

Northwest Woodworkers Association

THE SAWDUST NEWS



September 2018

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

The Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, October 25, 2018 at 6:30 PM

Location: Slab Art Wood Studio (<https://www.slabart.com/>)
3100 Airport Way S, Seattle, WA 98134

Program Highlight: Tour of the Slab Art Wood Studio

September 2018 Meeting Highlights

Meeting Photos by Scott Wilson

Meeting Notes by Paul Stoops

The September 2018 meeting of the Northwest Woodworkers Association was held on Thursday, September 27, 2018 at the NE Seattle Tool Library. We want to express our appreciation to Ms. Deborah Morrison and the NE Seattle Tool Library Staff for hosting and providing an informative tour of their facility.

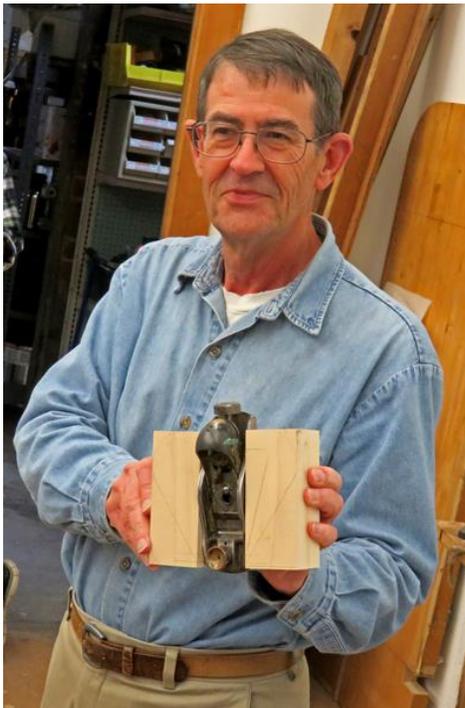
Eight members, and three guests attended this interesting and informative meeting. Steering Committee Member, Tim Newsome, conducted the meeting.

Show 'N' Tell

Tim Newsome brought along a couple of handy spalted maple mini-boxes he had made to hold the USB dongles for his digital phones, explaining that these devices are so small that they are easily misplaced. These boxes used a simple two-piece design, incorporating pivoting lids and magnetic catches to hold them closed. He said he used a Forstner bit to form the pocket in the body and a finish nail for the pivot. A clever, simple design, Tim!



Dan Cordwell showed us an interesting and functional modification he had made to one of his block planes. He explained that adding the blocks and guides to the plane solved the problem of holding the plane perpendicular to a project face when jointing an edge. Great innovation, **Dan!**



Questions & Answers

Tim Newsome mentioned that he had several, short, round sections of a 30-foot maple tree he had felled in his yard. He asked the group for suggestions about how to process these pieces for future use in woodworking projects. The consensus of the group seemed to be to rough out the pieces with at least 1/2-inch excess on all sides and air dry indoors, noting that

any attempts to artificially speed up the drying process by heating would probably cause cracking, making the pieces unsuitable for future use, except in a wood stove.....! :-)

-- Program Highlight -- **NE Seattle Tool Library Tour**

Ms. Deborah Morrison, a **Steering Committee Member** of the **NE Seattle Tool Library** gave us an interesting and informative description and tour of their facility. Like a book lending library, the **NE Seattle Tool Library** lends tools, free of charge.



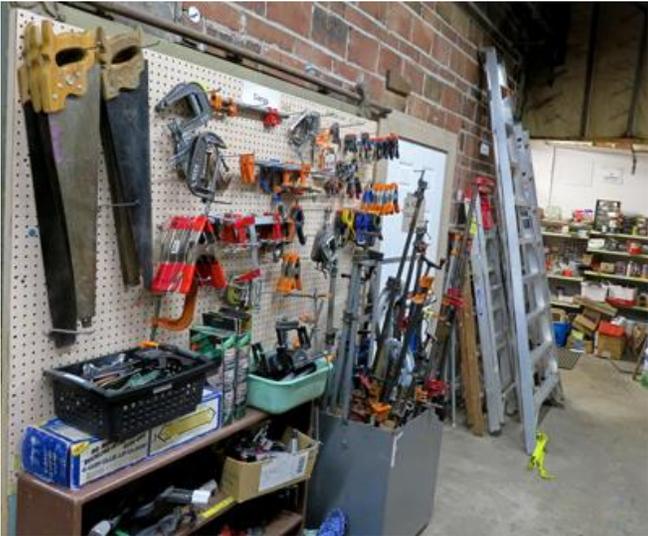
She stated that the **NE Seattle Tool Library** is located in a rented facility in **Lake City** that once housed the **Lavilla Dairy** and is operated by a combination of paid staff members and volunteers. She noted although the **Tool Library** concept is relatively new, the response of the community has been overwhelmingly positive! Since this area of Seattle has a relatively large population of apartment/condo dwellers, who typically have very little storage space for tools and materials (and the funds to purchase them), it would seem likely such a facility would be a welcome resource.



Ms. Morrison said that the use of the **Tool Library** is a free service, although voluntary contributions are recommended. As noted in their online information, “This community resource thrives on the generosity of its users”. That said, she also stated that using the **Tool Library** services requires a simple membership procedure to ensure tool accountability and liability, as described on their website: <http://neseattletoolibrary.org/membership/>. Memberships are for one-year intervals and are renewable.

She indicated that the **NE Seattle Tool Library** is financially self-sustaining, with the generous donations from using members providing sufficient funds to rent the facility and pay the full-time staff members.

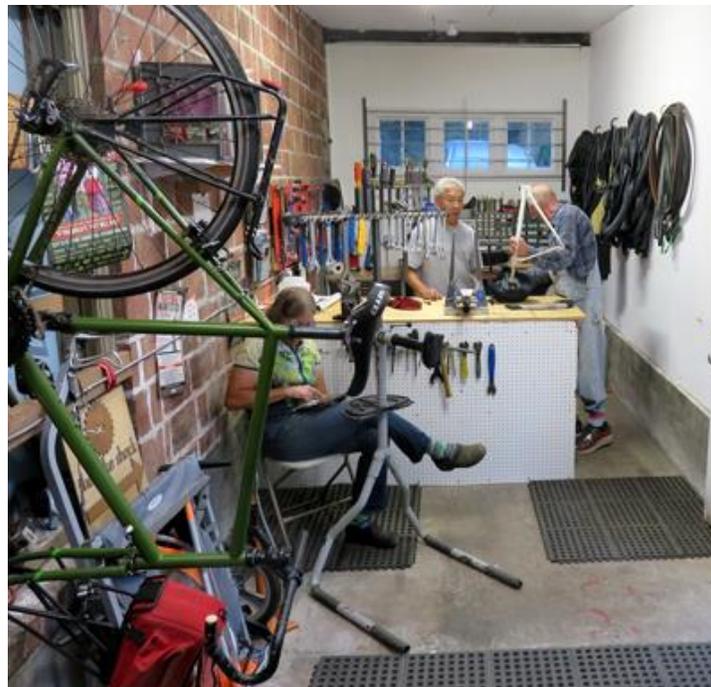
She also noted that most of the available tools are donations, though a few have been purchased new. In fact, she said that they have received so many donated tools that they have had to request members to temporarily cease donating because they do not have enough room for more tools! That sounds like a good problem to have! As can be seen in the photos, the facility is fairly bursting at the seams with the quantity and extensive variety of available tools! There are tools available to support most activities that would be encountered by an apartment dweller or homeowner, including tools for yard work, gardening, plumbing, woodworking, electrical projects, construction and carpentry, to name just a few.



Ms. Morrison also mentioned that one of their long-term goals is to provide hands-on woodworking classes. Currently they are soliciting knowledgeable volunteers to teach these classes and share their woodworking skills and experiences. The space where our meeting was held is targeted to be a classroom and already contains a variety of stationary woodworking machines. This will also function as a sort of maker space for members to work on their projects.



The **NE Seattle Tool Library** also shares space with the **Bike Shack**, <http://www.bikeshack.org/>, a volunteer-run, donation-funded community bike shop that helps people learn to fix their bikes and provides tools for community use. **Tool Library** membership is **not** required to use the **Bike Shack**.



Notes from the Editor



I was very impressed with the **NE Seattle Tool Library**, which obviously provides a very valuable service to the NE Seattle community. I want to give a big shout out to all the volunteer workers who spend their time and resources to make this operation a success. What a worthwhile activity! I wish continued growth, ample funding, and increased volunteer participation for them. Perhaps some of the readers of this Newsletter will avail themselves of this community service and seriously consider participating as volunteers in such a worthy endeavor. Such a valuable service certainly merits the support of our skilled and talented woodworking community.

Happy and Safe Woodworking,

Paul

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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>