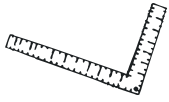


Woodworkers Guild



of



Southwestern Michigan May 2013

Next Meeting

May 14, 2013 7:00pm

Chuck Andrews Shop at

13282 S. 18th St Vicksburg

Our next program will be presented by none other than our very own Chuck Andrews, woodworker, cooper, blacksmith extraordinaire! The meeting will be held in Chuck's barn at his home at 13282 S. 18th St, Vicksburg. Look for the terrific post-and-beam construction two-story barn and pull into the circle drive. Chuck will be doing some blacksmith demonstrations on how to make a hinge, hand cut nails, an iron chisel, and even a decorative hook. Bring a few extra dollars along as we will be raffling off a few of Chuck's handmade items for the benefit of the club's coffers!



Notes from April 9th meeting

At the April meeting, we were all treated to a wonderful, informative presentation from Bill Wells. He is a well-accomplished furniture maker who has carved out a niche in the market with his high quality embellishments. He adds wood veneer, metal, and crushed stone inlay to his high-quality pieces to place them in a category of their own in terms of visual uniqueness. Check out www.williamwellsfurniture.com if you missed the meeting or want to revisit his remarkable work!

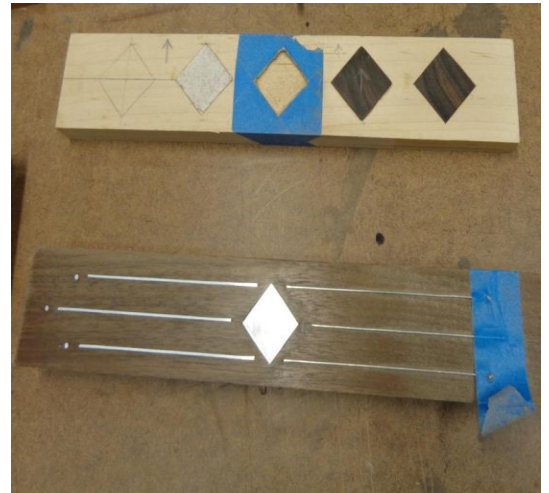


He began his presentation with a little personal history. He explained that while he worked in, and retired from working in the steel mills, woodworking had always been a side-job. He specialized in building custom furniture, but did most pieces for family and friends until he retired. During his career, he learned the craft of furniture making from an old German furniture maker in the Detroit area and Michael Fortune, one of the world's leading experts in furniture making. Now, he exhibits his work at the big craft shows in Chicago and gets most of his commission work from that market and exposure.



Once he had the foundational skills for building exceptional pieces, he sought to make his work stand out among the best. It certainly does, and he credits that to his fine craftsmanship and especially the embellishments added to each piece. Much like stretching a few details of your favorite fishing story, Bill's embellishments make his furniture really pop. Though unlike the fibs you might throw in about how big the fish REALLY was, Bill's enhancements are true. The inlay work adds incredible value to the piece, both visually and in price! But the greatest point about Bill's presentation is that these techniques are not just for the kings of the fine woodworking world. His practical demonstration showed how these incredible details can be mastered by even the hobbyist!

He gave a fantastic demonstration on some of his inlay techniques, including how to cut a perfect recess for inlaying wood or shell material (abalone, mother of pearl, etc.). Some of us were surprised to learn he uses a router free-hand to cut such delicate pieces! His simple process included scoring the outline of the piece to be inlayed with an X-acto knife, removing most of the material with a 1/16th inch bit in the laminate trimmer and finishing with a sharp chisel.



Next, he taught us how to inlay crushed stone in the fancy patterns seen in his work. He used the same small bit in the laminate trimmer to recess the design.



Then he explained the simple process of spreading the crushed stone across the design and locking it in with drops of epoxy.

(Pre-treatment with Waxilit helps clean up the excess epoxy). In the final portion of his demo, he showed us the specialized tool (made from a thin scraper) he uses to inlay pure silver wire. Again, the technique was relatively simple, but the results were astounding.



Make sure you check out the member photos and his website to really get an understanding of how incredible his work is!

Many thanks to Ben Overbeek for taking notes for this newsletter.

I also want to thank Carroll Seats for March meeting notes. As always thanks to Gary Doyle for all the photos.

It appears that many members took advantage of the wood offered for sale by Vice President Al Collison. Al purchased the wood as leftovers from Dennis Dahl's cabinet shop. I will include an additional page of photos for the online viewers.



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