

NCWA Basic, Stripped Down No Frills

Newsletter for June, 2011

**Next Meeting: June 7th at NorthStar Woodworks
7:00 PM, General Membership Meeting
6186 Portal Way, Ferndale, WA**

I-5 exit 263 just past the Nooksack River bridge. Turn right on Portal Way, drive .5 miles and look for a large blue building on the right set back from the road. There is no sign announcing that this is NorthStar Woodworks. We plan to have one of our **woodworking show** sandwich boards set up at the driveway on Portal Way. Entrance is on the left side of the building through one of their custom doors.

JUNE MEETING

Our June meeting will be held at NorthStar Woodworks, Incorporated, a custom door manufacturer located in Ferndale. NorthStar is owned and operated by two former members of NCWA, Frank Chambers and Mike Anderson. Frank and Mike started their business in 1979 as a small custom furniture shop that occasionally made entry doors. When the demand for custom doors outpaced furniture, they began specializing in crafting fine wood doors. They have operated in their current state-of-the-art facility since 2001 producing quality doors for homes and businesses using mortise and tenon joinery and high quality veneer over engineered solid core fir, a technique that provides stability and long life, while helping preserve and manage our forests.

NorthStar's web site is <http://northstarww.com/about.html>

Local Designer Makes His Mark with Fluid Lines and Curves

Greg Klassen is a young star on the furniture design and building scene. He has, in a few short years, managed to be noticed in this country for the fluid lines and curves incorporated in his designs. He has been in the business since 2004 when he finished up his formal two-year training at the College of the Redwoods in California.



Greg Klassen

So, What's Up With the Newsletter?

Thanks for asking. My Mac computer, which I just put \$200.00 into for repair has decided not to work. At least significant parts of it won't work. To make a long, boring story much shorter I'll cut to the chase. A new computer is in the near future for the Drake family. I'll be lucky to get this edition out at all. Next month should be better.

Since then, Klassen has been busy in his local northwest Washington studio designing and building furniture “drawn from organic forms like tree branches, four-legged animals and waves.” These forms have won him several furniture competitions throughout the US, and his work can be found in numerous galleries on the West Coast.



He presented us with an inspiring collection of designs via a slide portfolio and demonstrated his craftsmanship with several pieces of his work. Chairs, a bench, and an unusual box were presented for our inspection. He states that his work is defined by its “inviting quality



and fluid curves.” As evidence, his Mendo Bench was defined by oceanic wave movement. The bench seat has no flat surface; it was coopered and then planed with two special curved-bottom planes he made for the task. His elegant box was made from thin tiles of end grain wood on all surfaces.



Klassen described how his interest in woodworking grew from hobby to passion. His ideas start with sketches that eventually become workable designs. At times he builds scale models, a mock-up of a large bed, for example. His photographic portfolio shows a vast variety of furniture that includes beds, doors, cabinets, mirrors and bookcases, credenza, a secretary, lidded trunk, floor lamp, and other pieces. Some of these, he admitted, were “design as you go,” and often the fine details, like using ebony bow ties, are worked out as he proceeds.

--Jay Geisel

Basic Woodworking Classes to Begin

Meeting at the Hillcrest Park Lodge in Mount Vernon on May 3rd, NCWA members were introduced to a new series of educational classes for beginning woodworkers. "Introduction to Woodworking," an offshoot of the Club's popular educational program will begin soon, according to Educational Chairman Gerald Anderson who presented an outline and sign-up handouts to the assembly. Several member-instructors have been preparing for this introductory course after it was determined that much of the Club's recent growth has come from hobbyists new to woodworking. Interested students should contact Anderson.



Vice President John Bellinger welcomed new members and three guests. Committee reports followed with announcements and comments from Jim Bucknell regarding the forthcoming Cascade Mall exhibit that



Jim Bucknell

will feature member projects on the June 15th and 16th weekend, a Treasurer's report of \$4,500, and an announcement from Gene Benson that Skagit County is doing well in contributing wooden toys to the American Toys for Tots program and encouraged us to "make 2011 a good year."



Gary Danilson

Librarian Gary Danilson displayed several new books and videos that are recent additions to the Club Library. As the Library has grown many older volumes have lost their appeal and Danilson will be discarding those that have little or no circulation to members without charge. He also announced that the next Shop Tours event has been planned for early October in Bellingham.



Bill Baer

Bring 'n Brag. Bill Baer has constructed a fine rounded top wood trunk lined with cedar and featuring great-looking hardware. He displayed his new creation at the meeting and announced that it would be raffled off



during our Cascade Mall exhibit. Many thanks, Bill! Other items included a group of small wood vehicles crafted from 2x4 straight-grained pine (sorry, didn't catch the name of the craftsman) and wooden masks carved by David Helm.

--Secretary Jay Geisel

MEET THE NEW MEMBER

Greg Klassen was our guest speaker in May. Greg is from Dinuba, California just Southeast of Fresno, but now lives in Lynden. Greg's interest in woodworking started while he was taking a break from college and was working at Lynden Door. His interest in the craft eventually led him to the College of the Redwoods and the Capellagarden School of Craft and Design in Sweden. He has a well equipped shop behind the house he and his family live in, but wishes he had more room for wood storage (don't we all!) But he makes very good use of the space he has and keeps his shop well organized and clean. Sounds like a good candidate for a future shop tour. Greg designs and builds beautiful furniture on commission.



Greg Klassen

Jerry Couchman

Board Approves Cascade Mall Exhibit Plan

With June 17th and 18th near at hand, NCWA's Board of Directors made final preparations for our Club's first woodworking exhibit at a community retail store environment. The Mount Vernon mall will host our display of members' projects, demonstrations of woodworking techniques, and a public introduction to how a local organization of hobbyists and professionals find enjoyment working together.

Jim Bucknell and crew laid out their plans before the Board Tuesday evening, May 11th, at the Farmhouse Restaurant on Route 20 near Mount Vernon. With nearly a full complement of members in attendance, President Jerry Couchman asked Board members for their support in setting up the exhibits and welcoming visitors throughout the two-day event.

Bucknell distributed a floor plan layout of the 35 by 35-foot display area in the Mall's Center Court area just inside the main entrance. The layout includes 17 tables for greeting, display, and demonstrations set in a quadrangle shape that allows visitors to freely roam the area. Scroll saw demos are planned for both days and shift volunteers will wear special aprons with our logos attached, courtesy of Jim Torrence. Jim plans to use backboard panels with color photos and large type to promote interest in the organization Our newly revised brochure and Membership Application will be ready to hand out to new member prospects. The plan was approved by the Board.



Gerald Anderson, John Bellinger
Our hard-working Education Director, Gerald Anderson, reported that new woodworking courses are being considered for the Fall and suggestions from members for new class topics were presented. He also announced the postponement of R. P. Myers' Carving

and Sculpturing class until the Fall session because of Myers' medical condition. Anderson also announced that Dale Ragan, owner of Karl's Paints, will teach a Spray Finishing Techniques class on Saturday, June 25th. Regarding the Fall session, he said that instructors and assistant instructors are needed for all classes.

We have received our order of three dozen slim design insulated coffee cups and the question was raised if we could sell them to members. The Board voted to make the cups available at cost, \$14. Our June meeting at Northstar Door in Ferndale was confirmed, but a change for the July meeting location and program has been made. Bucknell has set up a meeting at member Jim Hume's shop in Sedro Woolley. Jim, a multi-disciplined artisan, is one of the partners engaged in building a racer to challenge the land speed record on Utah's salt flats. The racer, in near complete condition, sits in Hume's very large workshop. We will get a good look at it at the July meeting.

Andrew Pellar continues his search for insurance waivers that would improve the injury coverage of our present policy. He reported to the Board that his investigation has widened.

In New Business, Jim Torrence has volunteered to assist Venues Chairman, Phil Choquette, with our WoodFest participation next year. Our annual picnic has been set the third Saturday in August, the 20th. There will not be a general membership meeting that month.. A suggestion for September's meeting received an answer: Jig Night.

A proposal to change our By-laws was made by President Couchman. The proposal would add the immediate past president to the Board of Directors under Section VI – Board of Directors.. The motion passed.

Gerald Anderson asked the Board if a day-long woodworking class given by a well-known instructor might be a feasible event to host. Couchman Anderson, Mike Titus, and Torrence are an ad hoc committee that will explore the idea and report back to the Board..

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Board members in attendance: Anderson, John Bellinger, Gene Benson, Bucknell, Couchman, Gary Danilson, Charley Drake, Jay Geisel, Pellar, Ed Pysher,

and Titus.

Submitted by Jay Geisel, Secretary

Tree ID is a Snap

Leafsnap is the first in a series of electronic field guides being developed by researchers from Columbia University, the University of Maryland, and the Smithsonian Institution. This FREE mobile app uses visual recognition software to help identify tree species from photographs of their leaves.

Leafsnap is currently available for the iPhone, and versions for the iPad and Android phones will be released later this year. Just snap a photo of a leaf using your mobile phone and Leafsnap will identify the tree species (if the leaf is in its database).

Leafsnap also contains high-resolution images of leaves, flowers, fruit, petiole, seeds, and bark. Leafsnap currently includes the trees of New York City and

Washington, D.C., and will soon grow to include the trees of the entire continental United States.

Here is a link to a video showing Leafsnap in action:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k02C7p7mQ_c

Michael Titus

Stuff Going On in June

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| Membership Meeting | June 7th |
| Board Meeting | June 8th |
| NCWA at the Mall | June 17th & 18th |
| Finishing with Phil | June 6th & 13th |
| Spray Finishing | June 25th |

**Northwest Corner Woodworkers Assn.
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