



# NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

May 2007

**Next Meeting: May 1st, 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.

## **From the Prez.....**

Hi folks:

Periodically we are asked by a vendor if they can solicit our members. In the six years I have been an NCWA member, I can only recall one instance where a vendor was allowed access to our membership. That was Doug Wharton, who was a member at the time. Doug was shutting down his business, Puget Sound Woodworking Center, and asked permission to notify the members of a "going out of business" sale, which was to include all equipment, supplies and materials. His request was granted by our board.

We are very careful to guard the membership list. That isn't to stay that at some point a copy might not get loose, and if that were to happen, there would be nothing we could do to recover the copy, but we wanted you to know that we guard it with a passion to keep that from happening. To reinforce this position, in July 2004 the board passed the following resolution:

***NCWA maintains a mailing list which includes addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of members. The purpose of this list is for the dissemination of NCWA newsletters, announcements and other information appropriate to the craft of woodworking. Use of the mailing list for any other purpose is prohibited.***

We all receive all the spam we can handle in the normal course of using our computers, and none of us are particularly

interested in being on anyone's list. The one exception that is usually allowed is when a member has a piece of equipment they would like to sell, but this exception only applies to members.

On a happy note, I talked with Shelly Clouse this week. I caught her in her shop. She is doing small jobs to regain her balance and strength. She sounded terrific and is looking forward to attending classes and being at our general meetings. She asked me to be sure to let everyone know how much she appreciates our support.

We also have an "organizational" change. Gene Benson has decided to "retire" from the chairmanship position of the Toys-for-Totes committee. Gene will continue to be on the committee and will be an avid toy-producer. Glenn Koontz, an individual with unquestionable qualifications has graciously stepped up to the challenge. Let's give these guys a standing ovation, Gene for a job well done Glenn for taking on the challenge.

Don't forget "Bring & Brag". This little "main meeting" feature is a great way to share your secrets.

Enjoy this weather!

Ed

## April Meeting Minutes.....

Student activity stops commercialism. We were disappointed to learn that one of the only two annual venues for NCWA members' exhibitions and woodcraft sales has been cancelled. WoodFest, the popular Spring weekend competition of high school woodworkers has been shortened to a one day affair that eliminates outside vendors and exhibitors. In his announcement to members meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup> in Gary Holloman's shop, Nick Van noted that students from seven local area schools would vie for awards this year in an abbreviated festival for students, their parents and friends, but without the fanfare and public participation that marked previous Fests at Sedro Woolley High School.

WoodFest 2007 will occur in the SWHS gym on Saturday, May 5, with some 200 students displaying their creations in the freshman through senior categories. NCWA has been invited for the second year to judge the entrants' work and merchants will again offer prizes for the best of the crop. Our annual Peoples' Choice award will be given to the top vote-getter as in previous contests. Virtually the same team of judges from 2006 will be on hand early Saturday morning to review and rank the largest assemblage of woodcraft items ever entered in this expanding student competition.

A good attendance of about 60 members and guests were on hand to hear noted Northwest carver Scott Jensen of Bellingham give his "Speaking Cedar" presentation.

In the short business session that preceded the featured program Vice President Walter Meyers called for an introduction of several guests, some who joined our ranks on the same evening. Business include an announcement by Val Matthews that a new Saturday class for constructing

hand planes is about to start and that he had more than the maximum of six students already signed on. I reminded members that car pools were an option to those interested in attending the 2007 National Woodworking Show at the Puyallup Fair Grounds on the last weekend of April.

Gene Benson, our hard-working "Toys for Tots" chairman, displayed a completed animal pull toy suggested for this year's Club donation. He invited all members to a toy-builders' workshop at 9 a.m. Saturday next at Val's work place. Members with scroll saws were urged to bring them. A second pull toy design, a grasshopper, will be constructed by those participating.

Our Vice President, Walter Meyers, was one of two "Woodworkers' of the Month" chosen to address the membership. His journey into a lifelong interest in working wood started with

his father who made furniture for the family home from packing crates he salvaged while working for a local casket company. Walter recalled some of his own enjoyable projects, a toy chest, various tables, and a Murphy bed. He showed us his latest project, a humidior that included a veneered top of flame Maccar. Walter settled in Oak Harbor in '98 along with his first major power tool, a Shop Smith, which he finds useful today. But his real acquisition had to be a recent purchase of the Felder multifunctional tool. Walter recently instructed a class in vacuum clamping.

Our other "Woodworker of the Month," Club Librarian Jim Torrence, grew up in an Iowa town of 10,000 people where as a youth he built a three-story treehouse in a healthy elm. A favorite teacher was both his shop instructor and Scoutmaster. He still possesses his earliest piece of furniture, a coffee table. Jim spent 35 years with the National Forest Service in Washington, D.C., and moved around the country on various forestry projects. At retirement, he moved his family home to Stanwood four years ago onto a large homesite that featured a nice home plus a huge

### May Program Dr. Phil on Design, Part II

The May program will once again feature our own Phil Choquette in his series on "Elements of Design". Phil presented an excellent program at our March meeting where he gave us his advice on the four elements of good woodworking design; It must be Practical/Functional, Engineered for value, Cost Effective and consider Construction Methods. In this next installment, he will apply these principles to the craft of table making. Most woodworkers at one time or another have or will build a table. Many start out with coffee tables and possibly progress to more challenging designs. Phil will discuss and provide handouts on design considerations and the dimensional standards for tables developed over the years considering both utility and aesthetics. He will also discuss the many joinery options, methods of construction, and wood movement, the latter being a most important consideration in table construction. Phil will present overhead projection of images representing many of the design options for tables.  
Don't miss this presentation!

3,100 square foot, two-story building meant to house large vehicles such as tractors, motor homes, trucks, etc. With all that storage space available, Jim started to collect lumber from local woodlots and built a two-story, 800 square-foot shop for himself in one corner of the building.

Jim is building tables and other furniture again, but just now he's busiest with home improvement projects like the barrel ceiling he just completed out of the beautiful butternut stack he bid on at last year's EdenSaw picnic. Jim closed his biographical talk with a pitch for the Club Library. He offers members personal delivery of books and DVD's at every meeting. The Library listings are on our website. If you see a title you would like, just call Jim.

Jay Geisel, Secretary

## Scott Jensen "Speaks Cedar" with his Northwest Indian Carving.....

Scott Jensen' workaday life as a Uniflite boat builder was boring, unimaginative. He aspired to other things. But what? The answer came, he said, one night He had some experience in taxidermy and was skillful with his hands. His answer, as he described it, came in a flash. He would become a wood carver.

A naturalist by intuition and wood carver by design combined to shape the next 30 years of his life. He had made up his mind to buy some tools and carve "Indian stuff." His search for Indian designs led him deeper into the northwest where he encountered the ancient culture of the Haida people of Vancouver Island and the northwest coast of British Columbia. His enjoyment of natural things, living or not, and his response to nature through his photography and carvings made him acceptable to these Indian people who usually



Scott Jensen, our April Speaker, displays one of his carved Northwest Indian style masks

rejected contact with the white man and his mode of life.

Scott discovered the potlatch houses that existed in 1860 on Queen Charlotte Island off the coast of British Columbia. There the Haida were living with new buildings and old, doing "potlatch," holding pictorial representations of their ceremonial events. "Potlatch," he said, means "to give. It's a happening that you are invited to, like a feast." The people are very generous and, as hosts, will give away almost everything they own. But they also know they will be treated in kind when they are the guests.

The Haida. Scott lived, worked, and taught in the villages of the Haida and in turn was afforded insight into their lore and ceremony, deriving visual themes that he could develop into his art. Meanwhile he was designing his own tools and honing skills that allowed him to become a respected teacher of the carving arts. He started teaching others after only three years of carving experience. His masks, totems, and other Indian carvings have become valuable art

objects, and today Scott has developed a successful and profitable business.

His talk, "Speaking Cedar" was accompanied by an appealing slide show presented to NCWA members at our April meeting. Scott brought many of his carvings and tools with him and discussed methods and techniques for using the unorthodox items that he devised. His short-handled adz can help him quickly carve a stake, for example. Such work is nicely done with a fine finish untouched by sandpaper. Most totems, he said, are carved from old growth Cedar until you get as far north as Juneau. Scott's tools caught the eyes of everyone. He creates straight knives and curved,

the latter are usually bent kitchen blades. His



only power tools at his Bellingham home are band saw and drill press.

“It’s easier to do this work with native tools rather than European,” he said. “With an adz I can make a piece of wood as flat as if it were planed.” When he does want a finer, smoother finish to wood, Scott uses dried horsetails (from the plant, NOT the animal), which he offered for examination. He is currently restoring a large, hallmark totem pole in Bellingham.

About his work, Scott offered this advice: “You can draw a lot of inspiration from the natural world.”

—Jay



Ceremonial Hat made from a single piece of wood



Several of the tools that Scott uses for his carving



Ceremonial pipe (above) and rattle (right)



Tray with inlaid ornamentation

## Bring 'n Brag



It's an animal parade! One of the latest projects from a Saturday Toys for Tots workshop. This is sure to make some youngster's Christmas very special!



Humidor by Woodworker of the Month  
(and our Vice President) Walter Meyers

### **WoodFest 2007**

**Saturday, May 5th 10AM to 5PM**

**Sedro Woolley High School Gym**

The format for Woodfest has changed this year.....it will be a one day event focusing solely on high school woodworking projects. We won't be having a display, but we will be providing the judging for awards to the student woodworkers. Our members are encouraged to come see the projects and show our support for high school woodworking programs. Early indications are that this will be the biggest ever display of student woodworking at a WoodFest event.

### **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

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

Many of the woodworking magazines have excellent web sites with information not found on the pages of the magazines as well as reader forums which can be a valuable source of information.

One of the best is [www.finewoodworking.com](http://www.finewoodworking.com) There is a lot of free information, but also the “opportunity” to sign up for an additional paid section of the website.

Another site of interest is [www.woodworkersjournal.com](http://www.woodworkersjournal.com) Again, lots of free information as well as the opportunity to sign up for a free “Ezine” (online magazine) which is emailed direct to you.

Check them out.....it may be the next best thing to a free lunch!

### ***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

#### **Powermatic 100 Planer**

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

## COMING EVENTS

May 1	7 PM	Monthly Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge
May 5	10AM-5PM	Woodfest	Sedro Woolley High School Gym
May 16	7 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Restaurant on Hwy 20
May 19	Noon	Newsletter Deadline	Rick's Email Box
June 5	7 PM	Monthly Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge

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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:	Gene Benson	(360) 466-3004
Activities:	CHAIRPERSON NEEDED		Webmaster:	Greg Shumate	(360) 387-2066
Education:	Nick Van	(360) 387-4174			



**NCWA NEWSLETTER**  
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