

# WOODWORKERS

## of Southwest Michigan

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

### Next meeting:

December 12, 2017 @  
7:00pm

**Al Collison's Shop at  
10292 Douglas Ave.**

Take Douglas North to Cooper, it is 2 ½ miles North of Cooper, on the right (East) side. Or you can take 131 to D ave East to Douglas and turn left, (North). Al will have an orange cone and flashing light out to get your attention.

**Agenda:** Don Batts will be discussing Windsor chair building. Don has built several Windsor chairs and teaches a hands on class.

At the November meeting Bill Crown presided over 39 members and guests.

Bill offered a welcome to our guests and a brief introduction to our guild and meetings.

Bill commented that all packages of 40 wheels and axels have been handed out this year. The toys built from the wheel packages are given to the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission and Portage Community Center just after Thanksgiving. So please have your creations turned in no later than Thanksgiving. In the past we have donated 350~400 toys. Mike Cline has posted plans for toys on our web page under the links tab.

Our November featured speaker was Don Fowler from the Alumilite Corporation in Kalamazoo. Alumilite started as a collaboration between a machinist looking for a prototype milling material and a chemist friend. Together they developed an material that could be mixed and poured into a mold and machined like aluminum after a few hours of cure time. The product has evolved into mold resins and casting resins targeted at machinists, artists, craftsman and hobbyists. Their web page, [www.alumilite.com](http://www.alumilite.com), is broken into segments for automotive restoration, hobbies, crafts, fishing lures, wood turning, clear resin coating, paleontology and industrial applications.

Don focused the discussion on wood turning and encapsulating items. The material is mixed like a two part epoxy in equal amounts. Precise measurements are required to achieve proper cure. The Alumilite clear resin is initially cloudy when mixed and turns water clear when properly mixed. The open time is around 7 minutes. For a counter top the material is self leveling and cures to a surface that is solid yet pliable and self healing. This is good for bar tops to prevent glass breakage. The resins are polyurethane based and are very sensitive to moisture. It is recommended that materials cast in the resin have a 5% or less moisture content.

To achieve stunning colors, liquid dyes are added along with a material know as Aluidust to impart a pearl essence. Don demonstrated encapsulating a pine cone into a resin colored with red dye and white Aluidust. There are many tricks to the trade, such as keeping the items suspend and not floating to the surface.

Casting resin into pen blanks requires a recommend pressure of 40 ~ 60 psi until the resin cures to avoid visible air bubbles in the blank. The pressure compresses any air bubbles to microscopic size that are locked in place when the resin cures. Unrated pressure pots used for paint can be found at Harbor Freight. A rated pressure pot will come with considerable cost, but piece of mind.

Alumilite has a shelf life of about 3 months. For that reason, Don did not bring any to sell to the group. One needs to be ready to use it at time of purchase. Alumilite it can be purchased locally at their facilities in Kalamazoo. They will also provide technical guidance on products use. Alumilite is located at 315 E. North Street, Kalamazoo.

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## Annual Toy Drive



Several members brought in their finished toys for the annual toy drive. Art Wurfel brought in jewelry boxes along with cars with silky smooth lacquer finish.





## Show and Tell

Elton Hiscock brought in boxes for the Beads of Courage Program. They were hexagonal shaped and finger jointed along each 60° edge. Elton found this would be impossible to glue up, so after dry assembly he pinned each joint at the top and bottom and used polyurethane finish as a means of locking the finger joints.

John Biermacher discussed a large farmhouse table he built for a client. John's work can be found at Hometalk.com. It is a DIY forum John participates with. It is kind of like Facebook, but anyone can view it and no religion or politics, just DIY. John uses it as "My Blog" without the hassle of creating one.

<https://www.hometalk.com/33200524/an-extremely-large-dining-table>



John also reported via e-mail that Handley's Hardwoods has changed ownership. The new owners will not continue the lumber sales part of the business.

Mike Cline brought in a Tic-Tac-Toe game that he built.



## Upcoming Events

Tillers International Classes:

Tillers always has a variety of classes. Their web page has gone through several updates. Their 2018 class schedule is now available online.

Local wood turners meet second Saturday of each month at Northwest United Methodist Church. 3140 North 3rd Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. —<http://www.westmichturners.org/>  
Meetings begin at 10:00 am, coffee and rolls at 9:00am

Kzoo Makers meet M-Tu-Th-Sa from 4:00pm—8:00pm —[www.kzoomakers.org](http://www.kzoomakers.org)

## Wood guild Classified

Benjamin Overbeek is looking for a woodworkers vise asap and would like to get a (no longer) used one from the group as opposed to buying new.

## 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 - Web - 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](http://www.woodguild.org)

### Guild Sponsors:

 <p><b>Primal Woods</b> Hartford, MI <u>Portable and Alaskan</u> <u>Sawmill Services</u> Email: <a href="mailto:john@primalwoods.com">john@primalwoods.com</a> Web: <a href="http://www.primalwoods.com/sawyers">www.primalwoods.com/sawyers</a>&lt;br <a href="http://www.facebook.com/primalwoods">www.facebook.com/primalwoods</a> 269-222-0101 John @ X700</p>	 <p><b>Douglas &amp; Son Inc.</b> <b>Everyone's Favorite</b> <b>Paint &amp; Wallpaper</b> <b>Store.</b> <b>231 West Cedar St.</b> <b>Kalamazoo MI 49007</b> <b>(269) 344- 2860</b> <b><a href="http://www.douglas&amp;son.com">www.douglas&amp;son.com</a></b></p>	<p><b>Andy Jean's</b> <b>Sawmill</b> <b>7616 W. Main</b> <b>Oshtemo, MI</b> <b>Cell 269-808-6230</b> <b>Hardwood and Softwood</b> <b>Professional Milling and</b> <b>Kiln Drying</b></p>	<p><b>WOODCRAFT®</b></p> <p><b>4265 28<sup>th</sup> St. SE</b> <b>Grand Rapids, MI</b> <b>616-957-9663</b> <a href="mailto:woodcraftmich550@sbcglobal.net">woodcraftmich550@sbcglobal.net</a> <i>Directions</i> New Hwy 6 E. off 131 to M-37, N. to 28<sup>th</sup> St., Right on 28<sup>th</sup>, One mile from M-37 North Just East of Paris Ave. Next to Design Quest on your left.</p>
<p><b>J&amp;J</b> <b>Paint &amp; Glass</b> <b>Steve Klok Scott Miracle</b> <b>Everything in Glass</b></p> <p><b>509 East Vine St.</b> <b>Kalamazoo MI 49001</b></p> <p><b>Ph 269-344-2834</b> <b>Fax 269-344-0378</b></p> <p><b>Serving SW MI since 1954</b></p>	<p><b>S E L E C T</b> <b>M I L L W O R K</b> <b>C O M P A N Y</b> <b>B I L L A D A M S</b> <b>P R E S I D E N T</b> <b>960</b> <b>I N D U S T R I A L</b> <b>P A R K W A Y</b> <b>P L A I N W E L L M I</b> <b>49080</b> <b>P H 269-685 2646</b></p>	<p><b>THE HERITAGE</b> <b>C O M P A N Y</b></p> <p><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>



