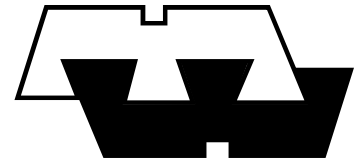




# MICHIGAN WOODWORKER

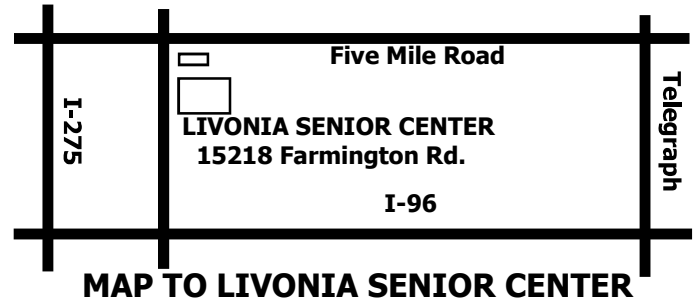
michiganwoodworkersguild.com



Michigan Woodworkers' Guild (est. 1981) January 2020 Vol. 41 No. 1

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

**Ragnar Bergethon** will demonstrate various methods of **joining two pieces of wood** together.



The Guild luncheon will be at George's Senate Coney Island on the **23rd** at 1:16 pm (see map on page 7)

**MWG THEATER WILL FEATURE "CHAIRMAKING TECHNIQUES"** by **JEFF MILLER**. Starts at 12:30. Demystifying the art of chairmaking by showing how to build framed, post and rung chairs, and plank seats



### Tim Puro -- TAK- ING WOOD FINISHING TO THE NEXT LEVEL



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The **February 9** meeting will feature **several members** who will show the **design and layout of their shops**

**Marc Adams** returns with an all day workshop on **Routers** at the **Livonia Senior Center** on **Saturday, March 7**.

The **April 19** meeting will be our annual **Showcase of Woodworking Skills**. Members interested in participating should contact **Ed Stuckey**.

Members of the **Rockler Woodworking Store** staff will give demonstrations at our **May 17** meeting. (Topics to be determined)

The **February** luncheon will be at George's Cony Island on the **27th** at 1:16 pm

The **March** luncheon will be at George's Cony Island on the **26th** at 1:16 pm

The **April** luncheon will be at George's Cony Island on the **23rd** at 1:16 pm

The **May** luncheon will be at George's Cony Island on the **28th** at 1:16 pm



## President's Corner

By Jerry Romito



Hello. I am Jerry Romito, the new MWG president. I have been a hobby woodworker on and off for 45 years, a Guild member for three years, and a Board member for two years. In that short time, I have been amazed at the strength of the Guild and the vast amount of woodworking and Guild experience among the members. I thank Pete Goddard for his recent leadership, and recognize that four of current Board members have been past presidents totaling 14 years. That's a lot of experience to follow, so I'll try my best.

My personal mission with the MWG is to promote woodworking among the membership by encouraging the members to share their woodworking knowledge with each other, particularly at monthly meetings. When you consider that the MWG has about 275 members, and that typical attendance at the monthly meetings is about 40, you can see that there is a lot of room to reach out to promote interaction. We'll be working on that in the future.

Speaking of monthly meetings, a major mission of our Board is to plan and arrange interesting topics and speakers for these meetings, establishing the speaker calendar one year in advance. Historically our speakers have come from the Board, from outside professional woodworkers, and from the general membership. There are a lot of skills among the membership, so I would like to encourage each member to offer suggestions for future topics and speakers, including yourself.

Mark your calendar, for we have a highlight professional speaker for our special Saturday, March 7, 2020, all-day meeting. It will be Marc Adams, the nationally known woodworking instructor, who will speak on routers. Watch the newsletter for details to follow.

On an administrative note, most of you are probably

aware by now that beginning in January 2020, our dues renewal will be on a calendar year basis, which is typical for most groups such as ours. This means that all members will receive their yearly renewal notice each January. For new members who join in January thru August, their payment will cover that calendar year. For new members who join in September thru December, their payment will cover the rest of that year plus the following calendar year.

We kick off the new year with our January 12, 2020 meeting at the Livonia Senior Center. Ragnar Bergethon will be presenting an in-depth look at joinery techniques, with many examples on display.

So, I hope to see you on January 12. Please introduce yourself.

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## MEETING REVIEW

**By Jerry Romito**



### Review of Tim Puro 11-9-2019 Finish- ing Presentation - Jerry Romito

Since Dale Ausherman, MWG's regular author of the Meeting Review column, was unable to attend Tim Puro's November presentation on finishing, I volunteered to write this month's review (which I may not do again). In light of the high standards set by Dale's highly detailed and accurate reviews, I hope that the members will find my review sufficiently satisfactory. Fortunately for all of us, Tim Puro provided us with his complete full-color PowerPoint presentation, which you can read in all of its significant detail on the MWG website (see photos). There you can also see Bill Rigstad's extensive photos of the presentation. So I will confine this review to my personal perspective of the direction and highlights of his presentation.

Tim is nationally known. He teaches at the Marc Adams school, has published in "Fine Woodworking" magazine, has owned a professional furniture refinishing business since 2000, and is now a full-time Mohawk rep for north and central Indiana. He treated the 60 members present to over five hours of a highly informative and entertaining lecture and demonstrations on "professional" finishing techniques. For a guy like myself, basically a "MinWax stain and polyurethane" guy, it became quickly apparent that he was going to be talking about a higher level of finishing, which took me right out of my normal comfort zone. But by the end of the day, I was feeling confident that I could do things that I previously was not even aware of. And by the nature of member questions and comments, I believe that even our more experienced finishers were also gaining information, or at least confirmation.

Since Tim's perspective comes from that of a profes-

sional furniture refinisher, he is constantly striving to duplicate the color, look and feel of existing furniture made from a wide variety of wood species. His emphasis was on an overview of the many techniques used to duplicate finishes. And I mean "many". How often have you used drain cleaner or roofing tar to get that exact look you wanted? But more on that later, so read on.

For me, by the time I have finished building a project, I often just don't feel like spending a lot of time on the finishing process. So, I knew I was in trouble when he said "you can spend 1/3 to 1/2 the amount of time you spent building the piece in the finishing process". The many elements of finishing take on a whole world of their own, such as preparing the surface, deciding on what you want the piece to look like, preparing significant finish samples (including building a finish library), and of course, properly applying the finish.

A news item for me regarding sanding is that more time should be spent on the fine grits than on the coarse grits. To help with that, Tim showed a sanding system that he likes – the "3M 03210 Clean Sand System", which uses a sanding pad connected to a dust system to reduce airborne dust. The sandpaper is a 3M perforated product called "Cubitron II", taken



from a roll, which sticks to the pad by suction. It comes in various grits.

Since Tim's premise is that "fine finishes are layers of color", he spent considerable time outlining "the vocabulary of the professional finisher", which included



## Fine Finishes are Layers of Color

- Often furniture is dyed yellow or orange and then a darker stain is applied on top of the dye. The yellow dye underneath stain unifies heart and sapwood and makes the overall color “pop”



“stains, dyes, reactive color, sealer, topcoat, glazes, and toners.” Here are a few words on each.

First comes the initial color. Stains contain pigment, which color the wood by loading into the pores. Don’t sand too fine or the pores will block and not take color. Brands he showed are Mohawk (remember, he is a Mohawk rep), General Finishes, Old Masters, and Zar. (Here he is not partial to my old standards of MinWax and Varathane). Dyes stay in solution, and color wood by going into it at a molecular level. (One surprise here – MinWax Golden Oak stain is actually an oil-based raw sienna hue dye). Brands he showed were Lockwood, Transfast, Mohawk, and TransTint. Reactive color uses a chemical reaction to color wood without obscuring grain. There are many chemicals that do this, but he highlighted lye, which is in-fact drain cleaner. He demonstrated a mixture of one teaspoon of drain cleaner (100% lye) with four ounces of water, brushed on raw cherry veneer, which brought out a beautiful color and “pop”.

Next comes the sealer, which is the first coat of “finish” that goes on the wood. It might be a product called “sealer,” or just the first coat of a topcoat. Brands he showed are MinWax, Mohawk, Waterlux, Zinsser, and General Finishes. Then comes the glaze, which is pigmented stain formulated to be sandwiched between two layers of finish, which “adds depth to a finish”. Brands he showed are General Finishes, Mohawk, and Old Masters. Toners are added to a topcoat “to shift colors for a color match or to evenly color wood”. Topcoats are the clear finish coats applied after the seal and glaze. Tim spent considerable time on the topcoat,

listing the many considerations in determining which topcoat to use. These include, durability, beauty, reparability, method of application, and dry times. He focused on shellac, lacquer, and waterbase urethane. (I still get confused by the term “varnish”, but Tim says any clear topcoat can be called a varnish).

Tim emphasized shellac, which was eye-opening for me, since I have never used shellac (contrary to many of the experienced finishers in the audience).

## Common Shellac Grades

- Garnet Shellac – Flakes
- Button Lac – Kushmi & Bysacki
- Super blond, Ultra blonde or blond



There are many reasons for using shellac, including durability, ease of application, mechanical adhesion to undercoats and overcoats, among others. He covered its long history, how it is made from the lac beetle in India, its many uses outside of woodworking, how to make liquid shellac, and common shellac grades. Since Zinsser appears to be the only current maker of prepared shellac, Tim discussed using the wide varieties of shellac flakes and buttons blended with grain alcohol to make the various “pound cut” dilutions of shellac. He demonstrated brushing shellac with a chisel-tipped taklon fiber brush. I was delighted to learn that since it is so fast drying so you can apply 4-5 coats in a day. He gave a nod to the experts in the room by

## French Polishing – using a rag to apply...



JARRED WILSON  
WESTERNVILLE, OH  
Holds De Humbers with Talch Kahmet  
May 24, 2019

discussing the French polishing method of application with a rag. On a humorous note, he said that if you asked 20 French-polishing experts the right way to do it, you would get 20 different answers, all claiming to be right! Shellac can also be sprayed with a gun.

Lacquer has its advantages as a top coat. It can be brushed on or sprayed with a gun or aerosol can, does not need sanding between coats for adhesion, and is

to a great extent, Tim gave a demonstration of color wheel theory to generate different colors. Referencing the color wheel shown on the screen and working on a pallet loaded with the primary colors of red, yellow, and blue at three corners of a triangle, he proceeded to mix those colors two-at-a-time to get the three secondary colors of orange, green, and violet lying in-between the primary colors. Then he mixed those six

### Two Can Spray Method



easy to rubout and repair. Tim gave all the reasons to use an aerosol can for small short runs and provided a lengthy description of the history and design of aerosol cans, along with techniques of spraying using a single-can and two-can method.

When the top coats are complete, you still might want



to “finish” the finish by leveling the topcoat. He demonstrated two methods. The first used 0000 steel wool with dark paste wax, and the second used 0000 steel wool with a 50/50 mixture of water and “Wool Lube” (a Mohawk product).

Since the art of refinishing involves color matching



colors two-at-a-time to get the six intermediate colors, which filled out the 12 colors on the wheel. Having the complete wheel, he then showed that mixing any two colors directly opposite each other on the wheel gave shades of brown, depending on the proportions used. And since most wood working involves shades of brown, it was easy to see that knowledge of color wheel theory would enable a refinisher to add appropriate toners to the topcoats to get any desired subtle color match. Amazing.

Tim capped off the day by quickly proceeding to de-







scribe four example finishing processes, enhanced with actual demonstrations where time allowed. (The details are in his PowerPoint). The process that certainly caught our attention was the application of "asphaltum glaze". The glaze was a mixture of two teaspoons of unfibred roofing tar mixed with eight ounces of mineral spirits. He applied this to the cherry veneer to which he had previously applied the lye dye and two coats of shellac. Even though the glaze itself was black, when applied to the cherry it brought out a beautiful, deep-looking reddish-brown while showing all the natural cherry grain. Again amazing. (He also said that applying the asphaltum glaze over MinWax Golden Oak stain and shellac is a favorite southern refinisher's schedule for walnut and mahogany). The tar is actually called "Black Jack Non-fibred Roof and Foundation Coating", which can be found at True Value and Ace Hardware stores. By the way, you can study this specific process in more detail by reading Tim Puro's article in "Fine Woodworking" magazine Vol. 273 entitled "Dark, Rich Cherry with Household Products".

Here is an interesting sidelight about Tim's presentation. He forgot to bring work clothes, so he was wearing dress pants and a dress shirt during his demos, and he didn't get one drop of anything on his clothes. Don't try this at home, folks. And he never used a hammer to close his can lids - he always pressed them down with his hands.

What an info-loaded day that was. But in my view, it may help one's sanity and ego to keep this all-in perspective, since there is a certain amount of subjective personal opinion as to whether one finish looks better than another. Certainly, one finish may look different, but that does not necessarily mean it is better. So, try not to be too dismayed by all the complexities and intricacies of the finishing profession. If you like the comfort zone of your simpler finish, then by all means stick with it. But we have seen that there is much more.

And remember the very first thing Tim said: "The finish is the first thing people see and the first thing they want to touch".



## OPEN FORUM By Ken Wolf



### 2019 MWG Toy & Box Program Final Summary

On December 9, your Guild delivered the toys and boxes donated by our participating members to Children's Hospital. They will be used to support their holiday parties with toys for their children and boxes for use in 2020. A total of 463 wooden toys were provided from our volunteer toy builders. These toys achieved our goal of 400+ toys to support the hospital's needs. The Guild volunteers also provided 10 plain boxes and 16 tool boxes for hospital use next year. This exceeded our goal of 25+ plain boxes. We also delivered 5 memory boxes well short of our goal of 12+ boxes. We learned that the hospital had used their last memory box the day before we arrived so they were happy to receive a new supply. If any members are willing to provide a memory box or two during the first half of 2020, we will arrange a mid-year delivery as the hospital will need more of these boxes to get through 2020.

The Guild toy coordinators would like to thank all of our 2019 participants for their support of this important program. If you would like to participate in 2020, we will be glad to answer your questions and provide hospital guidelines for the toys and boxes. Toy patterns are available on our website if you need some ideas and, as always, the guild will provide toy axles, wheels and washers for toys you donate to the hospital. Contact any of our toy coordinators to arrange to pick up your needed toy components.

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**For membership information contact Ed**

**Thomas at: edwardthomas554@comcast.net.**

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

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## The Picture Gallery

French Polish Examples

