

MICHIGAN WOODWORKER



michiganwoodworkersquild.com

Michigan Woodworkers' Guild (est. 1981) March 2023

Vol. 44 No. 3

When / Where:

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2023

(All Day Seminar: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM)

In-Person Seminar:

Wood Bending and Veneering by Mike Belzowski

Meeting Coordinated by: Ken Wolf



IN-PERSON SEMINAR AT: Livonia Senior Center

MARCH:

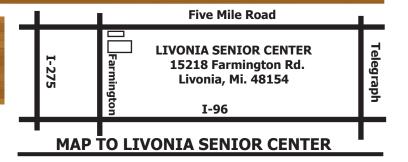
Our 2023 full day seminar will feature Mike Belzowski demonstrating techniques for wood bending as well as veneering. Coordinated by Ken Wolf, make sure you sign-up right now (Pg. 10) for the Saturday, 11MAR2023 (9:00 AM - 4:00 PM) seminar at Livonia Senior Center.

APRIL:

Larry Buettner makes beautiful bowls using a band saw and sanding instead of a lathe. To look at them you cannot tell the difference. Come to the Royal Oak Senior Center to see his process, sample glue-ups, segments, and a variety of his finished bowls at our April 16th 2023 meeting coordinated by **Jerry Romito**.

MAY:

When a band saw cannot make the tight curves you want, reach for a scroll saw. Pete Godard, Vince Choraszewski and Neal Hoegemeyer will explain scroll saws, their blades, and accessories. Join us at 2:00 PM on Sunday, May 21st **2023** at **Livonia Senior Center** coordinated by Ragnar Bergethon.



Wood Bending and Veneering by Mike Belzowski

March 11th

Coordinated by Ken Wolf, our annual 2023 all day seminar will once again showcase Professional Woodworker Mike Belzowski demonstrating techniques for wood bending and veneering. This is a great event that includes a Subway sandwich lunch, so signup today using the flier link on Pg. 10.







President's Corner



By Jerry Romito

IN MEMORIAM



March 2023

Sadly we reflect on the rich MWG legacy of **Bill Rigstad**, one of our most outstanding members, who passed away on February 21st after a short illness. For over 26 years he was a major contributing member to every facet of the guild's activities, and assumed many leadership roles, including six years as president and forever as a board member.

He was active everywhere at all the monthly meetings. He coordinated the Livonia Senior Center schedule, picked up the keys, with Ken Wolf arrived early to setup the room and stayed late to tear it down, managed the DVD library, and ran the Monthly DVD Theater. With his wife Sally, he brought the food, coffee, and beverages enjoyed by all at every monthly meeting. He managed the camera and projector equipment, and took the photos of the monthly presentations. He

even arranged all the monthly luncheons at local restaurants.

As a Video Manager of the Ford photographic department, he honed his photographic skills. His photos have been a major contribution to the guild newsletter and website since their inception. He was instrumental in redesigning the website home page photo area and the Photo Gallery, and constantly experimented with ways to make the photo gallery more interactive and exciting.

For decades Bill coordinated with every Wood Show that came to the Detroit area to arrange display space for our guild and to provide participation information to our members. With assistance from **Ken Wolf** he setup our guild display booth the day before the start of the shows and coordinated teardown after the shows.

Bill was a major participant in the early MWG toy program, supporting **Ken Wolf**. They held alternating toy building team workshops within their own shops for teams of 5-7 guild members to build hundreds of toys each year for many years. This was the start of an assembly line approach to building toys to increase the annual toy and box production. He also worked with Bill Gayde in various member shops building toys.

In the last few years, Bill developed a toy toolbox, and built and contributed a mountain of these toolboxes to the program. To celebrate Bill's accomplishment, we will continue his legacy of building these toolboxes.

Of course, Bill was a skilled woodworker, and enjoyed sharing his knowledge. He made at least 10 woodworking presentations at member meetings, and was a frequent presenter of fantastic projects at the guild's annual Showcase of Skills meetings. After retiring from Ford, he was a professional woodworker for 15 years.

Ken Wolf recalls "driving to the *Marc Adams School of Woodworking* for their first class together in the late 1990's. The facility was well beyond our expec-



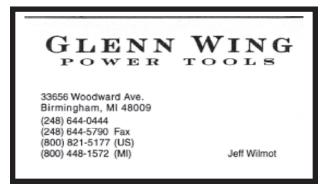
tations and every class break Bill would disappear to shoot pictures of the various class rooms and shop areas. We certainly had a lot of things to discuss on the drive home."

Bill Gayde recalls travelling "with Sally (you never saw Bill without the love of his life, Sally) as world travelers, usually with Jim and Jane Kudej, to Kenya, Peru and Ecuador, the countries of old Yugoslavia, New Zealand and Australia, China, and Western Europe. Bill was our trip photographer. Along with the usual pictures of the people and places, Bill was fascinated by the foods we encountered. Our travel logs included at least one picture of every meal we ever ate. It will be a sadder world without Bill Rigstad." Jim Kudej recalls, "We will always remember Bill seeing all the sights through the lens of his camera."

Although some major medical issues plagued Bill over the years, he would always remain positive and optimistic about their outcome and his future, and he worked hard to maintain his strength and health.

Sally says they will have a memorial service this summer, and all will be invited. I will keep you informed. We will all deeply miss Bill's presence and friendship.

Jerry Romito







Dale Ausherman Receives MWG Outstanding Service Award

At the February 12th meeting **Dale Ausherman** was presented with an Outstanding Service Award. **Dale Ausherman** has been a member of the Michigan Woodworkers Guild for over 15 years. Besides being a very active member of the Guild, he is also a member of the Society of American Period Furniture Makers, and is both a past President and Vice President of that society.

As anyone who reads our newsletter knows, Dale writes the reviews of the presentations at our monthly meetings, and he has been doing it for over 14 years. Now as fine as our presentations are, Dale's reviews are a work of art in themselves. Not only are they outstanding in their content and thoroughness, but Dale typically adds outside research notes which enhance the presentation itself, often drawing the admiration of the presenter. It takes many hours of commitment and hard work for him to produce such finely polished articles, and they often represent the highlight of the newsletter.

The MWG sincerely appreciates Dales dedication to help make the Guild a very successful and enduring organization, and the Out Standing Service Award is our way of thanking him.







MWG Meeting Review
Jammey Lewis of Novi Rockler
Demonstration of CNC Milling
12 February 2023

Computer Numerical Control (CNC) milling has made major inroads into the home woodworking arena within the last few years as the equipment and software has become readily available and more affordable to the average user. Rockler sells software and CNC machines to enable an average woodworker to make or embellish parts via the CNC process. A CNC machine has a means of holding wood or other material workpieces while moving a spinning bit over computer-prescribed 3-D paths to cut a desired shape. Jammey Lewis of the Novi Rockler store gave us an overview and demonstration of the process, and

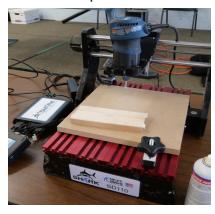


Rockler's Jammey Lewis

outlined the required equipment, tools and software. He reviewed the range of prices for CNC machines, talked to requirements for incorporating CNC into a shop, and showed examples of the types of projects that can be undertaken.

The CNC machine used by Jammey for the demo

was a Next Wave Shark SD110, a versatile and proven machine sold by Rockler. This model features a compact 12" X 18" table designed for projects such as carving small plaques or signs, ornamental boxes, and precision parts machined from wood, soft metals, or plastics. The machine supports XYZ travel of 12" x 13" x 3." Thus it is a good machine to integrate into a normal shop. It sells for about \$1,800, and includes



Shark SD110

the latest version of VCarve Desktop Design software now incorporating Cut 3D functionality and Vector Art 3D Sampler Pack. It requires a PC computer with USB 2.0 port (does not have to be in same room) and a Bosch 1 HP Model PR20 or similar palm

router (sold separately). One must also have tooling which includes bits and holding clamps. Further, dust control is a major issue and may require additional equipment.

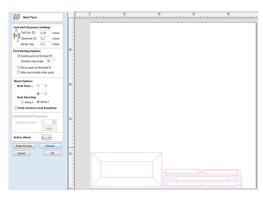
Jammey's simplified description of the overall process included:

- Computer Automated Design (CAD) of the project item;
- Convert the CAD design into gCode which are CNC "commands." This step he calls Program/ CAM or Computer Automated Machining; and
- 3. Transfering the commands to the CNC machine and set up for execution.

Steps 1 and 2 are run on a PC with a software package which in this case does both steps. Commands for the CNC machine are produced by this software and stored on a USB drive for transfer to the CNC machine itself.

Jammey indicated that there are multiple software packages for performing the CAD design. He used Vectric VCarve Pro software, a similar version of which comes with the Shark machine. This software





VCarve Screen

allows design and layout of the part using on screen design space and, via various icons, commands to generate geometry using the computer's cursor. The design is produced as a vector image

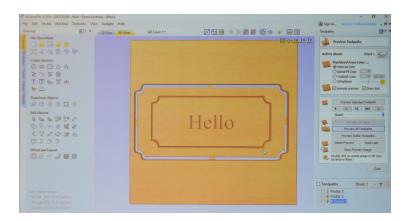
which is composed of lines with discrete beginning points, a direction, and a line end. He mentioned that there are many other packages available, such as Fusion 360, Rhino, Illustrator, Solidworks, Inkscape, and more, depending on what works best for you.

After the CAD design is completed there must be a means of converting the vector drawings to toolpaths your CNC machine can execute. This is the Program/ CAM step which sets the bit feed, speeds and directions, tool type, plunge depths, tabbing, etc. The CAM package must have a post processor compatible with your CNC machine. Actually, VCarve Pro is a package which integrates the CAD and CAM operations as a seamless step that produces gCode files. A USB stick is then used to transfer the gCode file into the CNC machine's memory. Apparently there are many popular CAM packages including VCarve Pro, Fusion360, MasterCAM, and many more.

After these simple explanations Jimmie demonstrated the CAD and CAM steps he undertook to prepare a CNC file for a decorative-bordered house address plaque with radiused internal corners as shown here. He took us through various screens in the process including job setup (with job type, job size, zero position, XY datum position), and drawing the work piece rectangle with radiused internal corners. He then drew the internal decorative internal rectangle by copying and scaling the exterior workpiece shape. Next he specified inside or outside edges to prescribe how the tool cuts relative to the design lines. And fi-

nally he inserted the interior text size and font for the numerals.

Next he assigned the selected tool (in this case a 60 deg. 1/4 inch V-Bit), and specified the desired text to be cut which is milled to a depth such that the V-bit eventually cut into the material such that tool bit's sloped sides exactly ended at the surface of the work piece defined by the size of the text. He also added "tabs" to the exterior wood path such that the sign body was still affixed to the original blank when the machining is completed, otherwise it would be in free space with no solid contact to the CNC's machining base. After setting other cutting parameters in real time, he finally selected the target CNC machine (default: Shark HD 510), specified the post processor (Next wave CNC (inch) (*.tap)), then clicked "Save Toolpath(s) to save the gCode file for transfer to the CNC machine.



VCarve Software Sign

Without personally having owned a CNC machine, or ever run the software, it was difficult to clearly record all of Jammey's commands, and to document them in this report. There are many tutorial videos on You-Tube specifically for the VCarve software which illustrate other similar "signage" projects. A fellow named Garrett Fromme has uploaded many of these so one can poke around and find examples to view. A particularly quick one is:

V-Carve For Beginners Complete Tutorial - How To Use v-carve Desktop Pro.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zXNNgGe2qcY.

Following the demonstration sign project set up, Jammey expounded on the project possibilities enabled by the CNC technology. One can cut and carve a wide variety of materials including wood, plastic, nonferrous metals, foams, etc. The cutting technology is highly expandable, to include 3D scanning, laser cutting, plotter pens, drag knife, and plasma cutters. A CNC drag knife can be used to cut almost anything



Rockler CNC Projects

(expensive) can process sheet goods. The CNC machine can replace or augment existing tools in the shop, such as making precise and repeatable templates for



you would cut with a utility knife, such

as veneer and vinyl, but with the speed

and precision of a

CNC router. Small

CNC systems ac-

commodate travel, such as Jammey's

visit to our meeting,

and large systems

Ron Ross's Memory Box

routing or cutting by traditional tools. Or it can provide opportunities for people unable to use traditional woodworking tools. And he stated that nothing levels rough slabs like a CNC.

Jammey related certain challenges to implementation of a CNC capability. Dust control is a major issue and requires additional equipment, per our education by Bill Pentz in our October 2021 Zoom meeting. Electrical grounding is critical, for the electromechanical aspects of the CNC machine itself. Work piece hold down requires careful planning from a job quality and safety point of view. CNC machines are typically very loud and so noise control is essential, especially in a home installation. And finally, power availability and space constraints may limit machine choice.

He also relates the equipment costs can be quite varied depending on the work to be accomplished. At the low end, machines may be purchased as a kit or 3D printed from \$100 to \$1,000, but this requires integration of software. Desktop machines (such as the Shark SD110 demonstrated in our meeting) run from \$1,000 to \$10,000 depending on tooling and 2D vs 3D capability. Full size machines offer maximum bed size and potential for big power (large and fast cutting tools) and with accessories can run more than \$10K.

The simplest cutter is a palm router with an appropriate bit. Some large and/or complex projects can take upwards of hours of continuous cutting. Typical hand held routers are air cooled and only designed to run for a few minutes without overheating. Thus it may be required that you supply exterior cooling such as a water cooled CNC spindle, which has flexible tubing and a bucket as a reservoir for the cooling water. Such liquid cooled spindle assemblies can cost nearly \$1,000. And according to Jammey software cost ranges anywhere from free to "don't bother asking!"

Jammey showed examples of the unique value of CNC woodworking solutions. Once programed it is a natural for making multiple copies of a project. It is especially good at making precision projects and parts, such as chess, checker or other game boards. It can do beautiful carving of raised elements when operated in a 2 ½ D mode, where surface elevations are



MWG CNC Projects



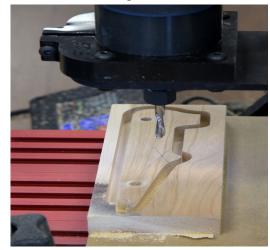


CNC Inlay by Mark Zachman

allowed and where no undercutting is required (think of a 3-D terrain map). And CNC can support a type of inlay where a 2D pattern with depth is also routed in a Z-axis reversed copy using a contrasting wood, which the latter is then turned upside down and glued into

its mate. The surface is then flattened to reveal the pattern thus created. Jammey showed an example of this by **Mark Zachman**, who produced a web page to show how it is done using the VCarve software demonstrated by Jammey. (See Link Below:)

The system can also cut normal inlay pieces from thin veneer and matching excavations in a substrate.



CNC Carving Bergs RaceCar

To complete the demonstration Jammey loaded a VCarve file into the Shark CNC machine to mill out the body of Ragnar Bergethon's race car in the Guild

Toy project collection. He also reminded us of the several CNC projects he and others brought as examples.

We thank Rockler for their generosity in providing the CNC equipment and allowing the knowledgeable and talented **Jammey Lewis** to educate us. And we thank Jammey for his valuable time in in-



Rockler Store Manager- Chris

troducing us to the exciting world of CNC woodworking, and Ron Ross for coordinating the meeting.

- Dale Ausherman



Michigan Woodworker's Guild yearly dues are now payable as of January 2023. Please make payment right away.

Note: Later this month, we will be updating our roster and mailing list to reflect all current paid memberships. Therefore, it is important for everyone to pay their annual dues by day's end. Feel free to make your \$25 payment **Early** and **Often**.

A membership renewal form can be found on the website dropdown menu under "Membership - Payment/Renewals" (See LInk below:)

You can find the **Mark Zachman** inlay procedure at the following link: https://mark-85079.medium.com/how-to-create-an-inlay-with-a-cnc-router-d4729240ef2c

You can find the MWG **Membership Form** with the following link: https://michiganwoodworkersguild.com/wp-content/uploads/membership/MWG_Membership_Application_Form.pdf





Toy and Box Makers:

For this month I want to highlight a smaller but equally important aspect of the toy program. Box making is something that the Children's Hospital staff really appreciates, not only the plain boxes that children use to hold items they use throughout the day but the lesser needed memory boxes given to families when a child passes away.

Plain boxes are just as they sound, usually made of pine or perhaps poplar, unadorned and with only a thin wash coat of varnish. A sliding lid is sufficient and corner joinery can be mitered and perhaps pegged for additional support. The lids and bottoms can be decent quality plywood or thin boards. As with toys, no metal parts, hinges, etc., can be used and finishes must adhere to the guidelines we have in place.

The memory boxes are usually made of a hardwood with pleasant grain patterns, more intricate joinery such as dovetails or interlocking finger joints. Once again the bottoms can be quality plywood or thin boards. The lids are either sliding or perhaps a press fit. The hospital staff does like memory boxes with a picture frame incorporated within. However, I will say recently some of our members have been doing wonderful boxes with very ornate lids; either carved or created using a CNC router. Several examples follow.





Dave Nordstrum Memory Box

Member David Nordstrum did these dovetailed hardwood boxes some with an incredible 3D flower having scroll sawn and hand shaped petals with painted stamen. I was in awe when I first saw these.



Ron Ross Memory Box

Member Ron Ross did a wonderful walnut box with CNC engraved flower and the inscription "Always loved, Never forgotten, Forever missed." Well done.

Member Larry Last did a number of boxes with sliding lids. Some of the lids had inlaid images of contrasting woods, while others had a small knob to aid in opening and closing. These boxes were made using various hardwoods.





Larry Last Inlayed Memory Boxes

Member Clay Buldoc did a number of hardwood boxes with either dovetailed or box jointed corners. He was able to incorporate picture frames into the lids, once again with a rabbet edge that lightly press fits into the box sides





Clay Bolduc Memory Boxes



Here is an example of a mahogany box with reinforced mitered corners. The lid incorporates a

Mitered Corner Memory Box frame for a 4" x 6" picture.



This box has box-jointed corners with a bird on the snug fitting lid. The bird is a parquetry item made of several different woods.



Inlayed Memory Box



Handled Memory Box

This box has box jointed corners with an elaborate base detail. The lid also has similar routed edges with a handle that inspires an oriental feel.



Bill Rigstad's Toy Tool Box

Longtime member Bill Rigstad has for a number of years made these simple tote boxes. While they do not fit the definition of a traditional box, they are well received by the staff and put to great use by the children. Joinery can be quite simple, utilizing a tongue and groove or perhaps pegged corners. With the round dowel handle, these totes are easy to carry from one location to another.

For those that would like to try box making, additional resources are available on our website. Under the photos tab, wood joinery is covered in photo folders #34 and #35. These are based on a presentation given by Ragnar Bergathon. Within the programs/ resources tab click on the mentoring section and look

up workshop 2 outline, "Joinery, Making a Box". This does contain a basic outline for building boxes with several links to articles with more detail. These are given as general instructions and inspirations. Also within the toy project section under the programs/resources tab, click on the link "Toy Guidelines for Children's Hospital" for more specific requirements for boxes to be donated to Children's Hospital. The Epic Saw Guy's (www.epicsawguy.com) website contains a section with 42 downloadable box plans. While many of these will not qualify as a plain or memory box, there are several that could provide inspiration and joinery hints.

As has always been the policy, the Guild will provide standard 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

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.

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





MWG 2023 Seminar



Mike Belzowski is returning for our March 11, 2023 guild daylong (9:00 am - 4:00 PM) seminar to share his skills and techniques on bending wood and veneering.

Mike will demonstrate multiple ways to bend wood including lamination and tapered laminations, steam bending, kerf bending and vacuum forming techniques. Mike also will present veneering basics and beyond including vacuum press gluing strategies, parquetry basics and scroll saw bevel techniques.

How to choose glue types for various vacuum pressing applications and alternative book matching methods are also planned. This all day event will include an on-site lunch for attendees who purchase a reservation to this special event.

Please see link below for the MWG sign-up flier:

 $\underline{\text{https://michiganwoodworkersguild.com/wp-content/uploads/Seminars/2023_Mike_Belzowski_1-12-23.pdf}$



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IN MEMORIAM



Our member **Tim Fradeneck** passed away on January 30th . Tim has been a MWG member for 6 years, volunteered on the camera crew, and most recently manned the camera at our January 8th meeting.

His wife Kay told us that he was taken to the hospital on January 12, where he was diagnosed with an aggressive form of brain cancer.

Kay said that he enjoyed being a part of the guild and was expanding his woodworking skills.

Below is a link to his obituary:

https://guestbook.wujekcalcaterra.com/obituaries/Timothy-Fradeneck/#!/Obituary



You can find the **Mike Belzowski** seminar signup flier on the MWG website with the following link: https://michiganwoodworkersquild.com/wp-content/uploads/Seminars/2023 Mike Belzowski 1-12-23.pdf



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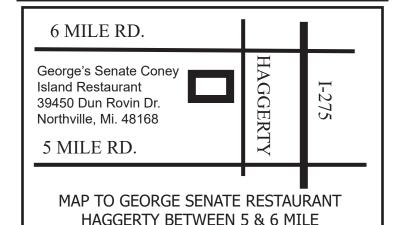


POWER SALE PRICING VALID 3/3 - 3/30/2023

26160 Ingersol Drive • Novi, MI 48375 • (248) 543-5110 • Rockler.com Please check Rockler.com for current store hours.

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, 23 March 2023 at 10:16 AM

Executive Board Members / Committee Chairs

Januar Danaita Dua	ما مامه	240 475 5076
Jerry Romito Pre		248-475-5976
Dan Holowicki Vice		734-283-9898
Ed Stuckey Tre	asurer	313-345-3671
Don Hess Sec	cretary	734-207-8427
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