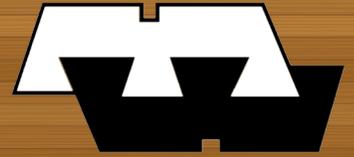




MICHIGAN WOODWORKER

michiganwoodworkersguild.com



Michigan Woodworkers' Guild (est. 1981) June 2025 Vol. 46 No. 6

When / Where:

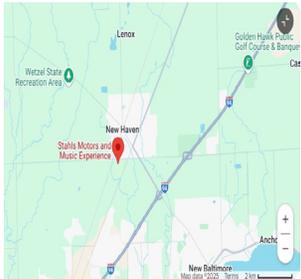
SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2025

(Tour Starts: 12:00 AM, MWG Meeting: 11:30 AM)

Stahls Auto Museum

Tour Was Open To All Members And Guests
Coordinated by: Larry Last

TOUR MEETING TIME: 11:30 AM



IN-PERSON TOUR AT:
56516 N Bay Dr.
New Baltimore, MI 48051

June 2025:

Join us **June 7th** for our 2025 Field Trip to **Stahls Auto Museum**. More than a car museum, it includes music machines, organs and many renowned vehicles from our past. Coordinated by **Larry Last**, meet at Stahls 11:29 AM.

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. 10th, 2025

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



Tour
Stahls Auto Museum

June 7th

Our **June 7th 2025** Field Trip to the Stahls Auto Museum starts at 12 am, (Muster time: **11:30 AM**). Attendees will see a collection containing over 90 cars housed in a 45,000-square-foot garage, most of which are from the Art Deco era and the Great Depression. This tour, coordinated by **Larry Last**, is open to all.





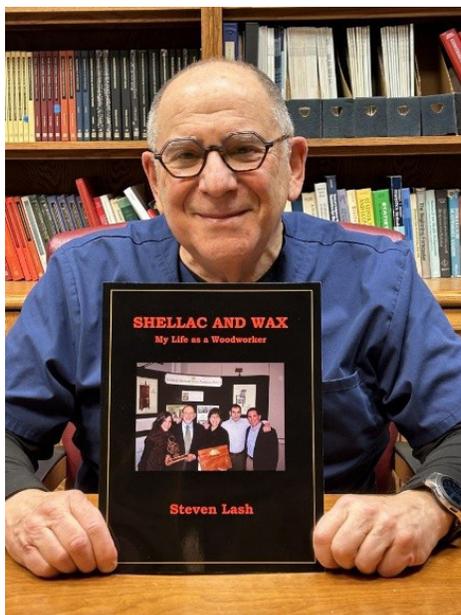
President's Corner

By Jerry Romito



June 2025

Ed Stuckey recently made me aware of an Alumni Profile in the 3/8/2023 issue of the U of M Dentistry News Magazine. It highlighted our MWG member **Steve Lash**, who is both an adjunct clinical professor of orthodontics at the University of Michigan and a nationally renowned period furniture builder. Steve is well known to long-time MWG members, being one of the founding members, and a six-time presenter at our meetings, most recently in November, 2022.



Steve Lash

Steve is the co-founder and past President of the Society of *American Period Furniture Makers*. He has been reproducing eighteenth and early nineteenth century period furniture as an avocation for over forty-five years. He lectures frequently on the design and construction of his period pieces, and his work has been featured in numerous journals including

Fine Woodworking Magazine, Fine Woodworking's Design Book Three and Four, Woodwork Magazine, Home Furniture, The Bulletin of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, and American Period Furniture.

In 2006, three of Steve's pieces were selected for exhibition in Contemporary Classics, Selections from the *Society of American Period Furniture Makers* at the Telfair Museum of Art, Savannah, Georgia. His reproduction of Benjamin Franklin's glass armonica was played at the 2011 Glass Music Festival that was held at Williamsburg, and at the March, 2012 opening of the SAPFM's Traditions of Craft exhibition at the Connecticut Historical Society. In 2000, Steve won the National Watch and Clock Collector's Craftsmanship Award, and in 2010 he was awarded the SAPFM's Cartouche Award for lifetime achievement. In 2023 he won Top Prize in the Furniture category for a ladies desk entered in the Woodworking Networks Veneer Tech Craftsman's Challenge. One of the judges, Marc Adams, said "Your eye for detail is apparent, and your workmanship is impeccable." He is also a past President of the Associates of the American Wing at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

A link to the extensive article is shown below.

Jerry Romito

ODETTE FERGUSON
SALES REPRESENTATIVE
E-mail: odette@sawspec.com



10555 Shook Rd. P.O. Box 74438
Romulus, Michigan 48174-0438
www.sawspec.com

Your single source for all
your sawing needs...from
coolants to machinery

Voice
800-SAW-SPEC
800-729-7732
734-941-2824
Cell
734-740-1691
Fax
734-941-2883

Member of
Industrial Distributors Association
International Saw & Knife Association

Find the article with the following link:

<https://news.dent.umich.edu/2023/03/08/alumni-profile-dr-steven-lash-ms-orthodontics-1972-bringing-precision-and-passion-to-orthodontics-and-to-making-early-american-furniture/>



IN MEMORIAM



Charles Andrews

We are sad to report that MWG member **Charles Andrews** passed away on May 24 at the age of 86.

Charles was an MWG member for 30 years, and presented his toy painting fixtures at our Jigs & Fixtures meeting last November.

He was an avid boat builder, and a prolific toy maker for MWG.

Here is a link to his obituary:

<https://www.desmondfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Charles-J-Andrews?obId=42630308>



MEETING REVIEW



By Dale Aushman

MWG Meeting Review
Jeff Street - A Primer on Inlay
Livonia, MI – May 18, 2025

Our May 2025 meeting featured member **Jeff Street**, who presented *Creating Inlay Ornamentation in Woodworking Projects*. He covered the basic description, process, tools, and materials used. For inlay, a groove or pocket is carved into the wood, and a piece of contrasting material (usually wood, but it may also be metal, shell, or other materials) is inserted and glued into the groove. The inlaid material is then usually planed, scraped or sanded flush with the surrounding surface of the host wood. Jeff covered *string inlays*, highlighting, and geometric shapes. The entire presentation is posted on YouTube on the MWG channel.



Jeff Street



Jeffs Inlay Box

Jeff used a well-organized PowerPoint presentation to guide his instruction, and he displayed the main tools and materials he uses. He gave many examples of his projects that used inlay to “put a little extra jam on the bread”. Jeff is a lifelong woodworker with a focus on furniture and decorative boxes. He has taken training from Rosewood Studios near Ottawa Canada (Furniture Craftsmanship Series), the National Institute of Wood Finishing in Rosemount, Minn., and classes from Jeff Miller (a furniture maker in Chicago) and Garrett Hack, both specifically emphasizing inlays. Jeff does his inlays primarily in traditional ways, mainly with hand tools occasionally augmented by simple power tools.

Jeff started his presentation with string inlays, a classic form often applied to Federal period furniture. The inlay is very thin, on the order of 1/16 in. or less, and about twice that in “depth.” Holly, the classic material for stringing, is a very close grain wood well-suited for making thin pieces which bend well. And it is almost white in color which does not change much over time. For the stringing one can cut strips of already thin veneer, or resaw holly on a bandsaw. For banding Jeff has made his own patterned inlay, as well as purchased from commercial sources.

Jeff explained the four steps of stringing: rout the channel, size the stringing, glue in place, and flush trim to the surface. To rout circular segments of the

channels for the holly Jeff uses a *Steve Latta Radius Cutter*, a sort of adjustable compass with cutting teeth on the end. He then adds a shopmade fence to the tool for cutting straight line channels. To precisely size (i.e. thickness) the strings he uses a shopmade string plane. For gluing he uses standard PVA glue applied with a small glue syringe (thin line) and then gently taps the stringing until it is fully seated. After the glue has set about 20 minutes he starts to trim the exposed stringing down to the surface with a small plane, down to about 2 thousandths from the surface. Jeff prefers to use his small Lie Nielsen (LN) No.1 plane, and says this is an excellent excuse for acquiring such a beautiful tool. He then finishes the flush-trimming with a card scraper. He avoids sanding in this step to prevent getting contrasting wood dust into the grain of the light colored stringing.

Jeff reviewed the tools he uses for stringing. Steve Latta, author of the highly respected instructional Lie Nielsen DVD *Fundamentals of INLAY: Stringing, Line & Berry* worked with Lie Nielson many years ago to develop a set of string inlay tools, including the aforementioned “Latta” radius cutter. This set included a *thicknessing gauge, a straight line cutter, a radius cutter, and a slicing cutter, sold individually and as a set*. LN no longer sells these tools, but fortunately Red Rose Reproductions now produces and sells individually all four tools, with the addition of a left hand slicing gauge and inlay radius cutter extension rods.



Jeffs Top with Inlay



These tools just recently became available, and I see online that some are already sold out.

<https://redrosereproductions.com/tools/Latta-Inlay-Tools-c177890658>

Jeff also displayed the Jan/Feb 2008 issue of *Fine Woodworking Magazine* which contains an article by Steve Latta on *Line-and-Berry inlay for a Pennsylvania spice box*.

He also uses a *Veritas Large Router Plane*, using an available Lee Valley 1/16 in. cutter. And to make a 1/32 in. mortising chisel for cleaning out the construction debris from the channels, he reground a small screwdriver. While he does not personally use them Jeff pointed out that Lee Valley sells a *Veritas String*



Jeff Street showing jig

a walnut hall table he made for a son. He also had pieces with brass stringing inlay, and picture frames with added banding of contrasting woods. Some of his banding has embedded short and long segments which are Morse code messages for the recipient of the piece. There were also examples of inlaid turquoise or glass. These were all accomplished with the same basic process, excavating a cavity, cutting the inlay pieces to fit, gluing, then planing and scraping to the surface.

Next he spoke to his *Geometric Inlays*, where he inlays non-linear shapes. These can be single or mul-



Jeffs Inlay Tools

Inlay Tool System with various related accessories, along with a *Veritas String Inlay Scraper*.

<https://www.leevalley.com/en-us/search?q=string%20inlay%20tools>

Jeff next shared examples of his string inlay work, both as photos and actual in-hand workpieces. He showed several wonderful boxes, as well as furniture pieces exhibiting string inlay as decorative features. These he called *Highlighting Inlays*, which added attractive features to the furniture which otherwise might not be as remarkable. The furniture inlays typically had heavier outlines, 1/8 in. or larger. Included was



Jeffs Inlay Thickness Tool



tiple materials. Jeff relates that even a small geographic shape, such as a rotated square punch to make a diamond, can make a huge difference in the appearance of a box. And again the same process applies, mark and excavate the cavity, make wood insert to fit, glue and surface. He recommends using using form specific tools such as a square or round punch, Forstner bits, or even the little brass router inlay kits.

He generally freehand cuts the cavities using a small trim router, with a flat bottomed trim bit. He prefers trim routers with good visibility, and noted that Dewalt now makes a cordless plunge trim router which is a good choice for this application. Member Ed Stuckey also recommended that StewMac makes a Precision Plunge Router Base for use with a Dremel rotary tool which is very lightweight to provide excellent hand control.

<https://www.stewmac.com/luthier-tools-and-supplies/types-of-tools/>



Jeffs Favorite Inlay Radius Tool

Jeff likes to apply blue tape on which to mark the cavity shapes using a sharp scribe. This is not to cut the wood itself, but rather to make sharp shape lines cut into the tape which can be used to precisely align a chisel for making the initial cuts of the cavity outline.

Jeff showed several fine examples of geometric inlay shapes in his projects. An exceptional one is a fan with the scalloped wedge segments made of alter-



Jeffs Favorite Stanley no1 Block Plane

nating contrasting wood. In this case Jeff makes the inlay piece itself and then scribes around it to define the cavity to be routed out.

In summary, Jeff has shown us that inlays are an easy, fun way to add visual interest to a project, and he encourages us to try some sample pieces. He reminds us that inlays are usually done as one of the last steps of a project so one must take time and not mess up in the final stages.

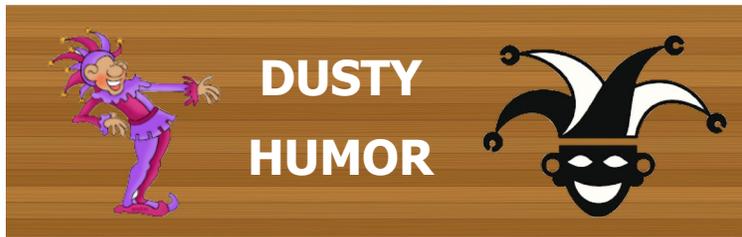
We thank **Jeff** for his excellent presentation and for generously sharing his experience. Thanks also to **Larry Last** for coordinating the meeting, **Kevin Goulet** and **Dave McCagg** for video production, and Dan Holowicki for event photography. Special thanks to Kevin for setting up and posting the YouTube recording on our website.



MWG
MEETING ON
YouTube



Go to youtube.com
And subscribe to the channel
Michigan Woodworkers Guild – meeting video



- 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.

MARSH POWER TOOLS
SALES AND AUTHORIZED FACTORY SERVICE

20579 Middlebelt
Livonia, MI 48152
(248) 476-7744

7187 Grand River Ave.
Brighton, MI 48114
(810) 220-1122

Fax: (248) 476-1090

GLENN WING
POWER TOOLS

33656 Woodward Ave.
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 644-0444
(248) 644-5790 Fax
(800) 821-5177 (US)
(800) 448-1572 (MI)

Jeff Wilmot



TREE-PURPOSED
DETROIT

CUSTOM WOODWORK & MILLING
Live Edge Slabs & Urban Lumber
Barn Wood & Salvaged Wood
Firewood

JASON COWAN
Office (734) 751-6746
Cell (734) 658-2840
TREETURPOSED.COM

HOMESTEAD HARDWOODS
PHIL & DAVE

homesteadhfc@yahoo.com

4607 Allen RD, Allen Park, MI 48101

KILN DRIED LUMBER, HARDWOODS,
SLABS, EXOTIC LUMBER

313-418-8052

www.hardwoodsinallenpark.com



News from the Toy and Box Committee

As happens with many organizations, new members join and old members leave, whether they lose interest, lose the ability to physically do the tasks, move their residence or unfortunately pass on. MWG has gained a number of new members recently who may not be aware of how long the Guild has been involved with toy making projects. In the September 2022 newsletter I wrote an article about the history and involvement MWG has had with the Children's Hospital Snowpile program. This month I am updating that article to benefit those who probably have not spent hours perusing all of our archived newsletters.



Don Detter's Road Grader

First off, the DMC Children's Hospital Snowpile program is a patient and family centered care model of gift giving for children and teens who are hospitalized during the holiday season. The Snowpile program falls under the Hospital's Child Life Services domain. Children navigating the healthcare environment can be faced with many different challenges, ranging from building comfort in an unfamiliar setting to coping through invasive and sometimes painful procedures. It is common for children to feel as if they have very



Bergs Delivery Truck

little control and few choices in what goes on around them. The DMC Children's Hospital of Michigan Child Life Services department works as an integral part of the care team to return some of that control to patients and therefore assisting in reducing the stress and anxiety often associated with hospitalization. Anxieties and stresses related to illness, separation from family and medical encounters can take quite a toll on children and families alike. Throw in recent events such as our continued recovery from the Covid 19 pandemic and you can easily understand how this could affect a patient's response to treatment. Whether battling a life-threatening illness, recuperating from surgery or just in for a routine check-up, children need to relax, heal and be children. And that includes playtime.

Toys, games and the like help children engage their imagination and create a diversion during stressful times. The DMC Children's Hospital staff within Child Life Services is trained to use developmental inter-



Dave Nordstrom's Tractor and Model T



Vic Bonara's Trucks, Locomotives, and Cars

ventions and play to help not only the child patient but their families adjust to and understand the hospital and medical situation.

There are many recommended toys, both purchased through normal channels and handmade, that are donated on a regular basis. However, we must remember that our handmade toys must meet certain standards for safety and cleanliness. All these standards are well documented in our website.

Many of the donated toys are distributed through the holiday season to child patients as gifts. Remaining toys are also distributed to the many clinics and patient waiting rooms throughout the DMC Hospital Complex as a means of engaging a child while waiting for treatment or to see a specialist. Some toys are also given to siblings of a child patient. A recent conversation with our Hospital contact, Sinead Nimmo, indicated that all of the toys donated by MWG are fully distributed within the first quarter of the year. All this helps to reinforce the therapeutic function by bringing a sense of joy and normalcy to the life of a hospitalized child who may really need a reason to smile.

MWG has been involved in the Snowpile program for



Dan Holowicki's Cherry Memory Box

a lot longer than I have been a member. In the mid to late 1980's toys were donated from the Guild to the Salvation Army. In 1988, under the organization of Dave Wilson, several hundred toys were donated to Children's Hospital, Utica Lion's Club and the Rochester Neighborhood House. By 1990, the program expanded even more under the organization of Dave Wilson, Stu Falls and Tom Kearns. That year toys were distributed to the Wellness House and Children's Leukemia Foundation along with the aforementioned organizations. Starting in 1991, Tony Pieterzak became involved with the toy program along with his brother Richard, members Stu Falls, John Amiot, and



2023 MWG Toys Car

Jim McCann. These individuals organized the distribution to Toys for Tots, Capuchin Soup Kitchen and other charities.

During the mid 90's, Tony, through his leadership, was totally committed to the toy program and would work long days to build toys to assure the guild had several hundred toys to deliver in early December. Despite Tony's efforts to get other members to build and donate toys he ended up producing a high percentage of the toys himself. Guild leaders became concerned that Tony was overworking himself so in 1997, members Ken Wolf and Richard Boulard were asked to assist in the production of toys and help share some of the program duties and contacts necessary to continue the program.

In the next few years more members became involved in building toys, with Tony leading a toy building team of about 5-7 members which greatly improved the ability to build more quality toys more efficiently.



During this time, guidelines for toy builders were developed which improved toy quality and consistency of manufacture and finish.

Ken eventually became the sole toy program leader helping to expand the program to include memory boxes and multi-purpose boxes which are still part of the program to this day. Ken also was instrumental in the development of jigs to help in the production of toys as well as maintaining many demo toys and supplies to toy makers. A very special achievement occurred in 2012 when the guild entered a Minwax contest for organizations that met a "Do Good with



Finished Grader - Natural Finish

Wood" theme. Our guild won first place in the national contest. The prize included \$5000, a supply of their finishes, small mementos for guild attendees and a special presentation to our guild by a Minwax corporate Vice President. This award was largely based on our support of the DMC Children's Hospital and the Michigan Industrial, Technology Education Society (MITES).

Over the years MWG members have stepped up to help the hospital meet their needs/requests. These projects include bookshelves, picture frames, a pedal airplane to transport from one location to another and a toy sized MRI so that children could be comfortable when time came to have an actual MRI performed. At different times MWG has assisted in hospital fund raising events (golf outings & shooting sports club



Bill Damico's Tow Truck

events) where members manned a booth with guild toys and donated toys to silent auction events. Some of the donations were large elaborate toys that members donated to the auctions. Reportedly, a former Detroit Tiger's player bid \$1000 for one of our donated toys.

About 2017 Ken expressed that it was time for the toy program to be passed on to other members for leadership. Ron Ross agreed to become toy chair with the assistance of Dan Holowicki. Ken guided the program for a couple years as these two learned the ropes, yet his expertise and insight is still drawn on to this day. The hope is for the toy program to continue to thrive, getting involvement from additional members and continue to provide the hospital with 400+ toys and boxes every year.

Every year the Guild has anywhere from 10 to 20 members contribute to the program. Some make a couple boxes or a few toys, while others may make anywhere between 50 and 100 toys for several years running. One of the most prolific toy builders I have known in recent years is Bill Damico; last year he made 200 toys for the program.

We are always hoping that current or new members will take an interest in this program. You do not have to commit to making a certain number of toys or boxes. My first year of building toys I turned in a whop-



Bill Rigstad's updated toolbox

ping total of 8. We are grateful to any member who contributes, whether it be a single toy, box or 50 or more. These toys and boxes do not need to be made of fancy woods, nor have elaborate joinery, or intricate details. But they must be made and finished according to our guidelines. This is the one program MWG does annually to benefit those children who really, really need a reason to smile. Why not make use of your extra shop time this year to create a small gift that can bring a smile to a child who would love to have a moment and forget about their reason for being in the hospital.



Jared Fink's Dovetail Sliding Lid box

As has always been the policy, the Guild will provide wood wheels (1", 1 1/4" or 1 1/2" dia, smooth or treaded), nylon washers and wheel pegs free of charge to any

member who wishes to make toys for this program. 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 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
- Wooden peg people
- Steam engine/steam train smokestacks
- Various small pieces of poplar, suitable for glue-up

If you need these items, they can be obtained by contacting Ron or Dan. We also tend to bring a small supply of these non standard items to many of the meetings. About three times a year, we will bring a display of toys and boxes for members to look over and hopefully create some interest in making items for the program.

Please consider making an effort to support this Guild program and thank you for your support.

Dan Holowicki & Ron Ross

For further information or to arrange to drop off toys, please contact

Ron - 734- 812-5531 - ross1508@gmail.com

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



For membership information contact

Dave McCagg at: d2mccagg@provide.net

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

Executive Board Members / Committee Chairs

Jerry Romito.....	President.....	248-475-5976
Frank Kalinsky..	Vice President....	734-516-3405
Dan Holowicki...	Secretary.....	734-283-9898
Ed Stuckey.....	Treasurer.....	313-345-3671
Dan Holowicki.....	Officer at Large.....	734-283-9898
Tony Gigliotti	Officer at Large	248-853-8349
Bill Gayde	Officer at Large	248-859-3949
Ron Ross.....	Officer at Large.....	734-812-5531
Rich Herbert.....	Officer at Large.....	248-628-0644
Ragnar Bergethon...	Officer at Large.....	248-608-8436
Ken Wolf.....	Officer at Large.....	734-981-3423
Dave McCagg.....	Officer at Large.....	734-482-6764
Ragnar Bergethon..	Website	248-608-8436
Dave McCagg.....	Newsletter Editor.....	734-482-6764
Dave McCagg.....	Membership.....	734-482-6764
Larry Last..	Programs/Website Calendar....	248-207-9386
Bob Mills.....	Mentoring.....	248-535-6718
Kevin Goulet	Camera Chair	248-672-5341
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

6 MILE RD.

George's Senate Coney Island Restaurant
39450 Dun Rovin Dr.
Northville, Mi. 48168

HAGGERTY

I-275

5 MILE RD.

MAP TO GEORGE SENATE RESTAURANT
HAGGERTY BETWEEN 5 & 6 MILE

Next MWG Luncheon: (Coordinated by TBD)
Thursday, 26 JUN 2025 at 10:16 AM