

# **MICHIGAN** WOODWORKER



michiganwoodworkersguild.com

Michigan Woodworkers' Guild (est. 1981) February 2025

Vol. 46 No. 2

### When / Where:

# **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2025**

(Socializing Starts at 1:00 PM and Business meeting at 2:00 PM)

### In-Person Meeting:

# Making of traditional wooden windows by Larry Last

Meeting Coordinated by: Larry Last



**IN-PERSON MEETING AT: Livonia Senior Center** 

# PAY YOUR 2025 MWG DUES TODAY! (SEE PG 2)

#### **FEBRUARY 2025:**

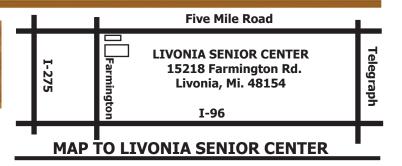
Coordinated by Larry Last, Larry Last will demonstrate how he makes double hung wooden windows using his jigs, fixtures and processing aids. Everything starts at 1:00 PM at the Livonia Senior Center on Feb. 9th, 2025.

#### **MARCH 2025:**

MWG Officer at Large, Ron Ross has coordinated a demo from Rockler to show us their new products. See the new tools and jigs that they have. Everything starts at 1:00 PM, March. 9th 2025 at Livonia Senior Center.

## **April 2025:**

Practical product design is often as important as the actual construction. Join us at 1:00PM April 13th at the Livonia Senior Center as Joe Beam teaches us how to properly design our furniture products. Coordinator Jerry Romito.



# **Making of Traditional Wooden Windows**

# February 9<sup>th</sup>

See how to make traditional wood windows.

Larry Last will show how he makes double hung wooden windows using jigs, fixtures, and processing aids. Many might find this interesting to add light to their outbuildings.







As of January 2025 your Michigan Woodworkers' Guild yearly dues are now payable.

Feel free to right away complete the renewal process by paying your \$25 dues **Early** and **Often**.

A membership renewal form can be found on the website dropdown menu under "Membership - Payment/Renewals" or by selecting the link below.



February 2025

We had 51 members attend our January meeting for member **Cliff Durand's** presentation on Antique Tools. You can read **Dale Ausherman's** detailed review in this newsletter. You can also view it on our YouTube channel by clicking on this link:

## https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\_onv7RMID30

Once you get there if you click on the "Subscribe" button you will be able to easily see all of our meeting videos later at any time. I send a huge thank you out to our Camera Committee chairman **Kevin Goulet** for setting up the entire process and editing the videos, and for

cameraman **Dave McCagg** for handling the video camera chores.

There is a golden opportunity in March to see what another amazing woodworking club is doing. The Metro Carvers Club of Michigan is holding their 43rd "Artistic Creations in Wood" wood carving show on Saturday and Sunday, March 22 and 23, from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.

The show will be held at the **Packard Proving Grounds** Historic Site located at **49965 Van Dyke Ave. in Shelby Township**. You can go to their website at: <a href="https://metrocarvers.com/#">https://metrocarvers.com/#</a> to see all the details. Some of our members belong to both clubs.

I can tell you for sure that they present a stunning display of carving projects and tools.

Jerry



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Find the latest MWG Membership Form with the following link:





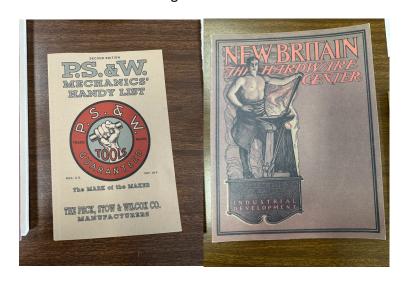
MWG Meeting Review Cliff Durand Tools Livonia MI, 12 January 2025

Our November 2024 Meeting hosted member Cliff Durand to present highlights of his incredible antique tool collection along with his suggestions on how one might best get started on a collection of your own. Most of the tools were hand tools but included a couple of very early power tools. Cliff has been a member of the Guild since its inception in 1997. He is a collector of many things, including Dinky Toys as a kid, antique tools, and things military. Cliff taught cabinet making and millwork as an industrial arts teacher for 32 years, the first 20 years at Chippewa Valley High School and then another 12 years at Dakota High School, reportedly the largest high school in the country.

Cliff Lives in Rochester Hills in a restored Victorian French cottage, causing him to suggest he needs help painting the many multi-color surfaces on the cottage. He is married to Patty, whom he met while she was a gym teacher at Chippewa Valley. They just celebrated their 50th anniversary and have 3 kids with the youngest now 40 years old. Cliff has served as chairman of rules committee for MITES, the *Michigan Industrial & Technology Education Society*, and has also served as a convention chairman, President Elect and President. MITES hosts an annual student project competition, for which MWG has provided judges over several years. He has found these voluntary leadership roles to be very fulfilling and encourages all of us to step in and help lead MWG.

Why does he collect tools? "It is more worthwhile than spending the time and money in a bar." He also finds that collecting fulfills several human interests: 1) historical and cultural significance, 2) craftsmanship and quality, 3) scarcity and age, 4) aesthetic appeal,

5) emotional (my grandfather had one of those), 6) investment potential (don't ask my spouse on this), and lastly 7) do your research. He further expounded on historical significance: What better way to connect oneself with the past than to hold in your hand an artifact of those times? And "I am going to appreciate these tools until I am gone."



**Antique Tools Resource Books** 

How did the collection begin? He started with one little block plane. He went with a guy to look at a jointer at a sale and saw an attractive little block plane available for \$2, a price he could not resist. But he knew very little about the plane at the time. Cliff's advice: "First thing, buy a book or two". He provided examples of great tool books:

- The Catalogue of Antique Tools, 1995 Edition, Martin J Donnelly Antique Tools, Bath NY. (There are several annual additions of this catalogue available on Amazon).
- Antique & Collectible Stanley Tools, Guide to Identity and Value, John Walter. (Amazon, used \$159)
- 3. The Art of Fine Tools by Sandor Nagyszalanczy (Author, Photographer). Amazon.
- 4. Patented Transitional and Metallic Planes in America, 1827-1927 (Vol. I) by Roger K. Smith. Amazon.
- 5. New Britain, the Center of Hardware Manufacture, Containing a Brief Review of its Marvelous Industrial Development, Marcus White.



- 6. P.S. & W. Mechanics' Handy List, the Peck, Stow & Wilcox Co., Manufacturers.
- 7. The Gristmill, quarterly publication of the Mid-West Tool Collectors Association. Contains numerous articles relating to the history, usage, and understanding of tools.

Cliff's thoughts on collecting philosophy: One might want to decide to collect one thing, which alleviates the need for a storage pole barn later on! It is a lot easier to specialize. Cliff did not specialize, and as a result it took him many days to sort through his collection just to decide what to bring for this lecture. And he needed to do internet searching to help remind him of the key important aspects of some selected tools. E.g. one could collect only screwdrivers, or planes, or wrenches, or claw hammers, etc. Cliff has one double claw hammer, something I had never seen nor heard of before. Patented by George F. Voight of San Francisco in 1902, the double claw hammer was designed to pull out nails of different lengths without bending the nail. Cliff noted that there is always someone out there wanting to build something better.



Logo On Hand Plane Blade

Planes are a HUGE option, with subcategories which can become collections in their own right. E.g., one

might collect just wooden planes, or molding planes (complex curve molder), or smoothing planes (wood or metal). There are plough planes (either wooden or metal) which make only grooves or rabbets, usually each with a depth stop and fence. The wooden molding planes started being manufactured by individual makers, not big companies, and many are still made that way.



Cliff Durand with Bailey No.1 Plane

Early planes were all wooden bodies (with metal blades), while now for more than 100 years planes like smoothing planes have been entirely made of metal. Stanley is credited with the first all metal plane near the end of the 19th century. In between these two extremes were transitional planes (usually smoothing planes), also made by Stanley. Thus one could collect only such transitional planes. For these the sole is wood but the cutter and its surrounding frame is metal. Cliff exhibited a Stanley No. 135 Liberty Bell transitional plane, with a decorative number 76 inside of a liberty bell image cast into the frog. This plane was part of a series of Stanley planes celebrating the 100th anniversary of our 1776 founding



in 1876. The wooden sole was typically either Beech or Apple Wood, as was the one Cliff displayed for our meeting, but Cliff has a much more valuable one with a rosewood sole.

Cliff also showed a Stanley No.1 smoothing plane, offered in 1867 – 1943. This is the rarest Stanley plane and is highly sought by collectors. It is a very small plane, a little under 6" in length. Production stopped in 1943 with no improvements over those 77 years. E.g. it did NOT ever have a plane iron squaring adjustment lever. While there has been much discussion over the years as to the intended purpose of the No. 1 (kid's plane, salesman sample, etc.), to many experts the fact that there were never modifications over those years implies that the plane was a marketing scheme.

The history of the Stanley tools company is very complicated, with many directors and leaders that had the name Stanley. Over the years Stanley bought many smaller tool companies. According to Cliff, the Stanley Co. family tree looks like it was struck by lightning. The name Bailey eventually appears, first from Leonard Bailey, but eventually there were several folks with the Bailey name. When Stanley bought a company, often one with a competing and better plane design, the manufactured plane would have both names for a while. To simplify Cliff summarized by saying the Stanley Co. started in 1831 and is still in business, one of the oldest companies around. However it is now Stanley Black and Decker.

Cliff next moved to collectible wrenches. He does



**Perfect Handle Screwdrivers** 

not have many but says there are collectors with hundreds of wrenches. Some wrenches are worth much more than others, such as the Winchester wrench. Cliff doesn't have many wrenches in his collection, but he has a valuable Winchester wrench. Winchester, the gun and ammo company made many tools in the period 1919-1929. At the end of WWI Winchester's market for guns and ammunition dropped precipitously. They recognized they had the tooling and infrastructure to make many other things as well, including tools. They made many different things starting in 1919, such as flashlights. But this line of business for Winchester only lasted until 1929, when it was hit by the 1929 financial crash. So the Winchester wrench is rare and therefore worth more than many other wrenches.



**Blacksmith Made Spokeshave Dividers** 

One could also collect only blacksmith-made tools. Blacksmith-made tools were pretty common early on, with many made locally. Cliff had a really great Pair of dividers and one can see punch marks and hammer marks on the surfaces. They have very precise slots for the moving swivel joint which still works smoothly. They also made builder's squares, all hand



hammered and "hammer welded" at the corner. The lettering and scale markings were all hand stamped. Cliff also showed very large blacksmith-made rose head nails. The hammered heads have the appearance of an opening rose.



Cliffs Grandfathers Disston HandSaw

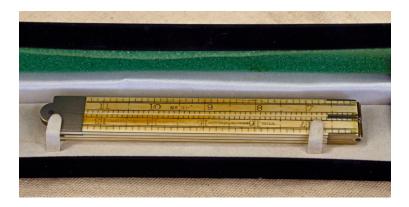
Cliff related that it is hard to tell age of a hand-made tool unless the maker stamped a date. It is much easier to date manufactured tools by consideration of the improvements involved. E.g. Cliff knows that his undated Disston panel crosscut saw was made in the interval 1896 – 1917. This saw belonged to his Grandfather. The date range can be determined by style of the "button" (medallion) on the handle. Some show eagles some keystones of various designs. Cliff could search online for *The Medallions and Timeline of Saw Manufacture* to determine the date range for the medallion style on his saw.

https://www.disstonianinstitute.com/medv2.html

All Disston saws before the 2nd WW had the little nib on the front top of blade, as does Cliff's panel saw. There have been many theories as to uses of the nib, but Cliff says it was really just a marketing gimmick.

Cliff relates that there are many self-made tools by pattern makers in the large early Detroit tool and die industry. He showed an example screw driver whose edge shows signs of previous life as a file. This screw driver had an interesting shape to the shaft, two inline trapezoids. He also indicated there were many self-made spoke shaves for use by pattern makers. One was solid brass and used by pattern makers to put body trim details on the sheet metal dies.

Rulers are also a popular item to collect, with most Stanley ones made of boxwood trimmed in brass. Cliff had one Stanley "gentleman's rule" in a special case. The rule was made of elephant ivory and nickel silver. As the ivory tool was over 100 years old it was not subject to international export controls. Cliff purchased this beautiful rule at a gun shop.



Stanley Gentleman's Rule

He then showed two collectible screwdrivers. These were "Perfect Handle" screwdrivers where the tool, forged from a single billet of steel, had wooden handle halves riveted on. For collecting purposes, the bigger (wider) the blade the more valuable the tool. One screwdriver had a script "Ford" stamped on the blade, implying the owner likely worked at Ford and may have lifted the screwdriver from the worksite. A second perfect handle screwdriver, stamped as made by the H.D. Smith & Co., had a split handle enabling one or both handle sides to be folded down to act as levers to greatly increase the torque supplied.

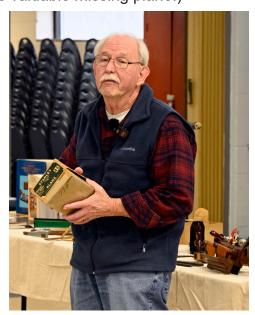
There was also a ruler marked Stanley with a little heart on it encompassing the letters "SW" (for Stanley Works). Then the word Victor (original making company) was appended followed by a ZZ, which stands for "zig-zag", the earlier product name for the rule. It is commonly thought that the SW stands for "Sweet Heart", in recognition of William Hart, a one-

time President of Stanley. Cliff views Stanley as the original corporate raider for having bought so many tool companies and their tool designs.



Stanley Zig-Zag Ruler

According to Cliff, the best possible ranking of a tool's condition is called "mint in box." He had an example of a plane box with the label "No 4 with corrugated sole, with a Heart and SW", but the enclosed plane did not in fact have the "SW" features. Cliff says this is likely a case of surplus pre-printed boxes being used by Stanley as a matter of efficiency. (To me this sounds farfetched. I would rather suspect that someone along the line of ownership simply switched out the more valuable missing plane.)



Cliff Durand with Mint-in-Box Plane

Cliff explained that the reason we see many Stanley planes of the earlier eras marked with a "Bailey" label cast into the frog, or cast into the body, is reference to a Leonard Bailey, an independent plane maker with superior designs from whom Stanley bought patents. This eventually resulted in a legal dispute won by Stanley. Thereafter Bailey went off on his own again. There is an online article, "Stanley vs. Bailey - A Short History", which relates in some detail this complicated relationship.

https://virginiatoolworks.com/2012/04/23/stanley-vs-bailey-a-short-history/.



Cliff Durand showing L.L. Davis Level

People also collect antique levels. Cliff's example was a beautiful antique L.L. DAVIS 18 inch cast metal filigree inclinometer level, patented in 1867. The level had cast iron filigree across the entire body, with a built-in inclinometer/level.

One can also collect early electric power tools, including large stationary power tools approaching 100 years old. If one Googles "antique power tools" or "antique power machinery" you find amazing tools such as a 36 inch joiner, with virtually no safety guards. Also antique scroll saws are popular to collect.

Cliff exhibited an early electric router, 1925-30, 3 HP, which was very large and heavy. One of his former students rescued the router from a dumpster after the closing of the Hubbarth and Schott Lumber Company, located in Mt. Clemens, Michigan. The router







R.L. Carter 1925 - 30 Router

had been part of a set up to cut stair pockets in stair stringers. In use the router was suspended by cable with a counterweight, so the extremely heavy router could be lifted with one finger. The machine has a Stanley Works name plate with the name R. L Carter Div. At the beginning of WW I in 1914 R.L Carter had a contract to make boiler tanks. For some reason the wood patterns for the castings had missing rabbets. So an early version of a router made from sheep-shearing equipment motors was used to quickly cut the rabbets. R.L Carter then marketed a production version and soon Stanley bought the whole business, with Carter stipulating that his name be on the product.



Porter Cable Model 528 Saw

Cliff also showed a beautiful old Porter Cable circular saw, a Model 528 which sold in 1957 for \$135, which was a lot of money at the time. Porter-Cable was founded in 1906 in Syracuse, New York, by R.E. Porter, G.G. Porter, and F.E. Cable. In 1929 Chief Engineer Art Emmons invented the helical drive circular saw, a compact, lightweight design that is still the most widely used circular saw design produced today.

Another member brought to the meeting a Porter-Cable Speedmatic-75 circular saw, a late 1940s vintage. He said one could turn off the saw and still cross cut through a 1X10 pine board before the saw would stop rotating. Apparently the blade guard was not up to modern standards because many carpenters lost fingers to this saw.



Porter Cable Speedmatic-75 Saw

We are indebted to **Cliff Durand** for sharing portions of his extensive tool collection and for his deep and entertaining expertise in antique tools. Thanks to **Jerry Romito** for organizing the meeting, and to **Kevin Goulet** and **Dave McCagg** for the video work, and to **Dan Holowicki** for the photos. Special thanks to Kevin for setting up the YouTube recording of the meeting and posting in our website.

- Dale Ausherman

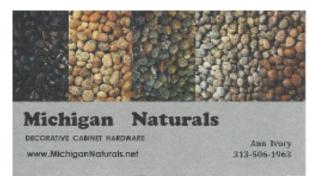




- · Lumber turns to furniture in my hands.
- You want me to make that? Then I need to buy....
- It's not a mistake, it's a design feature.

These phrases are provided purely for your humorous enjoyment. Feel free to send your favorite woodworking pun to the MWG Newsletter Editor for possible future publication.









Do you have some wood that hasn't seen the light of day in decades?

Do you have cut-offs from your last project which are just too good for the burn pile?

Do you have pieces that you would like to donate to the MWG Toy Program?

Continuing this year at each Member meeting, we invite everyone to bring their wood pieces for sale, exchange, or give-away.

Just open your trunk in the parking lot to let everyone see the treasures you have (Please keep these pieces outside).

Who knows, you probably will go home with nothing more than what you came with or some extra "got-to-have, never been seen before" samples of your own.



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### **News from the Toy and Box Committee**

Why We Make the Toys and Boxes We Do

MWG members have been making toys and boxes to donate to various organizations for close to 40 years now. It all started back in the 1980's when a few members got together and made toys to donate to the Salvation Army. By the late 80's the toy program became more organized and with the blessing of the Board of Directors, a majority of the toys made by members were donated to Children's Hospital of Detroit. Along the way toys were also donated to several other organizations including The Wellness House, Children's Leukemia Foundation, Toys for Tots, Capuchin Soup Kitchen and other charities.



Ron Ross's Pull Toys

Longtime member **Ken Wolf** became involved with the program in late 1990's, eventually becoming the toy committee chairman. Under Ken's leadership, the toy program became more organized, approved finishes were established and an inventory of wheels, axles, washers and other parts for toy making was cataloged and maintained. Long about 2018, members **Ron Ross** and **Dan Holowicki** began learning the ropes

of the program alongside Ken. Within a couple years, Ken made the decision to 'retire' and hand off the program to Ron and Dan. Of course, to this day, Ken still contributes much appreciated input to the program.

I have heard many reasons for making toys and boxes, like "it gives me something to do"; "I'm doing this to

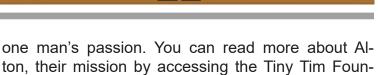


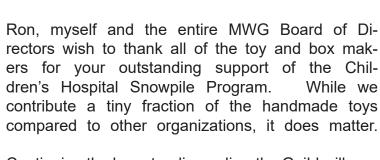
Dave Nordstrum's Model T

bring a little joy in the life of a child confined in a hospital during the holidays", "this is my way of paying it forward", or "when my child was in the hospital for an illness they were given a toy made and donated by MWG". I'm sure there are many more reasons why we do this but it is important to remember that we do it to help others, promote our hobby and the MWG.

We are proud of our decade's long commitment to making toys for children and pride ourselves in consistently meeting our goal of providing over 400 toys a year to Children's Hospital. However, this goal pales in comparison to those efforts done by legendary toymaker **Alton Thacker**.

I never heard of Alton until a friend of MWG read an article in the Wall Street Journal about Alton's passing and alerted club president **Jerry Romito**. Throughout his lifetime Alton and later his foundation, Tiny Tim's Foundation for Kids, have been responsible for donating over 1.7 million (yes, you read that





dation for Kids website https://tinytimstoys.org/.

Continuing the longstanding policy, the Guild will provide standard and treaded wheels in 1", 1  $\frac{1}{4}$ " or 1  $\frac{1}{2}$ " dia.,  $\frac{1}{2}$ " OD nylon washers and  $\frac{1}{4}$ " dia. wheel pegs free of charge to any member who wishes to make toys for this program. The Guild still has an inventory of non-standard wheels and other toy parts that



**Speedboats** 

have been recently categorized. While there has been a good response to these non-standard items remember that once they are gone, they will not be replaced.

We do bring a small amount of select items from this stock-

pile to Guild meetings on a regular basis. However, if you have a specific need, please contact Ron or Dan for the amount and to arrange delivery. For further information on our toy/box program or request wheels and axels, please contact

Ron - (734) 812-5531 - rross1508@gmail.com Dan - (313) 702-5836 - dan56laura@att.net



**Berg's Excavator** 

right) volunteer made toys to various organizations.

Alton was a barber who enjoyed making small wooden cars. He always had one in his pocket and would give these cars away to children everywhere. During the mid 1990's he and his wife were part of a missionary pilgrimage to Mexico. This pilgrimage inspired Alton and his wife to do more by creating a nonprofit to support their efforts in Mexico. They started returning for Christmas every year with a group of as many as 100 volunteers, bringing sewing machines, coats, shoes, furniture and other items. They helped build infrastructure like hospital rooms for surgeons to operate in. And they passed out toys by the hundreds.

Eventually Alton decided it was time to mass build toys to be distributed by the Tiny Tim Foundation. The first year they made their own toys, a handful of volunteers helped the Thacker's make about 400 cars in their garage, which they gave to children in Mexico. Word got out and they started to receive more monetary donations and volunteers began arriving. Today that army of volunteers now makes over 100,000 cars a year that go all over the world for distribution. The Tiny Tim Foundation For Kids is still alive and kicking, boasting more than a thousand volunteers monthly continuing Alton's legacy, making thousands of toys for children around the world. It is hard to fathom the network that was created by





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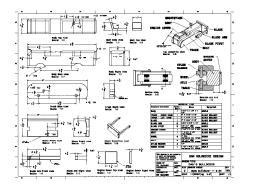
In support of the MWG Toy program, the design staff has steadfastly been at work developing new designs. The latest is a bulldozer inspired by our very own toy coordinator, **Dan Holowicki**.

The drawing for this new toy project can be found on our website at the links shown below. Be the first on your block to make several then donate them to the MWG Children's Hospital Toy program.

Everyone is encouraged to make this new project and then send your feedback to the MWG Newsletter Editor.



Dan's Bulldozer



**Dan's Bulldozer Drawing** 

You can find the MWG **Dan's Bulldozer** plans on the MWG website with the following link: https://michiganwoodworkersquild.com/wp-content/uploads/toys/Dans Bulldozer 12-1-24.pdf





For membership information contact Dave McCagg at: d2mccagg@provide.net For name tags, sign up with Ed Stuckey at a regular meeting.

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Next MWG Luncheon: (Coordinated by TBD) Thursday, 27 FEBRUARY 2025 at 10:16 AM

## **Executive Board Members / Committee Chairs**