



MICHIGAN WOODWORKER

michiganwoodworkersguild.com



Michigan Woodworkers' Guild (est. 1981) June 2024 Vol. 45 No. 6

When / Where:

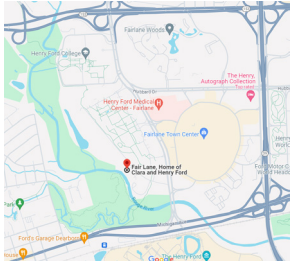
SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024

(Tour Starts: 10:00 AM, MWG Meeting: 9:30 AM)

Fair Lane - The Home of Henry Ford - SOLD OUT

Tour Was Open To All Members And Guests
Coordinated by: Dan Holowicki

TOUR MEETING TIME: 9:30 AM



IN-PERSON TOUR AT:

1 Fair Ln Dr.

Dearborn, MI 48128



**Tour Fair Lane
The Home of Henry Ford**

June 15th

JUNE:

This tour is limited to 30 members and guests and is currently **SOLD OUT**. To be placed on a wait list please contact **Dan Holowicki** at (313) 702-5836.

JULY:

NO MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY

Due to the summer shutdown, there is no July member meeting. All are encouraged to enjoy the month with family and friends as well as making more sawdust.

August:

Annual MWG Picnic- Aug. 11th, 2024

Where: Royal Oak VFW Park

When: 12:00 - 2:00 PM

Bring a dish to Pass, Guild to supply chicken, pop, water, horseshoes

Swap meet starts at **12:00 PM**; **Eats** at 1:00 PM

Our **June 15th 2024** Field Trip to the Fair Lane mansion starts at 10 am, (Muster time: **9:30 AM**). Attendees will see the site built for Henry Ford and his wife Clara. This tour, coordinated by **Dan Holowicki**, is limited to 30 persons by the Fair Lane Staff and is now **SOLD OUT**. This is an exclusive tour as Fair Lane is currently closed to public tours (since 2010).





President's Corner



By Jerry Romito

June 2024

Tom McLaughlin

For those of you that attended the **Tom McLaughlin** seminar on *The Art of Chairmaking*, you know that he referred to various topics that he did not have time to go into in detail. For those cases he was kind enough to send us the following Youtube links to those topics. You will find them useful even if you did not attend the seminar, so check them out. He is a great instructor.

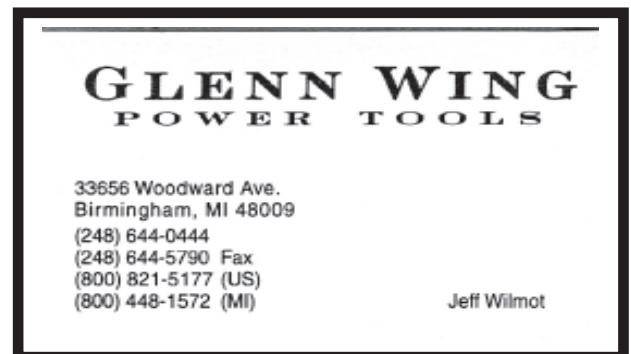
- Bandsawing Secret Technique
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Skffk0Cl_Mk
- Gluing up A Chair
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-J3-LnE0SI>
- How to Make a Queen Anne Leg
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfVspd0zSv8>
- Making a Jig for Shaping Curves
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3wSPmliE_E
- Making a Tenon Jig for the Table Saw
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SUkSoYexT3U>
- Simply Great Bandsaw Jigs
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3purCCwfvts>
- Adding Variations to Your Woodworking Designs (add squares to chair)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3OFnFNuIPZ0>
- Transform Your Shop into a Studio (measured drawing and other reference books)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXjlrUqZNfE>
- Upholstery with a Master
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vIY9v8LZWT4>
- How to Make Extreme Curves
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gPHXezP0aH4>
- How to Make Models for Better Designs
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xl6mWiJXA8s>

On a side note, I may have thought that a recording of the seminar would be available to us, but that is not the case. But he still has hundreds of Youtube videos you can watch.

Gary Rogowski

Our May meeting featured **Gary Rogowski** via a live Zoom meeting from his shop on the west coast, with a presentation on "Fixing Mistakes". **Dale Ausherman** will have a review of that meeting in the next newsletter. Good news is that if you were not able to be at the meeting, or if you want to see it again, Gary recorded the meeting, and has sent me 50 "VIP codes" so that 50 members can watch it. Each person that wants to watch it needs one of the codes, so I need to send them out to members on an individual basis, along with instructions on how to use the code. Once you activate the code, you will have one week to watch the recording. So if you are interested, please email me at GJRomito@aol.com and I will email the information to you. I only have 50 codes to send out, so first come first served.

Jerry Romito





MEETING REVIEW

By Ken Wolf



MWG Seminar Review

“Chair Making Simplified” by Tom McLaughlin
Livonia MI, 27 April 2024

The MWG 2024 presentation began at 9:00 AM with an introduction by **Kris McLaughlin** (The Camera Lady) to provide insight on the day’s presentation to the 61 attendees. Kris briefly covered the many opportunities available through Epic Woodworking including “Shop Night Live” on Thursday evenings at 8:00 PM, classes available on You Tube, and classes available live in Tom’s shop. They also offer memberships to the “Neighborwood” with many benefits to woodworkers including class opportunities, Epic products, and communications of interest to woodworkers.



Kris and Tom McLaughlin

Kris also provided cards to be filled out by attendees for a drawing of an Epic hat and for a paid membership to the Neighborhood during a drawing later in the presentation.

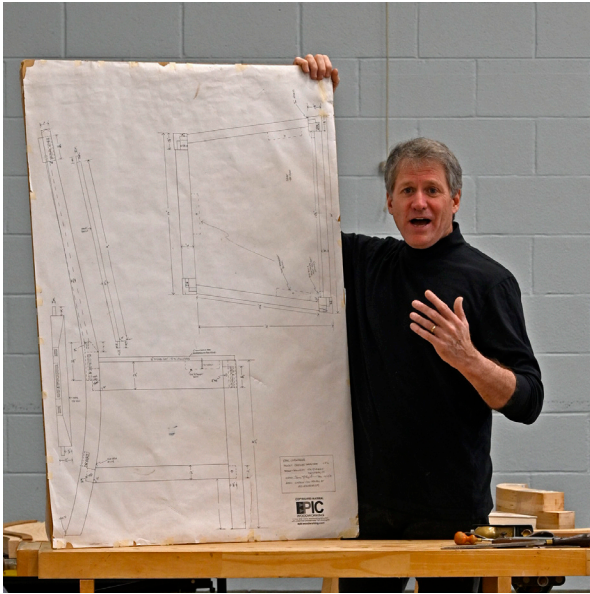
Tom then opened his presentation by showing his miniature workbench he used to develop his new full size workbench that had been featured on *Shop Night Live*. He also shared pictures of some of his early chair projects including the Chippendale chairs he made while apprenticing with Master Craftsman **P. A. “Pug” Moore** in Rocky Mount, N.C.

Tom next presented a very simple chair model made from all 1-5/8” by 1-5/8” stock with a plywood seat which he quickly assembled with only screws to illustrate the basic concept of a chair. This also displayed the basic structural concept of all chairs. He pointed out that this chair was not a comfortable chair functionally or attractive to the eye. He noted that inclining the back 8-12 degrees added back comfort, then making the front of the seat wider than the back of the seat and making the front of the seat slightly higher than the back improved seating comfort.

Tom next explained the names of the parts of the chair including the crest (horizontal part across the top of the chair back), the shoe (horizontal part at the base of the back just above the seat), and the slats and splat that comprise the vertical parts that connects the crest to the shoe in the middle of the back. The front rail, side rails and back rail provide the frame for the seat cushion while the front legs and rear legs complete the basic chair.

Tom next reviewed slides of different historic chair designs including a Chippendale of 1705 vintage from Massachusetts.

The topic then shifted to the use of full-size patterns for building chairs. Tom inserted 1/4” MDF panels under the full-size drawing. He then stipples through the drawing with a slender awl to transfer the design onto the MDF to make a pattern of each part including top and side views. When stippling, use wider spacing of



Tom displaying full sized plan

the stipple pricks on straight areas and closer spacing on curves.

Tom prefers using 3/8" thick x 7/8" deep mortises for chair seat joints. To highlight the stipple marks on the MDF for cutting, use a straight edge to guide a ball-point pen between stipple marks for straight areas. Put the pen in the stipple divots to get accurate alignment with the divot marks.

For curved stipple areas, he used 1/8" Masonite strips



Toms third hand tracing technique

(1-3 thicknesses of Masonite) to trace the curves, bending the Masonite strips with his hands to follow the curved line of stipple divots with a marker. Tom would then hold the marker in his teeth to trace the line if working alone, or utilize a helper to mark the cut line.

The templates were then cut on a bandsaw to the outline on the stippled MDF, Tom recommended the



Pattern Cutting

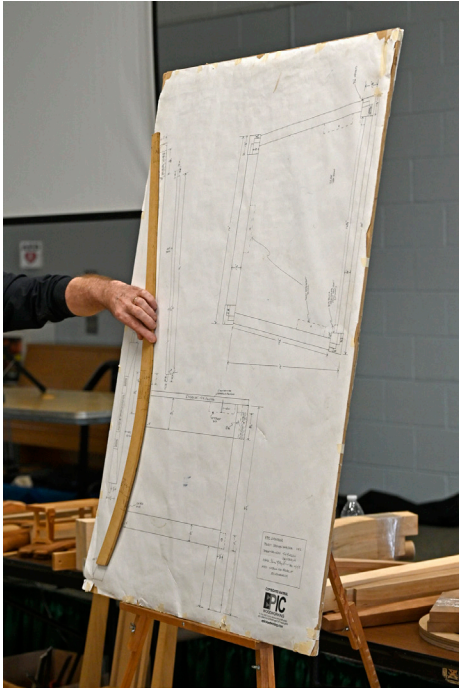
MDF ride against on the back of the bandsaw blade to stabilize the MDF template cutting to achieve a smooth controlled freehand cut. Smooth the template edges with a block plane (keep pressure on the nose of the plane for convex and straight MDF pattern edges). A few thin slices (strokes) are all that is needed for an excellent pattern edge, For concave areas, use a spokeshave instead of a plane (use a flat bottom spokeshave with an extended blade). Finally, use a fine file to finish the pattern with a uniform smooth edge.

Use the full size drawing to mark all mortises on the patterns and highlight their location on the pattern by cross hatching of the areas that will be cut out on the chair parts. Transfer the pattern outlines and mortises to the wood chair blanks (also carefully mark the



parts face and edges as appropriate so left and right parts do not get confused and you make 2 right parts and no left).

Once the patterns have been transferred to all chair wood components drill a hanging hole in each pattern, tie them together and clearly mark them for future reference before hanging.



Confirming pattern meets the plans

When buying wood for a chair, buy the widest planks available to cutout the legs. Match the grain on the plank to the curvature on the leg to be cut from them. Avoid knots in a leg which can create failure points when the chair is used. Tom prefers using a ballpoint pen to mark the cut lines. These lines are easier to see when cutting the parts on the bandsaw.

Tom used white pine for his chair demos (preferably quarter sawn). It is a very stable wood.

After bandsawing the legs to the patterns, plane the convex and straight surfaces and spokeshave the concave surfaces. After the leg is smoothed, mark the mortises on the legs using the pattern.

Tom uses hollow chisel mortisers for his chair mortis-

es. He uses a spacer support (usually a cutoff scrap from the bandsaw) to support the part so the mortise chisels go in square the mortise surface when on the mortise table.

Taper the outer side of the back legs for a Craftsman chair from just above the seat to the top of the leg so the top of the leg is square. Then mark the height of the desired pyramid top on the leg and cut the rough pyramid shape gable on the bandsaw. Smooth the two bandsawed gable surfaces with a plane. Mark the center of the gable peak, then hand plane the other two sides of the pyramid to the center of the gable peak.

The seat structure is more difficult to complete. The front rail and rear shoe are relatively easy since their mortise and tenon are straight extensions from each part. The tenons on the side rails and side stretchers are more difficult because they use angled tenons. The front of side rail tenons angle inward at the front legs. The rear of the side rail tenons angle outward and upward to meet the square mortises on the rear legs.



Tom explaining seat sizing

Tom uses his table saw and a tenoning jig to cut the tenons. He uses a bevel gauge to copy the angles in



the patterns. He then adjusts the angle of the table saw blade to the bevel gauge angle and then cuts the tenons to size. Tom uses a standard tenon length of 7/8" for all his joinery initial cuts. To assure a consistent 3/8" tenon thickness Tom uses a 3/8" spacer on tenon cheek cuts (cheek 1 with the spacer and cheek 2 without the spacer). Next cut the tenon shoulders at the same table saw blade angle.

For the Craftsman chair flared rear leg attachment to rails, make a jig to hold the rails at the rear flare angle. Always use the face of rails as the reference surface.

Most splats are 1/2" thick with angled tenons.

Making a set of chairs is like a marathon as multiple duplicate parts must be made before any assembly occurs (when all components are completed).

Chair assembly sequence (use white glue for longer open time). Pre-sand all parts before assembly.

Glue up the chair from inside the back assembly and work outward. The slats and splats sometimes warp after cutting so initially cut oversize for width – let the wood stabilize, then cut to final width.

1. Glue the back slats and splat to the shoe and crest rails and clamp.
2. Add rear legs while incorporating the lower stretcher with glue and clamp the crest, shoe and rear stretcher to the legs at their centerlines.
3. Assemble front legs to the (front) rail with glue and clamp centered on the rail. Wipe off any glue squeeze out with a wet terry cloth rag (wrap rag over a putty knife to clean corners).
4. Attach front leg assembly to back assembly with side rails and side stretchers with glue. Again add clamps on centerline of rails and stretchers.

Design Steps:

1. Sketch to evaluate alternatives to select a design
2. Add dimensions to sketch and refine
3. Make a scale model from a the sketches

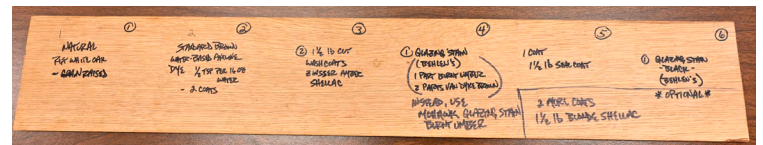
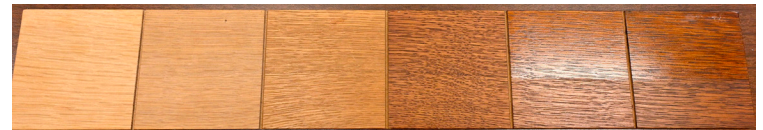
4. Make a life size mockup to finalize the details
5. Make final full size drawings after reviewing the mockup.

To break sharp corners on chairs Tom uses a 150 grit sanding block.

Tom then displayed his sample block of finish alternatives (a panel of approximately 8"x8" squares on a 6 panel strip of the wood he would use on a project).

The panel finishes were labeled as follows:

1. Bare wood
2. Brown aniline dye
3. Orange shellac
4. Burnt Umber glaze
5. 1-1/2 pound Seal Coat
6. Black Stain



Finish Panels

Tom then demonstrated how he would cut a Queen Anne curvy back splat freehand using a pivot point fence on a bandsaw. This pivot point fence assembly (a T shape as viewed from the top) was clamped to the standard bandsaw fence and extended a pointed 5 "tall vertical wood guide (the leg of the T) about 6" perpendicular to the standard bandsaw fence toward the bandsaw blade. It was positioned even to the inside of the blade (by moving the standard bandsaw fence) and then slid along that fence to position the point 1/8" in front of the tip of the blade teeth. This allowed Tom to accurately guide the splat board along the curved splat pattern lines to efficiently and quickly cut the curved splat to shape.



A discussion on how to round the round sections on Queen Anne chairs from their initial rough square profile was then addressed. Tom uses a several step process using hand tools in the following sequence: Nicholson #49 rasp, Nicholson #50 rasp, spoke-shave, then sanding (using multiple grits).



Tom's Chair

Tom cautioned the attendees that arm chairs need a wider seat area by 1-1/2 to 2" for comfort of the occupants than open side designs.

Tom then displayed several of his finished chairs including Craftsman, Queen Anne, and a Round Back chair of his own design (inspired by Danish Modern designs by Hans Wegner). He again explained that the round chair was the result of developing full size drawings using the design steps he provided earlier in his presentation (see "Design Steps" on page 3).

A question and answer period concluded his presentation. One very interesting question useful to many attendees was what glue should be used for laminations. Tom preferred glues that dry hard. Some of his recommended choices were Unibond 1, Urea Formaldehyde and Titebond Extend.

This exceptional presentation by Tom & Kris was finished at 4:00 PM with many rave comments by attendees. Many guild members stayed to help Tom & Kris repack their vehicle with the extensive items they used in their presentation and to clean up the presentation room. This was clearly an outstanding event for our guild.

Ken Wolf



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News from the Toy and Box Committee

Building a Road Grader



Don Detter's Road Grader

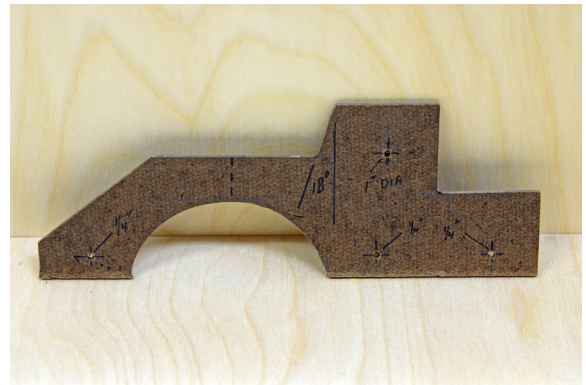
Last year member **Don Detter** donated a train set and a road grader to the toy committee. As I understand the toys were purchased by Don some years ago with the intention of him making several. As happens to many of us, future items get put on the back burner and the plans never come to fruition.

After looking over this road grader, I decided to try my hand at making a few. It is fairly simple, looks to have been made from a block of pine, with 6-1 3/4" diameter wheels and a movable 'plow'. The rough dimensions of the body are 3" high, 1 1/2" thick and 8" long. The size of the plow is approximately 3" x 1 1/4" x 1/2". A 5/16" diameter axle peg is used as an exhaust stack and a 1 1/4" wheel glued to a 1/4" dowel is used to position the plow. The dowel hole through the body is a snug fit, allowing the plow to be held in the raised position.

My first step was to make a template out of 1/4" thick hardboard that contains all the dimensions and locations of holes.



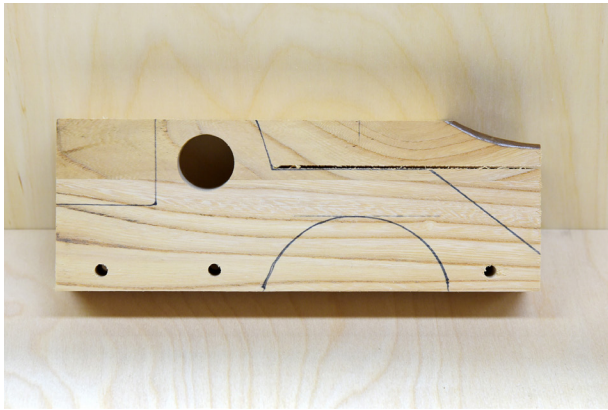
Grader Template - Left Hand



Grader Template - Right Hand

After preparing several blanks of wood I transferred the outline and hole locations from the template onto the blanks. The holes for the axle holes, cab 'window', exhaust stack and plow spindle were drilled on my drill press. The axle holes are a 7/32" drill bit, while the hole for the blade is 1/4" diameter. The exhaust stack is a 5/16" diameter hole. Care must be used when drilling the blade rod hole. Since this needs to be a snug fit between the hole and blade rod, it is advisable to have a piece of the dowel on hand prior to drilling. That way, the drill bit can be changed to match the diameter of the blade rod.

The body shapes were cut out on the band saw, then a combination of spindle sanders, block planes, chisels and spokeshave were used to achieve the final outline. For those that are fans of template routing, this template could be used to fair the final shape.



Grader Template Tracing



Grader Blank Cutout

After the bodies were shaped, I hand sanded to 100 grit and used a 3/16" roundover to put a radius on all edges. The router was installed in my router table and the total amount of roundover depth was done in 3 cuts. Raising the bit in small amounts lessens the chance of chipout and burning along the edges of the road grader bodies. The bodies are now ready for final sanding.



Grader Blank with 3/16" Roundovers

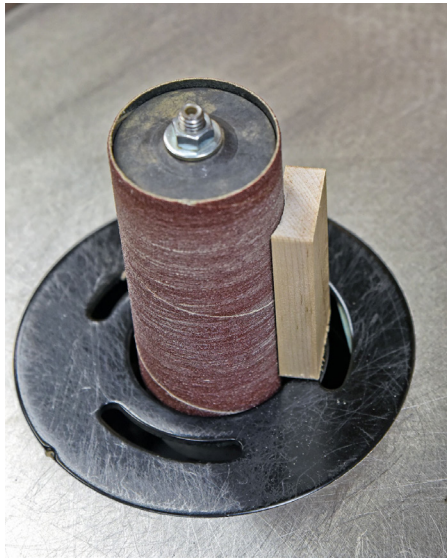
Sanding was accomplished manually using 100, 150 and 220 grit papers. I decided to leave 4 of them (including the prototype) with a clear finish and the remaining two for painting. Four coats of thinned down Minwax satin polyurethane varnish were applied with a pad and sanded lightly between coats. The two painted bodies were sprayed using Rust-O-Leum 2x spray orange. After the finishes cured, I glued on the tires and axels. The tips of the axle pegs were also finished with Minwax polyurethane while the tires got two coats of Rust-O-Leum 2x satin black paint. The exhaust stack was also glued in place. It should be about $\frac{3}{4}$ " – 1" above the rear portion of the grader body. Shown below are the varnished bodies with wheels attached. The prototype is on the left side of the image.



Graders Ready for Coating

On the prototype, the grader blade was a block of wood 3" x 1 1/2" x 1/2". I decided to make it more realistic by creating a cove on one face of the block. This was easily accomplished by using my spindle sander. This could also be accomplished using, gouges, rasps or even a molding plane equipped with a rounding plane iron. Even a piece of appropriately sized readily available cove molding could be used for the basis of the plow blade.

In the center of the top of the blade a 1/4" diameter hole approx 3/8" – 1/2" deep needs to be drilled for



Blade Shaping

the blade rod. I left the rod quite a bit longer than needed. This will help in holding the blade and rod for varnishing/painting and installing in the road grader. Sitting the road grader on the bench or other flat surface, I installed the rod in the grader body hole and moved the blade down so that it is about 1/16" from the surface. I then slipped a nylon washer over the top of the rod and placed the 1 1/4" wheel over that. The area where the 1 1/4" wheel will be glued to the rod is marked. Removing the blade and rod from the body I cleaned the rod between the marks so that glue would hold the wheel permanently to the rod. The blade and rod were installed once more in the body, and the wheel glued into position. After allowing about an hour to dry, the dowel rod was cut



Finished Grader - Natural Finish

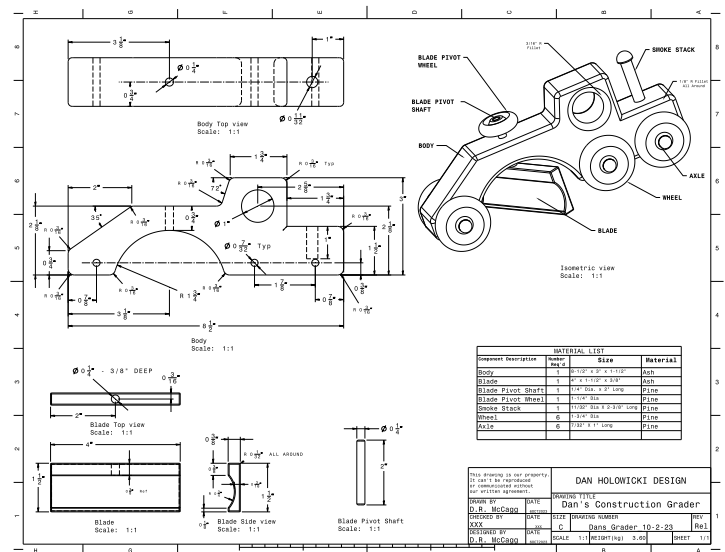
flush with the top of the wheel, sanded smooth and touched up with black paint.

The road graders are now complete and ready to move construction grade material (in a child's eye). This is a fairly satisfying project and not very complicated. When doing multiples of these in a batch process, I would think only a few hours would be needed to complete each. Shown below are pictures of painted and clear varnished graders.



Finished Grader - Red Finish

You can find Don Detter's Road Grader plans on the MWG website under the Toy Projects section of the Program/Resources tab or follow the link below.



Road Grader Drawing

You can find the Don Detter's Road Grader on the MWG website with the following link:

https://michiganwoodworkersguild.com/wp-content/uploads/toys/Dans_Grader_Drawing_10-10-23.pdf



When 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 and treaded wheels (1", 1 1/4" or 1 1/2" dia), nylon washers and wheel pegs free of charge to any member who wishes to make toys for this program. We have plenty on hand and if you need these items, they can be obtained by contacting Ron or Dan. The Guild also has an inventory of non-standard wheels and other toy parts that have been recently categorized. While we do have a limited supply and do not plan to re-stock these once the current supply runs out, we currently have;

- 1 3/4", 2", 2 1/4", 2 1/2", 2 3/4" and 3" diameter standard style wheels
- 1", 1 1/4", 1 1/2", 2 1/4", 2 1/2" and 2 3/4" diameter grooved tire style wheels
- 2" and 2 3/4" diameter wagon style wheels
- 1 1/4", 1 1/2" and 2 1/4" diameter flanged style train wheels
- Wood shapes such as acorns, beads, balls, caps and discs
- Large and small shaker style pegs
- Three sizes of wood peg people
- Steam engine/steam train parts and smokestacks
- Various small pieces of poplar, suitable for glue-up

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 makers for your support along with the Guild's board for allowing funding to purchase wheels to distribute free of charge to all the makers.

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

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

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



- Someone went into a bank with a sack full of shredding wood and asked to open a **Shavings account.**
- What's a lumberjack's favorite thing in the playground?
A see-saw.
- Boats carrying wood need to dock:
in the arbor.

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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 Saturday, June 15 • \$49.99
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 Go to rockler.com/classes for more details

HANDLE TURNING DEMO

Saturday, June 22
 11am-1pm



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Turns bowls up to 12"
 in diameter and spindles
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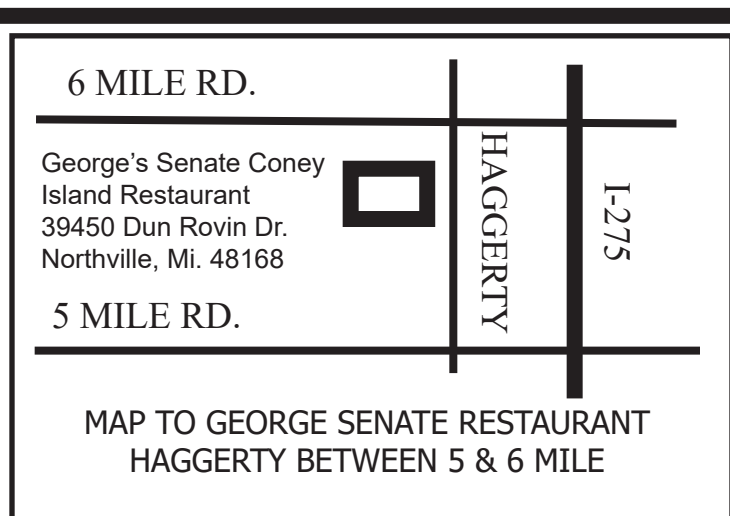
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Please see Rockler.com for updates.

For membership information contact

Dave McCagg at: d2mccagg@provide.net

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



Next MWG Luncheon: (Coordinated by TBD)

Thursday, 27 JUNE 2024 at 10:16 AM

If its summer, look for us on the porch

Executive Board Members / Committee Chairs

Jerry Romito.....	President.....	248-475-5976
Dan Holowicki.....	Vice President.....	734-283-9898
Ed Stuckey.....	Treasurer.....	313-345-3671
John Dolinsky.....	Secretary.....	734-945-6461
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Bob Mills.....	Mentoring.....	248-535-6718
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Fred Ball....	Web Site Calendar (Backup).....	248-681-3108
Ron Ross.....	Toy Program.....	734-812-5531
Kevin Goulet.....	Officer at Large.....	248-672-5341
Ron Ross.....	Food Coordinator.....	734-812-5531