

## Northwest Woodworkers Association

# THE SAWDUST NEWS



October 2015

<http://www.nwwoodworkers.org>

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

## The Next Meeting

**NOTE THE REVISED DAY OF THE WEEK FOR THIS MEETING ONLY!**

**Date:** **Wednesday, December 2, 2015**, 6:30 PM

**Location:** Woodcraft Supply

5963 Corson S.

Seattle, WA 98108

**Program Highlight:** Tools I Count On – If I Could Remember What They're Used For!

This will be an opportunity to share which hand tools or accessories you use the most. Bring along your favorites and tell us why you like them and what they are used for, if you can remember (and if not, maybe we can help you with that!) Should be a fun meeting!

We will have our video projector available if you wish to bring along supporting photos or drawings on a thumb drive to display.

Jan Erickson will be our program facilitator for the meeting.

## Steering Committee Report

The **Steering Committee (SC)** would like to thank all of you who replied to our request for suggestions regarding the future of the **Association**. All of your replies have been reviewed and are being given careful consideration.

**Allen McCall** has resigned his position on the **Steering Committee**. We thank **Allen** for his wise counsel, willing spirit, and dedicated service to the **Steering Committee**. He will retain

his position as **Membership Chairman** and continue to handle the group notifications and correspondence.



As his replacement, **Allen** has recruited **Mark Martinez** to be our new **Steering Committee** member. Welcome, **Mark!** We look forward to working with you and benefiting from some new and fresh ideas.

## **October 2015 Meeting Highlights** **Newsletter Photos by Scott Wilson** **Meeting Notes by Jan Erickson**

The **October 2015** meeting of the **Northwest Woodworkers Association** was held on **Thursday, October 29, 2015** at **Rockler - Northgate** with **18** members and one guest present.

We want to express our appreciation to the **Rockler Woodworking - Northgate** management and staff for providing a wonderful venue and refreshments for this meeting. We have really appreciated your long standing support.

### **Program Highlight -** **Boxes, Boxes, and More Boxes!!**

[**Ed. Note:** Due to malfunction of our Staff Photographer's camera equipment, some of the photos in this Newsletter are somewhat out of focus. In spite of our best efforts, we were unable to completely restore these photo files. We apologize for the temporary departure from our usually high quality photos.]

We were delighted to have **11** of our meeting attendees bring their boxes and projects and participate in the night's program. Thanks to each of you for your active participation. And what a dizzying array of boxes and projects – from round ones, to oval ones, to octagonal ones, to rectangular ones, to faceted ones, to ones with no tops, to ones with no tops *or* bottoms, miter joints and box joints galore.....!! Wow! What a treat from a group of highly creative and skilled woodworkers!! Thanks to each of you for sharing with us – we all thoroughly enjoyed your creations.



**Jan Erickson** led off the program with a display of several of her recent boxes. Her collection included a small octagonal box (which she proudly noted had all tight miter



joints, requiring no filler!), a curly maple lidded box, a multi-colored poplar box with integral pinned wooden hinges, another poplar box with a large knot as a central feature of the lid, and a multifaceted maple box with her signature art deco lid lift. Beautiful work, **Jan**, and a wonderful selection of hardwoods!



**Allen McCall** displayed a beautiful box made from highly figured **Apple Wood** with very interesting knots and grain patterns, skillfully edged with **Koa**.

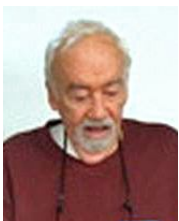


**Herb Stoops** brought along three of his recent batch of humidors, explaining that he had apparently been going through his “humidor phase” ..... :-)!

Each of the humidors was made of veneered plywood, prepared from the veneer donated to the **Association** last year. Noting that one of the challenges encountered when using veneered materials is exposure of the fragile edges of the veneer along the edges of the box panels, **Herb** cleverly used corner members to hide the veneer edges.

In keeping with classical humidor design, he also lined the humidors with **Spanish Cedar**, to help control the humidity within the box, and add a pleasing fragrance to the contents.

He also noted that another challenge encountered when making humidors is the installation of quadrant hinges, somewhat of a “standard” for humidor design – the challenge being the milling of the deep mortise required to house the curved hinge keeper which limits the opening angle of the hinges to around 95°. To help him visualize the configuration of the required mortises, **Herb** constructed a dummy box with windows on the ends to expose the hinge keepers. This enabled him to determine the required depth of the mortises in the lid and ends of the humidor box. Very clever idea, **Herb!**



**Chuck Woodruff** showed us a couple of delightful turned boxes he had made. One of them was made of **Apricot** wood which he said was apparently not completely dry when he turned it, making it unstable for turning – noting that subsequent drying after turning distorted the piece, making it difficult to install and remove the lid. Nonetheless, the piece was beautiful and skillfully executed.

Somehow, it seems that the wood always gets the last word, doesn't it **Chuck!**

**Chuck** turned a second box from **Maple** with a **Holly** knob on top. The body of the box was covered with a metal foil, producing a wonderful burnished metallic appearance. Wonderful piece, and beautifully done, **Chuck!** Thanks for sharing your wonderful turnings with us – even we “flatworkers” could appreciate your wonderful craftsmanship!





**Bill Bond** brought along a sturdily made hardwood plywood box for storing his newly procured drill press mortising attachment and set of accessory tooling. For added strength, he used box joints to give him increased gluing area at the joints.

One of the unique features of the box was the inclusion of a pivoting holder for his set of expensive and easily damaged mortising chisels and bits. This holder was made in such a fashion that the tools could be pivoted to a vertical position to make it easy to select the correct size for his application, and yet be folded down horizontally to a storage position within the box. Clever design, **Bill!**



I'm glad **Bill** brought this box to remind us that all of our woodworking projects do not need to be principally decorative and made from exotic materials. Sometimes the "Plain Jane" projects, like storage boxes, drawer boxes, etc., which require the same level of creativity and skills, are the real workhorses in the shop!

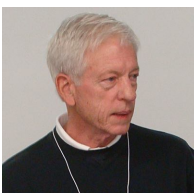


**David Seymour** displayed a beautifully crafted box of **Sapele** and **Walnut** which he said was patterned after a picture on the cover of an issue of **Cabinet Makers Notebook**.

The richly colored box was joined with **Bridal Joint Dovetails** and finished with about a dozen coats of thin shellac, giving it a classic hand crafted beauty.



The unique lifts at each end of the box lid added a special touch to the hinged box lid. Beautifully done, **David!** Thanks for sharing.



**Rick Tydings** showed us three finely crafted boxes, using an interesting variety of wood species and joint configurations.

The first of the boxes **Rick** showed was a very practical one – a file box, complete with a wooden divider. This box was crafted from beautiful, clear, straight grained old growth **Douglas Fir**, finished with **Tung Oil** to enhance the warm golden tone of the wood species. Through dovetail joints, made on his **Leigh Dovetail Jig**, were used to join the box corners.

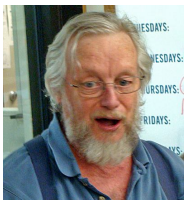




**Rick's** second box was made from **Maple**, with double dovetail joints at the corners, using contrasting **Walnut** secondary dovetails to enhance the joinery, producing a striking visual effect. Also of interest were the mortised **Brusso** lid supports:

<http://www.leevalley.com/us/hardware/page.aspx?p=40477&cat=3,43740,43742&ap=1>

**Rick** called his third box a shaving box – used to hold his shaving supplies. This lidless box appeared to be made from ¼” thick **Maple** with small through dovetail joints at the corners. As shown in the photo, he removed the snug fitting end panel to demonstrate the precision of the small dovetail joints which he was able to make successfully with his **Leigh Dovetail Jig** on this thin material. Great projects, **Rick!** Thanks for bringing them along to share with us.



Much to the delight of the group, guest **Bob Julin** displayed a beautifully crafted **Curly Maple Tine Box** having sides milled to 0.1” thick. **Bob** explained that the **Tine** (pronounced “teen-ah”) **Boxes**, though appearing similar to **Shaker Boxes**, were of far older ancestry – back to the times of the **Vikings!** He said that in essence tine boxes were the “Tupperware” of the day in those ancient times, frequently used to store food items. The tine boxes were made in many sizes, even ones large enough for blanket storage. Frequently tine boxes were highly decorated.

One of the unique features of the tine box design is that the lid is held in place by a vertical stay attached to each end of the box, which snaps over a notch in the lid. The lid is removed by deflecting the vertical stays outward to disengage the stays – a capability made possible by the use of the thin, flexible, wooden sides. He also noted that frequently the stays and handles were intricately carved with dragons and other traditional Viking themes.

**Bob** explained that the sides of the box were made from one piece of wood, which was heated in boiling water to make it pliable and wrapped around a form to match the shape of the oval bottom panel. As can be seen in the photo, the lap joints in the side member were frequently joined by lacing (although he also glued the ones on this box). The ripples in the **Curly Maple** and the careful grain matching in the lap area significantly enhanced the beauty of the piece.

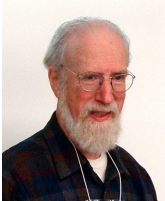
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See this link for further information about **Tine Boxes** and their construction:

<http://www.popularwoodworking.com/projects/norwegian-tine>

Thanks, **Bob**, for sharing this high quality project and a fantastic box design which has such a storied past!





**Chris Green** treated us to a kaleidoscope of colors with his collection of boxes. Some of the boxes were decorated with vividly colored paints; others with multi-colored wood veneers.

The first set of boxes he showed was assembled to create a piece he called “**Enmeshed**”, reminiscent of our burgeoning Seattle skyline. **Chris** noted that after he had built these boxes, he discovered a recent article in **Fine Woodworking** magazine which described the bandsaw box fabrication technique he had independently developed for this piece! Ah, another example of “great minds thinking in the same direction”, huh **Chris!**



This set of boxes was fabricated from some old, hardwood rounds (**Oak? Beech? Dogwood?** or some other mysterious species) he had been storing for just that right project. He noted that he first roughed out four sided lengths from the rounds with a chainsaw, cleaning up the rough cut edges with his jointer. He then bandsawed the blank in a unique way which enabled him to create another smaller blank from the center of the piece for the second box. Repeating that sequence of operations produced yet another blank for the third box. And of course, none of the box corners were right angles, increasing the challenge of the fabrication operations.

The boxes were decorated with brightly colored squiggly lines, reminding him of Seattle traffic.



His second set of boxes was embellished with some of the hardwood veneers which had been donated to the **Association** last year. The colorful veneered boxes were fabricated using the unique scroll saw stack cutting technique he demonstrated for us at the **June 2015** meeting, ensuring that the small, intricately shaped, pieces of veneer would fit one another with a high degree of precision.

Thanks, **Chris**, for again gracing our meeting with more of your challenging, unique, artistic, creations.

The last two projects fell “slightly” outside of the “box” category, but we welcomed them nonetheless. We really appreciate **all** of the projects that our members and guests bring to share with us at any of our meetings. **Show ‘N’ Tell** items are always welcome. We appreciate your willingness to share your skill and expertise and widen our understanding and appreciation of woodworking.



**Tom Howorth** displayed a graceful wine bottle rack with somewhat of an Asian design flair. He noted that mortise and tenon joints were used to build the beautiful **Sapele** frame and half lap joints were used to attach the **Maple** arms. He said that he had made several of these pieces as gifts to friends and family. Great project, **Tom!**





**Mark Martinez** brought along a delightful table, referring to it as a “**box holding table**”, thereby qualifying it for display at this meeting..... :-)

The tall, narrow, graceful table had **Oak** legs and aprons, with a beautiful **Spalted Birch** panel inset into the top. The piece was nicely finished with **Tung Oil**, topped with a coat of **Poly**. He wisely made allowance for possible wood movement by attaching the top to the aprons with steel zee clips – good move, **Mark!**

He noted that near the end of the project, his shop was visited by that famous **Murphy’s Law (If it can happen, it will) Guy**. He said that he was being a good, organized woodworker and was hanging a hammer up on the wall when it slipped and found the top of his finished table stored underneath..... :-)



When the hollering ceased, and being a glass half-full type of woodworker, **Mark** coolly analyzed the situation and “cheerfully(?)” viewed the event as an opportunity to try out that old hot iron – wet cloth trick to restore the dent in the wood – and it worked! However, the repair did require some additional sanding and final finishing. Good job, **Mark** – great recovery and a beautiful piece!

[**Ed. Note:** Don’t feel too badly about your visit from the **Murphy’s Law Guy, Mark** – it won’t be long before, like the rest of us, you will consider those **Murphy’s Law Guy** “tracks” on your projects as **Design Features!** Hang in there, guy – yer doin’ great! BTW, I was wondering what happened to that guy recently, as he usually resides in **my** shop. But since I live in a gated community, I still haven’t figured out how he gets in.....!]

Toward the end of the meeting, members were asked for recommendations of their favorite DIY woodworking websites and forums. Responses included the following:

- Craftsy:** <http://www.craftsy.com> – Wide variety of DIY information
- Etsy:** <https://www.etsy.com> – Woodworking section has items for sale
- Lumberjocks:** <http://lumberjocks.com> – Projects section has wide variety of project
- Pinterest:** <https://www.pinterest.com> – Many user pages with wide variety
- Sawmill Creek:** <http://www.sawmillcreek.org> – Many sub-forums of specific subjects

## *Upcoming Events*

**SPECIAL NOTE:** *With the Winter holidays approaching, there will be no meeting during November.*

*Due to a scheduling conflict, the next meeting will be on **Wednesday, December 2, 2015** at Woodcraft Supply in South Seattle. Be sure to mark the change of **meeting day** on your calendar!*

## *Note from the Editor*



I was very pleased to see such a nice attendance at this **October 2015** meeting. I trust that the summer break from woodworking gave ample time to vacation, travel, enjoy time with the family, etc. I was especially pleased to see that **11** of the **19** meeting attendees brought one or more projects to share with us. Thank you all for your proactive participation. This is what makes the **Association** great!

I, personally, find the **Show 'N' Tell** meetings to be among our most interesting and educational ones. One of the most poignant features of this type of meeting is that it is an opportunity to witness the honest, heartfelt investment of the builder in his/her project.

Unknowingly, each project somehow communicates to the viewer the intimacy of thought, planning, knowledge, execution, skill, patience, and tender loving care that produced the fine creation being displayed – in a somehow mystical language that goes far beyond the spoken or written word. I would guess that is the reason so many of us have trouble giving away some of our projects. Somehow it almost seems like we are giving away a part of ourselves – as indeed we are! But isn't that part of the beauty, essence, and attraction of our craft?

Since most of us have little contact with other **Association** members outside of our meetings, I find the **Show 'N' Tell** meetings a great opportunity to learn more about (and from!) my fellow members and gain an increased appreciation for the rich portion each of us brings to our table. I never cease to be amazed at the amount of creativity, knowledge, experience, skill, and love of woodworking that resides within the members of the **Northwest Woodworkers Association!!**

Thank you all for your myriad contributions to the **Association** and your willingness to share what you have to offer with the rest of us.

Paul

**P.S.** Due to their popularity, we are considering additional **Show 'N' Tell** meetings in **2016** and welcome input from the membership regarding suitable subjects/themes for those meetings. Please contact any one of the **Steering Committee** members with your suggestions.



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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.nwwoodworkers.org>

