

# Newsletter

<https://wpwoodworkers.org/>



Western  
Pennsylvania  
Woodworkers

News and Views from the Western Pennsylvania Woodworkers, Incorporated © 2015

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## MEETING NOTICE

**DATE: SATURDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2015**

**TIME: 10:00AM**

The meeting will start at 10:00AM and the **doors will open at 9:30 AM**

**NOTE: All members and guests must have a signed liability waiver on file to enter the building.** (Waivers will be available at the meeting if you have not already completed a waiver)

**Location:** The shop of Bill James (James Wood Works) & Craig Marcus (Marcus Studio)  
(The shop is at 6545 Hamilton Ave., please see the website for detailed directions.)

## NOVEMBER MEETING: ANNUAL SHOW AND TELL

This month's program will be our annual Show and Tell program. It will feature the works of our members. This once per year gathering lets the members of our woodworking community come together to experience the talent and effort of all club members. At this one meeting you will be able to see the full spectrum of woodworking from small table top items to large floor sized items. All members are invited to participate by bringing in a sample of their best work no matter the size or shape. Don't be bashful let us see what you have been working on in your shops since last year's show and tell. **It doesn't matter how "good" you may think it is, just as long as you made it within the last year and it has never been entered in our Show & Tell.** – Ben Abate

## MEETING REPORT: NAKASHIMA FIELD TRIP

The field trip for this year was to the Nakashima Workshops in New Hope Pennsylvania. The tour was Saturday the 24th of October at 10:00 am. It seemed as if the majority of the attendees drove out to New Hope on Friday the 23rd. The group had prearranged to meet at a local draft house, Triumph Brewery in New Hope Pennsylvania, and about 16 of us enjoyed the food and micro brews of this local establishment.

The next morning we gathered in the parking lot of the Nakashima compound. GPS for the address seemed to elude some of us. I know mine took me over a mile in the wrong direction AND I was listening to my wife tell me where to turn -- so you know the GPS was wrong! Satiru "Ru", George Nakashima's grandson, met us in the parking lot. Ru's wife Soomi and Ru's uncle Kevin, George Nakashima's son and brother to Mira Nakashima, also joined us, but unfortunately Mira was not able to join us. Our tour was about three hours long, and I believe some of us were not ready for it to end.

We were disappointed Mira was not able to join us. Mira has been the image and business figure of Nakashima Workshops since her father died in 1990 at the age of 85 years old.

We started our tour at the wood storage buildings, two very large buildings that would make anyone ever interested in wood envious. The first building was approximately 60ft by 200/250 ft long - filled to the ceiling with stacks of cut logs on large industrial shelving units. Huge logs, 6 ft plus in diameter, most all sliced into 2-4 inch slabs. Complete trees were everywhere and well organized.

The amount of wood in this building was pretty amazing plus to be dominantly all Claro, American and Persian walnuts, as well as English Oak Burl. The next building was not as big but still larger than most wood storage places you've seen before. In this building, the wood was stacked upright on end. This was George Nakashima's first storage area. Ru explained to the group that it took the family 25 years to track down all the wood he had acquired over his lifetime. This was the reason for the very first building we were taken into. I should mention that Don Phillips had a smile on his face that you couldn't wipe off when in these buildings.

We then visited one of the buildings that George Nakashima had designed on the property. This building was a beautiful smaller home with an area for prayer. Again the use of walnut and English Oak were obvious to us.

We visited the chair building workshop, the finishing shop and we were allowed to look into the main shop where the tables and larger items are crafted. All of the workshops on the property are not like you would expect, they are all separate smaller buildings. The craftsman work in smaller groups of 2 or 3 instead of large groups in large buildings. These small buildings are set amongst the woods of the Delaware Valley on approximately 9 acres. It was like strolling through a park with exhibits along the way on an Autumn day.

We did visit a few other buildings that George Nakashima had designed and built on the property. They were his showrooms. George Nakashima was an architect, and it is obvious in his designs. He like to use geometric free-form, self-supporting expanses for his roof lines - very obvious when viewing his buildings on the property. Noticeably in all the buildings were very large slabs of wood lying against the wall or elsewhere just as if he needed more storage or possibly as a design element in the building. Ru and his uncle Kevin were more than gracious in hosting our group. – Ben Abate



(Most) of the group that attended the Nakashima trip (photo courtesy Bill James)  
(Apparently trying to get everyone together for a group picture is a bit like “herding cats”. We thank Bill for his attempt. Nakashima Workshops does not permit photography of their facility, so we have no photo to show, but some photos are available on their website)

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

- November 14, 2015:** Show and Tell
- December 12, 2015:** A representative from Tite Bond will present a program on adhesives
- January 9, 2016:** Bamboo Fly Rod building – Tim Zietak
- February 13, 2016:** Shop layout and math – Regis Will
- March 12, 2016:** Carving – Bill Doughty
- April 9, 2016:** To Be Announced – Bill James
- May 14, 2016:** 30 minute presentations from each Splinter Group

## NAME BADGES

Anybody that is in the need of a name badge, please contact Ed Kardell at [ekardell2@gmail.com](mailto:ekardell2@gmail.com) or leave a message 724-832-2265.

## NEWSLETTER CONTENT

The publication deadline for the next newsletter is **November 28, 2015**. Submissions received after this date may be published in the newsletter for the following month if requested.

The content of this newsletter is written by club members just like you. If you have an interesting story, tip, plan, or idea, please contribute it to the newsletter. We particularly need shorter articles that would be a paragraph or two. **PLEASE let us know if you see a news article or otherwise have news about club members or woodworking activity in the area.** Newsletter contributions and information about news and events may be emailed to [wpwweditor@yahoo.com](mailto:wpwweditor@yahoo.com). Contributions can be submitted as either a word document or as a text file with no returns between lines in a paragraph.

## SPLINTER GROUPS

Our club currently has three active splinter groups, small groups that meet between club meetings.

**North Hills Splinter Group:** Ralph Sprang [wpwweditor@yahoo.com](mailto:wpwweditor@yahoo.com) fourth Saturday of the month

**East End Splinter Group:** Alex Botkin [alexbotkin@hotmail.com](mailto:alexbotkin@hotmail.com) Every other Wednesday.

**The Murrysville splinter group (also known as The Westmoreland Chippers):** They finished building laptop desks a year ago and since then they have completed a Wall Clock and a Display Cabinet with glass shelves. The current project is a fancy folding table. The group has six active members, but more are always welcome! [ejstacey@aol.com](mailto:ejstacey@aol.com) 10:00 AM Fridays.

## WPW PRIVACY STATEMENT

WPW Privacy Statement: Since the WPW now uses email as the primary means of communicating with our members, we want to make our members aware of our privacy policy. Quite simply, we will not rent, sell, give, or otherwise disseminate our members' contact information without consent of the member to anyone, for any reason, period. Occasionally, we receive information via email from other organizations that may be of interest to our members (special events, activities, etc.), but the event will occur before our next newsletter will be published. On these rare occasions we may forward such emails to you, but they will always come from the WPW email address (i.e., your email information will not be given to the other organization). If you have any concerns regarding this policy, please express them to Frank Woolley.

## MEMBER CLASSIFIED ADS: ADVERTISING POLICY

Club members may submit one quarter page or less non-commercial advertisement per month for publication in the newsletter on a space-available basis, subject to the discretion of the board and editor. Advertisements are accepted only as a Word document emailed to [wpwweditor@yahoo.com](mailto:wpwweditor@yahoo.com). The Word document can contain up to 200 characters, should be minimally formatted (no boxes, borders, special characters, etc.) and must be received by the submission deadline. Photos may be inserted into the document, but will be resized to fit the newsletter format. The advertisement must include contact information and asking price and be complete and ready to cut and paste into the newsletter.

Commercial advertisements for products and services of interest to our members may be accepted at the discretion of the board of directors, at rates determined on a case-by-case basis.

## CLUB MEMBER ADVERTISEMENTS

## COMMERCIAL ADVERTISEMENTS

### **Hardwood Lumber**

Don's Custom Milling, high quality kiln dried hardwood lumber. Large inventory of domestic species to choose from. Bookmatched sets, quartersawn lumber, complete matching log sets, turning stock, and live edge lumber available. Custom dry kiln and sawmill services available. All sales by appointment, please call for appointment/pricing. Don Phillips, Don's Custom Milling, [donphillips617@hotmail.com](mailto:donphillips617@hotmail.com), 724-438-2807