

Northwest Woodworkers Association

THE SAWDUST NEWS



August 2018

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

The Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, September 27, 2018 at 6:30 PM

**Location: Northeast Tool Library (Lavilla Dairy Building)
10228 Fischer PI NE, Seattle, WA 98125**

Program Highlight: Tour of the Northeast Tool Library

August 2018 Meeting Highlights

Meeting Photos by John Gonder

Meeting Notes by Jan Erickson

The **August 2018** meeting of the **Northwest Woodworkers Association** was held on **Thursday, August 30, 2018** at **Woodcraft Supply**. We want to express our appreciation to **Ron and Michelle Hall** and the **Woodcraft staff** for again providing a wonderful venue for this meeting. We really appreciate your long-standing support of the **Association**.

Thirteen members, including new member **Tom Wolfe**, attended this interesting and informative meeting. **Steering Committee Member, John Gonder**, conducted the meeting.

Announcements

Thor Carpenter invited members to enroll in two classes that will be held in early **December** in his shop in Carnation. Class instructors will be experts in their specialties. He noted that he will provide more information for inclusion in the **September Newsletter**.

New copies of our **NWWA Brochure** will be prepared for the display of local woodworking opportunities here in the **Woodcraft** store.

Herb Stoops distributed notices of the **Woodcraft Annual Open House** to be held **October 4-6**. There will be displays, demonstrations, classes, prizes, and sales.

Woodworking classes will be held in Langley (on Whidbey Island). For more information, visit the **Whidbey Island Woodworkers** website (<https://www.woodpalooza.com/>)

Pratt Fine Arts in the Central District is giving away rounds of holly and laurel.

John Gonder noted that a survey is being prepared by the **Steering Committee** which will be distributed to the membership soon. The purpose of the survey is to solicit ideas from the membership regarding interests and desired programs for future meetings and obtain volunteer program presenters for the 2019 meetings. He urged members to respond to the survey and be willing to volunteer to participate.

Show ‘N’ Tell

Charlie Culler led off the **Show’N’Tell** presentations by showing us a couple of really neat scroll sawed projects he made for his grandchildren. One of them he called **Jurassic Park**, which had a variety of dinosaurs, volcanos, and palm trees. The other was a scene he called the **Barn Yard**, which had a barn, tractor, horse, pig, goat, and sheep. Interestingly, each of these highly crafted pieces was created as a puzzle with interlocking pieces. I suspect that he even made some of the parts interchangeable so that even more “critters” could be created! Because he used a variety of hardwood species to create the figures, the wide variety of colors and grain patterns further enhanced the pieces. Seeing **Charlie’s** enthusiasm for the projects, makes one wonder who was having the most fun with them – Grandpa or the Grandchildren..... 😊





Charlie also showed us an alligator bean bag toss whose mouth snapped shut when a bean bag or ball landed in it. I'll bet this colorful, action toy was a real hit with the grandchildren, too!

Jan Erickson showed us an oak test box she had made as part of her learning experience to use a **Leigh Dovetail Jig**. She noted that it has been quite a learning adventure due to the complexity of the jig, but she feels like she is finally getting a feel for it. The nice tight dovetail joints on her sample box demonstrated her improved skills. Great job, **Jan!**



Tim Newsome brought along a nicely made maple and walnut cutting board having a double curved laminated inlay the length of the board. He explained the multi-step process of cutting the grooves and installing the contrasting inlays. The straight lines and curves in the piece and the contrasting colors produced a very striking visual effect, enhancing the piece. Nice job, **Tim!**



Questions & Answers

Jan Erickson asked about recommendations for finishes that would be heat proof, noting that she had heard that there is a bar finish reported to be suitable. Some members thought that the bare wood itself would withstand most hot dishes and plates, except for oven-heated items.

One of the members asked about ways to dispose of sawdust from shop vacuum systems. Answers from the group included bagging in plastic and putting in the garbage can for pickup, leaf bagging for the green disposal bin, or using as mulch. It was noted that walnut wood debris can be unsuitable for mulching or composting.

Program Highlight – 2 x 4 Challenge

Tom Howorth took to heart the essence of the meeting highlight, i.e. **Challenge**, with his artistic entry of a scroll sawed **Mobius Strip**. By definition, a **Mobius** is a surface with only one side and only one boundary. The constantly changing curve is amazing!



Tom described this adventure by noting that each of the curved segments was made by scroll sawing concentric rings with beveled edges, which when glued together formed segments of curved, somewhat conical surfaces. Joining these segments together edge-to-edge, produced the complex shape of the Mobius. Lots of sanding was required.....!

He noted that the thin strips from the softwood 2 x 4 were difficult to work with – warpage being a major issue. However, as can be seen in the photo, he was able to wrestle the strips into reasonably uniform surfaces for this application. He noted that making the project from a more stable material would have been much easier. However, that said, he did a wonderful job on this **challenging** artistic project!

Herb Stoops showed us a very practical, well-designed, project as his **2 x 4 Challenge** entry – wooden long reach C-clamps (sometimes called Paddle Clamps).



These 4” capacity, 10” reach clamps showed some unique features. The external steel hinges provided a very substantial, ready-made, practical method of pivoting the clamp jaws. The coarse-threaded screws provided a fast way to make thickness adjustments and apply clamping force. And the large handles with embedded steel nuts provided a secure grip for tightening the clamps. How many times have we wished we had clamps like these to reach out into a panel glue up to apply clamping force to attach some gizmo or other? Great job, **Herb!**

John Gonder showed us some of the parts he milled for his **2 x 4 Challenge** project, completion of which was delayed due to some equipment malfunctions. However, he said that he should have the project to show at an upcoming meeting.



His description of the project was somewhat sketchy and mysterious, so the following description may or may not be highly inaccurate.... 😊 Apparently the project is some sort of long, hanging patio lamp, or similar. It sounds as though it will incorporate a solar light in the top or base, and have some steam-bent, 1/16" thick, curved vanes which will form a sort of cage around the light. He showed us a thin roller thrust bearing, which will no doubt provide a low friction bearing for one end. One end of the lamp will have two opposing circular arrays of rare earth magnets, which according to some scientific principle will provide some sort of simulated "perpetual motion". He said the parts will be gilded, so it should be quite a show piece. We look forward to seeing and learning about this scientific masterpiece at a future meeting, **John!** 😊

Note from the Editor



After our summer layoff, it was nice to see a lot of our members at this meeting at **Woodcraft**. Obviously some of our members are still vacationing or were busy with the end of summer activities.

It is always fun to see the innovative **Show'n'Tell** projects that showcase the unique talents, creativity, and abilities of our members. And of course, the annual **2x4 Challenge** always provides its own unique set of projects. Thanks to all of our members who participated in the **2 x 4 Challenge** and **Show'n'Tell** – your hard work and creativity was very much appreciated.

I think it is good for each of us to stop and think about what we enjoy about our monthly meetings. I would guess that without exception, each of us really enjoys the wide variety of projects that are created and shared by our fellow members. That said, doesn't that beg the question, "Why don't you, the reader, take the time to make and share projects that can be enjoyed by you and your family, as well as by your fellow woodworkers?" For the most part, we are hobbyist woodworkers, not professionals. There is no expectation from anyone that a project presented is going to be perfect, without any mistakes or errors. From my viewpoint, one of the most satisfying parts of belonging to this group is to see our members progress in their woodworking journey, making ever more difficult and challenging projects and being willing to share their progress and the things they have learned along the way. Shouldn't that be the mission of each of us – to share our projects so they can be appreciated by others and reach out to encourage each of our members as their experience and skills improve?

I think each one of us has something to share that someone else in the group needs to see and hear about. ***Why don't you seriously consider what you have to offer.*** The old adage that "It is more blessed to give than to receive" is certainly true with our woodworking craft. I would challenge each of you to seriously consider volunteering to share a **Show'n'Tell** project or make a simple presentation about a project or woodworking technique to share with the group. ***We don't need to be "experts" to talk about something we know how to do*** -- something that you share could increase the knowledge and interest of the person sitting alongside you! If you need help with a presentation, there are a lot of us who would be more than happy to help you.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.....and hearing your presentation at a future one..... 😊 Please share with **me** what **you** know.....

Happy and Safe Woodworking,

Paul

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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>