

## ***Northwest Woodworkers Association***

# ***THE SAWDUST NEWS***



December 2018

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

### ***The Next Meeting***

**Date:** January 31, 2019 at 6:30 PM

**Location:** Woodcraft Supply  
5963 Corson S.  
Seattle, WA 98125

**Program Highlight:** To be announced

### ***December 2018 Meeting Highlights***

***Meeting Photos by Scott Wilson***

***Meeting Notes by Tim Newsome***

The **December 2018** meeting of the **Northwest Woodworkers Association** was held on **Thursday, December 6, 2018** at **Rockler Woodworking, Northgate**, in Seattle. We want to express our appreciation to the **Rockler Northgate** management and staff for hosting and providing the use of their facility.



Twenty five members, including three new members, attended this interesting and informative meeting. **Steering Committee Member, Don Beacom**, conducted the meeting.

## Show 'N' Tell

We were delighted to see a wide variety of projects in our **Show 'N' Tell** presentations for this meeting. A few of the projects are shown below.



**Projects by Herb Stoops**



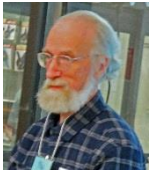
**Projects by Chris Green**



**Herb Stoops** showed us several of his recent projects, including two beautiful tissue dispenser boxes and a recipe box made from spalted maple, which exhibited spectacular grain patterns and color. He noted that his finishing regime included seal coats of shellac, and final coats of water borne polyurethane. The final polish of the finish was accomplished using fine grades of Micromesh abrasive pads, followed by buffed Carnauba paste wax. The recipe box was a unique design having a sloped front panel which allows the recipe card being used to be more easily viewed. As seen in the above photo, the unique lid pull was in the shape of a spoon!

**Herb** noted that another of his projects involved using a piece of a maple slab with the bark attached that was too pretty to throw away. So, he cleverly added a complementary rustic base and back panel to form a multi-purpose open top box that could be used as a pencil holder, mail receptacle, or similar.

The last of his **Show 'N' Tell** projects was a wall-mounted walnut toilet paper holder, which he noted was one of his first scroll saw projects. Obviously, in recognition that the toilet paper holder is one of the essential “nuts & bolts” bathroom accessories, **Herb** built a unique wooden shaft for the center of the holder by fabricating the shaft with a hex head on one end and a threaded end on the other, along with a hex nut to screw on the shaft! He noted that he purchased the wood threading equipment online (<http://www.bealltool.com/products/threading/threader.php>).



**Chris Green** showed us two exquisitely patterned hollow lathe turnings, which he said were made mostly from a hodge podge of scrap cutoffs which he couldn't bring himself to throw away!



He noted that he was careful to size and locate the various colors, species, grain patterns, and shapes of the component parts to produce the desired geometric patterns in the finished articles. **Chris** mentioned that one of the pieces had been given to him by his brother more than 30 years ago!

With the assistance of fellow member **Tom Howorth**, **Chris** demonstrated how well balanced the turnings were by spinning the suspended shape without any wobble to the motion!



**Chris** noted that he used Titebond III to assemble his turning blanks and did not experience any difficulty in joining the various species of wood. He said the two projects represented about 60 hours of shop time!



**Tim Newsome** brought along two cutting boards which he had made from maple and walnut.



One of the cutting boards had an interesting gradient pattern to the alternating color wood strips in which the width of the walnut strips increased from top to bottom while the maple strip widths decreased. **Tim** also noted that he was able to successfully rout a juice groove around the board – a first for him. Good job, **Tim**!

**Tim's** second cutting board had an interesting radial pattern of tapered maple and walnut segments. He noted that the tapered segments made for a very challenging glue-up, requiring some inventive clamping .....to put it mildly! But fortunately, he was able to persevere and make a lovely cutting board. He said that after gluing he flattened the board with a router.



**Tom Howorth** showed us a couple of unique projects that he had completed recently.



**Tom** displayed a beautiful **Kumiko** panel he had made as a result of taking a class with our meeting's speaker, **Matt Kenney**. This panel, made in the traditional Japanese asanoha pattern, was patiently fashioned with basswood infill segments. He noted that the individual pieces were cut by hand using chisels and jigs. Wow! What a lovely creation, **Tom** – one that should make you justifiably proud!



As a fun project, **Tom** showed us a jumping kangaroo toy, made in such a way that it was able to rotate its body fore and aft and “hop” down an inclined ramp. However, this little critter decided that hopping was for run-of-the-mill kangaroos, so he decided to slide down the ramp, instead! Maybe **Tom** needs to get him some new Keds with better grippers!? But the little guy was cute, nevertheless!

Somehow it reminded me of trying to get our kitties to do what we want them to. 😊

## ***Santa's 2018 Helpers***

This year we were blessed to have not one but two of Santa's elves in our midst bringing Christmas gifts for the meeting attendees.



As has been his tradition these past several years, **Elf #1** (a.k.a **Herb Stoops**) brought along a wonderful woodworking tool as a gift for each person. This tool was a self-centering doweling jig, designed for use with 3/8" and 1/2" diameter dowels. This clever design included a drill bushing and brad point drill for each of the



designed to self-store all of the tooling components in a compact package. A very clever and practical design, to say the least. Thank you for taking the time and using your woodworking talents and skill to make such a unique and useful tool for us, **Herb!**

**Elf #2**, who looked amazingly like **Tom Howorth** 😊, brought along a high-tech gift for each of the meeting attendees – a **3D printed** glue bottle cap remover, in recognition of the difficulty that all of us have in removing the cap from a bottle of Titebond glue that has been used and has a residue of glue around the cap. This clever little tool has a lip designed into the internal surface that engages the edge of the glue cap, and a nice handle with a hole in it and a corrugated surface that promotes easy gripping. Thanks, **Tom**, for making such a simple, but practical gift that solves a vexing problem all of us have with our glue bottles.



## ***Questions & Answers***

**Scott Wilson** mentioned that he was having trouble with the shaft bearings on his bandsaw and enquired of the group regarding a source of replacements. The consensus of the group was to remove the bearings and take them to an industrial bearing house. Such places usually have a wide selection of both standard and metric bearings.

# **Program Highlight**

## **Woodworking Design and Furniture Building**

Guest Speaker: Matt Kenney (<https://www.mekwoodworks.com/>)



We were privileged to have **Matt Kenney**, former Editor of *Fine Woodworking* magazine as our guest speaker for the meeting. His work has been featured on the cover of the magazine and he has authored many articles for the magazine. His first book, **52 Boxes in 52 Weeks**, was recently published by Taunton Press.

**Matt** gave us a very comprehensive discussion of many of the aspects of woodworking design and furniture building. He also showed us many slides of projects he has designed and built over the years. He noted that he is inspired by Shaker furniture design and tends to focus on simplicity of design, attention to proportion, patterns, and color. In addition to various wood species, he noted that he uses fabrics, milk paint, colored paper, colored thread and other media to enhance his designs, as demonstrated by the colorful turned boxes below.



**Turned Wooden Boxes**

He mentioned that many of his designs are for small projects, such as tea boxes, small cabinets, etc. He also likes to make the interior surfaces of boxes create a design statement by using vibrant colors, fabrics and textures.



**Tea Cabinet**

Some of the specific design elements and principles he likes to employ are shown in this tea cabinet. The design is intentionally asymmetric; the muted color and grain pattern of the wood complements the simplicity of the design; the pulls on the drawers are wrapped in brown thread; the kumiko panel is very simple; the spacers under the cabinet and the base provide what he called negative space.



**Wall Cabinet**

As illustrated by this wall cabinet, sometimes the project is designed with the intended contents in mind.

The storage spaces have been designed to hold and showcase the containers.

Also, the drawers have been designed and sized for the appropriate tea canisters and accessories.

Note that another kumiko panel graces the cabinet door.

**Matt** also discussed some of his woodworking project design philosophy and methodology.

- He noted that he usually begins his designs with quick sketches with an ink pen in a notebook.
- Then he selects some of them and redraws them with proportion and detail
- Then he refines his choices of designs and draws them at a larger scale with even more detail
- His next design step is to transfer the design to graph paper to make it easier to scale the dimensions for subsequent fabrication
- Finally, he recommends a critical review of the design with attention to proportions

When asked about how to improve a design, **Matt** replied, “**Practice!**”

- Draw something you like
- Then draw it again, changing one single feature and repeat
- Good design evolves – it doesn’t start out perfect
- Pay attention to wood grain and direction

He said that although he rarely makes prototypes, he will do so sometimes to practice or develop a special woodworking technique.

**Matt** also recommends raising or setting back design elements to create shadow lines.

He also stated that a piece of furniture is finally done when it has meaning in someone’s life!

We all really appreciated **Matt’s** presentation and sharing of his woodworking projects and design ideas. Hopefully each of us can implement some of those ideas into our own personal woodworking experiences.

## **Notes from the Editor**



This issue of the **Sawdust News** will be my final issue. It is with mixed feelings that I announce my resignation as **NWWA Newsletter Editor, effective January 1, 2019**. Age-related issues have made it increasingly difficult to safely make the drive between my home in Auburn and our meeting sites in the dark evening hours and especially on rainy nights. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving in this capacity for many years and am grateful for the opportunity to share in your woodworking project successes, and use my technical writing abilities to serve the **Association**.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many members who have made the writing of this newsletter possible – our faithful note takers like **Jan Erickson, Chris Yee, Dan Cordwell, Tim Newsome**, and others, our excellent meeting photographers including **Scott Wilson, Chris Yee, Tom Howorth, John Gonder**, and others, and our **Membership Chairman, Allen McCall**, who publishes the newsletter. It has truly been a group effort on the part of many folks. But I had the best job of all – stirring the smorgasbord and rolling out the results!



I have also enjoyed and benefitted greatly from the many interesting and informative meetings I have been privileged to attend, participate in, and document for the **Association**. I have greatly enjoyed the enthusiasm and comradery of my fellow woodworkers who have so generously shared their friendship, experience, wisdom, skills, creativity, and woodworking enthusiasm.

Even though I am changing hats, I plan to renew my membership and continue attending and participating in the meetings whenever possible. I will no doubt have some **Show 'N' Tell** projects and perhaps a mini-presentation to offer next year.

It is my hope that one of you will volunteer your services as my replacement. Writing the newsletter is easier than writing a letter – and you would be writing about something that really interests you. I would be more than happy help you any way I can. Remember, I will be only one mouse click away..... 😊

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>