



Woodworkers Guild



of

Southwestern Michigan – <http://www.woodguild.org> November 2014

Next Meeting

November 11, 2014 7:00pm

Duncan Aviation

15745 S Airport Rd, Battle Creek, MI
49015

Directions:

- Take exit 92 off I94 (M37-Columbia Ave.) Battle Creek/Springfield,
- Turn Right on M37-Columbia Ave. towards Battle Creek,
- Go approximately 1.4 miles and turn left onto South Airport Road,
- Duncan Aviation will be approximately 0.2 miles on the left.

Agenda:

We will receive a tour of the Duncan Aviation's Battle Creek facility, including their world class cabinet shop, their upholstery department, and their hangers, with up to 30 private jets in various stages of dis-assembly and upgrades. Bring your walking shoes, spouses, guests and dues if you haven't yet paid them!"

The October meeting had over twenty-four members and at least eight guests in attendance. Notable attendees were past Guild President Wayne Kruger and three generations of the Koss family, James, Michael and Hanna.

President Bill Crown opened the meeting with discussions around the toy car and jewelry box builds. The cars need to be turned in to Bill before Thanksgiving. Bill gave a brief rundown of the November meeting that will occur at Duncan Aviation in Battle Creek.

There was a quick session of show and tell to allow sufficient time for the evenings featured speaker. Items presented and discussed included:

Thom Kelley presented a band saw circle cutting jig the he had built.

Ron Princing brought in a beautiful Irish bouzouki (a development of the Greek bouzouki adapted for Irish traditional and other folk music from the late 1960s onward – Wikipedia definition). It was constructed from cherry, maple and ipe fingerboard. Tom Metzler strummed us a tune with Ron's blessing.

Ron also had a couple of unique shaker oval boxes constructed from lacewood. They caught the attention of the box maker master, John Wilson, and are featured in John's latest book on Shaker Oval Boxes.

Don Squires has a sample of an uncommon species of wood known as American Yellowwood.

Tom McCormick has a large white oak burl cut from a 24" diameter tree. The burl is about 3' in diameter and covers 180° of the trunk. Tom was looking for input on what to do with the burl, dry it, sell it or cut it up.

Bruce DeDee has access to a hickory tree 22" diameter and a 150 year old maple 30" diameter.

Neal Ferguson has a maple 16" in diameter suitable for bowl turning.

Please get in touch with Tom, Bruce or Neal if you have suggestions or interest in their respective lumber.

Bill turned the evening over to our feature presenter, wood carver extraordinaire, Jack Neal. Jack is a carver and detailer of wild life that includes ducks, geese, loons, songbirds, shorebirds, game birds and trout. Jack gave us brief bio as follows. He was born and raised in the Saginaw Bay area of Bay City, MI. He graduated college and had a twenty five year career in human resource management and consultanting. While in the service he learned martial arts and taught hand to hand combat. He told us he had been working out at the gym and showed us he had earned back his old nickname – "iron gut". Go ahead and punch him in the gut, but be prepared to pick yourself up off the floor afterward.



After retirement around 1994 Jack got interested in carving and studied for two years under Willy McDonald in Richland, Mi at Willy's carving school, The Duck Blind. Jack realized he would not have the tools or space, much like Al's shop, and began learning the art and craft of detailing blanks. We learned that these blanks are purchased from a company called Dux' Dekes owned by Jeff Duxbury (www.duxdekes.com). The blanks are roughly 90% complete bodies in need of fine detailing. Jack uses electronic wood burning tips that reach 550°F to add these fine details. This burning is so detailed that hour to hour changes in electric current supplied by Consumers Energy will affect the feather burning process. Each feather can require 80 strokes

and over 8 hours of burn time can easily go into a carving. Jack buys the eyes and pewter feet. The wood blanks he buys is of tupelo and bass wood as they don't crack. Artificial foliage comes from Hobby Lobby. Many of his bases come from wood found on the Lake Michigan shore. He completes the life like features with acrylic paints applied by brush and several coats of semi-gloss water based polyurethane. The trout bodies are fiberglass; however each scale is painted by hand. He works from blue prints and photos to arrive at a finished product. Jack's work has been showcased at the Jane Crowley Fine Art Gallery in South Haven, Portage District Library, Portage Senior Center and the Jack Neal Gallery in Jacksonville Fl. The purchase price for Jack's work ranges from \$75 for small songbirds to \$250 for a Ruffed Grouse. At least one member made a purchase from Jack at the meeting.

We thank Jack for a wonderful presentation. Jack can be reached at jackneal@juno.com or phone: 269-327-3210





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