



NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

January, 2009

**Next Meeting: January 6, Hillcrest Park Lodge
7:00PM 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.

January 2009

Happy New Year!



A small sample of our Toys for Tots craftsmen and many of their creations.

Toys, Toys and More Toys!!!

It was the best of times. We ended the year 2008 with a fantastic spirit of giving to the needy children in Skagit and Whatcom Counties. Members and spouses and like-minded guests assembled in Mount Vernon's Hillcrest Lodge to eat pizza together and show their enthusiasm and generosity for the **Toys for Tots** Christmas donation on Tuesday, December 2nd.

The meeting attracted a large attendance of more than 60 persons of caring hearts who were clearly embracing an emotional feeling of community spirit and an eagerness to contribute to this popular cause. A passionate appeal for cash donations by our **Toys for Tots** Chairman **Glenn Koontz** resulted in a collection of **\$1,123!** This amount was an outstanding contribution that more than doubled last year's response.

Invited guests included three of the top organizational leaders of the local **US Marine Corps Reserve** who voluntarily take on the task of the year-round **Toys for Tots** program in our area. We were also honored with the presence of **L. Stedem Wood**, publisher of the **Skagit Valley**

Herald newspaper and **Richard Tinney**, President and owner of the **Washington Alder** plant in Skagit County. **Washington Alder** has, for the past several years, been the principal donor of lumber used in creating our handmade toys. Their generosity has made it possible for NCWA members to work around the year creating an increasing annual toy production that culminates in delivery to the Corps at Christmastime.

The front of the Lodge meeting room was filled with hundreds of toys made for children, ages 2 to 15 years, and the profusion of creative ideas was remarkable. Our toymakers donated wood gifts large and small, from rocking horses and doll cradles to grasshoppers and bumblebee pulls.



Toys for Tots Cradles and their Makers

Wood vehicles and airplanes filled the tables to capacity and the women's groups again sewed comfy layettes for the cradles. All in all, more than 250 individually made, finely crafted toys were turned over to the Marines. There were many speeches by our guests who described the all-volunteer program that collects and stores 6,500 toys a year for delivery to organizations that see to the needs of thousands of children. In Skagit County, 1,700 families received help last year. We

learned that 97 percent of money donations go directly to buying toys and that last year the Marine Corps distribution hit a high of 7,350 toys. Briefings were given by **Richard Crosssley**, the coordinator of the local detachment and his co-coordinator, **Jeff Murphy**, and also by **William McCutchin**, State Commandant for the Marine Corps League. They told us that our toys are distributed in the area from the Canadian border to as far south as Stanwood.



The March of the Grasshoppers.
More Toys for Tots.

Woodworkers had business to take care of also. Vice President **Jeff O'Donnell** called for an introduction of the guests and also identified some new members. He then asked officers and committee chairmen for reports and followed this with two other items on the evening's agenda.

As is customary in December, we held an election of officers for 2009. The nominating committee recommended that **Jeff O'Donnell**, Vice President for 2008, advance to the Presidency and selected **Jim Torrence** as our new Vice President. Current Treasurer **Doug Duehning** and Secretary **Jay Geisel** were nominated for another year of service. Their being no other nominations, a vote

was taken and the slate was approved unanimously. The other business item was approval of the rewritten and expanded NCWA By-laws. The Club's original By-laws were written three-dozen years ago and found wanting for an organization that has blossomed to almost 100 members. An ad hoc committee of **Jim Torrence, Jay Geisel,** and **Dave Blair** submitted their revision to the Board last fall and copies were made available to all members in November. Acceptance was required by a majority of the assembled membership and this was accomplished at the December meeting. The new NCWA By-laws can be read and downloaded from our website (<http://www.ncwawood.org>).

Eugene Benson, who originated the NCWA **Toys for Tots** program and served as its chairman for four years, will again take the reins next year from **Glenn Koontz** who has served his promised two-year term. Glenn has motivated many woodworkers into toy-making projects and has been a factor in strengthening the Club's program. Gene is a prolific producer of quality toys and has a deep-rooted devotion for **Toys for Tots**.



Another Toys for Tots display. Amazing!!

Gene recycled some very nice looking spalted maple and fashioned the wood into one of his

distinctive doll cradles. The piece was so stunning he presented it to Mr. Tinney with the Club's compliments. Tinney has promised the cradle to his two-year old granddaughter who was also present. - Jay Geisel

Toys for Tots Committee

Our club members generously responded to the **Toys for Tots** program run by the Marines. At our annual banquet on December 2, 2008 we made and donated over 260 toys to the Marines for the **Toys for Tots** project, including those later brought in by **Rick Anderson** and others. The club members and their guests are to be especially thanked for their generous outpouring of dollars to assist the Marines program. A total of **\$1123** was raised including monies which arrived by mail at a later date.

Our special guests for the evening **Mr. Richard Tinney** owner of **Washington Alder**, who generously donated wood to make toys spoke to the club. His daughter and granddaughter and office manager **Cathy Shalamunec** were also present. **Mr. L. Stedem Wood**, publisher of the **Skagit Valley Herald** addressed the club and

gave us a history of the Herald's **Christmas Fund** and how they work to meet current needs. Five Marines and guests were also present and there to receive the toys and donations.



Toy cars made at Val Matthews' shop by our members

Thanks to **Ed Pysher** who made a special trip to

pick up the Pizza dinner and then arrived early enough at the Lodge to make certain it was open so toys could be brought in and displayed. Also, thank you to **Jim Bucknell** who was the chairman of the dinner. **Ken LaMarche** did a yoeman's job of helping me with the set up.

I am personally overwhelmed by the generosity of our members in making toys and their very generous donation of money to help the Marines with this great cause.

Gene Benson will be heading up the **Toys for Tots** program again and I know we will rally around him to help him next year. - Glenn Koontz

Cec Braeden Returns to *Fine Woodworking Magazine*

Cec Braeden is back in print on the pages of *Fine Woodworking*. Our talented rocking chair man and workbench innovator has been given a page in the February 2009 issue, just received, to exploit another great woodworking technique. In answer to a reader's question on how best to edge-band a plywood panel, the editors turned to Cec for an answer, and it was the one he demonstrated to us about four years ago in his own shop.

Cec's technique is to make veneer strips from the same plywood work piece, thus matching grain and color. With printed photos and instructions on page 82, he shows how to cut one-inch wide veneer strips on the table saw and then cutting them free by placing the plywood face down on the table. The veneer is then glued to the panel edges. Finally, he suggests that you pare away the veneer that overhangs the work piece with a chisel. "You can cut veneers that run with the grain and across the grain, so you can match any side of the plywood," he writes.

The diagram by the *Fine Woodworking* illustrator

is incorrect, however. It shows the saw blade destroying the veneer rather than properly cutting into the core behind it. Cec values his glue line saw blade for this type of work. It's a great idea from our own esteemed woodworker. -Jay Geisel

In Other News:

If you have not already done so, be sure to pay your dues before the end of January. All vendors will be notified the first week of February that we will be preparing new membership cards for 2009 and will pass them out at the February meeting. If your dues aren't paid by the end of January, you won't get a 2009 card until they are, and you will be taken off the membership list. We send the membership list to Hartville Tool, so "get'er done," folks.

Make your check payable to "NCWA" and send it to our Treasurer, Doug Duehning, 150 Swinomish Dr., LaConner, WA 98257. Be sure to show up for the February meeting. We don't have the bucks to mail membership cards to everyone.

On another matter, if you do not have a name tag, please let Ed Pysher know and he will have one for you at the February meeting, provided you have paid your dues. You can reach Ed at epyshe@aol.com. - Jeff O'Donnell

Meet the Membership Committee

At the last board meeting we decided to "showcase" one committee each month, to emphasize the amount of work these folks do for NCWA and to remind members of the services the committees provide. Since I raised the question, I get to go first, which only goes to prove that no good deed goes unpunished.

The Membership committee provides a variety of services. Last year, we started making "house calls" to new members to learn about their woodworking interests, skill levels, and

expectations from membership. We specifically wanted to find out how we could help them increase their enjoyment with woodworking, and to integrate them into NCWA. The information we have gathered in these interviews has often provided input to the other committees, such as Education and Monthly Programs.

The trial visits were very helpful and we now have an expanded “questionnaire” that we will use to make sure we don’t miss something. We would like to expand this activity to include “interviews” with current members, to see if there are some things we could do better, or perhaps just differently, and maybe more fun.

Another service we provide has to do with “community awareness”. We now have a new supply of brochure stands and will be positioning them with the woodworking vendors in our area. The stands hold copies of the brochure we revised this year, and we have a brochure supply that should last us for a while.

A favorite of everyone has been the shop tours. We now have that effort staffed and we hope to begin the tours in February. We haven’t decided on the format for this year, but that should be settled in time to begin the tours soon. This service is one of my personal favorites. I always learn a lot when I visit someone else’s shop.

Probably the most important service the Committee provides is decent coffee and darn good cookies at the monthly meetings. I assume everyone has noticed the vast improvement in the quality of the coffee since I stopped making it.

The Committee members are geographically located. Jerry Couchman represents the Committee north of Bellingham, and Jim Bucknell handles the Bellingham area. Larry Tomovick takes care of Anacortes, and I work in the Sedro Woolley and Mount Vernon areas. We need someone in the “south end” and will be conscripting

soon, if we don’t get a volunteer. Gary Danileson and John Bellinger are working on shop tours and last, but far from the least, let’s have a standing ovation for Marshal Eberhart, our own private coffee meister.

We would be more than happy to hear any and all suggestions, comments or recommendations as to how we can make your woodworking experience more enjoyable. - Ed Pysher

Education Committee Report

In December we had two very successful classes. The first one was on routers, bits, and jigs taught by Phil Choquette at Mike New’s shop in Bow. We had a record 13 members in attendance. Phil showed us a variety of different routers from a small Dremel to a large Milwaukie and several in between. If you are thinking about a new router, he said to get one that draws 10 amps or more. Don’t pay much attention to the horsepower as the way this is measured is not appropriate for the end user. I thought his information on bits boiled down to “you get what you paid for,” but not always. The second class was on making drawers at Chuck Robertson’s on Camano Island. In this one, five members made two drawers with a



Toy Crane by Val Matthews

different type of joint in each corner. They look weird but the objective was to learn and actually make different kinds of joints. These drawers will go into cabinets that will be made in the class on cabinet making to be held in March.

We will have two classes a month until spring. On January 10, Dave Blair will again teach his very popular class on sharpening. Sign up and bring a chisel, plane blade, or scraper to sharpen. I think I will take this class again just so I can have another sharp chisel in my shop. Then on January 24, Val Matthews will help us understand how to read a set of plans and then build a project from those plans. Both of these classes will be of the hands-



March of the Serrengeti.
More Toys for Tots!!

on variety.

To sign up for either of these or other classes, you can contact Chuck Robertson by e-mail at cerjor@hotmail.com, call him at 360-387-6333 (Leave a message if there is no answer), go to the NCWA website (www.ncwawood.org, click on "Classes" and then on "Registration Form.") or look for registration signup sheets at the next meeting. In the meantime, have fun making sawdust. - Chuck Robertson

Kudos to Toys for Tots Crafters

Many of our members have been involved in **Toys for Tots** in my shop. Others have been involved in **Gene Benson's** and **Glenn Koontz's** shops. Above all, my life long bride, **Laura**, not only did more than her share of the work, she also made the coffee and baked all those delicious cookies. She also made lunch for anyone who forgot to bring theirs.

Gene Benson not only led a group making doll cradles in his own shop, he also never missed a workday at my shop. He was instrumental in getting the club involved in the **Toys for Tots** program several years ago and has been a driving force ever since. I know, he pushed me every step of the way. Thanks Gene!

Also a big thank you to the following members who helped in my shop (I hope I don't forget anyone): **Troy Burks, Jack Dunphy, John Gruenewald, Steven Johnson, Mike New, Clarence Ochsner, Richard Zegers**. Also two of my neighbors also pitched in, **Don Moser** and **Roger Emerson** along with Laura's son, **Ben Blair**.

I think a good time was had by all, I know I sure enjoyed it!- Val Matthews



More Wonderful Toys

Fiction and Fact from Nick's Almanac...

- ...Bamboo can grow up to three feet in a 24 hour period.
- ...It takes about the same amount of time to properly age a cigar as it takes to age wine.
- ...In Holland, you can be fined for not using a shopping basket at a grocery store.
- ...It costs more today to buy a new car than it cost for Christopher Columbus to equip and undertake three voyages to and from the New World.
- ...Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia is the fear of long words.
- ...Blue whales weigh as much as 30 elephants and are as long as 3 Greyhound buses.
- ...A pound of potato chips costs about 200 times more than a pound of potatoes.
- ...Caesar salad was first served in a bar in Tijuana, Mexico in the 1920's.
- ...Celery has negative calories. It takes more calories to eat it than it contains.
- ...The first Ford cars had Dodge engines.
- ...Almonds are botanical members of the peach family.
- ...In MelBrook's "Silent Movie," mime Marcel Marceau is the only person who had a speaking role.
- ...A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds (remind you of anyone in particular?).

And Finally,

...In 1963, baseball pitcher Gaylord Perry remarked, "They'll put a man on the moon before I hit a home run." On July 20, 1969, a few hours after Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon, Gaylord Perry hit his first, and only, major league home run.

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Grizzly 15" 2hp planer w new blades	175.00
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COMING EVENTS

January 6	7:00 PM	Membership Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge, Mount Vernon
January 21	7:00 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Restaurant on Hwy 20
January 24	Noon	Newsletter Deadline	Nick's Email (nvan@verizon.net)
February 3	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

President:	Jeff O'Donnell	(360) 678-2205	Education	Chuck Robertson	(360) 387-6333
Vice President	Jim Torrance	(360) 629-6670	Librarian	Jim Torrence	(360) 629-6670
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Treasurer	Doug Duehning	(360) 466-1281	Membership	Ed Pysher	(360) 770-7203
Board at Large	Glenn Koontz	(360) 466-5910	Shows	Phil Choquette	(360) 675-8320
Board at Large	Dave Blair	(360) 733-3911	Toys for Tots	Gene Benson	(360) 466-3004
Programs	Jim Bucknell	(360) 766-5088	Webmeister	Mike New	(360) 707-2314

**NCWA NEWSLETTER**

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