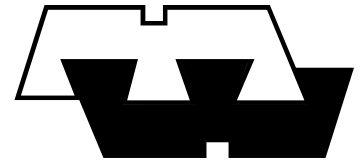




# MICHIGAN WOODWORKER

michiganwoodworkersguild.com

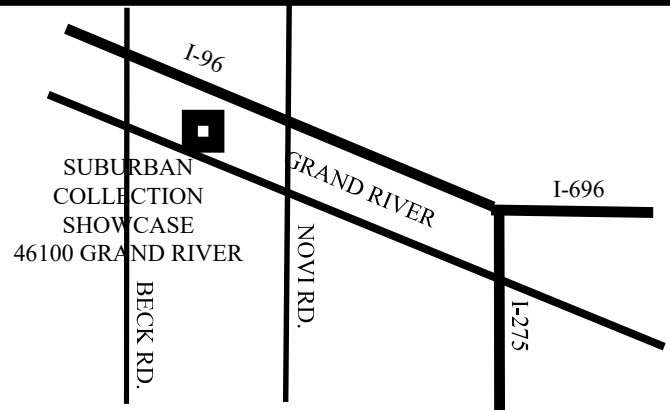


Michigan Woodworkers' Guild (est. 1981) February 2019 Vol. 40 No. 2

**THE WOODWORKING SHOW WILL  
BE AT THE SUBURBAN COLLECTION  
SHOWPLACE FEBRUARY 15-17**

THERE WILL BE NO REGULAR  
MEETING THIS MONTH

The Guild luncheon will be at the Senate Coney Is-  
land on the 28th at 1:16 pm (see map on page 7)



**MAP TO SUBURBAN SHOWCASE**



**JIM KUDEJ DEMONSTRATING HOW TO MAKE SHAKER BOXES AT THE JANUARY 2019 MEETING**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The **March 10** meeting will be at the **Livonia Senior Center**. Our **Annual Showcase of Skills**

**Ragnar Bergethon** will demonstrate making band saw boxes and making passive amplifiers at the **April 14** meeting at the **Royal Oak Senior Center**

The **May 19** meeting will be at the **Livonia Senior Center**. **Ed Stuckey and Ed Thomas** will demonstrate **various Sharpening Techniques**.

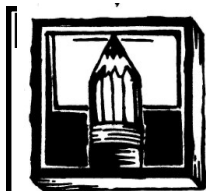
The **June 9** Field Trip will be a visit to the **Yankee Air Museum** at **Willow Run Airport**.

The **March** luncheon will be at George's Coney Island on the **28th** at 1:16 pm

The **April** luncheon will be at George's Coney Island on the **25th** at 1:16 pm

The **May** luncheon will be at George's Coney Island on the **23rd** at 1:16 pm

The **June** luncheon will be at George's Coney Island on the **27th** at 1:16 pm



## President's Corner

By Pete Goddard



The January meeting on Shaker Boxes featuring Jim Kudej was well received by all meeting attendees. His presentation included actively bending and fitting one lower box to its shapers. Jim's presentation was a summary of the methodology taught by John Wilson in his courses on Shaker boxes at the Home Shop in Charlotte, Michigan. For those interested in further knowledge of shaker boxes, I would suggest purchasing "Shaker Oval Boxes, Vol II" from the Home Shop. Volume one has only photographs of a wide variety of shaker boxes and similar containers. Volume two has the complete instructions in depth for making the boxes. Jim did an outstanding job of showing attendees these approaches in depth. The home shop over in Charlotte offers training in making Shaker boxes. I have taken their course. It's fun, informative, and not too costly. However, if you take the course, bring your own dust mask.

There will be no February meeting as the Woodworking Show is at the Suburban Showplace in Novi, February 15 through 17. The Guild will have two tables at the show to introduce ourselves to potential new members. It has been several years since the show was last held in the Detroit area. In the past, we have been able to attract new members through the exposure that the show provides for us. Hopefully we will gain a few new members as a result of our involvement in the show. Bill Rigstad is the Guild's interface with the show personnel. As of this time, Bill has all the time slots to support the show filled. If you are interested, please let Bill know as there could be cancellations.

The March meeting will be our annual "Showcase of Skills". Ed Stuckey is running this year's meeting. The meeting will be similar to last year's showcase in format. Last year's changes allowed members that have projects too large to bring in to receive credit for their work. If you have work to share with the Guild, please contact Ed so that he can plan for your participation.

A new executive board was elected last December. The board is much larger (for now) as we sort out the path forward. It is the intent of the board for this to be a transition year. Many of the positions that have a long-term leader will transition to a new leader so that the member who has been in the position long term can take a year or more off. Many of our executive board members have been doing the same job for extended periods of time and deserve a break.

The Guild web site is currently without a web master. I am serving this position in a limited way while transition is made to a new individual. Bob Mills requested to be dropped from the web master position in November due to other priorities in his life. Heading the web site was requiring too much ongoing effort. If you have an interest in this position, let me know.

I look forward to seeing most of you at the Woodworking Show. It is the show's first appearance in quite some time, so it should be heavily attended.

### GLENN WING POWER TOOLS

33656 Woodward Ave.  
Birmingham, MI 48009  
(248) 644-0444  
(248) 644-5790 Fax  
(800) 821-5177 (US)  
(800) 448-1572 (MI)

Jeff Wilmot

### MARSH POWER TOOLS

SALES AND AUTHORIZED FACTORY SERVICE

20579 Middlebelt  
Livonia, MI 48152  
(248) 476-7744

56330 Grand River Ave.  
New Hudson, MI 48165  
(248) 437-8000

Fax: (248) 476-1090



## MEETING REVIEW

By Dale Aushman



### Jim Kudej Shaker Boxes

Our program for January was Jim Kudej demonstrating making Shaker oval boxes. This was Jim's second Guild presentation on Shaker boxes, the first being in 1999! We have all seen these beautiful utilitarian boxes, either originals in publication photos or in museums, or modern reproductions made by woodworkers. Jim kicked off the presentation by reviewing the history of the Shaker sect, from its origins in Europe to its eventual demise in



the early 1900's. The site [www.lehays.com/blogs/news/a-brief-history-of-shaker-boxes](http://www.lehays.com/blogs/news/a-brief-history-of-shaker-boxes) provides a great concise history of the boxes: "The history of shaker boxes started when the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing – better known as the Shakers – arrived in New York from England in 1774. Over the next few decades they established a number of communities (eventually over 20) in New England and eventually westward. At the time the Shakers were becoming established,

round bentwood boxes were being made in numerous countries in various forms. These boxes were common household items used to store any number of dry contents including tea, herbs, grains, sewing supplies and so forth. Within a couple of decades of arriving in New York the Shakers began to create boxes and carriers for use within their own communities and in some instances created them for sale. One reference states that the first Shaker created oval box was produced in the 1790's."

While there were many manufacturers of bentwood boxes, the Shaker version appears to be unique in focusing on the oval form and for the use of slender tapering fingers for the overlap parts of the box bodies and lids. This design was not only beautiful, but uniquely functional as the more flexible thin ends of the overlap fingers were ideal for tacking down tight to the body surface.

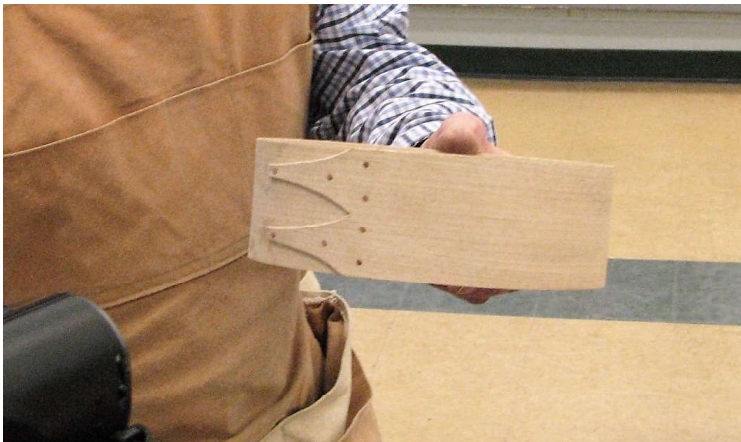
For over thirty years the principal purveyor of Shaker oval box-making instruction and supplies in the entire world has been John Wilson in our own Charlotte Michigan (<http://www.shakerovalbox.com/>). John runs an online and mail-order store of box making materials (bands and top and bottom boards), cores, shapers, finger patterns, copper tacks, water trays, and patterns. The Website provides a schedule of his offered classes, conducted both in Charlotte as well as a couple of NY locations this year. John also offers a wonderful pair of award-winning books: Shaker Oval Boxes Vols I and II. John is the sole U.S. supplier of the needed copper tacks, as he bought the last manufacturing machines from a company going out of business. If you have an interest in making Shaker boxes I highly recommend taking a class from John. He supplies all of the materials and equipment. Classes are offered at The Home Shop four times a year. In the class you make a nest of five boxes in cherry. Class costs \$90



plus \$45 materials fee. This is an excellent opportunity to make a set of treasured boxes without a large investment in tools and jigs. John is a joy to experience and will readily supply additional help and consultation should your interest in Shaker boxes grow.

While John sells all that one needs to make Shaker boxes, Jim indicates one can save some money (but not necessarily time) by making one's own bands and tops/bottoms. Jim showed how to cut the bands with a shop-made jig on the table saw, and an alternative method using the bandsaw. For the latter Jim showed the use of a backer board with multiple holes for applying hot glue to hold the stock while cutting bands without wasting stock. He also showed a similar board for holding the thin stock to run through a surface planer or thickness sander. One has to be careful with wood species selection to enable suitable bending of the bands.

For me, and the low number of boxes I have made,



I preferred buying the parts from John, rather than spending time making holding boards and power saw jigs. I also purchased the required cores, shapers, finger patterns, and even a sizable soaking tray. While there is no standard shaker box set of designs, John has developed a set of designs for various sizes of



boxes, from box size #000, #00, #0, #1 and on up to a #12. For each size the length, width, and thickness of the bands are specified, as well as the finger shapes (templates) and the oval dimensions of the tops and bottoms. For each size there are different copper tack sizes, wood cores (forms for bending), and shapers (wood "corks" for holding formed bands while they dry after bending).

There are many prescribed steps for making a Shaker box once one has the two bands and uncut blanks for the top and bottom boards. The description here is only top level. One should have a detailed reference (see below) or take a class to ensure knowing all the little tricks and details needed.



For each size the box body and lid bands are cut to length, the finger patterns are cut, tack holes drilled,

and the inside end is tapered on a belt sander. The bands are then soaked in a hot water (greater than 180 deg. f) tray for about 15 minutes prior to wrapping around a core sized to the particular box size number. The tapered inside end of the band must start at a particular location on the core so that the fingers end up at the right position on the side of the intended box. The firmly wrapped band is given pencil marks so that it can be returned to proper size once removed from the core (while wet) to enable tacking. Sized copper tacks are used to clinch the lap, hammering the tacks through the pre-drilled holes against an iron pipe "anvil." No glue is used.

Once tacked, wood corks called shapers are put in both sides to hold the box shape while drying for a day or two. The shapers have a 10 deg edge bevel to ease insertion and holes to facilitate the drying. While wet, the narrow top band is wrapped on the corked



box itself to ensure a good fit of the eventual lid. It is removed for its own tacking, then returned to the box for drying.

The dried and shaped body and lid bands are then used to draw the ovals on the bottom and lid blanks (typically 1/4 inch thick), to ensure a tight fit when assembled. The pair of ovals are cut on the bandsaw

with final edge shaping on a disc sander. The edge is sanded to a slight 4 deg. taper to ensure a tight final fit. Jim had made a jig for sanding the oval edges to speed the process. Otherwise one must sand carefully to the oval line marked by tracing the tacked and dried bands. The edge-sanded ovals are then carefully inserted into the box body and lid, being careful not to damage the inside band tapers. Once inserted they are sanded, typically on a belt sander, on the large sur-



faces where they meet the bands. The top and bottom ovals are secured in place with little toothpick pegs spaced evenly around the bands and drilled through the bands and into the middle of the top and bottom. There are hand drill or drill press jigs to enable the alignment of the peg holes with the middle of the top and bottom. No glue is required for the pegs as the finishing process will cement them. They are cut off with wire cutters and sanded smooth with the sides of top or body.

As to finishing, the boxes are left unfinished on the inside, and either painted or clear-finished on the outside. Often the paint used is a milk paint, or a flat enamel. Jim suggested use of Birchwood Casey Tru-Oil gun stock finish for the clear coat choice.

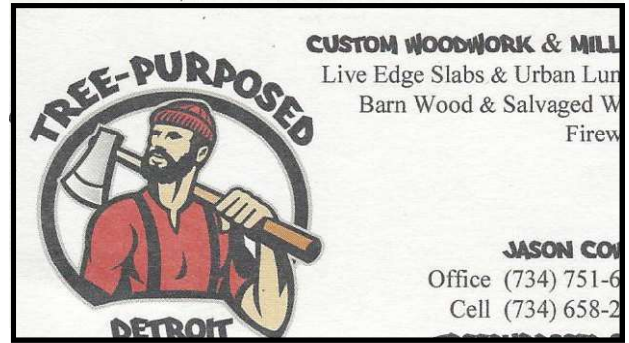


Original Shaker boxes have become expensive collector's items. Jim showed an example of an original Shaker carrier (box with a handle but no lid) which brought about \$24,000 at auction. And on the web I found a case of Willis Henry Auctions in 2006 setting the world record price for a Shaker oval box with a total price of \$105,300. Jim also showed beautiful examples he made of an overseas cousin of the Shaker oval box, the Norwegian Tine (pronounced "tee-nah") box. You may have seen some of this wonderful work at our prior Showcase of Skills shows.

Some print media references provided by Jim:

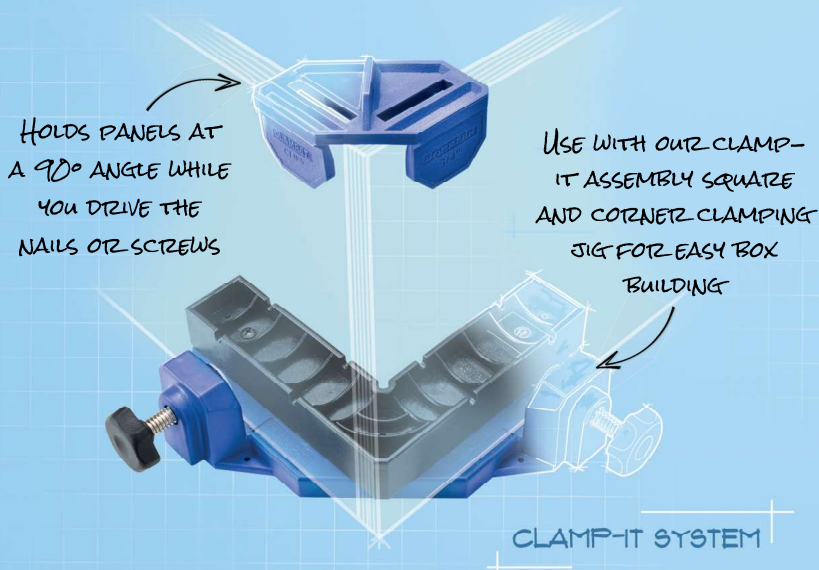
- February 2000 Woodwork Magazine
- Popular Woodworking August 2003 #139 (John Wilson article)
- (I also found a detailed John Wilson article in the July 2006 PW issue)
- Fine Woodworking on Bending Wood (special publication)
- American Woodworker Magazine Nov/Dec 1989, Vol V, No. 6
- Making Shaker Woodenware by Kerry Pierce (Amazon)
- Shaker Woodenware: A Field Guide (Field Guides to Collecting Shaker Antiques) (Volume 1) by June Sprigg (Amazon)
- Shop Drawings of Shaker Furniture & Woodenware (Vol.1) by Ejner Handberg (Amazon)

We thank Jim for the informative and entertaining program. The program required much preparation and transport of materials, tools and examples to our meeting. Jim mentioned that it had been about 20 years since he made his last Shaker box, and he told me he had to make another one prior to our meeting to be sure he remembered the process. His hard work for us resulted in a very great presentation.





## CREATE ACCURATE CABINET, DRAWER AND BOX ASSEMBLY FAST AND EASY!



**NEW!**  
**\$9.99**

**ROCKLER CLAMP-IT® CLIPS, 4-PK**

**58849 3/4" CLIPS**

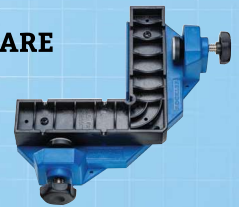
**58225 1/2" CLIPS**

**CLAMP-IT® ASSEMBLY SQUARE**

**SALE: \$9.99** Reg. \$12.99 SKU: 29190

**ROCKLER CLAMP-IT® CORNER CLAMPING JIG**

**SALE: \$19.99** Reg. \$29.99 SKU: 58918



Create with Confidence™

**FOUNDER'S DAY SALE PRICING VALID 2/1-2/28/19**

26160 Ingersol Drive • Novi, MI 48375

(248) 543-5110 • Rockler.com

**Store Hours:** M-F 9 am – 7 pm • Sat 9 am – 6 pm • Sun 11 am – 4 pm

**For membership information contact Ed**

**Thomas at: edwardthomas554@comcast.net.**

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

### Executive Board Members

Pete Goddard.....	President.....	248-828-3038
Tom Rowley .....	Vice-President .....	248-895-1597
Ed Stuckey.....	Treasurer.....	313-345-3671
John Dolinsky.....	Secretary.....	734-945-6461
Clay Bolduc.....	Officer at Large.....	313-386-1073
Tony Gigliotti .....	Officer at Large .....	248-853-8349
Mike Holden.....	Officer at Large.....	586-286-3883
Will Wilson.....	Officer at Large.....	248-207-8883
Ken Wallace.....	Officer at Large.....	248-761-5652
Don Hess.....	Officer at Large.....	734-207-8427
Ron Ross.....	Officer at Large.....	734-812-5531
Rich Herbert.....	Officer at Large.....	248-628-0644
Dan Holowicki.....	Officer at Large.....	734-283-9898
Dave McCagg.....	Officer at Large.....	734-482-6764
Ragnar Bergethon.....	Officer at Large.....	248-608-8436
<b>STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS</b>		
Jule Ann Clough....	Library.....	248-977-4131
Bill Gayde.....	Newsletter Editor.....	248-859-3949
Ed Thomas.....	Membership.....	734-671-6064
Jerry Romito.....	Programs.....	248-475-5976
Ken Wolf.....	Toy Project.....	734-981-3423
Bill Rigstad.....	Special Projects.....	734-459-3374
Pete Goddard.....	Web Site(acting).....	248-828-3038
Fred Ball.....	Web Site Calendar.....	248-681-3108

6 MILE RD.

5 MILE RD.

HAGGERTY

I-275

MAP TO GEORGE SENATE RESTAURANT  
HAGGERTY BETWEEN 5 & 6 MILE



**Michigan Woodworkers' Guild**  
**41110 Fox Run Rd. #208**  
**Novi, Michigan 48377**

## **The Picture Gallery**



**SOME OF JIM KUDEJ'S BOXES**

---