



MICHIGAN WOODWORKER

michiganwoodworkersguild.com



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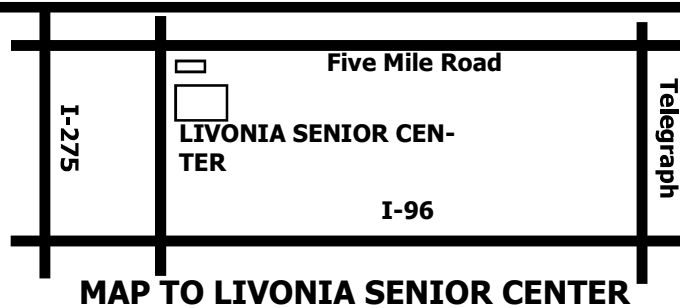
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

At the Livonia Senior Center from 10:00 am -- 4:30 pm.
Sign in from 9:30 -- 10:00 am

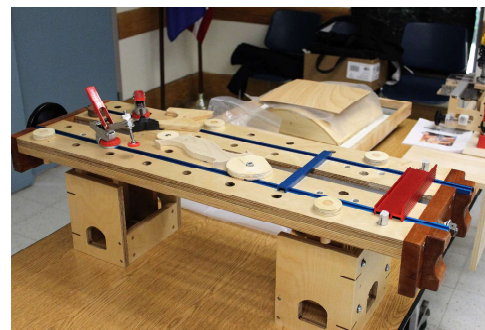
Tim Puro presents an all day workshop on **TAKING YOUR WOOD FINISHING TO THE NEXT LEVEL.**

See flyer on page 7.

The Guild luncheon will be at the Senate Coney Island on the 21st at 1:16 pm (see map on page 8)



There will be no MWG Theater but returns will be taken.



SOME OF THE REALLY COOL JIGS SHOWN AT THE OCTOBER MEETING

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NO MEETING OR LUNCHEON IS SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER

The **January 12** meeting will be at the **Livonia Senior Center**. **Ragnar Bergethon** will demonstrate various **JOINERY** methods.

The **January** luncheon will be at Georges Coney Island on the **23rd** at 1:16 pm

The **Wood Show** at the **Suburban Collection Showplace** will be on **February, 14 through the 16th**. No regular meeting is scheduled this month

The **February** luncheon will be at Georges Coney Island on the **27th** at 1:16 pm

Marc Adams returns with an all day workshop on **Routers** at the **Livonia Senior Center** on **Saturday, March 7**.

The **March** luncheon will be at Georges Coney Island on the **26th** at 1:16 pm



President's Corner

By Pete Goddard



Our October meeting was on Jigs and Fixtures as presented by various Guild members. These meetings are always interesting as they allow members to see how others have solved similar problems associated with making projects. It is not unusual to have several members with different jigs for solving the same woodworking problem. One solution is not generally better than another. Often the jigs reflect the differences in how individuals creatively solve problems. Solving such challenges is one of the joys of woodworking. Thanks to all the Guild members that presented at the October meeting.

The annual election was held at the October meeting. Holding the elections this early in the year was driven by the November meeting being a paid attendance workshop, and the December meeting being suspended. There are some new elected officers for 2020 as well as some returning. The election results include:

President:	Jerry Romito
Vice President:	Tom Rowley
Treasurer:	Ed Stuckey
Secretary:	Don Hess
Officers At Large:	Tony Gigliotti
	Rich Herbert
	Ragnar Bergethon
	Dave McCagg
	Ron Ross
	Pete Goddard
	Dave Hinkle

October was the last regular meeting for calendar year 2019. Our regular November meeting has been supplanted with an all day Saturday workshop on Finishing. We still have some room left at the workshop. If possible, please fill out the flyer for the workshop, a copy of which is in this newsletter, and mail a check made out to Michigan Woodworkers Guild in advance of the workshop. This helps us arrange the lunch for the workshop. Lunch is included in the \$20 price.

The presenter is Tim Puro, who is a professional finisher

and furniture repairer. He teaches at MASW and has been published in Fine Woodworking Magazine. I am the Guild member that recommended and pursued getting Tim to give the workshop. I have taken two of Tim's classes at MASW. He is a lively and entertaining presenter. He has convinced me that half of woodworking is in the finishing. He has also convinced me and many others that learning about the other half of woodworking pays great returns in the quality of finished projects.

As discussed in previous columns, there will be no December meeting. January 12 will be next regular meeting. That meeting will be on joinery and will feature Ragnar Bergethon as the presenter.

It is likely (60%+) that we will have the Woodworking show in February. It is highly likely (90%+) that we have finalized Marc Adams with a workshop on Routers for Saturday, March 7th. The March workshop should be special. Marc always puts on an enjoyable presentation.

This is my last President's column. I welcome Jerry Romito as next year's president and feel certain he will provide excellent leadership for the Guild. I thank everyone for their support during the years I have been president. Have a happy and safe holiday season.



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MEETING REVIEW

By Dale Aushman



MWG Meeting Review Jigs and Fixtures

I always look forward to the Guild's annual Jigs and Fixtures meeting, as I know there will always be "why didn't I think of that" moments. I have attended about a dozen of the Jigs meetings over the years and I always learn something new. This year's session was arranged and coordinated by future Guild President **Jerry Romito**, who also demonstrated items.

Pete Goddard kicked things off with his display of four jigs: table saw tapering jig, table saw thin rip jig, miter track "feather" board, and a band saw circle cutting jig, most finely constructed of Baltic Birch plywood with lockable miter groove guides and knobbed-wheel adjustment bolts. The leg tapering jig has Bessy toggle clamps to hold the workpieces. The thin rip jig works in a manner identical to the Rockler product, and does include a Ball bearing guide to keep the workpiece firmly against the fence for precise repeatability. The rip strip thickness is set and locked with the ball bearing aligned the desired distance against a sawblade tooth edge, and then the jig is moved toward the user about six inches and locked in the miter slot. The feather board is a block of wood with multiple "hairpin" kerfs to provide a springy tension when locked in the miter slot and tightened against the workpiece with adjustment knobs. The kerf turns are drilled out to help prevent splitting under tension. The bandsaw circle jig is adjustable to make circles of varying sizes. Pete's set of jigs would be a good foundational set for any shop.



As an aside, Pete spoke to an idea he has for the

Guild to collect jig documentation from our Guild and possibly other guilds to collectively publish a set of instructions and plans for posting on the website or otherwise distributing to members. Such a collection would be published every 2-3 years as updated.

The attendees were next enthralled by **Ken Wolf's** three wonderfully engineered and constructed jigs: a Generation II bench top bench, a finger joint jig, and a small-project DIY vacuum veneering/laminating set up. The bench on bench (sometimes referred to as a back-saver) is an advanced version of the concept made popular by Steve Latta (www.finewoodworking.com/2014/10/21/mini-workbench-makes-detail-work-easier). Ken's version has twin T-tracks for attaching commercial and shop-made clamping devices, lots of bench dog holes, and an integrated screw-drive vise mechanism, adjusted by a finely machined hand wheel. Ken showed how crazy-shaped workpieces can be quickly secured by bench dogs with easily made wooden disc caps. Further, Ken's version has adjustable height to enable a good working position across benches of varying floor height. And finally, Ken included a unique end piece which allows storage of the bench on bench standing on one end. How I wish my Latta bench had such a feature, as my it is quite heavy and takes up a lot of shop floor space when stored on its normal feet.



Ken's second jig was an advanced version of a finger joint router jig, modelled after one offered earlier by Woodsmith (www.woodsmithplans.com/plan/finger-joint-jig). Of course Ken's design offers many improvements and advanced design features, including cantilever bench mounting to enable working both box sides without re-clamping the jig, variable finger spacing across a single board, built-in workpiece clamps, dust collection, and ability to work with wider pieces. He also added an interior storage tube for storage of the many joint keys involved. Ken's version requires a special router base plate, which he showed is easily made.



His final demonstration was of a small project DIY vacuum bag clamping set up, in this case one with a clamping form for making curved laminated parts such as for a top of a child's storage chest, or perhaps curved doors. The set up was unique in that it had a closed foam base plate with a seal strip around the edge, allowing the vacuum "chamber" to be formed by an overlaying a clear vinyl sheet over a base plate with a seal around the outer edge. Then a closure clamping frame is attached by custom wooden clamps. This allows for convenient set up of the curved clamping form with various laminate layers and a top pressure-spreading plate without having to shove all this stuff into a conventional vacuum bag while keeping all parts aligned. A vacuum pump attaches to a quick release fitting.

Ken was followed by **Keith Whitehouse** who related his exploration of a good method for making bench dog holes. He had a requirement to make a grid of dog holes in a bench top he was making. This important topic addressed a problem which I have found challenging in my own shop. One typically needs to make

multiple well aligned large holes (typically $\frac{3}{4}$ in. diameter) through thick material over a bench top too large to put in a drill press. I



have found that even Forstner bits tend to wander when drilling by hand through a thick piece of wood. His solution was to use a $\frac{3}{4}$ " spiral downcut router bit in a router mounted on an overly large Lexan baseplate with etched alignment lines marking the center of the bit. Aligned with the desired grid of holes, the baseplate and router is clamped in position to avoid drift while cutting. A downcut bit is used to ensure clean edges at the visible top of the resultant holes. Keith reminded us that holdfasts used in the bench top holes should be bought in pairs because generally two are needed for proper clamping of a workpiece. And he reported a failed experiment to find a cheaper alternative to expensive Festool Clamping Elements

by use of a strategically bent Irwin hand clamp. The approach failed because even though the Irwin clamp bar would fit into a $\frac{3}{4}$ " hole, the Irwin clamp head itself would not pass through.

Ed Thomas then took us into the realm of tracked circular saws by presenting a Delta DWS520 Track Saw. Delta describes this tool as delivering table saw precision, panel saw capacity and hand saw portability. The zero-clearance track system and dual, anti-splinter edges ensure perfectly straight, splinter-free cuts. Any cut is possible,



even bevel or inside plunge cuts. One can attach a vacuum to collect up to 90% of the dust and chips. The saw comes with a 59 " track, and an extension can be joined to make for a longer track. The tool makes an excellent means of reducing 4' x 8' sheet stock by placing the stock on a sheet of thick foam insulation, say on a garage floor. The resulting cuts are perfectly straight and clean. Tracks are rubberized on their underside to minimize slippage. Sometimes tracks are sold separately. The tool is not cheap, selling for around \$500 with a single track. A Festool equivalent costs more, around \$850 with track. Still, these tools have very high utility, especially for small shops.

No shop containing a table saw should be without a crosscut sled. This device makes a table saw much more effective and safe to use, making it easier to get consistently square and repeatable cuts than when using a miter gauge.

James Singer

showed us a fine example of a sled which he had made. These sleds are simple to build, but one must have the patience to go through a process to ensure that the cutting fence





nearest the user is attached at precisely 90 degrees. James explained how this is done, and how to test the final set up for squareness. These sleds are easy to build and can be made in multiple sizes for work with various sized workpieces, from large to small. One set of instructions can be found at

(www.finewoodworking.com/2011/07/01/build-a-super-precise-tablesaw-crosscut-sled).

Ragnar Bergethon next showed us a smaller and simpler shop made jig for making finger joints for smaller boxes. While many commercial and homemade finger joint jigs are configured to work on a router table, Ragnar has designed this one for use on the table saw, employing stacked dado blades. Router bits have a tendency to blow out certain woods, while a dado blade can provide a cleaner exit cut. A very clever feature of Ragnar's jig is that it has interchangeable templates for $3/8$, $1/2$, $3/4$ " finger joints. An additional template is used for making dentil molding. He also recommended the use of a story stick for set up to ensure equal sized fingers on each edge of box joint, or to ensure whatever finger spacing one desires.

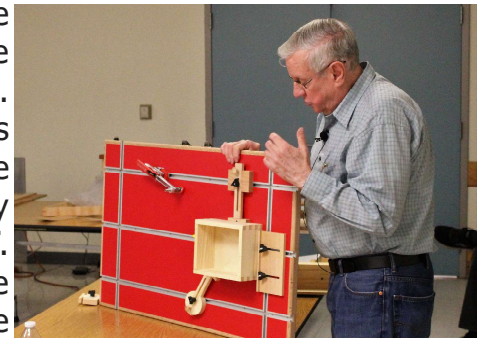


Many of us have experienced the jerk or jump associated with startup of an electric tool such as a router, especially for older tools which not have a built in "soft start" feature. **Bill Rigstad** demonstrated an aftermarket device from Raymond Innovations Soft Starters, which provides soft start for tools. One simply plugs the soft start electronics box into an outlet, and then plugs the tool into the device. Raymond offers a range of devices, from 120v 15 Amp medium duty, 15 amp unlimited duty, up to 20 amp unlimited duty. Bill mentioned that they offered 220 v devices but that option does not seem to function on their website. It may be that 220 v motors are sometimes induction motors which are not suitable for soft start (www.raymondinnovations.com/collections/soft-starters).

Returning member **Ron Michalak** recently undertook several projects to "get going again" after an extended break from woodworking. He started with a little wooden stand for drill bits. The challenge was to store a number of bits with $1/64$ in. gradations in holes $1/64$ larger than the held bit, while maintaining equal space appearance between bits. He applied the same process for a stand to store pens and pencils, but with the holes splayed for easy access. He used wedges of wood under the stock in various arrangements to get equal splay angles. He also showed a jig for holding mitered picture frame corners to safely cut strengthening spline slots on a table saw. He used a technique of applying a plastic draftsman triangle to set the angles on the jigs alignment fences. Such alignment methods were reported on by Al Goldstein in his article Dead-On Angles In the Woodshop in the September 2016 Guild Newsletter. Ron also displayed a table saw blade storage cabinet with sliding holders for each blade and a nice labeling system.



Next up was **Clay Bolduc** who demonstrated a project clamping board designed to mimic the Rockler T-Track Table Top (28 " x 40") product. The board is used for assembly and glue up of boxes, picture frames, and the like. The board and its components were jointly developed by Clay and **Ken Wolf**. The board is made of $1/2$ " red Melamine with $1/2$ " plywood glued to the back. There were several T-tracks spanning the board at right angles and parallel to the edges for use of T-track clamping accessories, both commercial and shop made. There was a molded wooden edge with a carrying handle. Clay had made various wooden clamping fixtures. Clay





reports that material for a board and set of shop made clamping accessories cost about \$75, compared to a \$200 sale price for the commercial product sans any of the expensive T-track clamps.

Neal Hoegemeyer showed a very interesting picture frame project. A family member needed a triangular-shaped frame for a piece of artwork. The challenge was that the base of the frame was a straight piece, but the two "vertical" sides were curved inward to meet midway at the top. Neal started with a drawing, which resulted in a three piece MDF template, one for each side of the frame. After checking the fit of the template with the actual artwork, he used the template as a guide for a bearing molding bit to route the inside profile of the three frame pieces. When making the stock for the three pieces he left extra wood as glue-up clamping tabs for clamping the odd shaped pieces. The tabs were then cut off as part of the shaping process for the outside edges of the frame. This was an ingenious means of making such a challenging frame.

Jerry Romito wrapped up the meeting by presenting four tools: An INCRA box joint jig, a Freud box joint cutter set, a multi-layer inlay system, and a hand pump vacuum press. It was good to see a third option for finger joints, in order to show a full range of options for making this valuable joint. The INCRA is an out of the box solution, albeit high end at \$190 on Amazon. The single jig can be used on both a table saw and a router table, and the dual pitch lead screw mechanics provide micro-adjustment for joint tightness and provides 1/8" - 3/4" range of pin widths. It's capable of making good fitting box joints using any width cutter within that range into lumber from 1/4" to 7/8" thick. The Freud cutter set is a good companion to the INCRA Jig, as the pair of blades cut perfectly square, 1/4 in. or 3/8 in. flat-bottom box joints on a table saw without using a dado set. This set runs \$95 on Amazon.



Jerry also showed an easy way to produce attractive inlays by use of the Tarter Woodworking Multiple Layer Inlay Stencils (MLIS). These enable you to create complex inlay designs by simply following along the cutouts on each numbered template included in each MLIS set, using a plunge router with an installed Whiteside router inlay kit. The stencil sets come in varying degrees of complexity of shape and number of wood species inlaid (www.tarterwoodworking.com/). A typical simple MLIS package with templates to make 8", 6" and 4" pine trees costs about \$60. Jerry finished his presentation by demonstrating use of a simple manual veneer or lamination vacuum press which incorporates a simple hand vacuum pump. It works! This is considerably cheaper than use of vacuum pumps costing upwards of \$1,000. This tool and accompanying small vacuum bags are generally associated with building of skateboards, but the kits are also used by Luthier builders, and woodworkers who are building small items such as box lids and other decorative objects (<https://www.roarockit.com/>). A moderate sized Roarockit Thin Air Press Kit contains a 26" x 28" vacuum bag with seal and one-way valve, pump, breather, extra seals and illustrated instructions, all for about \$70 not including shipping.

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Timothy Puro

presented by

Michigan Woodworkers' Guild

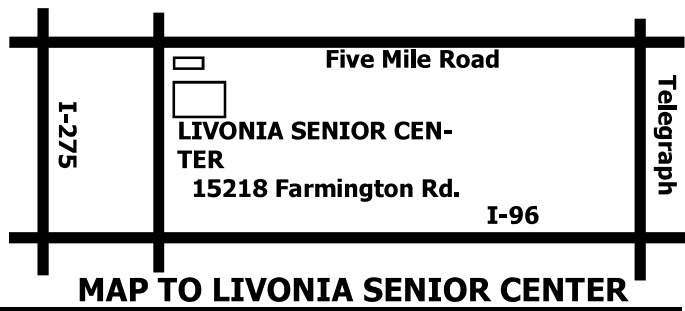
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Timothy will present an all day workshop on
TAKING YOUR WOOD FINISHING TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Timothy says "Most woodworkers either clear coat their projects or apply a single application of dye or stain and then apply a top-coat. The 'next level' is to use dyes, stains, glazes, or toners to create multi-layer finishes that will make your wood-



working projects stand out from other woodworking projects." He will also discuss 'color matching' in order to copy the finish on another project as well as giving an overview of the pros and cons of various finishes.



Date: Saturday, November 9, 2019
Time: 10:00 am -- 4:30 pm
 (lunch incl. 12:30 - 1:30 pm)
Sign in: 9:30-10:00 - Coffee & snacks
Location: Livonia Senior Center
 15218 Farmington Road
 Livonia, MI

Seating is limited. Pre-payment is **STRONGLY** encouraged. To reserve a spot, mail, or e-mail Pete Goddard. E-mail: plgoddard47@wowway.com
 Address: 5891 Cliffside DR., Troy, MI 48085 Deadline **November 2, 2019**

Checks should be made out to: Michigan Woodworkers' Guild

MWG MEMBERS \$20

Name: _____

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NON-MEMBERS \$40

(includes a 1 year membership-normally \$25)

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Thomas at: edwardthomas554@comcast.net.

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

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