



# The Newsletter of the Mid-Michigan Woodworkers Guild

April 2019

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## Upcoming Meetings

### Membership Meeting:

April 16th at 7:00 pm  
Memorial Building  
East Room  
206 W. Washington St.  
Dewitt, MI

### Next board meeting:

May 7th, at 7 pm  
Location TBD

## Dates to Remember

April 20 - Guild Build tools  
for GLWF and Expo. Sign up  
at April Membership  
Meeting.

May 4-5

Great Lakes Woodworking  
Festival

Adrian, MI

<https://www.greatlakeswoodworkingfestival.com/>

## March Meeting Summary

The March regular membership meeting featured Airik Smith from Capitol Tool Grinding. He talked about their services available for woodworkers, including sharpening of circular saw blades, jointer and planer knives, router bits, drill bits (including forstner style) and hole saws. Airik was very experienced and knowledgeable, and discussed circular saw blade tooth geometry. He also talked about different tooth angles and profiles, and touched on the pros and cons of those. His presentation was very informative. For further information please contact Airik at 517-321-8230 or visit their shop at 437 N. Rosemary Street in Lansing.

The April regular membership meeting will be held Tuesday, April 16th. Fred Koos will be discussing design process and modeling, along with fire extinguisher safety. Hope to see you there!

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## Notes from the Board

There are 121 members as of March 31st.

The future meeting topics and presenters are coming together. Updates will be provided at the regular monthly meetings and via the newsletter.

Workshop schedules and sign up will be handled at the regular monthly meetings and additional communication via e-mail.

Please remember to keep up on current happenings by visiting the Guild Member Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/MidMichiganWoodworkersGuild/>

or our website: [www.mmwg.org](http://www.mmwg.org)

## MMWG Board Members

**President** - Matt Rosendaul  
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Matt\_Rosendaul@mmwg.org

**Vice President** - Tom Dowling  
517-669-3756  
oldtoymaker@gmail.com

**Secretary** - Fred Koos  
517-712-7665

**Treasurer/Membership**  
Terry Kirk 517-214-6779

## At-large Board Members

Eric Woodruff  
Chris Schoenberg  
Geoff Credit  
Rocco Buysse  
Jacob Garner  
Jim Wagner

## Newsletter Editor

Eric Woodruff

## Guild Financial Status



The financial update will be provided at the April regular membership meeting.

## Need a Ride to the Meeting?

Many of our members drive from outlying cities to attend meetings. If you would like to share a ride or get a ride to one of the meetings or events, please contact Terry Kirk who will help find other members in your area who can carpool.

## Member Projects ‘Show and Tell’

Several members brought a total of 13 projects to share. Please visit the Member Facebook page to see photos from previous meetings.

(<https://www.facebook.com/MidMichiganWoodworkersGuild/>)


## From the Desk of the President

### **The Soul of Woodworking**

“The jar is made by kneading clay, but its usefulness consists in its capacity.”

Lao Tzu, Excerpt From Tao Te Ching

I think it’s important for woodworkers to keep this philosophy in mind in many respects. First and foremost in the management of our workshop spaces. The usefulness of a shop lies in the space, but of course an empty space, void of tools and workbenches,



isn't a very productive shop. As we fill the space however, it's easy to pile in so many tools and materials that we quickly lose the capacity for making actual projects and we spend our shop time managing the clutter. Somewhere between empty and full there is a sweet spot, but in my experience it's somewhere short of the fifty percent mark.

We should also remember the utility of emptiness and apply it to learning and growing in our skills. Learning something new might require letting go of previous bias, fear of failure, or poorly mastered skill sets to make room for a new path. If our brains and attention are scattered and cluttered, learning something new is just adding to the noise. Luckily some of us are old enough to have forgotten vast amounts of knowledge without doing anything more than letting time fade them away. A clear mind is the best place to start a new project.

At the end of the chapter, Lao Tzu tells us "...thus: a material body is necessary to existence, but the value of a life is measured by its immaterial soul." So, the most valuable part of existence is intangible. Tools, lumber, and a space to work in might be the material stuff of our craft, but the feeling of creating something new in the world, something that will outlive us, and having done it with our hand and eye, is the true measure of our satisfaction and is the soul of woodworking.

Matt Rosendaul