

Northwest Woodworkers Association

THE SAWDUST NEWS



September 2016

<http://www.nwwoodworkers.org>

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

The Next Meeting

Date: **Thursday, October 27, 2016** at 6:30 PM

Location: **Woodcraft Supply**

5963 Corson S.

Seattle, WA 98108

Program Highlight: **Building and Using a Router Pantograph**

Herb and Paul Stoops will be giving a presentation about the design, fabrication, and use of a DIY router pantograph, including a live demo at the meeting.

June 2016 Meeting Highlights

Meeting Notes by Jan Erickson

Newsletter Photos by Scott Wilson

The **September 2016** meeting of the **Northwest Woodworkers Association** was held on **Thursday, September 29, 2016** at **Rockler - Northgate**. Sixteen members and three guests were present.

We want to express our appreciation to **Casey Sheehan** and the **Rockler-Northgate** staff for providing a wonderful venue for this meeting. We really appreciate your long standing support of the **Association**.



Upcoming Events

Pratt Institute (<http://www.pratt.org/>) will be hosting the travelling **Lie Neilsen** hand tool show at their facility in Seattle on **October 21 and 22, 2016**. All woodworkers are welcome to come and watch the live demonstrations and presentations.

Q 'n' A & Member Comments

Tony Grosinger mentioned that he had recently finished successfully building a DIY 16" bandsaw, using the downloadable plans from **Mathias Wandel's** website, (www.woodgears.com). He promised to bring along photos of his build at the next meeting. Remember, **Tony**, as the saying on the woodworking forums goes, "If there ain't no photos, it didn't happen.....!"

Brian Weiss described his recent visit to the Maine headquarters of **Lie Neilsen** and his fascinating tour of their factory, which included the fabricating of their high quality tools and their sharpening techniques. He also noted that he had purchased one of their honing guides.

There was also some group discussion about track saws and the Triton track saws seemed to be one of the preferred brands.

Jan Erickson described her recent travails with a box cutting router bit. She noted that the bit seemed to be prone to excessive vibration, making alignment of the bit for a second pass extremely difficult.

Jan also came to the meeting sporting a cast on her left arm. She told us that she was crosscutting a piece of wood against her table saw fence when the wood caught in the blade and kicked back, striking her in the arm, fracturing both bones in her arm! *She noted in retrospect that she should have been making that cut using her miter gage!* We could all relate to her situation, most of us having done a similar thing in the past and survived without incident. But we all concur that using the miter gage (or a sled) is the recommended way to do cross cutting on the table saw. However, we are thankful that the injury was not more severe and wish **Jan** a speedy recovery. She noted that it is frustrating not to be able to work in her shop! But we know that as soon as possible, she will be back at it!

Guest **David Lodefink** came to the meeting to share a listing of the numerous tools he has for sale from his woodworking shop. He noted that in spite of using dust masks, dust collection, and overhead air cleaners, he has unfortunately sustained serious lung damage from inhalation of wood dust over the years. Consequently, his doctor has strongly recommended that he give up woodworking to prevent further damage – the portable oxygen generator he carries with him gives mute testimony to the seriousness of his condition, and a warning to us all.

A copy of his tool listing was given to each of the members, and we hope that there will be items that will be of interest to our members. Thanks, **David**, for giving us a heads up on your

available tools. We are sorry to hear that you have to give up the woodworking hobby we all enjoy so much and we hope that your health will improve.

Program Highlight - ***Furniture Repair and Refinishing***



Our guest speaker for the meeting was **Ken Osborne**, owner of **Memory Menders**, (<https://www.thememorymender.com/>) a furniture restoration business located in the Renton area. **Ken** provided us with a very entertaining and informative presentation of the methods and techniques he uses in his family owned business for restoring furniture.

He noted that many of the pieces he restores require stripping of the original finish, occasional repair or replacement of parts, and refinishing. Some also require upholstery. All of these services are provided by him and members of his staff.

Stripping

Ken noted that his preferred methods and materials are intended for use in a commercial business, in which time is money, so the most efficient methods are employed. That said, many of the materials employed involve very powerful chemical agents, which pose a serious health hazard. For that reason, he noted that it is very important to use the best and most effective **PPE** (**P**ersonal **P**rotective **E**quipment), including rubber gloves, high quality respirators with the proper cartridges for the chemical agents being used, eye and face protection, etc. In addition, the work area where these chemical agents are being used must be properly ventilated. For most hobby woodworkers, these kind of chemical agents are best used outdoors, if at all. It should be noted that there are a number of safer, more environmentally friendly chemical products that can be used, even though they are slower acting.

He noted that many commercial companies use water bath methods for chemical stripping of finishes. However, he does not recommend this method because it seriously raises the grain of the wood, requiring extensive sanding operations to smooth the wood surfaces before further operations can be performed. The sanding operations are also very slow, severely impacting the cost of the restoration process. He also noted that these sanding operations are very difficult to accomplish on pieces with carved profiles without losing the crisp definition of the carvings.

Therefore, the preferred stripping agents he employs are very powerful methylene chloride based strippers like **Klean Strip**, which are commonly available at the local hardware stores. **Ken** noted that these strippers act very quickly – usually in a matter of a few minutes, and do an excellent job of removing any kind of finish ***without raising the grain of the wood.***

He also noted that when stripping finishes, it is very important to keep the area being worked on wet with the stripping agent. To that end, it is sometimes better to work on small areas at a time so that the stripper does not dry on the part.

Ken noted that one very useful tool for stripping carved or contoured pieces is a soft, toothbrush-sized **brass** wire brush, such as is used for cleaning outdoor barbecue grilles. The soft bristles get into the corners and do not scratch and roughen the surface.

Removal of the chemical stripper is done with lacquer thinner and medium/coarse steel wool. Again, it is important to remember that lacquer thinner is another of the chemical agents that requires the use of a high quality respirator equipped with the proper cartridges and rubber gloves to prevent skin contact. Also, this solvent is highly flammable, so it must be used away from any heat or ignition source. To finish the stripper removal operation and smooth the wood at the same time, **Ken** uses 2/0 steel wool. This method, used in lieu of sandpaper, in effect somewhat burnishes the surface, smoothing out minor irregularities.

Surface Preparation for Refinishing

After the finish is removed, the piece is allowed to dry in warm air for at least 12 hours. If sanding is required, he typically uses grits from 220 to 320. To prevent blotching of stained finishes, a problem with woods like maple, he recommends the use of **Daly's Benite Wood Conditioner** (www.thedalyswoodfinishes.com).

Finishing

Ken noted that one of his most requested stain finishes is **Early American**, by **Minwax**. To provide fast drying finishes with improved durability, he frequently uses pre-catalyzed lacquers, manufactured by the **Rudd Company** in Ballard (www.ruddcompany.com). These products, which have additives that chemically alter the finishes to improve durability, have very short shelf lives, and are ideally suited to commercial spray application.

He also mentioned that he frequently uses a product called **Marson Smoothie Fish Eye Eliminator**, commonly used by auto refinishers. This product, when added in small quantities to the lacquer, helps eliminate "fish eyes" in the final finish coat – imperfections which are almost impossible to repair, short of a complete refinishing.

General Comments

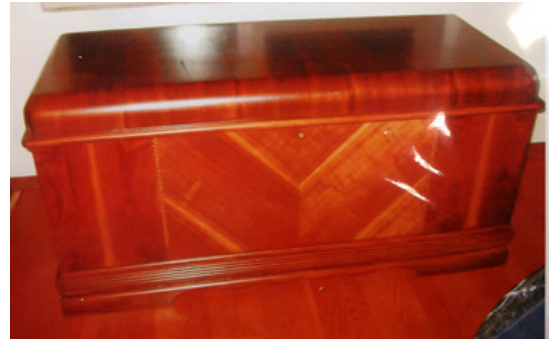
- It should be a crime to paint beautiful hardwood furniture!
- Avoid sanding as much as possible
- Never use water or water-based products, as they raise the grain of the wood
- Do not use **Acetone** in lieu of **Lacquer Thinner**
- **Goof Off** is a product which will remove wax without affecting the finish
- Troublesome water rings or burn marks can usually be removed with **Oxalic Acid** applied with warm water. **Vinegar** can be used to neutralize the **Oxalic Acid**.
- Disassembly of furniture joints can be accomplished by drilling a small hole along the glue joint and injecting **White Vinegar** into the joint. This method will usually dissolve the glue overnight. When dry, the vinegar does not seem to affect the gluing of the joint.
- When using steel wool on cleaned wood, shake out the pad frequently to remove the dust accumulation.
- **ALWAYS WEAR A FACE MASK, EYE PROTECTION, GLOVES, AND A HIGH QUALITY RESPIRATOR WHEN WORKING WITH STRIPPERS OR SOLVENTS.**



**Ken Osborne of Memory Menders with Half Restored Chair
to Illustrate the Before and After Effects of Restoration**



Blanket Chest Before and After Restoration



Painted Chest Before and After Restoration



Show 'N' Tell



Chris Green showed us a lovely turned project he named “**Beauty Within**”. He noted that name reflected the internal characteristics of the **Laburnum** (aka **Golden Chain Tree**) branch he used for the center column of the turning. As can be seen in the photo, there is a striking contrast between the cream colored sap wood and the lovely brown shades of the heart wood hidden within. The globe at the top was a thin walled hollow vessel, painted inside with gold leaf, providing another striking contrast with the marbled grain of the globe. In addition, **Chris** topped off the turning with an open topped thin walled hollow form, which he said he had made some 25 years ago! He noted that some of the components of the piece were turned from **Myrtle** wood, whose lovely grain nicely complemented the rest of the project. Thanks for sharing such a lovely piece with us, **Chris**.



Mark Martinez, one of our **Steering Committee** members and facilitator for the evening's meeting, showed us a **Woodsmith** plan for a keepsake box he is making for a Boy Scout project. After looking at the plan, he decided that he would make an inlaid panel for the lid. The panel is to be an eagle motif, reflecting the theme of the Boy Scout group project.

He attempted to make a stacked veneer panel to produce a top panel for the box with a matching contrasting inlay with the eagle motif. However, his first attempt with the scroll saw did not turn out as well as he had hoped. **Mark** noted that he was having difficulty keeping his line widths uniform and some difficulty manipulating the piece around the many corners of the design. So he brought along his first attempt to solicit some advice from the group. Several suggestions were offered and he said he would return to a later meeting to show the results. Good first try, **Mark** – that's how most of us learn, i.e. *trial and error*. Your next shot should be better. We are looking forward to seeing the finished project



Note from the Editor



Well, the Summer is finally over and we look forward to getting back into the shop to do some woodworking projects. To celebrate, I even cleaned up my shop! My wife noted how nice it looked and I told her it only looked that way because there was nothing going on in there.....yet! ☺

We were glad so many members attended this month's meeting to enjoy a really interesting program presentation from a craftsman who really knows his stuff and makes a living at it! He claims he isn't a woodworker, but I don't believe it for a moment!

Most of us don't know too much about furniture restoration and commercial finishing methods and typically have a love / hate relationship with finishing – loving the look of the finished project and hating to do the finishing.....!

But **Ken Osborne** of the **Memory Menders** furniture restoration company provided us a lot of interesting techniques and preparation/finishing product recommendations along with a gallery of photos showing the before and after results of some of his restoration projects.

Thanks, **Ken**, for such an interesting and informative presentation of the tried and true methods you have learned to employ in your business. I'm sure we all learned something we can use on our own woodworking projects, either new or old.

As a final note, please pay attention and use the proper approved Personal Protection Equipment when using chemical agents and solvents. These materials are very dangerous and can lead to serious, life threatening consequences. Volatile solvents, such as Lacquer Thinner and Acetone are highly flammable and emit noxious fumes. Where possible seek out safer alternatives, which are also more environmentally friendly.

Happy and Safe Woodworking,

Paul

Steering Committee Report

Another change in the staff of the **Association** is currently in process, as our **Webmaster**, **Tom Howorth**, has resigned his position. However, **Tom** has recruited **Tony Grosinger** as his replacement and is currently bringing him up to speed. Thanks, **Tony**, for being willing to step in to replace **Tom**, giving you an opportunity to serve the **Association** and utilize your unique skill set in the **Webmaster** capacity. **Tom** assures us that even though some technical changes may take place, the transition should be seamless to the membership. It appears that due to an apparent lack of interest, the website **Forum** feature will probably be discontinued.

I'm sure that in the near future, **Tony** will update us on any changes and improvements he will be making to the **Association** website. If you have any changes or suggestions regarding the website, please address them directly to **Tony** via email: tony@grosinger.net

We want to take this opportunity to say "Thanks" to **Tom Howorth** for his dedicated service to the **Association** as our first **Webmaster**. We really appreciate the effort you put in to create the **Association** website and **Forum** from scratch, **Tom**. We hope you will continue to be an active member of the **Association**, and continue to share your woodworking expertise and experience, which we have come to greatly appreciate.

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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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>