

# WOODWORKERS

## of Southwest Michigan

<http://www.woodguild.org> February 2019

### Next meeting:

February 12 2019 @ 7:00pm

**Al Collison's Shop  
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:

Gerren Young will show us how to apply gold leaf and the patination process. This will be a hands on meeting for all of us to learn these techniques.

### January 2019 Meeting Minutes

The guild made a visit to Portage Northern High School woodworking shop. Bill Crown opened the meeting with a welcoming introduction to the roughly 30 members and visitors in attendance. There were a few show and tell items. George Wade continues on his quest to make things bigger and presented a giant plywood pad lock. He got a 1" radius router bit for Christmas that he used to make the hasp. He also constructed a copy of an axe that was on display at Firehouse sub shop. He made his copy 1.5 times bigger than the display axe. Tom Metzler crafted a serving tray from solid surface counter material. He found the material easy to cut, rout and drill.

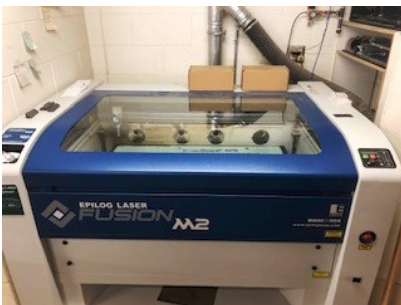
Mark Bielang, Portage Public School Superintendent and guild member gave us a brief introduction on how the schools program serves the community and how successfully it has been operated by Matt Kamm. This is Matt's 19th year running the program. It initially started with 8 kids from Portage Northern and 11 kids from Portage Central. After the first semester it grew to 70 kids. Not long after that Matt moved full time to Northern and the kids from Central are bussed over. Today there are 110 kids per day and includes with two 2-hour county wide classes offered as part of the Education for Employment program. To call this a woodworking or a traditional shop class is a vast understatement. While the primary equipment is the heavy Powermatic woodworking equipment, an innovation center is a more appropriate description. The kids have access to CNC machinery, 3-printing and laser engraving equipment, custom fishing rods and recently vinyl banner-graphics design and printing.

Matt empowers the students in everyway imaginable. Old school veterans of vocational trades will say that can't be done, but Matt has proved them wrong. There is no seniority levels, a freshman with more experience on a piece of machinery may be training a senior. He has set up a system of badges, certificates, emblems and colors to denote a students ranking, somewhat resembling the military. He has student administrators that manage all aspects of the shop. The managers develop from two paths. A production path that is less machinery and more people oriented and a manufacturing path that is more machine focused. The kids select their own projects to build, often using the internet and YouTube for inspiration. Matt leaves it up to the kids to figure out who, what and how they must go through and about to get a project done. The kids work it out together and each find their niche. Matt serves as a self described encyclopedia to keep it all flowing. The students that enroll in Matts programs are far from you typical shop student. They keep each other accountable, back each other up and work together to make this program flourish. Matt commented that about 20% of the student population is female and that six of his eight managers are female.

A few items are made to sale. They CNC parts for Adirondack chairs from various wood materials and HDP (High Density Polyurethane) and different styles that feature a MI shaped back or folding chair option. The high end HDP sells for around \$450 for chair and stool. HDP material is available in different colors and will last a lifetime. They can print banners and build custom fishing rods. They do not advertise these services as most items are sold word of mouth through the school staff and supporters. Contact Matt via e-mail if you have an interest in these services (MKamm@portageps.org).



Matt has created a unique learning environment for his students. They not only learn shop skills but life skills that will help them in the real world environment. Mark mentioned early in the meeting the Education for Employment off shoot of this program. A quick google of KRESE EFE leads one to a most amazing program in our community. Checkout this link to Engineering in Wood Technology—<https://www.kresa.org/Domain/290>.



We should all be grateful and proud that our community has these types of programs to offer.



Mark Bielang also mentioned that the Paw Paw Habitat for Humanity is the benefactor of heavy sawyer equipment and a large supply of dried lumber. They are formulating how to sell it to benefit Habitat. It may be an auction format, possibly early sales of bundles to interested parties. Look for more to follow at a future meeting.





## 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 - Ted Maxon	477-2577
Web - Mike Cline	685-0535
Newsletter Ed. - Scott McDavid	544-2177
Secretary - Douglas Lynes	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> <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>  4265 28<sup>th</sup> St. SE Grand Rapids, MI 616-957-9663 <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> <i>Steve Klok Scott Miracle</i> <b>Everything in Glass</b>  <b>509 East Vine St.</b> <b>Kalamazoo MI 49001</b>  <b>Ph 269-344-2834</b> <b>Fax 269-344-0378</b>  <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> <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>  Open Wed - Sat 11-5 269-385-1004 150N. Edwards Kalamazoo, MI 49007</p>	<p>Ad space available.</p>