



Woodworkers Guild



of

Southwestern Michigan – <http://www.woodguild.org> January 2017

Next Meeting

January 10, 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: Aaron Stinson - Chainsaw carver - builder

The December meeting was held at Al Collison's shop. Bill Crown opened the meeting in regular fashion and welcomed guests and first time attenders. The final collection of toys for the Gospel Mission and Portage Community Center were gathered. The volume of toys was a little low this year compared to previous years.

The guild meeting was opened to show and tell as follows:

Thom Kelley has access to 5/4 maple wood @ \$3.50 bft. The maple came from the old Gibson guitar factory.

Ralph Babcock has been using new 3M 15x sand paper. Ralph has found it virtually indestructible. The backing has a rubber texture. He ordered it from Lee Valley, but noted that big box stores are carrying it now.

Bob Soos was looking for help identifying an old tool. It appeared to be used in beam construction to bore holes. It was an auger device; however the missing parts that made identification only guess work.

Tim Tallon brought in a beautiful segmented bird house turning. Tim won the materials to build the bird house at George Armstrong's segmented turning presentation last May.

Dave Grubaugh brought in a nativity set made from maple. It was constructed as flat table top pieces band sawn and sanded via 1" sander with wood burned details. Best part is that it is child friendly unlike typical nativity sets.

Scott McDavid brought in four boxes of drift wood donated to the guild by Henry Raup. Henry had intended for the drift wood to be used as base material for carvings. Ron Princing will take the remaining drift wood to the Portage Wood Carvers. Scott also had several SpectraPly pen turning blanks for sale at \$.50 each that he ordered from Cousineau Wood Products.

After show and tell, the evening was turned over to our featured speaker, Bill Sawtell, regional distributor for Apollo spray equipment.

Bill asked how many people use spray equipment and about half the group acknowledged that they spray finish or have at least tried spray finishing. Bill explained that it just does not happen easily, it takes practice and good setup. Bill described his garage setup and prefers to spray inside with a clean environment. While there can be success spraying outside, there is no control over the humidity or dust particles that will impact a finish. He built a simple spray booth with a box fan to pull air through his booth. The fan removes all the overspray particles and traps them in a household furnace filter on the intake side. Water base finish dries so quickly the overspray particles dry while airborne and settle on all surfaces. There was talk about how overspray settles on the project and everything else in the shop. Thom Kelley's Corvette was once the victim of shellac overspray. The fan is only used with water base finishes. Solvent base finishes require an explosion proof fan. He uses portable led lights that he bought from Woodcraft to illuminate his spray booth. Red rosin paper is put down on the garage floor to minimize dust kick up from the floor. He will vacuum himself and will put on disposable Tyvek booties, suits, jackets purchased at automotive finish stores. Avoid wearing cotton tee shirts as the lint will fall into the finish. The booth is plastic sheeting with grommets and J-hook suspension. The use of dewaxed shellac was mentioned several times as a sealer finish. Denatured alcohol is used to cut the mixture. Shellac bonds and adheres to most everything. Water base sealer does not always bond to sharp edges and can peel if not sanded well. A shellac sealer will make a stronger bond at the sharp edge.

Apollo is made in Vista CA. However the spray cups are imported from Taiwan. The guns can be used with HVLP (High Volume Low Pressure) turbines or high pressure compressed air. The turbine puts 7psi at the guns spray cap and will spray about all of General Finish paints available at Woodcraft. HVLP is all accomplished below 10 psi and typically operates between 5 and 8 psi.

Compressed air will allow higher pressure at the guns spray cap to work with different materials. A minimum 3hp 20 gal compressor is required. The Apollo spray gun cups can be top or bottom mounted. Compressed air introduces moisture, oil, turbulence, cold air with excess overspray. The compressed air needs to be filtered to remove dust, along with a coalescing filter to remove oil and water. The pneumatic fittings need to be designed to allow high flow and use a large diameter air hose 3/8". A 1/4" diameter air hose will not allow for enough air flow. A desiccant snake from automotive supply houses can be used as an extra precaution against moisture in the air.

Automotive finishers like the spray cup on top, while woodworkers tend to like a bottom mount spray cup. It comes down to preference and spraying orientation. Bill recommends having a variety of cup sizes to hold just enough material. He prefers gravity cup spraying large flat surfaces. General Finish products are ready to spray out of can.

Orange peel appearance will occur if material is not thin enough or too applied too heavy. The finish sets upon top before underneath dries. Thin water base material with distilled water due to its lack of impurities and lower surface tension of tap water. Bill's approach to thin a quart of paint is to add 3 oz of distilled water and 3oz Floetrol, a commercially available paint additive to improve flow and leveling.

Cleaning of spray equipment was a concern of many. Bill commented that cleanup should take no more than 10 minutes. He recommends cleanup starts by pouring material back into original container. Add a solvent to the spray cup; remove air cap spray solvent through gun. If using water to clean the gun, follow with denatured alcohol to remove trace water. Watch the cleaning solvent spray pattern for a straight out flow; else there is blockage somewhere that requires brushing out. Vaseline is great lubricant for the spray gun needle. Clogged air cap side hole will cause erratic spray pattern, use of brushing to clean out debris. In an ideal world spray between 65-75 degree and less than 85% humidity else there will be impacts to cure time and final cure itself. Avoid spraying in cold weather. Fisheye from contaminates, silicone, tack rags, wax.

The turbine units are available with 3,4,5,6 stage turbines. 3 stage units suit most home hobbyists and will spray about all General Finish products. 4 stages will spray most house paints, while 5 stage units easily spray any material. With increasing number of turbines, so increases the air volume. Larger unit has digital controls to vary pressure and volume to speed up spray for large products.

3M makes a disposable cup system called 3M PPS system. It is more costly than traditional cups, but is disposable, thus easy quick clean ups. The cups utilize a bag that collapse during use and allows upside down spraying.

There was a reminder that when turning off fluorescent lights over your work, there will be a release of dust from the lights that will fall onto your work.

Bill holds spray gun 6"~8" from object being sprayed, triggers air flow first, then material. Moves his body to keep gun at a steady position, begins and ends off of object. Spray flat objects toward exhaust to minimize airborne over spray.

Woodcraft of Grand Rapids made arrangements for Bill Sawtell to present to our group. Thanks to Bill for providing a wealth of information. The Apollo spray equipment is available for purchase at Woodcraft stores.

Wood Guild Classified:

Former guild member Jim Cella is selling his woodworking equipment. He has larger power tools on casters such as band saw, router lifter, floor drill press, 2HP vac, plunge routers, Kreg jigs, sliding chop saw, a joint-ability tool for edge jointing, among other items. He also has wood for sale. Jim lives west of Kalamazoo near Gobles and can be reached at 269-628-5348 and e-mail dextersass@gmail.com



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