



MICHIGAN WOODWORKER

michiganwoodworkersguild.com



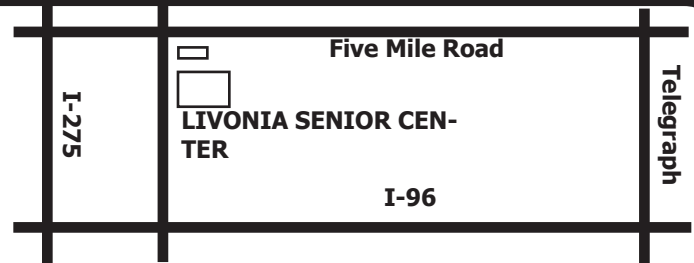
Michigan Woodworkers' Guild (est. 1981) March 2018 Vol. 39 No. 3

SUNDAY, MARCH 11

At the Livonia Senior Center from 2:00 to 4:30 pm.
The raffle and other activities from 1:00 to 2:00 pm.

This is our annual **Jigs and Tools** meeting coordinated by **Pete Goddard**. If you have a purchased or self created jig or tool that you like (or dislike) bring it and share your thoughts with the rest of us. Contact Pete to get on the agenda.

The West side luncheon will be at the Senate Coney Island on the 22nd at 1:16 pm (see map on page 7)



MAP TO LIVONIA SENIOR CENTER

The East side luncheon will be at The Golden Basket on the 15th at 1:14 pm (see map on page 7)

The South side luncheon will be at Ramsey's on the 15th at 1:16 pm (see map on page 7)



RICHARD HERBERT DEMONSTRATING CABRIOLE LEGS



SAMPLE OF FURNITURE MADE BY SAPFM MEMBERS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY April 15, 2018 will be our annual **Showcase of skills** meeting at the **Livonia Senior Center** coordinated by **Ed Stuckey**. Contact Ed if you need a large space. **NOTE THIS IS THE 3RD SUNDAY**

The monthly luncheons will be:
West side on the 26th at 1:16 pm
East side on the 19th at 1:14 pm
South side on the 19th at 1:16 pm

The **May 20** meeting will be at the **Livonia Senior Center** and will feature **Clair Boussum** demonstrating **Intarsia techniques**.

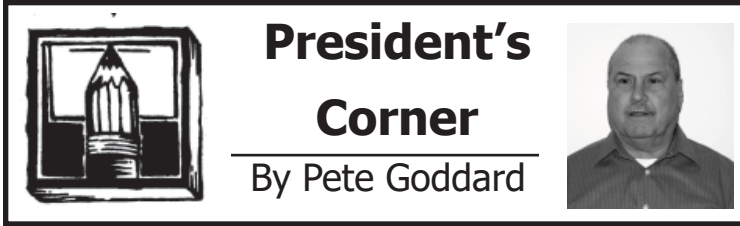
The monthly luncheons will be:
West side on the 24th at 1:16 pm
East side on the 17th at 1:14 pm
South side on the 17th at 1:16 pm

June field trip to be announced.

The monthly luncheons will be:
West side on the 28th at 1:16 pm
East side on the 21st at 1:14 pm
South side on the 21st at 1:16 pm

NO MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED IN JULY

NO LUNCHEONS ARE SCHEDULED IN JULY.



I want to offer thanks to our Guild members that are also members of the SAPFM for the excellent presentation in February on their organization, its goals and objectives. Dale Ausherman did an excellent slide show that was informative and interesting. In addition, Ed Stuckey gave a presentation on vacuum veneering, a critical part of the making of replica period furniture. Thanks to all of you.

The March meeting will focus on jigs and fixtures. I currently have five speakers for the meeting: myself, Bill Rigstad, Clay Bolduc, Ken Wolf, and Neal Hoegemeyer. All of us spend a considerable amount of our shop time designing and making jigs and fixtures to support our woodworking. To me, seeing other members solutions to the various woodworking challenges is enlightening. I hope to see everyone at the Livonia Senior Center meeting on the 11th of March.

Work on the DVD collection that comprises our Guild library continues. Bill and Sally Rigstad have organized the collection and are in the process of identifying DVDs that are out and have been checked out for too long (60 days or more). Please help in this process by looking through your DVDs and returning any Guild DVDs that you may have checked out and forgotten about. Once the DVD collection is fully identified and complete, a listing will be made available on the Guild web site.

We still have one meeting open in our schedule – this September's meeting. I expect that this meeting will be a regular meeting instead of the all day seminar originally planned for that meeting. We have waited a bit long to be able to set up an all day session. Speakers often need to have considerable advance warning for all day length presentations. This is being worked on and information will be provided once the issue has been resolved. Ideas are welcomed!

I would like informal membership feedback on some ideas. As a part of our regular meetings, I would like to have members share any safety issues that occur. The intent is to help other Guild members to avoid similar incidents. Both actual incidents and near misses/close calls should be discussed.

I would also like to ask any member with a woodworking issue that he/she could use assistance on to be able to ask the meeting attendees for assistance and/or ideas. We have a number of highly talented senior members that should be able to provide ideas based on long experience, saving more junior members from a trial and error learning. Eventually, I would like to see a forum on the web site which would allow mentoring between members.

Finally, I would like to set aside a small part of each meeting for members that have built new projects or are in the process of building new projects to share their projects with the other members. This would be a "show and tell" type process. For designs that have been originated by members, a willingness to share the design as well as the project outcomes is encouraged. New designs and projects could include shop equipment (i.e. jigs and fixtures). Please give me some feedback on these ideas at the March meeting.


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MEETING REVIEW



By Dale Ausherman

Dale Ausherman – SAPFM

**Ed Stuckey and Rich Herman – Veneering and
Cabriole Legs**

February 11 was a snowy day in an already tough Michigan winter, but we still had about 35 members turn out for another interesting and entertaining program. I had an opportunity to give a presentation on the Society of American Period Furniture Makers (SAPFM) which was followed by Guild and SAPFM members Ed Stuckey and Rich Herman giving presentations on veneering and making of cabriole legs.

SAPFM is a nationwide organization whose mission is to educate in the re-creation and appreciation of American Period Furniture. We have about 1,200 members across the US and Canada, with 22 regional chapters. I am the current national President, with Mike Holden (another Guild member) being the Vice President/President Elect. Several Guild members are also members of SAPFM, including Dan Reahard, Ed Stuckey, Rich Herman, Noel Hoegemeyer, Bill Vetter, Steve Lash, and likely others. Ed was the founding leader of the local Great Lakes chapter, which has about 25 – 30 regular participants usually meeting in Livonia. There is a short introductory video about SAPFM at www.youtube.com/watch?v=2wE4M6vAsbE.

Period furniture is the furniture which was in use during a particular time in history. In the case of SAPFM we are interested in understanding and building furniture which was made in America primarily during the colonial and post-revolutionary era. We say “American” furniture, but it is important to remember that over much of this period “America” was a colony of England with many immigrants and imported goods from England and other nations. Thus a piece of original American period furniture might well have been built by a craftsman trained in England using designs which originated in England or other European areas. We do like to focus on furniture forms known to have been made in America by craftsmen living in America.

For period furniture makers, SAPFM provides an opportunity to meet like-minded people. SAPFM supports the effort to share information with others and expand their appreciation and abilities in making period furniture. It is an opportunity to learn how furniture was made, how skills were acquired, how materials were used, and what processes and procedures were used to construct furniture pieces. SAPFM has several means of educating members in the building and appreciation of period furniture:

- Chapter Meetings
- Website
- On-line Forum
- *Pins and Tales* Quarterly e-Magazine
- Annual *American Period Furniture* Journal
- Midyear “National” Meetings
- Annual Colonial Williamsburg Events
- Awarding of Education and Research Grants

These forms of education are open to all members, and the Forum and parts of the website are available to non-members.

The regional Chapter Meetings are 1-2 day gatherings of 10-30 members and guests to talk about latest projects, provide demonstrations by members with discussion of sources and methods (some hands-on), and host professional guest instruction. There are sometimes visits to local historic sites. There is always plenty of food, tons of fun, and great fellowship.

The SAPFM Website (www.sapfm.org) is full of useful information for period furniture builders, with many features available even to non-members. The member-only area of the website contains furniture plans, articles, woodworking class schedules, antiques databases, tool manuals, furniture books, and links to hundreds of furniture-related videos. There is a link on the website, available even to non-members, to our *Forum*, an Internet message board where people can hold conversations of posted messages and responses of interest to period furniture makers (www.sapfm.org/forum/index.php). The forum supports topics such as SAPFM events, furniture forms, tools and techniques, media such as books, journals, and videos, as well as the business of furniture making and SAPFM chapter news and discussions.



The *Pins and Tales* e-Magazine is provided electronically to all members once each quarter. It is about 50 pages in length and contains notices of upcoming events across the nation of interest to furniture makers, as well as reports of chapter meetings and other SAPFM events. There are profiles of SAPFM members, book reviews, articles on hand tools, interesting furniture pieces, and links to videos of interest. Each quarter there are photos and notes on a particularly inspirational member project.

Members also receive an annual copy of *American Period Furniture*, a high quality journal of about 120 pages providing about 15 articles, some on period furniture history (a region, a key maker, a particular style or furniture form, etc.), but most on reviewing member projects with photos and discussion on key building methods, materials, and tools.

SAPFM also holds an annual Midyear meeting, a 3-4 day event held at a location supporting visits to nearby museums containing notable furniture collections, and/or to historic homes containing period furniture in original colonial settings. A main program provides parallel sessions of instruction from well-known furniture schools or instructors. And there are lectures given by nationally recognized curators and furniture conservators. The 2018 Midyear will be held in Old Sturbridge Village, MA in late July. In addition, SAPFM holds an annual meeting of members and a Cartouche award banquet, in association with the famous Colonial Williamsburg Working Wood in the 18th Century conference (www.colonialwilliamsburg.com/learn/conferences/working-wood).

For additional information on SAPFM please feel free to contact me at president@sapfm.org. I encourage you to join SAPFM (www.sapfm.org/join). You will have great fun attending the local Great Lakes chapter meetings and you will hone skills you did not even know you had. Membership is only \$60 per year – best deal in woodworking!

Ed Stuckey and Rich Herman followed the SAPFM presentation by demonstrating both vacuum and “hammer” veneering, along with the making of cabriole legs. Both of these skills are often needed in the making of period furniture.

Rich started the presentation with an overview of vacuum veneering equipment. In vacuum pressing the substrate and glued veneer is placed in a sealed vinyl or polyurethane bag and the air is removed with a vacuum pump. The weight of the atmosphere, only partially countered by air pressure within the bag, applies large pressure on the surface of the bag. At sea level one has the maximum pressure of the atmosphere at about 14.7 lbs. per sq. inch (psi), but this would require pulling a perfect vacuum (29.92 HG, inches of mercury) to achieve. The commercially available typical woodworkers pump might pull 25 – 27 inches. At 26 inches this would equate to 12.77 psi, which for a substrate measuring 1 square foot would result in a “clamping” force of 12.77 lbs./in² X 144 in² = 1,838 lbs.! This is like setting a Volkswagen beetle on your clamping caul!

Rich indicated that the cost of a pump depends on what vacuum it is capable of pulling (25 – 27 HG should be adequate), and also how many cubic feet per minute (cfm) of air extraction it provides, with 5 -10 cfm required when using large bags. The pump should also have an automatic switch to maintain the vacuum over time. The cost of bags depends on the size (small projects versus large projects) and material. Vinyl bags are cheapest, but are easier to puncture, while polyurethane bags stretch more, which is good for shaping to curved parts. He said that one can get a decent system with bag and pump for about \$1,000.

As an example of a vacuum press project he completed, Rich showed the beautiful sunburst top of a federal demi-lune table. He also mentioned a class at Marc Adams he attended with his grandsons, where they made laminated skateboard decks using hand-pumped vacuum bags. There are skateboard kits available which include all the materials required.

Ed then spoke of the materials, methods and tools used for veneering. For vacuum veneering the glue Ed suggests is Elmer’s carpenter glue, with moderate open time, or white Elmer’s glue with longer open time. Liquid hide glue (such as Old Brown Glue) can also be used, and has the advantage of being reversible with heat and moisture. Hot hide glue is not suitable for vacuum veneering due to its short open time, but is the glue of choice for hammer



veneering, described below. He also uses Unibond glue, which has the long open time, upwards of 20-30 minutes. There are one-part and two-part Unibond glues, each with their own advantages.

Ed displayed several species of beautiful veneer material. Some come well flattened from the source. Others, especially burls and “crotch” veneer, will need to be flattened prior to use. Ed reviewed the process for doing this, using a particular “stack” order of a caul, white newsprint, fiberglass window screen, repeated for several layers, then topped by a second caul before clamping. The paper layers are changed out every eight hours during the first 24 hours of pressing, and then removed altogether for the final drying over an additional day or two. Be sure to leave the fiberglass screening between the layers when the paper is removed! Ed provided a formula for a flattening “wash” consisting of 4 parts water, 2 parts white glue, 1 part glycerin, and 1 part denatured alcohol. Once flattened the veneer sheets can be stored in a dry location between sheets of MDF and should remain flat until used.

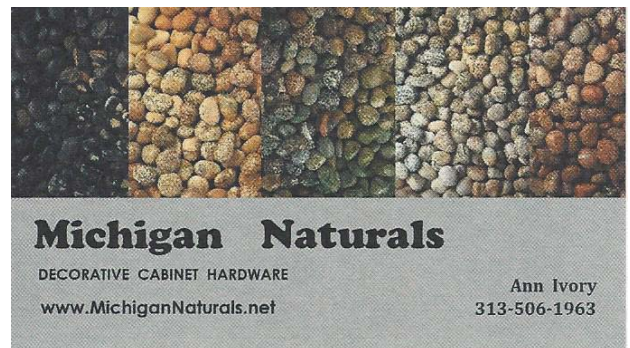
He uses either a veneer saw, or a utility knife to cut the pieces of veneer to shape on a flat board or a self-healing cutting board. He then uses sandpaper glued to a flat sanding block and run along the square edge of a tabletop to ensure the cut edges are straight. When joining multiple pieces of veneer to form a decorative pattern, he first tapes them together using painter’s blue tape on the glue side, and then tapes the seams on the show side with veneer tape. Once the veneer tape is dry he carefully removes the blue tape. Ed showed how one can select the positioning of the triangular pieces to make up a sunburst pattern by testing with an angled pair of hinged (tape) mirrors, which allows one to preview the appearance of the final piece.

As substrate material, he uses either solid wood, MDF, or good quality birch plywood. He warns to be sure to spread the glue on the substrate rather than the veneer. The veneer will curl uncontrollably if the glue is first applied to its surfaces. To make a veneer “stack” for putting into the vacuum bag, Ed makes a sandwich of caul, substrate, veneer, visqueen, and caul. He then adds the same layers on the other side of the substrate in order to veneer both sides, minimizing the possibility of cupping. He typically

keeps the veneered stack in the vacuum bag overnight.

Next Ed covered hammer veneering, the method used in the days of the original “period” furniture. This technique uses hot hide glue (approx. 150 deg F) and a veneering “hammer” (really like a stiff squeegee on a handle) to press glued veneer (glue on both sides) onto the substrate surface. As the glue cools and hardens under the constant sweeps of the hammer, it not only gets increasingly tacky but also draws moisture from the adjacent substrate and veneer, forming a vacuum of sorts.

To finish off the day, Rich and Ed gave a quick overview of making cabriole legs. They showed the steps taken to bandsaw a blank into the basic leg shape, noted the turning of the bottom pad (for Queen Anne feet), and final shaping and carving of decorative elements. They spoke of the several types of feet typical of cabriole legs, including, pad, slipper, trifid, ball and claw, and hairy paws. Space does not permit a reporting of the details, but there are many articles available online and in Popular Woodworking and Fine Woodworking magazines. A very good one is the article by Lonnie Bird, Shaping Cabriole Legs, in the #144 Sept/Oct 2000 issue of Fine Woodworking.





OPEN FORUM

By Bob Mills



Website News

As you may know, I am a strong believer in the value of a website for our organization. It provides us with a real presence in our current digital world and communicates to those outside of the Guild, who we are, what we are about, and the benefits of membership in the Guild. However, members' use of the website is low, and I have had very few volunteers offering to help maintain the site, which leads me to this request for your advice about the website. Frankly, if you, the Guild membership, do not step up to this challenge, it probably does not make sense for me or the Guild in general, to continue putting effort into the website. In particular, I want you to tell me, in as much detail as possible, what new features added to the site would give you sufficient reason to be a regular user of the site. For example, would you like to see clickable links (urls) to woodworking videos on You Tube, lists of woodworking websites for specific categories of work (e.g. Fine Woodworking {example given below} [<http://www.finewoodworking.com/2011/07/01/build-a-super-precise-tablesaw-crosscut-sled>], Popular Woodworking etc.), or have some sort of a local woodworking forum to get your specific woodworking questions answered by other Guild members? Or is it the case that you will never use a website, regardless of its content. Be forthright about your feelings and issues with the website, and provide suggestions as to the kinds of things you would like to have available on (or removed from) the site. To send an email to me with your comments, go to (click on) the url, <http://www.MichiganWoodworkersGuild.com/> At the top level menu select the item Contact, then select the button "Website Inquiries", and fill out the form in the window which displays on your screen. (If you would rather send your email through your own personal email account, feel free to do so.) Thanks for reading this and for taking the time to respond to the request. Your feedback is vital to the creation

and maintenance of an effective and useful Guild Website.

One final question I would like to ask. Would you participate in a series of "How To" sessions on using a computer to access /send email, to search and view woodworking videos on You Tube, and to access and navigate the Guild website? Please include your answer to this question in your email to me. If there is enough interest, we can establish a format (possibly immediately preceding our regular meetings), and dates and times for the sessions later this spring. Thanks again for your time and responses.

Bob Mills, Guild Webmaster Bobson54@iCloud.com
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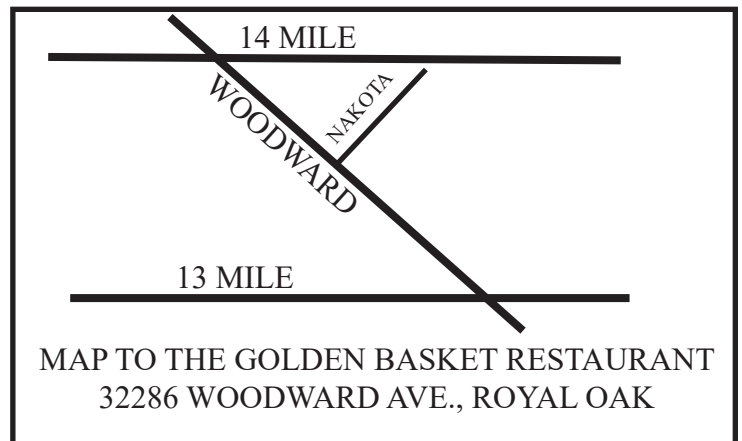
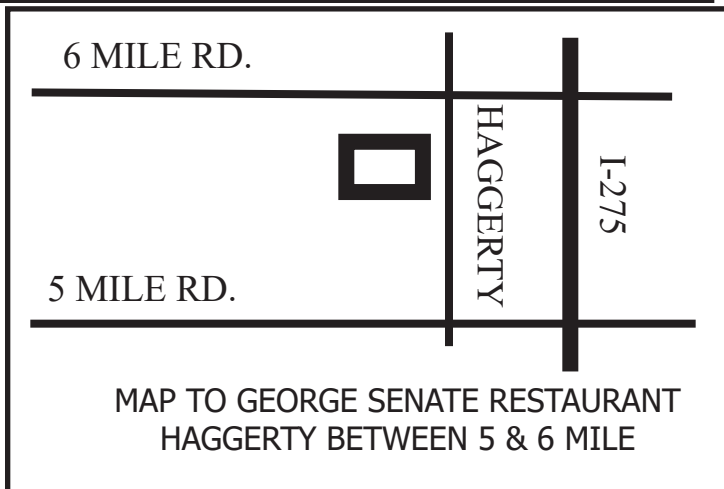
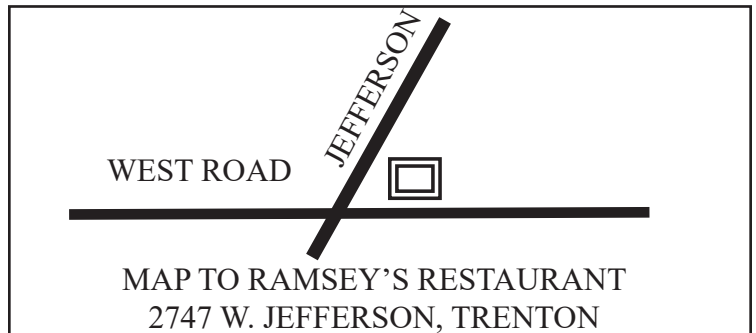
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For membership information contact Ed

Thomas at: edwardthomas554@comcast.net.

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





Michigan Woodworkers' Guild
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The Picture Gallery



ED STUCKEY DEMONSTRATING "HAMMER" AND VACUUM VENEERING
