

# **MICHIGAN** WOODWORKER



michiganwoodworkersguild.com

Michigan Woodworkers' Guild (est. 1981)

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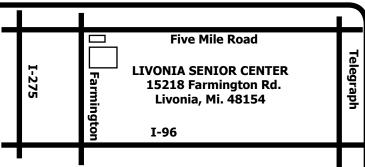
When / Where:

SUNDAY, MAY <u>1</u>7

At the Livonia Senior Cepterfrom Raffle and other acti

- COORDINATED BY RON ROSS

The Guild luncheon Island on My Aug 1.16 pm (see map on page 11)



#### MAP TO LIVONIA SENIOR CENTER

MWG THEATER FEATURE Projects" Part 2 Mark Adams je's Senate Coney involves you in the sterving of making three furniture pie



Because our April 2020 membership meeting was cancelled thus leaving us without Dale's fantastic meeting recap, our newsletter this month will feature workshop descriptions originally presented by fellow guild members at the February meeting. Don't worry; this is not a repeated article because we never presented it in the first place!

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

A field trip to **MICHIGAN HARDWOODS** in Clinton is scheduled for SATURDAY, **JUNE 13.** Details later.

The monthly luncheon will be at George's Cony Island

### **NO MEETING** OR LUNCHEON IS SCHEDULED **FOR JULY**

Due to the summer shutdown, there isnoJulymembermeeting. All are encouraged to enjoy the month with family and friends on the  $June~25^{th}$  at 1:16 pm as well as making more sawdust.

#### Annual MWG Picnic

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

Swap meet starts at 12:59

(Great chance to trade /buy woodworking STUFF)

This month's luncheon will be at George's Cony Island on August 27th at 1:16 pm

Local Artisan Jim Eischeid will demonstrate his Wooden Art at our **Sept. 13** meeting at the ROYAL OAK SENIOR CENTER.

The monthly luncheon will be at George's Cony Island on the August 27th at 1:16 pm





# President's Corner



By Jerry Romito

This article again finds us in a difficult and disruptive time with the Corona virus health crisis. I'm sure I don't need to remind all of you to follow the many safety and shelter in-place guidelines that we've been given. Please do so and stay safe. At the time of this writing we know that the state will be locked down until mid-May; we also expect the Livonia Senior Center will be closed until that time. I have made the decision to cancel the May meeting and luncheon. I feel there would still be too many safety unknowns to ask our "at risk senior" membership population to gather together to share our usual camaraderie. A decision on the June 13 field trip to Michigan Hardwoods will be made later as we see how the crisis evolves. Of course there is no meeting scheduled for July, and we will wait to see about our August picnic. So sorry about all this uncertainty.

A major feature in this month's newsletter is Dale Ausherman's fantastic review of our February 9, 2020 meeting highlighting member workshops. Since we were not able to publish the April newsletter, where that review would normally have appeared, it appears in this month's newsletter. As I read his write-up, it seems to me that Dale packs more into his review of each member's presentation than I actually heard in person. He is amazing and the presentations were all thoroughly enjoyable. Talk about dream shops.

So what do we woodworkers do now when we are sheltering in place and can't travel about? Well some of us, like myself, are spending some time doing the spring cleanup yard work (although one can't call this weather spring!). And many are doing long-put-off basement and garage cleanups as well as trash disposal. But those things usually can't be described as having fun. So the main thing we are hopefully doing is building projects in our shops as well as learning new woodworking techniques and

skills. And yes sir, I am spending a lot of enjoyable time doing that.

Member Rich Herbert has a nice project idea, which you can read in his article appearing in this newsletter entitled "Make Something!"

Since we had to cancel our formal April Showcase of Skills meeting and since many of us are working on new projects, let's use the next newsletter for a "virtual" showcase of skills. Please see "Calling All Woodworkers" item later in this newsletter. Get ready to show off your stuff!

I would like to share something else that I have been doing besides working in the shop during this shelter-in-place time. I have been exploring the unbelievable depth of free woodworking videos that are available on the internet, specifically on You-Tube (assuming you use a computer). Probably many of you are already familiar with YouTube, and know how it functions. If you are not, first search in your internet search engine for "YouTube", then select YouTube.com. In the YouTube search bar that appears type any woodworking topic of interest to you and hit enter. For example, if you type "resaw" in the YouTube search bar, instantly there will appear dozens of videos on resawing from a host of experts. Once you get the hang of this and discover how much information is available, you may find that you can spend more time watching videos than working in the shop! There is no limit to what is out there. One minor caution is that since anyone can make a video and post it on YouTube, not all videos are made by experts. You can sometimes see right away that you know more than the presenter.

One of the keys to selecting your videos is to find the true experts and follow them by "subscribing" to their videos. Most of the experts post dozens or hundreds of different videos and combine them all together on their "subscription" page. You can subscribe to their page by simply selecting any one of their videos and pressing the red "subscribe" button which appears with that video. By doing that you automatically will see all of their videos anytime you select that presenter.



To help get you started with finding experts, here is a list of a few that I have subscribed to. I won't give you a bio of each, so just trust me that you will find them all a wealth of knowledge:

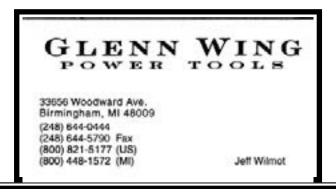
Epic Woodworking, WWGOA (Wood Workers Guild of America), The Wood Whisperer, Fine-Woodworking, WOOD Magazine, Highland Woodworking, LeeValley Tools, and PeachtreeWoodworks.

You will also find that once you start selecting a few sites, (by the miracle of invasion of your privacy,) you will be shown dozens of other woodworking sites every time you go back onto YouTube. Like I said, you will need to budget your time or else sit there forever.

If you are already into YouTube and have your own favorite presenters, please feel free to pass them on to me via email at <a href="mailto:gjromito@aol.com">gjromito@aol.com</a> I will start a collection to pass on to the membership.

One last topic, you might not be aware that the Board of Directors plans out the meetings for each year in the summer of the preceding year. That means that this summer we will be working on the 2021 calendar. With that in mind, I would again like to encourage all members to submit ideas for topics and/or presenters that they might like to see at next year's meetings. You may have an interesting talent yourself that you would like to showcase. Please feel free to email any suggestions to me at <a href="mailtogicoorgo:giromito@aol.com">giromito@aol.com</a>

So again, please Stay Safe, spend time in the shop, and hopefully we'll be back together sometime in the summer.





## MEETING REVIEW



By Dale Ausherman

MWG Meeting Review Member Workshops Livonia - 9 February 2020

In the dozen years or so that I have been a member of the Guild, our February meeting was the first I recall to review the workshops of members. This was an excellent topic as all of us face similar workshop layout and design challenges to those encountered by the presenting members in their own shop development. As coordinated by President Jerry Romito we had ten members present slides and discuss their shops: Dan Holowicki, Dan Patterson, Keith Whitehouse, Bill Rigstad, Will Wilson, Bill Vetter, Ragnar Bergethon, Bill Kapelanski, Vince Skolnik, and Jerry Romito. Larry Balash had prepared slides, but was apparently unable to attend, possibly due to the threatening snowy weather. I apologize in advance for the length of this report, but with so many speakers we have much material to cover.

If there was a primary design issue facing all presenters it was space limitations, having to fit a fully functioning shop into available space in a basement or garage. Even in cases of having the luxury of a completely fresh start in a new home or detached building, space usually becomes a problem. It seems a corollary to "one can never have too many clamps" is "one can never have too much shop space." This is especially true if one includes the need for wood storage. (Many of us can swear that leaving boards and scraps alone overnight results in some apparent illicit multiplication of pieces!) I face this space challenge severely in my own shop, and was pleased to see many space saving ideas in these presentations. I also felt a tinge of jealousy at the space and natural lighting available to some of these talented woodworkers.

Another frequent design factor impacting these shops was the existence of an understanding spouse who generously agreed to woodshop use of the employed space, and in some instances agreed to store their car uncovered as



long as the woodworker agreed to clear the car of wintery frost, snow and ice. Happy Wife, Good Life.

First to present was **Dan Holowicki**, whose shop was deployed in a standalone 24'
X 32' two car garage with extended space in the rear behind two stored vehicles.
Dan's presentation had layout diagrams showing the deployment of his key machines, workbench and



storage cabinets. Dan had the normal compliment of ex-



cellent machines, some of which were vintage models in pristine condition, e.g. the wonderful Craftsman "King-Seeley" 1950's table saw. They just don't make them as beautiful

as this anymore. (Local historical note: Central Specialty Co. of Ypsilanti started to produce machinery and accessories for Sears in the 1932/1933 timeframe. King-Seeley acquired Central Specialty in 1944. Machinery and accessories with Sears's source code "103" were from Central

Specialty. These items carried the Craftsman and other labels. Some of these buildings in Ypsilanti still exist! www.vintagemachinery.org)
Dan built his work-



bench (designed with height to also serve as an out-feed table), including well-organized drawers underneath. He further built a small bench-on-bench from modified plans found in Fine Woodworking magazine (#176–Mar/April



2005 Issue). And he built many finely-crafted storage cabinets, most mounted on walls to save floor space, along with customdesigned machine mounts and bases. Most were built with hand chopped dovetails along with mortise and tenon (M&T) joints. Dan had a floor-based dust collector with piping to various machines. Noteworthy for Dan's shop was the admirable cleanliness and lack of clutter. I wish my dentist's office was as clean and well organized! Dan completed his presentation with photos of many fine completed projects.



Daniel Patterson's shop is also implemented in a freestanding garage, but one with a second story providing additional space. It helps that Daniel's garage is sans vehicles. He built his own benches (with storage drawers), along with several storage shelves, work surfaces, and machine tables as well as mobile bases, many with hand-chopped

M&T joints. He also constructed wall-mounted lumber storage racks. All surface tops were built at the same

height to allow supporting of large stock from cabinet to machine while cutting into work pieces. He primarily used lumber from a neighbor's sawmill. The second story had a large front window, providing excellent natural light for placing of the full-size wood lathe. There was a rear-facing sliding



double door, useful for getting lumber and materials in





and out. Like many of us, Daniel used strategic placement of several shop-vacs for dust collection. As example projects, he showed many small wooden locomotives with freight cars and cabooses.

Continuing the trend for garage workshops was **Keith White-house**, who deployed in a 2 ½ car detached garage, again sans vehicles. He reminded us that if one wants a garage workshop then he must marry well, i.e. have a spouse who is willing to live with cars stored outside during the Michigan winter months. Keith had the usual



compliment of shop machinery, i.e. table saw, band saw,

# Keith W Garage Workshop 2 % Car Detached Garage

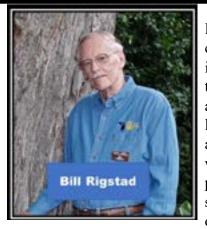
chop saw, drill press, jointer, planer, and lathe. He had retained an old radial arm saw, which he uses for cross cuts, as well as tilting the head to provide for horizontal drilling, wire brushing, or drum sanding. Having never had a radial-arm saw, I was unaware of

this tilt capability. For the radial-arm saw, Keith showed "clever" use of an old upright vacuum for dust collection, deployed on its side, with a newly-installed dust bag. This is certainly an environmentally friendly means of recycle to keep this machine out of a landfill! He also implemented a sharpening station which included a

two-wheel grinder and an upside down belt sander, an approach which Marc Adams demonstrated to us during a workshop several years ago. Keith had the clever idea to build some machine-base lower shelves with wire mesh



bottoms so that no dust was collected. As a space-saving feature, he installed his router table in the extension table of the table saw. As an example of a great use of the shop, Keith showed working jointly with a youth from his church who had expressed a desire to learn woodworking. They jointly built a desk and shelving unit for the young man's room. With the demise of school woodworking programs nothing is more important than engaging youth in woodworking.



Bill Rigstad had the recent challenge of downsizing into a smaller home and thus having to considerably downsize a much larger shop he had operated for many years. Both were basement shops. To plan a new shop layout he suggests using 1 in. gridded easel pad paper (Of-

fice Max/Depot) with the shop space drawn to scale, and then populated with scaled cutouts representing machinery, benches, and other plan view silhouettes. Someone recommended adding silhouettes of desired aisle space as well. He recommended leaving space for large project assembly and finishing as part of the trial layouts. He suggested planning on 50 amp (110-220) electrical service,

to include dust collection gear, and to add equipment as well as wood storage space. Equipment placement should support working with 8 ft. long stock. Bill's new smaller layout

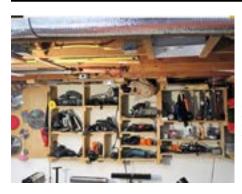


is tightly filled, but very effective due to good layout. A key element is to place machines at diagonal angles to each other (rather than aligned orthogonally side by side), which generally enables use of aisle space to enable the work on longer boards. He uses one stationary and one portable dust collector, along with a couple of strategically placed shop vacs. A good suggestion was to replace the plastic collection bags on some dust collectors with cloth



(breathable)
bags, which will
enhance vacuum flow. Another suggestion is
to put discarded
pillow cases on
the outlet port
of the shop vacs
to further filter





and soften the output airflow. To enable lots of small portable lighting fixtures, he clamps multiple inexpensive "computer" power strips around the shop (not used for machines). Most of his shelving is

hung by attaching the tops of their sides to ceiling joists, thereby saving floor space. He has a table dedicated to oscillating-spindle, small-belt and disc sanding machines. Another key element to Bill's shop is a sanding downdraft table, for which many commercial and home-built designs are available online (google "sanding downdraft table"). As a final thought, on a Guild "mentoring" tour of Bill's previous shop he mentioned the importance of having a Gerstner-type chest for very small tools and supplies. Such a chest has been invaluable in my shop.



Another excellent presentation was given by Will Wilson, who reviewed his original shop, the in progress status of a new shop resulting from a family move, and finishing with thoughts of future developments. Will's first shop was an unheated garage with open stud walls and no insulation.

In cold weather when he could no longer feel his fingers he knew it was time to return to the house for a warm up. But following a family move, his new space is to be one stall of a three car garage with drywall and insula-

tion. The new space also includes a large window for natural lighting over his bench. So far he has had to temporarily place all his shop stuff somewhat haphazardly into the new garage, while working to evolve, one step at





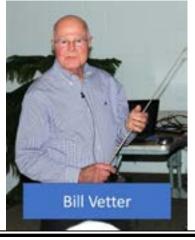
a time, his "aspirational" shop layout. He has a new workbench under construction, using a design from ShopNotes magazine. (ShopNotes magazine is no longer being sold as a distinct publication but has

instead been integrated into Woodsmith magazine. All of the past issues of ShopNotes can be found on www.shopnoteslibrary.com.) He has replaced his former 1971 Sears contractors saw and its shaky fence alignment (I used one

for 30 years so I know of what he speaks), with a SawStop contractor's model which he finds meets all of his needs. He has a good Delta jointer and the very versatile DeWalt portable



planer. Will has built mobile cabinets for the router table, drill press stand, and electric hand tool cases. He recommends foam floor mats for comfort and dropped tool projection, especially with a concrete floor. He currently uses a shop vac with a cyclone add-on for dust collection, but has future plans for a wall-mounted unit with vacuum plumbed around the shop. As to aspirations, he is working on a layout using the scale method suggested by Bill Rigstad, and is considering some bench/cabinet and chop saw layout designs from the Wood Whisperer (www.thewoodwhisperer.com), along with finishing the ShopNotes workbench. He is also contemplating a wall hanging tool cabinet and a lathe stand, both from Fine Woodworking Magazine designs.



Bill Vetter next took us on an amazing trip following the evolution of his shops, from his first 1965 shop in the cellar of the family farmhouse in Monroe, to a 1967-1993 shop in his home in Lathrop Village, culminating with his move to his cur-

rent home and a major shop addition in 1996. He shows the changes from then up to his current "dream shop" in 2020. This path of development explains in part the wonderful project results which Bill has shared with the Guild over the years. The photo of his 1965 farm cellar shop (in which he is shown building a substantive information center) has an early Delta radial arm saw which belonged to Bill's father, as well as a corded electric drill with a sanding disk. We could do amazing work with simple tools back then! As Bill moved to larger quarters over the years his shops were all at ground level and had windows for natural lighting. Of course the tools evolved into the standard types we have today. In 2006 he built a substantive workbench with front and tail vises, and various dog holes. By then he had a band saw, a plainer, table saw, chop saw, drill press, jointer, scroll saw, router table, dust collector, and many hand tools. In 2012 he installed a new hard maple floor, making a very attractive shop. Over the years Bill has made substantive furniture and fixtures for his church, often using a Leigh framing jig for the M&T joinery. He has made many beautiful furniture pieces for his home, and myriads of gifts for friends and relatives.



A 14' x 23' basement workshop was presented by **Ragnar Bergethon**. The shop has a separate 12 circuit electrical service box, dust collection via a Delta 4" system, a Jet ceiling air cleaner, and a Rigid 16 gal wet dry vac with a HEPA filter. Lighting consists of 15 100w equivalent spotlights, and a 4' LED bar light. Major equipment includes a Sawstop cabinet saw, a 12" by 44" capacity Rikon lathe, as well as a Jet 6" lathe, and a Rikon 14" bandsaw. All equipment is on mobile bases. Ragnar made a workbench of his own design, with 60" X 22" top, and side and end vises, with an outfeed table fitting over an adjacent worktable. Ragnar gave the driving rationale

for implementing this small workspace, driven largely by other household factors, which all of us face. He also then gave two slides outlining shop recommendations for aspiring woodworkers who may start with a blank sheet, based on his own multiyear experiences. This useful information was exclusively shared in the slides presented in the meeting.



Bill Kapelanski also had the luxury of putting his shop in a standalone garage, with loft space above for storage, all within a few steps of his house. It is a sizable shop with plenty of room for the usual complement of woodworking machinery (table saw, drill press, scroll saw, etc.), but with room for extras as well. He had both a 14"

and second larger bandsaw, as well as two major sanders, one a large oscillating belt sander and the second a Delta oscillating drum sander. He had a full size lathe on stand, and a radial arm saw. There is a large planer, along with

several workbenches and assembly tables. A unique tool was a router mounted on a custom slide for use on the DeWalt circular-saw guide, useful for rout-







ing long dados and grooves. He also has a Logman log tenon attachment for his plunge router to make rustic furniture. Bill has also ventured into CNC shaping/



carving with a small unit attached to a laptop computer. He indicated that the most time-consuming part of CNC

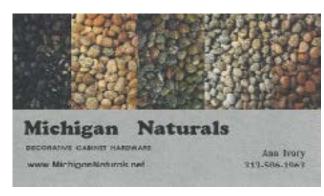


is dealing with the software. As evidence of his great use of the shop Bill showed many pieces of furniture and cabinetry made for his cottage up north, along with several sizable furniture projects made for his home.



Nearing the end of the meeting, Vince Skolnik impressed us with his large basement shop, fondly labeled "Dad's Fixit Shop" by his family. It would be redundant to list the usual major machinery Vince has in his shop, but I will point out a few unique items. Hanging from overhead he had two slatted rotating cylinders with many small canning jars attached

by their lids to the slats. One gains access to the jars by rotating the cylinder, and can see the contents (nails, screws, etc.) through the glass. To access contents one simply unscrews the jar from the attached lid. Vince has constructed large clamp racks mounted on the walls with French cleats. He has constructed a great workbench with cabinets and drawers underneath. He has made several table saw sleds and tapering jigs which hang out of the way on an adjacent wall. Vince has a wonderful corner





workspace countertop supported underneath with a myriad of wooden cabinet drawers from a former commercial business. A rotary grinder and similar polishing mo-

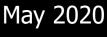
tor hang out of the way on the side of this cabinet. And he has made a versatile wooden rack to hang nearly a dozen hand planes of various sizes.

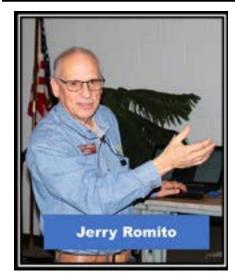


Vince designed and made his own rafter mounted air fil-



tration system. Vince showed photos of many key projects he has completed, including a porch swing, several baby cradles, a table with top made of souvenir hockey sticks, chests, and several fabulously decorated Cornhole bean bag toss games.





To wrap up the meeting President Jerry Romito had to hurriedly present slides of his wellexecuted basement shop, as we were running overtime and snow was beginning to fall. Jerry has the usual assortment of major woodshop machines, including a wonderful recent RIKON

14" bandsaw. He also had a notably large collection of clamps neatly hanging on several wall racks. While Jerry had some standing shelving, he made extensive use of wall peg board to hang electrical cords, electric hand tool

bags, saw blades, straight edges and squares, as well as shop vac attachments. He also had a significant number of finely made table saw sleds. Also notable was a large assembly table, with wood



storage underneath, amply demonstrating how shops seem to spontaneously grow Amazon shipping boxes full of little "will use someday" cutoffs. (If all woodworkers worldwide were to pool these collections of scraps the world will have solved the energy crisis.) Jerry also showed an ingenious platform hanging from the ceiling for storage of larger wood supplies. Jerry finished his



presentation by showing various furniture pieces, bandsaw boxes, and inlaid projects, all made in his wonderful shop.



We thank Jerry for his organization of these shop presentations, and all the presenters for their hard work in organizing and giving these inspirational productions.

- Dale Ausherman

# **Calling All Woodworkers**

# Calling All Woodworkers

# **Calling All Woodworkers**

During the current health Pandemic, we have all been requested by our Governor to quarantine ourselves and "Stay Home, Stay Safe".

This affords us time to get into the shop to enjoy making stuff.

Let us know what you have made!

Take some pictures, write a brief description of the project and send them to our transitional Newsletter Editor (d2mccagg@provide.net)

Your Sawdust projects will be included in our next newsletter.





# **Make Something!**

by Rich Herbert

Recently I went on the Marc Adams School of Woodworking's web site. As you can probably imagine, the school is shut down until this problem is under control. But Marc put out an encouraging word:

#### Make something!

He said; "we are woodworkers. We love to make things. So make something!"

I just finished my Demilune table that I have been working on for more time then I care to mention here. So I have been giving some thought as to what meaningful project I could start next. I keep thinking of our good buddy Ken Wolfe, and his constant plea to us woodworkers to help him and the other men in the toy project.

That's it! Yes, at this stage in my life, I feel I could probably make most anything I would want to. But one thing I have never made was a car for the Toy Project.

In these days when we see people trying to help one another in this crisis, I finding myself asking myself, what can I do?

This may be a great opportunity for all of us in the Michigan Woodworkers Guild, to look up on the web site to the guidelines for making a car, grab a piece of 2x4 and make a car for some unfortunate kid who would love what we can produce.

We will get together again in the future. Wouldn't it be great if about 20 or 30 of us showed up with a car or two for the project. Maybe we could even have a little competition for the best car.

In closing, I would like to challenge each person in the guild, to build at least one car for our next meeting; when ever that may be.

So let's do what Marc Adams says; "Make Something."





Editor's note:

Plans for the Toy Truck, Ford Coupe, and other toys can be found as follows:

Goto: www.Michiganwoodworkersguild.com

Select: Program/Projects S

Select: **Toy project** 







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For membership information contact lerry Romito

Dave McCagg at: d2mccagg@provide.net

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

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

#### **Executive Board Members**

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