

NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

June 2007

Next Meeting: June 5th, 7:00 pm
Homeport Learning Center
707 Astor Street, Bellingham
Phone: 360-202-0099 or 360-319-7600

Take I-5 exit 253 (Lakeway Street Exit). From the South, right onto King St. then right onto Lakeway. From the North, right onto Lakeway. Go .4 miles on Lakeway and take a slight right at the stop light onto East Holly St. Go .9 miles down Holly St. through downtown and past Maritime Heritage Park (on the right w/ museum above it) to C St. Right on C St. Go one block to Astor St. Home Port is on corner of C & Astor.

Hi Folks!

One of our goals for this year is to get more members involved with the “works” of the organization and to get some fresh leadership in the committees and on the board. We are making progress. We now have two new committee chairpersons; Glenn Koontz has taken the chair of the Toys for Tots program and this month Chuck Robertson has taken the chair of Education. The education committee in particular has a whole set of new faces and there are several new members on the newsletter committee. We are starting to see the changes in the committee discussions that fresh thinking can bring and it is all good. Look for more news from these new chairpersons in the near future.

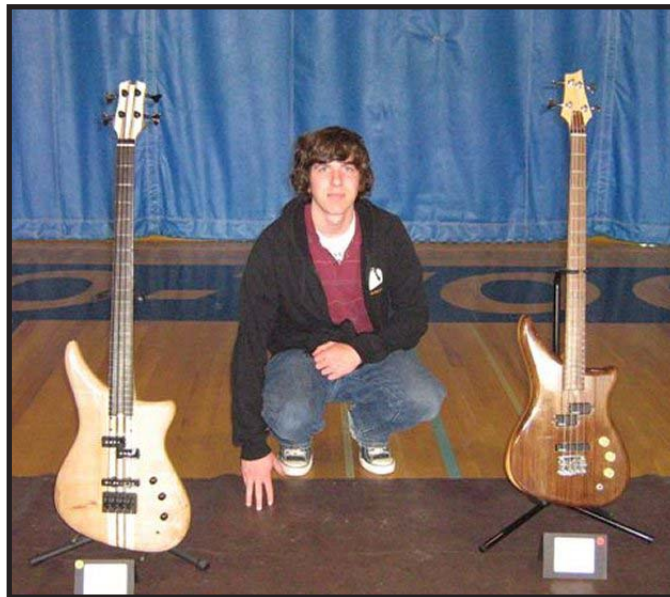
We still have one committee that needs a new chairperson and that’s the newsletter committee. Rick Anderson has been our “managing editor” for

over two years, and he would like to see someone else give it a fresh look. If you have ever had an interest in running a newspaper, here’s your chance. Seriously, though, we have the best newsletter in the business. We have seen newsletters from several other associations, and they don’t hold a candle to ours. Let’s give Rick a big hand and a rest. Someone out there is just waiting of the opportunity. Give Rick a call.

Let’s hear it for all the new volunteers, folks. They deserve a big hand.

Be sure to not that our July meeting has been changed to July 10th because of the 4th of July holiday.

See you Tuesday.....don’t forget “Bring-n-Brag”, and don’t forget your name tags!
Ed



Will Shaffer, winner of WoodFest 2007 **People’s Choice Award sponsored by NCWA, and the winner of the Lie Nielsen block plane** donated by our guild. Will displayed two very finely crafted electric guitars. He also won the **Complexity, Joinery and Finish Awards!** Will is a student at South Kitsap High School.

Minutes of our May Meeting

Our May meeting at Hillcrest Lodge in Mount Vernon featured the second of a two-part program on creating furniture. Previously, Phil Choquette concentrated on the joinery practices that compliment good design. Tonight he gave an illustrated lecture on how to judge furniture design elements.

Following the introduction of several guests, Prez Ed Pyscher announced major organizational changes that establish new chairmen for two of our standing committees. The resignation of RP Myers left a void at the top of our Educational Committee, the heart-beat of our guild, which has now been filled by worthy craftsman Chuck Robertson of Camano Island, a relative newcomer to NCWA. The second committee change puts a new face on the Toys for Tots activity started by Gene Benson three years ago. His friend and neighbor Glenn Koontz of Shelter Bay will now head that very successful program. A round of applause for the old and new chairmen followed the announcements. Both Chuck and Glenn have made a running start to organize their committees and set plans and goals for the year. Glenn announced that he favors neighborhood type groups that get together for toy-making and good fellowship, a practice that has appealed to members in the past year.

In another goal-oriented contest, new Projects Committee Chairman Gary Weyers of Ferndale has issued a Club-member "Challenge" for September that will offer several valuable prizes to those who can come up with winning ideas based on the theme of "Winter." Gary says multiple entries are encouraged. The entry deadline, display, judging, and awards will be the program for the September 4th meeting. Entries can be serious or whimsical. "Be creative; let your imagination soar," Gary said. Gift certificates of \$50, \$25, and \$25 will be awarded to First, Second, and Third Place finishers.

WoodFest. Activities Chairman Nick Van confirmed a major change for the 2007 WoodFest event at Sedro Woolley High School on the following Saturday, May 5, by describing a commercial-free, one day exhibition by seven local area high schools. The new philosophy is to highlight student woodworking talent and eliminate outside vendors and exhibitions. To that end, more schools are participating on a shortened schedule that attracts student families and friends but not the general public. Thus, for the first time, NCWA will not have a WoodFest venue for displaying work of our members. However, Nick reported, the manual training department at Sedro Woolley High, thinks highly enough of

our past entry judging teams to request that we continue judging student work. Nick has set up a team of seven volunteers to do that. Also our Club will again elect a NCWA People's Choice Award winner and present another top-quality engraved hand plane to the best student craftsman of 2007.

In other announcements from the floor Laura Matthews said a Mount Vernon friend has woodworking tools for sale, including a planer and radial arm saw, and Shelly Close said she has a 14-inch band saw and mobile base she's ready to sell.

Woodworker of the Month. Tonight we honored Jim Corbin of Bow as our Woodworker of the Month. Jim is married, the father of two children and two granddaughters, and grew up in Seattle where he made his first woodworking project, a lamp that he still uses, while in the seventh grade. That success led him to a footstool project and much later to furniture-building projects such as a sofa table in three wood species, a tool cabinet, and a sixteen-drawer worktable. Jim said that he likes to take found objects and turn them into something useful, such as candlestick holders or a turned vase. He also turns bowls. Jim racked up seven-and-a-half years with the National Guard and retired from Texaco after 25 years. He remembers helping his dad with woodworking projects at five years and his interest never flagged when he had an opportunity to take woodcraft courses for three years in a high school where he was fortunate to have an outstanding teacher. His first shop was his carport. His expertise has allowed him to remodel his home, build yard structures, and rebuild bedrooms. He recently built a 10 x 22-foot addition to give his wife a work area for her hobbies. Jim displayed several of his small works during his talk.

Bring and Brag. Gary Weyers had requests to describe his technique for making small wood boxes on the scroll saw. He responded by showing in detail the various steps to make a scroll saw box by using examples of partially completed work in the sequence leading to a completed lidded box. While Gary made it look easy, precise cutting is necessary. He finishes the inside with SuedeTex applied with a flocking gun.

Jay Geisel, Secretary

June Program

A Visit to Home Port Learning Center

Our June program is something out of the ordinary. We will be visiting the Home Port Learning Center, a small private non-profit program in Bellingham that operates 4 days a week 12 months a year. It promises to be very interesting and will acquaint us with this transitional education program for adjudicated at-risk youth in Whatcom County. Through experiential learning in a vocational context; the youth acquire academic, vocational, and work readiness skills. The vocational portion of their training has a strong emphasis on working with wood.

The students:

- Earn transferable High School Credits
- Prepare to acquire their GED
- Learn academic skills as they apply to work projects
- Prepare for the transition to the work place & further education
- Receive individual tutoring for remediation & enrichment
- Plan, build, and repair wooden boats
- Complete individual woodworking projects
- Restore local streams & marine habitats
- Develop real-life work skills

The Home Port Curriculum is designed to provide functional vocational and academic support to students who have been unsuccessful in mainstream high school programs. The students are provided structured opportunities for hands-on learning in settings that reflect real-life work situations as well as completing classroom work with tutoring if needed. A low teacher-student ratio provides for close supervision and immediate intervention and feedback.

As an example of their success, the Center served 60 youth in the 2000-2001 school year. Of the 60 students, 42 students (or 70%) had positive outcomes. A positive outcome is defined as either in mainstream school, employed, in drug and alcohol rehabilitation, or has received a GED. A negative outcome is defined as incarcerated, out of school, or unemployed. 16% fall into the negative category. Home Port took a population of 100% negative status and produced a 70% success rate.

HomePort has an excellent woodworking program with boat building being one of their primary projects. Below are a couple of the boats built by students.



We will have the opportunity to see their shop setup and projects in work, and will hear from Ralph Smallwood, director of the Center. It is obvious by their success rate in working with troubled teens, Homeport is serving a valuable community need. We can support them in this effort by attending the June meeting and admiring the handiwork of their students and learning how else we might assist their program. -Cec

Good Or Bad Furniture Design? Phil Tells Us How to Make the Call

Do you think you know good furniture design? You probably thought you did before Dr. Phil got his say at the May meeting. In splendid fashion he got us thinking about the things that are right and things that are wrong. Using a couple dozen viewgraph projections of furniture taken from magazines and catalogs, Phil teased and guided us into making decisions on what's good, bad, and dreadful about his selections.

Remember, he told us a month earlier, in part one of his furniture lectures, that if a piece of furniture isn't practical and usable, it's art. Beauty may still be in the eye of the beholder but some beholders have difficulty accepting majority views. Phil's lessons helped clear our vision for judging form, line, and balance, to make a distinction between simplicity and grandiose. Our evaluations were spotty at first, but we got better at it as Phil pointed out feature after feature that makes good design. Some of the highest priced furniture on the screen had the biggest flaws: inappropriate, skinny legs, for example, supporting a bulky cabinet. Even the best joinery and elaborate fluting couldn't overcome bad design.

At Woodfest I had an opportunity to pair with Choquette in judging student projects and I learned more about what makes a good design work. Phil emphasizes that design shows up in the details and pointed out that wood grain selection is one of the first things that catch your eye. Inexperienced woodworkers will create door panels that don't look like they came from the same wood, for example, or their stiles and rails on cabinet doors are incompatible, one quarter sawn and three plain sawn, or three-board table tops with the top board only showing "cathedrals." These are just a few examples of what we noted on our scorecards under the "Design" heading.

We talked with Sedro Woolley High School manual arts teacher Mike Stewart, the head honcho for Woodfest, regarding student attitudes on design and preparation before they start cutting wood. Mike told us that students are in a hurry to get started on projects and some make mistakes. He cited one student who determined his coffee table was going to be 28 inches high. Mike cautioned him to re-examine his design and make it somewhat lower. A week later the student reported that he and his father determined that 28 inches was what they wanted. When the project

took shape the youth was chagrined; it wasn't the table he and his father had envisioned.

Phil is the proprietor of Raintree Woodworks. He creates furniture and repairs and restores pieces for customers all over the Northwest. He told us that at one time he would create furniture models for those that asked. But after awhile some were disillusioned by the actual piece. "It looked fine to them as a model," Phil said, "but they couldn't imagine the finished furniture piece would be so large." Phil said he doesn't do modeling anymore but he sometimes makes a mock-up out of cardboard or other materials to show his customer its actual finished size and shape.

Design elements are not haphazard, Phil told us. Designers are helped by using the Golden Mean and the physical data relating to the average human form when standing, seated, or resting. These data are matched to the design of furniture dimensioning, comfort, and usability. Within these parameters, good design can flourish.

We continue to learn more about our wonderful woodworking world. Our future furniture projects will look all the better as we make better decisions in the design phase of our work, thanks to the efforts of a professional craftsman.
—Jay



Winner of the Wood Fest award for **Best Project Design** was this chest designed and built by Jon Porter from Oak Harbor High School.

WoodFest 2007 Gugel and Shaffer Take Top Awards

Honors for proficiency in woodworking were awarded to local high school students at the May 5, all-day WoodFest event held in the Sedro Woolley High School gymnasium. The judges this year were again selected from NCWA membership. Highest honors, the Mike Chandler Judges' Choice Award went to Ryan Gugel of Sedro Woolley High and the Peoples Choice Award honored Will Shaffer of South Kitsap High School. The latter award is offered each year by our organization.

First, Second, and Third Class Winners in the four major judging categories were as follows:

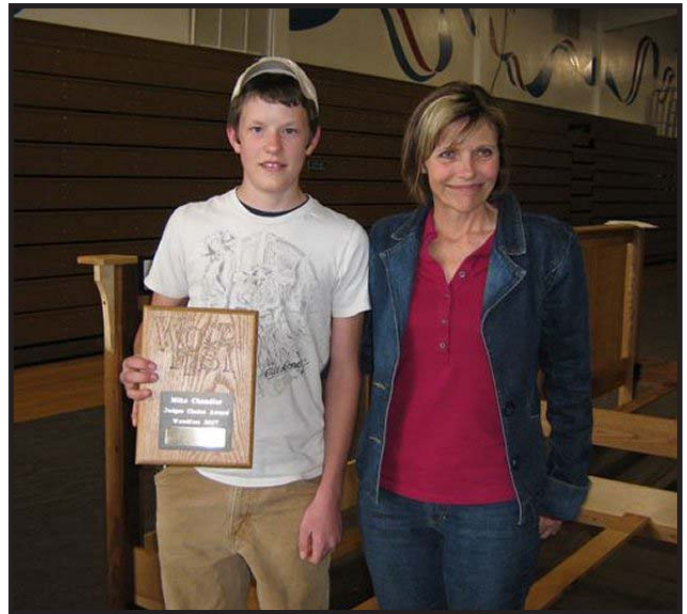
Complexity of Project: Will Shaffer, S. Kitsap HS; Will Shaffer; Jon Porter, Oak Harbor HS

Project Design: Jon Porter, Oak Harbor HS; Chris Allen, Stanwood HS; Tyler Eaton, Sedro Woolley HS

Joinery: Will Shaffer, S. Kitsap HS; Cameron Groberg, Oak Harbor HS; Jon Porter, Oak Harbor

Finish: Will Shaffer, S. Kitsap HS; Harmony McBee, Sedro Woolley HS; Ryan Gugel, Sedro Woolley HS

WoodFest 2007 included thirty-six student entries and represented four local area high schools. -Jay



Ryan Gugel of Sedro Woolley High was winner of the first annual Wood Fest **Mike Chandler Judge's Choice Award** for outstanding achievement. Ryan displayed both a bed and chest of drawers (see additional photos below). Mike Chandler was woodshop teacher at Stanwood High School and passed away just a few weeks before Wood Fest.



What in the World is a Morris Chair?

When I was a kid, a highlight of my young life was getting to visit my grandparents who lived in southern Indiana. Various rooms and areas of their house contained many things that amused me and over the course of my short stay I would have to reacquire myself with these wonderful objects.

In my grandfathers office there were two pieces of furniture that I loved. One was a large roll top desk with many drawers filled with even more interesting objects such as pencils with the names of different they had been and ads for businesses from around the area. There were eye glasses with springy metal ear pieces and magnifying glasses.

The pièce de résistance, however, was the large oaken chair with red leather cushions. I didn't know what it was at the time but it was neat looking with a large black button in the top of the right arm that when pressed allowed the back to recline. When the back was reclined and the button pushed again, the strong springs would return the chair to it's vertical position with a rapid movement accompanied with a loud "sprong"!

To answer Barbara Streisand's question I first have to identify "Morris". William Morris was an 19th Century English designer, poet, essayist, lecturer and political activist who was one of the principle icons of the Arts and Crafts Movement. Something that I find amazing is that this artistic genius did not design the "Morris Chair" although it was originally built by the Morris and Co.

So what does a Morris Chair look like and what makes it a "Morris Chair"? Basically it is a chair with a reclining back that is built out of oak in the Arts and Crafts manner. To me, it looks like what I call the Mission style with narrow slats on the sides and back. I have seen various methods of allowing the back to recline so I have concluded that



An original Morris Chair by L. & J.G. Stickley

one of the features that gives it its' uniqueness is the fact that the back does tilt back.

If you would like to see an example of a Morris chair you could call on our own Val Matthews who built a beautiful version of one. I also have a friend in Oak Harbor who would be glad to show you the chair that he rebuilt. It is my opinion that a Morris Chair is not one of the most comfortable chairs to sit it. I must admit, however, that the design is beautiful in its simplicity and style and would be worth anyone's time to build.

An excellent book for further investigation would be Arts and Crafts Furniture From Classic To Contemporary by Kevin P.

Rodel and Jonathan Binzen. -Walter Meyers



For the second year, NCWA provided the judging for Wood Fest. This years judges were (l to r) Rick Anderson, Jay Geisel, Phil Choquette, Cec Braeden & Nick Van who also had the arduous task of tallying all the judging results while the rest of the judges ate lunch. Also judging, but not pictured were Glenn Koontz & Logan Sullivan.

AL STRATTON'S WOOD SALE

Al & Mark Stratton are going to hold another wood sale at Al's place the **Saturday & Sunday June 2 & 3, from 10 to 4 each day.** Wood includes large & small lots of lumber, mostly 4/4 with some 8/4 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 only Member Emeritus! Information: Al 360-398-2581 or Mark 360-398-2216 1746 Kelly Road, Bellingham

As the Web spins.....

Chuck Robertson spotted this article in the Seattle Times about Urban Hardwoods a Seattle company that has made a name for themselves marketing salvaged wood and furniture they craft from it.

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/homegarden/2003712634_urbanhardwoods190.html

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.....take a photo or two.....and we will run it in a future issue of our newsletter. Share the joy of woodworking! - 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.....

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Powermatic 100 Planer

12" Powermatic planer. 3 hp 3 phase. Can be run on single phase power with a static phase converter. New knives. Good condition. Classic cast iron! \$900 Rick Anderson 360-650-1587

COMING EVENTS

June 5	7 PM	Monthly Meeting	Homeport Learning Center, Bellingham
June 20	7 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Restaurant on Hwy 20
June 23	Noon	Newsletter Deadline	Rick's Email Box
July 10	7 PM	Monthly Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge
August 11th	1PM	Annual Picnic	Val & Laura Matthews Lawn, Bow

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.

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