

## **MICHIGAN** WOODWORKER



michiganwoodworkersquild.com

Michigan Woodworkers' Guild (est. 1981) November 2023 Vol. 44 No. 11

### When / Where:

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2023

(Socializing Starts at 1:00 PM, Business meeting Starts at 2:00 PM) Livonia Senior Center, Livonia, MI

### In-Person Meeting:

### **Jigs and Fixtures** by MWG Members

Meeting Coordinated by: Jerry Romito



**IN-PERSON MEETING AT: Livonia Senior Center** 

### **November:**

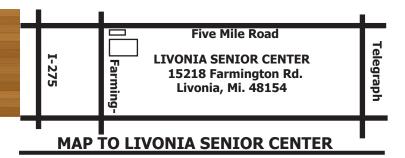
Our 2:00 PM November 12th 2023 In-Person meeting will feature various Jigs & Fixtures developed by many MWG members. Please contact Jerry Romito to showcase your special Jig or Fixture. Remember that November is toy day and also the election of officers.

### **DECEMBER:**

Enjoy the Christmas season making extra sawdust for there is no meeting scheduled for December and no MWG luncheon scheduled for December

### January 2024:

Start the year right with Ron Ross and Larry Last who will detail various designs and methods to construct boxes for our Children's Hospital Donation program. This January 14th 2024 meeting, entitled "Box Making", will be held at the Livonia Senior Center.



### **Jigs and Fixtures**

### November 12th

This is our popular **Jigs and Fixtures** meeting coordinated by Jerry Romito. fixtures are either purchased or shop made where the pros and cons of each are discussed by each demonstrator. There is always a good variety of jigs and fixtures which will inspire us to develop our own.







# President's Corner



By Jerry Romito

November 2023

This month I am going to repeat some of what I said last month, since it so important as we ask for volunteers and nominations for the annual election of board members at the November meeting.

We all know why we joined the MWG - because we like woodworking and want to interact with other woodworkers to learn more and to share our knowledge. With 186 members, our guild is doing a great job in providing the opportunity for the membership to have that interaction for learning and sharing. However, it takes a considerable amount of voluntary effort by the guild leadership to enable all of this to happen on a sustaining basis. Our elected Board of Directors (BOD), which assumes this responsibility, consists of 14 members, which includes the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, along with 11 other Directors-at-Large and committee chairmen. These board members have been with the guild from 6 - 41 years, averaging 20 years, and many have been on the BOD for most of their time. With that much longevity on the board, it is important for us to think about the guild's future and to plan for the leadership going forward.

So with our elections coming up, I want to encourage our woodworking members who might be interested in helping to run and sustain the guild to get involved with the BOD. That is where it all happens, and we make it convenient to gradually become active. Our monthly BOD meetings take place on Zoom, and I invite anyone who might be interested to sit in and simply listen and ask questions from the comfort of their home. The BOD meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month from 7:00 pm – 8:30pm. I send out an agenda and the Zoom link a few days before each meeting.

Here is the list of the current BOD members, with a number of open positions indicated:

#### **Executive Board** (elected)

President	Vice President	Treasurer	Secretary
Jerry Romito	Dan Holowicki	Ed Stuckey	Open

### Officers at Large (elected)

Fred Ball	Richard Herbert
Ragnar Bergethon	Larry Last
Bill Gayde	Dave McCagg
Tony Gigliotti	Ron Ross
Kevin Goulet	Ken Wolf

### **Standing Committee Chairs** (appointed/volunteer)

Apparel - Ron Ross

Camera Team Chair - Kevin Goulet

Camera team assistants -Dave McCagg, Dan Holowicki,

Food - Kevin Goulet

Library - Open

Livonia coordinator - Ron Ross

Marketing committee - Dan Holowicki, Dave McCagg,

Berg

Membership - Dave McCagg

Mentoring - Bob Mills

MITES - Bill Gayde (retiring) Open

Monthly luncheons - Open (Dave McCagg interim)

Name tags - Ed Stuckey

Newsletter - Dave McCagg

Photos at meetings - Dan Holowicki

Photos to website - Open

Picnics - Ron Ross, Dave McCagg

Program Director - Larry Last

Raffle prizes - Ed Stuckey

Toys - Ron Ross

Toys Assistant - Dan Holowicki

Website Administrator – Open (Ragnar Bergethon interim)

Website calendar - Larry Last

Website calendar - Fred Ball (backup)

Wood Shows - Open

All of these can be defined and discussed at BOD meetings. If you even think that you might be interested, please send me (GJRomito@aol.com) your name and email address, and I will put you on the Zoom invite list. There is no obligation whatsoever to sit in on a BOD meeting, and you may find, as all of us have, that BOD involvement is a very rewarding part of being a MWG member.

In addition, if you would like to nominate yourself, or anyone else (if they agree), for an officer position, or if you would like to volunteer for one of the standing committees, please let me know.

Jerry Romito





MWG Meeting Review Dan Reahard Carving Period Furniture Livonia MI. 8 October 2023

For our October meeting in Livonia we had the pleasure of witnessing the incredible period furniture carving skills of Dan Reahard. Dan has been a member of the Guild for 32 years. Over that time he has made nine presentations, the latest a joint presentation with the late John Sanchez in February of 2013, some 10 years ago. That was a joint carving presentation, with John demonstrating powered carving tools while Dan presented the types of hand tool carving applied to period furniture. Today Dan again talked about carving as applied to 18th century period furniture. He is a member of The Society of American Period Furniture (SAPFM), a nation-wide organization with about 1,000 members whose mission is education in the appreciation and making of period furniture, typically from the 17th and 18th centuries. The quality of Dan's carving is highly acclaimed in this community by both amateurs and professionals alike.

Dan brought a carved chair he had made as an example of period furniture carving. This was a side chair (no arms) in the Queen Anne period style, but with a Chippendale pierced back splat, the part that hits one square in the back when sitting. This chair is therefore considered transitional between the Queen Anne and later Chip- Dan Reahard's Queen Anne side chair



pendale periods. A Chippendale splat has a complex pierced pattern and has only a single curve along its length, compared to the simple solid profile and double curve of a Queen Anne chair. The inspiration for this reproduction was a set of six Walnut side chairs. one of which is now at Winterthur and another at the Philadelphia Museum of Art (PMA). Dan's version is of Mahogany.

Carved elements on his chair include a pair of connected volutes surrounding shell on the crest rail, multiple intertwined C-scrolls in the back splat, Acanthus leaves over the knees of the front Cabriole legs, and ball & claw front feet. (It was asked the origin of the word which cabriole. derives from the French word cabrioler, meaning to leap like a goat.)



Chair back with carved crest rail and splat

This Philadelphia chair typically has no leg stretchers, but rather gains its strength from the large the front leg-seat rail joints with carved knee blocks beside the chair knees, and a sizable round tenon integral to the leg which goes up through and locks a saddle joint between the front and side seat rails. Dan pointed out that as a usual feature of Philadelphia chairs, the side seat rails are tenoned all the way through the rear legs. Dan also noted that the large curved rabbet in the seat rails, used to accommodate the removable seat cushion, was entirely carved by hand. Also he showed that during construction the crest rail is left long by about two inches on both ends to provide strength until glue up (where a mortise for the leg stile will be cut) as well as tabs to facilitate clamping the

crest rail to the legs and splat below during glue-up. at a class with the late Gene Landon at the Olde Mill in York PA.

Dan built a pair of these chairs at a class with the late Gene Landon at the Olde Mill in York PA. Gene was the 2003 SAPFM Cartouche Award recipient. Dan also has a house full of other highly carved period furniture including Chippendale chairs, tall case clocks, lowboys, highboys, desks and tables.



Dan with roll of carving gouges

He displayed his large set of carving tools, called gouges, used to carve all the elements on the chair. There is a two-digit numbering system for gouges, which characterizes a gouge by its cutting curve (called the "sweep"), and for the Swiss ones its cutting width in millimeters (mm). For example a #1/10 is a flat blade 10 mm wide with bevels on both sides. Dan also does some of his carving with a normal 5/8 in. bench chisel, i.e. bevel on one side. Then progressing up through the "sweeps" a #2 is slightly curved, a #3 more curved, etc. all the way up to a #11, which is U-shaped and called a veiner because they are often used to carve veins on carved leaves. Finally there are the V-tools numbered No. 12 or higher. The most commonly available quality carving gouges in the U.S. are Pfeil Swiss Made, with Woodcraft as the exclusive dealer in the U.S. As to cost, Ed Stuckey reported that a No. 5, 5 mm which cost \$30 10 years ago today runs about \$47.

Dan demonstrated carving on a ball & claw (B&C) cabriole leg. He showed one of his workpiece holding methods, which is to mount the leg in a bar clamp, then secure the bar clamp in a small machine vise mounted to a stout wooden cross piece which can then be held in just about any bench vise (see photo).



Dan mounting cabriole leg for carving

He was asked about sanding the finished carving to remove visible gouge facets or other carving irregularities. He recommends minimal sanding, being careful not to remove carving detail or softening edges, thereby losing the "character" of the hand carving. And do not carve more after sanding because sandpaper generally leaves grit behind in the wood, which then will dull the tools. Dan hand sharpens all his carving tools, using the methods reviewed by Mary May in the Zoom video presented to the Guild on 11 April 2021 during the pandemic, or in the free beginner videos on her website, noted below.



Describing carving of Ball & Claw foot

To further illuminate the carving of a ball and claw foot, Dan showed two different "in process" designs, one from Philadelphia and another from Newport, RI. This illustrates that period designs from different geographical regions typically have distinctive regional design features, a great help in identifying the origins of any particular furniture piece. In this case





Dan's Ball and Claw foot

"Philly" B&C feet were somesquashed what from perfect а ball and had short flat-sided talons. whereas the Newport B&C feet were vertically elongated ellipsoids with very long curved talons. Further, the famous Newport

makers John Townsend and John Goddard were noted for carving open space between the talons and the ball, as well as space between the upper talon webs and the ball below. Dan used a bench chisel to carve the straight sides of a Philly talon, and a swept gouge to work on the knuckles of the same talon.

Dan was asked where one gets patterns for the designs to be carved. He replied that 2-D patterns are usually supplied by instructors for classes, or they can be obtained in instruction books such as those by Franklin Gottshall (Making



Dans carved leg

Furniture Masterpieces - 30 Projects with Measured Drawings), the late Lonnie Bird (Taunton's Complete Illustrated Guide to Period Furniture Details), or more recently by SAPFM Cartouche recipient Tony Kubalak (Carving 18th Century American Furniture Elements: 10 Step-By-Step Projects for Furniture Makers, and Carving 18th-Century American Furniture Motifs). The latter books are terrific because they have detailed step-by-step instructions and photographs to show the carving of the various elements. The two books each cover different period furniture elements. All the books are generally available on Amazon. The patterns are 2D and will have to stretch

or shape to wrap around curved elements such as a chair knee. And Mary May (see below) sells full size plaster casts of many elements such as an Acanthus leaf, Ball and Claw foot, etc.

Finally, Dan was asked about the steps required to carve a Ball and Claw foot. But there was only time for a very brief overview. He did show inprocess carvings



Dan with Ball and claw leg

which retained some of the layout lines which had not yet been cut away.

If Dan's carving has inspired readers to learn more about woodcarving, and even to try your hand at it, the author would suggest that you check out *Mary May's School of Traditional Woodcarving* website. <a href="https://www.marymaycarving.com/carvingschool/">https://www.marymaycarving.com/carvingschool/</a>. She not only has videos with in-depth instruction on carving many elements such as the Ball & Claw foot (287 such videos), but she has a "Getting Started" link which leads to FREE introductory materials on how to begin a woodcarving journey. Included are eight free video beginner lessons:

#1 - Preparing to Carve

#2 - Starting to Carve

#3 - All About Gouges

#4 - Sharpening a Curved Gouge

#5 – Sharpening a V-Chisel

#6 - Carving the Donut

#7 - Carving a Basic Flower

#8 - Carving a Camellia Flower



There is accompanying written material about the basics of carving, tools and materials, and tool suppliers. The above resources are all available with a free site registration. Mary also conducts paid classes around the country all year long, such as *Carving for Period Furniture* at the Sam Beauford Woodworking Institute, Adrian, MI, October 23-27, 2023. These classes are all listed on her website. And by joining her online school with a Premium monthly membership fee one gets access to all 287 lessons, a livestream every two weeks, and downloadable template drawings for each lesson.

We thank Dan for sharing his wonderful carving work and expertise. And give our appreciation to Ken Wolf for coordinating the presentation.

- Dale Ausherman



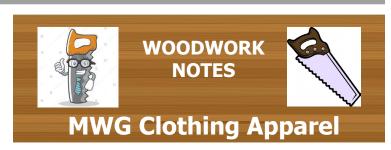
 I told my wife I built her a new wooden bench, but she said it lacked:

#### Lumber support

- How do trees access the internet?
  Rooters
- How can you tell if a tree is a dogwood or a catwood?

### By its bark

These phrases are provided purely for your humorous enjoyment. Feel free to send your favorite woodworking pun to the MWG Newsletter Editor for possible future publication.



Let's show the pride we have for our guild by letting others know we are members.

We have four (4) types of shirts and a ball cap which contain our logo, guild name and a map of the state of Michigan shown. On the shirts you can also add your name.

We have four (4) styles of shirts, traditional Denim, or Poplin (cotton) both long sleeve shirts. We also have Polo and Twill (cotton/Poly) short sleeve shirts as well as a baseball cap. Many color options are available. Shirts are \$30 with the logo, and you can add your name for an additional \$5. The cap shown in the picture below is \$16 which includes the logo.

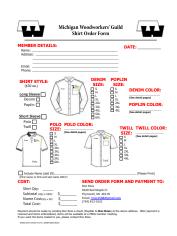
To place an order, you can contact **Ron Ross** at any meeting or feel free to contact Ron at:

<u>rross1508@gmail.com</u> In the near future, we will have order forms on the WMG website including specification sheets which include a description of each product, sizes and color options.

Below there is also a sample of the shirt order form that will be on the website.







Shirt Order Form





News from the Toy and Box Committee

Our next meeting is November 12th; a very short time after you read this newsletter. For those of you who have toys and boxes completed and are planning on attending the November meeting please bring your boxed up toys for collection. Dan will be at the meeting to accept the toys and boxes. Also please remember to place a label on the boxed up items indicating the number of items in the box, type of item and your name. The labels are self explanatory; all you need to do is enter the number and style of toys and or boxes in each carton. If you do not have any labels, they are available on our website as a pdf document that you can download and print. Under the Programs/ Resources tab, select Toy Project, then scroll down to and select the MWG Donation Labels icon for the downloadable .pdf file.

Cars - Quantity:	Boats - Quantity:	
Trucks - Quantity:	Plain Boxes (For art class) - Quantity:	
Pull Toys - Quantity:	Memory Boxes - Quantity:	
Airplanes/Helicopters - Quantit	y:	
Other (Describe):	Quantity:	
Builders Name:		
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	Michigan Woodworkers' Guild	
Cars - Quantity:	Boats-Quantity:	
Trucks - Quantity:	Plain Boxes (For art class) - Quantity:	
Pull Toys-Quantity:	Memory Boxes - Quantity:	
Airplanes/Helicopters - Quantit	ty:	
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	Plain Boxes (For art class) - Quantity:	
Trucks - Quantity:	Memory Boxes - Quantity:	
-	Memory Boxes - Quantity:	
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Pull Toys - Quantity: Airplanes/Helicopters - Quantit		

It is quite important that we have this information as it will make it a lot easier to tally all the Chilitems. dren's Hospital requires us to list the number of toys and boxes (both memory and when plain) we drop off the

items. While no exact date has been set at this time, we anticipate delivering the toys to the Hospital the first full week of December. If you cannot make the November meeting and have toys/boxes completed, Ron will be at the Royal Oak Senior Center and Dan will be at the Livonia Senior Center for a toy / box pickup. This will be on Sunday November 26th, 2023 from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm. Please be sure to contact Ron or Dan to let us know your intention to drop off toys at either location. Should no one call us we will not be at the Royal Oak or Livonia locations. Our contact information is at the end of this article.



**Bill Damico Model Ts** 

As I have mentioned in the previous few articles, we will once again be sponsoring a Toy and Box Contest this year. However, there will be a slight change. During the social hour prior to our live November meeting, we will be accepting your best toys/boxes for competition. Those toys/boxes will be held until our January 2024 meeting when the actual judging will occur during the social hour prior to the meeting. A group of distinguished judges, picked/volunteered from the MWG, will peruse the entrants and pick all the winners. We will accept only one toy and/or box from each maker; the judge's decisions will be final. In the interest of remaining impartial, if you submit a toy or box you will not be able to judge. The winners in each category will be awarded a \$20 gift certificate from Rockler. Rockler has graciously agreed to donate the \$20 gift cards this year. (Last year the winners' gift certificates were funded from the toy

**MWG Labels for Hospital Donation Boxes** 

You can find the MWG Donation Labels with the following link:



committee budget.) Rockler has been very, very supportive of our Guild; please remember that when shopping for your woodworking supplies. The Rockler store in Novi also gives Guild members a 10% discount, some restrictions apply.

After the January general meeting judging and awarding of prizes, the contest items will be photographed, wrapped, and delivered to Children's Hospital. The winning categories will be:

- 1. Toys Best overall design
- 2. Toys Best painted finish
- 3. Toys Best clear (stained/varnished) finish
- 4. Boxes Best overall design
- 5. Boxes Best clear (stained/varnished) finish

Here's your chance to showcase your skills at designing and building boxes and toys, showing off your world class painting skills and perhaps using that special piece of burl or quarter sawn chunk you have been saving with a beautiful clear finish.

In planning your toy or box making projects, please remember to follow the guidelines listed in our website. With so many government regulations coming forward we have to be very careful that toys and boxes conform to the appropriate standards. Within the Toy Project section under the Programs/Resources tab, click on the link "Toy Guidelines for Childrens' Hospital" for more specific requirements.

As mentioned the previous couple months, we are now stocking a new item on a trial basis. We have treaded 1", 1 ¼" and 1 ½" wheels to enhance your toy making designs. They are about 40% wider than standard wheels with a more realistic look. Although these are quite a bit more expensive than standard wheels, they do give that little bit of extra oomph to your vehicles. And they use the standard ¼" dia wheel pegs and washers that the Guild supplies.

As has always been the policy, the Guild will provide standard wheels (1", 1  $\frac{1}{4}$ " or 1  $\frac{1}{2}$ " dia) along with the

new treaded wheels, ½" OD nylon washers and ¼" dia. wheel pegs free of charge to any member who wishes to make toys for this program. We do have a fair supply of the treaded wheels at this time and should they be a big hit, we will arrange to have more in the years to come. Any of these items can be obtained by contacting Ron or Dan.



**Ken Wolf Natural Finish Toys** 

The Guild still has an inventory of non-standard wheels and other toy parts that have been recently categorized. There has been a good response to these non-standard items and once they are gone, they will not be replaced.

- 1 ¾", 2", 2 ¼", 2 ½", 2 ¾" and 3" diameter standard style wheels
- 2", 2 1/4", 2 1/2" and 2 3/4" diameter treaded tire style wheels
- 2" and 2 3/4" diameter wagon style wheels
- 1 ¼", 1 ½" and 2 ¼" 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 smokestacks
- Various small pieces of poplar, suitable for glueup

We do bring a small amount of select items from this stockpile to Guild meetings on a regular basis. How-

You can find the MWG Toy Guidelines for Childrens' Hospital with the following link: <a href="https://michiganwoodworkersguild.com/wp-content/uploads/documents/MWG-Toy-Guidelines-12-29-20-Rev3.pdfage.jpg">https://michiganwoodworkersguild.com/wp-content/uploads/documents/MWG-Toy-Guidelines-12-29-20-Rev3.pdfage.jpg</a>





Vic Bonaro Vets

ever, if you have a specific need, please contact Ron or Dan for the amount and to arrange delivery.

We will continue to set a goal of delivering 400 toys to Children's Hospital for the Christmas Snowpile program. This program is only a part of the toy distribution. Throughout the year a fair amount of simpler toys are distributed to all the clinics within the Children's Hospital Complex. These toys are used by the children in the waiting rooms as they wait to see a specialist or treatment. Some toys are passed out to siblings of child patients when they come to visit. Other toys stay with the children when they are released from the hospital. The hospital also has a need for boxes, both plain ones, which the children can use for activities during their hospital stay and somewhat fancier boxes, usually made with hardwoods and more intricate joinery, which are presented to family members of children who did not survive their afflictions. The hospital does like boxes that are about the size of a shoebox. Also the picture frames on top of the memory boxes are well liked by the hospital staff, but not necessary.

Once again, thanking all of you toy and box makers for your support along with the Guild's board for allocating funds to purchase wheels to distribute free of charge to all the makers. Happy Toy and Box making. For further information on our toy/box program or request wheels and axels, please contact

Ron - 734-812-5531 - <u>rross1508@gmail.com</u> Dan - 313-702-5836 - <u>dan56laura@att.net</u>



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Jeff Wilmot











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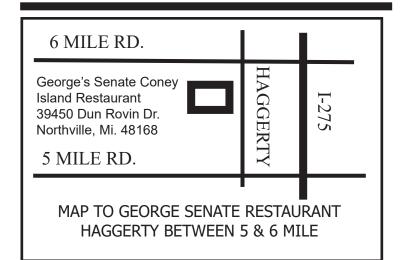
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### **ROCKLER**

For membership information contact Executive Board Members / Committee Chairs Dave McCagg at: d2mccagg@provide.net lerry Romito President For name tags, sign up with Ed Stuckey at a regular meeting.



Next MWG Luncheon: (Coordinated by TBD) Thursday, 30 NOVEMBER 2023 at 10:16 AM (delayed by a week by Thanksgiving)

Jerry Romito President 248-475-5976
Dan Holowicki Vice President 734-283-9898
Ed Stuckey Treasurer 313-345-3671
Don Hess
Dan Holowicki Officer at Large 734-283-9898
Tony Gigliotti Officer at Large 248-853-8349
Bill Gayde Officer at Large 248-859-3949
Ron Ross Officer at Large 734-812-5531
Rich Herbert Officer at Large 248-628-0644
Ragnar Bergethon Officer at Large 248-608-8436
Ken Wolf Officer at Large 734-981-3423
Dave McCagg Officer at Large 734-482-6764
Ragnar Bergethon Website 248-608-8436
Dave McCagg Newsletter Editor 734-482-6764
Dave McCagg Membership 734-482-6764
Larry LastPrograms/Website Calendar248-207-9386
Bob Mills
Kevin Goulet Camera Chair 248-672-5341
Fred BallWeb Site Calendar (Backup) 248-681-3108
Ron Ross
Kevin GuoletOfficer at Large 248-672-5341
Kevin GuoletFood Coordinator 248-672-5341