

MICHIGAN WOODWORKER



michiganwoodworkersguild.com

Michigan Woodworkers' Guild (est. 1981) August 2023

Vol. 44 No. 8

When / Where:

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2023

(Swap meet Starts: **12:00 PM**, Eats at **1:00 PM**) Annual MWG Picnic, VFW Park, Royal Oak, MI

2023 Annual MWG Picnic:

Michigan Woodworker's Guild Aug 2023 Picnic And Swap

Picnic /Swap Meet Open To All Members And Guests

Coordinated by: MWG Board SWAP MEET STARTS: 12:00 PM

EATS AT 1:00 PM



IN-PERSON PICNIC AT: Royal Oak VFW Park

(798 South Campbell Road Royal Oak, MI 48067)

AUGUST:

Annual MWG Picnic- Aug. 13th, 2023

Where: Royal Oak VFW Park

Bring a dish to Pass, Guild to supply chicken,

pop, water, horseshoes

Swap meet starts at 12:00 PM

SEPTEMBER:

Join us at our 2:00 PM September 10th 2023 meeting featuring our annual "Showcase of Skills" where MWG members' projects shine **OCTOBER:**

Coordinated by Ken Wolf, acclaimed artisan, Dan Reahard will showcase his hand carving skills during the 2:00 PM MWG October 2023 Member Meeting at the Livonia Senior Center. Dan's work is truely inspirational.



August 13th

Come celebrate the summer at our annual MWG Picnic and Swap Meet. Bring your "Not used in a Month of Sundays" tools or "That Special project wood which you never got around to making and is **now just taking up space**" to our Swap Meet. Help them find a New Home **Swap Meet** starts at noon (12:00 PM)



WAZE Map to VFW Park (See page 11 for enlargement)





August 2023

Introduction to a Woodworking Instructor

I would like to briefly tell you about a woodworking instructor on the west coast named Gary Rogowski with the Northwest Woodworking Studio. He was introduced to me by our member Craig Courter, who is taking a two-year Zoom-based Mastery Study Program with Gary, and finding it very valuable. Gary Rogowski is a furniture maker, author, and teacher. His books include The Complete Illustrated Guide to Joinery, Taunton Press, and Handmade: Creative Focus in the Age of Distraction, Linden Press. When Covid hit, he changed his Studio from in-person classes to an online format. Check out his website at: https://northwestwoodworking.com, where you will find information on his My Setting Up Shop course in late September and his Online Mastery Program beginning in October. Our hope is to have Gary do a presentation next year on Fixing Mistakes via Zoom. We will meet live in Livonia, and watch his interactive presentation via Zoom on our 80" screen, along with members who can also watch from their home. If that technique works, we can consider it for other meetings as well.

Picnic

Be sure to mark your calendar for our next event - the annual picnic on Sunday, August 13, at the usual location - the VFW Park in Royal Oak. It begins with the swap meet at noon. It will be helpful if you can bring your own display table. For lunch at 1:00 pm the Guild will provide fried chicken, water, and pop. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass. The picnic is a great opportunity for our new members to socialize and get acquainted with their fellow woodworkers. Please join us.

By the way, we are looking for a volunteer member to chair the annual picnic. Join us this year, and you will see that there is not a lot involved.

Showcase of Skills Meeting

Our next monthly meeting is the annual Showcase of Skills meeting on Sunday September 10, at 1:00 pm at the Livonia Senior Center. This is often regarded as our most interesting meeting, where members, from beginners to experts, have the opportunity to present their projects for all to see. So please plan ahead for what you would like to bring. Now I would like to explain a few things about the presentations. Long-time members who have brought their stand-by projects before, may feel that they should not bring them again. But since we have so many new members who have not seen them, by all means bring those project again! And for the new members, we have not seen any of your work, so by all means bring some projects! And finally for beginners, do not be afraid to bring your work. Everyone was a beginner once, and you may get good feedback with tips on how to advance.

For planning purposes please let me know if you want to present, along with a title of each project. If a project is too large to transport, you can send me photographs at GJRomito@aol.com, and I will compile them into a PowerPoint slide show for the meeting.

Presentation topics for 2024

Right now your Board is in the planning stages for next year's programs. If there is something of interest that you would like to suggest, or if you would like to make a presentation yourself, please et me know at GJRomito@aol.com.

Jerry Romito





MWG Meeting Review Henry Ford II High School Tour Paddle Board Program 3 June 2023

For our traditional Guild June tour we visited the woodshop program at Henry Ford II High School (HFIIHS). There, **Chris Davis**, a very talented, innovative and energetic teacher, has established a nationally-known high school woodshop program whose unique objective is instructing students in the making of "boards." Not wood boards as in lumber, but rather sporting boards such as paddleboards, skateboards, long boards, surf boards, boogie boards, and wake surfing boards.





Chris Davis with custom boards

While these products are themselves extraordinary for a high school woodworking program, the fame for this program comes from each yearly class building such boards, on order, for world renowned celebrities. Chris has been teaching woodworking at HFIIHS for 17 years, but started the paddleboard program a little over six years ago. Over its six plus years in operation, the program has built paddle boards or other

boards for:

- Sir Richard Branson (Virgin Atlantic founder)
- Kenny Chesney (country music star)
- Carter Oosterhouse (HGTV Trading Spaces carpenter and owner of Traverse City Bonobo Winery)
- Sara Blakely (CEO of Spanx women's sportswear line) & husband Jesse Itzler (American entrepreneur, author, and rapper)
- Kristy Petrillo (HGTV host of Cabin Reno)
- Kelly Slater (11-time world champion surfer)
- Chip Gaines (HGTV Fixer Upper and owner of Magnolia cable network.)
- Ty Pennington (Designer, carpenter and Emmy award-winning TV host), and
- Desmond Howard (U of M Heisman Trophy winner and American pro football player)
- among others.







Blue Celebrity Board

Due to both the energy, drive, and teaching skills of **Chris Davis**, the program is extremely popular with students at HFIIHS. Each class can accommodate 30-35 students and nearly all classes are full. This performance when "industrial arts" programs across the country have been declining for decades, and while the country is in dire need of people who can





Cisco Brewery of Nantucket paddleboard logo

not have told

you what a Phil-

lip's screwdriver

is before taking

the class. He

says "invite stu-

dents to learn to use tools and

tails, and they

go elsewhere.

But if you invite

them to make a

beautiful skate-

make

dove-

actually make things with their hands. Chris says the popularity is because the products of these classes excite the students and are very useful and fun. Chris says many of these students could

Board Inlay

board or paddleboard, they stand in line to get in." But Chris knows that while the students work long and hard and to complete their fun projects, he is teaching them to use tools, machines, and valuable processes every step of the way.

A single school-year class of 30-35 students will make a single paddleboard over the entire year. They do everything from graphics design, to cutout, inlay, assembly, fiber glassing, and surface finishing. The final products are absolutely beautiful, as well as functional. Each student also has the opportunity to make a simpler product for themselves, such as a longboard or the like. Each board is specifically designed, and every design is completely different. The students get to learn and use cad design software, and to program and use very large CNC laser machines to cut large surface graphics parts. The students buy and install any needed mechanical parts such as longboard trucks and wheels. Along with the skills learned there is a sense of achievement from having famous persons love and use their result, and often in owning their own very unique board.



Berg and Bill admire the Chip Gaines paddleboard

One might ask how did Chris Davis get on the path of making standpaddleboards. up Our Guild's very Bob Mills own had much to do with that. Longstanding members know that Bob is a master at building wooden boats, especially wood ca-

noes. lt happens that Bob and Chris both ended up at an estate auction bidding to buy a stack of lumber. Heretofore they had never one other. Bob won the bid for the lumber, in the ensuing friendly conversation Chris learned that Bob built

wooden canoes. Chris thought



MWG members reviewing in-process board

that would be a great project for his school classes so he enlisted Bob's help in setting up and running a first such class. So in the spring of 2018 Bob lent the school his canoe forms and with consultation and they started the school building a canoe. It took all of that year, plus a second year and part of a third, but



still the canoe was not completed.



Festool vacuum clamping system

It turns out that the wood strip laying process was just too slow and laborious for the high school environment. So Chris explored attending a summer class at the Great Lakes Boat Building School in Cedarville, MI to find alternative boating-related classes. But the tuition was not affordable, and the program normally took a full year which did not fit into the normal summer break. So Chris explored other boating related areas and eventually found a fellow in Petoskey who was building paddleboards for sale. (I understand this



ShopBot large CNC laser cutting machine

was Little Bay Boards.) So as a summer break alternative Chris volunteered to help build paddleboards (for no salary) in return for learning the process for

use in a high school environment. Thus Chris came back to HFIIHS the following year and started the program of building paddleboards and other boards in the school program.

Chris' principal board is known as a wooden hollowcore stand up paddleboard (SUP). The design is made entirely of sustainable, eco-friendly materials, unlike other commercial approaches that use pe-



MWG members in shop

troleum-derived foam fill. The tops and bottoms are pieced of long thin strips of various species of wood, generally inlayed with ornate designs of from other contrasting wood species or colored wood. The tops and bottoms are assembled on flat tables and joined together with eco-friendly glues and resins. At that point they are just large single very flexible pieces, as they don't yet have any notable thickness or 3-D structure. They are then cut close to the overall outside shape of the eventual board. The top and bottom graphic designs are done using CAD software, and the design pieces cut by large CNC laser machines. Earlier designs, such as Sir Branson's, were entirely cut by the team using only box cutters, as the school program did not yet have a large CNC machine.

To give the final board shape and rigidity, an inside 3-D framework of ribs and partitions is built of thin wood and joined in a rough honeycomb construction, joined with glue at the intersections. This is somewhat like the welded bulkheads and partitions of steel ships, only very light and made of thin wood pieces. I believe these internal pieces are also all designed





Custom In-Process Board

and cut with 3-D CAD and CNC technology. The internal structure and mating top and bottom pieces are all assembled and glued on a "rocker" table which has the desired final overall contours of the final board. Then the outside curved edges, called rails, are formed with multiple pieces of long thin bead and cove strips of wood, again glued somewhat like laminates in the process. Once together these are then shaped to final form of the board edges by rasping and sanding. The two ends of the board are cut flat and have added wood blocks and shaped. This is called blocking, which saves from having to tightly bend laminates.

The final strengthening and surface finishing of the board is done by the process of fiberglass and epoxy resins, which are then sanded and polished to a high glass-like sheen. The fiberglass and resin become perfectly clear, like glass, so that the underlying

decorative materials. Each paddleboard comes with a matching paddle, echoing the graphic design of the board itself, and has a bottom rear fin, leash cup, and closeable drain valve. These large boards are very lightweight, but strong and durable.

Smaller boards, such as the wake surf board (used to "surf" in the transverse wake of a powerboat) are made differently. The overall structure is laminated of three layers of solid wood, with the innermost layer largely routed away except for a residual "rib" structure. The upper and lower laminations have the pieced or inlaid design pieces. As part of gluing up the laminations the board is placed in a pressure mold while it cures to give the final contour of the board. Lastly the outside surface it coated with fiberglass and clear resin, sanded and polished to a high gloss.

Alternatively, the much smaller longboard skateboards are made of a single piece of wood (perhaps laminated longitudinally for design purposes) with designs inlaid. I believe the wood can be laminated in multiple layers so that it can take a permanent shape when glued and pressed in a mold.



Wonderful shop wall mural

The graphic designs of these boards produced by the students are absolutely spectacular, generally very colorful with multiple species of wood and often with graphic elements related to the specific career of the recipient. The Richard Branson paddleboard has a large Virgin Atlantic logo and was designed and built

by a totally female team over the course of a school year. The designer from that team got the graphics design right on the first try, while most designs take multiple iterations before gaining acceptance of the eventual owner. One student, who happens to be member Pete Padden's granddaughter, won a nationwide design contest sponsored by the world famous Burton snowboard company.

The shop is beautifully decorated with wall art and more importantly well equipped with state of the art wood working machines, all well matched to their function in manufacturing boards. They have:

- Small enclosed Full Spectrum CNC laser cutter/ engraver
- Very large table ShopBot CNC laser cutter
- Full shop overhead dust system
- Saw Stop table saws
- SuperMax drum sander
- DJ-20 Joiner
- 18 in Powermatic Planer
- Large Router/Shaper
- Several scroll saws
- · Festool Router and table
- Spindle Sander
- Horizontal belt sander
- Festool vacuum pump and clamping system
- Bandsaws
- Delta Horizontal Boring Machine (for dowel joinery)
- Mini lathes
- They are acquiring a snowboard hydraulic press next year.

Shop safety is top priority, and over the years they have had very rare accidents, even with 30-35 students in the class at one time. This is remarkable, given that I have much stress in supervising only two grandsons in my shop at one time! The program not only imparts lifelong woodworking skills, but also career opportunities, such as working for the high end board manufacturers. One student has successfully formed his own guitar-making business based on the design and construction skills learned in Chris' classes.

This unique and impressive woodworking program is finishing their 2022-2023 school year with completion of a beautiful paddleboard for the Cisco Brewery on Nantucket Island. (See nearby photos.) Check out the program's **Instagram** page - @henryfordiiwoodworking.

We thank Chris Davis for hosting our visit to his shop and congratulate him and his students for a wonderful contribution to the craft of woodworking. And our appreciation to President Jerry Romito for coordinating the tour.

- Dale Ausherman



Chris Davis in Shop

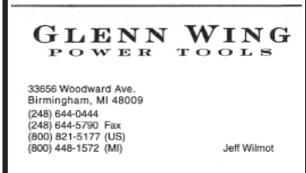




- Why has a car made of wood never been successful? Because it wooden go.
- What do you call a tool covered in Sriracha that's used to cut wood in half? A hot saws.
- When the police searched the lumber yard, how did they find all that wood that was missing? It was chipped.

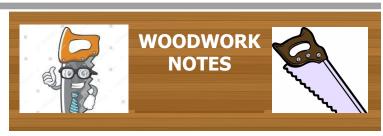
These phrases are provided purely for your humorous enjoyment. Feel free to send your favorite woodworking pun to the MWG Newsletter Editor for possible future publication.







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MWG Apparel Availability

After a hiatus following Covid, we are again offering Michigan Woodworkers' Guild clothing apparel including different types of shirts and a baseball cap. The items include the embroidered MWG logo and a map of the state.

Available are Denim long sleeve shirts in either light or dark blue. We also have Poplin shirts in long or short sleeves in various colors and we can get polo type shirts.

The cost of a shirt is \$30 and includes the logo, you can also include your name on a shirt for an extra cost of \$5. Baseball style caps as shown in the picture are \$16 which includes the MWG logo.

There are benefits to having a MWG shirt such as showing your pride in being part of a wonderful group of woodworkers and if you have your name on the shirt, you still get 2 raffle tickets per dollar even if you forget your official MWG name tag.

For more information, please see **Ron Ross** at any meeting or at: rross1508@gmail.com.



MWG Cap





News from the Toy and Box Committee

Wood and Finish Toxicity

I just got my latest issue of Fine Woodworking and there is a wonderful article on wood species toxicity by **Seri Robinson**. For those of you who do not subscribe to Fine Woodworking I thought it would be a good idea to stress some of the concerns about wood species toxicity.

According to Seri, toxic issues in wood are caused by extractables. Tree species that grow in hot, humid climates such as the tropics tend to be exposed to more insects and other invasives. These species have evolved over time to protect themselves from these invaders by storing nutrients in ray cells that turn into extractables as the sapwood turns to heartwood. This protects the tree from invasive pests, rot and decay. Trees that grow in the northern climates may have a high resin content (pines) but are subjected to less invasive species and decay so do not store so many nutrients.

Extractives are responsible for a wood species' color,



Bill Damico Prototype Tow Truck

taste, feel and smell. The oily feel of teak, the smell of aromatic cedar and the unmistakable taste of root beer are all due to extractives. Many extractives are benign to humans but some can cause sensitivities, allergic reactions and in some extreme cases are extremely harmful to individuals.



Bergs Cars Staging for a Racing

The relative amount of extractives can be seen by soaking a block of wood in boiling water for about 30 minutes. Maple soaked has little color change to the water; while walnut will turn the water light brown. This can be even more dramatic with many of the 'exotic' woods.

Generally speaking, woods with low amounts of extractives are the safest to work with and that will be used in food service or toy making. These include apple, alder, aspen, beech, cherry, maples, poplars and red oak. Woods that are normally associated with allergic sensitivities include species such as black walnut, cedars, mahoganies, redwoods and teak. Woods that can be downright toxic include many of the exotics such as canary wood, cocobolo, lancewood, rosewood, sassafras and zebrawood.

Now just because a wood species may cause allergic reactions or sensitivities does not mean it cannot be used for furniture, household items and toys. These woods can be given a film forming finish such as shellac, varnishes and hardening oils.



Seri went on to point out that many individuals may never have a problem working a species of wood that severely affects another person. This is all part of our individual make-up; kind of why some people have allergies to say peanut butter or shellfish (such as myself) while a large majority of the population does not. I personally feel it comes down to doing some research on the wood species you are using, protect yourself as best as you can and know who the end user is so that if necessary, the wood product can be properly sealed.



Ken Wolf Red Toys

A few words about the approved finishes for use in our Children's Hospital Toy Program. Among other things, Children's Hospital requires us to make sure that the finishes we use on toys have a CPSIA certification. The Consumer Product Safety Information Act (CPSIA) requires that all finishes for children's' items, and some furniture for adults and children, must not contain a concentration of lead greater than 0.009 percent (90 parts per million) in paint or any similar surface coatings. Quite a number of years ago, Ken Wolf did a remarkable job in contacting many finish manufacturers to find out if their products are CPSIA certified and to get copies of those certificates. As can be found on our website these finishes include Zinsser shellacs, Minwax polyurethanes, Watco spray lacquers, General Finish's products and Rust-O-Leum 2x spray paints. I personally contacted a couple brand name paints (Krylon, Testor's) which have the same parent companies as some of our approved finishes and was told they do not have a CP-



Vic Bonaro Ford Roadsters

SIA certificate and do not recommend their product for use in items that will come in contact with children. It is also interesting to note that during the late 70's and through the early 90's lead compounds in coatings was effectively banned at higher detection levels. Shellac is a very safe finish to use. It is routinely used as a coating in many medicinal pills, food items and as part of the hard coating on one of my favorite candies, M&M's.

Once again, when making toys and boxes for the Hospital program, please make sure that you use an approved finish.

As mentioned the previous couple months, we are now stocking a new item on a trial basis. We have treaded 1", 1 ¼" and 1 ½" wheels to enhance your toy making designs. They are about 40% wider than standard wheels with a more realistic look. Although these are quite a bit more expensive than standard wheels, they do give that little bit of extra oomph to your vehicles. And they use the standard ¼" dia wheel pegs and washers that the Guild supplies. We will once again be sponsoring a Toy Contest this

We will once again be sponsoring a Toy Contest this year. The rules will pretty much follow last year's rules. During the social hour prior to our live November meeting, we will be accepting from each toymaker your best toy (only one per maker) for competition. A group of distinguished judges, picked/volunteered from the MWG, will peruse the entrants and pick three winners. In the interest of remaining impartial, if you submit a toy you will not be a judge. The winning categories will be

Best overall design



- 2. Best painted finish
- 3. Best clear (stained/varnished) finish

Here's your chance to showcase your skills at designing and building toys, showing off your world class painting skills and perhaps using that special piece of burl or quarter sawn chunk you have been saving with a beautiful clear finish. Of course, all the normal rules for toy making apply to this contest, no metal parts, no sharp or pointed edges and only approved glues and finishes.

We will be accepting only one toy for each maker; the judge's decision will be final and the winners in each category will be awarded a \$25 gift certificate from Rockler. After the judging and awarding of prizes, toys will be retained and included in the donation to the Children's Hospital for the Snowpile Program.

We will also expand the contest this year to include a category for Best Memory Box. There will be 2 prizes awarded, one for best finish and one for best design. More details will be forthcoming.

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 under the Programs/Resources tab, click on the link "Toy Guidelines for Children's Hospital" for more specific requirements.

As has always been the policy, the Guild will provide standard wheels (1", 1 1/4" or 1 1/2" dia) along with the new treaded wheels, 1/2" OD nylon washers and 1/4" dia. wheel pegs free of charge to any member who wishes to make toys for this program. We do have a fair supply of the treaded wheels at this time and should they be a big hit, we will arrange to have more in the years to come. Any of these items 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. 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. 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 and box 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.

Enjoy the summer, recharge and above all, Happy Toy making

For further information on our toy/box program, request wheels and axles or to arrange to drop off toys or boxes, please contact

Ron - 734-812-5531 - <u>rross1508@gmail.com</u> Dan - 313-702-5836 - <u>dan56laura@att.net</u>



Bergs Delivery Truck





Our Annual MWG Summer Picnic will be held at:

VFW Park 798 South Campbell Road Royal Oak, MI 48067

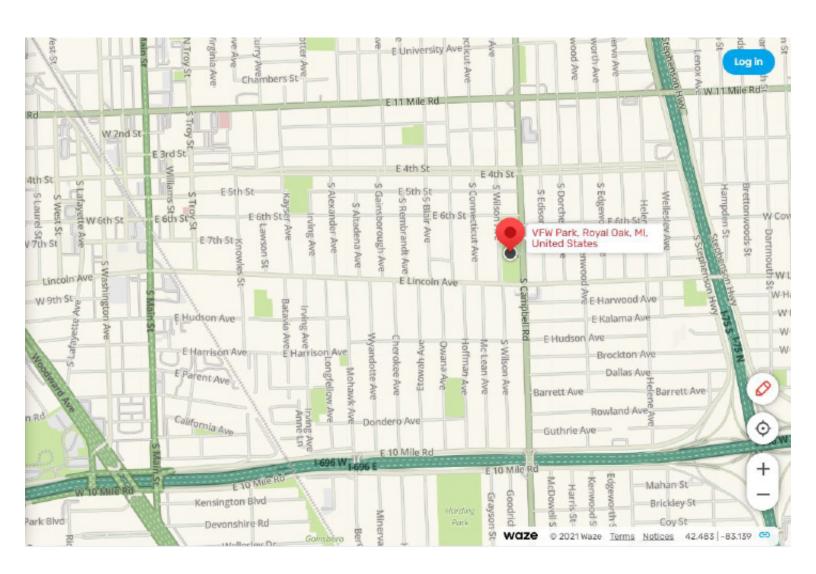
As mentioned in the announcement postcard and on Page 1, below is a map suitable for our "**Tired Old Eyes**"

Remember:

Swap Meet: starts at 12:00 PM

Eats: 1:00 PM

Bring your favorite dish to pass and showcase



WAZE MAP TO VFW PARK, ROYAL OAK, MI













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For membership information contact Executive Board Members / Committee Chairs Dave McCagg at: d2mccagg@provide.net For name tags, sign up with Ed Stuckey at a regular meeting.

6 MILE RD. HAGGERTY George's Senate Coney Island Restaurant 39450 Dun Rovin Dr. Northville, Mi. 48168 5 MILE RD. MAP TO GEORGE SENATE RESTAURANT HAGGERTY BETWEEN 5 & 6 MILE

Next MWG Luncheon: (Coordinated by TBD) Thursday, 24 AUGUST 2023 at 10:16 AM

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