

MICHIGAN WOODWORKER



michiganwoodworkersquild.com

Michigan Woodworkers' Guild (est. 1981) May 2022

Vol. 43 No. 5

When / Where:

SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2022

(Socializing Starts at 1:00 PM, Business meeting Starts at 2:00 PM)

In-Person Meeting:

Pipe Organ Restoration

Coordinated by: Jerry Romito



IN-PERSON MEETING AT: Livonia Senior Center

Our first In-Person meeting of the last two years will feature Door Prizes, Enhanced Hors d'oeuvres, and free tool tables. The Guild wants to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all at the May 22 live meeting. Please see this month's President's Column for the details of the Covid protocol that will be in place

MAY:

Pipe Organ Restoration is Dave Wigton's expertise. At our 2:00 PM May 22nd 2022 meeting he will showcase his skills with examples of his many successful refurbishments.

June:

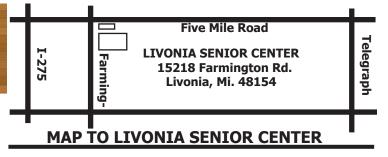
Our 2022 June Field Trip will feature a one of a kind visit to Selfridge Air Base coordinated by Larry Last. Join us June 12th at 1:00 PM on the East side of Detroit at Selfridge Air Base where you can ride in the F-16 Simulator.

Museum entry costs: \$10.00 per person.

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.



MWG THEATER FEATURE PRESENTATION:

"Mastering Your Table saw" Learn the In and Outs of safely using your table saw. Movie starts at 12:30 PM.

Pipe Organ Restoration by Dave Wigton

May 22nd

Come celebrate with us National Buy a Musical Instrument Day at our May 22nd meeting where Dave Wigton, a professional pipe organ restorer, will showcase the mechanics and physics of pipe organs. Dave will explain how he restores to condition perfect exquisite historical Pipe Organs all over the USA.







President's Corner By Jerry Romito



May, 2022

Good news this month! The Sunday May 22 meeting will an exciting welcome back live event at the Livonia Senior Center, our first live meeting in over two years. However, since Covid is still a concern to some, we will have Covid protocols in place to make members feel comfortable and to provide a safe, enjoyable, and rewarding experience. Masks will not be mandatory, but if a member wishes to wear one, we support and encourage that decision. Extra masks will be available, chairs will be spaced out, and hand sanitizer will be available near the food station.

Special activities are in store for the social hour from 1:00 pm -2:00 pm. **Bill** and **Sally Rigstad** will be providing an expanded finger-food menu, including pizza and cake. There will be tables loaded with free tools and shop items already donated by members. You can browse these tables, and I encourage you to bring in additional donations as well. This is a good chance to clear your shop of some of those extra usable tools, as well as to pick up a few treasures. Every member attending will receive a free raffle ticket for four very special door prizes. Also, you can sign up for the June 12 tour of the Selfridge Air National Guard museum.

At 2:00 pm member **Dave Wigton**, a professional pipe organ restorer, will make a presentation on the mechanics and physics of pipe organs, with emphasis to woodworkers. He will include photos and a working model for illustration. For 47 years he has been restoring pipe organs all over Michigan and in several other states. You can learn more about his work at https://www.wigtonpipeorgans.com/.

I told you last month that I would report on my results with the David Barron dovetail saw guide. Since I was only able to practice a bit with it, hopefully next month I can give a full report.

Jerry Romito MWG President

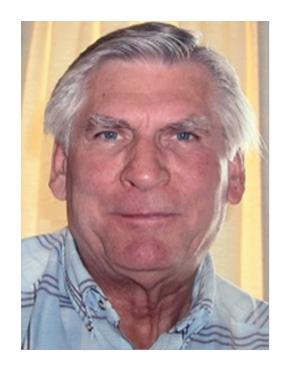
IN MEMORIUM

We are sad to report that MWG member **Steve Skowronski** passed away on February 23, 2022. He was 89 years old, and a guild member for 30 years.

Steve, a resident of Westland, was an engineer with Cadillac for 30 years before retiring in 1988. At GM, he designed innovative vehicle heating and cooling systems.

An avid flyer, Steve also enjoyed bicycle riding and sailing the Great Lakes.

You can read Steve's obituary at: https://www.griffinfuneralhome.com/obituary/steven-skowronski







MWG Meeting Review Vince Hellman & Mike Foydel Woodturning 10 April 2022

The Guild continued online virtual programs to educate and entertain members in the craft of woodworking. Our April Zoom was a virtual visit with two premier Woodturners, **Vince Hellman** and **Mike Foydel**. **Larry Last** had recruited Vince, who is a co-volunteer with Larry on the Ford Piquet plant window restoration team. Then Vince brought in Mike as an additional extraordinary source of woodturning expertise.

Both of these gentlemen have extraordinary woodworking experience. Vince was a Hoosier farm boy who grew up to spend a productive career in the automotive industry, eventually coming to Detroit in 1984.



He has been woodworking a very long time, having learned from his father. About twenty years ago he observed woodturning at a woodworking show, became intrigued, bought a lathe, and eventually joined

the *Detroit Area Woodturners* (DAW) club. Leveraging the DAW he attended demos and turned many pieces over the years. Through the DAW he became connected with the *Pontiac Creative Arts Center* and is now on their Board of Directors. He lives in Rochester Hills.



Mike has been woodworking for over 50 years, and turning for at least 20 years. He is a retired Detroit fireman, and also owned and operated a magic, toy, and puzzle store called *The Wonderground* for 25 years. A store of this name still exists in Clawson, MI. In addition, he had a Ferndale shop where he manufactured illusions for magicians, and later used the shop to teach woodworking to women. Nine years ago he moved to Rochester where he created his two-story shop which is still in use today. Working in wood has been a lifelong passion for Mike.

Both Vince and Mike are past presidents of the Detroit Area Woodturners club

http://detroitareawoodturners.com/index.html, and both are still very active in their woodshops. For this meeting their Zoom real time presence took place in Vince's woodshop with Larry Last overseeing the Zoom laptop. Vince started the Zoom with a slide-show showing many wonderful turned works made by him and other associates. He kicked off the commentary with some philosophical discussion of art, which can be personal or public, and is intended to catch your attention using form, color, and/or action

to make the observer think about something he would not have thought about without the stimulus of the art. While art can be serious, Vince says the bottom line is about having fun with things you make.

In his introduction Vince showed the very first bowl he ever turned, made from Osage Orange and Cherry. He then showed a progression of many bowls, vases, geometric shapes such as balls and eggs, and representational objects. I was impressed by the variety of figured woods and fine finishes, including stippling



and other interesting surface effects. Some decorations were applied by the use of a rose engine lathe, a specialized kind of geometric lathe, this one made by Vince. One has to view Vince's slides to appreciate the variety and quality of his work. (See the Zoom meeting recording url below.) Vince also had images of work by other talented members of DAW, including a wonderful tall segmented vase by **Gary Smith**, and an incredible burl-wood platter made by **Eric Blom**, another of the Guild's very talented artists. Vince included slides with links to the work of woodturning artists **Alfred Schembri** and **Jim Scarsella**, and a view of an incredible door in the *Creative Arts Center* encompassing a wonderful turned burl element by **Roger Meeker**.

Next, while the team was setting up a lathe in Vince's shop for a live demo by Mike, we had the pleasure of a video tour of Mike Foydel's own home shop. It was packed with tools, machines, and supplies from



many years of turning. The shop makes clear Mike's absolute passion for woodturning, with evidence of many, many wonderful projects. There was even a view of his own Lindow-White Rose Engine Lathe, as mentioned above. It turns out that the Guild's Holiday meeting of 2011 was a presentation by Mike on *Ornamental Turning*, covering the history of the craft and a review of this marvelous machine.

The live demo by Mike in Vince's shop consisted of him turning a simple bowl out of a green wood blank. The live demo can be viewed within the meeting Zoom recording. He compression mounted the bowl blank between the head stock and the live stock, and used a ½ in bowl gouge to shape the outside of the bowl. He advised holding the gouge at a 45 deg angle away from the lathe axis, then rotated up 45 deg from the horizontal plane, and then rotated 45 deg around its axis. He learned this geometry from an early instructor and says it has always served him well. He rounds out the blank, shapes the outside of the bowl, and then adds a tenon on the bottom for future mounting in the headstock. He says a common mistake on the part of beginners is to make the outside too flat, more like a cone than a ball. One wants a nice ball shape. Because the wood was green, and

You can find the Zoom meeting recording at the following link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/10i02ljWZIHhv9x--Ww-7raKsAq3Dr33A/view?usp=sharing





his gouge very sharp, Mike's shavings were very long and uniform. He reminded us to occasionally tighten the headstock on the damp tenon since the wet wood can shrink or compress as it dries out.

After remounting the bowl to the headstock he proceeded to use the same gouge to clear out the interior of the bowl and establish the thickness of the wall. He strives to have the inside surface follow the shape of the outside to create walls of consistent thickness. Later he showed a tall vase he had made whose final wall thickness was about 1/8 inch. demonstrating what a master turner can do. Mike showed the use of a shop made wooden gauge to measure the depth of both inside and outside of the bowl. And he said the tool rest should be just a little bit above bowl center during the clean out. He then used a tool known as a bowl scraper, which has a negative rake angle and a rounded edge, to clean up the inside shape. When the very damp bowl has the desired shape, it is covered with a wood sealer known as Anchorseal (sold at the DAW club and most major woodworking stores) and left on a shelf for at least six months to dry. The sealer makes the bowl dry out slowly and uniformly to prevent cracks from developing. (This also works on the ends of boards in your shop or yet to be milled logs to prevent end checks.) Mike says some folks dry the pieces in a microwave oven through multiple cycles, removing the piece between cycles to cool, speeding up the drying process considerably. Alternatively, some soak a piece overnight in denatured alcohol and then wrap it in a brown paper bag to dry for a few days. The alcohol forces the water out of the bowl, and then itself dries

much faster than water. Others, including Vince, pack the piece with the still wet shavings in a sealed paper bag and let it dry for several months. The wet chips also dry out and in so doing help the bowl dry more uniformly without cracking. Mike says these alternative methods work OK, but that the six month dry out is the most reliable. He has never had a bowl crack when using the *Anchorseal*.

Following Mike's live bowl turning he reviewed some of his very impressive pieces he turned in prior years, including tea pots with lids, applied handles, and applied spouts. The teapots all had fantastic finishes with special paints. He showed a wonderful long green dragon box initially turned as a long tapered tube, then cut in half and hollowed out. Next the tube is segmented by angled cuts, and then reassembled with the segments reversed and reattached, making the reassembled tube have a curved body like that of



a dragon. The dragon has a "spikey" finish with little sharp-tipped globs of hardened paint. It really looks like a dragon and one would never guess that it was made on a lathe!

He next showed a bowl turned from highly figured *Monkey Pod* wood, a species with incredible three-dimensional grain appearance. And he had a series of pieces with unique and interesting finishes such as "*interference*" paint (pearlescent or iridescent pigments), something called *Jo Sonja* acrylic paint, and metallic finishes. The resultant articles of the latter

appear to be made of metals, yet retain wonderthe ful shapes associated turned with objects. And then there were pieces







with intricate carved surface patterns in geometric areas. Mike's surface decorations are magnificent, pure art forms in and of themselves, adding artistry beyond the wood turning itself. Mike also described many unique finishing materials and methods. These objects cannot be adequately described in words so please view the meeting zoom recording at the link shown below.

Vince then followed Mike to exhibit other delightful objects from other talented DAW members. In particular were thick plaques by Roger Meeker with front surface populated with various eccentric turned groves finished in different colors. These turnings can be difficult due to the rotational imbalance of the offset piece, introducing vibrations on the lathe. Then Mike followed again with several wood tops spinning on special pedestals, designed such than the



top "hangs" on the pedestal when its energy is spent. Vince wrapped up the tour by showing a collection of easy-to-turn yet beautiful projects, meant to encourage novice turners to enter the craft. He mentioned that all the turners who produced the incredible objects shown on the Zoom began their experience with such simple yet enjoyable pieces.

The meeting then proceeded with a five minute video tour of the DAW 2019 show at the *Pontiac Creative Arts Center*. The variety and exuberance of all the turned art is breath taking. This video is part of the Zoom recording referenced in the url link above.

The meeting completed with a 30 minute continua-



tion of the Mike Foydel shop tour showing a demo of making Christmas ornaments, one with a round hollow ball with long thin finials on the top and bottom, and another in the shape of a snowman. The ball starts with a cylinder which is hollowed out and

then rounded. He uses a Forstner bit to begin the hollowing to speed the process. Mike said that he was using a round carbide gouge as the primary tool for hollowing. He made this tool himself years ago as an early adopter of carbide turning tools, even before Woodcraft or Rockler were stocking them. (He mentioned he has often used the www.WoodCentral.com website as a source of woodworking knowledge and innovation across all aspects of woodworking. Hosted by Ellis Walentine, this site has message boards, shop photos, articles, book reviews, video reviews, links, a marketplace, store, and chatroom, all leading to a myriad of links to woodworking information and resources.)

You can find the Zoom meeting recording at the following link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/10i02ljWZIHhv9x--Ww-7raKsAg3Dr33A/view?usp=sharing





Mike showed the various tricks he used to surface the ornament ball, and shows the turning of top and bottom finials through use of a detailing gouge. He also turned a little snowman's hat, before completing another piece for a three-ball snowman body. The speed by which he turns these parts is phenomenal and shows the years of experience on the part of Mike. To serve as the hat band he burned a little ring using the edge of a piece of Formica. He sometimes finishes parts on the lathe with liquid shoe polish applied by a Q-tip.

We thank Jerry and Larry for coordinating this inspiring and informative program. And we give Vince and Mike a note of appreciation for sharing their incredible shops, talents and accomplishments in the world of woodturning.

- Dale Ausherman





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The Toymakers Corner

Well, I'm trying something new for this month's article; we'll see how well (or not) it is received.

Every month we remind the Guild members that we need participation to meet our goal for the Children's Hospital Snowpile Program. So I thought this month I would mix it up a bit and hopefully provide some inspiration by talking about some recent toys I built that are variations of an old plan from our website.

For a number of years I have built strictly cars and trucks, some from plans on our website, some of my own design. This past season I decided to mix it up a bit and build some boats. Our website has a very simple plan for a sailboat which consists of a solid hull and a two piece mast. I decided to improve upon that design by adding a ½" thick block on the deck behind the mast to resemble a small cuddy cabin. I also made these samples out of hardwoods such as cherry, oak and walnut. I think the results were well worth the effort. Note the cap on the tip of the mast to prevent any sharp points that could lead to inadvertent injury.



Going in another direction, how about some speed-boats. Using the same basic hull design, this time out of pine with a laminated walnut layer, I added a different style block of scrap walnut to resemble a dashboard/console, a couple peg people into bored holes and a flagpole at the stern and we have a realistic looking speedboat. Kudos to my daughter for painting several sets of peg people. I do need to remind her I need some more painted for later this year.



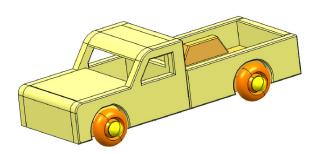
A final variation was my version of the classic cabin cruiser. Once again the same basic hull, made of a 2x4, with the addition of a ¾" thick block of pine and a ½" thick block of pine, painted bright colors comes up with a very nice cabin cruiser that children would envision cruising the Great Lakes on. It would be very easy to paint in some extra details to the cabin of these vessels if one wanted to.





This month I also wanted to point out that our own, **Dave McCagg**, has posted on the website plans for a F-150 pick-up truck (maybe because he works for Ford?). This pick-up truck design was inspired by the excellent trucks made last year by

Ragnor Bergathon, a talented woodworker in his own right. For those of you that have made the plunge into CAD and CNC router machines, this truck should be fairly easy to make. Of course those with a scroll saw can also do the same. Dave told me there was a mistake in the drawing, so I am challenging all you toymakers to look over these plans, find the mistake and gently remind Dave of it. All kidding aside, Dave does excellent work for the Guild, as far as converting a number of designs to CAD drawings, putting together the monthly newsletter and the website improvements. We are so lucky to have the skills of so many other members available to the Guild. Next month I will highlight some of the toys made last year by a few other toymakers.



And now a reminder that we are still in need of toys and boxes for the Children's Hospital Christmas Snowpile program. We have set a goal of delivering 400 toys to Children's Hospital for many more years than I have been a member. We also deliver plain boxes and somewhat fancier memory boxes. If you have made toys in the past and plan on doing so this year we thank you. If you have thought it might be an easy project to put together, yes it can. Please check out the toy program in our updated website for more inspiration. Just remember to keep your design simple, round over all edges, no metal parts and a smooth finish to aid in cleanliness and sanitation.

As has always been the policy, the Guild will provide 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. 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 ¾", 2", 2 ¼", 2 ½", 2 ¾" and 3" diameter standard style wheels
- 1", 1 ¼", 1 ½", 2 ¼", 2 ½" and 2 ¾" diameter grooved tire style wheels
- 2" and 2 3/4" diameter wagon style wheels
- 1 1/4", 1 1/2" and 2 1/4" diameter flanged style train wheels
- Wood shapes such as acorns, beads, balls, caps and discs
- Large and small shaker style pegs
- Three sizes of wood peg people
- Steam engine/steam train parts and smoke stacks
- Various small pieces of poplar, suitable for glue-up

Ilf you need these items, they can be obtained by contacting Ron or Dan. This is the one program MWG does annually to benefit those children who really, really need a reason to smile. Please make every effort to support this Guild program. 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.

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 - rross1508@gmail.com Dan - 313-702-5836 - dan56laura@att.net

You can find the F-150 drawing at the following link:

https://michiganwoodworkersquild.com/wp-content/uploads/designs/F-150 Pickup Assembly 3-26-22.pdf





Now available at **Michigan Woodworkers' Guild** website, https://michiganwoodworkersguild.com/ is a tab featuring Guild members favorite woodworking resources.

These sources which have been compiled over the past several months feature both local as well as nationally recognized companies that our members have used in the past or recommend. They range from a fantastic local company to buy new band saw blades (Saw and Specialty) to nationally recognized firms to purchase many different woodworking tools and accessories (Rockler). Included in this list are companies which provide Wood, Tools, Education, Supplies, Hardware, and Related Services. We've also identified some MWG Members who are happy to help other Guild people with CAD/Design/3D Printing, and Project Finishing support.

The site is now live and available to MWG Guild members only, thus providing additional advantages to being an active member.

Upon selecting the Resource tab pull-down from the Guild's main page, the first screen you encounter is

Woodworking Resources from Michigan Woodworkers' Guild Members

Submit New Resource						
Contact, website and other resource information can be accessed by clicking the View Resource button. Resources can be sorted using the ascending and descending arrows located at the right side of the respective column heading. indicates a Guild member has used this vendor indicates vendor offers discount to Guild members. Woodworking Resources						
			Search:			
Category \$	Resource	City, State	♦ Member ♦ • •			
Carving Supplies	Carving Magazine - Hooked on Wood	Not Found On Web Site	View Resource			
Carving Supplies	Custom Wood Carving And Sculpting By Free Zavadil	d Windsor, On	View Resource			

the general listing page.

Selecting the View Resource button, will provide you with detailed information about that source all in one location so that you need not scour the website to find out the company address, telephone number, or web address.

Woodworking Resources from Michigan Woodworkers' Guild

Resource

Alro Steel

2466 S. Industrial Hwy
Ann Arbor, 48104

Contributed by: Dave McCagg
Member Comments:

Dave McCagg: Good Source for metal and Plastic ruminants

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In some instances, the submitter has provided the name of the person in the company with whom they have positively interacted and recommend.

Airo Metals Outlet

When appropriate, we have shown the first page of the company's website below the listing which if curser selected with automatically take you to that website.

The Website committee has also provided a method for our members to add their favorite source should it not be listed. We welcome new and highly recommended resources with which you have developed a wonderful relationship.







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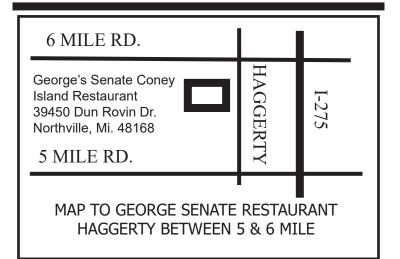
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Dave McCagg at: d2mccagg@provide.net For name tags, sign up with Ed Stuckey at a regular meeting.



Next MWG Luncheon: (Coordinated by Bill Rigstad) Thursday, 26 MAY 2022 at 10:16 AM

For membership information contact Executive Board Members / Committee Chairs Jarry Romito 248-475-5076 Dracidant

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