

# NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

December, 2008

**Next Meeting: December 2, Hillcrest 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.**

## From Your Board

At this time of year, it's sometimes useful to look back, and then look forward, to reflect on the blessings and bounty we enjoy, as individuals and families, as club members, and as members of the great country in which we live. During the past year or two, we have seen many changes around us, some of which we embrace,



Your Board at Work

some of which we abhor, but all of which happen because we live in a reasonably free nation where we can express ourselves openly, where dissent is not only permitted, but encouraged, and where we can choose our way without undue interference from anyone.

As for the Northwest Corner Woodworkers, there will be many changes next year. Your officers will change after the election at our next meeting. Committee membership will change as newer members take charge of the club's mission. More of you will participate in the club's programs and activities and, most important, your woodworking skills will improve substantially during the year. We should have a fine year, with new education classes, a few more Saturday projects, an expanded library, and, perhaps, an occasional field trip to interesting and instructive woodworking venues.

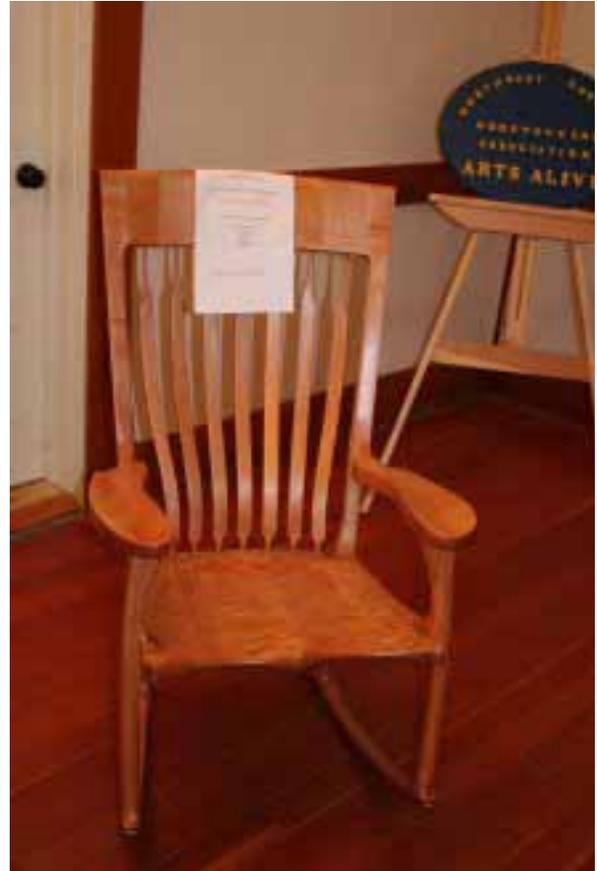
With a great year to look forward to, we want to take this opportunity to say, "Thank you for the work you have accomplished this year. You have made NCWA a better organization." And, in the spirit of the season, Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Hanukah, Merry Christmas and, most of all, let's all look forward to a very prosperous, bountiful and Happy New Year.

## Arts Alive! Hits Economic Stalemate; Woodworkers' Future Venue at Stake

Is there a future for Arts Alive? Has our long-running, best venue for showcasing our members' woodworking creations reached its end? These questions dogged



Our nation's economic woes hit this artsy town hard as several galleries, restaurants, and specialty stores on Morris and First Streets have gone out of business or



Beautiful Toys for Tots

Larry Tomovick's Labor of Love

have announced their intention to do so in the coming weeks. Sales of art have slumped as people curtail their buying habits and leave merchants understandably jittery.

the final day of the November 8th and 9th, 2008 LaConner pre-Christmas festival when hundreds of shoppers were no-shows at that town's biggest annual event.

Meanwhile, up on Second Street at the LaConnor Civic Garden Club building, our woodworkers and woodturners put on a heckuva good show. We didn't have a sea of stuff to show this year but all items were quality items placed in an attractive arrangement of tables and easy-to-navigate aisles. NCWA opted to exhibit a wide range of their Toys for Tots projects in lieu of individual member woodworking projects and live demonstrations.

However, there were some outstanding furniture pieces in our collection that received significant public approval. Larry Tomovick displayed the fruits of his labor of the past twelve months when he was able to complete a stunning rocker in time for the show, and Michael Hansen, our new Everett member, exhibited his beautiful Morris chair and other items. There were other fine furnishing projects on display also, as well as smaller décor and useful furnishings. Eleven members participated in the exhibition and four had items to sell. Two holiday buyers begged for a chance to buy our Toys for Tots black-and-white-board easels and we wound up with a quick \$70 offering of cash for the upcoming donation to the Marine Corps Reserve.

Across the aisle, the Woodturners had a more distinct presentation on their tables this year. Instead of loading



Boxes and Native American Flutes

all the turnings for sale on staircase shelves they put out only a representation of what they had for sale and kept the duplicates stored beneath the tables. This year they offered a woodturning demonstration down on First Street across from the Wood Merchant Store. Dave Bair could be seen Saturday morning turning tops for a small crowd of interested spectators.

Phil Choquete did another splendid job putting our exhibition together. Our public liked what they saw, but sales were understandably sluggish and limited to lower-priced items. Our Toys for Tots collection in front of the fireplace was a big hit, and we signed up a couple new members plus others to come. Good show! — Jay Geisel

## **THE MARINES ARE COMING, THE MARINES ARE COMING**

Members of the Marine Corps League 1043 will be our December 2nd meeting to receive the hundreds of toys members of NCWA are making for their Toys for Tots program. Many of our members have spent the last several months handcrafting wonderful wooden toys.

In addition to the Marines we will also have the Publisher of the Skagit Valley Herald as our guest. Also, the owner of Washington Alder Company, who generously donated hundreds of board feet of wood for the making of toys, will attend as our guest.

Members and their spouses are invited at 6:00 pm Dec. 2nd to celebrate the completion of this year's toy making projects and feast on Pizza. We are once again hoping for 100% participation of our membership in the Toys for Tots program. If you have not been able to hand craft a toy we also gladly accept purchased toys to give to the Marine Corps League.

Last year we gave over 300 toys and donated over \$400 to the program. Money contributions will also be encouraged, and gratefully accepted, again this year.

This meeting is a seasonal highlight and a chance for our spouses to see what our membership has accomplished. I am sure we will all be proud of the toys made by our members. — Glenn Koontz

## **Christmas Pizza Party**

The regular club meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. Starting at 6:00PM, however, we are going to have a Christmas dinner prior to the meeting. Like last year, we will be serving pizza, salad, and soft drinks. The cost will be \$6 per person. Spouses and significant others are welcome to attend. Jim Bucknell has the lead for organizing the event. He will be sending out a sign-up announcement to all members in the next few days. Please respond to his e-mail if you plan to attend and be sure to indicate how many will be in your group. We look forward to a good turnout on the 2nd. It's always a great meeting with the Toys for Tots program. —Jim Bucknell

## LIBRARY CORNER - REMINDER!!!

Please turn in all checked out library material at the December meeting. The Library Committee will inventory the library and purge it of outdated/unused material after the December meeting. Thanks for your cooperation. –Jim Torrence

## YOU, TOO, CAN BE FAMOUS!!

While visiting the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum of Art in New York, I was struck by an epiphany. I, too, can be famous!!! More than that, I can be recognized by the world at large, for my honest, imaginative, creative and minimalist woodworking



skills. It's easy, as the photo shows.

Before I was attacked by the museum camera police, I managed to get one picture of the "work" of a totally non-descript "wood sculptor" whose name is unknown, and ought to be sequestered in the back

corner of a steel vault at the Bank of America. His work consists of carpentry cutoffs, through which he has drilled a one inch hole and inserted a one inch galvanized pipe. The wood is neither surfaced, nor is it sanded or finished. Just cutoffs skewered by a pipe. Truly minimalist.

So I figured to myself as I was finishing the woodwork on my exterior deck, the deck cutoffs could be drilled, suitably arranged on a pedestal, and exalibered with surplus PVC pipe and submitted for acceptance by the tolerant Guggenheim. The natural droop imparted by the PVC will give my sculpture a certain 'flamboiemnt de rapiere.'

4X4 cutoffs from cutting braces for post and beam construction could easily be fashioned into a magnificent interpretation of the "mountains of the west." There's no end to the work that could be introduced to the world!

Turn on the heat in the shop, Mom. Here I come!!!  
— Nick Van

## WILLIAMSBURG WOODMASTERS

The photos following were taken at the woodcrafter shop in Williamsburg, Virginia. The city fathers, the Rockefeller Foundation and many others have taken special care to restore, repair and rebuild the first capital city of the newly settled Virginia colony. It's interesting to note that the original colony included geography that is now Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, and west to (they didn't know where it ended) beyond the Mississippi River into what is now Missouri and Kansas.

Enjoy. – Nick Van





Clockwise from upper left:

Walnut Chest on Chest  
Mahogany Federal Period Secretary  
Maple Harpsichord  
Mahogany Grandfather Clock

Facing Page:

Various Period Chairs circa 1700-1850



## FROM HARTVILLE TOOL

20% Discount ends 11/30/08. Thereafter, discount will be 15%. -- Ed Pysher

## NEW WEBSITE FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT

HTTP://  
[WWW.WOODWORKERSINSTITUTE.COM](http://WWW.WOODWORKERSINSTITUTE.COM)

Try it. You'll like it. -- Dave Blair

## FOR THE DREAMERS

Just in case you're driving through the state of Maine, and you have a few minutes with nothing to do, and you wondered what it would be like to visit the showroom of the premier planemaker in the world, and you happened to have a few extra dollars to spare, and an appropriate amount was in your budget for the month, then you'd want to stop at Lie Neilsen Company.

It's a rather humble place, neatly painted and trimmed, with a small, very expensive show room. The folks there are first rate, customer

oriented and ready and willing to help you empty your wallet. -- Nick Van



# HAPPY

# THANKSGIVING



## **Fiction and Fact from Nick's Almanac:**

In the 1400's, a law was set forth that a man was allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb. Thus, the "rule of thumb."

Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king in history, with Spades being King David, Hearts being Charlemagne, Clubs being Alexander the Great and Diamonds being Julius Caesar.

$111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321$

If you were to spell each consecutive number beginning with the number "one," you would have to spell 999 numbers before you reached a number containing the letter "A."

It is impossible for you to lick your elbow.

Half of all Americans live within 50 miles of their birthplace.

Only two people signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4th 1776, John Hancock and Charles Thomson. Most of the rest signed on August 2, but the last signature wasn't added until 5 years later. It was not considered very smart to be obvious if you're committing treason.

San Francisco cable cars are the only mobile national monuments.

The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime time TV was Fred and Wilma Flintstone. Boy, has that changed!

Every day, more money is printed for the game of Monopoly than is printed at the US Treasury.

The first novel written on a typewriter was "Tom Sawyer."

And finally, more than half of you tried to lick your elbow.

**Remember, amateurs built the ark, professionals built the Titanic.**

### ***THE WOOD SHED.....***

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**COMING EVENTS**

Dec 2	6:00 PM	Christmas Pizza	Hillcrest Lodge, Mount Vernon
Dec 2	7:00 PM	Membership Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge, Mount Vernon
Dec 19	7:00 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Restaurant on Hwy 20
Dec 22	Noon	Newsletter Deadline	Nick's Email (nvan@verizon.net)
Jan 6	7:00 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, 24 Jacks Pass Court, Camano Island, WA 98282 or Email to nvan@verizon.net or call 360-387-4174.

**2008 Officers and Chairpersons**

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Programs	Jim Bucknell	(360) 766-5088	Toys for Tots	Glenn Koontz	(360) 466-5910
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**NCWA NEWSLETTER**

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