

WOODWORKERS

of Southwest Michigan

<http://www.woodguild.org> March 2017

Next meeting:

March 14, 2017 @ 7:00pm

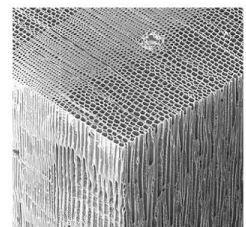
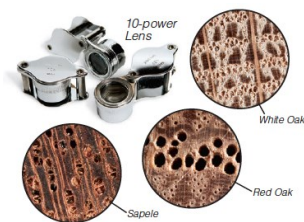
Al Collison's Shop at
10292 Douglas Ave.

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: Bob Behnke—Senior Technical Service Manager from Franklin International, makers of Titebond adhesives. His presentation will cover the 5 steps for successful wood gluing. From dry assembly to waiting for the glue to dry. Wood glues can affect the wood as it is being assembled and being prepared in advance will eliminate costly joint failures and frustrating disassembly. Discussion will focus on the steps needed to use wood glues with ease, what to watch out for when the glue hits the wood and why failures occur. We will also cover some frequently asked questions and why there are so many different wood glues. Bring your gluing questions as this is a discussion not just a presentation.

Tom Nehil—Wood Identification

At the March meeting our guild's very own Tom Nehil provided an informative discussion on wood identification to 38 members and guests. Tom opened up his presentation with a brief introduction and details of his engineering background. In addition to his job as a professional engineer, Tom teaches wood identification at Tillers International in Scotts Mi and Tillers board member. He walked us through the systematic process of identification. That process can begin with the bark, leaves and blossoms of the tree. When those items are not available it becomes a detective process of identifying key features. Those features include color, odor, density and florescence among other things. Narrowing down to a family may be the first step, such as identifying an oak piece of lumber. But distinguishing red oak from white oak from black oak quickly becomes more scientific and brings with it scientific instrumentation and magnification. Under magnification the edge grain provides more clues to the wood identity. Rays, specs and voids in the grain can be a telling indicator. However it may be necessary to move to higher magnifications to look at the grain an individual tube level. All this information is compiled on one's mental and various book libraries of identification. Tom came prepared with kits of different wood samples, 10x magnifier loops so we could better see how the grain reveals unique features to different types of wood.



Tom Nehil Biography

Tom Nehil is a structural engineer in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he specializes in evaluation, preservation and adaptive reuse of historic buildings. Tom is a member of the Timber Frame Engineering Council that is part of the Timber Framers Guild, and chairs the Timber Grading Training Committee for the Council. He is also active with the Michigan Barn Preservation Network and the Michigan Historic Preservation Network among other professional organizations. He is a regular instructor at Tillers International in Kalamazoo where he teaches wood identification, timber frame design, and traditional stone masonry.

Tom will be teaching an day long class on wood identification at Tillers from 9:00am—5:00pm on Saturday April 1st. Follow the link below for detailed information:

<http://tillersinternational.org/event/identifying-wood-april-1/>

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February's Show and Tell



Thom Kelley brought in a box—dispenser for a 350 count box of disposable shop towels.

George Wade brought in mallets he crafted from layers of plywood.



Don Batts was at Figures of wood a day ahead of a portable Lucas Sawmill visit. He went back the next day to see this beast in action. It was there to slab a 7.5' wide log and is capable of slabbing 10' diameter logs. The blade is a 10' chain-saw



Tom McCormick Shuffle Boards

Tom presented photos of shuffle boards that he builds from reclaimed bowling alley slabs. Some former Upjohn employees reminisced how the company had a dozen or much such tables. Tom can make you a deal on one of your own.



During Tom Nehil's presentation, he mentioned that about a year ago, Bob Soos had given him a chunk of wood to identify. Bob thought it was American Chestnut. Tom was very skeptical but agreed to investigate the mystery wood. All prevailing factors of age of tree, physical location, blight timeline made it very unlikely to be Chestnut. Maybe European, or Japanese Chestnut, but not American. Tom has a book detailing the history of the Chestnut blight and how devastating it was. Below is a brief description of that tree's history. And yes, Bob did indeed have American Chestnut lumber.

The American Chestnut

The American chestnut tree (*Castanea dentata*) is a large, monoecious deciduous tree of the beech family native to eastern North America. Before the species was devastated by the chestnut blight, a fungal disease, it was one of the most important forest trees throughout its range, and it was considered the finest chestnut tree in the world.

The American chestnut was an essential component of the eastern U.S. forest ecosystem.

These "Mighty Giants" stood up to 100 feet tall and numbered in the billions. As a late flowering, reliable, and extremely productive tree, the American chestnut was unaffected by seasonal frosts, making it the single most important food source for a wide variety of wildlife.

Rural communities depended upon the tree's annual nut harvest as a cash crop to feed livestock. The chestnut lumber industry was a major sector of

rural economies. Chestnut wood is straight-grained and easily worked, lightweight and highly rot-resistant, making it ideal for fence posts, railroad ties, barn beams and home construction, as well as for fine furniture and musical instruments.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the fungal pathogen responsible for chestnut blight (*Cryphonectria parasitica*) was accidentally imported into the U.S. from Asia. It was first

wound pathogen, the fungus enters the tree through an injury in the bark. It spreads to the underlying vascular cambium and wood, killing these tissues as it advances. The flow of nutrients is eventually choked off to and from sections of the tree above the infection, killing the tree above ground. By 1950, the fungus had eliminated the American chestnut as a mature forest tree. *Article from The American Chestnut Foundation.*

Upcoming Events

Tillers International Classes:

March 3-5 F-Su Windsor Tall Stool/Table \$300
 March 16-17 ThF Blacksmithing I \$250 1
 March 8-19 SSu Blacksmithing II \$250
 March 24-25 FS Blacksmithing: Tools for the Garden \$275
 April 1 S Identifying Wood \$100
 April 7-8 FS Blacksmithing I \$250
 April 21-22 FS Coopering: Buckets \$290
 April 22 S Annual Plow Day Open House free
 April 22-23 SSu Tools for Timber Framers \$300
 April 23 Su Spoon Carving \$125

Local Woodturners meet second Saturday of each month at Portage Northern High School woodshop at 9:30am—<http://www.westmichturners.org/>

Kzoo Makers meet M-Tu-Th-Sa from 4:00pm—8:00pm —www.kzoomakers.org

Wood guild Classified

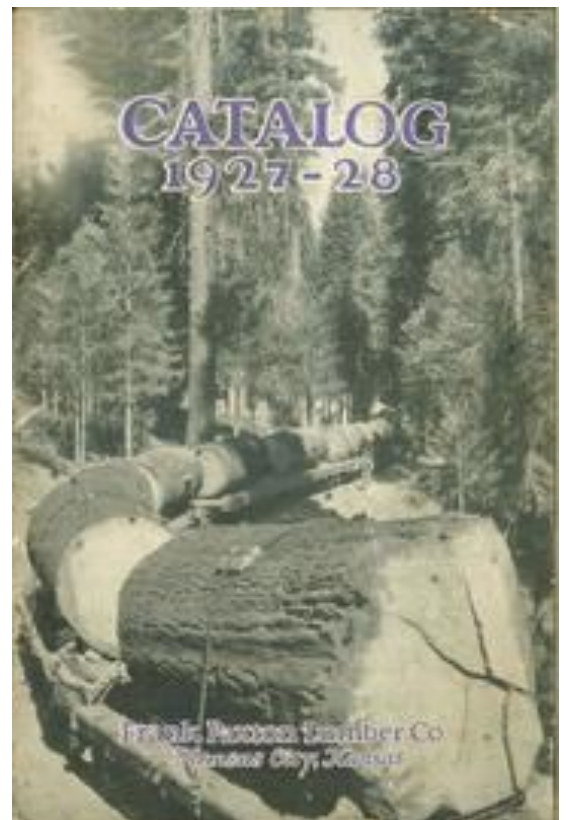
This section of the newsletter will be reserved for items for sale, wanted to buy, lumber for sale, etc. At time of publication there were no items to add.

Contact Scott at

mcdavids3@charter.net at least a week prior to upcoming meeting for publication in the newsletter.

John Biermacher noted lesser know fact about Hollywood actor Bill Paxton that unfortunately passed away last week. Bill's grandfather Frank Paxton started Paxton Lumber in 1914.

Paxton Lumber has locations in Chicago, Illinois; Cincinnati, Ohio; Denver,



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 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

Guild Sponsors:

 <p>Primal Woods Hartford, MI Portable and Alaskan Sawmill Services Email: john@primalwoods.com Web: http://www.primalwoods.com www.facebook.com/primalwoods 269-222-0101 John @ X700</p>	<p>Douglas & Son Inc. Everyone's Favorite Paint & Wallpaper Store. 231 West Cedar St. Kalamazoo MI 49007 (269) 344- 2860 www.douglas&son.com</p>	<p>Andy Jean's Sawmill 7616 W. Main Oshtemo, MI Cell 269-808-6230 Hardwood and Softwood Professional Milling and Kiln Drying</p>	<p>WOODCRAFT 4265 28th St. SE Grand Rapids, MI 616-957-9663 woodcraftmich550@sbcglobal.net Directions New Hwy 6 E. off 131 to M-37, N. to 28th St., Right on 28th, One mile from M-37 North Just East of Paris Ave. Next to Design Quest on your left.</p>
<p>J&J Paint & Glass Steve Klok Scott Miracle Everything in Glass 509 East Vine St. Kalamazoo MI 49001 Ph 269-344-2834 Fax 269-344-0378 Serving SW MI since 1954</p>	<p>S E L E C T MILLWORK COMPANY BILL ADAMS PRESIDENT 960 INDUSTRIAL PARKWAY PLAINWELL MI 49080 PH 269-685 2646</p>	<p>THE HERITAGE COMPANY <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> <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>