

NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

January 2007

Next Meeting: January 9th, 7:00 pm

Hillcrest Park Lodge

1717 South 13th Street, Mount Vernon

Phone: 360-202-0099 or 360-319-7600

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.....

What a remarkable organization this is. The range of activities that are available to all members provides the opportunity to enhance skills (or in my case start from scratch) and friendship. There are trips to explore woodworking exhibitions, products and equipment and a whole host of classes ranging from those aimed at enhancing the skill of us beginners to broadening the skill base of even the most skilled. The fun at the annual picnic and the "NCWA 500" races is always popular. Perhaps the best of all, however, is something that RP Meyers mentioned to me over lunch a few weeks ago. Everyone is willing to share. No one holds back. The least of us has access to the most skill persons in the crowd and that person, without exception, is willing to share and help. This is indeed extraordinary.

The willingness of some to make the organization this fluid and satisfying, however, puts something of an

obligation on all of us. Each of us has something to share, whether it is an idea for a class or general meeting, helping out at one of the two shows we participate in each year by providing an exhibit, demonstrating at a show, or simply offering a suggestion to make an activity better.



Changing of the guard! Past Prez Bob (R) congratulates New Prez Ed (L)!

One of the things we would like to do is to begin the data gathering for a future member data base. This idea is not new but we have had very little discussion about such a data base, or even its objectives, but for example, I would like to know who I could call on to get help with a dust-collection system. Having been to two of Rick Anderson's classes, there is no mystery as to who I will call, but let's say I'm new to NCWA and have not been to one of his classes. Wouldn't it be great to have a place to go to "ask the question" and find out who could help? How about a problem with tricky joinery, or maybe I want to build a gate in a

fence and would like to discuss the various qualities of different types of wood?

There will need to be a whole lot of discussion on this and we will need to make sure we don't get crosswise with privacy issues. The project may not even get started this year, but a resource of this type could be quite an extension of NCWA's educational orientation and we would like to begin serious consideration. Please give this your thoughts and email me with any ideas, suggestions, fears, etc, so we can be sure to get in your input.

In the meantime, I would hope that we can engage more members in NCWA activities. We will again ask for volunteers to help with the various committees and activities and to share skills. It is rather unfair to expect a few folks to carry the load. Further, your committees cannot hope to meet your needs without your input and the best way to make sure your preferences are heard is to participate in the related committee activities.

I hope to see everyone on January 9. I have a lousy memory for names, so PLEASE, wear your nametags.
☺ Ed

Your NCWA Officers for 2007
President: Ed Pysher
Vice President: Walter Myers
Secretary: Jay Geisel
Treasurer: Doug Duehning
Board Members: All Officers, Committee Chairpersons, Don Parry (At Large) & Glenn Koontz (At Large).

**January Meeting
Pencil Post Bed Making**
The January program promises to be a very interesting one. Our own Dave Blair will give a presentation on the design, planning and construction of the classic "Pencil Post Bed". Dave built a Pencil Post Bed for his teenage granddaughter and will share the details on how it is done. Dave says he had plans for the bed but elected to deviate in some ways where he thought a slightly different process would result in a better product. Dave will bring the taper jig he used for preparing the four sides of the long bedposts and discuss how it is used. He will also cover the marking, shaping and preparing the mortises and tenons needed for assembling the bed. Those of us who have attended one of Dave's classes on planes and sharpening can attest to Dave's presentation skills. Don't miss this meeting! Don't forget, it is the 9th of January, not the 2nd, and will be held at the Hillcrest Lodge. -Cec Braeden

December was about Toys.....

Following sandwiches and fellowship.....and an expedient election of new (and some old) officers we moved on to the real reason we had gathered on this December evening.....Toys for Tots!

We have just completed "Toys for Tots- 2006" and submitted around 270 (best, latest estimate) gifts for local area kids. The NCWA membership is proud of the accomplishment by the following members who have brought Christmas joy to a bunch of kids. Rick Anderson; Cec Braeden; Troy Burks; Doug Duehning; Ron Engstrom; Lyle Hand; Glenn Koontz; Ken LaMarche; Laura Mathews; Val Mathews; John Mull; Clarence Ochsner; Bill Thisius; Lucinda VanValkenburg; Gary Weyers; Richard Zegers. The following quilter/ sewer supporters of our T for T activities are: Doris Benson; Gail Cartwright; Pam Frederickson; Patricia Hand; Carol Thomas; Adele Zimmerman. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

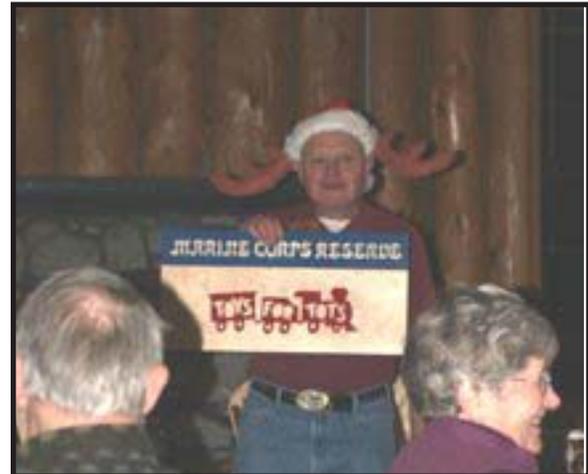
For me, the response of the members to the T for T program just brings tremendous joy.

Rick Crossley and Jeff Murphy, Skagit Valley Det. #1043, Marine Corps. League, were in attendance to celebrate with us and receive the toys.

The extra, and previously unknown super surprise, was the arrival of Gunnery Sergeant Shane Inman. I can't remember when I have felt so honored. Two tours of duty in Iraq and he spent the evening with us because he is a faithful supporter of the Toys for Tots program. He honored all of us with his presence.

It was a great year and I have been greatly humbled. - Gene Benson

Toys for Tots 2006



Gary Weyer's scroll saw sign.....and Santa's Favorite Helper aka Gene Benson set the tone for our annual Toys for Tots evening.



Toys as far as the eye can see.....more than 270 toys including cars, trains, boats, tops, cradles and more!
Each one brought joy to a child's Christmas!



Gunnery Sergeant Shane Inman paid us a visit and related how toys like those our club makes mean so much more than just another plastic toy!

From the education committee:

January Open Shop Tours: January 13th will be held by a couple of our Shelter Bay members, Gene Benson and Doug Duenhing. A notice will be sent out the week prior to the tour with directions. This is a great opportunity to check out Gene's new 10" jointer and 15" planer and share some woodworking tips. Gene can also show you the best router table lift system on the market.

New Class schedule is done, but to save space in the news letter, check out the schedule and class descriptions on the web site. We have some great classes coming up that are new this year, such as vacuum clamping, scroll saw, work benches, basic jigs, sand blasting, box making and much, much more. Some classes are limited do to shot space so sign up early. Let Greg Anderson know which classes you want to attend by E-mailing him at: ganderson59802@yahoo.com.

I personally want to thank everyone who contributed to the Shelly Clouse fund. Ed Pysher, Bob Doop and I presented Shelly with a check for \$1,500 on Thursday afternoon and she was very appreciative. She was concerned that the club couldn't afford that and we

explained to her that it wasn't from the club treasury, but from the hearts and with best wishes of each member of the club. Thank you.

This Tree Was Special

The morning of Thursday, Oct 19, was a bit cloudy and wet, but that weather did not detract from the excitement of watching Steve Intveld saw into pieces a huge big-leaf maple log with "burl"ish features. Steve invited four friends out to witness this event: Gene Benson, Dave Blair, Lyle Hand and myself.

The log was about nine feet long, and although the log's girth was uneven, at it largest dimension, its diameter measured 36". Quite a hunk, its heft required a front-end-loader on Steve's tractor to lift and move it.

The tree itself – its age is not known — grew up just off Cedarville Road, near the Deming Log Show grounds. For harvesting it, Steve had a

friend help. They cut the tree up into piece ranging between six and nine feet lengths. The log seasoned outside for about 18 months. Steve painted the butt with latex paint. While the log's moisture was not measured, Steve estimates that it was about 30%.

(Steve intends to store the boards for about 12 more months, at which time he thinks the moisture will read about 16%.)

Plea from the Collector

NCWA dues for 2007 are still \$30, due by January 1, 2007. That means you're probably already late by the time you read this article. So, if you haven't already paid, stop reading right now and go write the check. To the many who have already paid, Doug thanks you for making his job easier - you can keep reading.

Please make your check payable to NCWA, and mail to your Treasurer, Doug Duehning, 150 Swinomish Dr., LaConner, WA 98257. If for some strange reason you don't intend to renew, please email Doug at daduehning@yahoo.com or phone (360) 466-1281, so that he doesn't waste his time and yours continuing to pester you.

Please, please, please help Doug - he'd rather be working in his shop than chasing you down to collect dues.

Have you found the OBJECT of your affection???

Just a reminder, the "found" object contest (which by the way, was announced in the August newsletter so that we would all have enough lead time to complete a project) will reach it's conclusion at the February meeting. I realize that you have all been earnestly working on your entries for the past four and a half months and don't actually need this reminder, but here it is anyway.

The purpose of this contest is to construct an outstanding example of your woodworking expertise around a "found" object. In other words, throw some wood around some piece of rubbish that you "found" and make it look special! No, I haven't found my piece of rubbish yet either, so much for advanced warnings. Oh well, my intentions are good and I still have a month and a half to go. I'm really looking forward to the February meeting and the results of everyone's imaginations. This should be exciting! -Val Matthews

Steve's sawmill set-up — called “Mobile Dimension” — is powered by an industrial Volkswagen engine. The unit has three circular blades, a main vertical 30” one and two smaller, circular blades, set square to the vertical blade, to cut the edges of boards square with the larger flat sides of boards.

The large, vertical blade has only six steel teeth, but manages a uniformly, flat surface on each cut. Steve cuts boards up to 12” wide, and up to 4” thick. The sawmill's carriage is 26 feet.

The log yielded about thirty boards, each dimensioned by Steve into the most advantageous size. Left to be sawn later was the log's middle, from which Steve will, Nakashima-like, bandsaw 3 slabs, for coffee tables, etc., each 4 inches thick by approximately thirty-six inches wide by nine feet lengths. The most fun? Waiting as each board come off the carriage, to see what surprise there would be in grain configuration.

Experience, Steve notes, shows that a log's best wood comes from the middle. In cutting this log up, the more figured grain was nearer the surface. Boards from the log's interior were pretty straight grained.

As someone has claimed, “Trees are nature's cathedrals, places for worship of natural beauty”. In their natural state, however, while definitely “cathedral-like,” trees are open to life, and death,



and in “death” reemerge in some other form, perhaps equally beautiful. In another sense, though, that same tree, discreetly drawn and quartered, can perpetuate forever its original beauty, i.e., its interior grain figuration on display as a dovetailed box, a turned bowl, or perhaps a coffee table, with an exquisitely formed top of book-matched veneers. This way, the tree doesn't ‘die’; instead it spirit lives on in perpetuity.

It is the latter that we witnessed on that damp, October morning. For all of us, it was one of life's special days. — Ray McInnis

More photos from the cutting of the Maple at Steve Intveld's.....



Shelly Clouse Update

Shelly has been moved to the Life Care Center in Mt. Vernon, 2120 E. Division, room 201. I was able to talk to Shelly today and she sounds great considering what she has been through. When I asked if there was anything we could do for her, she said she would like some "wood working magazines" since all that is available at the Life Care Center are the likes of Good Housekeeping and Better Homes and Gardens; not exactly Shelly's preferred reading material. If you have any magazine you don't want, you can either drop them by her room or get them to a board member and we will get them to her. It would be great to stop and visit with her if you have a notion. Shelly still has a long recovery process so woodworking friends can help keep her spirits up. I spoke with her husband and he said she is not complaining about the pain, but the halo and harness is driving her crazy. - RP Myers

Please remember Shelly in your thoughts and prayers.....and with your magazines!

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.....and take a photo or two (or call me for assistance with photography).....and we will run it in a future issue. Share the joy of wood-working! - 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

COMING EVENTS

Jan. 9th	7:00PM	Monthly Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge
Jan. 17th	7:00PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Restaurant on Hwy 20
Jan. 20th	Noon	Newsletter Deadline	Rick's Email Box
Feb. 6th	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:	R.P. Myers	(360) 708-4677			



NCWA NEWSLETTER

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