



NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

November, 2009

Next Meeting: November 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.

Sound Cedar Welcomes NCWA

October's meeting at Sound Cedar in Mount Vernon was a hit! We got a Red Carpet welcome from President Mike Wood and staff with delectable food barbequed with great skill, drinks, and a wonderful selection of the best hardwoods on sale for our membership. Members took advantage of Sound Cedar's offer and stocked up on some pretty good-looking hardwoods.

Mike gave us a short talk and some sobering thoughts on forest sustainability and the value of growing trees to reduce carbon in the air. You could tell from his talk that he is sincerely concerned with the state of the world's tree population. Woodworkers have kindred feelings and love for the trees that make our endeavors possible.

Mike answered a lot of questions about species and toxins and helped us understand health issues relating to certain wood varieties. He also told us about his business history and how Sound Cedar became one of the largest lumber sellers in the area.

Arts' Alive! Festival *Don't Miss it!!!*

*Display, Sell Your Work
Finished or Unfinished, Hardwood
or Softwood, Large or Small,
Flatwork or Turnings, Carvings or
Whittled, Old or New*

*Set up Friday - Nov 6, 4:00PM
Show on Saturday & Sunday
November 7 & 8
Be There or be Square!!!*

The hardwood lumber standing before the seated members were long, wide boards with pleasing patterns and offered for sale to members at special prices for two days only. The offering also included some large, beautiful boards in thin Spanish Cedar at \$4.90 per board foot. Many chose to bring their trucks and make a buy the next day.

Sound Cedar joins other retailers in Skagit and Whatcom counties to offer

NCWA members a continuous 10% discount on all material offered for sale. Their business ad will

be added to our newsletter and the Sound Cedar name will be entered on our next year's membership card.



Our Hosts - Mike and Patti Wood

We were invited to tour the plant and see the diversity of lumber stocks in their inventory. Many members remarked about the quality and quantity of the cedar lumber stacked in the warehouse.

Our thanks go to Program Chairman Jim Bucknell for introducing another supplier to NCWA and for setting up such a fun meeting. -Jay

Exciting November Program

After more than thirty years of working at woodworking for a living...and after having written a dozen books on the subject that have sold more than three-quarters of a million copies...**Jim Tolpin** is now teaching woodworking for a living at the Port Townsend School of Woodworking

located at Fort Worden State Park and Life-Long Learning Center.

AND, HE IS GOING TO BE SPEAKING TO THE NCWA AT OUR NOVEMBER 3 MEETING AT HILLCREST LODGE!

“While my books do impart a good deal of what I’ve learned over the years, I feel its time to get more personal about it. For this reason, I helped found the Port Townsend School of Woodworking. Here I get to talk to students face-to-face and show them hand-to-hand the joys of working with wood. Now I’m getting a real kick out of showing people how much fun it is to work good wood with really good hand tools into beautiful, functional objects.”

The topic of Mr. Tolpin’s presentation will be *“Handtools - primary woodworking - from tool set to mind set”*

This should be a very interesting evening. Please plan to attend and bring a friend!



Meeting Night at Sound Cedar

Whatcom Shop Visitations Prove Especially Satisfying

On a wet October 19th Saturday morning we gathered at **Rick Anderson's** Bellingham home site to start another Fall series visiting members' shops. We also trekked to Whatcom County and its northern environs to see where **Richard Zegers, Gary Weyers, and Jerry Couchman** also spend a good part of their daily lives creating sawdust.



Jerry Anderson Shows Rick's New Shop

This is my first visit to Rick's new commercial shop erected behind his home in southeast Bellingham. The high-ceiling structure's interior is completely finished out and most of his machines are back at work again. Rick's new digs have eliminated the office, rest room, wall storage systems and high-lift machinery of his previous quarters.

The Anderson shop has slimmed down to a more efficient production site in-the-round. With the saw

table centered on the wood floor, benches and other machines are lined along the walls to give a full circle of workable floor space. With about 400 square feet, the floor layout appears to be a



Doug Duehning, Cec Braden and Rich Zegar enjoy Rich's Garage Retreat

good arrangement. He has retained some wall storage but the major change is a woodturning bay where three lathes have added new business opportunities to Rick's garden arches endeavors.

Two new heavy-duty lathes and a mini generate new-found work and Rick displayed a job-in-process to deliver about five dozen turned spindles in 4x4-inch cross-section to a specific design. The turning area is defined by tall, fabric curtains that slide on overhead pipes to help control flying chips.

Wherever you look, Rick's experience with dust control is evident. He's the guru who teaches our classes. It was tough to leave the comfortable shop where pastries, coffee, and chatting with friends proved to be a fun and heart-warming start to a woodworker's day.

The crowd of about 30 members and some spouses thinned down somewhat at our next destination where **Richard Zegers** finds he can do more with far less.

Richard's shop is a single garage that still functions as a garage. With space at a premium, Rich has used his ingenuity to create ways to store his machines and car at night and set up a working shop by day.

We had an opportunity to visit his home interior and see his majestic grandfather clock, tables, cabinets, picture frames, and other wood creations. Richard has a passion for woodworking and spends time in his shop almost every day where he is a big producer of Toys for Tots and has the opportunity to make and sell craft items at Arts Alive! each year.

His imaginative use of space is apparent. Above the garage, where the roof peaks, he has built in storage for lumber, finishing materials, and hardware. This is a relatively large area and it's filled with woodworking materials all accessed by a folding ladder that leads to the second story. By using smaller woodworking machines on casters Richard has created a mini-workshop to make big things happen. His small, 6-inch jointer fits under the bench like a drawer and slides out when he's ready to use it.

Congratulations, Rich, you have found a way to maintain a good woodworking shop under difficult conditions!

After a short trip north on Interstate Highway 5 near the Canadian border, we visited two of our very active members' shops in Ferndale, a small community with a big interest in woodworking activities. Remember the modern door factory we visited a few years ago?

We stopped at **Gary Meyer's** place to see the large shop addition he recently completed a short

distance from his home. He added several hundred square feet onto a former building he uses for scroll saw work on craft items he sells at fairs and craft shows.

Gary wanted wood milling machines and wood storage but needed more enclosed space. The addition more than doubled his work area. Gary has purchased another high-tech scroll machine and added other tools to his arsenal. He has an enclosed room for an office, and shelving on one wall displays dozens of his scroll saw creations. A storage loft and stairs are located above the office. All in all, he seems to be ready for many major woodworking challenges.

Gary displayed several of his recent ideas for scroll saw work. He has been experimenting with ways



Vern Leibrant, Steve Intveld are hosted by
Jerry Couchman

to build small boxes and showed us ideas for box handles that use scroll saw techniques. Gary is also trying out various finishing processes using different repetitions of coatings. He's an

experimenter intent on finding ideas that can improve interest in scrolling.

Our last stop on this Saturday was farther north and off the beaten track. **Jerry Couchman** lives



Larry Tomovick, Nancy Anderson and Phil Choquette discuss koshikake-kama-tsugi (lapped gooseneck mortise & tenon) joints

in a secluded part of the state in a beautiful wood home complete with a large woodworking shop nearby.

Jerry's activities are commercial in nature. He is known for his finely crafted boxes that grace the galleries and art stores in this state. You can find his products at the **Wood Merchant** store in LaConner. His box-making classes have just started as part of our member educational programs, but prove to be highly popular. We are trying to get more instructional time for Jerry this year. One of the hallmarks of his designs is the dovetail-splined corners in contrasting wood colors that enhance the appearance of his specialty boxes. Jerry will have boxes for sale at the forthcoming Arts Alive! Festival in LaConner.

Jerry's shop has a wealth of room and uncluttered space. A garage and wood storage area are in an adjacent room. The shop has a well-designed operational dust control system with large-diameter metal piping and a collector that's housed in an adjacent area. Although the floor plan is not designed for a classroom, it is interesting to note that the working space around the machines leaves plenty of room for students to observe or take hands-on action for various operations. Jerry is perfectly happy with sharing his secrets, jigs, and techniques. A candidate for vice president at our forthcoming elections, Jerry will be devoting more of his limited time to our best interests. Jerry is a former USAF and professional pilot and is busy on the local musical scene as a flautist.

Gary Danilson and his Shop Tour Committee members deserve a pat on the back for putting together another fine shop tour. –Jay



Gary Weyers shows his shop expansion

Library Additions

Our club library continues to grow. At our last general meeting at Sound Cedar, **Nick Van**

presented the library with 2 new books he picked up on his trip to California and his visit to the Gamble house in Pasadena. We now have "*Shop Drawings for Greene & Greene Furniture*" by Robert Land and "*Greene & Greene Design Elements for the Workshop*" by Darrell Peart available for checkout. Thank you, Nick.

We have also had a lot of interest in the other new books we added to the library and most of these will be available at the next meeting.

The library committee will continue to have a box available for you to donate your used and no longer wanted woodworking magazines for others to enjoy. **Ed Pysher** recently donated a stack of *Popular Woodworking* and *Woodworking Journals* to the recycling effort and we will have those at the next meeting.

"Books are the ever burning lamps of accumulated wisdom" - George William Curtis

Your Library Committee- Jim Torrence, Steve Johnson and Gary Danilson

Tools Explained

HAMMER: Originally employed as a weapon of war, the hammer now days is used as a kind of divining rod to locate expensive furniture parts not far from the object we are trying to "adjust." Available in a variety of sizes, which are typically chosen based on the amount of time you have already wasted attempting to "solve a problem." Available with a head made of steel, plastic, brass or hard rubber. As a side note, only the steel head has a practical use. No logical use for the other materials has ever been discovered. Some models equipped with the fly away head option. AKA "Ford Wrench," "BFH," "Wound Inflicting Hammer."

RAZOR KNIFE: Used to open and slice through the contents of cardboard cartons

delivered to your front door. Works particularly well on boxes containing boat covers and bimini tops.

ELECTRIC HAND DRILL: Used for spinning steel pop rivets in their hole until you die of old age. Some larger models are capable of turning the users wrist in amazing directions never before imagined just as the bit starts to break through the material you're drilling.

SLIP JOINTED PLIERS: Primarily used to round the heads off of bolts. The joint slips and only grips items slightly larger than what you were originally trying to grip. Most have an area to cut wire at the base of the jaws. The "cutter" will not cut, and is only good for squishing and mutilating wire and other materials, including the web between your thumb and forefinger.

DRILL PRESS: A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the garage, splattering it on the "Bud" girly poster above the bench grinder.

BENCH GRINDER: This device is equipped with a wire wheel on one end and a grinding wheel on the other end. The wire wheel is used to clean debris off of old bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench at the speed of light. Also removes fingerprint whorls and hard-earned calluses in about the time it takes to say "DragBoat." The grinding wheel is used primarily for starting small surprise fires at your feet. Also has the ability to transport the objects great distances.

HYDRAULIC FLOOR JACK: Used for lowering the boat trailer back to the ground after you've installed those new low profile tires, trapping the jack handle firmly under the chrome fender.

EIGHT-FOOT LONG DOUGLAS FIR 2X4:
Used for levering a trailer upward off a hydraulic jack.

TWEEZERS: a tool used for removing Douglas Fir wood splinters from your hand.

PHONE: Tool for calling your boating partner to see if he has another hydraulic floor jack. Also useful for canceling dinner reservations you and the wife had and ordering pizza delivery when the “three hour job” you started in the morning has now moved into the evening hours.

CABINET SCRAPER: Theoretically useful as a sandwich tool for spreading mayonnaise, but used mainly for scraping dog “stuff” off your shoes.

BATTERY ELECTROLYTE TESTER: A handy tool for transferring sulfuric acid from a boat battery to your pants and to the inside of your toolbox after determining that your battery is dead as a doornail, just as you thought.

HACKSAW: One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle. It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

RATCHET: Bolt removal tool typically equipped with a breakaway pop-top. This tool can also

double as a hammer. Used with sockets that automatically fall off when you get near the bolt you want to remove. Sockets typically fall off and run and hide like critters. Changing directions requires a deft touch and a smart rap on a hard surface, and it might hold...and it might not. This tool is not for the high blood pressure types.

TIN SNIPS: From the same family as the hacksaw. Comes in right and left handers, but neither will go where you want it without religious training. Perfect for ruining light-weight steel, copper, aluminum, brass, etc.

TROUBLE LIGHT: The mechanics own tanning booth. Sometimes called a drop light, it is a good source of vitamin D, the sunshine vitamin, which is otherwise not found under engine hatches at night. Health benefits aside, it's main purpose is to consume 40-watt light bulbs at about the same rate that the 105-mm Howitzer shells might be used during, say, the first few hours of the Battle of the Bulge.

PHILLIPS SCREWDRIVER: Normally used to stab the lids of containers and splash the contents onto your shirt. Doubles as a center punch, can also be used as the name implies, to round out Phillips screw heads. --Jerry Couchman

HELP WANTED - Coffeemeister. Will prepare coffee at each meeting. Must make better coffee than Ed Pysheer to qualify. No volunteers, no coffee. See Ed.

THE WOOD SHED.....

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COMING EVENTS

Nov 3	7:00 PM	Membership Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge, Mount Vernon
Nov 6-8	est 9 to5	Art's Alive	La Conner - Garden Club
Nov 19	7:00 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Restaurant on Hwy 20
Nov 21	Noon	Newsletter Deadline	Nick's Email (nvan@verizon.net)
Dec	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.

2008-09 Officers and Chairpersons

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