



# NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

May, 2009

**Next Meeting: May 5, 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.**

## **The Sawdust Trail: Crowd Flocks to Holloman's Shop**

Our woodworkers surely love meetings held in members workshops. Sixty or more of our loyal members found themselves in **Gary Holloman's** cavernous house of work for the April conclave and many were surprised by the size of Gary's new machines. "All the new machinery reduce hand labor and speed production," Gary offered. The dust had settled before we got there and we found ample room to set up chairs and find lumber carts and gurneys on which to settle then conduct a business meeting and hear our featured speaker from Canada.

With President **Jeff O'Donnell** presiding, we welcomed visitors and new members and then heard announcements from committee chairs while Treasurer **Doug Duehning** circulated the field and collected a dollar from those who forgot their

## *May Program*

Jim Taylor will join us and describe his boatbuilding activities through the years. Jim once owned the beautiful sailboat Sophia Christina, moored in Anacortes, and has been involved in boatbuilding for many years.

His slideshow should be very entertaining. **Ya'all be there!**

nametags. Our very educated Education Chairman, **Chuck Robertson**, reminded us that only five courses remain before the summer break. Most immediate are the Wood Identification class being given Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> and **Cec Braeden's** Workbench class in May.

**Gary Danilson**, our Librarian, noted that the donated woodworking magazines may be freely taken by our members with no requirement for their return.

He also stated that the Library is also distributing extra catalogs as they are received. Gary announced plans for the next NCWA shop tour to be held on Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, in the Camano Island and Stanwood areas.

Newsletter Editor, **Nick Van**, again offered free white space to contributors with something to say, or rather, write about. The deadline for the next

issue is Saturday, April 18. Members were reminded that April 17, 18, and 19 are the dates of the National Woodworking Show at the Science Center in Seattle. Car pools were



Doug collecting “No Nametag” tribute



Gary's scroll saw creation

arranged earlier and a strong contingent of attendees is likely.

For our monthly Bring ‘n Brag session, **Gary Weyer** unveiled his latest scroll saw concoction, a clever wall hanging of a three-dimensionally crafted woodland scene that bears the message: “I’d Rather Be Fishing.” The work is an example of intarsia. Asked if he’s a fisherman, Gary said “No.”

**Jerry Couchman** exhibited an attractive box design and another example of good workmanship. A new member, **Bill Baer**, loaded the front table with four recently made toys that he claimed to have spun off in a matter of a few hours. Bill’s an experienced carpenter and loves working in his own shop. He displayed a scooter, baby carriage cradle, and a pull toy, all made from various hardwoods. Bill also displayed two Teddy bears, fashioned by his wife. – Jay Geisel

### **Tool Man Gives Us the Plane Facts**

**Greg Cox**, a friendly, unassuming emissary of Lee Valley’s store in Coquitlam, B.C., journeyed to Skagit County on Tuesday night to tell us about his love affair with hand planes.

His trip to Mount Vernon involved getting sidetracked at the U.S. border, but after a couple-hours delay, he managed to arrive in our midst on queue with boxes of very new, handsomely current and beautifully crafted Veritas planing tools.

While seated comfortably on one of **Gary Holloman’s** work tables, Mr. Cox exhibited a range of gorgeous planes, all hallmarks of the Veritas engineering and manufacturing powerhouse. We were all intrigued by their fit, finish, and design to do a job particularly well.

Cox had planes for every task, from scraping types

to a collection of four block planes, one with a decidedly futuristic shape. The bevel-up block planes were well thought out for balance, heft, and comfort in the hand and, like all Veritas planes, blades were substantially thicker than those found on most other planes. To sum up the display offered by Mr. Cox, we all wanted to own to whole kit 'n caboodle!



Lee Valley Tool's Ambassador Greg Cox

With more than a dozen tools on hand, Cox gave his frank opinion on their pluses and minuses, the only minus being the price of ownership on some of the biggest, most expensive, and feature-laden varieties destined for the professional market.

His exhibit included specialty planes like scrapers and 90-degree right angles, while including the popular shoulder, scrub, jack, and finishing planes. He assured us that all Veritas planes are sold with blades having absolute flat backs and discussed the anatomy of a plane, and why some have chip breakers and others do not. He also gave us a

short course on Veritas blade hardness and types. Type "A2," for example, holds its edge longer and is best for hard woods while type "01," a low angle blade that wears quicker but is easy to sharpen, finds favor with soft woods.

Speaking about scrapers, Cox noted that, "If you're getting crumbs instead of shavings, something's not working. Either you are working at the wrong angle or your blade should be sharpened." A cabinet scraper holds the blade at 45 degrees and excels at cleaning up veneer and can correct tear-out. The basic card scraper, he observed, is not suitable for use on soft wood.

Cox wound up his discussion with an offer from the firm: a \$50 gift certificate to NCWA. We held a raffle, won by Cec Braeden, and our club banked more than \$100. Many thanks to Greg and the folks at Lee Valley Tools. – Jay Geisel

### **Burn up Your Router in 60 Seconds**

A current woodworking magazine reported that one of its readers destroyed his table-mounted router in one minute when he operated it without turning on his dust collector. The air temperature in the tightly sealed dust box beneath the machine rose quickly and caused the motor to burn out. I just finished building a plenum under my router table and am on notice that forgetfulness can be a heavy price indeed. – Jay Geisel

**Tools For Sale** --- Moving to North Carolina, Tools in Lynden  
Panel Saw (new \$2,400) \$1,000  
Shaper w/Std (Like Grizzly G1035) \$350  
Arched & Cathedral Templates \$150  
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Logan Sullivan

*Even though I have been at school, I still have found time to further develop my knowledge in furniture design and woodworking. As of May 28th last year, I fulfilled a long time dream of mine by starting my own business, Logan Concepts "Artistry Woodworking."*



Logan's Side Table - Veneer & Walnut  
(More pictures on Page 6)

### **The Return of the Kid**

I received the following message from the youngest member of our club, Logan Sullivan. Logan has been on an education hiatus for the past two or three years. I'm certain the club will welcome his return. His message follows:

*To the NCWA Newsletter Editor*

*Would you please forward this message to the rest of the club and announce my status at the next meeting. Sorry it has been so long since I have contacted the club, but I will be returning soon.*

*As you may imagine, I have been very busy with school here at Central Washington University. I will be completing my classes here in Ellensburg this spring and will return to Mount Vernon this summer.*

*This Fall I will finish my Teacher Certification and Industrial Technology BS degree by completing student teaching in the Everett or Mukilteo school districts.*

*Surprisingly, business has been very good and I have been able to make extra money for school expenses and increase my wood and tool inventory. Attached are pictures of my latest work. After student teaching, I plan to find a teaching position somewhere between Bellingham and Arlington.*

*After finding a job, I plan to purchase property with a shop and house, or build a shop and house myself. I very much look forward to returning to Skagit Valley and being able to participate in the NCWA again.*

*Respectfully, Logan Sullivan*

Welcome back, Logan. – Nick Van



## Education Committee Report

There are only four more classes scheduled for this season. Charlie Drake will teach us about Sketch-Up, a free program that will help you lay out and visualize your project. That class is on Saturday, May 2.

Then, on May 16, Cec Braeden will teach you how to build his world famous workbench. The last two classes will finish off the year and, appropriately, the subject matter will be finishes for your project. Phil Choquette will teach those classes on May 30 and June 13.

You can sign up for any or all of these on the NCWA web site at <http://www.ncwawood.org/Education/registration.htm>. – Chuck Robertson

## Library Committee Report

There was a good response to the “woodworking magazine exchange” at our last meeting. We will again have a box available for anyone who wants to give their old magazines a new life with a fellow woodworker.

There will be no checking out or keeping track of magazines. So wipe the dust off that stack of old woodworking mags and bring a few to share with others.

We are also currently considering which additions to make to the library so if you have any suggestions please bring them up to one of the committee members.

Your library committee is **Steve Johnson, Jim Torrence and Gary Danilson**. – Gary Danilson



Coffee Table by Logan Sullivan



Nightstand with Inlays by Logan Sullivan



Toys for Tots - Creations by Bill Baer.  
Teddy Bear by Momma Baer



More fun Toys by Bill Baer..  
Teddy Bear by Momma Baer



Jerry Couchman displays beautiful boxes



Bill Baer shows us how easy it is



John Gruenewald discusses woodworking



'Da Boys soaking up knowledge

### **Fiction and Fact, from Nick's Almanac**

- ... It costs more to buy a car today in the United States than it cost Christopher Columbus to equip and undertake three voyages to and from the New World.
- ... The phrase "his name is mud" is derived from the name of the doctor who set John Wilkes Booth's broken leg after he assassinated Abraham Lincoln, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd.
- ... The happiest 10 years in an Irishman's life is the third grade (No letters to the editor will be accepted).
- ... The name for Oz in the "Wizard of Oz" came from author Frank Baum looking at his filing cabinet and seeing the two drawers labeled "A-N" and "O-Z."
- ... John Lennon's first girlfriend's name was Thelma Pickles.
- ... The average garden variety caterpillar has 248 muscles in its head.
- ... Joseph Stalin was only five feet, four inches tall. And, finally,
- ... Starfish don't have brains. Maybe that's why they spend ten years in the third grade.

### ***THE WOOD SHED.....***

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**COMING EVENTS**

May 5	7:00 PM	Membership Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge, Mount Vernon
May 20	7:00 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Restaurant on Hwy 20
May 23	Noon	Newsletter Deadline	Nick's Email (nvan@verizon.net)
June 2	7:00	Membership Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge, Mount Vernon
June 6	9:30 - 4:00	Shop Tour	Stanwood/Camano Island

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.

**2009 Officers and Chairpersons**

President:	Jeff O'Donnell	(360) 678-2205	Education	Chuck Robertson	(360) 387-6333
Vice President	Jim Torrance	(360) 629-6670	Librarian	Gary Danilson	(360) 424-9268
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**NCWA NEWSLETTER**

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