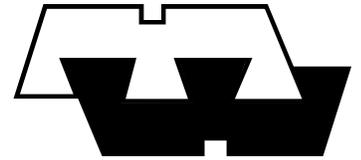




# MICHIGAN WOODWORKER

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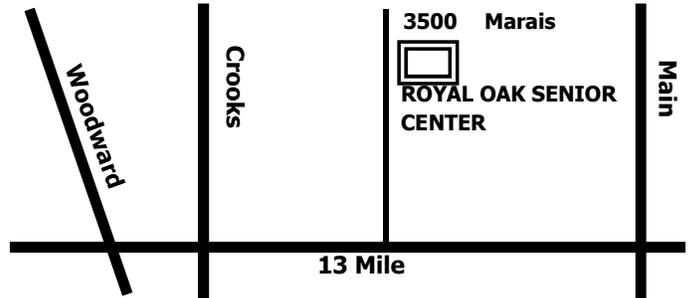
Michigan Woodworkers' Guild (est. 1981) January 2018 Vol. 39 No.1

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

At the Royal Oak Senior Center from 2:00 to 4:30 pm.  
The raffle and other activities from 1:00 to 2:00 pm.

**Marco Terenzi** will demonstrate how he makes **Miniature Tools**. see page 6 for details.

The January luncheon will be at the Senate Coney Island on the 25th at 1:16 pm (see map on page 7)



MAP TO ROYAL OAK SENIOR CENTER



**Al Eicher, his son Dave, and their presentation on "WHEN THE BIG TREES FELL"**



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The **February 11, 2018** meeting will be at the **Royal Oak Senior Center** and will feature **Dale Ausherman** explaining what **SAPFM** is and what its members create. **Ed Stuckey** will demonstrate vacuum veneering techniques.

The February lunch will be at the Senate on the **22nd** at 1:16 pm

**March 11, 2018** will be our annual **Jigs and Fixtures** meeting at the **Livonia Senior Center** coordinated by **Pete Goddard**. Contact Pete if you have a favorite (or not so favorite) jig or fixture to share.

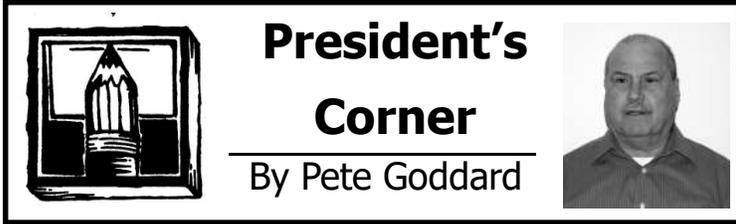
The March lunch will be at the Senate on the **22nd** at 1:16 pm

**SATURDAY April 14, 2018** will be our annual **Showcase of skills** meeting at the **Livonia Senior Center** coordinated by **Ed Stuckey**. Contact Ed if you need a large space.

The April lunch will be at the Senate on the **26th** at 1:16 pm

The **May 20** meeting will be at the **Livonia Senior Center** and will feature **Clair Boussum** demonstrating **Intarsia techniques**.

The May lunch will be at the Senate on the **24th** at 1:16 pm



I hope that all of our members had a joyous holiday season. 2017 is now past us and 2018 is here. I wish all of us a happy and prosperous new year. As it will be Winter for quite a while yet, this is the time to make that project you have been putting off.

The December meeting was well attended and enjoyed by all who came to see the presentation. In addition to an excellent presentation on "When The Big Trees Fell", the snacks provided by the kitchen volunteer staff were enjoyable. As is usual for our December meeting, the presentation was made by a professional speaker and was not immediately focused on woodworking. As part of the meeting, the annual elections were held. No new nominations were given during the meeting, so the election results were by acclaim. For 2018, the Guild officers are:

#### Elective Offices

President	- Pete Goddard
Vice President	- Will Wilson
Secretary	- John Dolinsky
Treasurer	- Ed Stuckey
Officers At Large	- Clay Bolduc
	- Tony Gigliotti
	- Mike Holden

#### Appointed Officers/Standing Committee Chairs

Library	- Jule Ann Clough
Newsletter Editor	- Bill Gayde
Special Projects	- Bill Rigstad
	- Jim Kudej
Web Site	- Bob Mills
Membership	- Ed Thomas
Programs	- Will Wilson
Toy Project	- Ken Wolf

The Guild library now consists of DVDs which can be checked out for a minor charge. A number of these DVDs have been checked out for a very extended period of time. Jule Clough has asked that I mention that we need these items returned to the library so that others can have access. Please take a look around your DVDs and return those belonging to the Guild if they have been out more than 60 days. Also, the Guild is looking to expand its collection of DVDs. If you have ideas for DVDs that would be of value to the library, please pass your recommendation on to either Jule, myself, or any board member at one of the meetings. When you make a recommendation, please identify the title, and where the DVD is sold through.

The January meeting features Mario Terenzi speaking on his miniature tool work. Mario has been written up in both Popular Woodworking and Fine Woodworking for his unusual and detailed miniature tools. He is also teaching a class this year at Marc Adams school. This meeting promises to be quite interesting. I am really looking forward to the opportunity to listen to Mario at Royal Oak Senior Center on January 14<sup>th</sup>.

The March meeting will be a Jigs and Fixtures meeting featuring various jigs and fixtures, both shop made and purchased, that Guild members have used to solve project and shop problems. We need volunteers to present the solutions that they have invented or found in the marketplace that they have found effective at solving problems. Please contact me, [plgoddard47@gmail.com](mailto:plgoddard47@gmail.com), if you are willing to share some of your solutions to shop problems with other Guild members.

Meetings are going on in the executive board to look at how to make the Guild web site more effective and more useful to Guild members. If you have recommendations related to the web site, please talk to any of the board members. Membership feedback is critical to ensuring that we have an effective web site.

Have a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year.



## MEETING REVIEW

By Dale Aushman



### Al and Dave Eicher - When the Big Trees Fell Michigan Lumbering Days and Camp Life

Our speakers for the 2017 Guild Holiday meeting on 10 December were Al and Dave Eicher, founders and principals of Program Source International (PSI), based in Bloomfield Hills. PSI is a television production and marketing company founded over 26 years ago. Together they and their staff create and deliver television and multi-media programs for a variety of corporate, institutional, and educational audiences ([www.program-source.com/](http://www.program-source.com/)). The company has also produced 26 television documentaries on Michigan town histories and historic events within the State, and has a website to promote and distribute their series of 26 Michigan History Videos produced over the past 20 years ([www.michiganhistoryvideos.com/](http://www.michiganhistoryvideos.com/)).



Al and Dave also give lectures to groups based on this wealth of historical documentation. They have given over 570 lectures and visual presentations throughout the State of Michigan. Last year for our holiday event they gave the lecture The Orphan Train in Michigan.

This year they informed and entertained members and spouses with Michigan's Lumbering Days & Camp Life, advertised as "When the Big Trees Fell." This lecture covered the early days of harvesting softwood trees from the lower half of the Lower Peninsula starting in the late 1850's with the first settlements and earliest forms of lumber harvesting. Also covered were the processes used to mill the lumber for use, from hand hewn logs to finished lumber, evolving from water powered mills to the 1883 steam engines. The presentation employed several short lectures accompanied by historical photos, as well as videos of historic movie footage of lumbering in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Also included were display of actual lumbering artifacts from the era.



By the mid 1850's most of the people in Michigan lived south of the line from Grand Rapids to Port Huron. Six hundred lumber camps employed a wonderful mix of people including Germans, Swedes, Poles, Italians, Norwegians, and Native Americans. The woodsmen performed a variety of tasks as river hogs, buckers, swampers, limbers, and cooks with "cookees" helpers. Al and Dave generously provided a written outline of the presentation content, from which I provide highlights below.

Continued on page 4



Continued from page 3

A first lecture introduced the presentation, leading to a first video which showed early Michigan use of wood, the existing forts, territorial land sales to support logging and other settlements, and the resulting need for roads, better transportation, and the huge requirement for lumber to build homes and businesses.



where the logs will then be pulled by sled to the river banking grounds.

Often when the photographer would come into camp, the men would load a so-called "champion" load of logs and haul them down sled. Almost every large camp claimed such a champion load. They hauled the logs to the river or nearby narrow gauge or connections.

The second lecture described how the growing population in the lower half of Michigan and elsewhere in the country increased the demand for finished lumber, and drove the development of better methods of harvesting trees, transporting the logs to the mills, and more efficient means of making the finished lumber. An accompanying video showed the progression of milling from hand hewing, to the pit saw, then to water powered saws, and eventually to steam engine saws powered by sawdust and wood trimmings. Wood shingles were a major product of the mills, and became so plentiful



that they became a form of currency themselves.

The next lecture and accompanying photos talked of the 1852 railway between Detroit and Chicago, which stimulated Michigan's growth in population and associated market for goods. Finished lumber was needed to provide the housing (people did not want to live in log cabins anymore), as well as ship building and construction of railroad cars. The felled logs were pulled by oxen, later replaced by horses as being faster, along skid trails leading to the rivers. Logs were floated down the rivers in large amounts, typically in the spring when the rivers were flowing strong and deep. The logs were marked on the ends with company symbols so that ownership and processing could be sorted out at the mills. The mills were situated at the mouths of rivers where they emptied into the Great Lakes, so that the finished lumber could be shipped



to markets on large vessels.

Large work forces were needed to conduct the varied operations, and lumber camps were set up on the rivers near the logging trails. A typical lumbering crew consisted of two "choppers" (ax men who dropped the trees, some measuring up to six feet in diameter), two "sawyers" (also felled trees), two "buckers" (men who cut logs in lengths of 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 feet), one limber (who remove branches when the tree is

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

one "swamper" (prepared trails to remove logs to a main line road), and 1 teamster (who maintained and operated a group of horses to pull the skids down trails or roads to the rivers or mills. River hogs rode the logs and groups of logs down the river. All of these jobs tended to be very dangerous, especially the "hogs." Log jams were frequent and were sometimes cleared by dynamite. A following video further described these operations.



A fourth lecture provided photos and descriptions of the actual facilities, operations, and people, and the related living conditions and artifacts. Pictures of actual mills in Caseville and on the Saginaw River were included, and photos of camp buildings and personnel were included. Al introduced the Wannigan, which was a floating kitchen which followed the log drives and river hogs. The lumbermen typically ate their lunches in the woods by their job site. Also shown were lumber schooners and steamers, heavily loaded with milled lumber. The video reported that lumbermen typically made \$30 - \$50 per month, depending on their job. Some camps had pet deer that had been tamed from the wild. An interesting implement was the "icer" a specialized wagon pulled by horses, in order to sprinkle the trails with water (turned to ice) to make slick paths for the lumber skids to follow. And we saw specialized

small locomotives designed to operate on tracks in the woods.

Each camp loaded lumber on bob sleighs to transport to the river banks or to a railway line in the woods. Photographers would come to the camps and "report" on how high another camp piled logs on the bob sleds. This started competition between camps to build the highest pyramid of logs on the sled. Photos were taken of huge pyramids, supposedly being pulled by one or two horses, as shown in a nearby photo. But in reality



these were staged set ups, as no horse or horses could even begin to pull such a load in the woods.

The final video included some domestic aspects of the logging camps, including lunchtime calls, the men eating, camp hunters, music makers, the Sunday washing of clothes and rare relaxation. Then Monday morning started the week when, to quote the Eichers, more of the Big Trees Fell.

We thank the Guild Board for arranging such an entertaining program, and the Eichers for sharing their knowledge and work with us.



## OPEN FORUM

By Ed Stuckey

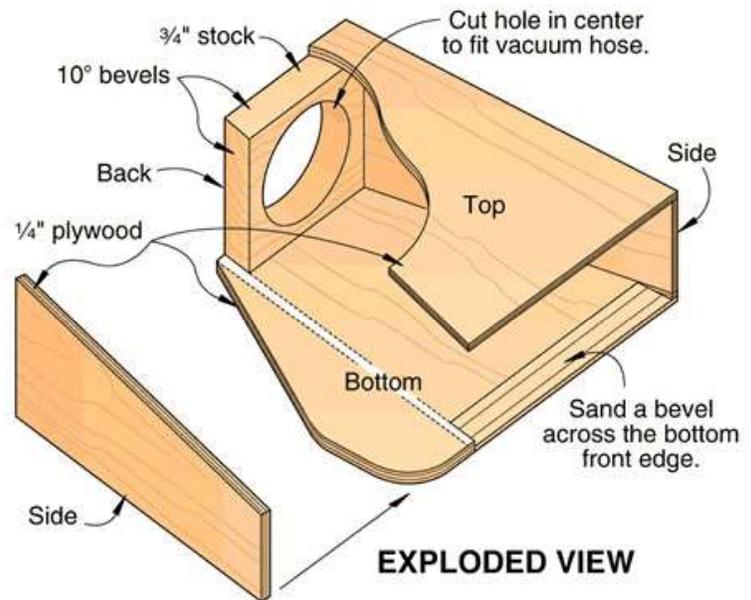


Detroit artist Marco Terenzi, a graduate of the Art Furniture program at the College for Creative Studies, creates work that defies categorization. His fully functional replicas of woodworking hand tools are impeccably articulated in quarter-scale miniature. Functional, though not practical, these pieces are becoming highly sought-after collectibles. The precision necessary to successfully accomplish this type of construction and functionality is mind-boggling, but Terenzi is intensely disciplined. He's even replicated his workshop in fully functional quarter scale. And, at 25 years old, he's only just getting started.



## FYI

By Tony Gigliotti



Wood chips and sawdust don't stay around long when you hook up this clamp-down collector to your shop vacuum or dust-collection system. You will breathe a lot easier, and cut down cleanup time, too. Use the Exploded View drawing to construct the collector from 1/4" plywood and 3/4" stock. Cut or sand 10 degree bevels across the top and sides of the 3/4"-thick back, where shown above. To reduce sawdust buildup at table level, sand a bevel across the front edge of the bottom piece.

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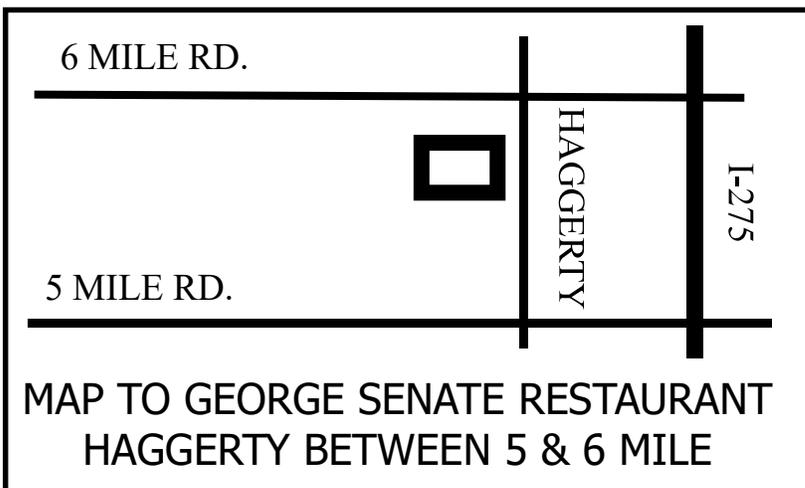
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**For name tags, sign up with Ed Stuckey at a regular meeting.**



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## **The Picture Gallery**



**DINING THEN**



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