

NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

March, 2009

Next Meeting: March 3, 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.

Greetings from your Membership Committee

The new membership cards for 2009 are out. If you did not pick yours up at the February meeting, be sure to pick them up at the March meeting.

You need the card to get the discounts that our vendors offer.

We are working on two new programs. Many of our members are quite new to woodworking, and based on our conversations with some of them, could use a basic introduction-to-woodworking type of program. During the Christmas pre-season, I worked with **Gene Benson** to learn how to make cradles for Toys for Tots. It was an amazing learning experience and I believe I now have enough of the woodworking basics to take on other projects, albeit small ones at the moment. I will continue to make cradles as a way of “cementing” and improving the skills Gene taught me, and now

have eight cradles in process. Having that much in process is teaching me how to “streamline” the work, and how to be consistent in materials measuring and preparation.

One of the programs we will be “testing” in the near future is to start “working classes” on cradle making as a way of introducing “newbies” to the basics of woodworking. In this program the participants will actually produce one cradle in my shop. Afterward, they will have a basic understanding of things like equipment selection and usage, and measuring techniques. It is intended to be a kind of breakthrough; enough to get started and to feel comfortable in the craft.



I will be taking on two members as a test (Gene will be backing me up!). The two I will be working with have been identified but there may be more of you that would like to participate in this kind of learning experience. We

will keep you-all posted, and hopefully this program will fill this very real need. Several folks that are a heck of a lot more skilled than I am (which is darn near every one of you) have expressed interest in leading this kind of “class”. So, let’s see where this leads. Let me know if you would like to take this kind of class, or if you would like to be a class leader. After we test this out, it is intended that the program would be transferred over to Education, and be part of the on-going NCWA curriculum.

The other program we would like to start is a form of “mentoring”. We have wanted to get something like this going for a long time. Many members have basic skills, but really need someone to just talk too about a project or a problem. We are in the process of identifying those members that would be willing to help others with specific problems/projects, and are building a kind of “mentor” list. We are trying to organize the mentor list by community, so that they can help our members in their local community.

If you are interested in being a mentor to a fellow NCWA member in your community, give me a call/email and let’s see what would work for you. I’m sure there are a lot of folks that would appreciate your help. I’ll see you Tuesday night. –Ed Pysher



Isn’t Gene Angelic?

February Meeting Attracts Fine Crowd

We signed up three new members at the February 3rd meeting, made plans for the annual WoodFest event at Sedro-Woolley High School, and discussed educational classes and an upcoming survey of new class subjects. It was a well attended general meeting with a short business session leading up to a fine woodworking design

talk by Tim Lawson, one of the owners and operators of a new school for woodworking at nearby Fort Townsend.

As usual, a pre-meeting round table discussion of woodworking problems and their solutions was held at 6:30 p.m. These discussions involve some of our experts, members offering their views and suggestions to those needing help or advice.

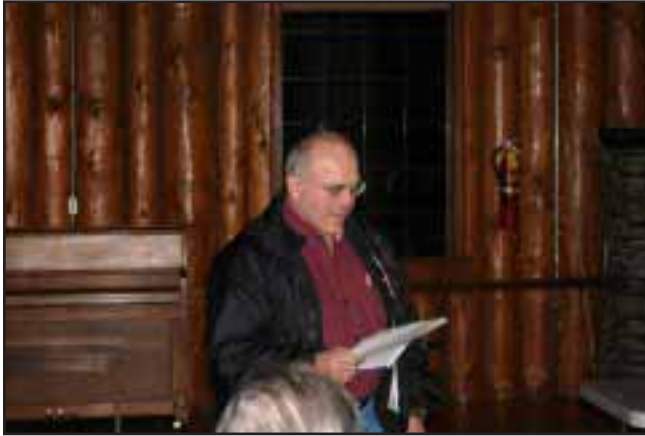
Phil Choquette who heads the Venues committee, talked about WoodFest and our participation for the April 4th and 5th weekend exhibition of high school woodworking projects. In the past, our members have served as judges of all student work and selected the best for award honors. Top prize is our Judges Award which includes a \$200 Lie-Neilson combination block/shoulder plane with an inscription.

Please note that the fate of the 2009 WoodFest at this writing is uncertain. The Sedro- Woolley Chamber of Commerce is the sponsor of WoodFest, but a recent resignation by this year’s chairman has cast doubt on the Chamber’s ability to recover and conduct the event this year. Further information will be given at the March meeting.

Gene Benson who conducts our Toys for Tots affairs has been busy organizing woodworking teams in localized areas where members can make toys in designated shops on a work-when-you-can basis. His Shelter Bay home workshop is such an open shop as is **Val Matthews’** shop in Bow. **Glenn Koontz** runs a shop out of his home for a group of Shelter Bay residents. Gene expects more volunteers will be working on toys this year when they don’t have to adhere to a schedule. He will continue to set up working groups

throughout the Spring. Gene says it's a great learning/teaching experience as well as sharing fun and comradeship. In the meantime he has wood aplenty (alder, cherry, and maple) for Toys projects.

Program Chairman **Jim Bucknell** has plans to bring Lee Valley's noted plane expert to one of our meetings this Spring. This is the same talk and



Shop Tour Guy - Thanks, John

demonstration we were treated to at a tour of their Vancouver, Canada, store several years ago. This special program will negate a planned return to Lee Valley this season. Instead, we will schedule a tour to the National Woodworking Show in Puyallup on either Saturday, April 18, or Sunday, April 19.

Chuck Robertson, Chairman of Education, announced that a scheduled class in wood sculpting and carving by **R.P. Myers** will be held at **Nick Van's** shop on Camano Island, on Saturday, February 7th and a class in basic woodturning was set for **Bob Doop's** shop in Anacortes for Saturday, February 21.

Because some members who sign up for classes have been no-shows, the Board is considering a \$10 deposit at sign-up, refundable when you take the class. Chuck is planning another survey of members at the next meeting to ask your preferences for woodworking courses to be given in the Fall.

Membership Chairman **Ed Pysher**, reported that we have 81 paid-up members for 2009. His committee members are poised to set up our brochure stands at 13 locations in Skagit and Whatcom counties. This necessitated a reprint of our NCWA colorful recruiting brochure. Most of the stands will be placed on counters of stores that grant member discounts, the same retail outlets that are printed on the back of your membership card.

John Bellinger announced a schedule for open shop visits to four members' workshops in the Bow area on Saturday, February 28. He has issued an email that gives directions and time periods for the visits. Reminders were also sent, with the last reminder emailed on 2/26. This is the first open shop tour in some months so interest should be high. Included on the tour are the home shops of **Jim Corbin** and **Ed Pysher** in the 9 to 11 a.m. time slot and **Jim Bucknell** and **Val Matthews** in the later 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. time slot.

We welcome our new members: **Gerald Anderson**, Bow; **George Foster**, Camano Island; and **Andy Swanson**, Camano Island. — Jay Geisel

Artistry In Wood: Delving Into Structure From The Mind's Eye

About once every twelve months or so we are treated with a speaker, noted for design expertise, who willingly explains how to create a work of art. So we listened with great interest and shared

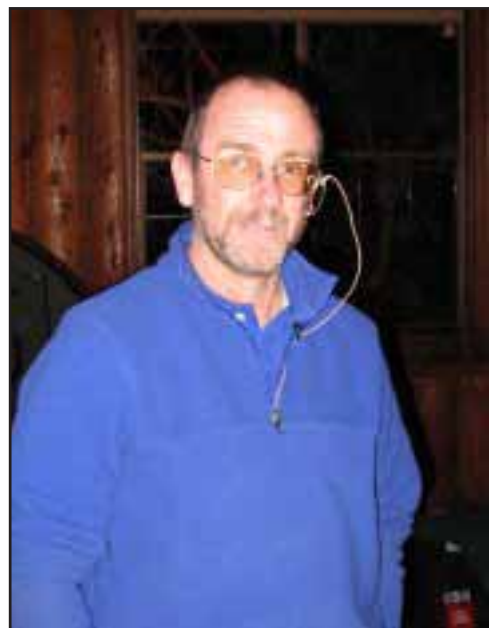
the trials and tribulations of artist Tim Lawson, part owner of the Port Townsend School of Woodworking, as he explained the process to bring to fruition a wood lectern unlike any built before.



The resulting work was displayed as Lawson gave a half-hour detailed description of how he solved the design problems leading to the successful construction of the graceful curves of his winged top surface that's attached to an equally graceful three-legged stand. The lectern is a knockout and his workmanship is stellar. The artwork serves as an introduction to the new school at Fort Worden State Park in Port Townsend from which Lawson makes speaking engagements in the area trying to enroll students for him and his partners, Jim Toplin,

noted author of several popular books on woodworking, and John Marckworth.

Lawson said his design forms were inspired by the alphabetic ampersand (&), a swan's neck, and bird wings. Although his talk was short on methodology, he did mention that most of the work is remarkably straight forward and that "vacuum bagging eliminated uncertainties." Is the result beautiful and inspiring? You bet. Does it have utility? Only for a lover of wood art that relishes a challenge. It's art for display in a foyer or gallery



Tim Lawson

where it can make an immediate impression on viewers.

The Port Townsend School of Woodworking is in its second year of operation and is slowly gaining popularity on the Whidbey Island arts and crafts scene. The school offers courses on cabinet making, furniture making, woodturning, historic preservation and traditional woodcrafts. Instructors are invited from the Washington area

and include some of the best in their field, including Michael Dresdner, Bonnie Klein, and Toplin. Tuition averages \$250 for a weekend class and \$600 for a one week session, about \$15 per class hour.

We are fortunate in having such a dedicated instructional facility in our area. With housing construction, furniture making, and lumber milling sagging in a down economy we can only hope this new enterprise can weather the cloudy days ahead.

Program Chairman Jim Bucknell confided that Jim Tolpin has said that he might address NCWA in the fall, which is good news for all. Lawson graciously contributed a gift certificate worth \$125 to our organization, which is half payment on a weekend woodworking class. The ensuing raffle was won by **Don Power**. –Jay Geisel

Toys for Tots Scores Big With “Skagit Valley Herald”

After four years of frustration to promote the “Toys for Tots” program in our local newspaper, NCWA and the local Marine Corps representation hit paydirt Sunday, February 15th, with two pages of text and color photos in the “Skagit Living” section. It was a huge success story for our Toys Chairman, **Gene Benson**, who has stubbornly refused to give up on his attempt to get public attention for the

fast-growing toy contributions being made by our organization and the Marine Corps Reserve.

Before last December’s meeting when hundreds of our toys were turned over to the Corps, Benson had made contact with the Mount Vernon Herald

newspaper publisher, L. Stedem Wood, in a heart-felt letter that asked for recognition of the all-volunteer Toys for Tots effort being made by the local Marine Corps. The publisher’s response led to the big news spread in Sunday’s paper, which features Santa’s toyland workshop in action at Benson’s home where he is joined by other NCWA woodworkers who regularly come by to work on doll cradles and other toy gifts.



Thanks, Tim, for a Great Presentation

You may remember that L. Stedem Wood was our guest at the December buffet meeting where he praised the annual toy donation programs by our members, the Marines, and his own employees who direct the Herald’s Christmas Toy drive. He had a front-row view of what our organization contributes to the local community and his support is well received.

Thanks, Gene, for your passion and steadfastness; it paid off, and we now have a complimentary community that understands what makes us work so hard for needy, deserving young folk. –Jay Geisel

Toys For Tots

As you all know by now, last year was a great success. We can all thank **Glenn Koontz** and his toy making team for this success.

Now, for this year, 2009, what can we do? The number of children needing help always seems to

grow each year no matter what the economy. This year there can be no question regarding need. Last year 11,180 toys were given to kids. This year???

The Toys for Tots group needs more helpers. This program is great for kids, but many of us can get an additional benefit by learning new woodworking skills and practicing these skills. This program has a three-fold objective, make toys, learn new skill and improve on these skills by making finished toys, plus have a lot of fun working together.

To help meet these objectives, I will have my shop open to interested members four to five days each week from 9:30 to 2:30-3:00, plus for those who can't make it during the day, we can work together from 6:30 to 9:00. Each weekend I will email interested people as to my next weeks' availability. Join up. There are a lot of wood working skills that can be learned making cradles. "Newbies" are most welcome.

Val Matthews will again open his shop for those wanting to make toys. Participants are encouraged to bring the toy they want to build or the plans of some toy of special interest. If you want help on a personal wood working problem, bring it to the session. You won't find a better mentor than Val.

The first gathering at Val's will be Saturday, March 7, after the club meeting on March 3. So let's start big on Saturday, March 7 @ 9:30 till——. Please remember to bring your lunch. We would like start working groups in Anacortes, Bellingham and Camano Island areas. **Glenn Koontz'** group might be full, but check with him. They make a lot of interesting toys.

If you want to work alone, wood and technical support are available. Contact Gene (snooks@valleyint.com) if you want to start a group or need help with your Toys for Tots projects.
—Gene Benson

Library Committee Report

At our next meeting we are going to begin a "**woodworking magazine exchange.**" We all have magazines hanging around (new and old) that we are done with but hate to just throw away. Even old magazines have plans that someone else might be interested in and many articles are as relevant today as they were a few years ago. So we'll have a box available for anyone who wants to give their old magazines a new life with a fellow woodworker. Drop off a magazine or look through what's in the box to see if there is anything that you want. You don't have to bring one to take one and you don't even need to bring it back if you want to keep it. There won't be any checking out or keeping track, just an informal magazine recycling. If there is interest in this we'll keep doing it. Just another friendly service of your NCWA Library Committee. —Steve Johnson, Jim Torrence and Gary Danilson



Flight of Fancy by Tim Lawson

Fiction and Fact, from Nick's Almanac

- ... You share your birthday with at least 11,000,000 other people.
- ... The average human eats 8 spiders at night in their lifetime.
- ... A raisin dropped in a glass of fresh champagne will bounce up and down continually from the top of the glass to the bottom.
- ... The maximum allowable weight of a golfball is 1.62 ounces.
- ... If you toss a penny 10,000 times, it will not be heads 5,000 times, but more like 4,950. The heads picture weighs more, so it ends up on the bottom.
- ... A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.
- ... A goldfish has a memory span of about 3 seconds.
- ... The A & W of root beer fame stands for Allen and Wright.
- ... There are four cars and 10 lightposts on the back of the ten dollar bill.
- ... Gilligan of Gilligan's Island had a first name that was only used once, on the neveraired pilot show. His first name was Willy.
- ... In England, the Speaker of the House is not allowed to speak.
- ... Elton John's real name is Reginald Dwight.
- ... And finally, you can stop flipping the penny. I'm right!!!

Woodworker Wanted: To build wooden stand for model sailboat. Details, wood species, price, etc. to be discussed with owner. The sailboat is approximately 18" high. Please contact Claudia Biermann at 360-766-7805 or email her at satindoll@wavecable.com.

For Sale..... 14" Rockwell (Now Delta) Bandsaw. Excellent condition. Wheel rubbers replaced last year. Guide blocks refaced last month. Smooth running bearings. 3/4HP 120/240V motor, motor mount, and v-lock belt. \$400. Contact Nick Van at 360-348-4174 or nvan@verizon.net.

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COMING EVENTS

February 28	10:00 AM	Shop Tour	See Enclosed Article
March 3	7:00 PM	Membership Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge, Mount Vernon
March 18	7:00 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Restaurant on Hwy 20
March 21	Noon	Newsletter Deadline	Nick's Email (nvan@verizon.net)
April 2	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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**NCWA NEWSLETTER**

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