

# NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

**June 2010**

**Next Meeting: Saturday July 10th**

**Steve Intveld's Mill**

**9:00 AM General Meeting**

**3024 Mt. Baker Highway**

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

**From I-5 north or south take Exit 255, WA-542/E. Sunset Drive.**

**Go East toward Mt. Baker about 7.5 miles. It's just off the Mt. Baker Highway.**

## **June Blooms Enthusiasm for Summer Woodworking**

With the rapid approach of another Summer it was obvious that woodworking would continue to be the favorite pastime for the 70 plus members who attended the June meeting in anticipation of having more time to pursue their hobby now that longer daylight hours are available. They also wanted to learn more about the woodturning craze that is sweeping the nation. Less expensive tools and the introduction of mini lathes has prompted many people to latch onto this form of woodworking and NCWA members were about to get an earful from noted local woodturner Gerrit Van Ness.



Photo from gerritvanness.com asking for their ideas on what kind of instructional programs should make up the next Fall and Winter schedules.

Chuck reported he had 35 classroom possibilities. He displayed the cabinetry produced at three of this year's classes in basic cabinet framing taught by Bill Baer, drawer construction taught by himself, and door construction taught by Jim Bucknell. The instructors and students completed the cabinet during the drawer-



Photo by Bonnie Yost

making class and it is being offered as a raffle prize to be given away during the August picnic. Tickets are being sold now at monthly meetings and sales will conclude at the picnic, which is scheduled for Saturday afternoon, August 21, at Laura and Val Matthews home in Bow.

Program Chairman Jim Bucknell announced that the July meeting would be held on a Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, at Steve Intveld's saw yard at 3024 Mount Baker Highway. Steve will give you a tour of the huge selection of hardwoods he has in storage. The meeting is planned for 9

A.M. to noon.

Our Woodworker of the Month is Nancy Andersen. A Member-at-Large on the NCWA Board, Nancy is a prolific producer of wood items that she sells personally and through dealers such as the Wood Merchant store in LaConner. Working with husband Paul, the couple started their business several years ago following a succession of DIY projects that got them interested and tooled up for more woodworking tasks. They have produced 25,000 golf club wine bottle holders while expanding their sales outlets. Nancy's newest product is a wine glass and bottle holder that she scroll saws out of exotic hardwoods. These are stack cut with twisty garlands of grape vines decorating a shaped holder that fits over the bottle top. Nancy has made more than 800 of these items, which were on display and sold at last year's Arts Alive!

Our Treasurer, Doug Duehning, reported a current balance of just over \$6,000.

John Bellinger invited the crowd to take a look at the 16-foot boat he just completed and was now sitting on its trailer in the parking lot. Great job, John!

--Jay Geisel, Secretary

## **DRUM SANDER PROBLEMS, DRUM SANDER SOLUTIONS**

Recently, I made a bench top and planned to use my drum sander to level the glued up panel. It was to be the first time I planned to sand a piece wider than the drum. Problems occurred, several wraps were ruined, choice words flew and I was out of business. Later that night, I reread the manual and did some research on the internet. I came up with a list of fixes which were: (1) Wider pieces need lighter passes. Limit height adjustment to 1/16 of a turn. (2) Take 2 passes at the same height. (3) Leave a gap of about 1/4" on the right side for the wrap to allow tightening during use. (4) Check wrap

tightness very frequently. Centrifugal force, expansion from heating and feed friction can all conspire to loosen the wrap. I must give a big shout out to Nick Van for the last hint, it made a big difference and did not appear elsewhere. The club's most valuable asset is its membership. The collective wisdom of this club is enormous and readily available.  
Andrew Pellar

## Van Ness Turns Art Forms into Messages

The work of Gerrit Van Ness provokes you into contemplation. Those unbelievable designs of social and political discourse set the artist on a course unlike that of others who turn wood destined for show in American galleries. His work is so different, and unusual, that you immediately recognize the artist. His work demands your attention and if you don't "get it" it's your loss. The artist doesn't like to explain his work.



An introduction to the joys of woodturning was the subject of our June program and we were fortunate to have a local turner, one of the very best, agree to speak to us. Dozens of woodturnings on the tables before us were all contributions from our members who also belong to the Northwest Washington Woodturners organization.

Van Ness urged us to broaden our horizons and work with turned wood. Gerrit said he enjoys plane woodworking almost as much as woodturning and suggested we enjoy both forms. He had some strong arguments,

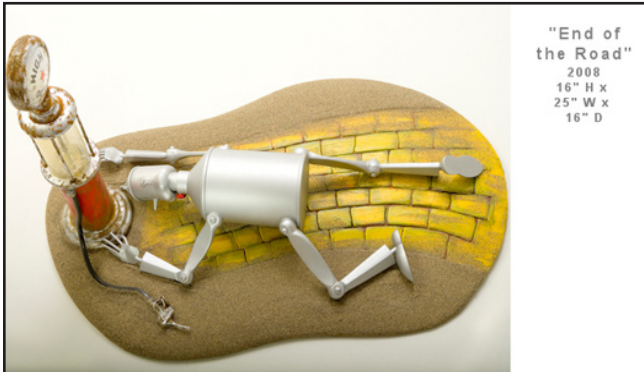


projecting dozens of slides of his work and that of other turners on our big screen. The Van Ness collection was made up mostly from his personal exhibition at the University of Idaho a few years ago.



Gerrit often provokes fun at our foibles and adds whimsical ideas to his work. Several years ago, at Arts Alive!, he playfully set a wooden overturned open paint can atop one of our member's cabinets. The bright red "paint" caused quite a sensation! His work is definitely not one-dimensional. His artistry embraces sculpture, wood carving, metalworking, woodburning and other crafts that require technical knowledge and experimentation. His huge studio and shop is a laboratory for creative exploration, and an included large work area is devoted to nine mini lathes and other turning equipment owned by NWW. This is a designated woodturning classroom for members' use while they receive instruction from Van Ness, Bob Doop, Lucinda VanValkenburg, Rick Anderson, and others who help less skilled

turners learn fundamental techniques and beyond.



The Northwest Washington Woodturners is a Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners, a national organization that holds demonstrations and teaching symposiums all over the country and publishes a quarterly journal that often features Van Ness' and others' creations in their Gallery section. The Woodturners meet at 6:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of every month at Hillcrest Park in Mount Vernon. I asked Gerrit why he turned down the NWW presidency for 2010 and he replied: "I want to continue to help less experienced turners advance and learn through the educational opportunities they have locally. I want to devote my available time to that purpose."



Van Ness has ten years of experience turning wood. He pushes his ideas to limitless boundaries and teases your powers of observation and analysis to find the meaning of each creation. The craftsmanship is phenomenal. Each piece, and some are diorama-styled that measure 12 feet in width, has the sheen and polish of a master

craftsman and marks the quality of a Van Ness creation quite unforgettable.

--Jay

## MEET THE NEW MEMBERS



Meet John Othmer. John grew up in the Spokane area and is a retired shop teacher and homebuilder. He also served in the US Army as a helicopter pilot in the First Cavalry Division in Vietnam and later as a flight instructor and Operations Officer. John's shop is a spacious "condo" at Extreme Storage in the Iron Gate district of Bellingham near Builders Alliance. In addition to building this excellent workbench with ample storage for his shop, one of John's specialties is building cedar strip canoes from scratch. Hopefully, he'll bring one of these to "bring and brag."



Meet Emily Worthey. Emily is from Olympia, and is a professional finish carpenter and blacksmith. She recently combined some beautiful live-edge Yew wood with artistic metal brackets that she fabricated for shelving in her house and is very interested in expanding her woodworking skills to furniture and design that uses both wood and metal. Her shop is fairly small right now, but hopes to share space with another artist in Bellingham soon. One of the skills she learned as a finish carpenter repairing fine furniture and cabinetry using the Mohawk wood repair system. Maybe we can talk her into demonstrating that process at one of our meetings.

### **Minutes of the NCWA Board Meeting**

June 16, 2010 The Farmhouse Restaurant

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

1. Quorum confirmed and agenda approved
2. Treasurer Doug Duehning reported our regular checking account balance as \$3,514.00 and our savings account balance as \$990.12. Our membership stands at 103.
3. The July meeting is to be held at Steve Inveldt's Saturday July 10<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to noon. The August meeting is to be a potluck held at Val and Laura Mathews on Saturday August 21<sup>st</sup>. Fest Tool is the scheduled speaker at the September meeting at the Hillcrest Lodge on our regular 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month. Nick Van to contact Seth Roland as a possible speaker for the November meeting.
4. Woodworkers of the Month for July

- were unannounced at the board meeting. Jay Geisel to decide on which members and notify by weeks end.
5. Classes have concluded for the NCWA academic year, and will resume in September. Chuck Robertson reported the results of the class topic survey. The education committee is working to secure instructors for the most desired classes. A tentative schedule to follow.
  6. It was moved and approved to create a NCWA Annual Picnic committee and assign the Vice President as committee chair. In years past Bob Doop from the Turners club has organized many of the events critical items (grill etc.) In light of Bob's recent surgery NCWA wants to provide support in this area, this year and ongoing.
  7. The LaConner Chamber of Commerce notified the Turners that our normal venue for Arts Alive would not be available in 2010. The Chamber offered the use of the Odd Fellows hall located two blocks East and one block North of last years site. Phil Choquette and Dave Blair visited this site and determined it is too small for our needs. Phil is working with members of the Turners club to research possible sites for the event. Phil will provide additional details as they emerge.
  8. It was moved and approved to schedule all board meetings for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. This will allow more time between the board meeting and the general membership meeting to communicate information to the general membership.
  9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

# WOOD YOU KNOW...

## Cec Braeden Does It Again

The July-August issue of Fine Woodworking, currently on sale at the newsstands, has honored our Cec Braeden once again. Cec's Part-time Outfeed table for the Bandsaw won him a Best Tip reward under the magazine's Methods of Work section. In addition to payment for the tip, Cec won two 12v Bosch drivers. Not a bad deal, Cecil, and they got you pictured, too, on page 14. This is his third appearance in Fine Woodworking in recent years.

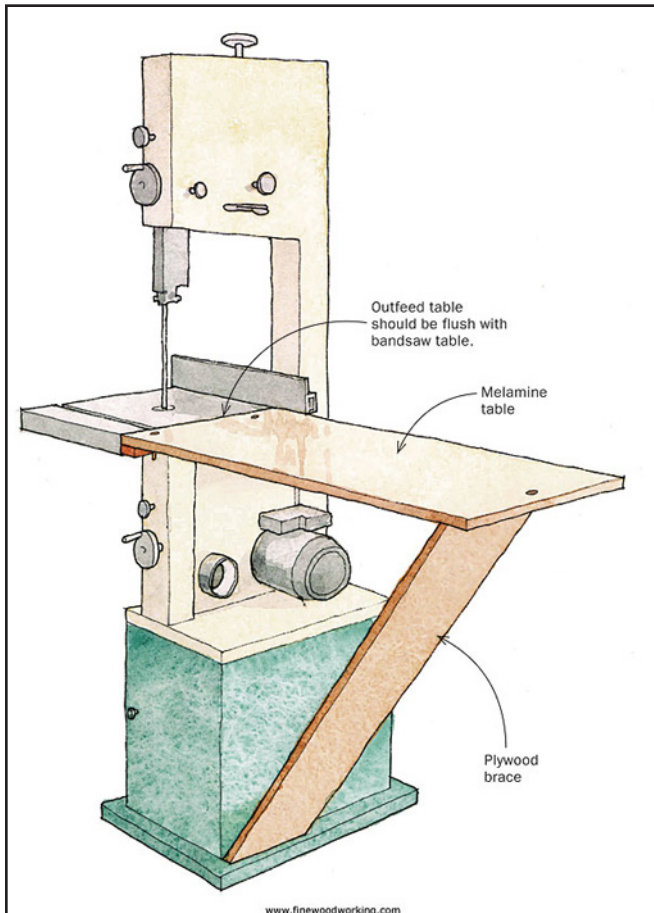


Image from Fine Woodworking

## Jury Finds for Injured Tablesaw Worker

The July-August issue of Fine Woodworking

contains a report on the closely-watched table saw injury case brought by a hardwood floor installer who was injured on the job while using a Ryobi BTS 15 bench saw. In March a jury awarded him \$1.5 million.

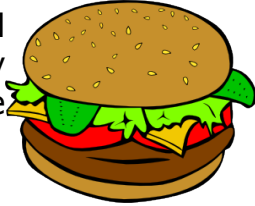
"The complaint alleged that the saw's design was inherently flawed because it didn't have flesh-sensing technology." That technology is available in the SawStop system of tablesaws. The Medford, MA worker's left hand slipped into the blade nearly removing his pinkie and severely cutting two other fingers and thumb. The operator was unfamiliar with the tool and had removed the blade guard and fence to rip oak flooring. The jury concluded that the victim was 35% responsible for his injury but awarded him \$1.5 million even though he was asking \$250,000. The magazine stated: "The verdict... has major implications for the tool industry. . ."



Photo by Bonnie Yost

## Save the Date

NCWA/Wood Turners Annual Picnic  
Saturday, August 21, 2010  
Our Hosts will be Val and  
Laura Matthews. A truly  
festive, fun filled day. Hope  
to see you there.



Thanks, Nick Van

## ROLLING WORKBENCH, SOMETIMES

I recently completed a work bench and wanted to make it moveable. My retractable wheel device uses a cam with an off center pivot point to lift the bench off the ground and on to the wheels.

Andrew Pellar



Photo by Andrew Pellar

## TAKING YOUR WORK TO NEW HEIGHTS

Most of my tools and work surfaces are at different heights. And they are mounted on mobile bases, so I can accommodate longer or wider pieces in a smaller space. The varying heights presented a problem for working with bigger and heavier work pieces. My solution was to build 2 adjustable height sawhorses to help support bigger work. Each arm adjusts independently to level with a machine. Additionally, large work can be placed to top of the feet and secured to the uprights. I've

hinged a couple of entry doors like this. I've found these to be very versatile additions to my shop.

Andrew Pellar



Photos by Andrew Pellar

## DUST COLLECTION IMPROVEMENTS

I recently upgraded the dust collection filter bag that came on my 2 stage collector with a finer version. The old bag was probably a 30 micron bag and it spewed dust. The new bag is a 1 micron bag and it collects the dust. And the cost was very reasonable. The 1 Micron, 20" diameter bag made by BIGHORN is available from Amazon for 34.98. A 14" version is also available. Another tip, I've started using heavy duty garbage bags as the lower collection receptacle. No use emptying a collection bag and spreading dust in the process. Now its just toss and replace. – Andrew Pellar



Photo by Bonnie Yost

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**COMING EVENTS**

|         |         |                     |                       |
|---------|---------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| July 10 | 9:00 AM | Membership Meeting  | Steve Intfeldt's Mill |
| July 14 | 7:00 PM | Board Meeting       | Farmhouse Inn         |
| July 17 | 9:10 PM | Newsletter Deadline | Charley Drake         |

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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](mailto:cndrake@wavecable.com) or call 360-588-8448.

**2010 Officers and Chairpersons**

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**NCWA NEWSLETTER**

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