

# NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

July 2007

**Next Meeting: July 10th, 7:00 pm**

**Hillcrest Park Lodge**

**1717 South 13th Street, Mount Vernon**

**Phone: 360-770-7203 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.**

Hi folks:

We have had a number of inquiries as to whether we have a list of woodworking suppliers and whether there is a list of suppliers that would give NCWA members a discount. Your board has decided there is enough interest to establish a project to compile and maintain a general list of vendors and to approach the vendors regarding discounts for our members. We have a beginning list that Larry Tomovick developed several years ago. Using that list as a starting point, Jay Geisel will verify the current existence of each vendor, their current address and phone number. Cec Braeden is working on the development of "membership cards" that each member can carry in their wallet to demonstrate membership to the vendor. I have a draft letter that can be sent to each vendor describing NCWA and asking for discounts.

We need a volunteer to take it from here. This is an opportunity to become familiar with the various suppliers in the area, both national and local, and to really perform a service to your fellow members. Please call or email me if you have an interest in the project.

Arts Alive is the first weekend in November and there is no time like the present to get going on your project to demonstrate woodworking in this year's festival. Nick Van,

who has worked with you in the past on this project, will again head it up this year. Look forward to his cheerful encouragement. Thanks for volunteering again, Nick. (He was out of town during the board meeting.)

We still need a new chairperson for the newsletter committee. Rick Anderson has been our newsletter leader for almost three years and has served notice that he is going to "retire" from that august position soon.....the December issue will be his last hurrah. If you know of someone with desktop publishing experience or any interest therein, please give Ed (360-766-0136) or Rick (360-650-1587) a call, and squeal on the person, in total confidence, of course. Someone out there needs to pick up the baton on this committee soon.

This is a volunteer organization, folks and the quality of your NCWA experience depends on the contributions of all of us.

Don't forget the July meeting has been postponed from July 3 to July 10!

Don't forget "Bring 'N Brag", and don't forget your name tags!

Ed

### When last we met.....

This day, we gathered at the Home Port Learning Center in Bellingham for what proved to be an instructive evening. President Ed Pysher, in full regal trappings of levi's and tenny runners, took the podium and tried to gain calm and order to begin the evening (it was sort of like herding humming birds).

The business portion of the meeting was very short. So short that there were only three committee reports; one

from Gene Benson (in his inimitable abbreviated fashion) reporting for Chairperson Glenn Koontz informing us that the Saturday Toys for Tots assembly session would continue at Gene's shop in Shelter Bay. Nick Van reported for Chairperson Chuck

Robertson that the 2007 – 2008 Education schedule is in its final stages and that a full report will be offered at the July meeting.

With the business portion of the meeting concluded, President Ed asked for Bring 'N Brags whereupon Rich Zegers passed around a picture of a lovely and dramatic redwood slab clock that he made for one of his grandchildren. Jim Bucknell showed off a beautifully crafted humidior, consisting of lacewood, mahogany and walnut. His humidior was settling out at about 70% humidity and maintaining a consistant temperature.

In addition, a number of our members brought examples of hand fashioned handplanes that they crafted at a Saturday session at Val and Laura Matthews' shop. Val brought several of his own. All were done in the James Krenov style, individual in their design and very functional in their operation. Walter Meyers and Jim Bucknell brought their planes, each beautifully designed, shaped

and finished. Walter also showed us a small brass headed hammer that he fashioned to adjust the blade of his plane. It appears that the hand plane class was a real hit as a good day was had by all.

Prexy Ed also introduced George Way, our woodworker of the month. George, it would seem, is capable of extraordinary results using his small lathe. To listen to him, he just tosses the wood in the vicinity of the chuck and live center, lays a tool on the tool rest and the wood

turns itself. When complete, according to George, he looks at what has been fashioned and says to himself, "Did I do that?" In reality, the turned box he showed us is elegant in design, delicate in its construction and shows beautifully. George has a small shop dedicated to wood turning. He is engaging in his style and brilliantly

self effacing in his delivery. Thank you, George, for a very entertaining presentation.

After a short break, Ed turned the meeting over to Rick Anderson who introduced Ralph Smallwood, the director of the Home Port Learning Center. -Nick Van

### July Program: It's about DRAWERS, not doors!

Have you ever worried about the best method to make a drawer for your project; Which method will give you strong corners that will not break down under years of use; Which method is the simplest to make; How do you make sure the drawers have perfectly square corners; Which method gives the best appearance and shows off your woodworking skills? Well, the answers to these concerns and many more will be revealed at our July 10<sup>th</sup> program.

Bob Doop will bring together a group of talented craftsmen from our organization to demonstrate their favorite methods for making drawers and installing them in furniture/cabinetry. This is a program that has something for everyone. We all have things we can learn and are fortunate to have members who are willing to teach what they have learned through many years of experience.

### A visit to Home Port Learning Center.....

Our June program was something out of the ordinary, a visit to the Home Port Learning Center in Bellingham. Home Port is a small non-profit alternative school with 20 to 24 students who are considered at risk. Some of the students come from the Whatcom County Juvenile Detention Center while others are referred by the 3 school districts that contract with Home Port.....Bellingham, Ferndale and Meridian. Students are accepted both at the high school and middle school levels. Some students are coping with learning disabilities.....many of the students

come from abusive family situations. All of the students are considered to be at risk.

Students are admitted to the Home Port program after review and interview by the Home Port staff headed by Ralph Smallwood who has been involved at the school since it's inception in 1994. Students are provided a high teacher/student ratio ... .. a maximum 6 students per instructor. Students study academic subjects which result in transferable high school credits. The students also can opt to earn their GED while at Home Port.



Ralph Smallwood, Director of Home Port Learning Center explains the details of sailing the Plume, a 26 ft. longboat built by students using traditional boat building methods and used for student activities and training.

In addition to their academic studies, students receive considerable training and experience in boat building/repair as well as other woodworking projects as a way of developing not only technical skills but work skills as well. Students also spend time doing stream restoration work.

Several boats have been built by the students. The



First projects built by all students at Home Port; a tool tote which they will use during their time at the school and then an oar built by traditional method.



first boat project in 1995 was an Umiak skin boat. Following that success the school embarked on a year long project building a replica of Capt. Vancouver's long boat. I had the privilege to attend the launching of the long boat on Lake Whatcom.....it was a scene of great emotion and pride for the students who had toiled hard for months. The long boat, named the Plume, is kept at Squalicum Harbor in Bellingham and is used as a means of teaching both seamanship and teamwork.....it definitely takes teamwork to get 10 oars all pulling in the same direction at the same moment! The Plume is also rigged for sailing and again it takes a great deal of teamwork to successfully sail the boat with it's traditional rig.

Home Port has experienced an impressive level of success with their students. For most of these students it is the first time in their lives that they have achieved any level of success.....and received any acknowledgement of that success. Home Port is one of the few schools in the Northwest who continue to teach woodworking skills....not as an elective, but as a prime ingredient of their formula for success. Our board has begun the exploration of ways in which NCWA might share our skills and resources with Home Port Learning Center and we will be having further discussions in the near future. –Rick Anderson



Home Port's latest boatbuilding project.....an Alaskan Skiff which will be used for student field trips and other learning experiences. The school is currently looking for funding of the purchase of an outboard motor to power the boat.

## IT'S BURGERS, SALAD AND WATERMELON; PICNIC TIME SET FOR SATURDAY, AUG. 11

Summertime means outdoor enjoyment and signals the approach of our annual Club picnic in August. Laura and Val Matthews devote several days preparing their home and grounds for this once-a-year event and as gracious as their big hearts can be, they seem to genuinely enjoy our visit. The annual picnic has become the biggest, most attended NCWA function of the year and gives our spouses a chance to make new friends and reawaken former friendships. The picnic substitutes for our regular August meeting and will again feature a silent auction for those who enjoy swapping tools, getting rid of excess, or jumping on some real bargain buys. The three to four hour afternoon celebration starts at one o'clock

As a special treat, the afternoon will highlight the drawing for Cec Braeden's second Woodworker's Bench. The raffle has been drawing interest from members for several months and buyers will be lining up to purchase tickets before the big moment occurs in late afternoon. Right now it is an odds-maker's dream. With a value of more than \$500, the workbench will probably pick up only half of that amount in ticket sales. Glenn Koontz, who is selling the raffle tickets, expects a surge in last minute sales when members recognize the attractive odds. Raffle tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased from Glenn at the next two monthly meetings or at the picnic. The bench is an exact duplicate of Cec's project featured in Fine Woodworking magazine two years ago. It comes complete with an installed vise and the latest bench dog system.

Are you ready for this? Our woodturning brethren have opted out of the NCWA annual picnic. Following two consecutive years of joint-partnership for the August event

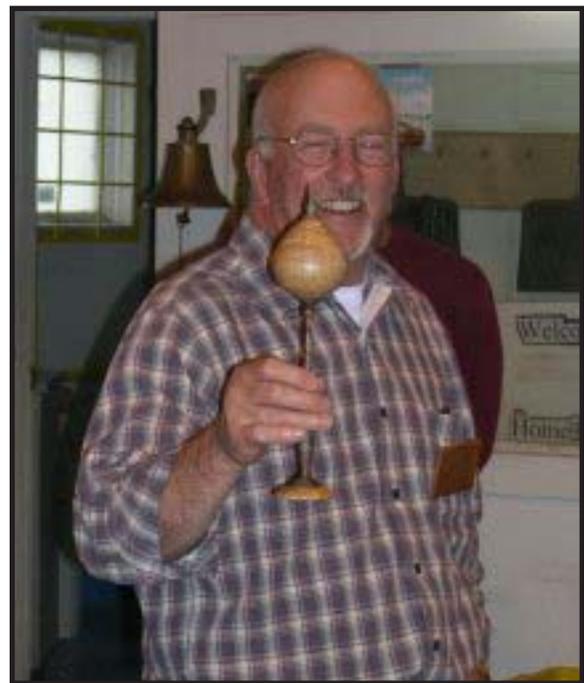
our friends decided recently to hold their own summer picnic at one of their monthly meeting dates. We had, as usual, invited them to our soire at Laura and Val's home, but they declined. With almost half the woodturners' organization made up of NCWA members also, the prospects of two picnics couldn't make this August brighter.

Bob Doop is fired up! He will again take charge of the barbecues and other cooking chores, turning out some of the best burgers, dogs, and corn-on-the cob this side of the border. He will have some hard-working volunteers helping him again, but at this writing he hasn't named them all. The Club provides the hot food and beverages and asks participants to bring a salad, covered dish, dessert, or finger food to add unlimited food ideas to the feast. There has never been a starving woodworker left behind.  
-Jay Geisel

### **Our Winter Contest is just around the corner.....**

Hi People,

I hope everyone interested in the winter contest is working on his or her project. Remember, the Sep. meeting is coming up quickly and we all want to win. After all, there is money involved. The rules are simple. Make something that represents winter, a winter scene, anything Christmas, anything New Years, or just a pile of snow. It has to be made by the person entering the item, all or mostly out of wood. After all we are wood workers. So lets get going, and make it fun!!!! -Gary Weyers



### **Woodworker of the Month**

George Way from Anacortes displays an elegant turned box.

### Bring 'N Brag Time!



Bring 'N Brag produced a lot of plane talk.....with Val Matthews (upper left), Walter Myers (upper right), Jim Bucknell (middle left) and an unknown maker (lower left) showing the products of recent plane making classes. Walter also made a small brass hammer for adjusting his plane iron. Jim also displayed a well crafted humidor (lower right).

## **WOOD TURNERS GATHERING AUGUST 24-26, 2007**

Vernon Leibrant's Shop  
3807 Cabrant Road  
Everson, WA 98274  
Camping and RV's onsite

For more information: 360-966-5183 or 360-393-1310 or Vkleibrant1@msn.com

Anyone interested in woodturning is welcome....this will be a great introduction to turning!

### **As the Web spins.....**

In keeping with this month's program theme, here's a great publication free for the printing....complete with excellent drawings and photographs:

**Drawer Building Basics** from Taunton Press (publisher of Fine Woodworking). Print this out and keep it handy.....it's a comprehensive guide to design and construction of a variety of drawer types.

<http://www.taunton.com/finewoodworking/pdf/DrawerBuildingBasics.pdf>

### ***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](http://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

#### **FOR SALE:**

Don has a complete shop full of tools collected through a lifetime. Most tools are Shopsmith, each with their own motors. Include table saw, band saw, belt sanders, drill press, scroll saw, sharpeners, grinders, Craftsman radial arm saw, pad sanders, drill motors, electric chain saws, work benches, lots of clamps, drill bit sets, numerous hand tools, and a lifetimes collection of hardware items. Don has worked on building a couple of wooden train sets and has most of the parts cut and ready for assembly. This is a project more in line with model making than with toys for tots. The train is "The General 4 - 4- 0 Locomotive, with passenger cars, tender, etc. He will probably not be able to return to his work in the shop. Anyone interested, call Mike Pierce, at 360-724-3517.

## COMING EVENTS

July 10	7 PM	Monthly Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge, Mount Vernon
July 18	7 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Restaurant on Hwy 20
July 21	Noon	Newsletter Deadline	Rick's Email Box
August 11th	1PM	Annual Picnic	Val & Laura Matthews Lawn, Bow

NOTE: Our picnic is in lieu of an August meeting

---

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](mailto:rick@gardenarches.com) or call 360-650-1587.

### **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) 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:	Glenn Koontz	(360) 466-5910
Activities:	CHAIRPERSON NEEDED		Webmaster:	Greg Shumate	(360) 387-2066
Education:	Chuck Robertson	(360) 387-6333			



**NCWA NEWSLETTER**  
4219 Adams Avenue  
Bellingham, WA 98229