



NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

June, 2008

Next Meeting: June 3, Hillcrest Park Lodge
6:00PM Roundtable Discussion, 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.

Smart Production Techniques Keep Aanes Furniture in the Pink

One of the privileges of membership in NCWA is the opportunity to poke our noses into the affairs and concerns of commercial woodworkers. It's our chance to see and hear what it takes to be successful in the arts and business parts of real production shops. **Greg Aanes Furniture Company** in Bellingham has been a successful producer of fine furniture for several decades and **Greg** stays on top of profitability by shrewd decisions that balance the costs of human labor versus specialized machines. For example, his working force at one time was 15, now down to five, including **Greg**, and production quantities have not changed. That's working smarter, not faster.

Greg has invested heavily in precision machinery that keeps his line of furniture flowing out the door.

Two of his employees do sanding work only, leaving the other three to design, create, and finish some 600 units of quality chairs, tables, stools, and rockers each year. He makes 5 styles of chairs and 2 styles of rockers, and the variations are evident by the numerous jigs that line the walls of his two-

story shop. Most of his beautiful designs of high quality items are made of cherry, a hallmark of the finest furniture wood. At the time of our visit in early May he was selling off some of his inventory to individuals during a short-week sale, something he rarely does.

Greg, a former NCWA member, was eager to

JUNE PROGRAM

This program will be a real treat! Dave Blair will take us through the ins and outs, the ups and downs, and the through the middles of Hand Planes. He'll explain the uses and reasons for different plane styles, various methods of sharpening plane irons, and explain the uses, advantages and disadvantages of handplane utilization. Come one, come all. Prepare to be truly informed.

answer questions about his work and the pitfalls of meeting city ordinances. The dust produced by his machines is always under civil scrutiny and the cause of frequent city inspections. But the company has prospered partly because of **Greg's** heavy investment in air scrubbing controls. In the overhead of his high-bay building a maze of duct work, blowers and vacuum lines have been installed to keep the dust pollution within allowable limits. It's a spendy system but a necessity to protect his workers. – **Jay Geisel**

Big Crowd in Bellingham

It was a great turnout; more than 50 members descended on **Greg Aames Furniture** shop in Bellingham for the May 6th monthly meeting. All attempts at getting the members in the building for a business meeting were difficult indeed. **Greg's** shop is a beehive of activity by day and dedicated to production, not conferences. **Greg** walked us through his high-bay building through the various production stages that generated such fine furniture pieces, a trademark known and respected throughout the country.

Jim Bucknell, Programs Chair, introduced **Greg**, at the start of the evening. A short business meeting followed the tour with Vice President **Jeff O'Donell** presiding.

An interesting Bring and Brag discussion was given by **RP Myers** who is an experienced sculptor and carver. **RP** showed us a winged bowl created out of scrap of quilted maple, a corner of a band saw round he cut for his wife's lathe work. The right-angled, ell-shaped scrap had possibilities, he said, for a bowl of its own. The beautifully finished piece was crafted using the Proxxon-Micromot Motorized Carver SGM, which **RP** highly recommends. – **Jay Geisel**

HELP WANTED

Like the Marines, the **Membership Committee** needs a few good folks. We are really short handed and have quite a charter to carry out. Here's what we need:

Regional Representatives – We need two folks, one in Bellingham or vicinity, and another in Anacortes or vicinity to represent the committee in those areas. The roles are pretty simple, and frankly, a lot of fun. The first is primarily to meet new members in those areas and welcome them into **NCWA**. It is a great chance to meet new folks and discover new talents. The second is to monitor our brochure stands. These will be placed with the vendors that have given us discounts, as well as others and stocked with brochures. Once every two weeks, the stands should be inspected and refilled as necessary. I'll continue to be the central and southern representative.

Shop Tour Coordinator - We also need someone to organize the shop tours and get them going again. This is also a chance to get to know other members and see their shops, but it is basically a telephone job. We would like to have one tour a month, with three shops in each tour. This is a major activity that has always generated a lot of interest, but we were not able to get it going this year. The **Education Program** comes to an end next month, and we would like the tours to take its place in the summer months. The tours would continue on throughout the year.

Hospitality – I know you will find this hard to believe, but I have had a few, well, OK, a lot, of shall I say "comments" about the quality of the coffee. If you know of anyone who knows how to make coffee, I'm sure you would be heralded by the whole of the membership if you would be kind enough to sneak me their name. Of course, if you wanted to, you could always volunteer yourself! This is a pretty simple job, but it needs to be done, and done well, and it ain't my thing, as

anyone can tell. So, please, I too would like a descent cuppa.

Give me a shout if you would like to talk about these open roles, folks. We really need the help.

Thank you in advance for your contribution, without which this organization would cease to exist. Call me at 360-770-7203 or email me at epysher@aol.com to volunteer your services. Thank you. – **Ed Pysher**

the project. The group will get together to determine a time for the project.

Val and Laura Matthews will be taking the summer off from toy making and will begin again in the fall

It's not too early to begin planning your contributions for **Toys for Tots**. We are also accepting purchased toys as well as hand crafted ones. – **Glenn Koontz**

**M O R E
H E L P
W A N T E D**

We are happy to inform our members that NCWA has received a generous donation of 2" thick, random width, high quality grade alder to make Toys for Tots.

We want to acknowledge and thank **Richard Tinney**, president of **Washington Alder** for this donation of material. To get alder to make toys see either **Glenn Koontz** or **Gene Benson**.

Gene Benson is looking for three dedicated toy makers to help build cradles. He would like them to make a commitment of two days a month for

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

It's really, really going to happen, folks. Bob Doop, Dave Blair and Nick Van will be available at 6:00PM on meeting night to hold an open discussion about making cabinets, carcasses, boxes and other objects requiring six sides. If you're currently working on a project, or, if you're about to start a project, or, if you're trying to work up the courage to begin planning a project that consists of a top, a bottom, and three or more sides, come on in and let's talk about it. You just might pick up an idea or two that will be very useful to you. Who knows? Bob, Dave and Nick may learn something, too. See you there!

(By the way, whoever has the key to Hillcrest Lodge, please plan to be there at 6:00PM? Thank you)

Did You Know -- The only golf course on the island of Tonga has 15 holes, and there's no penalty if a monkey steals your golf ball. Aardvarks are allergic to radishes, but only during summer months. Venezuelan brown bats can detect and dodge individual raindrops in mid-flight, arriving safely back at their cave completely dry.

THE WOODSHED.....

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COMING EVENTS

June 3rd	6:00 PM	Roundtable Discussion	Hillcrest Lodge, Mount Vernon
June 3rd	7:00 PM	Membership Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge, Mount Vernon
June 18th	7:00 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Restaurant on Hwy 20
June 21st	Noon	Newsletter Deadline	Nick's Email (nvan@verizon.net)
July 10th	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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