



Michigan Woodworker

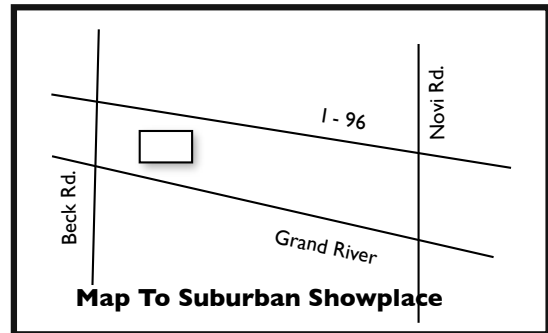
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Michigan Woodworkers Guild (Est. 1981) February 2015 Vol. 36 No. 2

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday
February 13, 14, and 15th
MWG Booth At The Woodworking Show
The Suburban Collection Showplace
Novi, Mi.

The February luncheon will be at Jimi's on Thursday the 26th at 1:15 PM.



Calendar Of Events

The March 2015 meeting will be our annual Showcase Of Skills. The meeting will be held at the TechShop on Saturday, March 7th.

The March 2015 luncheon will be at 1:15 PM at Jimi's in Royal Oak on the 26th.

The April 2015 meeting will include a presentation on Windsor Chairs by Jim Crammond. The meeting will be held at the TechShop on April 12th.

The April 2015 luncheon will be at 1:15 PM at Jimi's in Royal Oak on the 23rd.

The May 2015 meeting will feature a round robin of Guild members presenting topics where they have a noted skill and expertise. The meeting will be held at the TechShop on May 17th.

The May 2015 luncheon will be at 1:15 PM at Jimi's in Royal Oak on the 28th.

Activity for June is still being discussed. There is a consensus that no meeting will be held. However, a trip to a local place of woodworking interest is still possible,

The June 2015 luncheon will be at 1:15 PM at Jimi's in Royal Oak on the 25th.

President's Corner by John Sanchez

The Michigan Woodworkers Guild did get off to a great start this New Year with guest speaker Mike Belzowski. Since I have been making my individual art pieces using walnut veneer this presentation was right up my alley. To see how someone else accomplishes the same task but in a different way was very useful. Mike's techniques can be useful for all forms of woodworking. Thanks go out to Ken Wolf for getting our guest speaker.

Next month the Michigan Woodworkers will be returning to the Suburban Collection for the Woodworking Shows. This will be our first visit back to this location in about six years. The dates of the show will be February 13th thru February 15th. The hours of the show are Friday 12:00 noon till 6:00 PM. Saturday 10:00 AM till 6:00 PM and Sunday 10:00 AM till 3:00 PM. Hope to see everyone at the show.

A major concern of mine is the low attendance that we have been getting at our monthly meetings the last couple of years. Twice in the past I have asked for suggestions from guild members with very little response. I need to know if it is the location of the meetings. Could it be the topics. One of our board members thought it could be the time. Maybe we should start the meetings earlier. Unless I hear from guild members the board of directors cannot make the necessary changes. I can be reached by phone (313) 268-8598 or email sanchezart@aol.com. I wait to hear from you.

John Sanchez

The Editors Two Cents by Peter Goddard

Mike Belzowski's presentation at the January meeting was interesting and informative. I have been experimenting with the use of veneer and some parquetry over the last couple of years. I found it really impressive to watch, however briefly, and learn from someone who really knows what they are doing.

The Saturday after our January meeting, I attended a meeting held at the Pontiac Creative Arts Center hosted by the Detroit Area Woodturners organization. The Saturday meeting, which required

advanced registration and a \$20 fee was put on by "The Frugal Vacuum Chuck". This is a one man operation that is buying commercial quality vacuum pumps, rebuilding them and repurposing the pumps to form part of a kit that allows assembling a "frugal" vacuum chuck. This type of chuck provides a very useful way to finish turn the bottom of a bowl. The presentation was both informative and interesting. I bought one of the "Frugal Vacuum Chuck" kits. My intent is not just to use the vacuum for a lathe chuck, but also to use the vacuum pump and ancillary fittings as part of a vacuum press for veneer and parquetry work. I have assembled the vacuum part of the system and am currently working on the chuck for my lathe. The pump is impressive, pulling ~28" of Hg. That is more than enough to allow its use as part of a vacuum press. The pump is duty rated for continuous use. Since the kit only ran \$160 at the meeting, the overall cost was considerably less than the price on those vacuum pumps that I have investigated. I am still working on the whole set up, so I will let you know how it all turns out. For those with an interest, the website to check is www.frugalvacuumchuck.com. Even if you have no need for the chuck, the price and quality of the vacuum pump are very attractive. You might be able to save a little money if you are considering making a vacuum press for veneer work.

There will not be a normal meeting this month. Instead, Guild volunteers will run the MWG booth at the Woodworking Show. The Woodworking Show returned to the Detroit area last year after having been absent for several years. The Guild was unable to set up a booth at last year's show due to late notification of the event. John Sanchez tried to get the show's organizers to coordinate with us so that a booth could be put together at the last minute, but to no avail. This year, with plenty of advance warning, we will have a booth. I expect that the show will be an improvement over last year. Last year, the Woodworking Show got booked into the Suburban Collection Showplace on very short notice. A previously scheduled event cancelled and the Woodworking Shows was able to get a slot Saturday and Sunday, instead of the usual three days. I am hopeful that the event will once again be of the quality of past years. If you attend the show, make sure you stop by the MWB booth and say hello. In prior years, we recruited quite a few new members through the booth at the Woodworking Show.

We will have a regular meeting in March.

January Meeting Review by Dale Ausherman

MWG Meeting Review Veneering – Michael Belzowski 11 January 2015

The Guild has had several veneering presentations over the years of my membership, including a full day workshop with Marc Adams. So, I thought I understood all there is to know about veneering. Michael Belzowski proved me wrong with his very professional and enlightening instruction, which included many techniques and shop-made tools new to me. His website (www.belzowski.com) indicates that Mike is an award-winning professional woodworker from Indiana who has studied under master craftsmen such as Michael Fortune, Sam Maloof, Frank Klausz, Marc Adams, and Stephen Proctor. He received his Masters in Furniture Making from Marc Adams School of Woodworking in 2008 and currently teaches woodworking at various venues around the country, including L.L. Johnson's annual Wood Expo in Charlotte Michigan. His veneering demonstration was well planned and executed, going through all of the steps involved in veneering a panel with a 4-quadrant book matched center panel, ebonized borders, and cross-grain edge banding.

Mike first demonstrated the required flattening and conditioning of the veneer stock. He gave his recipe (1) for a flattening solution (shown in the handout sheets), brushing it on both sides, and then stacking multiple sandwiched pieces of veneer for flattening in a vacuum bag. He made a sandwich of a MDF caul, newsprint paper, fiberglass screen, wet veneer, screen, paper, MDF caul, etc. of up to 10-20 such sandwiches in a single stack between the cauls. The paper is changed out after the 1st 30 minutes, then after a 1 hour interval, then after a 2 hour interval, and repeating the last two hours until the veneer is dry. After flattening and drying the veneer should be

stored flat between pieces of MDF to prevent it from warping or wrinkling again.

Mike reviewed the components of a basic veneer tool kit, also documented on the handout. A key tool is the veneer saw, which must be sharpened after purchase to perform adequately. He demonstrated how to tune up and sharpen such a saw, and provided directions in his handout. All in all, he listed about 15 tools. These tools included types of painters tape and veneer tapes, and shop-made MDF straight edges. A key element is a small vacuum press (pump and bag), or alternatively lots of clamps and cauls. A favorite painter's tape he recommends is Ace® 1.88in Clean Release Masking Tape. This tape is thinner, with less aggressive adhesive, than normal blue painters tape, and so makes a good choice for veneer work. He also recommended use of veneer tape without perforations.

Two ways of joining smaller veneer sheets to make larger stock were demonstrated. The pieces to be joined were trimmed of undesirable sap wood, and aligned to match up grain pattern as best as possible. Mike reminded us in preparation of veneer stock to be sure to veneer both sides of any panel, and to be sure to keep veneer flitches numbered and in order. The first method of joining pieces involved butting the two pieces, applying veneer tape to the seam (always on the show side), folding open to apply white glue to the edges, then folding the joint flat, scraping off excess glue, and applying blue painters tape to the non-show side to act as a gluing clamp. The second method of joining two pieces was similar, except no white glue is used. The edges to be joined are butted, taped on one side with veneer tape, thoroughly dried with a clothes iron, then veneer tape reinforced with little strips of blue tape on the non-show side.

Mike then demonstrated the steps to make the 4-quadrant book matched center panel, with ebonized borders, and cross-grain edge banding. He stacked four "flitch" pieces of figured veneer and used a pair of mirrors joined at 90 degrees to find a pleasing placement of the center corner of a quadrant. The view into the mirror shows what the final quadrant

appearance will be. (Different mirror joint angles can be used to predict the appearance of 4, 6, 8, 10, etc. “pie slices” of a final panel.) Mike then stacked the four stock pieces of veneer, aligned in original order in the flitch, taped the edges, then made oversized cuts of the stack with the veneer saw and a sandpaper-backed MTD straightedge to result in the four quadrants of veneer. He then decided how to rotate or flip them to get the desired book match pattern, realigned the pieces into the final quadrants, and connected the edges using one of the joining methods previously discussed. Next, he used the MDF straightedge again to cut the final outline of the 4-quad panel, in this case rotating the panel shape at 45 degrees so that the veneer seams went diagonally across the panel.

Mike then added the black borders (about 3/16 in wide) cut from ebonized poplar veneer. He used an ingenious straightedge alignment mechanism, consisting simply of another piece of sandpaper-backed MDF but with two alignment screws into one edge. The screws are set to protrude an amount equal to the desired thickness of the border, and then this guide is butted up against the veneer edge from which the border will be sliced. The original MDF straightedge is then butted up against these screws, held in place while the “screwed” MDF is removed, and so is perfectly aligned to serve as the straightedge for cutting the narrow border with a veneer cutter. Mike showed a couple of versions of veneer cutters, one sold by Michael Fortune. After the narrow black borders were joined to the center panel with veneer tape (show side) and blue tape, this same procedure was used to add the wider cross-grained outside border of the panel. Then he added a second narrow black border around the cross-grained wide border, forming the final outside edge of the intended panel.

Mike then glued this multi-piece assembly to the selected panel substrate. For substrate material he recommends MDF or Baltic Birch plywood, staying clear of solid wood because of its tendency to warp over the years. Before gluing he completely covered

the show side of the assembly with wide veneer tape, and then lightly and carefully sanded the back to remove any glue residue. This is necessary because PVA glue will not adhere to dried PVA glue. He applied the glue only to the substrate, then placed the assembly and used a roller to partially adhere the veneer. He uses PVA UnibondOne or Unibond800, with Unibond800 have much longer open time (<https://www.vacupress.com/veneerglue.htm>). Mike used a vacuum bag to clamp the assembly, a method which provides tremendous clamping force. Normal clamps and full-surface cauls can be used, but many, many clamps are required to get full and even pressure. After placing in the bag and before applying vacuum, he rolls the surface again with a roller through the bag, to minimize risk of bubbles. Bubbles can be corrected after the panel is dry by slitting an edge of the bubble and using a hypodermic needle to insert CA glue. After the clamped assembly is dry, (overnight or a full day) the show surface veneer tape is removed by slightly dampening and scraping. The final surface is obtained by carefully scraping or sanding, being careful not to go through the thin veneer.

Mike’s presentation was very well received. His thorough preparation and excellent instruction style came through. His handouts provided a list of veneer reference books and resources, online technical reference sources, and a list of online veneer suppliers. With these materials in hand I am ready to try a veneered panel!

- DAA

(1) Editors Note: There seem to be nearly as many recipes for veneer relaxing/flattening sprays as there are authors. Mark Adams gives one that is bit less complex than Mike Belzowski’s. Yet another is given in “Veneering - A Foundation Course” by Mike Burton. This is one of the references given by Mike Belzowski at the meeting. It is probably worth some experimenting before deciding on a formula to make. There does seem to be three common components in all the recipes- glycerine, alcohol, and water.



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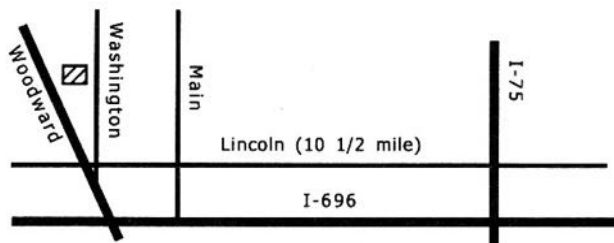
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For name tags, sign up with Ed Stuckey at a regular meeting



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Jeff Wilmot



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The Picture Gallery



Some Of The Parquetry Examples Brought To The Meeting By Mike Belzowski
