

Northwest Woodworkers Association

THE SAWDUST NEWS



April 2017

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

The Next Meeting

Date: **Thursday, May 25, 2017** at 6:30 PM

Location: **Woodcraft Supply**

5963 Corson S.

Seattle, WA 98125

Program Highlight: **Creating Lichtenburg Figures in Wood**

Herb Stoops will be presenting a very interesting slide show about burning **Lichtenburg Figures** using high voltage electricity. Even though creating these lightning bolt/tree shaped figures is a unique way to enhance woodworking projects, this is a very dangerous, and potentially lethal process, whose risks must be carefully evaluated before attempting. This will be a rare opportunity to learn about this process, so don't miss it.

May 2017 Meeting Highlights

Meeting Notes by Jan Erickson

Newsletter Photos by Scott Wilson



The **April 2017** meeting of the **Northwest Woodworkers Association** was held on **Thursday, April 27, 2017** at **Rockler - Northgate**. Twelve members and one guest were present.

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

New Members & Guests

We want to extend a hearty welcome to our guest for the meeting, **Alan Erickson**, husband of our **Secretary, Jan Erickson**. Thanks for joining us for the meeting, **Alan**, and helping **Jan** prepare and give her great slide show presentation.



We also want to welcome new member **Josh Gary**, who said he has rekindled his interest in woodworking after a 5 year hiatus. **Josh** said he is hobbyist woodworker who has recently built a shop and is currently working on a hutch. We look forward to seeing your project, **Josh**, or at least pictures of it. We always enjoy in-process photos of member projects, including special jigs and fixtures used to make it.

New Tools



Mark Martinez brought along a wooden shoulder plane he recently purchased for about \$20 from a local antique store. He estimates that it is probably a WW II vintage tool, but appears to be well cared for and in very good condition. However, not being familiar with wooden planes, **Mark** asked the group for suggestions for dislodging the wooden wedge securing the plane iron. The consensus was to tap the back of the plane body with a wooden mallet while holding the wedge.

To some envious OOH's and AAH's, new member **Josh Gary** noted that he had recently purchased a **SawStop** table saw and was currently in the assembly process. There were several generous offers to take it off his hands if it was too difficult to assemble or if he didn't like the saw.....! Great purchase, **Josh** – we look forward to an update on your progress, and a user review. Remember, the word on the street about the **SawStop** is, "Let the weiner do the talking.....! Keep your digits to yourself!"



Problems & Solutions

Jan Erickson brought along a wooden bowl, which unfortunately had developed a through crack along the bottom of the bowl. She solicited advice from the group regarding possible methods of repairing the defect.

Various suggestions were made, including filling the crack with clear epoxy from the back side of the bowl using tape or some other means to prevent bleeding out to the inside surface of the bowl. CA glue was also proposed as a potential repair medium, though there is a potential for discoloration of the repair area.





Scott Wilson noted that he had recently fabricated a replacement window sill in his residence using birch material, stained to match the kitchen woodwork with a coffee colored stain. He also noted that he used silicone adhesive to secure the sill in place. Nicely done, **Scott!**

Show 'n' Tell

Tom Howorth showed us some photos of some of his recent projects:



Hickory English Crossbow



Bending Failure

Our fickle craft medium has a mind of its own!



Fidget Spinners

Fidget Spinners are a toy reported to relieve anxiety and stress (when in boring meetings?)
[Ed. Note: Sorry, folks, but operating **Fidget Spinners** will not be allowed at **NWWA** Meetings!]

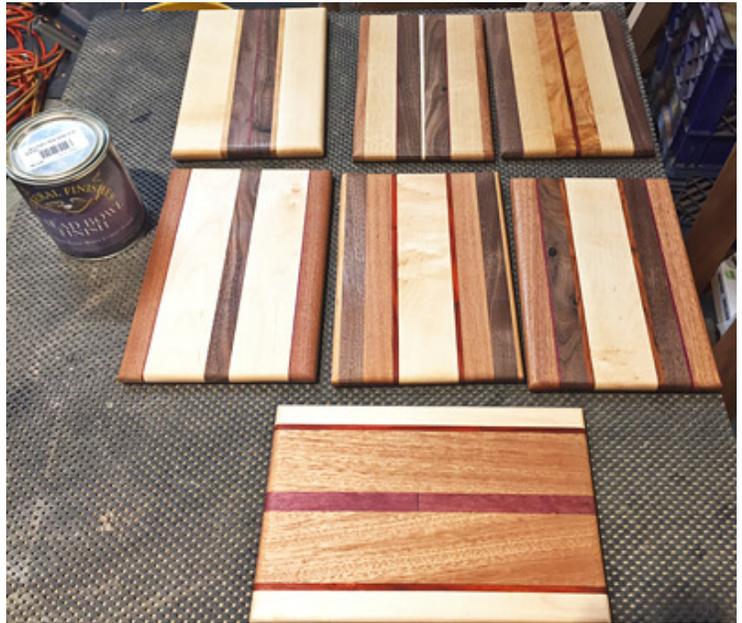


An Organic Feast

[Ed. Note: Those look good enough to eat!]



Scroll Sawn Yoga Emblem



Beautiful Cutting Boards -- Using up the Scraps

Program Highlight – **Woods of the World** **Presented by Jan Erickson**



We were privileged to enjoy a wonderful 111-part slide show presentation by our **Secretary, Jan Erickson**. **Jan** noted that she and her husband, **Alan**, have travelled extensively around the world and wherever she goes, she likes to take photos of scenery, along with structures and objects illustrating unique uses of wood and wood products. Her photos ranged from folk art in Norway to Chile's Araucaria trees, to cork trees in Portugal, to Asian uses of bamboo, to Washington State's 'Patriarch Cedars', and much more. Those of you who weren't in attendance missed a real gem of a meeting – as they say, "If you snooze, you lose!"

[Ed. Note: *Sadly, we were experiencing some anomalies in our A-V system used to project **Jan's** wonderful slides. We apologize, **Jan**, for the problems we were experiencing and our collective inability to solve them. We plan to resolve those issues soon. Nevertheless, despite the interruptions, we thoroughly enjoyed your marvelous woodworking travelogue.]*

Here is a small sample of **Jan's** delightful slides:



Lima, Peru
19th Century Cathedral
Under Reconstruction



Lake Titicaca, Peru
Floating Islands and Structures made from
Bundling Water Reeds



Malheur, Oregon
Structural Beams in a Round Barn
used for Exercising Horses in Winter



Helsinki, Finland
Kamppi Chapel, fabricated via CAD
design and Glulam construction
using smaller 3rd Growth Trees



Seattle, Washington
Old, Heavily Burlled, Large Leaf Maple Trees



Angor Wat, Cambodia
Relentless Pursuit of Water causes Roots to Overgrow Ancient Temples



Portugal
Cork Tree Bark Being Harvested



Thanks, **Jan**, for taking the time and effort to prepare this wonderfully entertaining, high quality world tour, both home and abroad. We especially appreciated your focus on wood in all forms, from trees, to bark, to wooden structures, to unique wooden objects, to wood alternatives in locations where wood is scarce. We all thoroughly enjoyed your presentation. Thanks for taking us to so many places in this wide, wide world that most of us will never visit in person – a rare treat, indeed!

Bits 'n' Pieces

Charlie Culler noted that **Black Stock Lumber**, a long-time woodworker's source for material and hardware, and one of our valued **NWWA Sponsors**, is going out of business! We are saddened to hear that news and hope that another company will take its place.

Dan Cordwell mentioned that there is a sawmill located in **Issaquah** that will custom cut slabs into planks – hopefully for a reasonable price. Also of interest to us, **Dan** noted that they give guided tours of their facility. That being the case, he asked the group if any would be interested in such a tour, perhaps on a **Saturday** in **May**. The response was very positive, so he said he would investigate the tour opportunity and report back to us. Sounds interesting, **Dan**. Thanks for being proactive and keeping an eye out for interesting activity prospects.

Comin' Up



Herb Stoops brought along a couple of sample panels showing **Lichtenberg Figures**. These fascinating wood-burned patterns were produced by passing a **very high voltage electrical current** between two hand-held electrodes placed on a wood surface treated with an electrolyte solution to make it electrically conductive.

Although this wood burning process is deceptively simple, and produces unique patterns on wood objects, **it involves electrical voltages and currents which are**

potentially lethal!

Note from the Editor



Due to the life-endangering risks involved when using manual processes and equipment employing very high voltages, ***I recommend against enhancing your projects with Lichtenberg Figures.***

Should you accidentally come in contact with these voltages, which are as high as **12,000 volts**, they will not just shock you, **they will kill you!** Please do not take this risk.

Personnel, like electrical utility linemen, who routinely work with these kind of voltages, are specially trained and employ specialized, **certified**, personal protective equipment and safety measures to protect themselves. Let us learn from their example. **Always work safe!**

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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Northwest Woodworkers Association Contacts

Membership—Allen McCall
Treasurer—Chris Green
Secretary—Jan Erickson
Raffle— Herb Stoops
Webmaster--- Tony Grosinger tony@grosinger.net
Newsletter Editor--- Paul Stoops pmstoops@comcast.net
Photographer— Scott Wilson

Steering Committee

Bill Bond williamcbond@comcast.net
Mark Martinez mark76wa@comcast.net
Alex Smithing Alex.Smithing@gmail.com
Herb Stoops hcstoops@comcast.net
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.nwoodworkers.org>