



# Woodworkers Guild

of



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

## Next Meeting

**November 10, 2015 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 from Franklin Adhesives, makers of Titebond glue, will be discussing successful gluing techniques.

The October meeting was held at Al Collison's shop. Over 37 members and guests were in attendance. Bill Crown opened the meeting with a welcome to our guests. The annual toys for Christmas project was discussed. The guild provides forty wheels and axels to members at no cost. Members are asked to construct and finish simple wooden vehicle toys to be given to the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission and Portage Community Center. Last year the guild had donated over 200 toys. Please have the finished toys ready by the November meeting. Bill Crown will deliver the toys shortly after Thanksgiving.



Planes, trains and automobiles have been built. Elton Hiscock builds a road grader.

Thom Kelley brought in a highly engineered cross cut sled that he and Art Wurfel had designed and built. Many commented that cross cut sleds are a worth while accessory with added improved accuracy in table saw cuts.



Don Squires brought in an unusual lamp. It started as a single piece of wood cut on the band saw into four pieces. The four pieces are shaped on the band saw, turned inside out and glued back together, leaving a hollow core. The new piece of wood is then turned on a lathe creating the four ribbon sides of the lamp. Don also brought in a bowl he turned from a unique piece of yellow



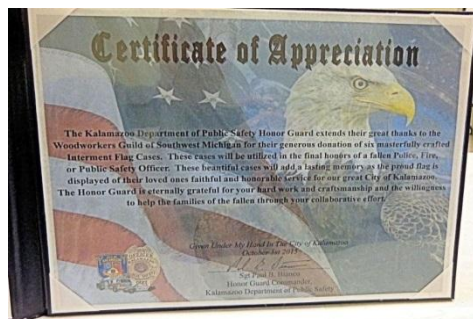
wood.



Ben Tanis is a retired shop teacher and has adopted Parchment Elementary school in his retirement. He leads over 360 kids through wood working projects from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. First graders work on a whale cutout and pencil boat, second graders make a book rack stained with water base dyes, third graders construct a birdhouse, fourth graders build a tool box and fifth graders scroll saw a key rack.



Josh Breese delivered to the guild a Certificate of Appreciation from the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety for the guild donation of six flag cases.





The meeting was turned over to the evenings feature presenter, Mike Belzowski. While everyone was upstairs Mike went through slides of previous work for a couple of remodeling projects. Remodeling is a huge understatement. Mike designs and engineers unbelievable veneered cabinetry, floor to ceiling inlays, Ipe decking and built in features that have gained him national recognition in publications such as Fine Homebuilding.

The meeting moved downstairs and Mike began his presentation on veneering. He started with a discussion around tools used, the veneer saw in particular. The saws are inexpensive, around \$20, and need some TLC to be truly functional. First the blades need to be sharpened, each tooth is lightly filed. Using a diamond sharpening plate the teeth are beveled to a taper along the edge. The saw handle is flattened to provide maximum contact for the blade. The screw chamfers in the handle may need to be enlarged by a center drill or chamfer bit to provide relief for the blade ferrules. A self-healing mat found at sewing or art supply stores provides a cutting surface. The mats are inexpensive and hold up a long time. While there are commercially available cutting straight edges, a length of MDF with sand paper attached for grip makes a very good cutting edge. Other tools include a flexible putty knife, wire brush, veneer tape and dispenser, sponge and lots of blue tape.



Mike explained that veneer thicker than 1/8" can be troublesome due to movement. A household iron can be used to remove excess moisture and to flatten bubbled wood. Sometimes the veneer is too dry and there are commercially available solutions and homemade solutions of glycerin, water and glue to help add moisture back into the veneer. The veneer can arrive in rolls of 24-32 pieces called a flitch and will need to be flattened. This is done by pressing between two sheets of MDF. Individual veneer slices may have paper between to absorb moisture or cloth and or vinyl. Pressing time will vary, but 1 hour is a starting point.

It is a good idea to physically number the veneer slices to maintain the flitch order. Mike walked us through the construction of a small panel using four pieces of veneer. The four pieces are laid out to make a book matching pattern. He uses a hinged mirror to preview the finished pattern to achieve the best appearance. The four pieces are stacked in order and taped together prior to cutting with a straight edge. The veneer slices are taped along an edge with blue tape. White PVA glue is added along the edge. The two pieces are laid flat on a surface so the seam is brought together. The white PVA glue dries clear and has a long open time. The side opposite the blue tape is now taped with moistened veneer tape. A wire brush is used to press the veneer tape into place. The veneer tape is moisture activated and should be stored in a ziplock bag. The other two pieces are joined together in a similar fashion. A straight edge is cut between the two halves and those are glued together. It may be necessary to briefly flatten the seamed pieces by storing them under a piece of MDF while the work progresses.





From here Mike walked us through the process of cutting small black strips from dyed material. This inlay material is referred to as fillet. The fillet will be bound by strips of striped mahogany to create a border. The inlay and mahogany are added to the completed four veneer pattern. Blue tape is used to hold the pieces in place. The corners are mitered at 45° by pressing a sharp chisel into the corners. The piece is flipped and veneer tape is now added to cover all the seams. The blue tape can now be carefully removed. Note that the veneer tape side will be the finished side. It is time to glue the veneer to a substrate. Both sides of the substrate will receive a veneer covering to equalize seasonal movement. The veneered substrate is placed into a vacuum press and sandwiched between two MDF clamping sheets. The press time varies based on the glue used. Mike could give a whole presentation on the different glue types and their applications, so that is a discussion for another time. After removing the veneered panel from the press, use distilled water to moisten the veneer tape and remove the tape one layer at a time. The putty knife and light sanding may be employed to remove the tape. It is a good practice to tap the panel checking for bubbling. If bubbles are found, a hot iron may be used to reactivate the glue or slice into the bubble with a razor, add CA glue and press.



The evening spilled over well past 9:00 and Mike brought the discussion to a close. It was a meeting packed with much knowledge and nuggets of information. The newsletter cannot do it justice. Be sure to attend Mike's next presentation in the future. Thanks to Mike for another great evening.

### **Guild Officers**

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#### ***Directions***

***New Hwy 6 E. off 131 to  
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