

## Woodworking 101- by Jim Goetz, May 2020



Woodworking has always been a hobby of mine; although for most of my life, it was more a dream than reality. During most of the 37 years I worked at the firm, we lived on a houseboat on Lake Union in downtown Seattle; and there was clearly insufficient room for any kind of a workshop. We did have a patio and small deck, so I was able to do a few small things. But also, of course, working allowed limited time for my hobby.

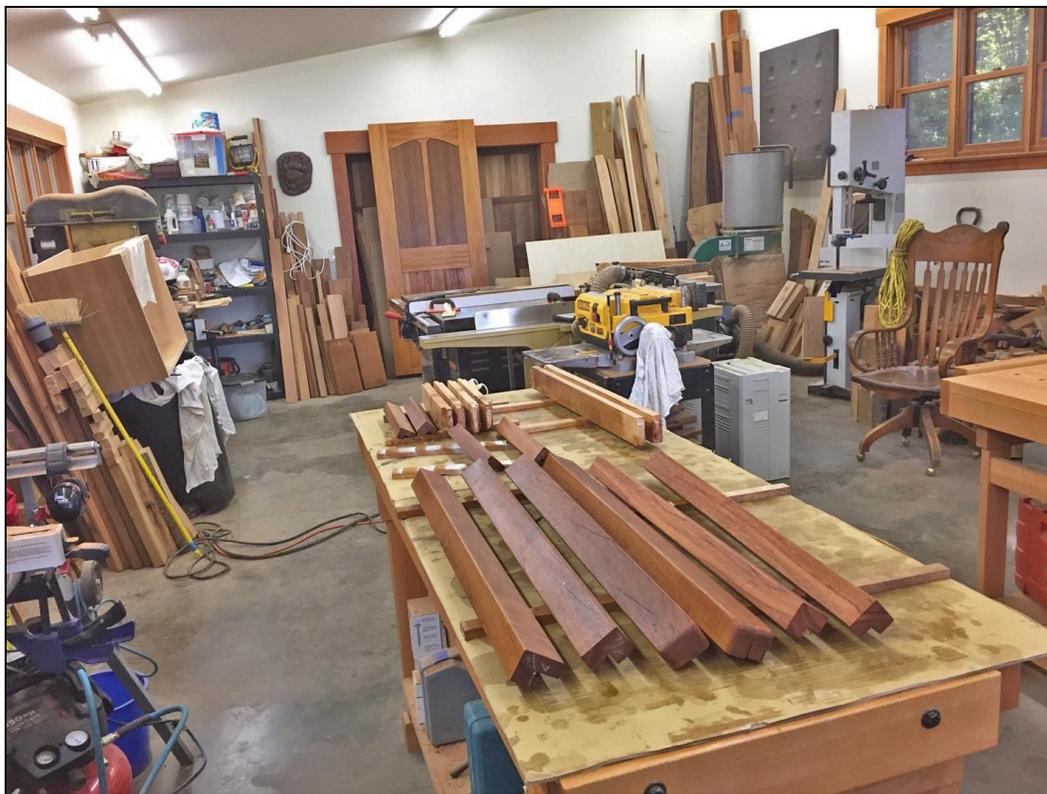
Nearing retirement in 2007, my late wife and I found a wonderful piece of property on San Juan Island in NW Washington. We had a recreational boat moored in Friday Harbor since the mid-80s and over time had fallen in love with the island. Our new house was completed in 2010; and with that, of course, came a real workshop - one with heat in the floor, a wood-burning fireplace, plenty of light, and adequate space for tools and work benches.

The workshop has turned out to be wonderful; and I have spent many an hour in there, designing, building, redesigning, rebuilding, sanding, and finishing wood. Most of my projects are tables, benches, stools, etc., although I have done a number of doors, beds, and cabinets. All of them have some kind of a nick, blemish, or divot, which made me think of a name I now use for my email address: [Jim@divotworks.com](mailto:Jim@divotworks.com).

Attached are a few photos, including my workshop, a dining table, an entry hall table, and a chicken coop. Note the old rocking chair in the workshop photo. It belonged to my granddad on the farm, and I have fond memories of him sitting in that chair smoking his corn cob pipe. Now I use it to sit by my wood stove and figure out how to fix my mistakes.

The round table was done for a neighbor: 48-inch diameter with a 12-inch leaf. The entry table was for a different neighbor and was made to fit their entry hall. The wood came from an old, dying, madrone tree on their property that we cut down, milled, and then dried in a kiln. The chicken coop I did for my partner's son and family in Seattle. They have four chickens that lay one egg a day, and it works out great for them. And finally, I did a "floating top" table a while ago that won some serious ribbons at a local county fair.

I am looking forward to hearing from others about their shops and seeing their woodworking projects.



Jim's shop.



Dining table.



Entry hall table.



Chicken coop.



A 48-inch table with a 12-inch leaf for a neighbor.



"Floating top" table.