

# MICHIGAN WOODWORKER



michiganwoodworkersguild.com

Michigan Woodworkers' Guild (est. 1981)

January 2021

Vol. 42 No. 1

When / Where:

**SUNDAY, JAN 10, 2021** 

(Virtual Meeting starts: 2:00 PM)

LIVE SEMINAR:

Bob Behnke from Titebond will present "Wood Science"

- COORDINATED BY RAGNAR BERGETHON ZOOM MEETING START TIME: 2:00 PM

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VIRTUAL MEETING
ZOOM CONNECTION DETAILS TO BE SENT
BY JERRY ROMITO







**Happy 2021!** To celebrate the New Year, at our January 10th virtual meeting, Bob Behnke from Titebond will present the next in his treasure trove of Woodworking seminars entitled "Wood Science". Zoom meeting details to follow from our President, Jerry Romito.

#### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Bob Behnke from Titebond will again address our guild and present "Wood Science" atour Sunday Jan. 10, 2021 Virtual meeting. Start time: 1:59 PM

The months of the stand on the January 28th at 1:16 pm

Professional Wood Carver, Mary May, will demonstrate an "Introduction to Carving" at our Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, 2021 Virtual meeting Start time: **1:59** PM

The months of the will be at Jeorge's Crist Land on the Fernary 25th at 1:16 pm

Our very own president, **Jerry Romito**, will feature Youtube **Virtual Woodworking Tours** at our Sunday Mar. 14, 2021 Virtual meeting. Start time: **1:59** PM

The Personance regill be at George CF Island on the March 25th at 1:16 pm

MWG's "Showcase of Skills" co-ordinated by Ed Stuckey is tentatively scheduled for our Sunday, April 11, 2021 Virtual Meeting

Start time: 1:59 PM

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## President's Corner



By Jerry Romito

January, 2021

Once more, I wish Happy Holidays to all of you. After the rather disturbing year 2020, let's hope that 2021 will be a better one and ultimately allow us to get back together again.

In keeping with our recent policy, there was not a December newsletter. But this January 2021 newsletter is packed with info, including Dale Ausherman's review of Tom McLaughlin's November seminar on "Techniques for Building a Chest of Drawers" as well as plenty of photos of recent member projects.

Our remote Zoom programs for January - March, 2021 are lined up. The first one is a presentation from Titebond representative Bob Behnke, entitled "Wood Science," on Sunday, January 10, 2021, from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm. I will be sending the Zoom link a few days before the meeting.

You might want to check out our website at www. michiganwoodworkersguild.com We now have a website committee that has made improvements to the site and is working on enhancements for the near future. The site, as usual, gives info on our future meetings.

In November, the Board of Directors elected the MWG officers for 2021. The list is included in this newsletter. Please check it out, and if you wish to volunteer for any of the open committee positions please email me at GJRomito@aol.com or call me at 248-475-5976.

I would like to recognize one of our members - Thomas Duke. You may have seen in a recent email that he put up two of his lightly-used tools for sale, with an offer to donate the proceeds to the Guild. He was successful and donated the resultant \$350 to the Guild. On behalf of the MWG, I offer my sincere appreciation for his generosity.

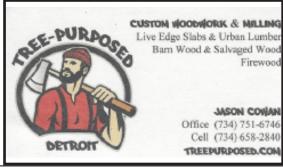
And finally, this is a reminder that the 2021 MWG dues of \$25 for all members are due by January 31, 2021. Please check your email for the notice that was recently sent or go to the website for on-line or mail payment options.

Jerry Romito **MWG** President













**EDITOR'S NOTE:** All pictures in Dale's summary below are courtesy of Epic Woodworking, Inc.

To further the education and entertainment of our members in the craft of woodworking, our Guild Board continues to arrange virtual online meetings for our members. As a follow up to our to our June meeting with nationally famous furniture craftsman Tom McLaughlin (Construction of a Walnut writing table), Ragnar Bergethon arranged a November 2020 virtual meeting a half-day seminar with Tom on techniques for Building a Classical Chest of Drawers. Tom is currently host of public television's Classic Woodworking with Fine Woodworking, is a member and former Chairman of the New Hampshire Furniture Masters since 1998, and has been featured in articles in numerous newspapers, magazines, and woodworking journals, including recent articles in Fine Woodworking. Tom's website includes many woodworking references, including links to free project and methodology videos, paid plans, online courses, and a link to his weekly Shop Night Live (SNL) series. https:// www.epicwoodworking.com/

The custom meeting videos for the MWG members are available free using the links provided in prior emails from President Jerry Romito. We ask that you not share the links outside of the MWG.



November's three and a half hour video covered: 1) the fundamental design elements of a classical 18th century chest of drawers; 2) selection and milling of lumber; 3) glue up of wide panels; 4) making of half blind dovetails for cabinet box construction; and 5) sliding dovetails for the drawer dividers. This report will review the basic approaches to these methods, with notes on highlights of Tom's key approaches. But the report obviously cannot review in detail all 3 ½ hours of instruction. Thus please view the member-available video for the entire session. One can easily start and pause their viewing to fit their schedule. For FULL instruction on making this classic chest form, including the many parts not covered in our one session, Tom is preparing a series of paid subscription class videos which including full-size drawings for future listing on his website. Join the Epic Woodworking mailing list to be informed of the availability of these classes. The mailing list form is accessible via several links on the site, including one on the "In-Shop Classes" page.

The classical 18th century chest which Tom chose for our instruction was the favorite furniture type of Tom's now departed apprenticeship master craftsman P.A. "Pug" Moore of Rocky Mount, NC. Tom and Kris (wife, business associate, and camera person) joked that this is the 12-year chest, since Tom has been working this project for about 12 years. The chest has the classic form of two over three beaded drawers, all graduated in height, with a molded edge top and ogee bracket feet under a bottom molding. The top pair of drawer fronts are made from a single piece of wood to create attractive grain flow across the piece. The chest was built around a nearly square dovetailed box, with half blind dovetails on top, and through dovetails on the bottom. (The top dovetails did not really need to be half blind, as they were to be covered by the molded edge top in any case.) The sides and visible external top are made of joined primary-wood panels (Walnut), with the internal box top and bottom made typically of local species, in this case NC yellow pine. There are primary wood drawer dividers in front, and complimentary secondary wood dividers in back, with the front and back dividers connected via hardwood drawer runners. All the "connected" divider parts use dadoes to accommodate







dust divider panels between the drawers. The dust panels provide an overall neatness to the case and security between possibly locked drawers. Due to the cross-grain relationship between case and drawer sides, any drawer stops must be mounted on the front dividers. Similar chest designs can be found in such books as Masterpieces of Furniture in Photographs and Measured Drawings by Verna Cook Salomonsky, available from Amazon.

Tom then spoke to lumber selection at the yard, pulling out the nicest wider planks by examining the end grain then standing them on end to examine figure and grain orientation. Try to get wide enough planks to enable single-joint glue ups for the wide panels of the chest, i.e. the sides, top, and bottom. At the yard, consider getting rough sawn planks "skim planed" so that grain and figure can be better examined at home when laying out the pieces. Do a rough layout of the major chest parts at home, marking with chalk prior to chop sawing and milling. Avoid rising or falling grain on edges in the pieces to be later joined to make large panels. Saw the pieces with suitable layout margin while avoiding the use of end grain checking (linear cracks on ends). For adjacent pieces to be joined later to make a panel, put a linear mark near the top surface on the end of adjacent pieces to help keep the pieces oriented correctly in the milling and edge gluing process.



As to milling, Tom uses a 12 inch combo jointer/planer, an expensive machine which few of us will own. Tom says that with care one can plane boards wider than our planers. (Personally, I take my really wide boards to a nearby milling shop with their very wide capacities for planing or wide sanding at a very nominal cost.) He recommends that for initial jointing/planing to leave 3/32 in. extra and letting the boards "cure" overnight or more before final planing which allows the moisture content to settle out and relieve the internal stresses released when the boards are milled.

Pieces to be glued up for wide panels must be edge jointed. In deciding which edges to join, one should consider whether to rotate grain match, or to slip match; the latter often being the most forgiving to best match grain. Here try to avoid putting a rising edge grain next to a falling edge grain, as such areas will take on different appearances after finishing due to grain chatoyance, making the joint more ap-



parent in practice. He uses chalk arrowhead markings to keep track of adjacent edges. When preparing for the glue up be sure to joint the edges of both pieces in the same direction to compensate for very slight errors

in planer fence angle setting. When gluing Tom applies TWO small beads of glue on one edge, one next to each edge, and does not further spread the glue with finger or brush. Tom



does rub the jointed edges together to spread the glue. He likes to remove squeeze out by scraping about 30 min later with a utility knife blade,





but acknowledged that removing thoroughly with a wet rag will also suffice.

Next Tom moved into methods for cutting the dovetails for the top and bottom edges of the large box making up the chest. For dovetailing, while apprenticing at Pug's, Tom used all hand tools. For speed and efficiency he now uses power tools and jigs where possible. For cutting the tails, he uses a specially ground carbide dovetail table saw blade, with



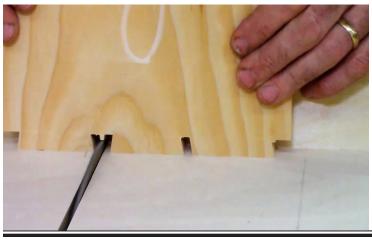
every tooth ground at 10 deg. (One needs to specify right or left tilt saw when purchasing, as well as arbor size.) Tom gets his dovetail blades from Ridge Carbide Tool Co. (Ridge currently lists this blade

for \$139, not including tax and shipping, and offers several choices of tail angles.) In use the blade is

tilted 10 deg., using a Wixey angle gage or equivalent to set the angle. After marking the desired locations of the tails on the tail piece, the wood to be removed is marked



to avoid later mistakes. The workpiece is held vertically against a table saw sled fence, with the blade depth set to match the desired tail height from the baseline. The workpiece is rotated 180 deg. to cut the opposite slopes of the tails. Multiple passes are made to clean out the pin space between tails. (This



method does chew up the sled fence, so thereafter the fence will need a sacrificial front to still perform as a zero clearance sled.) When completed the tail edges are all precisely perpendicular to the workpiece face, as well as perfectly cleaned out at the tail baselines. Tom did not speak to the unwieldy aspects of very large case pieces held against a relatively narrow sled fence, but in such cases some sort of clamping to the fence would be desired.



To cut the pins for the half blind dovetails used for this chest top, Tom first scores the pin piece end within ½ inch of the tail baseline, with an added smidgen so that the tail ends are a little proud after assembly to enable planing flush. The outlines of the tails are then scribed onto the pin board. The video shows how to do this precisely via a bench vice, clamping with reference pieces and the use of a combination square to align. Firm holding of the reference tail piece is critical to proper marking of the pins. Tom reminds us again to mark the parts of wood to be removed to avoid later cutting errors. After marking the pin board ends, he extends the pin side lines down the surface of the pin board using marking knife and a little combo or machinist square.

Using a dovetail saw Tom then saws down the pin side lines, with saw teeth just touching the pin lines. As was the case in olden times, he overcuts the length of the pin lines to minimize the amount of chiseling required for wood removal in a later step. After this sawing, it is time to remove all the waste inside the cuts down to the baselines.





Tom removes most of the waste with a 5/8 in. forstner bit in a drill press with a fence set so that the bit cuts 1/16 in. short of the tail scribe line and the depth set to about 1/16 in. short of the pin depth. The remaining cleanout is accomplished with very sharp chisels. He initially references the chisel cuts just 1/32 in. short of the marked knife lines. He uses regular bench chisels or stubbier "Butt" chisels. Then to clean up more, he references to the original scribe/knife lines. It is OK, maybe even preferable, to undercut the pin baselines a little bit. Tom also showed how to touch up the sharpness of chisels, using a set of 1,000 then 3,000, then 10,000 grit whetstones, followed by a wooden strop with a polishing compound. It is well worth watching the video to see his chisel techniques for cleaning out the pin board.

The video session was completed with Tom making the sliding dovetails for the drawer dividers on case front and back. He uses a story stick the length of the height of the case box to locate the dividers on all four edges of the case. He then uses a plunge router with a couple of jigs to cut the sets of sliding dovetail "channels" into the case sides.

The first jig guides the router for cutting the "sockets" or channels in the sides, front and back. Later the



actual dividers are cut to length with added dovetails to fit. The case channels are cut using a plunge router with a 3/4 in wide, 14 deg. dovetail bit. A 5/8 in. guide collar is also installed. These cuts are guided by the first jig, which is a piece of ½ in. Baltic birch or other plywood long enough to cover the height of the case sides and wide enough to contain the router guide slots with suitable router base support. This slotted jig also has several small "fences" attached to the edges used to reference the jig when attaching to the case sides. The jig is referenced so that it extends past the case sides enough that the router guide collar engages the jig prior to the dovetail bit biting into the wood. The jig is then used on both case sides, ensuring that the divider slots are perfectly aligned across the case and the case back edges, ensuring alignment front to back. In use, the dovetail bit cutters exit the wood on one side of the slot, so Tom uses masking tape along the surface to minimize any tear out on that edge. Tom makes two passes of the router, one pushing left and the other pushing right in case the slot is slightly larger than the collar. He also cuts again, rotating the router 180 deg., in case the bit is not exactly centered in the collar.



Next Tom cuts the matching dovetails on the ends of the dividers on a router table, with the bit buried in an axillary right angle fence to provide a shellac-waxed surface for sliding the dividers ends past the bit. (I found Tom's finger-pushing of the long but very narrow on-end drawer divider past the spinning router bit somewhat unsafe, at least for some of our less experienced members. It would have been safer to use a sacrificial push block to keep fingers further away.



Such a block also would have eliminated any possible tear out.)



Before routing the ends, the dividers are first cut to correct length on a table saw using a stop block on the rip fence with an added block the length of two dovetails. Then removing the latter block adds the exact length needed to accommodate the extra length for the dovetails.

Tom completed the session by showing how to install the drawer runners into the dado slots in the drawer dividers.

We again thank Jerry Romito and Ragnar Bergethon for arranging this great video class. And it is clear that Tom McLaughlin and his website are wonderful resources which will continue to serve MWG going forward.

#### - Dale Ausherman



## **MWG MEMBER** SHIP



Just as a reminder, Michigan Woodworker's Guild yearly dues will become payable January 2021. Feel free to get ahead of the renewal process by paying your \$25 dues Early and Often. A membership renewal form can be found on the website dropdown menu under "Membership - Payment/Renewals"



**CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL MWG PROGRAM UPDATE** 



## From Ron, Ken, and Dan:

On December 7, your Guild Toy Committee delivered the toys and boxes made and donated by our participating members to Children's Hospital. These toys and boxes will be used to support their holiday parties, daily activities and memorial needs for the hospi-



talized children and families. We had 12 Guild members (including the Toy coordinators) participating in the build this year, making toys, memory box-

es. tool boxes and plain boxes. year we delivered 363 toys, 18 memory boxes and 50 tool and plain boxes. Although we were just shy of our goal of 400 toys to support the hospital's



needs, we did exceed the box goals. Considering



hardships the and restrictions that have been part of life in 2020. we are pleased verv with the support from Guild members. The Guild Toy coordinators would like to thank following the members





their support of this important program; Larry Balash, Ragnar Bergethon, Clay Bolduc, Vic Bonora, Bill Damico, Larry Last, Dave Nordstrom Bill Rigstad and Steve Vaerten.



As always, we can arrange for a mid-year delivery to the hospital of memory and or/plain boxes should any Guild members be kind enough to provide them. If you would like to participate in 2021, we will be glad to answer your questions and provide hospital guidelines for the toys and boxes. Toy patterns and guidelines 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.

Thanks again and the very best to all in 2021

Ron Ross, Ken Wolf, Dan Holowicki



# PROJECT REVIEW



## **By MWG Members**

#### **From Larry Last:**

I was helping a friend make Christmas presents for his 4 adult children and thought it might spur some of you to go to the workshop for Christmas ideas.





The plant stand above was made by my friend's dad about 100 years ago. It is one of his most treasured possessions. I think it has great proportions at approximately 19" tall and a 13" across the flats octagon top.

The construction is not high-end mortise and tenon, but simple brass screw joints with no glue. Many of us would not think this is very strong but it has lasted



100 years and looks like it will go another 100. The material is oak with red oak stain.

The mid cross is a half lap joint, as is the under top support.

I am sharing this project with you to remind you

that some of our projects, though not as sophisticated as we would like all of them to be, can have a



very strong emotional connection for someone many years later.

So, get out in the shop and make someone's Christ-

Below are some pictures of the steps to make this "plant stand":









A measured drawing of the plant stand that we made can be found on the MWG website at: https:// michiganwoodworkersguild.com/wp-content/uploads/designs/ Larrys Antique Plant Stand Rev2 12-28-20.pdf

#### **From Jerry Romito:**

My latest design and build project is a walnut coffee table.

This table was inspired by Will Stanford's "shark tooth" table with an irregular top that he showed us at his September video gallery tour. It features a highly figured and colored, live-edge, (bark removed), irregularly shaped maple top, that I might normally have discarded or cut up into smaller pieces. The frame features legs gently tapered on two sides, and 14 glued mortise and tenon joints. I sanded everything to 180 grit, then applied four coats of Minwax satin oil-based rub-on polyurethane. It always amazes me how oil poly brings out the best in walnut. The coffee table is a gift for my son and daughter-in-law who live in Royal Oak. My son helped me pick up the walnut that I bought from that member who put the notice in our newsletter, and when he saw that figured piece he said, "wow, that would make a nice coffee table top". I didn't think so at myself at first, until I remembered Will's table, so I went for it.



Below are photos of gifts I recently completed.

1. The trio of cutting boards is based on an article in a very old issue of Woodsmith magazine, using walnut, maple, and cherry, with straight mineral oil finish.





**2.** The candle holders are made from resawn dried logs that I got from a friends woodpile up north. The finish is two coats of shellac and four coats of water-based gloss polyurethane.



**3.** This Wall Shelf is another gift project. It's design is from the Sep/Oct 2020 issue of Finewoodworking. I used common pine with some knots showing, to blend with the woodwork in our daughter's lake home up north.





#### **From Ragnar Bergethon:**

Here are examples of 2 projects that I made as holiday gifts.

#### **A. Cutting boards** (front and back views shown):

The cutting boards are black walnut and hard maple. Size is 10 ½" wide; 15" length; and depth is 5/8".

The handles are  $3 \frac{1}{2}$ " in length. Top edge looks straight, but it really has a 1/16" arc that makes it more comfortable on the hand.

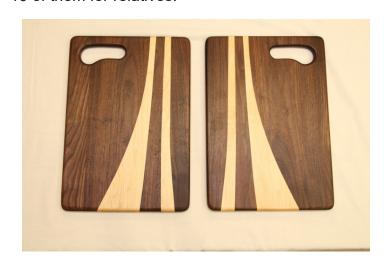
All edges are  $\frac{1}{4}$ " round over and corners are  $\frac{5}{8}$ " radius.

Sanded to 320 grit and finished with 3 coats of mineral oil with bees and carnauba waxes.

I chose not to add feet or inlays so both sides of the board can be used.

Challenge was making jigs and templates so that the curved surfaces had a perfect fit even after cutting many profiles. I found ½" Baltic birch the best template material. MDF, etc. would flex when routing thin pieces.

Since the carving boards were easier to make, I made 10 of them for relatives.



#### **B. Segmented Bowl:**

Inspired by one shown in an earlier issue of Wood Magazine.

Size is 7  $\frac{1}{4}$ " dia.; 5  $\frac{3}{4}$ " high; top opening is 5  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and wall thickness is 3/8".

Woods used are oak and walnut.

Finish is shellac and wax.

The bowl is made with 119 pieces with grain going in



3 different directions. Challenges were to create the interlocking weave pattern without any gaps and to turn the bowl without any blowouts.



#### **MWG Favorite Resources:**

Long time member, Tom Duke, has suggested that the Michigan Woodworker's Guild construct a listing of local and national vendors / resources which we have found to be exceptional. He believes that there are enough members who if only half of them contributed a couple of sites each, the list would be quite substantially useful. The listing would be shared with all on the website and could be lumber/wood sources, used machinery, tool restorers, finishers, hardware, instructors/ classes, etc.

Let's make Tom's suggestion a reality. Please send Dave McCagg (email: <a href="mailto:D2MCCAGG@provide.net">D2MCCAGG@provide.net</a>) with your favorite vendor or resource including their name and contact information. Over the next few months, this information will be compiled into a file which can be uploaded onto the Guild's website.



#### Michigan Woodworkers' Guild Board of Directors Slate 2021

#### **Executive Board (elected)**

President Jerry Romito
Vice President Will Wilson
Treasurer Ed Stuckey
Secretary Don Hess

#### Officers at Large (elected)

Ragnar Bergethon Tony Gigliotti Bill Rigstad Richard Herbert Ron Ross Ken Wolf

Dan Holowicki

#### **Standing Committee Chairs (appointed/volunteer)**

Website chairman Ragnar Bergethon

Website calendar Fred Ball

Library assistant Jule Ann Clough

Picnics Bill Gayde
MITES Bill Gayde
Newsletter Dave McCagg
Membership Dave McCagg
Camera team Chair Open

Camera team Dave McCagg, Dan Holowicki assistants Kevin Goulet, Tim Fradeneck

**Bob Mills** Mentoring Mentoring assistant Open **Photos** Bill Rigstad Monthly luncheons Bill Rigstad Program Director Larry Last Raffle prizes Ed Stuckey Ed Stuckey Name tags Toys Ron Ross **Toys Assistant** Dan Holowicki

Food Open Wood Shows Open Livonia coordinator Open

Royal Oak coordinator Bill Gayde Meeting setup (Livonia) Open Meeting setup (Royal Oak) Open

Library Open

By-laws Ragnar Bergethon
Brochures Dave McCagg









- Ideal for the shorter legs on chairs, sofas and occasional tables
- Two compact hold-down clamps allow narrow tapers
- Platform is  $7^1/4^{11}W \times 11^1/2^{11}L \times 1/2^{11}$  thick SKU: 57550





- Cut small parts to length on your table saw—great for dowels, tenon stock and small moldings
- Zero-clearance base reduces chance of small parts binding
   Reg. \$79.99 SKU: 55916

LET'S BUILD SALE PRICING VALID 1/1-1/28/21.

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# ROCKLER

CREATE WITH CONFIDENCE

For membership information contact

Dave McCagg at: d2mccagg@provide.net

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

6 MILE RD.		
George's Senate Coney Island Restaurant 39450 Dun Rovin Dr. Northville, Mi. 48168  5 MILE RD.	HAGGERTY	I-275
MAP TO GEORGE SENATE RESTAURANT HAGGERTY BETWEEN 5 & 6 MILE		

#### **Executive Board Members**

Jerry Romito	President	248-475-5976
Will Wilson	Vice President	248-207-8883
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
Ron Ross	Officer at Large	734-812-5531
Rich Herbert	Officer at Large	248-628-0644
Ragnar Bergethon.	Officer at Large	248-608-8436
Bill Rigstad	Officer at Large	734-459-3374
Ken Wolf	Officer at Large	734-981-3423

## STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Jule Ann Clough	Library	248-977-4131
Dave McCagg	Newsletter Editor	734-482-6764
Dave McCagg	Membership	734-482-6764
Larry Last	Programs	248-207-9386
Bob Mills	.Mentoring	248-535-6718
Ragnar Bergethon	Web Site	248-608-8436
Fred Ball	Web Site Calendar	248-681-3108
Ron Ross	Toy Program	734-812-5531