



NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

December 2007

Next Meeting: December 4th, Hillcrest Park Lodge
6:30PM Pizza Party
7:00PM Meeting

1717 South 13th Street, Mount Vernon
Phone: 360-770-7203 or 360-387-4174

Take 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.

From the Prez:

We have a new Newsletter Editor-In-Chief in the form of one Nick Van. Nick will be taking over from Rick Anderson effective with the January edition. Nick will be putting out the December edition on his computer under Rick's watchful eye, but effective with the January edition he will be on his own. Be patient, folks, this is a tough job to learn.

The election of officers for the coming year will be held at the December meeting. The slate of candidates the nominating committee came up with

is listed elsewhere in this newsletter. Nominations will be taken from the floor, so be sure to give

some thought to the candidates and who else you might like to nominate.

At the October board meeting, Jay Geisel suggested we consider setting up a program to

honor the member who contributed the most to NCWA during the year and the member that exhibited the highest craftsmanship. The suggestion was tabled for additional consideration, and at the

DECEMBER PIZZA PARTY.....

We will have a Costco pizza party before our regular meeting on December 4th. Festivities will commence at 6:30 PM and will include pizza and soft drinks. Cost is \$5 per person, payable at the event. If you plan to EAT PIZZA, please notify Cec Braeden by 12/03/07 by email at cb@ncwawood.org or by phone at 360-588-9830. If you already signed up at the Arts Alive event, you need not do so again unless you wish to change the number attending.

November board meeting the Board approved the following program:

Spirit Award: The Al Stratton Spirit Award should honor the individual member who best exemplifies and contributes to the goals of this organization to promote high standards in woodworking, craftsmanship, and education. By individual dedication and performance this member has elevated the worth of the craft as well as our organization.

Craftsmanship Award: Woodworking proficiency as demonstrated by a work of design and creation that stands above the norm, signals the attention of the woodworking community and calls for recognition. Such an award brings honor to its maker and esteem to our organization.

The Board approved the following procedures:

1. In January of each year, the President will appoint a committee of three members to serve on the award nomination committee.
2. The members appointed will be from the membership at large and neither Board members nor committee chairs are eligible for appointment to the committee.
3. During the first year, the committee will develop specific procedures to assure impartiality.
4. The committee will present the names of three candidates for each award to the Board at the November board meeting and the Board will select from the candidates.

The award presentations will be made at the December general meeting. The nature of the awards has yet to be determined, but I assure you, they will represent the quality of the successful candidate's contributions.

It has been quite a year. We got a lot done, but there is more to do and we have several projects in the works. I want to personally thank each of the board members, the committee chairs and each member of each committee for all their hard work during the year. We are a volunteer organization, folks, and without volunteers, we will cease to exist. My personal goal for the year was to get some "new blood" into the leadership and we were mildly successful. I'll continue to work on that next year.

I look forward to seeing you at the December meeting. Don't forget Bring-N-Brag and don't forget your name tags. --Ed Pysher

NCWA Wood Creations Shine at LaConner Arts Alive 2007

Our effort to put on a good woodworking display for the 2007 rendition of Arts Alive in LaConner was, by all reports, another eye-opener. Public response was high this year owing to the diversity of crafted objects displayed and the fine craftsmanship exhibited by both NCWA and the Northwest Washington Woodturners who again shared facilities at the vintage Garden Club building on Second Street.

Both organizations contributed active demonstrations of woodworking and wood turning techniques throughout the weekend and both featured money-raising raffles. The Woodturners' group set up a mini-lathe and turned spinning tops to the delight of young and old while our Gary Weyers was busy at his scroll saw demonstrating how to stack-cut souvenirs and Christmas tree ornaments. Just inside the front entry was a newly constructed workbench, the second in two years built by Cec Braeden for our Arts Alive raffles. The Woodturners offered a used Mini Jet. An

Everett visitor and woodworking fan won the latest innovative workbench on a ticket sold just hours earlier by Cec. The workbench garnered \$160.00 for our Vocational Education Fund.

The once-a-year showroom for beautiful wood arts and crafts was completely filled on both sides of the hall. Our members maxed out their allotted space with furniture, everything from large chests to fine tables and Cec's outstanding rocking chair. But the exploitation of Toys for Tots created by our individuals and teams took center stage this year as we loaded our displays with a variety of handmade Christmas toy donations being readied for the Marine Corps Reserve ceremony at our meeting next month. In addition to the delightful doll cradles of years past, our members are making young children's action toys like Gary's vividly painted funny cars, pull wagons, crickets, and chalkboards on easels.

Not many woodworkers had something to sell, but the three or four that did reported some business. John Gruenewald entered the market this year with toy vehicles that featured moving parts, Phil Choquette sold some of his end-grain design cutting boards, and Gary found buyers for his scroll sawn products. Judy Hemenway, of course, was the traditional sales phenom with her vast output of dove boxes and ornaments. Our Arts Alive participation remains high and the quality is excellent. We congratulate Nick, Phil, and Cec

for their efforts in making this our best public exhibition each year. --Jay Geisel

Wood Identification Demystified

"I think it's some kind of mahogany or lauan. Maybe one of those new tropical hardwoods.

Sure seems hard enough."

How many of us have had a discussion along these lines when confronted with a piece of wood of unknown origin? On November 12th the first thing Jim Torrence did was give us a pop quiz. We tried to identify about 20 wood samples with what we knew about wood. The good news is that everyone got at least one or two right.

For the next several hours Jim helped shine a little light on the fine art of wood identification. We learned

new vocabulary words, including tylosis, ring diffuse, ring porus, medullary rays, early and late wood. We used tools such as an X10 loupe to get into the analysis of end grain. The subject was new to many of us.

Jim tried to distill 30+ years of experience with the Department of Forestry into a 3 hour class. We tried to keep up. At the end of class we took another stab at wood ID, with new samples and new knowledge. The bad news is that I don't think anyone got 100%. The good news is that all of us improved. The great news is that we now know where to get resources to help the next time we have to answer the question: "What kind of wood is that?" --Charley Drake

December Program Toys for Tots Night

We will have a short business meeting, including the election of officers for 2008. We will then ask each of our members who made items for Toys for Tots to discuss the items, explaining the construction process, materials used, finish employed and demonstrating their use if appropriate. We will then formally turn the items over to the Marine Corps Reserve representatives.

Education Classes

I have heard nothing but good reports from the classes we have had so far this year. And there's more to come. On December 8, Dave Blair will train us to be our own tool sharpener. Although Dave has a full class, he is willing to have a second class if there is demand. So, if you are interested, go the NCWA web site and sign up for it. Only three new students are required for another class.

In January, Nick Van will repeat his popular Handmade Dovetail class on Saturday, the 7th. There is still space available so be sure to consider this one. (His cookies are outstanding!)

Then on the 12th, Gary Holloman will teach us about joinery at his shop near the Skagit County Airport. (This class has been rescheduled from December.) Finally, on January 19, Larry Tomovick will conduct a class on making bentwood boxes.

If you are interested in learning more or sharing your knowledge at a class, look at the classes on our web site and then sign up for an enjoyable and interesting day.

-- Chuck Robertson

Looking Ahead

December's meeting continues to be the most important one of the year for NCWA members. It's significance seems to grow as we reach the terminal point of twelve months of intense activity. It heralds the voting for officers for the new year and celebrates the completion of our Toys for Tots projects and our donations to the Marine Corps Reserve. It is the time to re-up, to pay our dues for another full year of activity. To give the December meeting added allure we have made it

our only dinner meeting of the year. December also finds us deep in our pursuit of wood working education classes.

This is also the time to look ahead at what's in store for the next twelve months. All signs point to organizational growth and meaningful

challenges in advancing our enjoyment of woodcraft. Our new officers and committee heads are eager to move us along on new adventures. For example, plans are in the works for a guided tour of one of the premier West Coast lumber mills in the next couple months, something you won't want to miss. We have recently set up an Honors program that will annually award and recognize those members that best exemplify the spirit of NCWA; a second award will honor the Craftsman of the Year.



Wood I.D. Class: Jim Torrence trying to teach old dogs new tricks

Our Spring venue, WoodFest returns to its former roots as a popular, public display of high school woodworking talent combined with entertaining exhibits and a vendor fair. NCWA members will again show and sell their projects to a large audience. Our members will continue to serve as judges for the students' work and grant our annual People's Choice Award.

In the meantime, your Board has issued a new and full-color version of its printed folder and set up a workshop to make additional brochure stands for distribution to our woodworking marketers in Skagit and Whatcom counties.

With Chuck Robertson leading the way to an ever-improving educational program we will have more opportunities to learn more than just the basic techniques of woodworking. It all looks like we're finding more fun than ever in being a woodworker.

One of the economical benefits of membership has been the vendor programs offered to us by retailers who sell us their wood and tools at discount. This year the rewards will be greater as 16 local area merchants have agreed to extend this courtesy to members only. Added to that is an intriguing proposition proposed by catalog seller Hartville Tool. In 2008 we will be offered 20% discounts for one year to be followed by a slightly less discount the second year, and a rebate offer the third year. You must show your 2008 membership card

This issue marks the finale for Newsletter Editor Rick Anderson. He has done a masterful job in creating a first-class publication for our guild. We congratulate him on his journalism, dedication, and perseverance. No man could do more.

--Jay Geisel

Toys for Tots

Finally the day has arrived to bring your handcrafted toys, your purchased toys or your cash donations to our meeting on December 4th. The Marines will be at the meeting to accept our donations. This is our opportunity to demonstrate our generosity and our skills and brighten the lives of many kids.

-- Glenn Koontz



**Wood I.D. Class:
Doc Torrence explains tree
anatomy to Doc Johnson**

ARTS ALIVE! 2007



Phil Choquette's culinary creations



Judy Hemmenway's quacker boxes



Winner of the Braeden bench drawing with the master himself



Ralph Lloyd's yacht

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

BLACK WALNUT

Clear, figured, 4/4 through 10/4, 10-24", huge live edge slabs. James Haddock @ 650-1562



Hand Planes made by Val Matthews' Students



Beautiful Boxes by several of our Craftsmen



Night Stands by Larry Tomovick. Val Matthews made the Side Table.



Toys for the Children of the World. Thanks to everyone who contributes.

AL STRATTON'S WOOD SALE.....

Al & Mark Stratton are going to hold another wood (rocks too) sale at Al's place the Saturday & Sunday December 1 & 2 from 10 to 4 each day. Al still has lots of lumber in several hardwood varieties plus lots of turning material in many varieties. This is a great chance to pick up some special pieces of wood and visit with our Member Emeritus!

Information: Al 360-398-2581 or Mark 360-398-2216 1746 Kelly Road, Bellingham

COMING EVENTS

Dec. 4th	7 PM	Membership Meeting (Toys for Tots Night)	Hillcrest Lodge, Mount Vernon
Dec. 19th	7 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Restaurant on Hwy 20
Dec. 22nd	Noon	Newsletter Deadline	Nick's Email Box
Jan. 8th	7 PM	Membership Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge, Mount Vernon

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, 4219 Adams Ave., Bellingham, WA 98229 or Email to rick@gardenarches.com or call 360-319-7600

2007 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) 319-7600
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	Dave Blair	(360) 733-3911	Projects	Val Matthews	(360) 733-3911
Programs	Cecil Braeden	(360) 588-9830	Toys for Tots	Glenn Koontz	(360) 466-5910
Activities	Vacant		Webmaster	Greg Shumate	(360) 387-2066
Education	Chuck Robertson	(360) 387-6333			



NCWA NEWSLETTER

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