

WOODWORKERS

of Southwest Michigan

<http://www.woodguild.org> February 2020

Next meeting:

February 11th @ 7:00pm

Kzoo Makers Space
1102 E. Michigan
Kalamazoo, MI 49048
kzoomakers.org

Take E. Michigan Ave through town, go under the railroad overpass and continue on E. Michigan Ave. Kzoo Makers is about 1/8 mile past the railroad overpass on the south side of E. Michigan Ave.

Agenda: TBD

The January meeting was held at the Kzoo Makers Space. A turn out of about 38 members and guests came out for the evenings events. President Bill Wieringa opened the meeting with a welcome and introduction of visitors. Bill announced that David Gates has assumed the responsibility of guild secretary. The guild owes a great deal of thanks and gratitude to Doug Lynes for all the years of the newsletter delivery and managing an always changing and growing e-mail listing. A huge thank you Doug for your time and effort for so many years.

Professional woodworker Mike Belzowski was our evenings featured guest. Mike introduced him self as "just a carpenter" but has completed training as a Master Woodworker from Marc Adams School of Woodworking. He has had training from various world renown craftsman including Sam Maloof, Michael Fortune, Fran Klaus. His work has been featured in Fine Homebuilding Magazine. Mike used a slide show to walk us through current and past projects. He is just finishing up work on a highly energy efficient barn he designed and constructed with modern techniques and materials. The trim, moldings and copulas are made in his shop utilizing PVC material. A barn is an extreme understatement. The owner tends to use it as a high end automotive garage and woodworking shop. Plans are being made to add solar panels. Go to belzowski.com and check out the LaPorte County Barn under his portfolio. Be prepared to be blown away by the all the projects on display. While listening to Mike talk about the projects, it is amazing how many he takes on that require techniques that he has never tired to do before. We lots of focused training, honed skill and determination the finished results are stunning. He often designs the projects for his clients in addition to building. When asked what software he uses for design he responded with No.2 pencil and paper.

After Mike's video presentation was done we moved back to the shop for a couple of demonstrations. Mike discussed the virtues of a card scraper in that when used properly a scratch free surface superior to any sanding and ready for finishing. Mastering the push-pull-bending techniques does one no good if they do not know how to sharpen the scraper. While there are many ways and mechanical aids to sharpen a scraper, Mike has developed his own technique and demonstrated that at the shop workbench. He also brought in a board with a sever check on one end. He walked us through the process of adding a bowtie splice to contain the check. Blue masking tap is applied over an area slightly larger than the bowtie. The bowtie outline is cut out of the masking tap followed by a drill with forstner bit to remove the bulk of the material to a depth of half the material thickness. A trim router is then carefully used to clean up the bottom of the pocket. A chisel is used to clean up the bowtie pocket flush with the tapes outline. The bowtie is driven into place with some delicate hammer work. Finally a hand plane and card scraper is used to make the bowtie flush with the board's surface.

Mike shared with us that he and his wife recently welcomed their first child into their family, a baby girl named Mira. Much appreciation for taking the time away from the new family and making the trek up from LaPorte.

Matt Erdmann has been busy building various projects: A storage box utilizing an old post office mail box door. There are two hidden compartments built into the box. His first scroll saw project, think Harry Potter Hogwarts. Several ash mallets. He supervised his daughter as she built a replica "Sting" sword from The Hobbit stories.



Ron Princing built a drum box for his granddaughter using mahogany and curly maple veneer over Baltic birch plywood. He also included an intricate flower inlay.



George Wade was inspired by our last meeting and made a sassafras live edge speaker amplifier used with cell phones.



The unknown spoon carver. My apologies but I did not get his name. You will have to find me at the next meeting.





Woodworkers Guild of S.W. Michigan

7572 S. 10th St
Kalamazoo MI 49009

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 Officers

President - Bill Wieringa 271-0615
Vice President - Gary Foote 616-240-0251
Treasurer - Ted Maxon 477-2577
Newsletter Ed. - Scott McDavid 544-2177
Secretary - David Gates 324-9818
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