



Woodworkers Guild



of

Southwestern Michigan – <http://www.woodguild.org> February 2016

Next Meeting

February 7, 2016 7:00pm

The February meeting will be held at WMU'S Engineering and Applied Sciences Campus. Drive to the corner of Parkview and Drake. Go south on Campus Drive. Stay to the right which is one way going south. Stay on Campus Drive. Go over the bridge, and by Elson S. Floyd Hall, and the Space Needle. Watch for the sign on the right hand side of the road that says College of Engineering and Applied Sciences East Parking Deck, with an arrow having you turn right. After you turn right, turn right again into Parking Lot P-2. The sign says Employee Parking Permit Only Monday-Friday 4AM to 5PM WMU Permit 5PM to 4AM. Park as close the building as you can. Go to the building door nearest to the P-2 lot. The door is on the backside of the building near the parking garage. There will be a student there to give you a parking pass. After you place the parking pass in your car, go back to the building and the student will direct you to go upstairs to Room G-211, where we will have a short meeting. After the meeting, our speaker, Dr. Steven Butt, the head of the department will take us on a tour which will include the Sun Seeker solar car, and a demo of their 3D Printer.

If anyone would like a map of WMU go to <http://wmich.edu/maps/wmupmap.pdf>. The second page is the Parkview Campus which shows Parking Lot P-2.

The January meeting was held Dennis Dahl's Homestead Furniture and Cabinetry shop downtown Kalamazoo.

The meeting was postponed one week due to inclement weather. A week later the roads were clear, but it was still a cold night. There was a respectable turn out despite the cold.

Bill Crown called the meeting to order, welcomed members and guests. With no pressing guild business issues to discuss, the meeting was quickly handed over to Dennis Dahl for the feature presentation.

Dennis opened up with a little insight to how he works. A typical work day runs from 7am to 5pm, often with time back in the shop later in the evening. He is a chair maker by heart, but a cabinet maker to make a living. He spends time in antique shops studying other works to become a good student of the world around him. He has learned that the hard fast absolutes often taught in woodworking are not always so absolute. There are many ways to learn and approach work. The right attitude goes a long way and the ability to be relaxed as a professional. Case work and cabinets account for 90% of their work. It's not unusual to build 100 drawers per week.

Dennis planned a different approach to the evening's discussion. He had compiled a "pearls of wisdom" list learned over the years. A theme running through the discussion was quick access, ease of use and items always returned to where they belong.

The following is a rundown of the “Pearls of Wisdom”

1. Dennis has made 22 small wooden boxes for all his wood screws. Quickly built from ¼” plywood and assembled with CA glue. The screws come to the project and are put away when done.
2. Single holder wooden block holder for drill and driver bits stored on work bench top. Not in a drawer or tool box and each bit is returned to the block when done.
3. Favorite clamps are the Jorgensen F-style clamps and Pony pipe clamps. Plastic pads can be purchased for the F-style clamps for no mar clamping.
Trusty 6” flexible steel rule is indispensable for machine setup. Ordered on line at www.micromark.com
#2 Mirado Black Warrior pencil available at Office Depot.
Pneumatic random orbit sanders hold up better than electric, the new brushless motor sanders may be a viable alternative. PSA (pressure sensitive adhesive) sanding pads are cheaper and hold up longer than hook and loop sanding pads.
Bosch 1613 router offers smooth startup, micro adjustability, easy bit change and less weight for a 2.5hp router.
Grex nail gun and pinner provide trouble free service.
4. Their sanding station uses a low level lighting system build from 12V car lamps nearly flush with the sanding surface. This setup will reveal where to sand and when to stop. Sanding is not a time dependent task. A typical sanding sequence begins with 150 grit followed by 180 grit and final sanding with 220 grit.
5. Glued up panels are stored on assembly rack so air can circulate all around. Allow the panel to dry for 24 hours so the water in the glue dissipates from the joint.
6. To clean up glue squeeze out, wait 30 minutes, remove clamps and scrap away glue while it is still a little gummy, and re-clamp.
7. When planning a panel glue up from a single board, rather than flip the cutoffs around to alternate the end grain, glue same jointed edge to itself regardless of end grain orientation for a natural look.
8. Never use biscuits. Edges to be joined together should have opposite faces passed pressed against the jointer fence when jointing; this will create complimentary angles that cancel each other out in the glue up. Alternate clamps above and below during clamp up.
9. Finding centers or equal spacing using tape measure is time consuming and prone to error. It can be quicker and more accurate to cut spacer blocks and systematically change spacer size to sneak up on even spacing.
10. A vacuum clamping station built into the sanding bench is used to easily work on board edges. Vacuum is generated using venturi vacuum pump driving by compressed air.
11. Have a good accessory bench and handy tote. Dennis built a tote from a drawer mistake and used a closet rod material for a strong, quick and easy handle.
12. Dust mask and ear plugs from FastCap wood working tools. www.fastcap.com
13. Currently using a tape measure from FastCap. It has a plastic case, not as good as metal cases, but has a built in pencil sharpener that works ok. Tape measures gets you close, use machine scales for accuracy. Also keep a Lufkin folding ruler with 6” slide rule extension. This is useful for taking inside measurements accurately.

14. Waxing machines with Waxilit Paste #22-30P. It gets applied almost every other day, based on volume of work. Unlike other paste waxes that leave a residue transferable to wood, Waxilite leaves no residue that could interfere with a finish. A couple of finishing tips. Suspend plastic around the work; airborne dust will cling to the plastic. Also fluorescent lights attract dust, when turned off the dust will be released to fall on surfaces below.
15. Easily folding a band saw blade by holding an open blade with both hands, roll wrists inward. The blade will collapse on itself and can be secured with a twist tie. Wear good gloves when doing this.
16. For inset cabinet doors use barrel hinges with slip-slide adjustments for the screws. Dennis orders them from Cliffside Industries, www.cliffsideind.com
17. Douglas and Sons paint store downtown sales a zippered bag that will keep paint soaked roller and tray wet and usable for several days. This bag also works great for storing glue that is being applied by a paint roller, when applying veneer for example. Excess glue can be poured into bottles. Dennis gets the bottles from WP Williams in Grand Rapids. www.wpwilliams.com.
18. 1/4" door panels are not very sturdy; a 3/8" panel is much more solid. To fit the 3/8" panel in the 1/4" groove excess material is cut away using a table saw. For a glass door, make wooden strip stops and attach the strips with a 23 gage pin nailer. The pins virtually disappear, especially filled with putty or wax pencil.
19. Mortise and tenons: The mortise can be created easily with a plunge router. A mortise chisel is used to quickly and accurately square up the rounded ends left by a router bit. Dennis has a 1/4" wide blade always set up on a secondary table saw that makes cutting the tenons fast. On a table leg it is wise to cut the mortise and tenons asymmetrical rather than centered. The bottom of the tenon is about 1/8" up from the edge, while the top is 1/2" to 5/8" from the top edge. This leaves more material above the mortise cut for a stronger joint. When tapering table legs, always start the taper ~1" below apron for best appearance. Pre-arrange a table legs before cutting the mortises, use a pencil to mark the pre-arranged layout.

From a list I saw prior to the meeting, I know Dennis had more items to cover, but time is limited and there will be opportunities for another visit. For those that have not been able to attend a meeting at Dennis's shop, it is difficult to capture all the "pearls of wisdom". I did my best to capture items covered, but it does not do justice to being there live and getting all that is said and explained first hand. As always we thank Dennis for giving his time and outreach to our guild and eagerly look forward to the next visit.

=====

Beginning with this edition there will be a new section to the newsletter to present questions from members, items of interest or items for sale to the guild at large:

Josh Breese has completed 1 of 2 Morris Chars and is looking for recommendations for upholstery services. He has been to a few local shops and would like to see if any members know anyone who does upholstery as a hobby or side job. Contact Josh at: breesaja@gmail.com or 269-760-5482.

Form John Biermacher: Some friends (Ian and Sarah Kennedy) recently had a maple tree removed and have slabs available for purchase. If you or someone you know are interested, please contact Sarah (sarahkennedy123@gmail.com).

Editor's Note: The many photos that Gary made did not arrive in time to make the newsletter. I will investigate sending them out as a separate mailing. Even if I had them, I'm not sure where I would have put them because Dennis provided so much information.



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 - Gary Doyle	273-8035

Woodworkers Guild of S.W. Michigan

7572 S. 10th St

Kalamazoo MI 49009

Douglas & Son Inc.

**Everyone's
Favorite
Paint & Wallpaper
Store.**

**231 West Cedar St.
Kalamazoo MI 49007
(269) 344- 2860**

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

**Andy Jean's
Sawmill
7616 W. Main
Oshtemo, MI**

Cell 269-808-6230

**Hardwood and Softwood
Professional Milling and
Kiln Drying**

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.
Gary Foote, Owner*

THE HERITAGE COMPANY

***Architectural Salvage
and Supply Buy and
Sell old woodwork,
doors windows and all
other old house parts.***

***Open Wed - Sat 11-5
269-385-1004
150N. Edwards
Kalamazoo, MI 49007***

S E L E C T MILLWORK

**COMPANY
BILL ADAMS
PRESIDENT**

960

**INDUSTRIAL
PARKWAY
PLAINWELL MI
49080**

PH 269-685 2646