

## ***Northwest Woodworkers Association***

# ***THE SAWDUST NEWS***



May 2016

<http://www.nwoodworkers.org>

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

## ***The Next Meeting***

**Date:** **Thursday, June 30, 2016** at 6:30 PM

**Location:** **Woodcraft Supply**

**5963 Corson S.**

**Seattle, WA 98108**

**Program Highlight:** **Design and Fabrication of Wooden Locks**

**Herb Stoops** will give us an interesting and entertaining presentation about the **Design and Fabrication of Wooden Locks**. He will be showing us a wide variety of working wooden lock configurations, some of which are his own custom designs! You will be sure to enjoy this unique presentation.

## ***May 2016 Meeting Highlights***

***Newsletter Photos by Scott Wilson***

***Meeting Notes by Jan Erickson***

The **May 2016** meeting of the **Northwest Woodworkers Association** was held on **Thursday, May 26, 2016** at **Rockler Woodworking - Northgate**. Twelve members and guest **Matthew Martinez** were present.

We want to express our appreciation to **Casey Sheehan** and the **Rockler - Northgate** staff for providing a wonderful venue and refreshments for this meeting. We really appreciate your long standing support of the **Association**.

## **Current Projects & Q'n'A**



**Mark Martinez** asked for some help in solving a problem he was having trying to fill some voids in a bandsaw box with a turquoise/epoxy mixture. He noted that although he thought he had added a sufficient quantity of the crushed turquoise powder, very little of the color appeared when he flush sanded the box surface. Suggestions from the group included substituting gel-type CA glue for the epoxy, increasing the turquoise content up to 90% of the mixture volume, and/or using the **In Lace** powder products ( <http://www.inlaceonline.com/> ) as a coloring agent.



**Alex Smithing** noted that he was having difficulty trying to correctly laminate a blank for making a lathe turning having a **Celtic Knot**. Members suggested searching the internet for **YouTube** videos of the subject and visiting the **Instructables** website.

This discussion led to suggestions from members regarding other useful online woodworking resources including **Steve Ramsey's Woodworking for Mere Mortals** website, (<http://woodworking.formeremortals.net/>) , and the **Stumpy Nubs** website, (<http://www.stumpynubs.com/>).

## **Upcoming Events**

The **June 30, 2016** meeting will be held at **Woodcraft Supply**, featuring a presentation by **Herb Stoops** about wooden locks.

In his own words, **Herb** provided this description his upcoming presentation:

*"At the **June 30th** meeting, I will be doing a presentation on making wooden padlocks. These are fully functional replicas of modern and vintage padlocks made out of wood. They are great conversation pieces and fun to make, and as a bonus uses up short scraps of wood in the shop."*



This is going to be an interesting, fascinating meeting – definitely a “don't miss” event.

**Reminder** – There will be no meetings in the months of **July** and **August**. We will resume meetings on **September 29, 2016**.

## **Program Highlight - Hand Planes, Chisels and Sharpening**



**Mark Martinez** showed us a couple of planes he had picked at yard sales. His intent is to try to restore them to good working order. To that end, he noted that he is planning to use an electrolytic method to remove the rust from the planes. This method involves immersing the tool in a water bath containing baking soda and pieces of steel rebar. A low voltage, direct current (DC) power supply such as a car battery charger is used as the electrical current source to accomplish the electrolytic cleaning action. One advantage of this method is that it does not involve any dangerous chemicals. One online discussion of this electrolytic tool rust removal technique can be found here: (<http://www.instructables.com/id/Electrolytic-Rust-Removal-aka-Magic/>).

**Mark** noted that he would bring the rusted tools back to a subsequent meeting to show the group the successful (?) results of his efforts.

This discussion brought about some lively suggestions from the group regarding what to look for in used planes, the **Stanley** and **Bailey** planes being the best choices, and methods for restoring them. One member noted that there are several special groups which can be found online devoted to restoring antique tools.

We were then treated to a couple of very interesting member presentations which graphically contrasted the use of one of the latest machine sharpening tools on the market with the classic conventional manual abrasive stone sharpening methods.



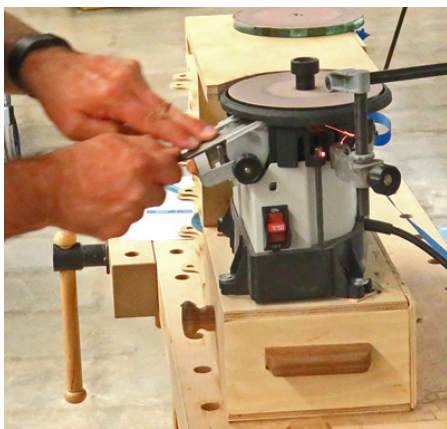
**Tom Howorth** brought along his **Worksharp 3000** abrasive sharpening machine (<http://www.worksharptools.com/sharpeners-20/ws3000.html>) to demonstrate one of the latest machine sharpening methods for chisels and planes, altho other tools, such as knives, lathe tools, carving chisels, etc. can also be sharpened on this equipment.



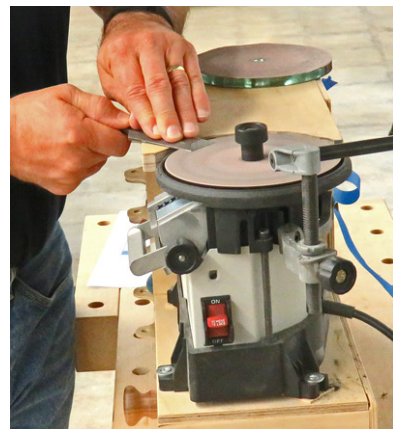
**Tom** also showed us the unique stand/storage cabinet he had made, which he said was patterned after a design he had seen on the internet. The cabinet was slotted for multiple trays to hold glass sharpening plates and abrasive disks. A drawer was also included to hold some of the many accessories available for this machine. One of the important features of the cabinet was that it provided a flat surface in line with surface of the sharpening disk to provide better support when flattening the backs of chisels and plane irons.

The **Worksharp 3000** is an interesting machine which uses a horizontal motor-driven tempered glass plate, faced on both sides with PSA-backed abrasive disks – providing double duty from the expensive glass plates. Both solid and slotted abrasive disks are available in a wide variety of grits from **80 to 3000** grit. Interestingly, the sharpening operation is performed on the **bottom** of the glass plate. The slotted disks provide a unique viewing experience in that it is possible to observe the sharpening operation **through the disk from the top!** This provision is useful when sharpening tools with curved surfaces, such as carving chisels, for example.

The **Worksharp 3000** also has a number of accessories available for unique sharpening situations. Flat tools like plane irons and chisels, are supported and guided by an adjustable width ramp which can be tilted to provide bevel angles from 20 to 40°.



**Sharpening a Chisel Bevel**



**Flattening a Chisel Back**

**Tom** demonstrated his sharpening skills on the machine noting that he recommends using at least four abrasive grits (80, 220, 400, 1500) for sharpening, but noted that using as many as six grits works even better. His rule of thumb for bevel angles is 22.5 to 25° for chisels, 25 to 30° for plane irons, and 11° for knives.

He also noted that he applies a micro bevel on the sharpened edges with a fine abrasive stone in a subsequent manual abrasive stone operation.

Thanks, **Tom** for the great demonstration and explanation of this state-of-the-art sharpening machine and method. It generated a lot of interest in the group and it was obvious that some folks were thinking about purchasing one (and thinking up justifications for the purchase to **You Know Who** ..... ☺ )



**Herb Stoops** provided a great addition to the **Worksharp 3000** presentation by sharing with us some modifications he has made to his **Worksharp** system. He said that he had seen discussions on some of the woodworking forums about affordable improvements to the abrasive components of the **Worksharp** system.

**Herb** noted that many users had expressed concerns about the high cost of the tempered glass plates and the stock abrasive disks for the **Worksharp** system. So some enterprising users developed an alternative tooling scheme offering lower long term costs and better product life.

One of the modifications consisted of substituting a **disk of 1/2" MDF** material for the tempered glass plate. MDF is a low cost, inherently smooth, flat sheet material, making it ideal for this application. It is an easy task to fabricate 6" diameter MDF disks with accurate 1/2" center holes.

A second modification replaced the PSA adhesive coated abrasive disks with **6" diameter diamond coated steel disks** originally designed for lapidary applications. These disks, called **Diamond Flat Laps** can be purchased for about **\$12 ea.** from **Jadecarver.com** (<http://jadecarver.com/index.php/product/6-diamond-flat-laps/>) in grits from **60 to 3000** grit.

The third modification produced a unique method of attaching the steel diamond coated disks to the MDF plates. To accomplish this task, a **6" diameter disk of vinyl magnetic sign material**, PSA coated on one side, was adhered to each side of the MDF plate. This material is available in disk, sheet or roll form: ( <http://www.magnetking.com/store/peel-n-stick/circle-1929/6-in-circle-006-peel-n-stick-adhesive-magnet> ). The magnetic material securely holds the steel plate in place on each side of the MDF disk.

Assembling all these components produced a sandwich consisting of a diamond coated steel disk / magnetic sign material disk / MDF disk / second magnetic sign material disk / second diamond coated steel disk.

**Herb** noted that the increased overall thickness of the component sandwich required replacement of the stock threaded stud knob with a slightly longer shop-made substitute made from a bolt and a snap-on tooling knob.

He also noted that this new tooling setup provided excellent performance with a very long anticipated service life at a very attractive price point, promoting the use of a wider range of diamond abrasive grits to provide improved performance.

Obviously, since this replacement abrasive disk sandwich is solid, the see-thru feature of the original **Worksharp** machine using the glass plate and slotted abrasive disks is not available. However, for most sharpening applications, it is felt that this is a worthwhile trade off.

To cap off the tooling improvements, **Herb** also showed a leather stropping arrangement he made using the same MDF disk configuration with a piece of leather glued to the surface. He uses this arrangement to strop his sharpened tools to a mirror finish as a last operation. He said he uses standard green abrasive paste or stick to charge the leather strop.

Wow, guys! What great presentations of a unique new sharpening machine, techniques, and innovative shop-made improvements! We were all fascinated by the demonstration and information you shared with us.



Then, as a fitting conclusion to our presentation of sharpening methods, equipment, and techniques, the **Old Master, David Beyl**, one of the **Founding Members** of the **Association** (then the **Northwest Woodworkers Guild**), gave us an authoritative, educational, and entertaining presentation of classic chisel and plane manual stone sharpening methods.

**David**, who credits his school shop teacher, a Mr. Gore, with inspiring him about woodworking and teaching him the techniques of manual sharpening with hard **Arkansas** stones some **70** years ago! I guess you could call that the ultimate example of “lessons learned”!

[**Ed. Note:** *Wow! I was just a young pup 70 years ago!..... ☺* ]

Prior to his presentation, he distributed a multipage, illustrated handout, outlining his upcoming discussion, making it easy to follow along.

Starting his discussion, **David** brought out one of his favorite shop made tools – a **bench hook**. This is a simple but incredibly useful Z-shaped accessory consisting of a base with a 1X piece of wood attached across each end, but on opposite surfaces of the base. One end is clamped in the bench vise and the other acts as a stop to push against when planing, sharpening, or other manual operations.

He also made good use of several props, consisting of short pieces of 2X4 material with various angle beveled ends, to illustrate the preferred angles for sharpening chisels, plane irons, and knives. Great idea, **David**! It sure made it easier to visualize the various useful bevel angles and the sharpening operations.

He also showed us a variety of necessary sharpening accessories and tools, including hard and soft **Arkansas** and **Washita** oilstones, mineral oil lubricant, a simple shop-made setup guide for correctly establishing the require stickout of a chisel from a honing guide (**Record**, **Lee Valley**, etc.) to establish the required angle without measurement, a try square (to check the squareness of a chisel blade or plane iron end), a leather faced strop and **Yellowstone Stropping Compound**, and a humble dime (to set the 11° sharpening angle for a knife).

**David** then discussed and carefully demonstrated, using his wooden props and actual tools, a series of steps in the recommended manual stone sharpening procedure, which included:

1. **JOINTING** – Establishing the proper end configuration for the tool purpose.
2. **GRINDING** – Preparing the correct bevel angle and flattening the back of the tool.
3. **HONING** – Refining the bevel and adding the secondary (micro) bevel.
4. **POLISHING** – Stropping to remove the fine scratches from the sharpening operations.



**Jointing**



**Checking the Squareness**



**Grinding the Bevel**



**Flattening the Back**



**Stropping with Yellowstone Compound**

In conclusion, **David** emphasized some important issues to keep in mind when sharpening:

1. Don't overheat the metal when machine grinding
2. Lubricate the oilstone with mineral oil or equivalent
3. Remember that a cutting edge needs both sides sharpened
4. Keep your abrasive stones clean and flat
5. Protect the sharp edges of the tools from damage in use and storage

Thanks, **David**, for your excellent, educational, professional presentation. I'm sure that all of us took something away with us to enhance our woodworking experience.

## Show 'N' Tell



Guest **Matthew Martinez**, **Mark's** son, brought along a 2X4 Challenge project he had made with the help of his dad. He noted that this was a rustic shelf in which he had retained the rough cut of the lumber to enhance the effect. The shelf also had a hidden support member to be screwed to the wall, making the project appear as though the shelf was floating. With Mark's help, Matthew had milled the 2X4 stock to the correct dimensions. Having looked at several finishing options, he had given it a coat of brown stain to enhance the appearance. Great project, **Matthew!** Thanks for sharing it with us!



**Jan Erickson** brought along several projects to share which she had made from a new, intriguing wood product. She noted that when they had their second story deck recently rebuilt, they used a weather resistant decking material called **Thermory** – a product made by thermally treating wood under controlled conditions of humidity and temperature to alter its properties. The species used for their decking was **Ash**, which had been treated by the **Thermory** process (<http://www.thermoryusa.com/home>).

She noted that the treated **Ash** material seemed to be somewhat brittle and prone to tearout and splintering. That said, she was able to make some lovely boxes and other projects from the material. The thermal processing turned the normally light **Ash** wood into a very attractive dark brown color, which was uniform throughout the thickness of the boards. The product information on the **Thermory** website indicates that the treated material is waterproof and weather resistant, though it changes color to a silvery appearance similar to cedar when exposed to the weather. **Jan** noted that her shop smelled like a campfire while working with this **Thermory** product. I trust that was the material and not one of your tools letting out smoke!!

Various wood species, treated by the **Thermory** process are available from one of our **Association** sponsors, **Edensaw Woods, Ltd.** **Ms. Melinda Stickle**, listed as their **Thermory** product specialist, may be reached on **(253) 216-1152**.



**Dan Cordwell** showed us a very interesting and innovative project. He noted that in a previous meeting in which he showed photos of his shop, he had pointed out a bank of drawers he had made for storage of various tools and accessories.

**Dan** noted that he spent some considerable time trying to come up with a way to maximize the functionality of some of his drawers, particularly those containing low profile tools and accessories. He reasoned that some sort of multilayer drawer design would make the best use of the space. One candidate idea he considered was a tilting tray in the top of the drawer that he could lift to access the lower section of the drawer.



However, the drawback of that design was that when the tray was tilted to provide access to the bottom section, all of the things in the tray would slide in a jumble to the back of the tray.

After puzzling about the problem for some time, **Dan** hit upon a great solution to his problem – **a drawer within a drawer**! The main (lower) drawer would pull out the front of the cabinet on full extension slides attached to the cabinet carcass in a normal configuration. A second, shallower drawer would be attached with slightly shorter full extension slides to the **inside surface** of the main drawer sides. This configuration would allow the main drawer to be pulled out of the cabinet and the upper (inner) drawer to be accessed from the top. By pushing the upper drawer back into the cabinet, the contents of the extended main (lower) drawer could then be accessed! What a great idea and solution to your dilemma, **Dan**!



Dan Cordwell's Drawer with a Drawer

## **Note from the Editor**



We were glad to see a better meeting attendance at this month's meeting. Kudos to **Steering Committee Member Mark Martinez** for arranging and conducting such an interesting, educational, and entertaining meeting. Great job, **Mark**!

A hearty thumbs up to our **Old Master** and **Founding Member, David Beyl**, for providing such a well prepared, thought provoking, entertaining, and educational presentation. We really appreciate your contribution, **David**. Thanks for sharing some of your vast woodworking experience and knowledge.

Thanks to our **Secretary, Jan Erickson**, for providing interesting **Show'N'Tell** projects and her great notes for this **Newsletter**. It was also great to have our regular **Staff Photographer, Scott Wilson** back with us, too, and taking his great photos. Good job, folks! We really appreciate your frequently unheralded contributions to our meetings and the Newsletter!

Happy and Safe Woodworking,

Paul

## **In Memorium**

We want to take this opportunity to express our condolences to the families of two of our **Association** members who have passed away recently. We are sorry for your loss and will miss the comradeship of these two gentlemen.

**Scott Wilson** notified the group that member **Bob Craig** had recently passed away in Arizona after a short illness at age 72.

**Judy Murphy** informed us that member **Patrick A. Murphy** passed away on **May 27, 2016** while working in his shop. She noted that he loved woodworking, specializing in using recycled wood for his projects, and that he was proud to be a member of the **Northwest Woodworking Association**.

## **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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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.nwoodworkers.org>