

WOODWORKERS

GUILD

of Southwest Michigan

Next meeting:

May 9, 2017 @ 7:00

Chuck Andrews Shop

**13282 S. 18th St.
Vicksburg**

Look for the post-and-beam construction two story barn on the west side of the street.

Agenda: Chuck will be firing a white oak barrel. This is the process of heating the inside of a coopered barrel so the staves can be bent into a barrel shape.

Chuck will also be going over a process of producing barrels at home with minimal tools.

He teaches a class at Tillers International: Production Barrel Making - 449 Explore machine methods to make barrels using common woodworking machines found in most home shops or available at a reasonable cost for a serious cooper. Each student will leave with a 15 gallon barrel made during the class. We will make extensive use of power joiners, planers, table saws, band saws and routers during the class. Excellent class for the small-scale artisanal cooper.

<http://www.woodguild.org> **May 2017**

The guild made a road trip to Grand Rapids to visit the Kendall College of Art and Design in April. By all accounts it was a very informative and enjoyable meeting. Gayle DeBruyn M.M. Associate Professor, Furniture and Collaborative Design Program Chair Furniture Design, Collaborative Design, Master of Arts in Design, facilitated the evening. The school's origins go back to 1928 and it is a college of Ferris State University.

From their web page:

Our faculty members are regionally and nationally known artists in their own right who share their experience freely in the studio and beyond. Our professors know their students by name and are invested in their success. Our facilities provide well-resourced studios, classrooms, labs, workshops, and exhibition spaces. And our technology is directly aligned with the systems and software used in the professional world. With 1,428 students and 189 faculty (as of fall 2014), we offer a culture that's intimate, supportive, and collaborative.

To learn more about the school, visit their web page at www.kcad.edu.



Piano Bookcase by John Biermacher

I had seen a number of pictures of piano repurposed into bars and bookcases. I made the mistake of telling a friend that I was considering doing one myself. Very shortly afterwards, he called me and told me there was a baby grand available for a mere \$40. Years ago I had converted an upright into a fireplace surround, but until we moved the baby grand, I had forgotten just how heavy a piano can be. Even after I dismantled it and removed the large metal harp I was amazed at how heavy it was. YouTube has multiple videos about dismantling pianos, but one should pay special attention to the safety precautions because the strings are under extreme tension. Once I got it dismantled it sat for several months before I returned to the project. When I returned to it the major steps (hurdles) were:

Removing the bridges. A chisel and brute force was required because even with the screws removed, the bridges were still glued to the sounding board. Repairing the carcass. The interior of the piano and the sounding board require considerable filling/sanding with auto body filler.



There was a depth difference in the area between the keys and the sounding board so I added a cabinet. Luckily I was able to cut panels from a door to make the sides and used plywood to make the top, bottom and back. My wife had the idea to use another door panel to make the door. Bun feet were added raise the bookcase slightly off the floor.



The white keys were in terrible shape. I removed the ivory that remained and gave it to a friend for use in his luthier hobby. I then recovered the keys with iron on oak veneer.

Because the sounding board had so many repairs, I covered it by decoupageing it with very old sheet music that I purchased for a song (pun intended) on Craigslist.

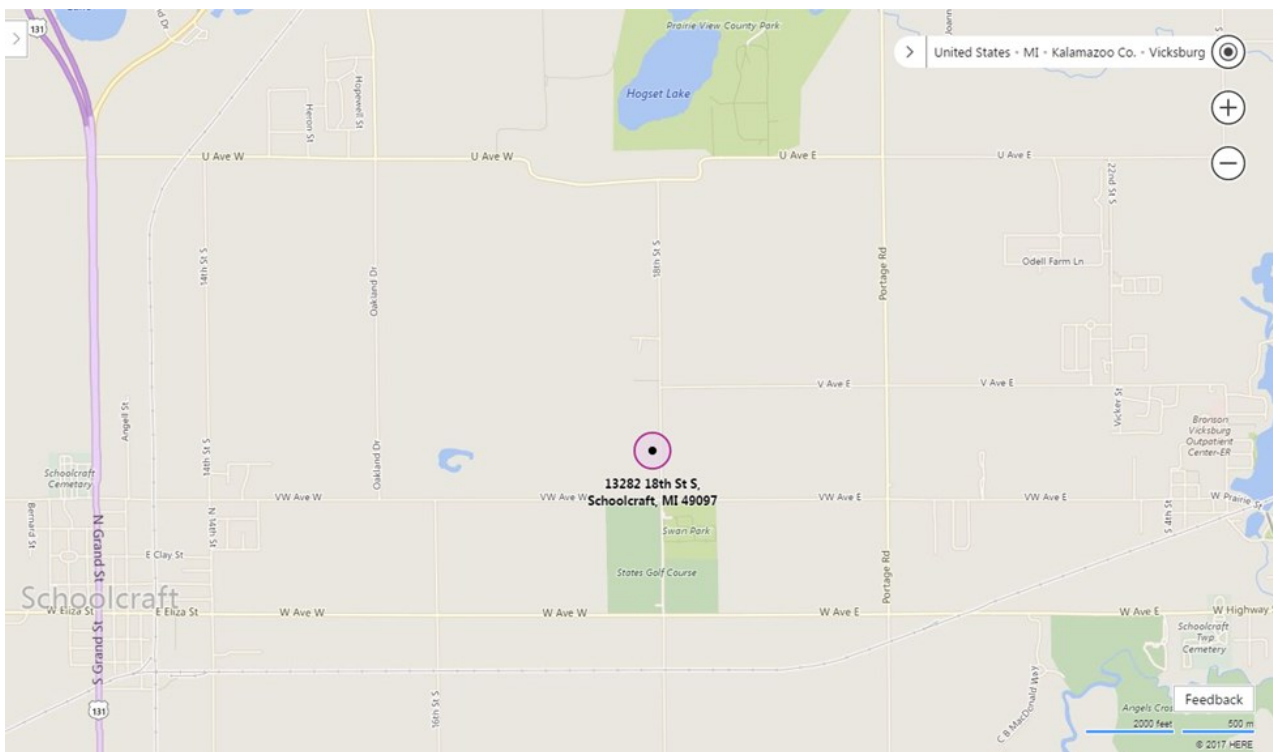
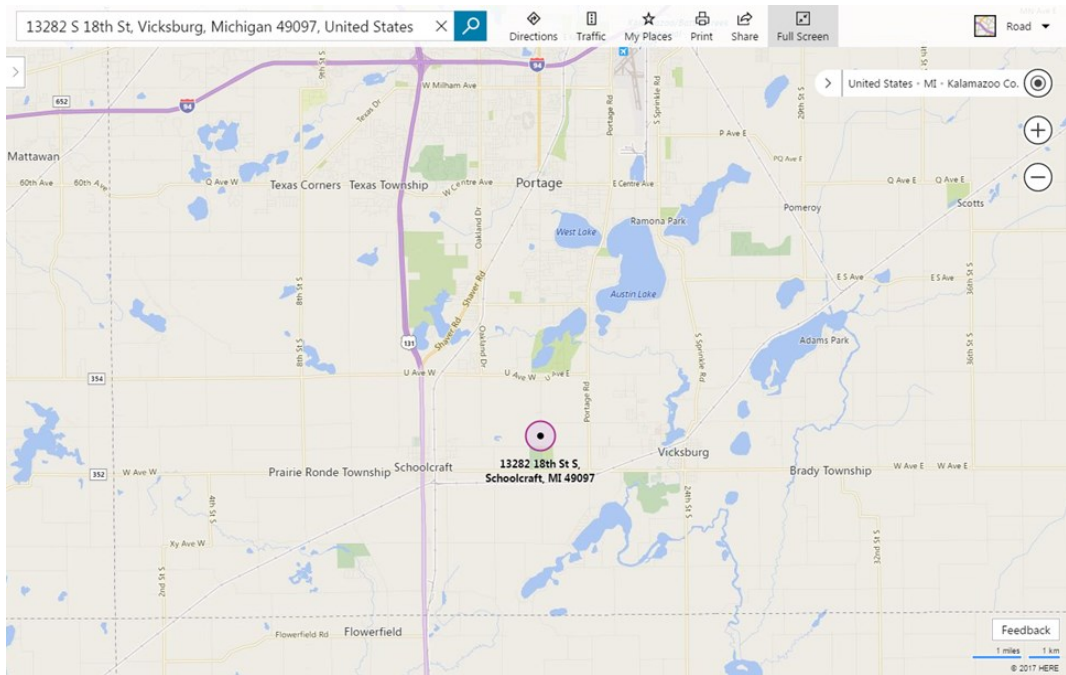
The cabinet and book case shelves were cut from the original piano top and the front edges were veneered to allow them to be stained and varnished.

As mentioned earlier, the interior back was decoupage with sheet music. The interior was painted black, and the exterior and shelving was stained. Everything received several coats of urethane varnish. In hindsight I think I would have done the finishing and painting and then done the decoupage.

Conclusion.

It is designed to be a bookcase, but could serve as a back bar. I am happy with how the project ended up but it took way longer than anticipated- primarily because of the head scratching required, and the cooler (winter) temperature in my shop made finishing difficult. I hope to share a photo of it "at home" with accessories after I find a buyer.

Maps to Chuck's Shop:



Tillers International is running a Basic Woodworking with Hand Tools class from May 15 to 18, 6-9pm each evening. Folks need no experience. Brad Smith from WMU is teaching. Cost is \$250 with materials. The project is a nice bench.

Woodworkers Guild of S.W. Michigan

7572 S. 10th St
Kalamazoo MI 49009

Guild Officers

President - Bill Crown	375-1594
Vice President - Al Collison	685-8428
Treasurer - Mike Cline	685-0535
Newsletter Ed. - Scott McDavid	544-2177
Secretary - Douglas Lyles	324-1449
Photographer - Neal Ferguson	624-6837

The Woodworks Guild of South West Michigan is a group of hobbyist and professional woodworkers of diverse woodworking interests that meet monthly to share knowledge and craftsmanship skills that serve the many facets of woodworking.

Meetings are held second Tuesday of each month from September through May. Meeting time is 7:00pm at a local shop or location of interest.

Annual member ship dues are \$25/year.

Find us on the web at www.woodguild.org

Guild Sponsors:

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<p>J&J Paint & Glass <i>Steve Klok Scott Miracle</i> Everything in Glass</p> <p>509 East Vine St. Kalamazoo MI 49001</p> <p>Ph 269-344-2834 Fax 269-344-0378</p> <p>Serving SW MI since 1954</p>	<p>S E L E C T M I L L W O R K C O M P A N Y B I L L A D A M S P R E S I D E N T 960 I N D U S T R I A L P A R K W A Y P L A I N W E L L M I 49080 P H 269-685 2646</p>	<p>THE HERITAGE C O M P A N Y <i>Architectural Salvage and</i> <i>Supply Buy and Sell old wood-</i> <i>work, doors windows and all oth-</i> <i>er old house parts.</i></p> <p><i>Open Wed - Sat 11-5</i> <i>269-385-1004</i> <i>150N. Edwards</i> <i>Kalamazoo, MI 49007</i></p>	<p>Ad space available.</p>