



West Michigan Woodworkers Guild

February 2023

Newsletter

President's Message

By Les Derusha

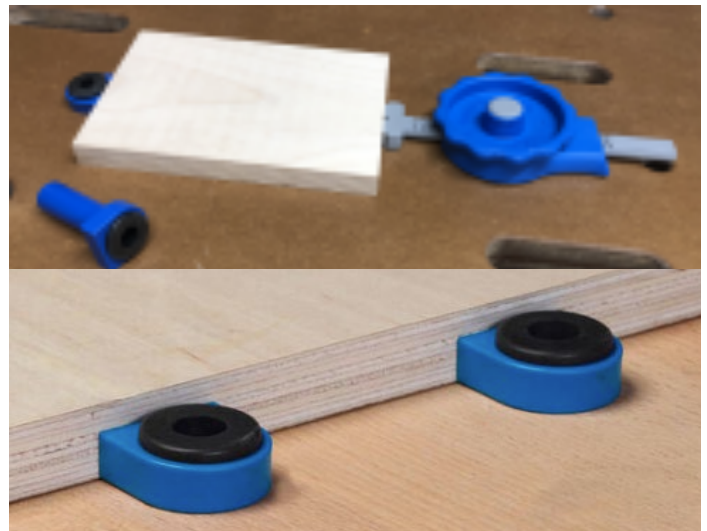
This month I'm going to be in Florida and miss the meeting. However since the meeting subject is Kreg Jigs I retrieved a previous "Corner" I did on one of my favorite Kreg items: Dogs, Bench Dogs that is! We usually think of Dog holes in your bench for a Hold Fast and the bench needs to be 3 1/2" thick. Nowadays there are more options. I stumbled across Kreg's new In-Line Clamp and Bench Dogs. I AM SMITTEN!

Upcoming meeting

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

7:00 PM to 9:30 PM

Ideal Park Christian Reformed Church
Activity Center
320 56th Street SW,
Wyoming, MI

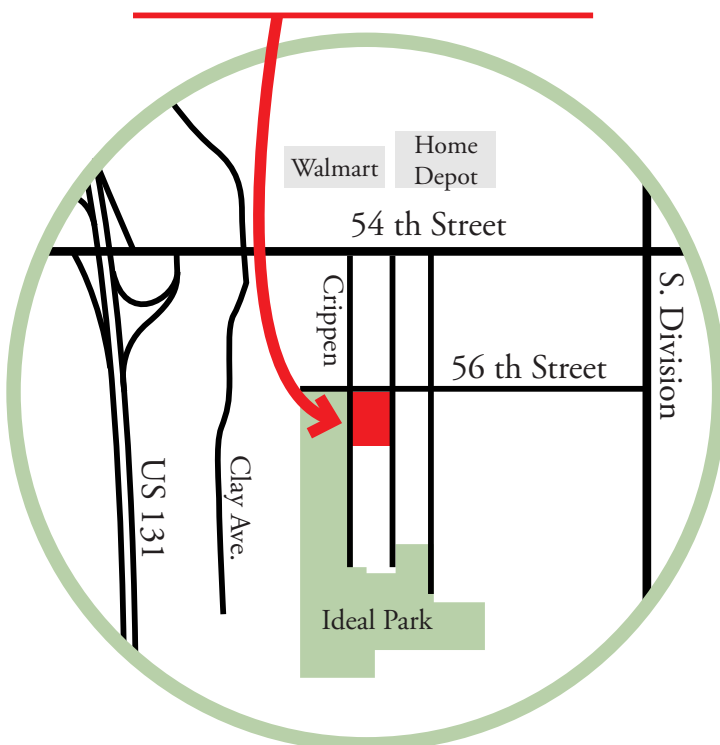


The clamp is an In-Line style made of plastic. A simple knob drives the clamp, screw style. It applies up to 250 lbs of force and holds very well. The impressive part is how easy they are to apply and release.

The dogs are also plastic and quickly slip in and out of dog holes. They are 9/16" tall with the bumper, 7/16" without providing clearance for sanding or finishing. Available online and at Woodcraft.

Bring your favorite Kreg Jig and share your experience with it.

Happy Woodworking!



VOTE

Why are we doing this? We are currently a group or a gang with no legal standing to protect ourselves. It is our desire to formalize our By-Laws. By doing this, we can form a legal group, West Michigan Woodworkers Guild Inc. Then, as a legal entity, we can then get ourselves Insurance to protect us from liability.

Who can Vote?

ALL MEMBERS-In-Good-Standing (Members who have paid their 2023 dues). On Friday February 3rd I sent out Ballots to all current Members-In-Good-Standing. If you did not get a ballot you can:

Make sure your dues are up to date. If needed send an email to Case VanderMaas case.vm@gmail.com for instructions on how to pay your dues and receive a Ballot, OR Come to the meeting on February 14th, pay your dues and Vote, easy peasy. Any other questions, call me, Les Derusha 616 446-4008.

Oh and did I mention, VOTE!

Just some thoughts

- Am I a writer if I seed an A.I. with my ideas and use it to generate my text?
- Am I a sculptor if I design something in a computer and send it to a 3D printer?
- Am I an artist if I program a machine to paint my picture?
- If I buy a wood model kit and assemble it am I a woodworker?
- Am I a singer if I use AutoTune?
- Is a robot playing a piano still a performer?

Is it cheating to use a CNC machine in the shop? Well, let's look back in time to some examples of 'cheating' throughout the history of woodworking and technology :

The Wheel. It clearly gave an unfair advantage to the early adopters. I have to imagine that there were those scoffers who wanted to hang on to the traditional methods of people hauling sacks.

Steam power. Prior to steam power factories ran off water wheels. Transporting goods was done by boat or wagon. Prior to steam power, it was cheaper, faster, and safer to transport your goods from New York to California by hiring a ship to sail around South America than it was to form a caravan to go cross-country.

The Drill Press. No doubt there were some who saw the first drill presses as cheating. Why would I use this infernal machine made of metal? Holes ought to be drilled by hand! By golly!

Power tools in general. For pretty much any power tool developed, you will find stories of people who viewed that tool as cheating. Power planer? Cheating. Boards should be planed by hand. Circular saw? Cheating. Hand saws were the way to go. Sandpaper? Cheating. Boards should be carefully sized by using chisels.

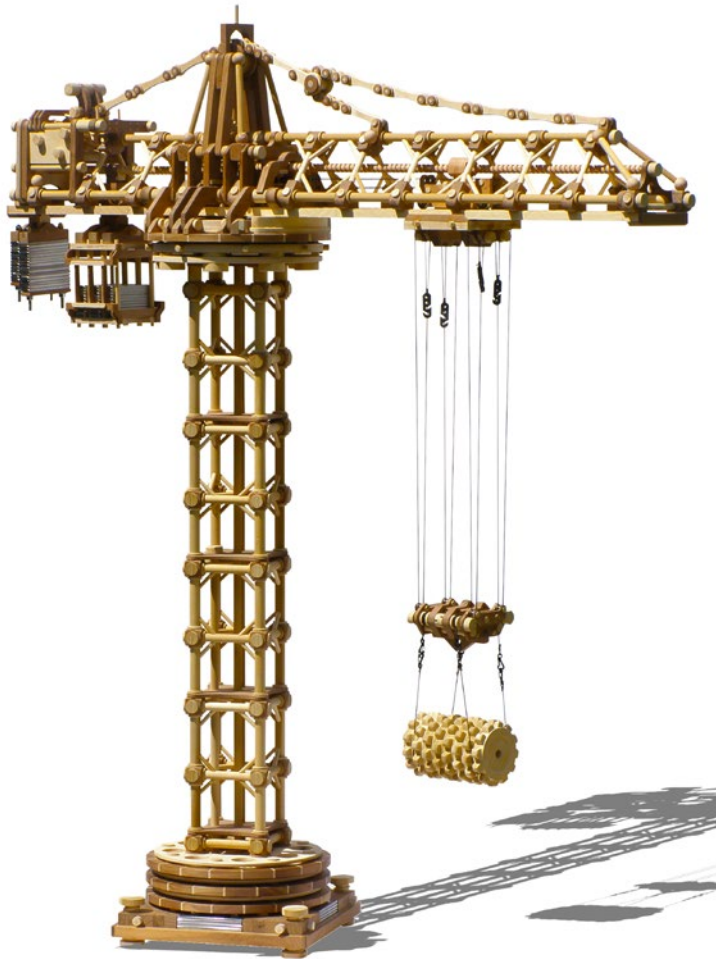
Carbide turning tools. There are some that scoff at carbide claiming that 'those' people aren't doing real turning. I think James Hamilton from Stumpy Nubs woodworking said it best : (paraphrased) "If what you are after is having the finished piece, or having the made part, go ahead and use carbide cutters. But if you want to learn the *craft of turning*, you have to learn how to sharpen those chisels."

So, is using a CNC in the shop cheating? Personally, I don't think so. But there is a trade-off. There must be an acknowledgment that adopting a new technology will inevitably result in the fading of old skills. Although I certainly appreciate those who use hand-tools to do their building, I can acknowledge that it is not for me. I have accepted the trade-off that if I use my power tools I will either forget (or not learn at all) the older ways of doing things. If I had a CNC, I would use it. But I never want to forget how things are done without one.

Show and Tell



Intarsia deer by Dale Smith



Tower Crane model by Steve DeVries

CNC carved bookends by Dennis Beard





Sleigh and Ping-Pong gun by Don Kok

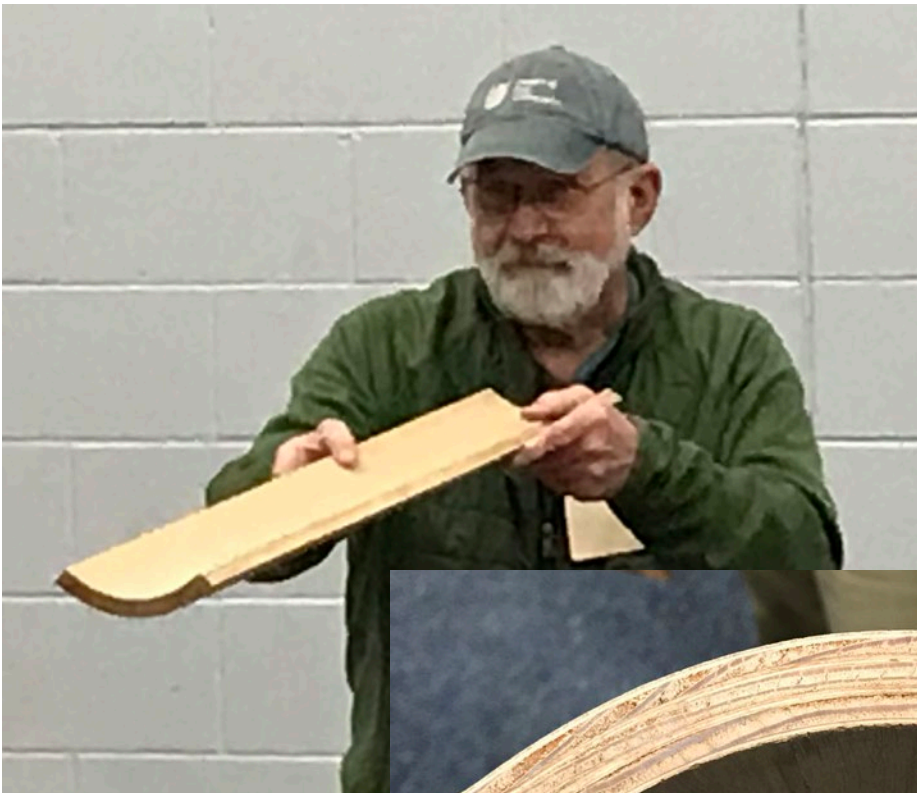


Five-legged table by Doug Scott



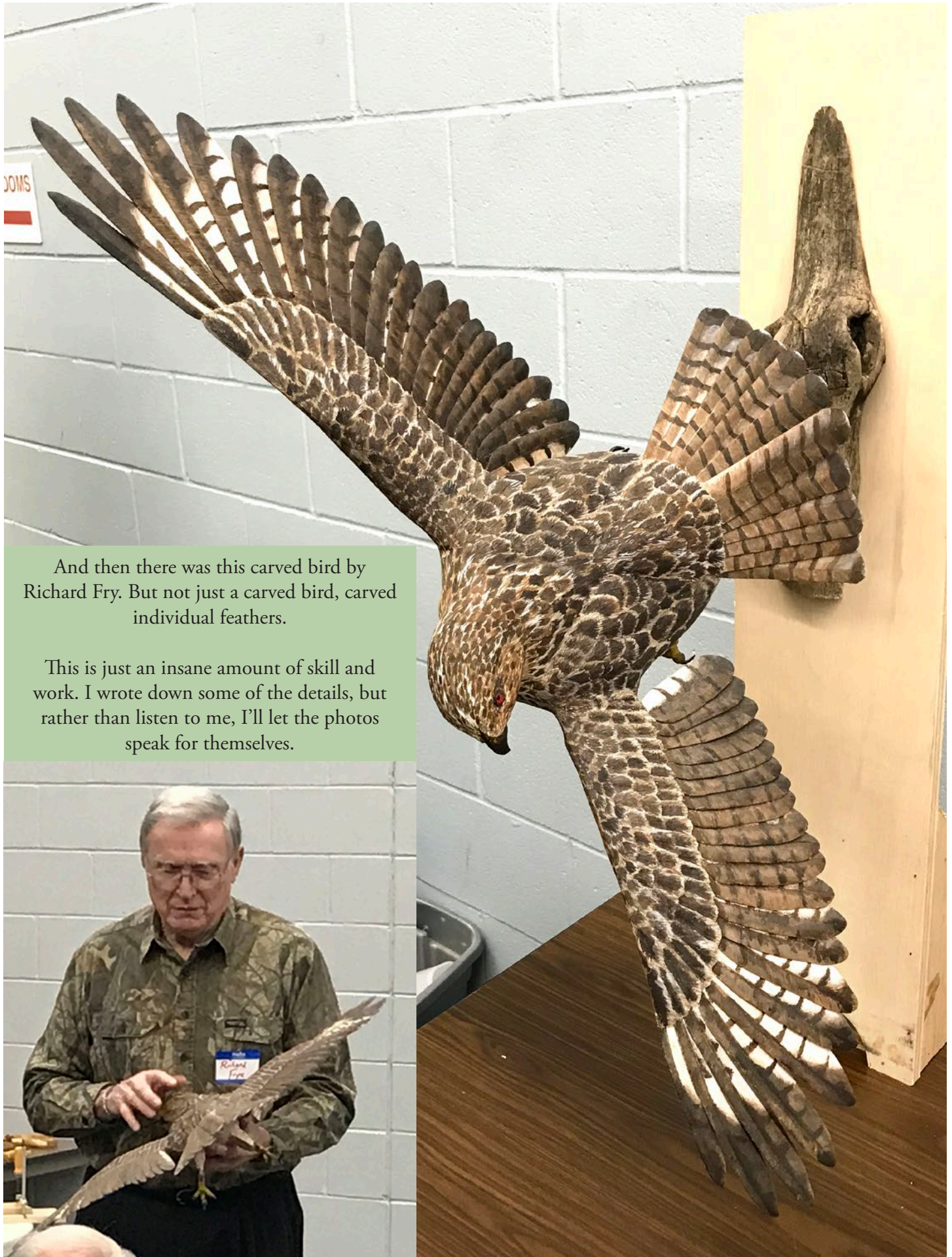


Cedar art carvings by Ghosh Yashowanto
(hope I got that spelling right)



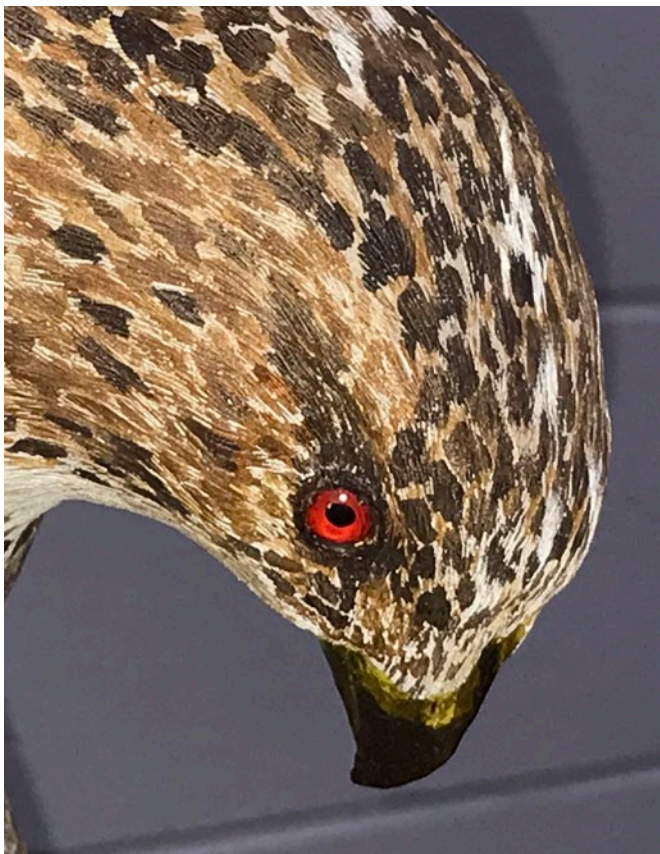
Vacuum- formed curved wood by
Sam Lacina





And then there was this carved bird by Richard Fry. But not just a carved bird, carved individual feathers.

This is just an insane amount of skill and work. I wrote down some of the details, but rather than listen to me, I'll let the photos speak for themselves.



If that doesn't knock your
socks off, you might want to
check your own pulse. Nice
job Richard.

Current Board Members :

Les Derusha - President
Dale Smith - Vice President
Case VanderMaas - Treasurer
John Pflug - Program Director
Steve DeVries - Newsletter
Tom McDonald - Guild Contact

Open - Secretary

Phil Miclea - Member at Large
Steve Babcock - Member at Large
Jim Jakosh - Member at Large
Don Stump - Member at Large
Zach Danzer - Member at Large

The Guild's
Facebook page :

[www.facebook.com/groups/
wmiwwguild](http://www.facebook.com/groups/wmiwwguild)



Watch West Michigan Woodworkers
Guild Facebook Page for Dates and
Times.

[http://www.facebook.com/groups/
wmiwwguild](http://www.facebook.com/groups/wmiwwguild)

FREE Guild Membership!

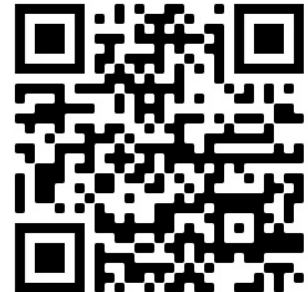
Join the West Michigan Woodworkers Guild for FREE!.

To join the WM Woodworkers Guild and to receive our monthly Newsletters and to post to our Facebook Page, all you have to do is send us the following information:

Your Full Name
Your E-mail Address
Your Mailing Address
Your Phone Number
Your Favorite Type of Woodworking

Send your contact information to:

Information@westmichiganwoodworkers.org



The Guild's website :

www.westmichiganwoodworkers.org

How Woodworkers Keep in Touch.

There are three ways Woodworkers can keep in touch with one another during this time of pandemic meeting restrictions:

One: Join the West Michigan Woodworkers Guild

Two: Receive our Monthly Newsletter (FREE from September through June, annually)
(Send us your contact information, Name, e-mail address, mailing address and phone number to: information@westmichiganwoodworkers.org)

Three: View and post questions, projects, items for sale or desired or general woodworking information to our Facebook Page regularly.

www.facebook.com/groups/wmiwwguild



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