Northwest Woodworkers Association

THE SAWDUST NEWS

Northwest Woodworkers Association

April 2019

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

The Next Meeting

Date: **May 23, 2019 at 6:30 PM**
Location: **Woodcraft Supply**
5963 Corson S.
Seattle, WA 98125
Program Highlight: **Making Wooden Block Planes**
Speaker: Herb Stoops

April 2019 Meeting Highlights

Meeting Photos by Scott Wilson
Meeting Notes by Tim Newsome

The **April 2019** meeting of the **Northwest Woodworkers Association** was held on **Thursday, April 25, 2019** at **Rockler, Northgate.** We want to express our appreciation to the **Rockler Northgate** staff for providing a wonderful venue for this meeting. We really appreciate your long-standing support of the **Association**.

Twenty-two members and guests attended this interesting and informative meeting. **Steering Committee Member, Don Beacom ,** conducted the meeting.

Field Trip

Don Beacom reported on the recent field trip made by some of the members to the **Port Townsend School of Woodworking** to visit **Seth Rolland's** shop. A slide show of this enjoyable visit is available here:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1motGdrr8fXvlWn57e8ECYbtD66Hzfz8GUwSNM2v1OmI/edit?usp=sharing.

Show 'N' Tell

Tom Howorth showed us a maple & walnut cutting board made in the shape of Washington State using his CNC router. Due to an error in programming, **Tom** noted that he cut the juice groove too deep and had to stop the program on the final pass and resurface the board. He also had some programming difficulty when cutting the outside profile – the machine took about four hours when it should have taken minutes…..! But that is one of the joys(?) of applying new technology – learning how to troubleshoot…..! Great job, though, **Tom**!

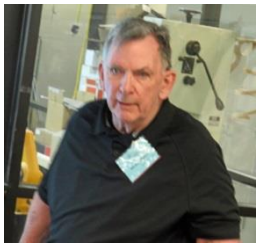
Allen McCall showed us two lovely kumiko panels, one of which was surrounded by a diamond shaped frame and assembled without glue. The second rectangular panel was held together with glued joints. **Allen** noted that these kumiko panels sure do require making a lot of triangles! Beautiful work, **Allen**!

David, one of our newer members, brought along a set of wall plaques his children had made from pieces of scrap woods from his shop. He used these projects to encourage his children to explore some of the possibilities available in woodworking…..as well as clearing his stash of leftover wood scraps. He noted that the children devised their own original designs, which he framed into panels for hanging on the walls in his home – much to the delight of the young'uns!

Dan Cordwell noted that he had some difficulty in measuring the miter joint angles for a 6-sided planter box he was making. He discussed several tool options he had explored, including a universal bevel protractor, gauge blocks, and bevel gauges, along with some of the pros and cons of each.

He finally settled on a digital bevel gauge as a workable solution, although he noted that the tool construction could have been more precise. However, the accuracy, digital readout, and initial zeroing capability of this tool were the deciding factors.

Herb Stoops, our designated **CMRB**, (**Chief Maker of Rustic Boxes**), brought along a couple of his delightful rustic creations. He noted that the first had kind of a tragic beginning, being a piece of a cedar tree that had fallen on one of his friends over a year ago, severely injuring him and requiring surgery and an extended rehab that is still ongoing. The friend was given a piece of the fallen cedar tree, who in turn gave it to **Herb** and asked him to make something from it.



After drying in his shop for over a year, **Herb** cut up the piece of log on his bandsaw and made a unique rustic box for his friend.

Band Sawing the Log

Box Interior with Tray

Integral Wooden Hinges

The Finished Rustic Beauty

Herb said that his friend was delighted with the box and proudly displays it in his living room.

Herb's second rustic box was made from a section of a maple tree, providing a much smoother exterior and a finer grained wood construction. His design of this box was somewhat different in that instead of an internal tray, he decided to fabricate an integral sliding drawer. However, as can be seen, this combination also produced a unique rustic piece with a personality of its own!

Maple Log

Band Sawed Drawer Pocket

Completed Drawer

Completed Rustic Maple Box

Program Highlight
From Furniture to Fine Art

We thoroughly enjoyed being exposed to the wide variety of conventional and progressive woodworking possibilities described in the delightful program presentation by our guest speaker, **Tim Celeski. Tim** describes himself as “a lifelong artist, learner, and maker” who practices his craft from his studio located in **Indianola**, **WA**, located in Kitsap County on the west shore of Puget Sound on the Port Madison Indian Reservation, home of the Suquamish Indian Tribe.

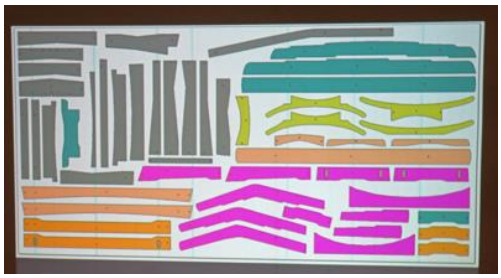
Tim noted that his first woodworking project was a workbench, inspired by having nothing to read on a camping trip except woodworking magazines! The design of this workbench and many others is available here: http://www.workbenchdesign.net/

Over time, **Tim** has designed and built an extensive line of arts and crafts furniture. Many of the pieces are designed to be used outdoors, and include straight and curved benches, tables, and chairs. His creations include several different styles, including Green & Green, Stickley, Limbert, and Charles & Henry.

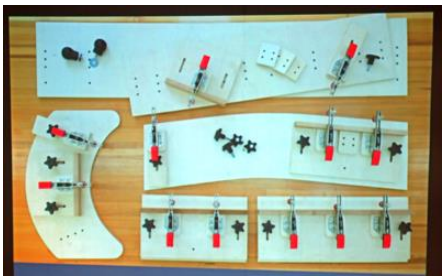
Some of his customers have ordered large sets of matching chairs:

Tim mentioned that some of his pieces are on display at the **Gamble House**, in **Pasadena, CA**, which is open to the public, and the **Blacker House**, also in **Pasadena, CA**, which is a private residence, but is available for guided tours.

To enhance his production capabilities, **Tim** has developed and employed almost exclusive use of patterns and jigs. He has found that designing his patterns with a CAD program and outsourcing the designs for CNC machining is a much more efficient use of his time. He noted that his patterns are made from MDF sheet and are carefully catalogued and annotated with comments pertinent to the design of the applicable part. **Tim** emphasized that CAD design and CNC machining offer amazing precision and repeatability. The design of the patterns would indicate that they are designed to be used with conventional production routers and shapers.



Part Template CAD Drawing



Typical Jigs & Fixtures

Parts & Templates

In the summer of 2018, **Tim** made a career-changing decision: He decided he was no longer going to design and fabricate furniture, citing the rigors and challenges of the production environment! Instead, his new focus would be on fine art, enabling him to take advantage of the almost unlimited possibilities available through CAD design and 3D CNC machining.

Using modern CAD software, he is now able to design intricate 3D creations which can be carved with his dual spindle CNC router. A few of these creations are shown below:

Many of these fine art pieces are intended to be displayed as decorative wall hangings, emphasizing their 3D visual uniqueness, textures, wood grain, and prominent geometric features.

Having made the transition from the conventional woodworking methods, woodworking equipment and techniques, **Tim** is an ardent supporter of the integration of digital technology into the woodworking world, noting that this is in line with the trend of technology in many areas of our lives, what with computers, digital phones, television sets, and all sorts of digital, software-controlled devices becoming commonplace in our homes, workplaces, etc.

Consequently, his recommendation to woodworkers is to get on board and learn how to use digital technology to improve and enhance your woodworking skills and capabilities.

A few of his recommendations and observations include:

~ Learn to draw in CAD – essential to be compatible with CNC machine control software
~ **Rhino3D** is a versatile drawing program developed here in Seattle
~ **Lynda.com** offers online courses available **free** through the Seattle Public Library
~ Utilize the many CNC user groups available online
~ **Fusion360** is a very powerful parametric CAD program, but is not very intuitive to learn
~ Purchase 24” or larger monitors for CAD drawing
~ **3D Printing** is simpler than CNC and can be useful for making prototypes and custom clamps and tooling components
~ Limited depth of cut typical of lighter duty and DIY CNC equipment can be offset by using follow-up cuts by conventional routing

Thank you, **Tim**, for sharing your experiences, skills, and expertise with us at this meeting.

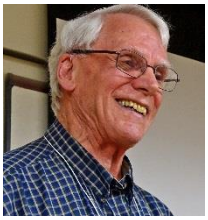
More information about his work and beautiful galleries of photos are available here:

https://celeski.com/

https://timceleski.com/

https://www.instagram.com/woodworking.digital/?hl=en

Notes from the Editor



What an interesting and informative meeting and an encouraging turnout of members and guests! We sincerely appreciate all of you who attended and especially those of you who enriched our meeting with your **Show'N'Tell** project presentations. Collectively, the **Northwest Woodworkers Association** has a rich pool of resourceful, innovative, inspired, and experienced woodworkers. It is always a delight to see and hear members share their projects, large or small…….and the inevitable mishaps that go along with woodworking. Frequently, we learn valuable nuggets of information from the shared experiences of others, as well as being inspired to try some new technique, or an innovative new tool, or how to troubleshoot some problem we might be having on our own current project. We encourage newer members to ask questions and share what they are doing – without feeling at a disadvantage because they may be new to woodworking – we were all new once! We are all willing to offer any help we can to make your woodworking a richer, more fulfilling experience. We love woodworking; join us!!

I, personally, found this **April 2019** meeting fascinating! Though I do not own any CNC equipment, for years I have designed all my projects in **2D** CAD on my computer. Having learned machine drawing by 2D orthographic projection many, many years ago with a tee square and triangle, I find that I am comfortable in that environment. I am a very poor freehand sketcher, so the **2D** CAD meets my needs perfectly. I especially appreciate the accuracy and repeatability of CAD, as well as being able to document a project and store the drawing as a digital file for future use or reference. I have also had opportunity to share with other woodworkers dimensioned design drawings of projects over the internet and in presentations.

That said, in the past, I have attempted to learn some of the **3D** CAD drawing programs, but for ***me*** there hasn't been enough of an incentive to complete the learning process. I guess Old Dogs, New Tricks applies to me….:-) But, being retired, I ***have*** mastered afternoon naps!! However, if I was to invest in a CNC machine, I would bite the bullet and learn 3D CAD!

I do follow some of the online CNC forums and find the discussions fascinating. The versatility and capabilities of the newer CNC equipment is mind boggling. Some of the woodworking projects that are being produced by both amateur and professional woodworkers are amazing!

It seems that some old-time woodworkers, who have spent years learning and honing their manual and machine woodworking skills, have a hard time considering CNC machining as woodworking. But I think there is a place for this modern technology, particularly in the highly competitive production woodworking environment. Even amateur woodworkers are producing some pretty skookum pieces using CNC equipment, some of which is capable of 3D carving and similar tasks that are beyond the capabilities of most of us hobbyist woodworkers. Let us all be broad-minded enough to honor those folks for the unique skills, equipment, and techniques they have developed to enable them to produce quality woodworking projects, though their high-tech methods be completely different from our own classical ones.

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