

NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

April 2007

Next Meeting: April 3, 2007
Gary Holloman's Shop
11966 Westar Lane at Skagit Regional Airport
Phone: 360-840-3701

Take Hwy 20 to Higgins Airport Rd. at the sign marking the entrance to the Skagit Regional Airport. **From the West**, this is approx. 2.8 miles east of the Farmhouse Restaurant. **From the East**, this is approx. 2 miles west of Avon Allen Rd. Go North approx. 1.6 mi. on Higgins Airport Rd. until you reach the airport area. Turn right onto Peterson Rd. and go 100 yards and turn left onto Westar. Go 25' and turn left into the parking lot. Gary's shop is the first building on the northwest corner of the intersection. Enter at the first door on the east end of the building. Gary does not have a sign on his building. **Gary's cell, in case you get lost, is 360-840-3701**

From our Prez.....

First, I want to personally thank all the members that signed up for committee assignments. At this point, all the committees are fully staffed, however, don't they could always use more help. Don't be afraid to call one of the committee chairs if you would like to help out. NCWA carries on a lot of activities for its members, and none of them could be made available without the volunteers. Congratulation, volunteers, and our heart-felt thanks.

The business section of the March meeting got a wee bit out of hand and I allowed it to take too long. As a result, the main part of the meeting was not as inclusive as we had wanted. I'll make you a promise that I will do a better job of keeping the business and announcement section of the meeting to less than 30 minutes in the future. To accomplish that, however, most of the committee announcements will be in the newsletter. Be sure to check the newsletter to keep up with current events.

Don't forget to bring your name tag. You know what a lousy memory I have for names. If you don't have a nametag, give Walt Meyers a call and he will order one for you. Walt's email is wlmeyer400@comcast.net.

I'll be in sunny central Oregon the first week of April and will miss the April meeting. Walt Meyers, who is also VP, will take the meeting for me. Be nice to him, or you might scare him off. He's pretty sensitive, you know. ☺

Ed



Raven Bowl by Scott Jensen our April speaker

March Meeting Minutes....

When last we met 50-members, or so, gathered at Hillcrest Lodge to hear Phil Choquette’s talk on furniture joinery. It was a solid program, one of our best, and Phil made examples of joints that we were able to examine. President Ed Pysher opened the meeting by introducing several guests and then welcomed Shelly Close back to our organization for the first time since her severe injuries of several months ago. Shelly looked super despite a hard recovery period that still keeps her wheelchair-bound. She admits it was tough to miss our meetings and classes and said that she is more determined than ever to get back to her woodworking. Ed then asked committee chairmen for their announcements.

Wood Sale Redux. Rick Anderson noted that the Club Newsletter was suspended for one month during his shop relocation effort and that the regular monthly publication would resume in March. He also told members that Al Stratton would have another wood sale on his property for two days on March 31 and April 1.

Nick Van reported that Open Shop tours would be held on Saturday, March 17, in the Bow area. Open for a visit will be shops of Ed Pysher, Jim Bucknell, and Logan Sullivan.

Cec Braeden noted that the April meeting would be held in Gary Holloman’s shop with a program featuring carver Scott Jensen. Gene Benson announced a scroll saw invitation to members to spend one day making Toy for Tots on the next Saturday, March 10, as an adjunct to our Educational scroll saw class.

Members wanting to participate should bring their saws to Val Matthews’ shop at 9 a.m.

The Next Challenge. Gary Weyers has taken over the “Challenges” part of Val’s Projects Committee and gave us an indication of what his plans are for the next Club Member Challenge. He calls it **“Put Your Imagination to**

Work.” His Contest idea is for woodworkers to put novelty and imagination functions together to make something different out of a found object that he will distribute to each person entering the competition. Gary will buy a variety of small objects, for example a skeleton key, an empty spool of thread, a tax token, etc.) These will be distributed to contestants who will create something of value. Gift certificate prizes will be awarded for the best judged work, he said. Gary asked the audience for participation and 15 souls agreed to

April Program

Scott Jensen, Woodcarver

Scott Jensen will be our featured woodworker at the April 07 meeting. Here is a wonderful opportunity to get to know this Northwest wood carving artist and teacher. Scott is among the finest carvers of the region, with work in regional, national and international collections. His exquisite carving is augmented by an unusually broad knowledge of the cultures, arts and techniques of the Northwest Coast natives.

You will get a visual slice of the incredible range of Scott’s work, from delicate hand pieces to large scale posts and poles. They are all infused with real history and creative life.

Scott will give a slide show that demonstrates his techniques and shows many of his previous works. He will also bring with him recent carvings that will be placed in galleries this year.

The meeting will be held in Gary Holloman’s shop. If you want to be guaranteed a seat, bring your own chair to the meeting. -Cec Braeden



Carved box by Scott Jensen
our April speaker

join the competition. Gary will give members a couple of months to complete their projects.

Bring and Brag. Gary was the sole contributor to this part of the program. He showed three styles of boxes. They were excellent examples of unusual techniques in creating lidded, shallow forms with the scroll saw. His wood choices were Ebony, Cherry, and Walnut.

Woodworkers of the Month were Phil Choquette and Vern Leibrant. Phil's interest in woodworking and finishing started when he was serving in the Navy and that interest kept building to the point that he determined to make it a business when he "retired." His Raintree Woodworks in Oak Harbor is a one-man custom operation that has grown by word of mouth from hundreds of satisfied customers, built by a reputation for quality and honesty.

Vern Leibrant, another one-man operator, is a professional woodturner who operates a studio in Everson, Washington, and has a reputation in this country, and others, for making superlative bowls, large and small. He told us that his annual production and sales is 300 bowls! All sell for big bucks. Vern's studio is open to visitors and he is regularly honored with prestigious arts and crafts tours. -Jay Geisel, Secretary

March Program: Joinery Solutions Boost Furniture Quality

Phil Choquette has given us instruction from time to time on the subject of finishing wood, but we also hold him in high regard for his ability to do fine woodworking in his Oak Harbor home workshop. Working under the business name Raintree Woodworks, the retired Navy veteran knows all about joints, the woodworking kind, and he captured our attention at the February meeting with an enlightened talk on joinery techniques that opened our eyes and minds to the possibilities for improving our furniture projects by a quantum leap.

Phil prepared for his presentation by constructing models of each joint; they were crisp and clearly illustrative

of how to properly construct them. For example, he passed around a combination of a tabletop corner with leg attached that showed an efficient corner block screwed to the two aprons and held together with a hanger bolt through the block and into the inside corner of the leg. The structure is simple, strong, and makes an easy knock-down for travel or storage.

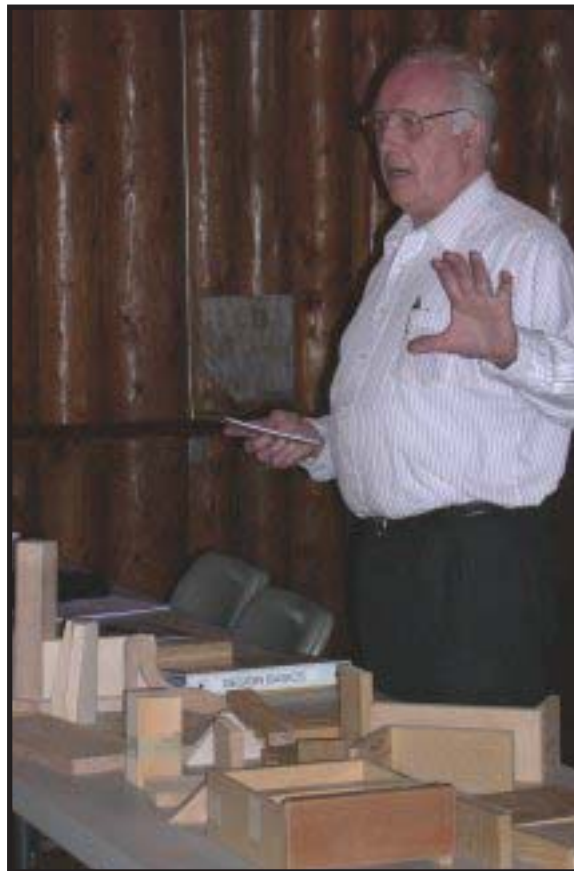
Design for Quality. Phil opened his discussion with some joinery definitions and then gave us advice on four elements of good woodworking design: Practical/Functional, Engineer for Value, Cost Effective, and How it Must Be Built.

"Quality doesn't just happen," he said. "It's in the details." Phil added that if your project is not practical, "it's art." He advised us to keep it simple but don't skimp on materials because your biggest investment is the labor.

Phil briefly described the three major furniture design movements that started with the Arts and Crafts style and then the modest, but practical, Shaker design, and finally the Art Deco style that promoted visual linearity and ebonized maple and exotic woods, along with the introduction of steel and glass materials.

How to Make Legs Show Their Best Faces. One demonstration showed how important it is to make furniture legs that have the same grain appearance on all four sides, a sure mark of quality. Phil selects the best vertical grain face of his material and then rips his pieces to width with a 45-degree bevel on both sides and reassembles and glues the four pieces, now triangular-shaped, into a square leg with the best grain showing on all four faces. Impressive.

Phil's formula for prefinishing wood prior to glue-up is a 50/50 mixture of shellac and alcohol, followed by a sanding with 120 or 150 grit to slightly "roughing it up." Areas where glue will be



Our own Dr. Phil aka "Low Tech Choquette" on joinery design & details

applied should be taped off. Wood always expands and contracts across the grain and that requires consideration when attaching top boards to aprons, for example. Phil discussed wood movement and how to cope. He reminded us to always seal wood surfaces, fronts and backs. MDF does not move; Phil suggested using sliding dovetails with this material.

Making Drawers. Drawers typically have fronts of 3/4-inch thick wood and 1/2-inch thick sides, Phil said. When dovetailing the corners keep a half, or more, full dovetail at the top corner area, and if you are not dovetailing, use an interlocking joint. As for the mortise and tenon joint, Phil sees no difference in a round or square shape. He showed us an interesting door front panel of plywood with hardwood veneer that he had edged all around but left the edging 1/8th inch proud of the face. Again, he said, the details boost appearance and quality.

Phil's professional business in custom woodworking thrives on quality and keeps him busy in Northwest Washington. "Low-tech" maybe, but who needs electronics when you have a mind and hands adept at making fine furniture? We are fortunate in having a member who is willing and able to show us the path to better woodworking. —Jay

Work Bench Making with Cec Braeden

Most of you probably have seen or know about the article that was in the winter 2005/2006 Fine Woodworking Tools and Shops edition that featured the plywood bench built by Cec Braeden. Last month ten of us gathered at Cec's shop to get some first-hand information on how to build the bench.

Cec had about half of a bench already finished and we worked on completing the remaining pieces and putting it all together. The construction technique is elegant in its simplicity. All parts except the top are milled from plywood then glued together to form the individual elements. The mortises and tenons that join the frame are not cut after construction

but are formed during the glue-up of the pieces. This method assures that everything fits perfectly.

All of us were very impressed with the stability of the completed bench. It is rock solid. Cec pointed out the many options for adding a top to the frame as well as installing vises. Cec's bench had a top consisting of one layer of 3/4inch plywood overlaid by 3/4inch MDF. You could also have a torsion box top, glued up top or anything else that you want. One of the beauties of the design is its flexibility. Any of the dimensions can be changed to fit the needs of the person building the bench. Cec frequently pointed out that variations are endless.

The bench goes together quickly and easily. It is made from two sheets of plywood, plus some MDF if you build the top as Cec did, and can easily be built in a weekend. I think you will find benches of Cec's design in many of our shops in the future. One caution, have lots of clamps and dry fit pieces before gluing them. -Joe Kelly

Turned Wood at the Bellevue Arts Museum

The Bellevue Arts museum is currently exhibiting a collection of 120 turnings by a number of well known woodturners. It is an outstanding assemblage and anyone interested in turned wood is sure to find it inspirational. I visited the exhibit with some people that are not wood workers and they also enjoyed it very much. On certain dates they have demonstrations on woodturning.

Also on display are sculptures formed from wood veneers, jewelry and William Morris glass.

For details on all the exhibits and directions to the museum, visit their web site at www.bellevuearts.org

Getting to the museum is very easy. There is free underground parking at the museum. There is a snack bar in the museum as well as many restaurants nearby. If you are going with someone who has no interest in any of the exhibits, the museum is just across the street from the Bellevue Square Mall.

If you have any interest in woodturning, this is a must see event. -Joe Kelly



Cec explains the construction details of his famous bench

Toys for Tots

The first T for T team woodworking session was held on Mar. 10 at the Matthew's. The toy of choice was an "Animal Circus" pull - train. Starting with prepping the alder we spent the day with templates or patterns cutting out six different animals, making wheels with a hole - saw and sanding/ rounding the edges on the lathe. Both a scroll saw and the band saw were used to cut out the animals. A router was used for final forming on some. The scroll saw takes the honor as the tool of choice. We are finishing the toys at home. How many?

One goal was to have fun. I believe we all had a great day. For you new members wondering how the day came out, ask Steven Johnson. Spending the day with Laura and Val Matthews, Gary Weyers, the "scroller" and the other great team mates; Jim Davis; Walter Meyers; Clarence Oschner, making toys was super.

We are trying to prepare and schedule a new toy session for April 7.

I will have info at the next all member meeting, April 3.

Our NCWA Library

Our library has expanded its video section with the addition of six new DVDs from Taunton Press.

The DVDs, which will be available at the April meeting are:

- Hand Applied Finishes with Jeff Jewitt**
- Frame and Panel Construction with Graham Blackburn**
- Wood Finishing with Frank Klausz**
- Wood Turning with Richard Raffan**
- Mastering Your Table Saw with Kelley Mehler**
- Biscuit Joinery with Frank Klausz**

All six DVDs are rated G.

Wooden Plane Workshop in May

There will be another workshop on building your own wooden plane on Saturday, May 19

and if we need more time, on Sunday, May 20. The club has 6 plane irons available at cost, \$40.00 each. While we will have some mediocre wood available, you are encouraged to find your own special piece of wood. Details will be made available to those who sign up. The sign up sheet will be available at the April meeting.

Val Matthews

A St. Paddy's Day Tour

'Twas a sinister day, it were. Dark clouds at the treetops, rain pelting the meadows and wind a'blowin' the tweedle out of the pussy willows. But, as I was drivin' me Paddy wagon towards the NCWA Shop Tour, there were three bright lights showin' me the way, as it were.

My first stop was at the shop of master builder Jim O'Bucknell, a fine man he is. Jim's shop is a model of fine craftsmanship and respect for the finer memories of his younger years. I have finally figured out why the price of most softwoods and all hardwoods is so darned expensive. Jim has bought all that the market could provide for use in his exquisitely appointed home where every space is adorned with finely crafted softwoods and the cabinetry made from several different species of hardwoods. I observed no drywall, plaster or any other man made materials, save the unusual countertops in the kitchen and baths. Jim and Judy O'Bucknell truly have a special home to enjoy.

Jim's shop is also a joy to visit. He proudly displays a fold down miniature model train set complete with a scale replica of the train lift at Diablo Dam (the original lift was manufactured by the company I worked for). The train set was constructed by Jim's father years ago and Jim is going to upgrade and expand it. His shop also displayed a number of humidors and other boxes Jim has made through the years. It was obvious that Jim not only truly enjoys crafting beautiful objects from wood, but also treasures objects that he proudly displays reminding him of his younger days and the joys of growing up. I was honored to have been a guest in the O'Bucknell shop. Thank you, Jim and may your home always be too small to hold all of your friends.

The second bright light directed me toward the small and underutilized shop of our esteemed right honorable club President, Ed O'Pysher. Ed is still discovering his woodworking skills and is slowly, every so slowly, setting up his equipment and tooling so that the future will bring many woodworking surprises and joys.

When the O'Pysher's built their beautiful home a few years back, the shop was a planned addition to the garage and can be expanded depending upon how many cars Ed and Linda choose to remove to the outside driveway. Ed showed a couple of examples of his woodworking

accomplishments, built as learning projects through the years. His workbench is very useful, skillfully fashioned and well organized. Ed built it while attending classes at Puget Sound Woodworking. He also produced a dovetailed box which was the product of a class he took. So there is hope for Prexy O'Pysher. He's almost set up to begin his woodworking journey. May the wind always be at your back, may the roof above you never fall in, and may those of us gathered around you never fall out.

My journey continued to the next bright light in the meadow, that of the shop of our young teacher to be, Logan O'Sullivan. Now Logan has chosen wisely and has gathered about him a collection of fine tooling foretelling of many finely crafted objects of wood to come. His small shop is divided into two rooms; a machinery room and a work room where he can complete his gluing, assembly and finishing.

Logan's shop was neat as an Irish pub during my visit and he proudly displayed a fine collection of first-rate hand planes, chisels and other cutting tools all beautifully sharpened and ready to make fine shavings. As I arrived, he had just finished the glue up of a couple of fine Irish cutting boards which were uniquely designed, reminiscent of a recent woodworker's journal article. Very pleasing to the eye, indeed.

Logan proceeded to give me a tour of his shop, and of the adjacent shop used by his father for the storage and restoration of vintage automobiles. Along with a couple of pieces of used woodworking machinery (any interest in selling them, Logan?) he also showed me a collection of hardwood logs that Logan intends to render into beautifully figured furniture pieces and turnings.

Logan has his future fairly well secured. When he graduates from Central Washington University in a couple of years, Logan will do everything possible to teach high school woodworking and wood technology somewhere in the Skagit Valley. Good luck, Logan. May you live as long as you want, and never want as long as you live.

Many thanks to Messrs O'Bucknell, O'Pysher and O'Sullivan for a joyous St. Patrick's Day from all of the members of NCWA. -Nick Van

Plan a Ride to the Puyallup Woodworking Show

A trip to the national woodworkers show at the Puyallup Fairgrounds is scheduled for Friday through Sunday, April 27, 28, and 29. There is not enough interest to make this a chartered bus event, but many members will be attending the Saturday, April 28th Show and some have offered to drive car pools. If you need a ride it is suggested that you make arrangements with one of these volunteer drivers at the April meeting. This is not an organized NCWA tour; you are on your own. It is suggested that you arrange to pay your driver an amount that will offset his expenses. We will attempt to identify drivers with SUV's or seating for more than one or two persons.

The Puyallup Fairgrounds is located at 110 9th Ave. SW (253-845-1771). Saturday showtimes are 10am to 6pm. Parking is free. For driving directions, maps, and other details go to www.thewoodworkingshows.com.

The owner of Seattle's Woodcraft Store is urging groups like ours to stop by on our way home for some super attractive prices and discounts during the weekend. Neither Woodcraft nor Rocklers will be represented at the Show. -Jay Geisel, Tours

Words of the Month.....

arabesque - A complicated, intertwined, flowing design of stylized floral and plant motifs loosely based on Arabian decoration. (pr. A-rY^-besk)

acanthus - The thorny leaf of an herb native to the Mediterranean region, the design of which has been used as a stylized motif throughout history. Of special note is its use in capitals of the Corinthian and composite order. It sometimes resembles the leaves of dandelion, thistle or artichoke plants, pinnately lobed basal leaves with spiny margins.

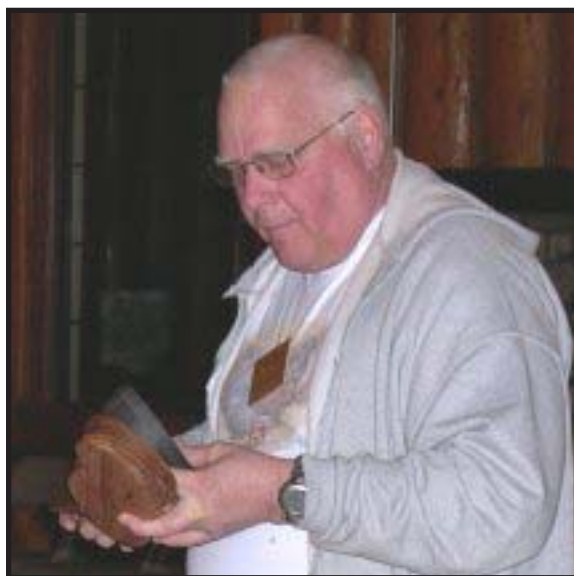
From <http://www.artlex.com/delahunt/Morris.html>

Quirk details - The Random house Dictionary of the English Language: *Archit*. An acute angle or channel as one dividing two parts of a molding or one dividing a flush bead from the adjoining surface.

Words & references courtesy Walter Meyers. Members are invited to submit other unique words & definitions for future newsletters. And yes, there will be a test.....



Woodworkers of the Month Vernon Leibrant
& Phil Choquette (see Phil's photo page 3)



Bring 'n Brag: Scroll sawn boxes.....more
magic from Gary Weyers.

As the Web spins.....

Not exactly a web site this month.....but a blog instead. (I'm not quite sure the difference) Regardless, this is a fascinating site loaded with lots of information.....especially about chair making, but if you dig deep in here you will find info on hide glues, woodturning, and old fashioned barn (shop) raising and much more
www.chairnotes.blogspot.com

SHARE THE JOY!

Just completed a woodworking project? Did you devise a special technique or jig? Visit an interesting shop, show or gallery? Have a problem you would like to solicit assistance with from amongst our membership? Then share your experience with our membership! Sit down and write a few paragraphs.....take a photo or two.....and we will run it in a future issue of our newsletter. Share the joy of woodworking! - Rick

FROM OUR WEBMASTER.....

Any members who have a woodworking related website are invited to submit the URL to their website for inclusion on our NCWA website. To see examples of websites already listed, go to www.ncwawood.org and click on "resources" and then click on "woodworking links". This is another benefit of NCWA membership!
-Greg Shumate

THE WOOD SHED.....

Maple 'r Us!

Lots to choose from in a wide selection of sizes.....\$.75-\$2.00/ BF. Call Steve Intveld 360-592-5670

Tool Sale

37" CLARKE WOOD TURNING LATHE \$120.00 w/TOOLS
13MM GRIZZLY DRILLING MACHINE \$85.00

7-1/2" BENCH BANDSAW \$120.00
(360)371-3596/Christine

COMING EVENTS

April 3	7:00PM	Monthly Meeting	Gary Holloman's Shop
April 18	7:00PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Restaurant on Hwy 20
April. 21	Noon	Newsletter Deadline	Rick's Email Box
April 27-29		The Woodworking Show	Puyallup Fairgrounds
May 1	7:00PM	Monthly Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge

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, 1331 Meador Ave., Suite J105, Bellingham, WA 98229 or Email to rick@gardenarches.com or call 360-650-1587.

2006 Officers and Committee Chairs:

President:	Ed Pysher	(360) 766-0136	Librarian:	Jim Torrence	(360) 629-6670
V.P.	Walter Meyers	(360) 279-8632	Newsletter:	Rick Anderson	(360) 650-1587
Secretary:	Jay Geisel	(360) 466-3908	Membership:	Walter Meyers	(360) 279-8632
Treasurer:	Doug Duehning	(360) 466-1281	Shows:	Phil Choquette	(360) 675-8320
Board at Large	Glenn Koontz	(360) 466-5910		Nick Van	(360) 387-4174
Board at Large	Don Parry	(360) 466-3386	Projects:	Val Matthews	(360) 757-7730
Programs:	Cecil Braeden	(360) 588-9830	Toys for Tots:	Gene Benson	(360) 466-3004
Activities:	CHAIRPERSON NEEDED		Webmaster:	Greg Shumate	(360) 387-2066
Education:	Nick Van	(360) 387-4174			



NCWA NEWSLETTER

1331 Meador Ave, Suite J105
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