

NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

April, 2010

Next Meeting: April 6th, Anacortes Yacht Club

7:00PM General Meeting

504 7th Street, Anacortes 98221

Phone: 360-770-7203 or 360-387-4174

Take Highway 20 into Anacortes. Stay on Commerical to 11th (Callico Cupboard on right). Turn right. Go to R avenue. Turn left. Follow R avenue around the north end of Cap Sante marina. The road turns into 7th Street. The yacht club is on your left, two story building. It's the last building on 7th Street. We are on the top floor.



Norwegian Briefcase by Val Matthews

photo by Bonnie Yost

38 Beautiful Wood Boxes Highlight March Meet

It was Gallery Night when member enthusiasm for challenges was again tested in the Build-A-Box special projects activity, which brought out a fine attendance at the March meeting and demonstrated once again the high participation possibilities in a committee-inspired and project-oriented plan to put woodworking on a competitive level within NCWA. Members, at least the current ones, took the latest Gary Weyers challenge to a rousing finish by exhibiting 38 products of their box producing skills on tables that almost spanned the width of the Lodge at Hillcrest Lodge in Mount Vernon. It was the biggest one-time display of members' work since the gathering of our Toys for Tots in December 2009.

How big a victory was this for Gary? His first few attempts at issuing challenges to get members motivated into competing on a common project were pretty much failures. The latest of these early attempts was a 2x4 contest, which culminated at the 2008 picnic. Four responded and the contest was cancelled. Gary, discouraged, told the Board he was quitting as head of the Activities committee. At the Board's bidding he agreed to try again in 2010. And now you know the rest of the story.

Vice President Jerry Couchman's popular Box-Making Class gave impetus to success as many of the handsome jewelry type cases and stylistic decorative box features of the entrants bore his trademark: the chevron shapes that make up the outside corner splines in contrasting wood colors.

And the Winner is . . . By acclamation, Val Matthews got the biggest laugh of the day for his comical "story box" with a hinged bottom that, when triggered, dropped an X-large man's underwear into view. Val termed his entry as "A Norwegian Briefcase."

Many unusual box designs popped up, including a large, vertical one with an embellished sliding top. Andy Swanson admitted that he had no idea how he was going to use it. A couple boxes had been made for practical uses to house an electrical tool, but most were flat, rectangular keepsake and jewel case varieties. Brilliant innovation was displayed by Cec Braeden in four very different designs, one of which had no parallel sides.

The Entrants (in order of appearance):

Gary Weyers (3 boxes), George Murphy (a large, heavy, dark case for two hand guns), Jim Torrence (3 boxes, two small business card cases and a long case to house his flute), Andy Rudy (a large, banded red oak materials storage box), Jerry Couchman (3 boxes, artistic with a carving submitted by James Davis who makes our wood name tags, a spalted maple jewelry case, another case of pagoda design using koa, maple, and ebony, and a figured maple top with a laminated overlay that suggests a skyline scene).

Andy Swanson (a knotty pine and walnut box and a decorated sliding lid with heavy bar-topped finish), Chuck Robertson (2 boxes made from Allowood). Andrew Pellar

(2 boxes, one a large maple and a cypress/red cedar with an unusual sliding top), Bill Thisius (2 boxes, one a utilitarian circular saw case of red oak with brass corners and a small, hinged Allowood box with an open knothole), Dave Blair (a turned small box of Argentina wood with a top black walnut spire), Jay Geisel (4 boxes, two turned, one of osage orange with an ebony button on a pop top and the other a vertical segmentation design, and an oval bentwood box of ash and bubinga, a golfer's box of white oak with walnut splines, a golf head top handle, and split golf ball side handles).

Cec Braeden (4 boxes of spalted maple each different in design and style, one box has an oval appearance because of its arched top and non-parallel sides and all the fine finishes garnered questions that resulted in this tip: 3 coats of Benite). Bob Gaubatz (a thin lacquered box with a sliding lid).

Laura Matthews (a turned, lidded 8-inch tall vessel), Val Matthews a long and narrow box with a hinged bottom), Rick Anderson (a small, turned lidded box), Jim Bucknell (2 boxes, one similar to the Couchman designs and the other quite unusual with a thin square of sloping sides and featuring thin and tall black legs topped by a delicate handle), John Erbstoesz (3 small boxes each with fitted compartments and lids).

There you have it, 38 boxes in all! A tremendous showing of the woodworkers' skill and enjoyment of craft.



Shop Tour

We will be visiting shops in the LaConner/ Shelter Bay area on the morning of April 24th. Details will be announced at the April 6th meeting (Anacortes Yacht Club) and in mailings later next month.

Custom Classes

Due to scheduling conflicts, Dave Blair's two class in April on sharpening and planes will not be held as scheduled. Dave will help all those that signed up on an individual basis. Everyone who has signed up should contact Dave directly (email: dlblair39@comcast.net; phone 360-733-3911.)



Dave Blair

photo by Bonnie Yost



Bill Thisius

photo by Bonnie Yost

NCWA Called to Duty; WoodFest on Top Again After Missing A Year

Gallery Night at Hillcrest Lodge lured a large and expectant crowd trying to get a glimpse into the box-making prowess of others and to grab onto some pointers of their own. The business meeting opened at 7 p.m. with Jim Torrence asking for an introduction of several guests and new members. Announcements concerned the forthcoming WoodFest at Sedro Woolley High School on April 10 and 11, a proposed wood resource tour south of Seattle in late Spring, and the fast arrival of the three-part cabinet-making educational class.

Chairman Phil Choquette laid out plans for NCWA participation at the resurgent WoodFest weekend where several local high school students will parade their woodworking skills in competition with other students in the waning days of the school year. The event, usually occurring during Tulip Festival days, lacked sponsorship from the Sedro Woolley Chamber of Commerce in 2009, due to the death of one of its organizing members.

Our Club's aims and purposes includes the support of woodworking and vocational education at the high school level. For many years we have played a strong role in keeping in-school woodworking education alive in Skagit and Whatcom Counties. Our presence at this event has focused on judging the student exhibitions and awarding our People's Choice trophy to the best. For years that trophy, donated by your Club, is an inscribed woodworking plane of the finest quality.

Phil asked for volunteers to man the NCWA display tables on both Saturday and Sunday and those who would like to be retained as part of the Judging Team. All members are urged to visit the student exhibition as well as put their projects on display. Sign-on

sheets were available at the meeting. Phil also noted that commercial vendors were also invited to take part in the Fest. That usually means there will be power and chain saw demos in the parking lot.

A Spring Shop Tour has been arranged for shops in the La Conner area on Saturday, April 24. There is a class scheduled that day and info is awaited on how we will resolve the conflict. The Wood Resources Tour was given the approval by many. An itinerary is being put together for presentation at the April meeting. Cabinet-making, Part 3, is a class in making drawers for the virtual cabinet and will wrap it up on April 3.

Gene Benson, our Toys for Tots Chairman, reported that he just hauled a trailer load of prime alder to his home for the year's Toys program. The wood is an annual gift from Washington Alder in Mount Vernon. Gene also raised some cash for TFT when he raffled off several donated post-size pieces of white oak at the meeting. Gene plans to showcase some of this year's toys on our WoodFest display tables next month.

Two Woodworkers of the Month were welcomed in March: President Torrence called Navy veteran Choquette, one of the longest serving members of this organization and Andy Swanson a recent new member, front and center. Both gave interesting backgrounds to their lifelong pursuit of woodworking achievements.

Bring 'n Brag.

Innovator Bill Baer is toying with new ideas again. This time he has put together two more riders for the young fry. One rolls around the room on some fanciful wheels made up from discs and dowel pins. It has a head that Bill says, "It sorta looks like a horse's head don't you think.?" The second rider is a biplane with wheels; the tail wheel

swivels like a caster. Bill also finds time to be a top instructor for NCWA. His 30 years as a cabinet-maker and kitchen cabinet installer makes him a perfect choice for teaching cabinetry to the rest of us. The installation tips he gave us made the lesson considerably more worthwhile.

--Jay Geisel, Secretary



Tail Dragger

photo by Bonnie Yost

Port Townsend School of Woodworking

Some of our members attended the 2nd annual open house at the Port Townsend School of Woodworking, which was held March 7th. This was a great way to see examples of the kind of courses offered and some of their teaching techniques. Two of the founders of the school, Jim Tolpin and Tim Lawson, have recently given presentations at NCWA. What was most interesting was the quality of instruction that these guys and their team do. There is an incredible list of courses and lectures on just about everything. Go to their website at: <http://www.ptwoodschoo.com/Home.html>, and click on 2010 Course Schedule for more details. Prices vary from about \$260 for a 2-day course to about \$650 for a 5-day course. Some courses include extra charges for materials. The school is located on Fort Worden State Park.

Jerry Couchman

Furniture Builder for April Program

The April meeting will feature a guest speaker from Bellingham who is a member of Artwood. Tom Dolese is a furniture builder who shows pieces of his work in Artwood, and also participates in the annual Whatcom Artists Studio tour. Much of Tom's furniture uses strong precision mortise and tenon joints that he cuts using a horizontal boring machine. He plans to show us a little about his shop, his methods, some of his past work and will also bring a couple of pieces for us to see. Tom also teaches woodworking in his shop when he has extra time. Students can select a project they are interested in, and Tom guides them through the process. Tom's web site is: www.terrafirmadesignnw.com. Remember, the April 6th meeting will be at the Anacortes Yacht Club, not the Hillcrest Lodge.



Cecil Bradon

photo by Bonnie Yost



Jim Torrence photo by Bonnie Yost



Laura Matthews photo by Bonnie Yost



Jim Bucknell photo by Bonnie Yost



Jerry Couchman photo by Bonnie Yost



Disclaimer
I tried to get
all the pictures
of people and
boxes in, but
ran out of
room. C Drak

Minutes of the NCWA Board Meeting

March 17, 2010 The Farmhouse Restaurant

Members Present: Nancy Andersen, Gene Benson, Jerry Couchman, Phil Choquette, Charley Drake, Gary Danilson, Doug Duehning, Andy Swanson. Members not present: Jim Bucknell, Jay Geisel, Mike New, Ed Pyscher, Chuck Robertson, Jim Torrance, Nick Van, Gary Weyers.

1. Quorum confirmed and agenda approved by acclamation.
2. Treasurer Doug Duehning reported our regular checking account balance as \$4,196.00 and our savings account balance as \$986.00. As of today's board meeting we have 97 paid members.
3. Phil Choquette reported on the Wood Fest event. He has enlisted Bill Baer, Jerry Couchman and himself as judges for the event. Judging takes place around 10-12 on Sunday. Bonnie Yost solicited volunteers to man the booth. There are a few slots with only Phil and one other volunteer so she will attempt to fill those slots at the membership meeting in April. Phil reported Nick Van has ordered a plane as the Best of Show prize but this year we will not engrave anything on it until after the event if at all. Phil needs to get 3 folding tables for the event. He thinks Ed Pyscher may have those; he will contact him to find out. He has one banner and Jim Torrance has the other. Ed Pyscher will provide the NCWA flyers. Nancy and Jerry Couchman will bring chairs.
4. There was no further old business
5. The April meeting is to be held at the Anacortes Yacht Club located at 504 7th Street in Anacortes on the 2nd floor. Our speaker is Tom Dolese of Terra Firma Design. He is a furniture maker and is an artisan at the

Artwood gallery in Bellingham.

6. May's meeting is at Targo Woods in Bellingham. It was voted to have June's meeting at Steve Intveld's on Saturday June 5th at 1 PM. July is Tips & Tricks, August is the club picnic. Doug Duehning will contact Bob Doop from the Wood Turners and schedule a demonstration for one of the later fall/winter months.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Bonnie Yost



Gary Weyers

photo by Bonnie Yost



Jay Geisel

photo by Bonnie Yost

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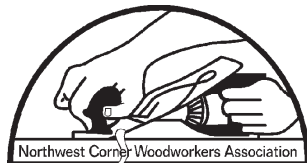
COMING EVENTS

April 3	10:00 AM	Building Drawers	Chuck Robertson
April 6	7:00 PM	Membership Meeting	Anacortes Yacht Club
April 20	5:00 PM	Box Making	Jerry Couchman
April 21	7:00 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Inn
April 24	Morning	Shop Tour	Gary Danilson
April 24	1:00 PM	Box Making	Jerry Couchman

The NCWA is open to all interested woodworkers, and was formed to promote high standards in woodworking, woodworking education and showcasing local woodworking. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Location is announced in the newsletter. Dues are \$30 per year, payable to NCWA, 150 Swinomish Dr., Laconner, WA 98257. Newsletter submissions are welcomed and are due by the 3rd Saturday of the month. Submit to NCWA Newsletter, 5955 Central Ave., Anacortes, WA 98221, or email to cndrake@wavecable.com or call 360-588-8448.

2010 Officers and Chairpersons

President:	Jim Torrance	(360) 629-6670	Education	Chuck Robertson	(360) 387-6333
Vice President	Jerry Couchman	(360) 366-5169	Librarian	Gary Danilson	(360) 424-9268
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**NCWA NEWSLETTER**

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