



# West Michigan Woodworkers Guild

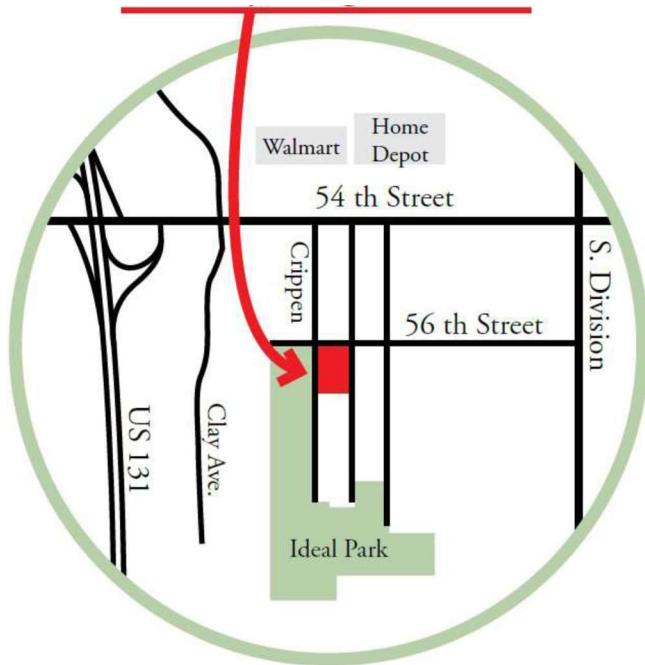
March 2024  
Newsletter

## Up Coming Event

**Tuesday March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**7:00 PM-9:30 PM**

**Ideal Park Christian Reformed Church  
Activity Center  
320 56<sup>th</sup> St SW  
Wyoming, MI**



March's subject is **Sanding – Everything You Want to Know!** Full audience participation. Bring your favorite sandpaper, sanding tools, sanding jigs and share your experience with your woodworking peers! Benefit from *our* previous mistakes!

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**STILL NEEDED: a Guild Treasurer AND a Public Relations Director (Guild Contact),**  
Give me a call or an email. [Les@svideo.org](mailto:Les@svideo.org) or 616 446-4008.

### **ALSO, STILL NEEDED FROM MEMBERS:**

First: articles by you. One submitted so far. Only one, but a great start – the book review printed below from Board Member Phil Miclea. Let's make this the first of many.

Second, almost all of us use the internet regularly and come across articles or websites that interest us as woodworkers. If an item interests you, my guess is that it will interest at least one of the other 269 Guild members. Sharing it requires only a sentence and a link.

Please suggest links to tools (to buy), or to information about how to use a tool, or to anything else dealing with woodworking. Don't worry about how your entry looks. We can pretty it up for our *Newsletter*. Send a sentence (or two) description and a *link* that will enable all of us to access your great find.

Now I invite you to read Phil's useful and thought generating review of Michael Pekovich's *The Why and How of Woodworking*.

## Tips and Bits

### Phil Miclea

From time to time, I hope to offer reviews of books I've read, starting with Michael Pekovich's *The Why & How of Woodworking: A Simple Approach to Making Meaningful Work* (Newtown, CT: Taunton, 2018).

I had the opportunity to learn directly from Michael in a week long class. I rate him as one of the best instructors I've had in the last 20 years at the Marc Adams School of Woodworking. I found his extremely organized approach to building to be refreshing and informative, and have adapted my style to his as best I can. This book gives a glimpse of his approach, one that I recommend to experienced and beginning woodworkers. Below is a **ChatCBT** summary that speaks much better than I can do on my own.

***The Why & How of Woodworking*** stands as a testament to his profound understanding of the craft, interweaving practical instruction with philosophical musings. As an esteemed woodworker and the editor of ***Fine Woodworking*** magazine, Pekovich brings decades of experience to the table, guiding readers through the intricate world of woodworking with wisdom and insight.

At its core, Pekovich's book is a celebration of the art and craft of woodworking, inviting readers to embark on a journey that transcends the mere act of shaping wood. By delving into the fundamentals of the craft, Pekovich lays the groundwork for a deeper appreciation of woodworking, emphasizing the importance of understanding the material, tools, and techniques involved.

One of the key themes that permeates throughout *The Why & How of Woodworking* is the notion that woodworking is not merely a

means to an end but a process rich in meaning and significance. Pekovich encourages readers to approach their work with intentionality, urging them to consider not just what they are making, but why they are making it. This shift in perspective transforms woodworking from a mechanical task into a form of self-expression, allowing artisans to imbue their creations with personal meaning and significance.

Central to Pekovich's philosophy is the idea that woodworking offers a unique opportunity to engage with the natural world in a profound and meaningful way. By working with wood, artisans develop a deeper appreciation for the beauty and complexity of the material, forging a connection that transcends the boundaries of the workshop. Pekovich encourages readers to embrace this connection, urging them to cultivate a sense of reverence and respect for the trees that provide the raw material for their craft.

In addition to exploring the philosophical dimensions of woodworking, Pekovich also provides readers with practical guidance on a wide range of topics, from selecting and preparing wood to mastering essential techniques. Drawing upon his own experiences as a woodworker, Pekovich offers valuable insights and advice, guiding readers through each step of the process with clarity and precision.

One of the key strengths of *The Why & How of Woodworking* is Pekovich's ability to distill complex concepts into accessible language, making even the most daunting tasks seem manageable. Whether discussing the intricacies of joinery or the finer points of finishing, Pekovich approaches each topic with a keen eye for detail, breaking down complex processes into easy-to-follow steps.

Moreover, Pekovich's book is filled with stunning illustrations and photographs that bring the world of woodworking to life. From detailed

diagrams of joinery techniques to breathtaking images of finished projects, the book's visual elements serve to inspire and inform readers, offering a window into the creative process of one of woodworking's most respected practitioners.

Beyond its practical and philosophical insights, *The Why & How of Woodworking* also serves as a rallying cry for artisans seeking to reclaim the lost art of craftsmanship in an increasingly mechanized world. Pekovich laments the decline of handmade objects in favor of mass-produced goods, arguing that there is something inherently valuable in the act of creating something with one's own hands.

Throughout the book, Pekovich shares personal anecdotes and reflections from his own woodworking journey, offering readers a glimpse into the mind of a master craftsman. His passion for the craft is evident on every page, inspiring readers to approach their work with the same level of dedication and enthusiasm.

In conclusion, *The Why & How of Woodworking* is a masterful blend of practical instruction, philosophical reflection, and personal insight. Whether you're a seasoned woodworker looking to deepen your practice, or a novice seeking guidance on where to begin, Pekovich's book offers something for you. With its wealth of knowledge and wisdom, *The Why & How of Woodworking* is sure to become an indispensable resource for artisans of all skill levels, inspiring them to embrace the art and craft of woodworking with passion and purpose.

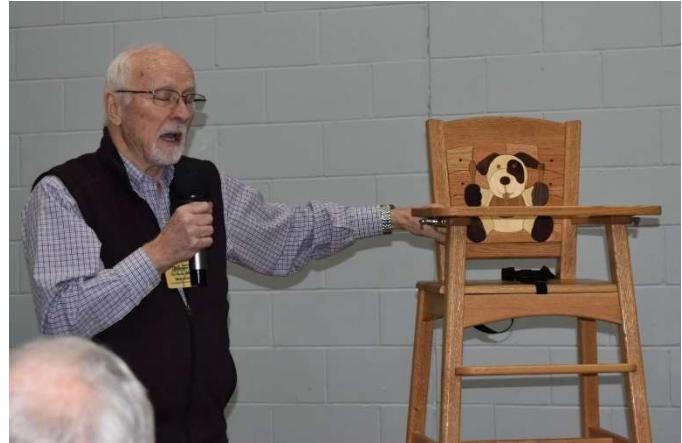
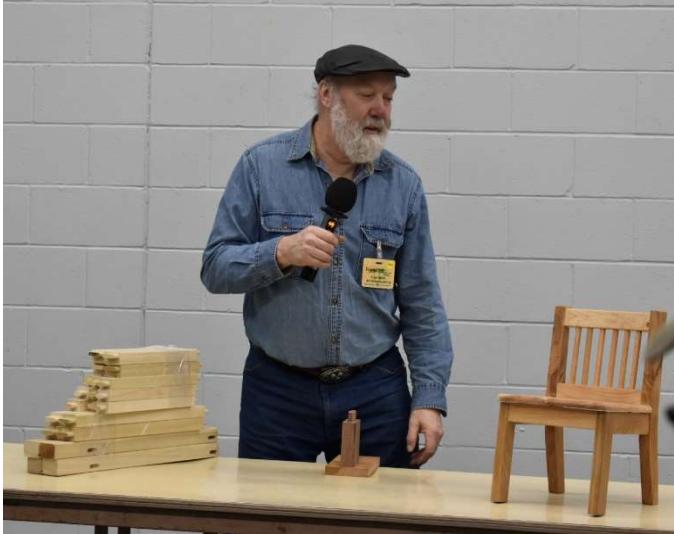
### **Now it's your turn -- very soon please . . .**

Send at least one sentence and a link to:  
[les@svideo.org](mailto:les@svideo.org), for next month's newsletter!  
**Thanks in advance!**

## FEBRUARY 2024 SHOW AND TELL

Our Guild Secretary was ill on meeting day, thus, no minutes. So... we recreated the Show-n-Tell from meeting attendees as best we could.

**Doug Scott:** Showing a bit of his work with a PantoRouter. Nicely Done! For more see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-09K5c6FUfg>. Very interesting joinery options. Potential for a Guild meeting main topic!



**Mike** shared pictures of many of his projects from years in the woodworking business.



**Fred Wheeler:** Intarsia in a highchair.



**Steve** showed his bandsawed box.



**Denny Beard** – a serving tray showing great skills with veneer.



**Patience, Patience, Patience.**

Les Derusha President  
Dale Smith Vice President  
Don Stump Secretary  
Case VanderMaas  
(Retiring)  
John Pflug Program Coordinator  
Dr Gary Bekker Newsletter Editor  
Open Public Relations Director  
Bryan Vaughn Member At Large  
Phil Miclea Member At Large  
Tom Huizinga Member At Large

### The Guild's Facebook page :

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 to send us the following Information:**

**Your Full Name**

**Your E-Mail**

**Your Mailing Address**

**Your Phone Number**

**Your Favorite Type of Woodworking**

**Send Your Information to:**

[Information@westmichiganwoodworkers.org](mailto:Information@westmichiganwoodworkers.org)



## The Guild Website

<http://www.westmichiganwoodworkers.org>

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### How Woodworkers Keep In Touch

**One : Join the West Michigan Woodworkers Guild**

**Two: Receive our Monthly Newsletter (September-June)**

**(See directions above)**

**Three: View and post questions, projects, items for sale or desired**

**Or general woodworking information to our Facebook Page regularly**

[Information@westmichiganwoodworkers.org](mailto:Information@westmichiganwoodworkers.org)





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