



NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

November 2010

Next Meeting: November 2, Hillcrest Park Lodge

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.

November Program Turning



The November meeting will feature Northwest Washington Wood Turners president George Way. George will set up and use video recording and projection technology plus audio amplification so we can all see what he is doing when he presents information on turning. George will cover a broad overview of turning, from chainsaw to finished goblet. He will demonstrate tools needed for someone new to turning as well as new “toys” that should be of interest to experienced turners. George will turn a goblet, which incorporates techniques for bowl

and spindle turning. To see examples of finished work and learn more about the turner group, check out their web site at www.northwestwashington-woodturners.org

Charley Drake

Wood Bending

On Saturday, October 16, several of us attended the wood bending class at John Bellinger's shop in Burlington. John was assisted in the class by Jim Gleeson and, indirectly, by Bob Doop (more about that later). The class focused on several ways to bend wood including boiling, steaming, laminating, and vacuum pressing. A common feature of each is that you need a form to which you bend the wood so it will retain the desired shape until it cools and regains its rigidity.

Jim Gleeson began with a demonstration of boiling thin strips of oak and bending them around a form he uses to make Shaker Boxes which feature sides cut into “fingers” and fastened with small copper nails to anchor the overlapping edges and small wooden pegs (made from toothpicks) that anchor the bottom and top to the sides. No glue is needed! Jim brought

nie Yost



two portable electric burners and a metal tray that was about 2 feet long and about 4 inches wide and 6 inches deep. He heated the water to boiling and immersed the oak strips (about 4" X 24" X 1/8") in the water. After boiling for about 20 minutes, we donned gloves and took turns bending the strips around an oval-shaped mold he provided. These "loops" of oak were clamped until they cooled. He recommended leaving them clamped at least overnight.



leading to a piece of 4" black PVC pipe with drain holes and loose fittings so as not to create pressure and a potential steam explosion. Once the steam was flowing, John put a 3/4" X 4" X 36" piece of red oak in the steamer for 45 minutes. The formula is 1 hour for every inch of thickness. While we were waiting for the oak to steam, John also brought out a piece of 3/4" x 4" oak that he had resawn into two pieces approximately 5/16" thick. John had the mold he used to make the curved arms for his craftsman-style arm chair and he used it to show how easy it is to clamp the resawn pieces together and form them to fit the mold. We didn't glue them so we were able to remove them and get ready for the steamed oak. After the 45 minutes had elapsed, he brought the wood into the shop and we clamped it onto the same mold. The 3/4" oak was easy to pull against the mold with the use of a number of clamps.



Next we moved to the steaming method. John fired up his propane powered steamer which consists of a propane burner, water in an old metal kerosene can, and a piece of radiator hose,



Finally, Bob Doop had told Jim and John that they HAD to talk about vacuum pressing which neither of them have ever done. However, Bob gave them the quick lesson and sent them home with a mold for a curved door, his vacuum bag, and a mockup of materials to demonstrate how you lay up the various layers using bending plywood and inexpensive veneers to create a panel that is faced with your finish material and is strong and stable.



Finally, we looked at John's beautiful chair and his drift boat which featured some bent wood and is really gorgeous and we THINK it will float but can't be sure because it has never been in the water!

The class was a lot of fun and several of us left inspired to bend some wood. Now the only question is deciding what to make.

Jim Bucknell (article and photos)

Veneering Class



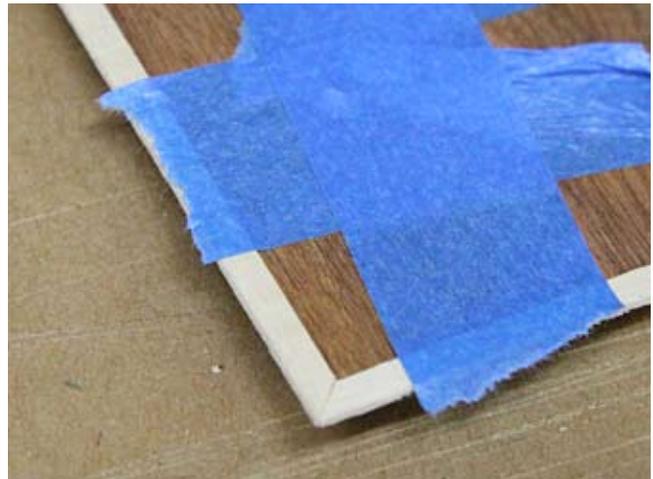
On October 9th Bob Doop hosted and taught a class on veneering at his shop in Anacortes. The class got off to a great start when Bob's wife brought us

home made cookies still warm from the oven. The class was really good. The cookies were excellent!

We learned about different types of veneer, how the wood is cut, and how with careful selection to create mirror image bookmatched panels. Bob gave us some insight into the many ways veneering is done, then showed us the method he has settled on after 35+ years of experience.



We learned to sharpen and use veneer saws, to bookmatch veneer with no gaps, and how to make borders or frames with veneer that is 1/8" to 1/4" wide. Miters in wood that narrow are a real challenge!



When we had the fitting and taping process done we learned how to clamp the veneer tightly and evenly with a vacuum press. It's a very impressive tool. Thanks to Bob, his wife and Jim Gleason, who made the straight edge/miter jigs we used and took home with us.

Charley Drake (article and photos)

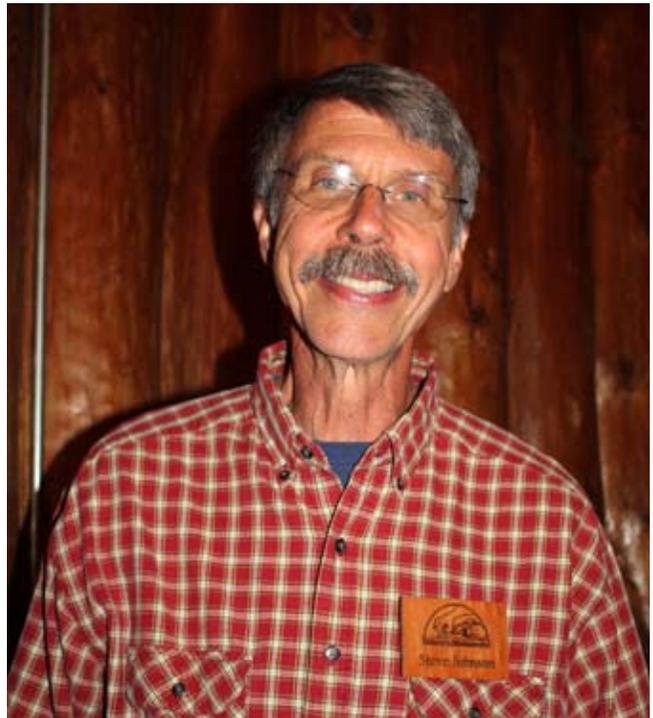
October Meeting Fires Up Enthusiasm for Arts Alive!

The October meeting got off to a fine start as a gratifying number of woodworkers came to Hillcrest Park Lodge to hear good news: NCWA would again be a player in the Arts Alive! pre-Christmas festival in LaConner. President Jim Torrence told members: "We are back!" He cited the front row position the Club will have on First Street in the downtown area. This is a first for us after a decade on the hill, well off the beaten path.

Torrence and Venues Chairman Phil Choquette implored members to get their furniture pieces and other projects into our rented store at 1006 E. First Street on Friday, November 5, so that we can enjoy a three-day weekend of exhibition and selling. Set-up time starts at 9 a.m. Friday; we expect to open our doors to the public at noon. As in the past, our volunteer members will greet the public and answer questions on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Phil will be polling members to get maximum woodcraft representation again this year. Our sidekicks, the woodturning club, will have a store adjacent to ours.

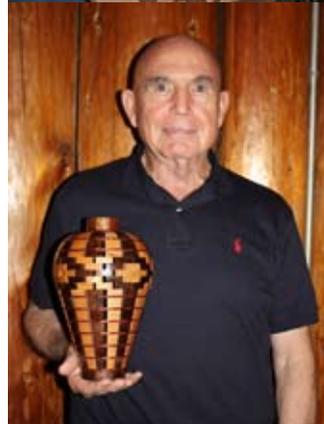
Preident Torrence opened the meeting with an introduction of several guests, all potential members. Treasurer Doug Duehning gave us reassurance when he announced a Club treasury balance of \$4,514.36, which is good news for so late in the year. He will start collecting 2011 dues at the December dinner meeting. Meanwhile, several members caught without their nametags shelled out one-dollar bills.

Education classes are popular this fall and Chairman Chuck Robertson had a table full of sign-up sheets for the full season of 27 one-day woodworking instructional shop sessions projected over the next seven months. Most classes are filling up in a hurry, including October's Wood Bending and Veneering classes. The Wood Movement class has been scrubbed.



Steve Johnson

Woodworker of the Month was Steve Johnson who gave a ten-minute, entertaining description of himself as a humble woodworker trying to make his way in a world of more talented craftsmen.



Bring and Brag. It was one of those rare moments when a guest out-performs the rest of us. It was Jig Night and the presentations were over. But standing on one of the jig tables up front was an object unclaimed and unaccounted for.

Someone questioned—aloud--its ancestry and up popped our guest who held up the deeply hollowed turned vase and gave us a lengthy instructional on how he did it. Very nice, indeed, but, alas, I did not get his name.

Vice President Jerry Couchman exhibited an unusual box design, one that he developed while attending the woodworking school in Port Townsend. The rather large rectangular box had clean lines and was notable for joinery that featured proud tenons. Jerry said he was very impressed with the level of instruction at the school and was looking forward to enrolling in other classes.



Your scribe has taken a belated interest in wood sculpting and carving. My first exposure was stylized wading birds which has occupied my attention for the past several weeks. I have completed several similar forms in both hardwood and basswood. The latter are painted by my wife. On this night I showed a group of three.

--Jay Geisel, Secretary

Board Meeting of October 6, 2010

The NCWA Board of Directors met in session Wednesday evening to put final plans in order for Arts Alive! Our Club will be conducting business as usual even though we lost our usual place at the LaConner Civic Garden Club. President Jim Torrence has found a replacement show place for our woodworking exhibition at the corner of Morris and First Streets in the Seaport Landing Building on the South side of Gilkey Square in LaConner. We rented a vacant store on the Channel side of the main drag for all three days of the Arts Alive! festival on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, October 5 through 7.

Old Business. Phil Choquette, Venues Chairman, described the property and the plan for setting up exhibition tables, cashier stand, and the use of volunteer “floorwalkers,” or guides, to help welcome visitors and provide information about the organization, its purpose and function. Board members decided to open the gallery to the public on Friday afternoon. That will give members three hours in the morning to set up tables for display of their woodworking projects and items for sale. Setup time starts at 9 A.M. The Woodturners will be in a similar vacant store adjacent to ours and will be open on Friday also. Phil made it clear that there will be no kitchen, or food service available inside the stores. The Club will display its large banner and sidewalk signs to show our presence on First Street. Phil reported that he has assurances that 17 members will exhibit this year and space will be provided again for a significant display of our donations to Toys for Tots. Torrence stated that the rent agreement is \$250 for the three-day rental. Insurance coverage was accomplished.

New Business. The Board discussed several upcoming events that will round out the year. A slate of officers for 2011 will be presented at the November meeting with elections to follow in December. Also, the end-of-year December meeting will be the big “Hurrah” for the tireless builders of Toys for Tots. We celebrate with a pizza and salad dinner for members and their guests and the local representatives of the Marine Corps Reserve. The Corp’s big truck will be parked nearby to take our toys to their local distributing center and, eventually, put them in the hands of needy children in our district.

Toys Chairman Eugene Benson and Ed Pysher have come up with a pilot program for next year that would serve the dual purpose of member woodworking training and toy production. A series of shop meetings during the year would be held to train volunteer woodworkers in the various tools and techniques needed to build a variety of toys, including our popular doll cradles, in a hands-on, step-by-step process that ensures learning as well as Toys for Tots production. Ed and Gene didn’t need

formal approval by Board members but did get a cordial thumbs-up.

The Club's sound system, or lack thereof, came up for critical discussion. It seems everyone likes to mumble when they talk and even their colleagues nearby aren't getting the message. Programs Chairman Jim Bucknell has tried to hang a mike on people who have something to say but the idea isn't working. Charley Drake, who teaches at Burlington-Edison High School uses a sound system in class and has volunteered to work with Jim designing a more effective system for the Club. The Board will listen to their recommendations, make a decision, and then set protocol for Club members.

Ed Pysher, Membership Chairman, reported that Hartville Tool, our catalog discount vendor, has sent a check for \$80 to the Club as a percentage payment of what our members spent on Hartville items for the year. The gift is in lieu of a discounting schedule given members during the past three years and is in accordance with our original agreement. The Board decided to offer the money as a raffle prize. Tickets will be sold over a two-month period starting November. The drawing will take place at the January meeting.

Board Members Present: Nancy Andersen, Gene Benson, Jim Bucknell, Phil Choquette, Gary Danilson, Charley Drake, Doug Duehning, Jay Geisel, Ed Pysher, and Jim Torrence.

Jay Geisel

14" Band Saw - Model 14 Rockwell - \$250
Heavy saw with 14" x 14" adjustable cast iron table. Upper & lower blade bearings. 1 HP motor. Able to cut up to 6" depth. Includes 3/4" blade. Has fence, but fence is missing a couple parts. This saw was purchased new in 1982, but has been in storage with almost no use in last 20 years. Other than fence, the saw is in excellent condition.

Gordon Nast
360-756-5862

Jay Smith's Time Machine

On October 9th 15 or so NCWA members met in the shop of Jay Smith's on Fidalgo Island. I have never seen so many hand tools, of all kinds anywhere else. Tools line the walls, sit in containers



on the floor, under the benches and on the benches. There are five or six benches, the oldest from about 1850. There are power tools too, rugged beasts that



OSHA would not approve of, designed to shape big wood in a hurry. The shop is a simple structure, with a wood stove to take care of shavings and scraps, big enough to fight the drafts.





Jay Smith explaining how a person goes about building a project of this scale while we try to keep up.



Step outside and the first thing to catch your eye is the 56' Viking longboat. Very traditional, very big. As you move around the yard the next thing you notice is the wood. Lots of wood, huge, formed by nature and Jay to fit the odd shapes that make a boat. I think the photos will tell the rest of the story.



The planer to the left is not surprised. It chews up big wood in no time and asks for more. The jointer above is a good match for the planer. There is a crowned pulley on the left of the planer. It could be powered by a jack shaft running through a shop, or by a PTO on a tractor. Too bad the planer can't talk. I'd like to hear the stories.



Big Timbers, Big Bandsaws



Steamer



Firewood or Boatwood?



Alaska Yellow Cedar, Fir



A similar boat to this one was built by Jay's students over a weeks time at the Center for Wooden Boats in Seattle. The same techniques were used for this as for the 56' ship, just scaled down.



Part of the detail that makes this small ship so interesting. The planks are rivited through at the bow, making this a very strong method of attachment. The detail shaped into the lower edge of the plank is Jay's signature, made with a wood plane and custom iron.



Yew wood "persuader", torturing the plank into a scarf joint



Low Cost Big Clamps



And so, the journey through Jay Smith's time machine comes to a close. Several NCWA members have taken the one day class. Interested? Call 360-293-2034 and ask for Jay. Charley Drake

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COMING EVENTS

Nov. 2nd	7:00 PM	Membership Meeting	Hillcrest Park
Nov. 10th	7:00 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Inn
Nov. 13th	????	Marquetry	Jennifer Dolese
Nov. 20th	Sundown	Newsletter deadline	Charley Drake
Nov. 20th	?????	Gluing Techniques	Bill Baer

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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