



Woodworkers Guild



of

Southwestern Michigan – <http://www.woodguild.org> May 2015

Next Meeting

May 12th, 2015 7:00pm

Michigan Career and Technological Institute (MCTI)

Directions from Plainwell: From U.S. 131 North

Take 131 North to the Plainwell exit. Turn right at the end of the exit (this is the only way you can go). You will be on M-89 East. Go through Plainwell out into the country and stay on M-89 East until you come to Doster Rd. Turn left; from this corner MCTI is 6.6 miles on the right. Turn left at the end of the drive towards the dust collector which can be seen from the road.

MCTI, 11611 Pine Lake Road, Plainwell, MI 49080
(269)-664-9261

Agenda: We will be provided with a tour and demonstrations by students in their unique program.

Michigan Career and Technological Institute (MCTI) Cabinetmaking/Millwork Program is home to the Midwest Advanced Woodworking Technology Center, the first of three in the United States. MCTI's program provides the only industrial woodworking training in Michigan and is considered one of the most technically advanced in the nation. The program was also the first site in Michigan certifying Woodworking National Skill Standards. In 2007 the program was honored with the coveted "Educator of the Year" award from the WMIA (Woodworking Machinery Industry Association).

Michigan still has one of the largest woodworking economies in the country with five of the top ten firms in the nation based in the state. Over 6% of all manufacturing jobs in Michigan are woodworking-related. As technology has advanced, the demand for highly qualified workers is increasing in demand.

Workers with woodworking skills have abundant employment opportunities in Michigan, especially west Michigan. The United States Department of Labor projects excellent opportunities for highly skilled woodworkers over the next five years, especially those with technical skills and CNC (computer numeric control) knowledge. Industry estimates show seventy percent of the current workforce is over 50 years old and as these workers age and retire, the industry will need new highly skilled workers. Also, the trade is gender neutral with an estimated 60% of the workforce being women. Historically, enrollment in the program at MCTI has been predominantly male, however, the vast majority of the females graduating from the program have gone off to good careers in the trade.

Students can enroll in the Cabinet/Millwork program every ten weeks. The program offers multiple certificate options, flexibility and marketability. Cabinetmaking/Millwork students receive extensive training in CAD/CAM (computer aided design/computer aided machining) and CNC operation. Skills that are in high demand and are expected to increase in demand.

The average entry level salary for MCTI Cabinetmaking/Millwork graduates is \$12.75 per hour with the average weekly earnings after 1 year on the job for grads being \$900/week. Placement of graduates is consistently near 100%.

Thanks to Bruce DeDee and Jim Wellever from MCTI for this informative introduction.

The April 14th meeting was held at Al Collison's shop in Cooper. There was a full house of members and several guests. The following is a brief rundown of items discussed during show and tell:

Thom Kelley has acquired a large selection of carriage and lag bolts for sale. See him at the next meeting if you have a need for large sized items.

Mike Cline has received several donations for the flag box for veterans' project. A couple of build sessions will be scheduled in the future where the first build group will assist the second build group.

Neal Ferguson has access to mahogany seats if anyone is interested. Neal also has a walnut tree trunk that has material 20" – 30" diameter suitable for bowl blanks.

Wolf Lugauer presented his no-spill mega drink holder for his car and a flip-flop top he was prototyping. The top will flip over onto its spindle as the spinning slows down.

Ralph Babcock had a "Stop Loss Storage" bag for left over finishes. It resembled a blood collection bag used by the Red Cross. Finish is poured into the bag via a funnel and excess air is easily removed.



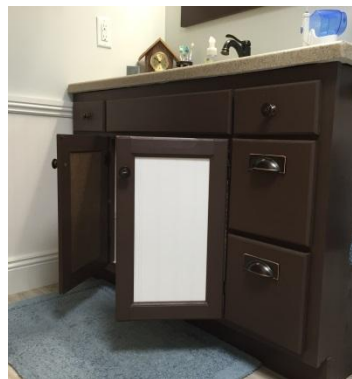
Josh Breese has some excellent gift boxes constructed from old post office lock box doors and hickory shorts from Elenbass Hardwood. The PO Box doors can be found on eBay, estate sales, and auctions for \$5 - \$25 each.



Tom Metzler gave the guild a tool review of a dual compound miter saw he purchased at Harbor Freight. The saw has been spot on and Tom is pleased with the purchase.

George Armstrong mentioned a wood turning symposium for beginning turners near Cedar Springs Mi. Cost will be around \$200 for a three day event.

Chuck Stevens shared photos of a bathroom remodel that incorporated bead board wainscoting. The extra bead board was used to build custom medicine cabinet and a vanity doors. The vanity also a false bottom drawer built in for extra storage easy removal to access the plumbing if necessary.



The meeting was turned over to David Tuck from David Tuck Studios in Grand Rapids. For the last 15 years the Studio has been a support extension of VIA Design, an architecture and interior design firm. David gave an overview of the work he does for VIA and individual clients. He walked us through several photos of custom furniture pieces, surf and paddle boards. The furniture included highly customized chairs, tables and various furniture pieces. All with curved tops, legs and joints. He had examples of massive coffee tables built from torsion box engineering. All the machined curves, joints and boxes fit together seamlessly thanks to careful fitting from hand planning.



David moved us downstairs to Al's shop to go over the planes he uses and the challenges encountered with different material types. A number 62 Lie Nielsen is his favorite smoothing plane.

However a low angle block plane gets the lion's share of use. A number 7 jointer plane with a square blade is used for squaring edges. The planes used for smoothing have a slight radius to the blade. He noted that some of the early LN planes did have some casting issues and were slightly off. Lie Nielsen exchanged them no questions asked.



There as a brief talk around how abrasive woods like Teak and African mahogany is difficult to work with. There is a lot of tool changes and sharpening when working with those woods due to their abrasive nature.

There was also a discussion around using Titebond II as a veneering adhesive. The Titebond was allowed to dry and then an iron was used to reactivate the glue during the veneering process.

David invited any of us to stop by when in Grand Rapids. He can be reached at 563 Grandville Ave SW. Grand Rapids 49503, 616-581-6024 or at davidtuck@me.com

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