

Northwest Woodworkers Association

THE SAWDUST NEWS



July 2014

<http://www.nwoodworkers.org>

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

The Next Meeting

Date: July 31, 2014

Location: Woodcraft Supply
5963 Corson S.
Seattle, WA 98108

Featured Program: *Working with Fragile Woods* by Herb Stoops

Herb will be sharing his experiences working with a variety of fragile wood materials, including spalted, end grain, and composites. You will enjoy his many custom designed projects using these materials. Definitely a "Don't Miss" meeting.

June 2014 Meeting Highlights

The **June, 26 2014** meeting was held at **Rockler Woodworking – Northgate** with 19 regular members in attendance. We thank **Lawrence King** and his helpful staff for providing refreshments and a wonderful venue for holding our meeting. There were no new members present, but we did have a guest, **Peter Ducal**, a turner and furniture maker from nearby Poulsbo. Our guest speaker for the meeting, **Jeff Wasserman**, indicated that he was interested in becoming a member in the near future.



We asked **Jan Erickson** for an update regarding the end grain material thickening problem she posed to the group at the last meeting. She thanked **Herb Stoops** for helping her out of her dilemma by using his drum sander to solve the problem. **Jan** went on to show us her lovely end grain cherry box she made from a piece of leftover cherry countertop, using the material that she and **Herb** milled on his drum sander.

Steering Committee Report

We again mentioned the upcoming **2 X 4 Challenge** which will be held at **Woodcraft Supply** during the **August 28, 2014** meeting. No one had any questions regarding the rules for this year's contest. We encourage everyone to participate in this fun event. Bring your made-from-a-2x4 projects for our enjoyment and your chance to win a prize.

Show 'N' Tell

(Please see the Photo Gallery on Page 6 for additional photos)



Dan Cordwell showed us a barn-sale chair he was restoring. After some investigation, he discovered that the piece was a Cherner Chair, a designer, limited build factory piece. The birch bentwood chair with a formed walnut plywood seat/back was in poor condition and one of the legs was very damaged. He had stripped the finish from the piece and inquired about preparing the surface for refinishing. Wiping with acetone or alcohol to remove traces of the previous finish and sealing with dewaxed shellac were recommended. **Dan** had repaired the supporting legs but expressed concern about the weight-bearing strength of the repairs. Ideas and suggestions flowed freely! The lively discussion included recommendations to add steel reinforcing plates to the top and/or bottom surfaces of the frame members and even corbels placed inside the curved intersections of the legs and frame. A very intriguing piece! Please bring it back to show us when you have completed your restoration, **Dan**.





Jan Erickson presented a box made from another barn-yard find – a white oak coffee table. The sides of the box were made from the table aprons which had a relief-carved pattern. By careful design, **Jan** was able to craft the mitered corners such that the carved pattern was continuous and wrapped around the box – very clever and nicely executed, **Jan!** She was also able to retain the original finish with its old patina.

She also showed a band saw box she made as a prototype for a possible **2X4 Challenge** project, using material milled from an old growth cedar beam. The “test” produced a beautiful box despite its soft grain.



Chris Yee displayed a three-legged chair he made for his 3-year old daughter. He had used green pine and hollowed out the seat and low back – material salvaged from a log given him by a neighbor. He inserted the legs up through chair-seat holes and asked for opinions about when and how to insert the leg wedges. Most members advised him to let it sit 3-6 months to allow the wood to dry and finish aging. There was some discussion about whether or not two of the three legs should be located at the back of the chair or at the front. **Chris** said he had done some investigation and found stools with each configuration so we didn’t resolve that issue..... :-)



Vern Tator, our professional bowl turner, showed us some Madrone bowls he had recently made. A friend had given him a Madrone tree which he sliced into bowl-depth blanks and stored in water until ready to use to prevent checking. His typical processing sequence involves turning the bowls to rough shape while still green with a 1-inch excess thickness, boiling them, and letting them age and dry for 6 months or longer depending on the wood and its moisture content. He then turns them to the finished configuration, and final sanding them to 320 grit before applying walnut oil. The bowls were beautiful! He noted that Madrone is a wonderful wood for turning.



He also passed around some pens he had made with exotic multicolored woods, coated with CA glue and sanded to 8000 grit. Beautifully done projects, **Vern!**



Program Presentation

(Please see the Photo Gallery on Page 6 for additional photos)

Furniture Design Concepts



Jeff Wasserman, an instructor in furniture design and fabrication at the **Wood Technology Center, Seattle Central College**, was our guest speaker for the meeting. He discussed using concepts of design, art and production in the creation of furniture. He noted that design and fabrication are two sides of the same coin and they meet in the presentation of a finished piece.

He posed the question, “**Where do ideas come from?**” and showed many examples of inspirations in nature, common objects, juxtaposition of spheres and angles. From there he suggested applying “**What if?**” questions to break out of standard thinking about furniture and encouraging imaginative and playful possibilities, illustrating the concepts with an extensive slide show. **Jeff** showed many examples where concepts of discovery, massing, contrasting, negative spaces, form, and creative geometrics lend themselves to custom one-of-a-kind pieces.

Some of his suggestions included keeping journals of works in progress, sketching profusely, recording inspirational images, and looking at a piece from all sides before completing the design. To this end, **Jeff** favors using orthogonal drawings to enable viewing the top, sides and ends of a project. This helps prevent unexpected surprises and enables better viewing of project proportions. He also stressed using **PHI – The Golden Ratio** in furniture design.

He also recommended the **Taunton Press** book **Designing Furniture** by **Seth Stern**. [Ed. **Note:** This book may be out of print, but a brief internet search did find the item here: <http://www.amazon.co.uk/Designing-Furniture-Seth-Stern/dp/0942391020>]

Jeff also invited the **NWWA** to tour the new woodworking campus of the **Wood Technology Center** at **Seattle Central College**.



An original custom chair design by Jeff Wasserman

Upcoming Events

July 2014 Meeting – This meeting will be held at **Woodcraft** in Seattle and will feature a presentation by our own **Herb Stoops** entitled “**Working with Fragile Woods**”. In addition to sharing with us many of his challenging experiences working with a variety of fragile wood materials, including spalted, end grain, and composites, **Herb** will be displaying a number of unique and interesting custom designed projects using these materials. This is another “Don’t Miss!” meeting – be sure to put this one on your calendar!

August 2014 Meeting – The “**2 X 4 Challenge**” – We had great response and fun with this last year. For photos of last year’s entries, please see the **September 2013 Newsletter** here: (<http://nwoodworkersorg.ipage.com/newsletters/September%202013%20Newsletter.pdf>)
Time to be making sawdust for this year’s **Challenge** – plan to come and bring your project(s)!!

A Note from the Editor



The **July 2014** meeting brought home the reality of an interesting and valuable asset available to all of our members – **sharing expertise and helping one another**. I was pleased to see our members asking the group for assistance and wisdom in resolving their woodworking dilemmas – **Dan Cordwell** asking about the best way to refinish and strengthen the framework in his chair restoration project; **Jan Erickson** soliciting advice about how to fix the fit of the bottom of a box she had crafted; and **Chris Yee** inquiring about how to ensure the fitup of the wedged leg joints of the three-legged stool he had made. It’s truly a blessing to be a member of such a group of talented, skilled and supportive woodworkers who are willing to share their experience and expertise.

Herb Stoops demonstrated another aspect of sharing our resources in bringing **Jan Erickson** into his shop so he could use his drum sander to help her with a material thickening problem. I’m sure some of us have equipment in our shops that other members don’t have available to them, so I would encourage our members to make their needs known so that perhaps others can step up and offer to help – perhaps reducing frustration and enabling a safer and more productive woodworking experience.

I am sure that most of us would be reluctant to have others use our shop equipment, primarily due to concerns related to liability, but I believe that many of our members would be glad to provide assistance to others by using their equipment to help them with their project needs. That said, I think it might be useful to the group if we compile an inventory of the type of major equipment available in the group and a list of volunteers who would be willing to use their equipment to help out other members with their projects. Anyone wish to comment on this suggestion?? Please send any comments to me at my email address listed in the **Contacts** section or post a comment on our website **Forum**. I welcome your input on this issue.

Wishing you happy and safe woodworking,

Paul

July 2014 Photo Gallery

Photos by Chris Yee



Jan Erickson's repurposed white oak coffee table :-)



Jan receiving some helpful project advice from Herb Stoops

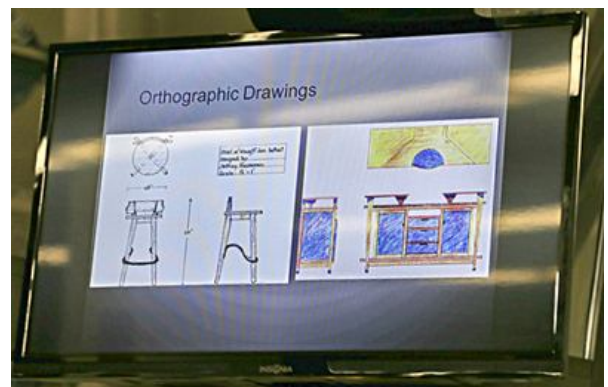


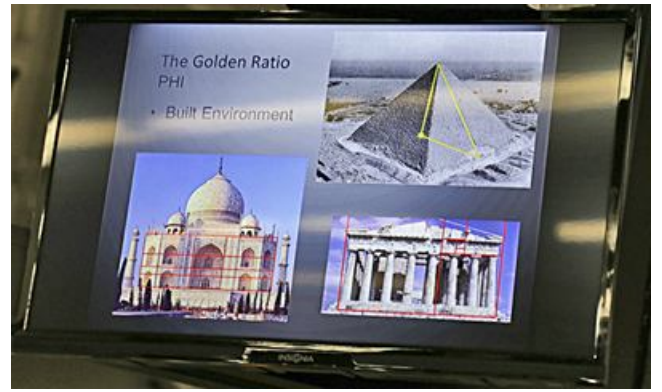
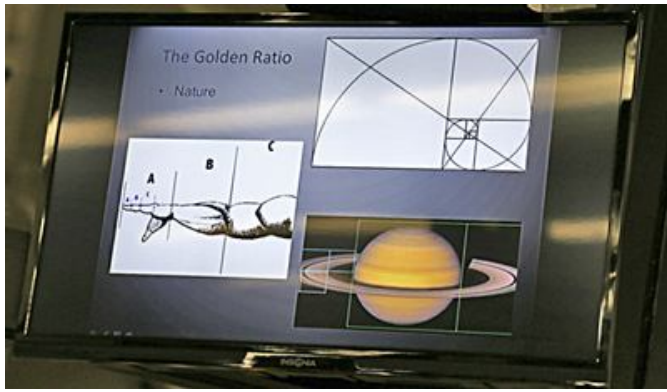
Another of Vern Tator's beautiful Madrone bowls



Enjoying Jeff Wasserman's Furniture Design presentation

Slide Show from Jeff Wasserman's Furniture Design Presentation





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We encourage our members to contact any of the above individuals with questions, comments, or items that may be of interest to the membership.

In addition, please visit our website and forum: <http://www.nwwoodworkers.org>