guitar-like instrument, which was introduced to Hawaii by Portuguese immigrants.) The four-string tenor ukulele was made of Tasmanian Blackwood front, back and sides, with a Mahogany neck and various ebony functional elements. Efficiently making the ukulele in a class required many specialized jigs and fixtures which speeded the process and allowed completion during the class itself. Rich finished the project with 12 coats of lacquer. Rich's completed instrument was beautiful and sounded great. (I did not ask Rich if students were required to wear Hawaiian grass skirts during class, likely an OSHA offence if worn during drill press or lathe operations.)

Neal Hoegemeyer entertained us with an assortment of quality projects. He showed a rack he designed and built for his church, to hold "busy bags" for preschool children to be occupied during church services. The rack had a turned pedestal with a top final having an inlaid cross. He also showed several small inlaid marquetry and parquetry pieces and some very well executed scroll saw projects, include a Christmas ornament with sawn letters, a Christmas ornament, and two

pierced sawn crosses. Neal followed this discussion with a PowerPoint showing of a major computer table furniture project, and a substantial hallway coat rack for a local school. The computer table was both desk and a top book case, with many interior features and pull-out auxiliary sides.



Bill Vetter completed the presentations with a PowerPoint briefing of a pastor's study table project completed for his church. When a new pastor learned that Bill was a prolific woodworker, with many completed furniture projects for this church, he decided he could use a new side table accompany his desk. Using example concepts from a prior project Bill did a CAD design for a new side table. He built the table of Walnut with Maple secondary woods. Joinery was Domino mortise and tenon, with pocket screw attachment of the top. Bill finished the table with de-waxed shellac made from alcohol and flakes, with a French polish for the top. He also put a final coat of Minwax Polycrylic Protective Finish. Bill obtained his shellac flakes off of Amazon, with good results.





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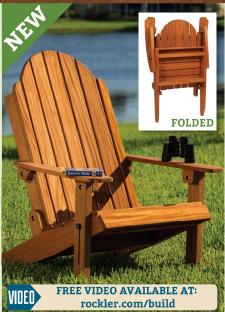
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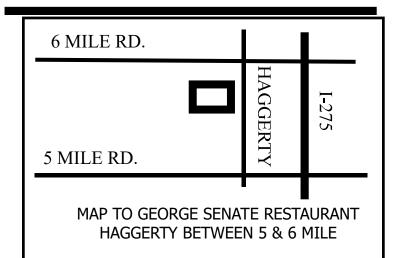
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# For membership information contact Ed Pete Goddard.....President......248-828-3038

Thomas at: edwardthomas554@comcast.net.

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



### **Executive Board Members**

Tom Rowley Vice-President	248-895-1597
Ed StuckeyTreasurer	313-345-3671
John DolinskySecretary	
Clay BolducOfficer at Large	
Tony GigliottiOfficer at Large	
Mike HoldenOfficer at Large	
Will WilsonOfficer at Large	
Ken WallaceOfficer at Large	
Don HessOfficer at Large	
Ron RossOfficer at Large	734-812-5531
Rich HerbertOfficer at Large	248-628-0644
Dan HolowickiOfficer at Large	
Dave McCaggOfficer at Large	734-482-6764
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Ragnar BergethonOfficer at Large	248-608-8436
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Ragnar BergethonOfficer at Large  STANDING COMMITTEE  Jule Ann CloughLibrary  Bill GaydeNewsletter Editor	248-608-8436 <b>C H A I R S</b> 248-977-4131 248-859-3949
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### 2019 Toy Program Update

Several recent actions have occurred which will change some aspects of our 2019 toy/box program with Children's Hospital. The program will continue to deliver our toys and boxes to the hospital in early December as in the past, however our guild will discontinue our December meetings starting this year. This meeting has been the last opportunity for our toy and box builders to deliver their donations to the guild toy program coordinator in time for delivery to the hospital (prior to the start of hospital holiday parties where the toys are utilized). So, in 2019 our November meeting will become the last guild meeting for toy/box delivery before hospital delivery.

Ron Ross and Dan Holowicki have volunteered to join Ken Wolf as toy program coordinators for our toy and box program and will be sharing the distribution of wheels, axles and washers for toys that members build and donate for hospital delivery. They will also provide drop-off locations at their homes for toys and boxes up to the tentative hospital delivery date of December 9, 2019 (toys must be received by the coordinators by December 8).

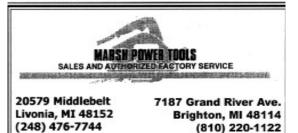
Our goals for 2019 are to provide over 400 toys, over 25 plain boxes (used by hospitalized children to store personal items and to decorate in art class) and over 12 memory boxes (used by the hospital to return personal items to the family if a patient does not survive treatment).

Contact Ron, Dan or Ken for questions and information about the program. Toys need to be built to hospital guidelines which are available from them or on our website. We look forward to another successful year for this program thanks to our members support with toys and boxes.

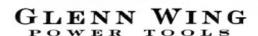
Ron Ross <u>rross1508@gmail.com</u> 734-821-5531 Plymouth MI

Dan Holowicki dan 56 laura @att.net 734-283-9898 Southgate MI

Ken Wolf wolfkenneth@att.net 734-981-3423 Canton MI

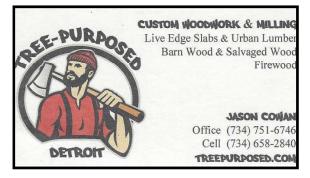


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