

## ***Northwest Woodworkers Association***

# ***THE SAWDUST NEWS***



December 2019

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

## ***The Next Meeting***

**Date: January 30, 2020 at 6:30 PM**

**Location: Rockler Woodworking – Northgate  
832 NE Northgate Way  
Seattle, WA 98125**

**Program Highlight: Profiles on the Table Saw – A Slightly Different Approach  
Speaker: Paul Stoops**

## ***December 2019 Meeting Highlights***

***Meeting Photos by Scott Wilson***

***Meeting Notes by Tim Newsome***

The **December 2019** meeting of the **Northwest Woodworkers Association** was held on **Thursday, December 5, 2019** at **Woodcraft Supply**. We want to express our appreciation to the **Ron and Michelle Hall** and the **Woodcraft Staff** for hosting and providing such a wonderful venue for our meeting.

Twenty-three members and guests were present.



## Show 'N' Tell



**Charlie Culler** brought along a couple of projects he had made for his grandchildren – a bucket loader and a dump truck. He said that these finely crafted toys, made from contrasting hardwoods, were fashioned using a scroll saw with a little help from a router. He noted that the “fuel tanks” and wheels were purchased items. **Charlie** even demonstrated the functions of the toys by dumping the bed of the truck and operating the bucket of the loader – just like the real thing! Somehow, I suspect that Grandpa will get more enjoyment out of the toys than the grandkids.....! :-) Great job, **Charlie!**

He also noted that he had some “big plans” for future toys, so no doubt we will be seeing some other creations at future meetings.



**David Ord** noted that he faces the same situation that most of us have – what to do with the offcuts that somehow seem to accumulate and appear to have a life of their own. (Hmm....., makes you wonder what goes on in the shop at night when the lights are off.....!?) At the price of hardwoods these days, it takes some courage to dump those small pieces of wood in the waste bin. So **David** said he decided to take a positive approach and see if he could come up with some projects that could be made from this treasure trove of pretty (& \$\$) wood.

To that end, he decided he could glue the pieces to a plywood backing in different patterns and make artistic wall hangings from them. His wide variety of sizes, species, textures, and shapes provided a great opportunity to experiment with this idea while at the same time reduce the size of the offcut pile. He also realized that these projects could be made in different sizes, with or without frames, use the shadow effects of different thicknesses and textures, incorporate stains and dyes for color, etc. to decorate his home and make welcome gifts for friends and family. His daughter was so taken with the idea that she made a colorful miniature model for her doll house!



What a great idea, **David**! It looks like the possibilities are only limited by your imagination! Thanks for sharing this idea with us.



**Mike Kneale**, one of our new members, showed us photos of a recent project – a very uniquely designed loft bed. Some members commented that it looked like a camper van! As many of us have found, he noted that the 2 x 4's he purchased were not straight, presenting some real assembly challenges. **Mike** also noted that he had no success in bending plywood, even after soaking it in hot water. Unfortunately, we have no photos to show this great project. But welcome to the **Association**, **Mike**, and thanks for sharing with us.



And last but not least, our Resident Christmas Elf, **Herb Stoops**, surprised everyone with his annual gift giving to the **Association** members! For this year's surprise gift, **Herb**, fashioned a beautiful, practical, adjustable setup gage for each member. These gages can be used with the router, table saw, or other shop tools to accurately measure or set fence positions, router bit heights, drill depths, or a plethora of other shop tasks. He noted that he had fashioned these tools based upon an article published in **Woodsmith** magazine, a copy of which he provided to each of the members who received one of the setup gages.



Though he didn't discuss much detail of the interesting process he used to manufacture this large quantity of these magnificent tools, I was able to surreptitiously acquire some of his photos of the various stages of his build.....! Of particular interest, note his utilization of a wide variety of offcuts and leftover material from previous projects, incorporating the contrast of the different species, colors, textures, and grain patterns to enhance the appearance of these tools. Also, note the "production" mode of sequencing the wide variety of build operations required for this quantity of parts.



**Choices, choices, choices.....!**



**Pickin' the purties.....!**



**Which combo would you like?**



**Band sawed bodies and slides**



**Sliding dovetail body/slide joint**



**Routed adjustment screw slots**



### **Ta Da! The March of the Setup Gages!**

**Ed. Note:** As a side note, this YouTube video shows additional details of the step-by-step build:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luah7OEepXE>

We really appreciate your generosity and willingness to share your skills and dedication to the members of the **Northwest Woodworkers Association, Herb**. Thank you for investing so much of your time and energy to be such a blessing to all of us. We also appreciate your generosity in absorbing the out of pocket costs that such an ambitious project entailed. What a guy!

## **Program Highlight** **Presentation by Darrel Peart, Furniture** **Maker**



We were treated to a very interesting presentation by local craftsman **Darrel Peart**, who owns and operates a 2500 sq. ft. furniture shop in West Seattle. To illustrate his presentation, **Darrel** showed us a wide variety of slides showcasing his expertise and experience designing and building high end custom furniture including pieces in such themes as Arts and Crafts, Greene and Greene and others.

Much more information and galleries of furniture photos may be found on **Darrel's** website: <https://furnituremaker.com/>

**Darrel** noted that he has implemented CNC equipment into his array of conventional shop equipment, allowing him to perform some tasks with far greater accuracy, such as building multiple identical parts, or adjacent parts with features which must precisely match or nest together. Interestingly, he has developed assembly procedures in which he has been able to

CNC machine clamping cauls with contoured contact surfaces on one face which allows him to use bar clamps diagonally across the corners of a table top, cabinet, etc. having moldings or other nonlinear features. He also noted that the use of CNC machining also allowed him to make many parts to their exact finished length, and with careful attention to the use of sharp cutters and machining technique, little or no post-machining operations were necessary.

It was also interesting to note that **Darrel** said he uses **2D** drafting software for designing his projects. He explained that this was a throwback to his early manual drafting training using a tee square and triangle. He said that occasionally he will use a **3D** rendering to help him visualize some feature of a design, but that he relies on **2D** drafting software to prepare his dimensioned drawings for his furniture.

He noted that he used to do his own finishing, typically using **Armor Seal**, but exposure to that finishing material over time made him sick. He then switched to having his finishing done by a commercial finishing company. In some instances, he has switched his finishing material to eco-friendly plant-based products made by **Livos**: <https://www.livosusa.com/>

Thank you, **Darrel**, for taking the time to visit our meeting and share such an interesting perspective about the world of commercial high-end furniture making.

## **Notes from the Editor**



What a way to end our meeting calendar for this year! We were encouraged by the number of members and guests who attended. And the always interesting **Show’N’Tell** brings us unexpected member projects, as well as tips and techniques we can use in our own shops. I want to encourage more of our members, and especially our newer members to bring their projects to share.

**Darrel Peart’s** presentation provided us a rare, interesting look into the world of professional woodworking and design.

And, of course, we were all blessed by the generosity of **Herb Stoops** with his gift of a custom-made setup gage for each of the members. Thanks, **Herb!**

Except for **January**, our **Year 2020** meeting schedule is currently empty! If you have any suggestions or can give a presentation yourself, please contact **Don Beacom**.

I wish you all a safe, happy, and healthy New Year. In this coming year, I would encourage each member to become more proactive. We all have knowledge and experience to share with one another – and especially with our newer members. Our meetings are also a great place to find answers to questions and solutions to problems.

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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# **Northwest Woodworkers Association Contacts**

**Membership**—Allen McCall [allen.mccll@gmail.com](mailto:allen.mccll@gmail.com)  
**Treasurer**—Chris Green [chrisandrenegreen@gmail.com](mailto:chrisandrenegreen@gmail.com)  
**Secretary**—Jan Erickson [ajemski@comcast.net](mailto:ajemski@comcast.net)  
**Webmaster** --- Tony Grosinger [tony@grosinger.net](mailto:tony@grosinger.net)  
**Newsletter Editor**--- Paul Stoops [pmstoops@comcast.net](mailto:pmstoops@comcast.net)  
**Photographer**— Scott Wilson [somrev2@comcast.net](mailto:somrev2@comcast.net)

## **Steering Committee**

**Don Beacom** [DonBeacom@aol.com](mailto:DonBeacom@aol.com)  
**John Gonder** [John.Gonder1@frontier.com](mailto:John.Gonder1@frontier.com)  
**Tony Grosinger** [tony@grosinger.net](mailto:tony@grosinger.net)  
**Tim Newsome** [tim@casualhacker.net](mailto:tim@casualhacker.net)  
**Scott Wilson** [somrev2@comcast.net](mailto:somrev2@comcast.net)

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>