

Northwest Woodworkers Association

THE SAWDUST NEWS



September 2017

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

The Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 6:30 PM

**Location: Rockler Woodworking - Northgate
832 NE Northgate Way
Seattle, WA 98125**

Program Highlight: Creating Cedar Garden Accessories

Don Beacom, one of our newer members, is going to give us a presentation about the formation and evolution of a cottage business, **CedarSchemes**, that he and his wife have established to make and sell hand crafted and custom cedar wood products, including planter boxes, raised beds, and patio containers to local gardeners and home owners. **Don** will be showing us some of his designs and describing his fabricating methods.

September 2017 Meeting Highlights

Meeting Notes by Jan Erickson

Newsletter Photos by Scott Wilson



The **September 2017** meeting of the **Northwest Woodworkers Association** was held on **Thursday, September 28, 2017** at **Rockler - Northgate**. Nineteen members were present.

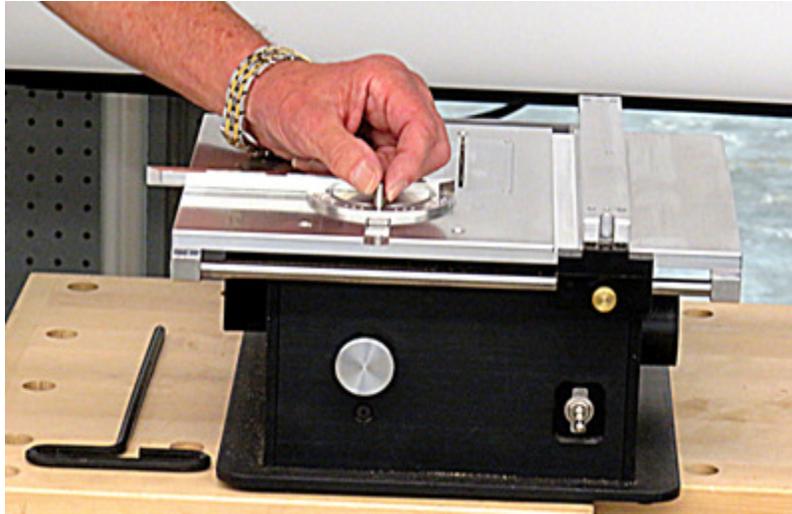
We want to express our appreciation to the **Rockler - Northgate** staff for hosting this meeting and providing refreshments. We really appreciate your long standing support of the **Association**.

New Tools



Tom Walko, who noted that his special woodworking interest is the creating of model ships, showed us a miniature size table saw, which uses a 4 inch diameter blade,. This precision tool, made by **Byrnes Model Machines**, (<http://www.byrnesmodelmachines.com/>) is designed to serve the needs of model ship builders and others who make small parts that require high precision.

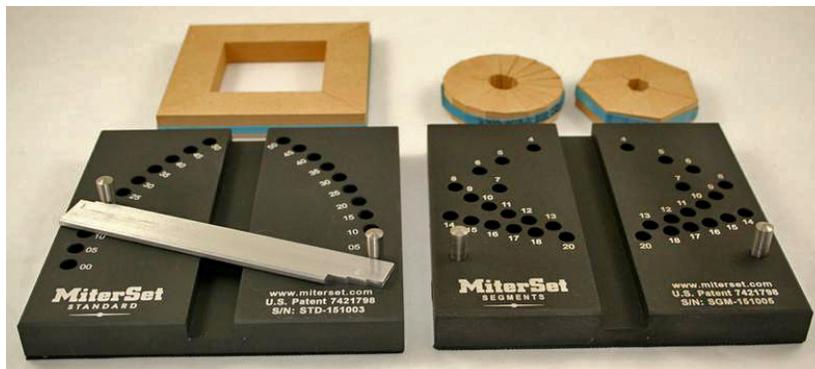
Tom noted that this finely crafted tool, when equipped with the available accessories, has all of the amenities of a standard size table saw except that the arbor does not tilt.



Tom also noted that, despite its small size, the saw is surprisingly powerful, able to easily cut 3/4" thick hardwood material. He also noted that the high precision of the tool's components enable it to make the accurate cuts required when building scale model ships.



Herb Stoops brought along a couple of precision machined set-up tools for accurately setting miter gages for angled cuts. These tools, called **MiterSet**, ([miterset](http://miterset.com)), are finely machined blocks with sets of holes and matching pins with a center slot for the miter gage guide bar.



As shown in the above photo, the **Standard** gage block on the left has a set of holes designed to accurately index the miter gage head to enable making standard angled cuts from 0° to 50°, in 5° increments for miter cuts on projects such as picture frames. This tool also is furnished

with a special auxiliary gage bar, which allow the miter angle to be accurately set from 0.5° to 52.5° in 0.5° increments.

Interestingly, the other gage block (**Segments**) has a set of holes identified with the number of sides in the polygon being fabricated – from **4** to **20** sides! What a great idea! This tool allows precise miter gage setup without having to try to set the odd angles required for polygons different from the typical 4, 6, 8 – sided ones. To illustrate the accuracy, **Herb** showed us a heptagon (7-sided) frame with precisely fitting joints! Just for fun, the required miter angle for the heptagon is **25.7142857142°** !! What a glorious testimony to the accuracy of CNC machining!!

Program Highlight **From Timber Frames to Earrings –** **A Mega / Micro / Show ‘n’ Tell**



We were delighted to have **Bob Johnson**, our longest tenured member and one of the original members and past President of the **Northwest Woodworkers Association** (then named the **Northwest Woodworkers Guild**) attend our meeting and give a wonderful presentation about his timber framed house located in Coupeville, WA on Whidbey Island – definitely the **Mega** project of the night! **Bob** noted that the timber framing for his house was milled from Old Growth Douglas Fir from a previous commercial building. He said that because his house was the first timber framed house in Coupeville, a great deal of information had to be provided to the local building authorities in order to obtain building permits. He noted that it required some 57 pages of documentation describing all of the timber frame joints to be used in the structure!

Although his lovely two-story house was constructed by a commercial timber framing company, **Bob** said he and his wife did all of the wiring and plumbing. He also fabricated all of the copper light fixtures and accessories. This beautiful home, aglow with natural light and the warm natural color of Old Growth Douglas Fir, also has a 500 sq. ft. loft, which houses his wife’s loom on one side and his mother’s grand piano and a small office on the other.

Other features of this stunning home include a large floor-to-ceiling brick fireplace incorporating a circulating heater design and a bake oven. The custom kitchen, which is enhanced with hand-made lighting fixtures, is also outfitted with a full size commercial range!





Jan Erickson showed us four finely crafted boxes with integral box jointed hinges between the lids and back panels. She described her experiments and lessons learned. A couple of her boxes were decorated with delightful applied shapes to enhance their beauty.

She also showed us an interesting **Leigh** router base guide bushing, which is made with an **oval shape** to allow slight adjustment of the fit between box or dovetail joint components. Rotational adjustment of the insert with the wire tool, moves the bit closer to, or farther from, the edge of the guide bushing as shown in the following video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUcqQf-JK6k>) This is a unique concept that should greatly simplify tuning the fitup of box or dovetail joints. **Jan** noted that this adjustable bushing was a great help in her box fabrication.



Charlie Culler noted that he had recently made a cradle for a new grandson from a plan he found in a woodworking magazine.

He also showed us some photos of a cabinet he had built for his collection of antique computers and electronic accessories.



Charlie also mentioned that his next project is a high chair for his grandson.

Tony Grosinger updated us on the saga of the jointer purchase he reported in the **March 2017 Newsletter**. He noted that this massive 12" jointer was difficult to work and clean around because it was still mounted to the shipping pallet.

However, removing the **800 lb.** jointer from the pallet was going to take some creative thinking. So, **Tony** decided to build a wooden gantry that would span the tool and enable him to lift it to remove the pallet.





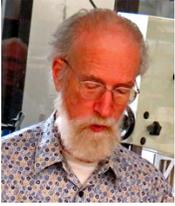
The gantry, with sturdy reinforced leg assemblies and a stout overhead beam structure was up to the task. A manual chain hoist from **Harbor Freight Tools** provided a nifty way to lift the heavy tool so the pallet could be removed. Subsequently, the gantry was relocated elsewhere in his shop, ready for future application to another piece of Auld Iron. Great thinking, indeed, **Tony!!**



One of **Tim Newsome's** projects turned out to be the **Micro** of our **Micro / Mega Show'n'Tell** program. Using some walnut and maple, he laminated strips which he subsequently fashioned into lovely wooden earrings! Even before finishing, the striking contrast of the two wood species and the lovely grain patterns enhanced the beauty of the diamond-shaped earring blanks.



He also brought along and demonstrated what he called a **Useless Box**. This battery powered, motorized device was very interesting, even if it didn't do anything more useful than turn itself off. As shown in this video of a similar device, turning the switch **On** activates the mechanism which opens the door, extends a finger, and turns the switch **Off**. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aqAUmgE3Wym>). Well.....it works!! Cute project, **Tim!**



Chris Green showed his latest creation in his conical object series, entitled “**Connections**”. He noted that this beautiful, artistic piece had gone through a series of iterations and design modifications to refine the shape and appearance to suit his vision. Sure looked like he succeeded!

Like others in this series, this was a lathe-turned piece. **Chris** noted that this piece was different from the others in the series in that its cover was fixed in place.



Thor Carpenter, another of our newer members, shared several of his recent projects. First, he showed a stack of unique white oak cutting boards which he had made and donated to a charity auction.



He then showed us photos of an innovative method for cutting sheet goods. Unlike most of us, who typically lay a sheet of plywood out on a couple of saw horses, or a cutting frame, or just on some spacers on the floor, he envisioned that it would be easier to cut the panels in a vertical direction, even while still stored in his lumber rack. So he constructed a simple guide plate, configured to match his portable circular saw, that would allow him to cut downward in a vertical direction, similar to the principle used in panel saws. Why didn't I think of that?? Great idea, **Thor!** Thanks for sharing it with us.



He then went on to show us pictures of his finely crafted Roubo workbench. This beautiful creation, 8 feet long and 20 inches wide, was fabricated of fir and hemlock materials.



As can be seen in the above photo, this Roubo workbench has been fitted with a Leg Vise, having a Criss Cross stabilizer, and a Wagon Wheel End Vise. To illustrate the smooth operation of the Leg Vise, **Thor** showed a short video in which he spun the heavy cast iron handle of the open vise, causing it to coast to a close.



Leg Vise



Criss Cross Stabilizer



Wagon Wheel End Vise



Herb Stoops mentioned that he had been puzzled about the best way to display the collection of antique wooden locks he showed us at the **June 2016** meeting. At that time, he showed us a wall-mounted rack he had made to display the locks. However, since that time, his collection had grown and he wanted a better way to display the locks to best enhance their individual unique designs and exotic wood species.



Since locks are intended to lock something [**Factoid of the week!**], **Herb** designed and built a set of plaques having faux wooden hinges and hasps to simulate sets of doors. The plaque he brought along provided a unique and realistic mounting that really enhanced the appearance of one of his violin-shaped wooden locks. The wood for the plaque was a lovely piece of **Ipe** gifted by **Jan Erickson**. Great innovative thinking, **Herb!** That should keep the bad guys out!

Tom Howorth had previously stated that he has become attracted to antique tools. In that vein, he brought along a unique, fascinating, and entirely practical tool called a **Spill Plane**. Although modern replicas are commercially available, **Tom** decided he would build one from plans he had located online: **Red Rose Reproductions, Lancaster, PA** (<http://redrosereproductions.com/spill-plane/>).



He explained that in days long past, when matches were either not available or in short supply, long thin curled shavings, called **spills**, were lighted from the stove or fireplace to apply a flame to the candles and lamps people commonly used to light their homes.

The **spills** were made using a very unique hand plane called a **Spill Plane**. This plane differs from a standard plane in that the narrow blade is positioned in such a manner as to produce a narrow, continuous curled shaving that exits the plane from the side. The oblique angle of the plane iron causes the shaving to curl along its length, producing a long, tapered shape of thin wood that can be easily lit and carried to be applied to a candle wick or lamp.

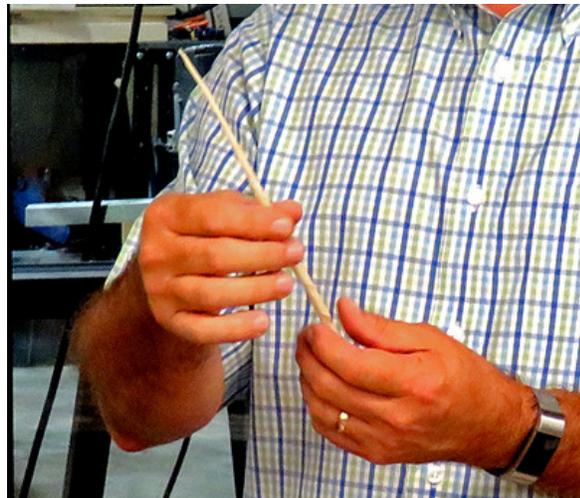


A Commercially Available Spill Plane with Spills

Selecting some beautiful curly Maple, **Tom** built a **Spill Plane** based upon the plans he had purchased online. He noted that the critical positioning of the plane iron required to produce the curled spills required cutting some parts at compound angles that were very difficult to identify from the plans. He noted that he feels he didn't quite get the angles right, but the tool still functions adequately.

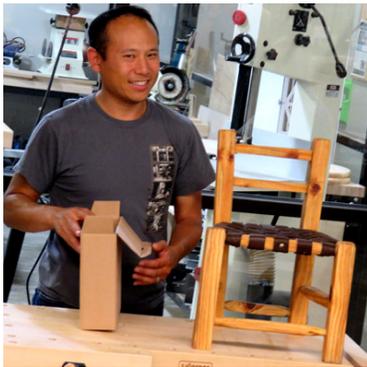


To our delight, he demonstrated his **Spill Plane** on a piece of 1X pine lumber. Note the spill starting to emerge from the side of the plane. And, finally.....success!



Isn't it amazing how innovative craftsman so long ago came up with such a unique tool so essential to the everyday lives of the folks of that time! Good example of that old saying, "Necessity is the mother of invention"! Thanks for the history lesson, **Tom!**

In addition, he showed us a series of slides illustrating the progress he is making on fabricating a new "essential" workbench for his shop. **Tom** noted that the workbench is built in accordance with a **Fine Woodworking** magazine design, noting that it is not a Roubo-style. The 28" x 72" workbench is being fabricated from Maple and will ultimately have integral vises installed. Thanks for sharing – we look forward to a future update on this project, **Tom!**



Chris Yee brought along a nicely made child's chair he had made for his family. The rustic looking chair was outfitted with a woven leather seat and looked pretty comfortable – but then of course it would be *because Dad made it!*

Chris also showed us an interesting box he was working on, made from a live edge piece of Maple he said he discovered among the large array of wood **Bonnie Klein** and her husband had recently made available due to a downsizing. Having sliced the thickness of piece on the bandsaw to form a base, body, and lid, he was pondering the best way to install the round **Soss Barrel Hinges** he had purchased. He also inquired about the best way to smooth the shallow cavity he had created in the lid of the box.



Various suggestions were offered about installation of the **Soss Barrel Hinges**, but most members emphasized the necessity to stack drill the lid and body components to ensure exact alignment of the hinge installation holes. Drilling the hinge holes from the bottom surface of the body **before** attaching the base, and carefully stopping short of penetrating the top surface of the lid (i.e. a blind hole) would enable the hinge installation holes to appear to be blind in both members.

Hand sanding was the recommended method for smoothing the bottom of the shallow recess in the lid of the box. Hopefully, **Chris** will bring the completed box to a future meeting to show us the final results of this unique project.

Note from the Editor



Without question, I would venture that this month's **Mega / Micro Show'n'Tell** meeting was one of the most interesting and had the highest participant /attendee ratio of any in my 11 years of membership in the **Association!** The wide variety of projects presented reflects the diverse interests, talents, and abilities that reside within our membership! Those of you who weren't here missed a super meeting. Hopefully, you will be among the present at our next **Mega Show'n'Tell** to share in the experience and contribute your unique projects to our woodworking smorgasbord.....!

A BIG THANK YOU! to all of the members who took the time and made the effort to bring along project items to display and slide presentations to enhance their offerings. I am especially delighted with the participation of some of our newer members. I really appreciate that the prevailing attitude at such meetings is **not** a prideful one of "Look what I can do!" or one of competition with other members, but one of sharing and learning and genuine mutual peer appreciation. Not a meeting goes by but what I learn something new about the woodworking craft we love so much. I hope you have the same experience.

And lastly, I found it interesting to note the recent attention devoted to Roubo workbenches. So, wanting to be a well-informed **Power Tool Guy**, I looked up "**Roubo Workbench**" in the world-famed, but out-of-print, **NWWA Woodworkers Almanac** and found this somewhat technical definition:

Roubo Workbench: *A big honking wooden structure, usually assembled with lots of sticky glue, the gentle persuasion of a 12-pound sledge hammer, a lot of planing, tons of patience, and some choice words, used to restrain projects designed to be shown at **NWWA Show'N'Tell** meetings!*

Well now, I want you to know I found that very exciting, realizing that with all of these new **Roubo Workbenches** sprouting up in our midst, we can anticipate a **plethora of projects** to be flooding our future **Show'n'Tell** meetings.....! Keep your calendars open – good things is a'comin'.....! Wonder if we will have to set up more chairs.....?

Happy and Safe Woodworking,

Paul

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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: <http://www.nwwoodworkers.org>