



# NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

**November 2011**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday November 1st, Hillcrest Park Lodge**

**6:00 PM Dinner, 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.**

## **ANNUAL NCWA TOYS FOR TOTS CELEBRATION AND DINNER**

This year our annual Toys for Tots presentation and dinner will be in November instead of December. Moving this up to November gives the Marine Corps League more time to make their distribution to families that need toys for Christmas. This is one of NCWA's most important missions, so let's all help dedicate the great toys our members have made for Toys for Tots! **This meeting will start with a pizza and salad dinner at 6:00 pm** and the meeting and Toys for Tots presentation will begin at 7 pm. I encourage all members to bring their spouses and other guests to help us celebrate this great event. Cost for the dinner is \$5/person. This year we'll be collecting at the door, so we're counting on you, our members to remember to pay. Although the focus of this meeting is Toys for Tots, we'll also do a short business meeting to cover important announcements and any Bring and Brag items.

**The Hillcrest Lodge will be open at 5 pm for toy makers to start setting up and to get ready for dinner at 6 pm.**

**Jerry Couchman**

## **Bellingham Shop Tours A Blast!**

For woodworkers who like more than a peek at their fellow's woodworking shop this was the best of times. Our October shop tours in Bellingham on Saturday, October 15th, enticed almost 50 devotees to the homes of three NCWA members and to the large production shop and teaching facility of Tom Dolese. The early morning trip started for most at the shop of Mike Titus in the heavily forested Sudden Valley area of Lake Whatcom and continued to the nearby residences of David Selditz and Bob



Charley Drake checking out part of the Mike Titus saw collection (photo by Steve Johnson)

Gaubatz. The Tour ended at around noon at Dolese' building near Hardware Sales.

Mike Titus prides himself on his abilities with hand tools, evident when we visited his dual-purpose shop and garage on the lowest level of his multi-storied home and where a woodworking facility takes precedence over a home's creature comforts. Mike's dust-producing machinery is relegated to the garage while upstairs, in the house proper, he has a bench room where layout, sawing, and assembly work is performed. He has several high-quality hard-backed saws for ripping and cross-cutting and



Mike Titus Mentoring Issac Bonilla on How to Crosscut with a Bench Hook

different tooth arrangement. His work bench, also of high quality, almost fills the room. Nearby is a slender-legged tea table, almost finished. Another room nearby boasts a stickered stack of beautiful hardwood recently purchased in Lynnwood. All these rooms are beautifully carpeted.

David Selditz has the latest and best equipment imaginable. Into his double-plus-sized garage shop he has found space for some wished-for wood machinery, including the horizontal mortiser that we'll talk about later. Much of Selditz' machinery is on wheels and can be moved around at will, and all of it has that well-maintained look about it. The mortiser is no longer made but it is a favorite of the woodworkers who possess one. It's an amazing tool and simple to operate. (A trio, including Jerry Couchman and Tom Dolese, are speculating that such a machine can be revived in a similar model and again made available to do the near-automatic



Steve Johnson Pointing out a Nice Board about 12' up the Wall at Mike Titus's Shop

mortise cutting. A frequent comment heard around the device were the words: "I want one!" David's shop is well-arranged and ideally suited to machine operations.

Bob Gaubatz has a shop attached to the rear of his



David Selditz's Shop

double garage. The 360-square foot plan is ideal. He has used clever ideas to get the most out of his shop area. Carefully located equipment and good storage brings maximum usefulness. Sheet goods, for example, are housed in an "envelope" vertically hinged to allow access to a corner storage area. He has made work stands for different machines that are on castered bases, provided handy jigs for his workbench and tablesaw, and built-in cabinets and drawers eliminate clutter. Good overhead lighting brightens the work areas. This shop is comfy and





David Selditz (on the right) Discussing Shop Stuff

well organized.

Tom Dolese, a professional furniture-maker and teacher, occupies a large building in Bellingham that serves as his production center (he has a smaller workshop nearby) where he crafts beautiful contemporary furniture and other pieces. Heavily machined with three large bandsaws and two tablesaws in the center of the shop floor, this facility also has the celebrated horizontal mortiser as seen



Bob Gaubatz and his Bench with Projects



Part of the Showroom at David's Shop

in David Selditz' shop. Two master woodworkers with the same device! With interest growing, Tom thoughtfully demonstrated its capabilities. Twice. His experience with the mortiser goes back many years. I believe he said 30 years. In his first demo, Tom machined a simulated chair back which was to fit a 7-degree angled tenon . He cut one end of the mortising board to 7 degrees on the tablesaw and then set the board on the mortiser at a 7 degree angle, clamped it down, set the end stops, and cut the mortise in less than a minute. Tom used light pressure on the router as he moved the bit from side to side. Tenon and mortise matched perfectly. A sumptuous buffet in Tom's shop followed the



Chop Saw Cabinet with Folding Extensions in Bob's Shop

tour. It was a lot of fun and I know we all learned something. It was one of the most enjoyable tours we've had and the turnout was gratifying to Gary Danilson and crew who worked many hours to put Fall Tour 2011 together. To our hosts we say: It was a job well done!

--Jay

## Tom Dolese Classes

Congratulations to Gary Danilson for organizing another excellent shop tour. It is always great to get to know others members and see their shops. The tour concluded at the shop of noted chairmaker Tom Dolese where he demonstrated some of his methods of work. In addition to making stunning, well crafted furniture, Tom teaches classes at his shop. I asked Tom to tell us about the classes.



Tom's Shop

“I generally tailor classes to what folks are interested in learning, choosing a project that they want to build (and keep) which will cover the appropriate topics. I usually pick out a similar project and use that to demonstrate, having the student or students follow. That way they are building their piece themselves. No prior woodworking experience is necessary and I take everyone through as though they had never done any woodworking before since I'm concerned about safety and any gaps in basic woodworking knowledge. My rate for teaching is 35 dollars per hour, and it goes up a little depending on the number of students. I know I can comfortably teach 3 in my shop at the same time. For an example I have three fellows coming from Olympia at the end of this month for a week long chair building class and they are each paying 450 dollars and I'm providing roughed out “chair kits” which includes the wood, foam, seat bottom, glue, etc. for another 125 dollars. They should take home a glued-up chair along with copies of any of my templates (lumbar and back leg shapes) they'd like. This also covers my upholsterer coming in for

a couple of hours the last day to show them how to upholster a seat bottom.



Dolese Cabinet Detail with Slip Tenon

Besides chairs, other common projects are building an end table or a coffee table. I just schedule classes for times that work for me and the students. I have broken up the weeks sometimes for people who can't spend more than a couple of days in a row for a class. I have another chair class coming up for two women and I think the class is for 3 days one week and 2 days the following.



Horizontal Mortise at a 7 degree Compound Angle, as Demonstrated by Tom Dolese

I also teach a chair building class at the Port Townsend School of Woodworking (I think there is a class scheduled the middle of April). Port Townsend is a nice place to go to. And I teach the same class in Seattle at the school associated with the Woodcraft Store. The next class there is scheduled the middle of next October.

There are pictures of our work on our website and



a few pictures of classes under the «community» page. Your members are welcome to call me at 360-393-7577 if they would like to arrange to drop in on a class that is going on. [www.TerraFirmaDesignNW.com](http://www.TerraFirmaDesignNW.com)” - Tom Dolese.

This is yet another great opportunity for club members to up their game and it is local. Jerry Couchman took a class with Tom and raved about it and we actually saw the chair. We know Jerry actually made it because it was unfinished with no seat. Now is a great time to put a class with Tom on our Christmas list and start dropping hints.

- Andrew Pellar

### MEET THE NEW MEMBER

George Boggs gave a presentation to our club back in October 2007 on how he rebuilt a 34 foot 1941 Norwegian racing sailboat. You might say that was the project that turned him into a serious woodworker. His wife figured that if he could do a boat, then a kitchen shouldn't be too difficult, so that was his next project. Their kitchen now has beautiful mahogany cabinets. George has a grandchild due in early 2012, so it looks like his next project is a cradle! George practiced law for a number of years, is currently the executive director for the Whatcom Conservation District, and lives in Bellingham.

~Ed Pysher



George Boggs

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The class registrations have increased significantly during October. Thanks to all of you who are participating in the excellent woodworking education opportunities.

#### **NOVEMBER CLASS PREVIEW:**

Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>: **Routed Boxes with Sliding Dovetail Lids**, taught by Jim Torrence. CLASS IS FULL! Class limit is 3. We'll try to schedule another class in the future. If you're interested, please sign the standby list on the signup sheet, so we'll know how much interest there is.

Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>: **Flat, Straight & Square- Woodworking: Fundamental Class #3**, taught by Val Matthews. Val will share many of his skills in taking wood from rough to ready, so you can get efficiently prepare your wood, and eliminate many frustrations as you build your projects. *There's* room for 3 more students – The class is open to any NCWA member, not just beginning woodworkers.

Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>: **No Class scheduled yet.** This is a great opportunity for some of you to get together in small work groups to brainstorm and/or start cooperative projects. If you'd like to teach a class in one of your favorite topic, here's your chance! If you have any ideas, please share them with the Education Committee, so we can help you coordinate this.

Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>: **Thanksgiving weekend. No classes scheduled.**

As always, your Education Committee solicits your ideas for new classes & welcomes any of you who would like to instruct a class in one of your favorite topics.

Jerry Anderson  
360-770-8559  
My new email address is: [j.anderson9574@gmail.com](mailto:j.anderson9574@gmail.com)

**Classified Ads**  
None this month.

### **All Members are Welcome**

If you would like to attend the board meetings please feel free to do so. We meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month, Farmhouse Inn at 7:00 P.M.  
Charley Drake

## MEET THE NEW MEMBER

Dale Brandland visited NCWA at our annual picnic and silent tool auction in August and jumped right in buying a Leigh Jig from one of our members. He has been woodworking for several years, but was looking for an organization like ours to help him refine his skills. He has a well equipped garage shop with excellent dust collection and good lighting. Originally from Port Angeles, Dale served in the Navy as a SEABEE before going into a career in law enforcement. He served on the Bellingham Police Department and then was elected as Whatcom County Sheriff. He then spent several years in the Washington State Senate before retiring recently. Dale is also active with local charities and participated in building several projects with a group of fellow woodworkers that they donate to help support the Boys and Girls Club of Whatcom County.

~Ed Pysher



Dale Brandland

### David Gray Displays His Arts & Crafts Furniture Styling



**October's featured speaker, David Gray,** a professional furniture designer and woodsmith, gave us dozens of good design traits from his fabulous collection. We saw an amazing series of

arts and crafts styles. Two from his collection were on view at our meeting.

**His collection was viewed on our big screen.** David has a well-organized digital system for showing his work and we were able to see various views and angles from his large collection. This custom designer can market from his portfolio or sketch up what pleases a customer. As in many designs, the interest is in the details. David gave us a chance to see inlays, butterfly-locked joints, contrasting wood colors, and other tricks that delight the eye and give value to the piece. He has a lot of chairs in his repertory, many with straight backs and tall.



Container by Grey

**Gray has been building beautiful furniture since 1978.** His studio is in Langley on Whidbey island and he currently displays his works in some of the finest galleries in the Northwest, including The Wood Merchant in LaConner.

**Bring and Brag.** Jim Hickey brought a collection of two unsimilar footstools for our examination. One, with sturdy sides and a walnut top, was quite different from the thin, tapered leg stool with the fancy arcs made from oak. Bill Baer turned a wood pedestal on his drill press. He also showed us his kiddie wagon, rubber-tired and high sides. Laura Matthews is still making "round things." She brought a freshly turned, six-inch bowl.



Jim Hickey

--Jay



Laura's Bowl



Bill Baer with Wagon

## Board Meeting

**With a quorum assured**, President Jerry Couchman opened the October meeting of NCWA's Board of Directors by declaring Samantha Chang our new Member-at-Large. Chang replaces Mike Titus in that position. Mike has accepted the Webmeister's job and will continue as a member on the Board. Chang, a new club member since November, has a deep interest in woodcrafting and will co-teach a Wood Charactersics and Identification class with Jim Torrence in January.

The monthly Board meeting was held at 7 p.m., Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, at the Farm House restaurant on Route 20 near Mount Vernon.

**Couchman** said that one of the business items that must be concluded at next meeting is the presentation of a slate of officer candidates for year 2012. Elections will take place at the December meeting. The four officer nominations are John Bellinger as President and Bill Baer as Vice President. The slate recommends the retention of Secretary Jay Geisel and Treasurer Doug Duehning. John is currently Vice President and Bill is a zealous worker who contributes his talents to creating toys and raffle-worthy cabinetry for our Toys for Tots program.

Reports by Treasurer Doug Duehning and Membership Chairman Ed Pysher were heard. Doug reported that 2012 dues are now collectible. Ed announced a new high in membership with 139 accounted for and a couple more expected.

**Andrew Peller** spoke for the Education Committee and Chairman Gerald Anderson, by announcing that three "Beginner" classes have been set up for basic tools training. He said sign-up sheets are ready and that if classes fill early students can sign "standby forms" for class repeats. He also noted that two router classes are being given this year; one is basic.

**The project to find a suitable insurance waiver** has reached the point where our organization is about to declare itself non-profit to the State. Peller's draft has been approved by the Board and a formal application will be mailed.

**Plans for the forthcoming Toys for Tots meeting** in November came under discussion. The meeting creates a lot of interest for members and the Marine Corps Reserve, which takes physical collection of our toys that night. Gene Benson, our Toys chairman, has planned to have a few Corps leaders on hand as well as the local press. Gene will monitor the 7 p.m. meeting, which follows a pizza and salad dinner at 6 o'clock. Members and their guests can enter the Lodge after 5 p.m. to set up toys. The price is \$5 per person, which will be collected at the door.

**Bill Baer, speaking for the Toy for Tots program**, noted the good work done by NCWA members, but he also declared the local program requires more help. "When we started to make toys, Baer said, we had to provide for 5,000 children in our area. Last year the goal was 9,000 and today it's 10,000."

**Drake, who has put together the Club's new audio-visual system**, has \$450 left in his original budget and sees a need for better lighting and a second microphone. These items will be purchased within the budget limitation.

**A program for the December meeting** settled on member Larry Tomovick; balloting for new officers will also be featured. Webmaster Mike Titus requested ideas and recommendations for the redesigned website. He aims to have it completed by the first of the year.

**The Board has made changes to the NCWA By-laws** regarding the calendar of election events. With the move of Toys for Tots to the November meeting, we have altered the schedule of officer nominee announcements and the election. The proposal to rewrite that part of the By-laws was approved unanimously. Another change, allowing the immediate past President to serve on the Board for another year, will be incorporated in the revised By-laws.

**A final topic for the Board was a suggestion by Jim Torrence** for the commercial purchase of aprons and caps designed with our Club logo. Jim's wife, who owns and is proficient with special sewing equipment, provided six neat shop aprons, each with our logo, for our use at the Cascade Mall event on Father's Day. Jim gave the Club the aprons. Now there is an interest in getting more shop aprons and also caps with logos sewed on. These items would be available for purchase by members. A motion was made to bring a sample shop apron and cap before the Board. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Members present: Bellinger, Benson, Phil Choquette, Couchman, Danilson, Drake, Duehning, Geisel, Peller, Pysher, Titus, Torrence, and Gary Weyers. Baer was a guest.

Respectfully submitted by Jay Geisel, Secretary



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**COMING EVENTS**

Nov. 1st	6:00 PM	Membership Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge
Nov. 9th	7:00 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Inn

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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.

**2011 Officers and Chairpersons**

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Programs	Jerry Couchman	(360) 366-5169	Webmeister	Mike Titus	(360) 714-8182
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