



NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

December 2010

Next Meeting: December 7, Hillcrest Park Lodge

6:00 PM Dinner, 7:00 PM General Meeting

1717 South 13th Street, Mount Vernon

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

I-5 exit 226 (Kincaid Street Exit). Go East up the hill. This is Broadway Street. Continue on Broadway to S 13th Street (which is about 5 to 6 blocks from the freeway). Turn right (south) onto South 13th and go about 6 blocks. The park is on the right. Turn into the park, the parking lot is in front of the lodge.

Couchman Elected to Lead NCWA Bellinger is New Vice President

Jerry Couchman will lead Northwest Corner Woodworkers in the year 2011. Voters at the November 2nd meeting accepted nominations of officers by acclamation and installed their former vice president to the top office for the coming calendar year. The voting put John Bellinger into the Vice President's seat and extended the terms of office to Doug Duehning as Treasurer and Jay Geisel as Secretary.

President Jim Torrence opened the meeting with an introduction of guests and the announcement of new members that raised our total to a new high of 113.

Our top two new officers are excellent craftsmen. Couchman, who lives in Ferndale, has distinguished himself as instructor for popular box-making classes. His professional level jewelry boxes are regularly stocked by the Wood Merchant Store in LaConner. Bellinger is remembered for his "drift" fishing boat and the Morris chair he completed last year. In October John taught a class in wood bending, a technique he learned in his chair project.

Jim Bucknell announced plans for the December meeting, the night we celebrate our donation to the Toys for Tots program. Traditionally we invite Marine Corps guests and our immediate families to a pre-meeting pizza and salad dinner at 6 p.m.; Jim will be asking for reservations via e-mail before the December meeting. Cost is \$5 per plate. Gene Benson urged members to complete their toy projects soon so they can be included in this year's Club donation.

Phil Choquette, reminded us that Art's Alive! weekend is here, and he gave instructions for the 17 exhibitors on how to set up their tables on Friday morning. Phil has manned the three-day event with



Andrew Pellar's Tool Box



volunteer greeters and a cashier. Our Librarian, Gary Danilson, has received a couple new books on woodworking and a DVD titled "Joints."

Bring and Brag. Several woodworkers displayed new projects at this meeting. Chuck Robertson showed us three boxes he created with a router. Andy Pellar's latest project is a serviceable wooden tool box. Jerry Couchman was quite satisfied with a departure from box-making when he produced his latest opus, a modern design for a black and white media or entry table. Dr. Steve Waggoner let us view a music stand built for his wife. The stand is completely adjustable.

Our program for the evening was conducted by



Chuck Robertson's Routed Bowls



Dr. Steve Waggoner's Music Stand

member George Way, a retired school teacher of 30 years. George is an accomplished woodturner who wants to help others enjoy the craft. He offered to demonstrate basic turning techniques and help us understand the lathe and turning tools. George also gave us insight into the costs of woodturning equipment and what safety equipment we need.



George with Vicmarc and Madrone Wood

George's demo included a short course in audio-visual usage when presenting woodworking techniques in a crowded room. The Club is in the process of improving its sound system and George's school experience will help us decide what type of system we will need. The visual aids George showed us include video cameras and projectors, tripod, projector stand, and lighting. The NWW woodworkers organization has been developing an effective audio-visual system for several years. A good camera system with lighting can get excellent close ups when training woodturners on the proper techniques for using the skew, for example, and other turning techniques. With a 3-camera system, including one overhead, it is easy to project on a large screen the demonstrator's movements and tool handling in real time.

--Jay Geisel, Secretary



Bowl made of Red Elm

Is Art's Alive! Dead?

Disillusioned Northwest Washington Woodturners came up empty after three days of showcasing their turnings at Art's Alive! What a turn-around for this talented group!

"A fiasco," one called it.

The lack of sales after so many good selling years at this annual event was hard to swallow. Woodturners decorated their sales room with new, all white product stands draped in black fabric to highlight their colorful wood turnings and set up two mini-lathe demonstration sites on the plaza outside their front door.



NCWA members in a similar store next door had a better time of it selling approximately \$570 in woodcraft items. But lack of support by the LaConner Chamber of Commerce left our organization to fend

for itself this year. After paying an entry fee to the Chamber for advertising and promotional costs, the Club was never mentioned in print.

So we ask: How do you remember that long weekend in LaConner? The Chamber has a different slant, of course. Ask the Executive Director of the LaConner Chamber of Commerce, Marci Plank. Her reaction was printed in the Skagit County Herald on November 14 as follows:

“WOW! What a weekend we had in LaConner for the 26th annual Art’s Alive! The number of people who ventured downtown during this three-day event was exciting to see.”

Did Marci really have her eyes on us?

What we saw at our end of the street was empty sidewalks and wide open street parking. We were definitely not in the Art’s Alive! mainstream, which was in Maple Hall on the other end of First Street. It drizzled most of the three days and shoppers were uneasy about being outside. The woodturners had set up two 8x8-foot market canopies to protect four turning lathes and the demonstrators. They failed to draw a crowd, however, and were seldom demonstrating. Late Saturday a windstorm knocked down the tents, destroying one of them. Marci pronounced Art’s Alive! 2010 a success.

Our venue was one of eight or ten single room suites in a large corner building next to the plaza and across First Street from Nasty Jack’s store. Entry was from

the plaza on the north or by a covered arcade from First Street that ran the entire length of the large building situated along the Swinomish Channel. We mounted our large banner across the front of store and set up sandwich boards on First Street to make us visible to shoppers. Still, bad weather and location conspired to keep customer visits low. Our store layout featured Nancy Anderson by the front door with a large display of her scroll work



and a scroll saw set up to demonstrate cutting of wafer thin Christmas tree ornaments and attractive wine bottle caddies. Her tabled display held more than a hundred items ready for sale. Continuing clockwise were dozens of toys on display by members making Toys for Tots donations. Here Gene Benson continued to assemble small wood



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cars and receive donations throughout the three day event. On a large counter along the back wall were individual woodworking exhibits and a grouping of Jerry Couchman's boxes for sale; in the far corner Steve Durkee was offering his colorful lazy-susan trays. Continuing along the other side wall was a grouping of lidded business card boxes made by Jim



Torrence and a display rack of eight cutting boards created by Phil Choquette.

Across the front window of the store on a wide counter sat several doll cradles offered for sale to donors to Toys for Tots. Also in the window was a gorgeous Indian head sculpture about two feet in diameter made by Alden Wendt and ready for hanging (NFS). A small tea or occasional table by Bill Rawls and a display of oven grate hooks by



Chuck Robertson completed the window displays. My steel backboard stand served to promote the sale of inexpensive wood oven grate hooks on the other side of the front door.

Grouped on the central floor area were furniture and more toys. Rawls displayed a second piece



of furniture, a slab type bench, and Ben Gaze had quilts and six pieces of pine wood quilt hanging stands and quilt work tables ready for sale. A very long, attractive cherry bench with ebony corner features and a slab bench with colorful exposed tenons was added to the grouping by Jim Hickey. His work caught the interest of the owner of the Wood Merchant store.

What did we learn? In a follow-up critique by the Board of Directors we concluded that in a tough economy shoppers were looking for bargains. Realistic pricing is critical. Wood products that had a useful purpose could be sold if the price is right. Furniture that competes in quality to that of the Wood Merchant down the street can be offered and sold by smart pricing, but you have only three days a year to do that.

--Jay

Hartville tool gift certificate

Hartville Tool gives our members a 15% discount. Did you know Hartville Tool also gives NCWA an additional 3% percent of the members' purchases? This is given in the form of a gift certificate that can be applied to the purchase of tools from Hartville Tool.

Our gift certificate for last year is \$80.87. Your Board of Directors decided to offer it to the membership in the form of a raffle. If you have the lucky ticket, you can purchase up to \$80.87 worth of stuff from Hartville Tool for free!

The tickets are \$1 each and I'll be selling them at both the December and January meetings. I shouldn't be hard to spot. I'll be the guy running around waving a roll of tickets in the air (unless, of course, I'm in the kitchen trying to steal a cookie.)

Ed Pysher

NEW CLASS ON MARQUETRY

A new class in marquetry was offered to NCWA members in November thanks to Jennifer Dolese. Jennifer is the talented wife of Tom Dolese, who recently made a presentation at one of our meetings on his woodworking experiences and furniture building techniques. Both Tom and Jennifer's work is featured in Art Wood in Bellingham. Seven members took the class and were each given the opportunity to complete one part to the class project. Jennifer showed us how to lay out, transfer designs, cut veneer using the double bevel technique, shade individual parts using hot sand and assemble the picture. It was an extremely well taught class and inspired all of us to continue learning this new phase of woodworking. The Port Townsend School of Woodworking has been trying to talk Jennifer into teaching marquetry in their school, but Jennifer is resisting claiming that she doesn't feel qualified. Her NCWA students respectfully disagree! For more information on Jennifer and Tom's work, look up their web site at terrafirmadesignnw.com.

Jerry Couchman (photos and story)



Jennifer Dolese



Jim Gleason



Art's Alive entry by Steve Durkee

NCWA Seeks New Venue

Stung by what is perceived as unfair treatment by the LaConner Chamber of Commerce, NCWA's Board of Directors are casting their eyes on other possible ways to publicly showcase the products of their members. The search for other "show and sell" opportunities actually started a couple years ago when WoodFest failed to hold its annual student competition due to some problems within the sponsoring Sedro Woolley Chamber of Commerce. Coming off a lackluster 2010 Arts Alive! unannounced and seemingly under-appreciated by LaConner's Chamber, NCWA members are feeling the chill of the homeless.

Board members met at the Farmhouse Restaurant on Route 20 near LaConner at 7 p.m., Wednesday, November 10, 2010.

One member, Jim Bucknell, has been prospecting Cascade Mall in Burlington where he had discussions with their Specialty Leasing Manager regarding a plan to promote our woodworking by demonstrating, exhibiting, and selling work to Mall visitors and customers. The Mall is receptive to having our Club set up a display and sales area at Center Court, which is the main intersection of the mall walkways, the area that most mall visitors travel through from adjacent parking. Bucknell said that they will accommodate demonstrations if we wish to do so.

Cascade Mall is offering us space for one or two days, or even longer, at an average rate of \$300 for two days. NCWA by-laws stipulate that we promote woodworking and the sales of our products within the community. The report was warmly received by the Board and President Jim Torrence named an ad hoc committee of Phil Choquette, Jim Bucknell, and Ed Pysher to review the proposal and give their recommendations to the Board by January 1, 2011, or earlier if possible.

The Board discussed the three-day Arts Alive! festival that ended November 7. Sales, like visitors, were minimal. It rained most of the time and streets were empty. All of us who participated were surprised to find easy parking close to our "store."

The shoppers appeared Saturday afternoon during a short interlude of better weather. Phil Choquette gave a thorough report to the Board concerning our displays and member participation.

"We did the best we could with what we had," he said. It was noted that 19 members displayed their work with less than half that number having something to sell.

New Business items included final plans for the December meeting. As in previous years, December's meeting is devoted to Toys for Tots, the delivery of our donations to the Marine Corps Reserve. We honor the occasion with Marine Corps guests and our spouses and families. A traditional pizza and salad dinner preceeds the program. Gene Benson and Jim Bucknell briefed the Board on the details. Laura Matthews has again volunteered to provide the salad.

Torrence announced a new discount vendor has come forward: Martin Hardware and Lumber in Everett. Many members have shopped this source in the past; we welcome their support.

Treasurer Doug Duehning reported a treasury balance of \$4,373.40 and a present roster of 113 members.

Board members present included the four Officers, Torrence, Jerry Couchman, Jay Geisel, and Duehning, and members Bucknell, Choquette, Nick Van, Chuck Robertson, Benson, Nancy Anderson, and Ed Pysher. Two guests were also present.

--Jay Geisel, Secretary



Happy Thanksgiving! Here's a project idea for you.

Charley
Drake

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COMING EVENTS

Dec. 4th	???	Shop Organization	Dave Strauss
Dec. 7th	7:00 PM	Membership Meeting	Hillcrest Park
Dec. 8th	7:00 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Inn
Dec. 11th	???	Vacuum Presses, Clamps	Bob Doop
Dec. 18th	5:45 PM	Newsletter deadline	Charley Drake

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 Torrence	(360) 629-6670	Education	Chuck Robertson	(360) 387-6333
Vice President	Jerry Couchman	(360) 366-5169	Librarian	Gary Danilson	(360) 424-9268
Secretary	Jay Geisel	(360) 466-3908	Newsletter	Charley Drake	(360) 588-8448
Treasurer	Doug Duehning	(360) 466-1281	Membership	Ed Pysher	(360) 766-0136
Board at Large	Nancy Andersen	(360) 318-1299	Shows	Phil Choquette	(360) 675-8320
Board at Large	Andy Swanson	(559) 970-9601	Toys for Tots	Gene Benson	(360) 466-3004
Programs	Jim Bucknell	(360) 766-5088	Webmeister	Mike New	(360) 707-2314
Activities	Gary Weyers	(360) 380-0888			

**NCWA NEWSLETTER**

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