



NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

October 2010

Next Meeting: October 5, 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.

Reclaimed Lumber Puts Old Growth Timber Back into Business

It rained cats and dogs and people were stepping in muddy puddles but sixty members and guests trooped around the storage yard to see an amazing sight: thousands of neatly stacked used timbers salvaged from American industrial, farm and commercial buildings. Some timbers were salvaged from underwater, as well as from vats that store wine, water, and even orange peels. Much of the wood is centuries old.

Our September meeting and tour of the Duluth Timber Company in nearby Edison was an eye-opener in recycling. This company, virtually unknown by woodworkers or others, has stockpiled huge, old growth timbers for five years in small town Edison with little fanfare.

We gathered in an open building on a rainy, chilly night to hear about the company and its affiliates that had the foresight in 1983 to start building an inventory of a commodity that was fast disappearing in America. There's just no old growth timber being cut now. What is left

Duluth Timber Company Yard



Photo by Drake

of these 100- and 200-year old giants are in national parks; we've harvested the rest.

Duluth Timber has an edge on the marketing of big timbers, the building material of the past few centuries. In the company's storage yard we viewed timbers as large as 25 inches in girth and yards long. Pine, fir, cedar and redwood make up the bulk of this wood that has been brought back into full usefulness for



Inspection Team

Photo by Bonnie Yost

today's builders who need large frames, posts, and beams.

The business meeting followed the tour and opened with an introduction of guests followed by a review of the Arts Alive! venue situation led by President Jim Torrence. (See this month's NCWA Board of Directors Report.) Treasurer Doug Duehning reported a current balance of \$3,954.

Education Chairman Charles Robertson had 25 sign-up sheets laid out for the 25 woodworking classes scheduled for the season ahead. The box-making class offered by Jerry Couchman was full before the evening ended.

Woodworkers of the Month were Dwain Colby and Steve Durkee, both new members. Colby is a dedicated carpenter/builder turned Toys for Tots champion. He loves the opportunity this organization has for donating quality wood toys to needy children. Durkee got into house building without experience, but he bought a book and studied. He got hired and worked for the guy 27 years, primarily as a finish carpenter.



Dwain Colby



Steve Durkee



WoodMizer in Action

--Jay Geisel, Secretary



Brandon Sears

Duluth Timber Company foreman and NCWA host.



A beam over 2' high and 20' long.

Every mill needs one of these.

Election of Officers for 2011

Election of Officers for 2011 will be held at our November general meeting. The following are the individuals running for office:

- President- Jerry Couchman
- Vice-President- John Bellinger
- Secretary- Jay Geisel
- Treasurer- Doug Duehning

We can always use more nominees. If any member wishes to run for office or if anyone knows of a member wishing to run, Please let Jim Torrence know so they can be added as a candidate for office. It would be nice to have some competition rather than a single nominee for each office.

Jim Torrence



Big Timber, Big Iron

Before this beam visits the WoodMizer it will go through a very careful check with a wand that will indicate items as small as staples. Even rust left over from an already pulled nail will set off the sensor.

Class Cancelled

The class on wood movement scheduled for September 27th has been cancelled due to lack of enrollment.

Chuck Robertson

NCWA Board Meeting of 9-8-10

Old Business. At its most recent meeting at the Farm House Restaurant your Board of Directors considered the major issue of securing venue for the November LaConner Arts Alive! festival weekend. Without the use of the town's Civic Garden Club building this year we've had to scrounge for space or face our first ever failure to take part in this annual event. The Club's history of participation in Arts Alive! goes back at least 20 years.

President Jim Torrence, Venues Chairman Phil Choquette, and Treasurer Doug Duehning have worked diligently attempting to nail down a rental contract for one of LaConner's empty stores on First Street, the main drag that runs along the Swinomish Channel. They have been instrumental in finding the owner of three vacant buildings who is willing to rent us space for the three days, Friday through Sunday, November 5, 6, and 7 for the sum of \$500, provided that he has a non-leased building prior to those dates. The Board had already decided to register with the AA Committee to exhibit again this year even though space was not a certainty.

Torrence told the Board that he was confident that one of the three vacant retail stores would be available to us, but added that only one was large enough for both ours and the Woodturners' organization. The two smaller stores are adjacent to each other and if we couldn't get the largest one Jim would like to cut a deal that would put us and the Woodturners in a side-by-side public display for \$250 each. All vacant properties are on the Channel side of the street. The largest is carpeted and is located just north of the Market and Deli building.

Torrence said: "The good news is that we will be on First Street this year and that puts us right in the center of the crowd."

A motion was made by Nick Van to allow the President to negotiate Arts Alive! space for a maximum of \$500. The motion carried.

In new business, the Board was notified by President Torrence that an election of officers was due at the November meeting and that a nominating committee had not been named. After hearing many ideas from Board members, Jim proposed to issue an E-mail to all members that would invite anyone seeking one of the four offices –President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer—to step forward and contact him by September 25th. Nominees will be announced by the President at the October general meeting,

Treasurer Duehning reported a balance of \$3,954; \$990. is deposited in savings. Picnic expenses were \$150.

Education Chairman Charles Robertson gave attendees a schedule of 25 classes for the coming season.

Also considered by the Board was a suggestion by Duehning that the business part of meetings held off-site be shortened to only the necessary announcements. No action was taken.

The one-hour meeting of the September Board adjourned at 8 p.m.

Jay Geisel

Tall Tales from the Sawmill

There was a particular strong sense of comradeship among the men of the night shift. They all ganged around in the hotel lobby when the 4 o'clock lunch was finished. A half hour was needed to talk over the various events of the shift just ended and to get them off our minds.

Tremendous arguments were started. "Take a drive wheel of a locomotive traveling 30 miles and hour," one would say. "Does the top of the wheel go faster than the bottom?" It took us three weeks to solve that one.

But the tall tales were the chief feature of the get-togethers. Bill Schwartz, then the edgerman, invariably started them. He had sawmilled in Alaska for years, and he had some astounding yarns about salmon mines, ice worms and the like. No one ever disputed them, of course, and no one ever surpassed them until a stray sagebrusher landed in our midst. His most monumental success was with a hunting story.

Bill Schwartz had just ended quite a handsome tale about bear-killing in Alaska, when our sagebrusher horned in.

"You talk about huntin' with a high powered rifle and killin' two grizzlies with one shot as though that was news," the sagebrusher sneered. "You'd tell that one to a man East of the Mountains and you'd shore get the horse laff. You take me now. I don't claim to be much of a hunter; East of the Mountains I ain't considered much at all. But I did do fair with a double barreled shotgun one time."

"I was down on a river bottom when I sighted ...some 15... or so quail. Got excited and give 'em both barrels. The infernal shotgun blewed up. Well sirs, when the smoke had cleared away I discovered that the shot had killed ALL them quail, the shattered bits of one barrel had flew upstream and killed six Chiny pheasants, the other barrel had busted downsteam and killed as many grouse, one hammer had hit a coyote between the eyes and knocked him cold, the other had busted all the ribs of a badger, the kick of the shot had knocked me back on a rattlesnake so's I tromped him dead, the stock had sailed on and knocked over a rabbit, and as it went it had ripped off my coat and flung it over a cougar's head and smothered him. Purty fair killin', you'll say. But not much East of the Mountains, where the real hunters are. No, sir." Bill Schwartz had to be carried up to bed that night, ...what with him laughin' so hard. All of us went around with dazed looks for about a week after that story. We were thankful when the sagebrusher departed for his home country and a sheep herding job. He had almost wrecked our night shift, and it was too good a life to lose.

Excerpts taken with permission, with a small amount of literary license, from "This Was Sawmilling," sawdust sagas of the western mills by Ralph

W. Andrews, A Schiffer History Book published by Schiffer Publishing, Ltd., Atglen, PA. www.schifferbooks.com

Nick Van

ART'S ALIVE

Art's Alive will be here in about a month. We expect to have a location on the waterfront side of main street. This will be a far superior location than in past years, and we can expect considerably more traffic than in the past. Phil Choquette will be handling the details. There will be more information at the October general meeting. Support the Club by showing your work and by volunteering to help staff the show. This could be the most successful Art's Alive we have had in a long time.

Jim Torrence

CUTTING THIN MATERIAL ON THE TABLE SAW

Cutting thin material, such as Formica or plastic laminate, on the table saw can be difficult. Thin material can slip under the fence. Thin material is also difficult to support because it is flexible. I attach a long piece of aluminum angle to the table saw fence to solve both problems. Flexible pieces are well supported and cannot slip under the auxiliary fence.

Andrew Pellar



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COMING EVENTS

Oct. 2nd	?:00 PM	Viking Longboat	Jim Bucknell
Oct. 5th	7:00 PM	Membership Meeting	Hillcrest Park
Oct. 9th	?:00 AM	Veneering	Bob Doop
Oct. 13th	7:00 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Inn
Oct. 16th	?:00 AM	Bent Wood	John Bellinger
Oct. 20th	Sundown	Newsletter deadline	Charley Drake
Oct. 30th	?:00 AM	Inlays	Steve Durkee

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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