

## ***Northwest Woodworkers Association***

# ***THE SAWDUST NEWS***



June 2017

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

## ***The Next Meeting***

***NOTE: There will be no meetings scheduled for the months of July and August.***

***The next meeting will be on September 28, 2017 at 6:30 PM at Rockler Woodworking-Northgate. An email reminder will be distributed prior to the meeting date.***

## ***June 2017 Meeting Highlights***

***Newsletter Notes by Mark Martinez and Tony Grosinger***  
***Newsletter Photos by Scott Wilson***

In lieu of our regular meeting, the **NWWA** was treated to a very enjoyable and educational tour of **Issaquah Cedar and Lumber** on **Thursday, June 29, 2017**. Arrangements for the tour were facilitated by member **Dan Cordwell**. We want to extend a special thanks to the staff of **Issaquah Cedar and Lumber**, including **Stacy Kovats**, for helping us



arrange the tour and **Chad Amble** and **Jeff Jennings** and other employees for staying after hours to conduct the tour and answer our many questions.



**Issaquah Cedar and Lumber** has a long and storied history, spanning some **115** years, marred by several fires! They noted that they originally opened operations at the north end of Lake

Sammamish and moved progressively south after each of their fires, which seemed to occur every 6 to 12 years through the 1960's. After their last fire, in the mid '60's they moved to their present location.

The cedar milled and sold by this company comes from Alaska and Canada, as they consider the material currently available from the United States to be below their quality standards for straight grain, knot free, or tight knot material. They purchase rough cut stock shipped directly to them and mill most of their products on site.

As detailed on their website (<http://cedarexperts.com/>), **Issaquah Cedar and Lumber** provides a very wide selection of cedar products – both standard lumber sizes, beams, decking, siding, millwork, etc. as well as custom milled shapes for unique applications. They will custom mill orders from 50 -100 board feet to over 2,000 board feet.

As an interesting anecdote, they noted that a customer had contacted them regarding milling a chair rail to match an existing one used in their home. When the customer brought in a molding sample, they noted that the shape had been altered or damaged such that it had an extra ridge in the profile. Unable to match the profile because of the altered shape, they ground specially shaped cutters to mill the chair rail to match the altered profile, and milled 100 feet of chair rail for the customer! Obviously, the customer left a happy camper! Is that **custom-er** service or what?!

Of special interest to many of our members were their live edge slabs, in small sizes suitable for fireplace mantels or coffee tables to large slabs appropriate for conference tables.

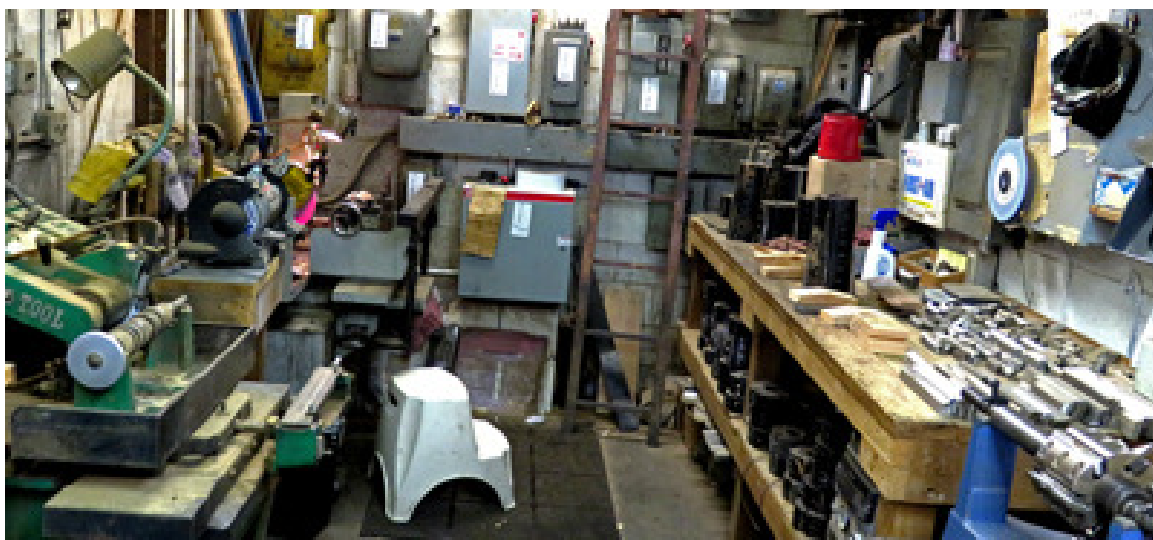


**Issaquah Cedar and Lumber** has a wide variety of milling equipment, some of which is about 70 years old (seems like it should qualify as “Olde Arn!”) and still performs reliably. In contrast, they also have newer machines which have multiple heads able to produce a widely diverse variety of milled shapes.

One of their newer machines shown below has six cutter heads and can mill all sides of a board in a single pass. Milling is typically performed at about 30 feet per minute (altho the machine will go faster) to minimize ruining a cutter knife by hitting a hidden nail, bullet, or other metallic object.



To support their profile milling operations, they also have a fully equipped grind shop, which enables fabricating custom cutter knives to suit any customer-requested profile.





The cutter heads used in their profiling machines consist of a machined cutter body with multiple slots for specially configured knives, fabricated in the grind shop to suit each unique molded profile shape. These precision ground knives are assembled into the cutter body and inspected with an optical comparator for dimensional accuracy and correct alignment with each other.



The photo below shows a cutter head for a tongue and groove profile with a wooden sample having the mating profile. The configuration of the different knives in the cutter head produce the various parts of the profile.



The machine shown below is a gang saw used for ripping stock to width. The 12-inch saw blades allow cutting material up to 4 inches thick by 24 inches wide. Shown with the cover open, the machine is totally enclosed when in operation.



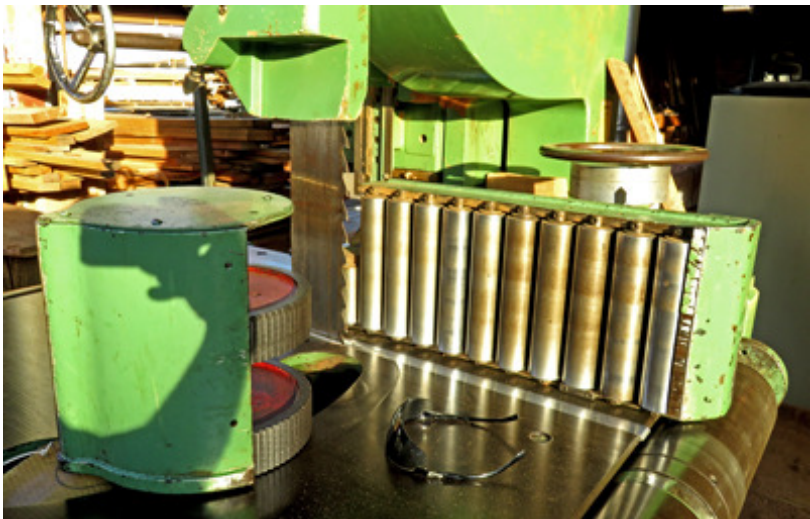
The saw blades are mounted on a common arbor with a mechanical arrangement which allows the distance between the blades to be adjusted up to 24 inches.



Their bandsaw appeared to be a little larger than those we have in our shops.....!!



Standing over 6 feet tall and equipped with an estimated 4” wide blade and a massive power feeder, this machine looked more than capable of handling the milling of any chunk of wood that could be hoisted onto the table!





In keeping with the massive size of the bandsaw, the coiled spare blades made a very lasting impression of their own!



Unlike the way we uncoil our home shop bandsaw blades by dropping them on the shop floor and jumping back out of the way while they spring into shape, I suspect they have a much less dramatic, though safer, way of uncoiling these monsters.....☺ Gives me goose bumps just thinking about it!

We thoroughly enjoyed our tour of the **Issaquah Cedar and Lumber** operation and were impressed and inspired by the capabilities of the mill and the wide variety of quality cedar products available. Hopefully, some of our members will be purchasing material for future projects and passing on their recommendations to fellow woodworkers.

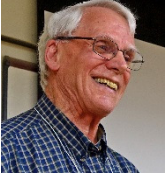
## ***Program Information Update***

**Tony Grosinger**, who recently gave us a very entertaining program presentation about his Roubo workbench project sent in some updated information which may be of interest to those of you who are building or plan to build your own Roubo workbench. He cited a newly released video presentation from [Lost Art Press](https://lostartpress.com/collections/dvds/products/roubo-workbench-by-hand-power-video) and [Mortise and Tenon Magazine](#), detailing the construction of a Roubo workbench:

<https://lostartpress.com/collections/dvds/products/roubo-workbench-by-hand-power-video>

He recommends viewing this video as a source of useful information for a potential builder.

## **Note from the Editor**



What a great way to end our NWWA woodworking activities for the summer! We want to extend a special thanks to member **Dan Cordwell** for suggesting the tour of the **Issaquah Cedar and Lumber** operation and facilitating it. We really appreciate your proactive support of the **Association, Dan.**

Although this was the last meeting before the summer break, please be thinking ahead as you enjoy your summer vacations, travel, craft fairs, etc. Keep an eye out for items, products, companies, or places that would be potential candidates for future **NWAA** meetings or tours. If possible, please obtain business cards from representatives, vendors, etc. which can be passed on to our **Program Chairmen, Bill Bond & Mark Martinez.**

Also, please be planning on building one or more items to display at our next meeting in **September**, which will be a **Mega Show 'N' Tell**. We look forward to seeing at least one project from each of our members! Please do your part to make this another super program.

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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**Scott Wilson**

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: <http://www.nwwoodworkers.org>