



MICHIGAN WOODWORKER

michiganwoodworkersguild.com



Michigan Woodworkers' Guild (est. 1981)

March 2017

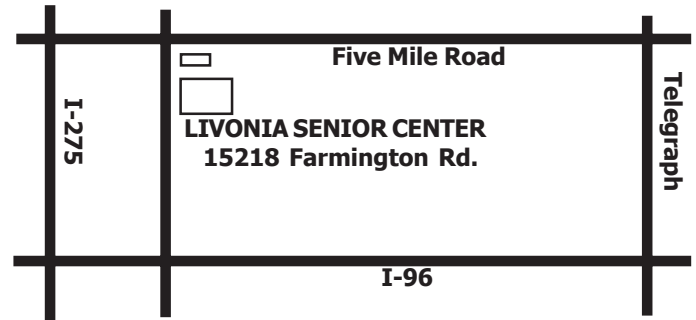
Vol. 38 No. 3

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

At the Livonia Senior Center from Noon to 3:30

This is our annual **SHOWCASE OF WOODWORKING SKILLS**. Come see the wide variety of skills and talents on display by fellow Guild members. Set up is from 11 am to Noon. Call Ed Stuckey if you need floor space. (313-345-3671)

The March luncheon will be at Jimi's on the 23rd. at 1:16 pm (see page 2 for map)



MAP TO LIVONIA SENIOR CENTER



Kyle Huntoon of HUNT AND HOYER OF DETROIT



Jason Cowan of TREE PURPOSED OF DETROIT

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The **Sunday, April 9** meeting at the **Royal Oak senior Center** will be our popular **JIGS AND TOOLS** program. Contact **Will Wilson** at 248-207-8883 to get on the agenda.

The **April** luncheon will be at Jimi's on the **27th** at 1:16 pm

The **May 7** meeting will be at the **Royal Oak Senior Center** and will feature several Guild members demonstrating **MAKING DOVETAILS WITH VARIOUS MACHINES AND BY HAND.**

The **May** luncheon will be at Jimi's on the **25th** at 1:16 pm

A tentative plan for a **TREE IDENTIFICATION** field trip is being planned for **June**. More information in the next newsletter.

The **June** luncheon will be at Jimi's on the **22nd** at 1:16 pm

There will be no meeting nor luncheon in July.



President's Corner

By Bill Gayde



A busy next couple of weeks for the Guild (I am writing this prior to the Woodworking show at the Suburban Showcase). Hopfully, we have signed up a large number of new members. Thanks to Bill Rigstad for all his work in keeping in contact with the Show sponsors, getting us a free booth, and organizing the workers. Also, thanks to Bill and Ken Wolf for creating our new booth. It will be a lot easier to transport and set up than the old one we had with the heavy kitchen cabinet base.

This coming SATURDAY is our annual Showcase of Woodwrking Skills at the Livonia Senior Center. I have heard some members say that they don't display any of their projects because they are not as good craftsman as some other members. I hope we can convince them that they should bring what ever they have made or have in progress anyway. I am not, nor will I ever be, as good as Ed Stuckey or Dan Reahard or Steve Lash but I am going to bring a piece to the show and I encouage all members to do so also.

If anyone wants to see some of Eds or Dans or Steves work you need to attend the Society of American Period Furniture Makers show at the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) on March 18 and 19. The show run from 10am to 4pm each day. In addition to the display of furniture, there will be a demonstration of 18th century hand tools as well as a tour of the DIA's 18th Century surniture wing. In another part of the DIA, the Education Department will have an area where small children can create and paint a tool box or bird house.

Executive Board Members

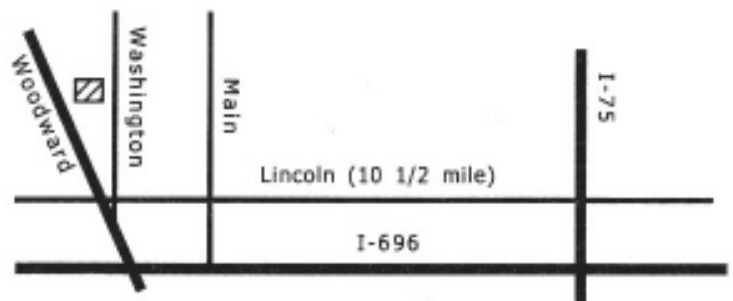
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Pete Goddard.....	Special Projects.....	248-828-3038
Bob Mills.....	Web Site.....	248-540-8658

For membership information, contact Bill Gayde at 41110 Fox Run Rd. #208; Novi, MI 48377 or e-mail at: williamgayde@comcast.net.

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



**MAP TO JIMI'S RESTAURANT
714 S. WASHINGTON, ROYAL OAK**



MEETING REVIEW

By Dale Aushman



MWG Meeting Review

Kyle Huntoon – Furniture Maker

Jason Cowan – Live Edge Table Maker

12 February 2017

The February Guild meeting at TechShop in Allen Park brought a refreshing dimension not seen in quite some time. It was as if someone stashed a couple fountain-of-youth water bottles in Bill and Sally's refreshment cooler, and up popped two young and talented entrepreneurs to amaze attendees with exciting new woodworking endeavors in the Detroit area. Kyle Huntoon, a Guild member, is a successful young furniture maker, designing and building innovative contemporary furniture for clients out of a shop/studio in downtown Detroit. Kyle shared with us his remarkable path from engineer to skilled furniture designer and builder, including a stint on the HGTV show *Ellen's Design Challenge*. Jason Cowan is another young area entrepreneur who has parlayed interests in tree climbing and woodworking into a successful business designing and building live edge wood slab furniture. When one views the attendance at our Guild meetings, they typically note a veritable forest of skilled but grey haired woodworkers, making us all worry about the future of our craft and Guild. Young woodworking energy and talent like Kyle and Jason gives us hope that there is a great future for our Guild and the talent that it represents.

Kyle Huntoon grew up in Jackson MI. and attended the University of Michigan to receive a B.S.E. in Civil Engineering in 2007. He went to work in a Detroit area energy business, but all the while was "tinkering"

with woodworking on the side. During this period he was making and selling bowls, boxes and wood-handled shaving razors. To further his woodworking and design knowledge he took a class at the Center for Design Studies in Detroit, following which he applied his evolving design skills by building furniture with reclaimed wood and upcycled steel. His was able to leverage his engineering degree to move to the northwest where he soon joined the NW Woodworkers Guild, now known as the Northwest Woodworkers Association, with the goal of making fine furniture. He then made his innovative wood and steel "Zigzag Table" which was soon featured on DIY Network *Man Caves Show* in 2012. Feeling the call of furniture design and fine woodworking, Kyle left his engineering job in mid-2012 and moved back to Detroit to pursue these dreams.

In 2012-2013 he attended a 12-week furniture intensive session at the Center for Furniture Craftmanship (CFC) in Rockport Maine (<http://www.woodscool.org/>), where he further built a foundation in essential furniture making skills. Soon after completing this course Kyle founded his firm Hunt and Noyer Woodworks. The company name was formed by using parts of his parents' names. Hunt & Noyer was originally formed to create small housewares and gift items from high quality American hardwoods. The company has since grown to include an original line of midcentury inspired furniture, wholly designed and handcrafted by Kyle in the Hunt & Noyer studio in downtown Detroit. In addition to a growing line of home accessories and furnishings, Hunt & Noyer has completed a number of collaboration projects with talented makers in Detroit, along with commission work for museums, small retailers, and corporate clients (<http://huntandnoyer.com/>). Kyle returned to CFC in the fall of 2013 for a 2-week chair design workshop.

(continued on page 4)



(continued from page 3)

Perhaps Kyle's most interesting experience was appearing on HGTV's *Ellen's Design Challenge*, Season 2 during 2016 (<http://www.hgtv.com/shows/ellens-design-challenge>). On this show Ellen DeGeneres puts eight furniture designers to the test in Los Angeles to compete in various challenges designing and building furniture. With a provided workshop, a lead carpenter, and all the tools they'll need, the contestants are tasked with a new 20-hour build each episode. A panel of expert judges along with appearances by Ellen will eliminate them one by one until one designer is left standing to take home the \$100,000 cash prize. Kyle made it through 7 of 9 episodes. He has also won a number of prestigious awards, and participated on many key exhibits, as listed on his website.

Kyle continues his furniture business in Detroit. He started full time furniture building in April of 2016, and moved to a new downtown shop and showroom at 2431 4th St. early in 2017. Visits are welcome as long as one calls ahead. Kyle is also committed to investing his time and resources to advance the craft, by offering quarterly classes, using social media outreach to other woodworkers, and supporting Guild membership drives at Rockler, Woodcraft, and hardware stores. He encourages us to venture into the city to see several new woodworking businesses, of which he knows of 10 to date.

Another exciting woodworking business in the Detroit metro area was introduced by Jason Cowan. Jason learned and practiced rough house framing while in high school, where he learned skills in woodworking tools and processes. His first job out of high school was for Arbor Man LLC, a reputable Livonia, Michigan tree service (<http://thearborman.com/>). Their services include tree removal, tree trimming, tree pruning, and tree preservation. Jason's attraction was a desire to learn how to professionally climb trees! He did indeed

learn to climb trees. But he also leveraged his woodworking skills to help spin off a new sister business specializing in provision of live edge slab lumber, and building of spectacular live edge furniture. The new company, *Tree-Purposed*, is a saw mill and custom workshop specializing in live edge slabs (<http://www.treepurposed.com/>). They transform Metro Detroit's urban wood waste into useable, high quality wood products. They have an extensive inventory of Michigan live edge slabs, all sustainably harvested and reclaimed from unwanted urban trees. They market the slabs to other designer/builders, but also design and sell their own one-of-a-kind tables, bar tops, desks, benches, shelving, mantles, headboards, wall art and much more. Both companies are headquartered in Livonia.

Jason showed a warehouse chock full of beautiful slabs, and reviewed many innovative and beautiful tables, and other furniture forms he has produced. Their slabs are stickered, air dried for about a year, and then kiln dried to complete the curing. They sell for about \$15-25 per board foot, with the higher end being 24 inch or wider Walnut. Jason mentioned that Pin Oak has beautiful grain figure, but is the worst species with respect to wood movement after curing.

Jason showed a large portfolio of furniture forms and architectural elements. Most of the pieces had substantial metal bases, but a couple had wooden or Plexiglas bases. He has also made several "waterfall" tables where the tops are cut and mitered with the cutoffs forming the legs of the furniture.

We thank our Guild Board for arranging these young and talented speakers. It gives us all hope that our woodworking craft has a great future, and that the associated business add strengthening diversity to our area economy. Guild members should strive to support these businesses.

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The Picture Gallery



**The battle of the dueling tables: Kyle Huntoon's on the left and Jason Cowan on the right. Who wins?
It's a tie. Both are outstanding.**
