



# NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

May, 2010

**Next Meeting: May 4th, Targo Woods**

**7:00 PM General Meeting**

**1100 "C" Street, Building "B", Bellingham**

**Take Lakeway exit, go east. Lakeway turns into Holly. Go to C street, turn left.**

**Go to W. Chestnut, turn left. At the end of W. Chestnut park.**

**Building "B" is ahead.**

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

It is April and we are gathered in a strange place like fish out of water where pennants and sailing mementos hang from the walls and ceiling. There are 70 of us talking of timbers, tools, and sawdust in a marine venue at Cap Sante in Anacortes.. Every April we are kicked out of our snug log nest in Mount Vernon while the Kiwanis Club takes over Hillcrest to furnish the public with salmon dinners during Tulip Festival time. It was nice to be invited to the Anacortes Yacht Club and we thank the sailors for their generous hospitality.

President Jim Torrence welcomed several guests and congratulated new members before the business meeting got underway. Announcements concerned the staffing and judging for WoodFest at Sedro Woolley High School on Saturday and Sunday, April 10 and 11. Phil Choquette, chairman of this activity, said that we would again present a quality hand plane to the winner of the People's Choice voting. Members were urged to take part in this event and to exhibit their own wood projects on the two large tables assigned to the Club. Chairman Gene Benson

said that there would be a large display of our Toys for Tots at WoodFest.

Education Chairman Chuck Robertson reminded us that the current program of woodworking classes was nearing its end and that only a few Saturday workshops remained. The final class is scheduled for May 8. Bob Doop will demonstrate woodturning and discuss turning basics.

## Jerry Couchman's box making class



Photo by Jerry Anderson

## Chuck Robertson's drawer making class



Photo by Jerry Anderson

The Spring bus trip to Seattle for resource shopping at several woodworking stores was discussed also. I gave members a brief rundown of the upcoming visit planned for a Saturday in late May. [See tour announcement in this issue.] Sign up sheets will be routed at the next meeting.

Ken LaMarche and Nick Van, our Woodworkers of the Month, described their early attempts at woodcraft and how they continued a lifetime of interest in making furniture.

**Ken**

**Nick**



Photo by Bonnie Yost

Bring and Brag. A couple members gave us a peek at their pet projects. Steve Waggoner, a recent member, likes to fabricate his own tools and had two of them to show: one was a small hammer, ideal for miniature work or setting a plane blade, while the second tool was the always useful spokeshave. Jerry Anderson must have a little kid's wonder still in him. He took great delight in constructing a 1950's tractor-trailer combo that was accurate down to the last detail.



Photo by Bonnie Yost



Photo by Bonnie Yost

Our speaker of the evening, Tom Dole, is a self-taught craftsman who has gained fame and clients in this area for his artistic designs and quality workmanship in making fine furniture pieces, principally wooden chairs. After several years spent building homes and cabins in the northwest, Dole insisted that he be allowed to furnish their interiors with his own designs. He was so successful that he built a shop and brought in a partner and some promising woodworkers in a

## WoodFest 2010 Is Down-sized

It was if a magician had swiped his wand over WoodFest 2010 and shrunk the event to half-size.

We were all disappointed in the public's indifference to the reincarnation of this once historic festival at the Sedro Woolley High School. Where the school's gym floor once filled to the max with vendors and student exhibits there was mostly empty space. A handful of sellers today and one in the parking lot was all that came to the hall. Student projects were half the number of previous years and the large furniture items were missing. Two high schools, Sedro and Stanwood were the only contenders for prizes offered by Sedro Woolley merchants. Our friends, the Woodturners' organization, decided against offering their turnings for sale this year. Where there were once large crowds attendance fell dramatically.

### The Judging Team



Photo by Bonnie Yost

Much of the blame for this year's poor school showing was the result of a new school practice that cut the woodworking shop class hours in half, thus students had fewer hours to complete bigger projects. Many of the student offerings were routed signs, trays, bowls, and other small items.

However, quality of work was there and



Photo by Bonnie Yost

cooperative furniture venture. His beautiful chairs inspired many of the students he trained. Tom lived and worked several years in Alaska and Yellowstone National Park. About 10 years ago he settled down in Bellingham where he has prospered. as an artist and woodworker. Cole put on quite a nifty slideshow of his earlier life and scenic surroundings, and the ideas that helped him carve an interesting career. Several pieces of his work were displayed at the meeting. All were excellently finished.

--Jay Geisel, Secretary



Photo by Bonnie Yost



## Kent Kitchen



Photo by Bonnie Yost

NCWA's judging team had no difficulty in finding prize winners; they accordingly picked a Sedro Woolley student, a Junior, as recipient for our quality wood plane award. They also selected a Stanwood student as a top winner. Phil Choquette made the award presentations on Sunday afternoon.

--Jay

### Minutes of the NCWA Board Meeting

April 21, 2010 The Farmhouse Restaurant

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

1. Quorum confirmed and agenda approved by acclamation.

2. Treasurer Doug Duehning reported our regular checking account balance as \$3,882.00 and our savings account balance as \$986.00. As of today's board meeting we have 102 paid members. Expenses for the month included our annual website fee and the Wood Fest award.

3. A review of this year's Wood Fest event concluded that while the event was less attended than in years past, NCWA would reserve our support for next year's event. There were 29 student entries, 21 from Sedro Woolley High and 8 from Stanwood High. 16 vendors (including NCWA and Toys 4 Tots) had booths at the event. There were considerably fewer student entries and vendor displays this year. Various changes to the school shop programs have resulted in lower student enrollment in the classes and less time per class. The cancellation of last year's event and various other competing events contributed to the decline in vendor participation. On a positive note, Gene Benson distributed over 100 toy cars from the T4T booth; and both booths attracted the public's attention and interest. We had one young woman join NCWA on the spot! Many thanks to our volunteers for manning the booth and showing off their wares at the event.

4. Jay Geisel presented his completed NCWA awards committee prospectus. The prospectus suggested three awards, the Master Craftsman Award, the Spirit Award, and the Outgoing President Recognition Award. It was voted to approve the Outgoing President Recognition Award. It was voted to postpone the vote to approve the Spirit Award until further definition is provided as to the nature of the award and the criteria used to bestow it. The intent of the award is to recognize individual members who provide outstanding contributions based on the purposes for which NCWA exists as outlined in our by-laws. Jay will provide a

more detailed Spirit Award plan at the next board meeting. It was voted NOT to include a Master Craftsman Award in our awards program.

5. The May meeting is to be held at Targo Hardwoods located at 1100 "C" Street, Building "B" in Bellingham. Woodworkers of the month in May are Jim Gleason and John Bellinger.

Photo by Bonnie Yost



**John Bellinger with his chair helping to represent NCWA at Wood-Fest**

6. Doug to contact Bob Doop to see if the wood turners can demonstrate at the June meeting. Jim Bucknell to contact Steve Inveldt for a club meeting Saturday July 10th, August is the club picnic. September will host Festool.

7. Jay Geisel continues his efforts to organize a vendor tour in May. Bus stops include Rockler, Hardwick's, CrossCut Hardwoods, and the Northwest Fine Woodworking artists' cooperative. Jay has secured various discounts and raffle prizes for the trip. He will have a firm date and a suggested fee with a sign-up sheet at the meeting in May. The plan is to charter a bus for the all-day event.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Bonnie Yost

### **NCWA Seattle Resources Bus Trip Set for May 22<sup>nd</sup>**

A fun-filled, one-day trip to Seattle's woodworking suppliers is planned for members and guests on Saturday, May 22. Take our chartered bus and leave those driving worries behind! Seats will be offered for sale at the May meeting when you can claim your place for the best possible price.

The eight-hour tour begins in Mount Vernon where we board at 8 a.m. on the SW corner of Lowe's parking lot, two blocks west of I-5. The itinerary includes four shopping stops and a lunch break. Each stop will be approximately 30 to 45 minutes. Lunch time will be 11 a.m. to noon at the Hurricane restaurant shortly after departing Hardwicke & Sons.

The complete schedule is to visit Rockler's store on Stone Way first, followed by Hardwicke's on Roosevelt Way NE, lunch at the Hurricane, then travel to CrossCut Hardwoods on First Avenue S, and finally to the Woodcraft Store on Corson Avenue. From there we head north to Mount Vernon, arriving before 5 p.m.

Fares will be determined by how many sign up Tuesday night. You will be asked to

make a commitment to cover the lowest fare possible. High fuel costs have driven charter prices to a new high and we estimate a fare of \$25, depending on ridership. Comfort and good companionship still make this a good buy! Anyone signing up late will be charged an extra \$5.

--Jay Geisel, Tours Chairman

## Spring Workshop Tour Four Shop Owners Display Commonality and Diversity

**Gene Benson, Cec Braeden, Jay Geisel, and Ken LaMarche** opened their doors to NCWA members who came a 'callin' in the first Shop Tour of the year on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. It was a fun day for some 30 members and a couple guests who got more than they bargained for when Cec furnished a fine lunch for his noon visitors

**Another surprise was John Black's beautiful work of art**, a full size roadster made of wood. The auto appeared on the LaMarche driveway to the delight of everyone amid a lot of oohing and aahing. The auto was beautifully rendered in wood and finished with a perky yellow paint job. Much of the work that amazed members was John's intricate detailing that had to be seen to appreciate awesome craftsmanship. So many of you missed this chance at the big outdoor Bring and Brag that we are hoping to bring it back again at the August picnic. What's almost unbelievable is that John built his automobile in only four months!



Shop tour photos by Gary Danilson

**Crowds began to inspect the shops at nine o'clock** and by noon they were showing up at Cec's shop, near Anacortes, the final one on the Tour. The other three shops on the Tour are in Shelter Bay Community in LaConner. Benson's and Braeden's shops were planned from the git-go before their homes were constructed and this gave them opportunities for great layouts in unconfined spaces. They both used walls and dedicated rooms off the main shop floor. Benson built a finishing room, lumber storage area, and a complete wood drying center while Braeden silenced his air compressor and dust control equipment in a separate room and added a restroom, wood storage area, and a spacious office to his home's lower level. Both could be prize-winning layouts. Each has been equipped with excellent machine choices, built-in cabinets, and woodworking fixtures as well as state-of-the-art dust control.



**It was a pleasure to see the projects these two members exhibited.** Gene has been a prolific furniture producer but now finds his work with Toys for Tots overwhelming. His shop is devoted to cranking out doll cradles and other toy items. He invites other members to join him in his shop where they find this type of charitable enterprise both fun and inspiring. Cec had several examples of his work displayed as well, the notable plywood work bench, one of his beautiful rocking chairs, a line up of attractive boxes, and tools, jigs and fixtures that have helped him with these projects.



Cec pointed out some of the features that continue to give him satisfaction in a shop of his own design.



**Ken LaMarche's daylight basement shop is not large**, but a 200 square foot area can do big jobs if it is properly organized. Ken's tablesaw occupies center stage and all his power machines are against the walls, on wheels, and ready to be rolled forward when needed. The walls are covered with tool boards and at one end of the shop Ken has located his wood lathe and the gouges and pertinent tooling that goes with it hangs on another dedicated tool board. Of considerable interest to the visitors is Ken's 18-inch sander made from a kit he purchased on one of our



Club trips to Canada .The motor-driven cylinder is wrapped with a sandpaper strip and the work piece is passed over the spinning cylinder. It's an easy way to sand the face of a board. The commercial version of this sander is called a

“Sand Flea” and sells for almost \$500. Ken has built several furniture pieces in his shop that have found a place in his home including porch chairs, a large, nicely appointed computer desk, cabinets, and a double-folding-top coffee table. Ken had installed an airline to his shop that runs from a compressor in his garage. When John Black was

ready to drive his wooden auto back home he discovered he had a flat tire. No problem: Ken and his airline were ready.

**My shop building** was attached to the rear of my double garage almost three years ago. Living on a hill, considerable excavation was required. The result is an L-shaped, two part shop connected by double doors. The new part is well lit and has a wood floor softened by rubber mats. I have found my working place ideal. The floor layout puts all my saws, except the band saw, milling machines, router table, air compressor, dust control system, and sanding center together in the garage where the heavy dust is created. Band saw, scroll saw, two wood lathes, drill press, and two work benches are in the newer area which is a much cleaner environment.

**I become interested recently in learning to sculpt and carve** and had set up a Tilt-top carver's bench and Grip-all Jaws holding system, both products invented by fellow member RP Myers.

I wanted to have my shop visitors try a couple of Proxxon carving tools and create some interest in wood sculpting. My shop visitors found other excitement in the beautiful three-legged stool created by members as a gift to me several years ago. The stool legs and circular rung are a lamination of a couple dozen different hardwood species and all the members' names are engraved on the underside of the circular, spalted maple seat. It is a true group effort that brings me pleasure every time I use it.



**Give credit to Gary Danilson and John Berringer** for putting together another fun-filled and interesting program. I'm sure we all enjoyed seeing the workplaces of our NCWA friends and maybe learning some new woodworking tricks.  
--Jay

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**COMING EVENTS**

May 4	7:00 PM	Membership Meeting	Targo Woods, Bellingham
May 8	9:00 AM	Wood Turning	Bayview (Bob Doop)
May 19	7:00 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Inn
May 22	10:00 AM	Finishing I	Camano Island (Phil Choquette)
May 22	Sunset	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.

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