

Northwest Woodworkers Association

THE SAWDUST NEWS



April 2018

An association for woodworkers of all skill levels to share their common interest

The Next Meeting

Date: **Thursday, May 31, 2018** at 6:30 PM

Location: **NE Seattle Tool Library**

10228 Fischer Pl. NE

Seattle, WA 98125

[10228 Fischer Pl NE, Seattle, WA 98125](#) **Google Map**

Program Highlight: **Guided Tour**

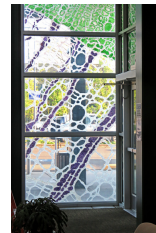
Note: There will be a **Show'n'Tell** before the tour - bring your projects!

April 2018 Meeting Highlights

Meeting Photos by Scott Wilson

Meeting Notes by Tim Newsome

The **April 2018** meeting of the **Northwest Woodworkers Association** was held on **Thursday, April 26, 2018** at the **Wood Technology Center** at **Seattle Central College**.



Fifteen members and guests attended this interesting and informative meeting. **John Gonder** conducted the meeting.



This'n'That



Allen McCall noted that his **Jet DC 1100** dust collector had been misbehaving and refusing to start! After some investigation and email inquiries to some of the members, he was able to diagnose the problem as faulty contacts in the centrifugal motor switch. One of the members suggested that he purchase a new switch assembly from **eReplacementparts.com** (<https://www.ereplacementparts.com/>), successfully resolving his problem. **[Ed. Note:** This is a classic example of one of the benefits of being a member of the **NWWA**. Within our membership, we have a lot of members with a wide diversity of education, experience, and good old common sense. If you have a problem with a woodworking-related issue, please avail yourself of the vast resources available within the **Association**. We are here to help one another – but we can't help if you don't ask! Contact information is available at the end of the Newsletter.]

Show 'N' Tell



Tim Newsome brought along a couple of projects to display – one of them was a small miter-jointed picture frame in which he had embedded rare earth magnets so it would stick on his refrigerator door. Great practice for making joints, **Tim!** His second project was a multifaceted, cylindrical pen/pencil holder, fabricated by joining several lengthwise segments, also requiring skill in making accurate miter joints and accomplishing a tricky glue up! Good show, **Tim!**

New Tools



Herb Stoops told us that he found a good sale on a **Ridgid** cordless 5-piece toolset at **Home Depot** for only \$299 including two 18V batteries! What a steal! He noted that the tools are powerful, function very well, and have good battery life.

Herb also said that he had recently replaced his **Performax 16-32** drum sander with one of the new **SuperMax 16-32** drum sanders. He said the new sander has some nice features including the **INTELLISAND** Technology, which monitors the motor current and automatically slows the conveyor speed as required to prevent overloading the motor. He also likes the lever operated drum height adjustment for fast setting and the digital height measurement feature.

He also noted that he had been having feed roller problems with his noisy old **Delta** lunchbox planer, so he decided to replace it with a new, quieter, **Cutech** lunch box planer, which has a

spiral head with carbide cutter inserts. He said he was impressed with the smooth surface produced by the planer. During the tour, **Herb** noted that the **WTC** had several of the same **Cutech** planers.

Program Highlight **Wood Technology Center Tour**



Our host for the meeting was **Mr. Jeff Wasserman**, an **Instructor** at the **Wood Technology Center**. **Jeff** told us that the **Wood Technology Center (WTC)** has been located at the same location in the **Central District of Seattle** for almost 60 years! He said that he was once a student at **WTC** himself, some 40 years ago! He noted that after graduation he has worked at a variety of jobs in furniture design and construction. And for the last 15 years he has been an **Instructor** at **WTC**, enabling him to groom new generations of woodworkers and pass along much of his knowledge and experience – noting that he has actually taught two or more generations of the same family at **WTC**!

Jeff told us that the **WTC** curriculum consists of one semester of their **CORE** program (basic woodworking, hand tool usage, and safety) followed by a one-year program in one of three disciplines:

Cabinet / furniture making

Boat building

Carpentry

WTC conducts both day and night classes. The day classes are 6 1/2 hours per day, Monday thru Thursday. The night classes are taught two days per week.

Student/instructor ratio is 18:1

Program graduates receive an AAS degree.

The program graduates about 1000 students every 15 years.

The **WTC** program typically has a two-year waiting list for potential attendees!

[Ed. Note: Herb Stoops, who retired from a long career in the construction trades, noted that the graduates from the **WTC** programs were highly motivated employees who exhibited very good skills and excellent work ethics.]

Wood Technology Center

This marvelous facility was built about five years ago on this site, which has housed the **WTC** for almost 60 years, using a state government grant. The planning, design, and building of the facility took about five years and was heavily dependent upon suggestions and feedback from the staff and students. After completion of the buildings, the curriculum was redesigned to make the best use of the facility, including the addition of more modern technologies such as **CAD/CAM** design and **CNC** machine programming and operation. There was also a focus on synergy between the different programs to promote maximum educational exposure.

The **WTC** facility incorporates several large lab areas, in which the students are taught basic woodworking skills, safety, operation of woodworking machines, and perfect their skills with hands-on projects. The lab areas also offer specialized training in specific disciplines, such as the **CORE** lab, in which students learn basic design, visualization, and documentation, the use of hand tools, shop and workplace safety; the **Computer Lab**, equipped with multiple digital workstations, where **CAD** and **CNC** principles are taught; the **Boat Labs**, in which students learn the design, construction, and repair of both wooden boats and plastic composite boats; the **Residential Carpentry Lab**, in which student are schooled in the design and construction of interior and exterior residential structures, including passive houses that require no external sources of energy; and the **Cabinetry/Furniture Lab**, in which students learn cabinet and furniture design and fabrication techniques, operation of a wide variety of machine tools, culminating in a capstone project of the student's choice, requiring an original design which the student has not used before. Many of these projects are on display in the building foyer.

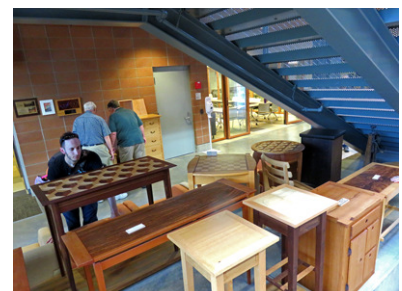
In addition, the facility incorporates a large classroom with tiered seating, and a well-equipped technical library. As can be seen in the photos, the facility is well lit, with a complementary mix of natural and overhead lighting, providing inviting, pleasurable workspaces.

Throughout the **WTC** facility, most of the equipment is new, state-of-the-art machinery. All of the standard cabinet-type table saws are the **SawStop** brand, purchased because of the enhanced operational safety features offered by their patented flesh-sensing technology. Other modern equipment includes a large wide belt sander, a large sliding type panel saw suited for processing full size sheet materials, a large table **CNC** router, and jointers and planers equipped with carbide insert, spiral heads to minimize the noise level. Those students who have the opportunity to attend the **WTC** programs are blessed to be able to use such modern, state-of-the-art equipment. **[Ed. Note: I suspect most of us on the tour were envious!]**

The entire **WTC** program contains a focus on individual and workplace safety. In the lab areas, eye protection is mandatory. Hearing protection is optional, but the program brings an audio testing van on site yearly to test the student hearing and educate them regarding this safety issue. Respirators or dust masks are optional – a testimony to the design and effectiveness of the built-in dust collection system.

Wood Technology Center - Photo Gallery

The photos below are but a sample of the sights we were able to see on our tour of **WTC**:



A Beautiful Foyer Displaying Student Projects



Workspaces and Tools of the Trade



Boat Labs



Carpentry Lab



State-of-the-Art Equipment

We want to thank the **WTC** and our host, **Jeff Wasserman** for the wonderful, educational, and informative tour and program overview. Some of the past and present members of the **Northwest Woodworkers Association** are graduates of the program or have taken educational classes offered by the **WTC**. This is truly a marvelous resource for providing highly trained and motivated men and women for the woodworking and construction trades.

Note from the Editor



This was a truly enjoyable evening! I, for one, was unaware of the outstanding opportunities offered by the **Wood Technology Center**. The careful detail obviously shown in the development of such a well-rounded curriculum is a testimony to the serious consideration given by the **WTC** staff to the needs of students preparing themselves to enter careers in the various woodworking disciplines. With all of the building construction currently underway in our local area, I'm sure there is a real demand for highly trained and motivated workers in the construction trades. What a great opportunity for students to learn skills that will serve them well for the rest of their lives and likely lead to satisfying and worthwhile careers.

Happy and Safe Woodworking,

Paul

Northwest Woodworkers Association Sponsors

We appreciate the generous support provided by our NWWA sponsors, from providing member discounts on purchased items to providing state of the art venues for us to conduct our monthly meetings. Thank you, Sponsors!

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If you have a woodworking-related problem, question, comment, or item that may be of interest to the membership, we encourage you to contact any of the above individuals. We will endeavor to connect you with someone who can help.

In addition, please visit our website: <https://www.nwwoodworkers.org>