



# NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

October 2007

**Next Meeting: October 2nd, 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.**

Hi folks:

One of the things I particularly enjoy about being a part of NCWA is the newsletter. I've read several newsletters from other woodworking groups, and I'm not kidding folks, ours really stands out. The newsletters are archived on our website, so if you would like to check out something in a past newsletter, go to the website, [www.ncwawood.org](http://www.ncwawood.org) and you will find it there.

Speaking of the website, if you haven't visited it lately, you really should. Click on "Gallery" and you will see some of the most fantastic work you can imagine. Click on "projects and tips" and you will see the beginning of what will eventually become one of the greatest resources for woodworkers there is. If you have a tip, please write it up (check out some of the existing tips for format) and send it on to Greg Shumate, our "webmeister". If the tip is from the internet, simply forward it to Greg. [gregshumate@wavecable.com](mailto:gregshumate@wavecable.com). While you are there, check out the education program. The education committee

has put together a terrific program and with Greg's help has built a great way to see the class list for the coming class year and to sign up. Need something special in the way of materials or tools? The "suppliers" list is the beginning of another great resource. Larry Tomovick and Jay Geisel are updating the list and we hope to include more information about the suppliers themselves. Click on one of the blue hyperlinks for a national supplier and you will be taken to the supplier's web site. Another feature of the website is the library, which can be found under "Resources". We will be updating the list of books and videos this winter. (Our librarian, Jim Torrence is constantly adding to the library, and we want to make sure the complete list is on our website.) If you see

something you would like to take a look at, click on "email Jim Torrence" and let him know.

Don't forget about a project for Arts Alive, and I'll see you at the main meeting. Don't forget "Bring-N-Brag" and please, do me a favor and don't forget your name tag!. ☺  
Ed

## **It's ARTS ALIVE! (November 2-3-4)**

Seventy Three days to go from today (15 August). Are you ready? Let's make it a great show like we had last year! Your project can be a work in progress, a completed piece or a piece you made years ago. It does not have to be for sale but it could be if you wanted to. If you do not want to sell it, remember, put a "Sold" sign on your work rather than a "Not for sale" sign. It is a little less off putting, lets people know that other pieces are for sale and is a subtle sign of success. Support this opportunity to showcase our club, its members and yourself! !

## September Membership Meeting.....

President Ed called the meeting to order after our stellar program at the Chemco plant in Ferndale. He thanked Karen New and Ken Fasnacht for their fine presentations and their generous and gracious hosting of our meeting.

Chairman of the Education Committee, Chuck Robertson, reported that the Education Program will begin with a bang at Nick Van's shop on Saturday, September 8. Members will show and demonstrate their favorite shop jigs and fixtures at that session. Chuck also reminded the members that anything they needed to know about a class is shown under "Calendar of Events" on the club website. If

you want to know if you've signed up for a class, look at the calendar for the date in question and look for your name. If you want to sign up for a class, there is a computer form that is easy to use for that purpose. Chuck reported that the Education Program for the year is posted on the website and that each of the classes are described in some detail. The instruction and the location are also shown. The programs offered are exciting and interesting programs. Others will be offered as the year progresses.

Gene Benson reminded the members that Toys for Tots (T4T) is well underway and that there will be a number of Saturday T4T sessions at his shop in LaConner. The object is to construct and paint toy "caterpillars" for the kids to be delivered at Christmas time. Members wanting to get their feet wet on the many stages of wood project construction, including wood preparation, milling, sanding, fastening and finishing will find that the T4T program will provide numerous opportunities to learn the craft of woodworking.

Gene also showed us a maple plaque that began life as a waste cutoff from felling a maple tree. It had been abused for a number of years and was very close to

becoming firewood. Gene described how it was salvaged and shaped. It was, indeed, a beautiful piece of wood. Thanks, Gene for showing us how a sow's ear can become silk purse.

### October Program....5 years before the mast.

Our program for October is something really special. George Boggs, Manager of the Whatcom County Conservation District will show us how he took an empty hull of a sailboat to a become work of beauty. Learn what made this novice sailor undertake a project to completely restore a 1941 wooden sailboat with only an 8th grade woodshop class under his belt. He says it wasn't easy but was a lot of fun. The best part was showing the boat off this last September at the Wooden Boat Festival in Port Townsend. It took him five years to get her there. With a series of slides, George will show us how he completed the project from start to finish. He will be happy to answer your questions. Come see this outstanding presentation and leave inspired to take on that project that you have been putting off.  
-Cec Braeden

Gary Weyers reminded everyone that the "Winter" project concludes at the next meeting. The object is to build anything that, for you, resembles winter. There are cash prizes for the best projects. Remember, only 30 days remain. Get to hustlin'

Cec Braeden reported that our meeting next month will feature craftsman George Boggs. George has taken a wreck of a sailboat and fashioned it into dreamboat and will show us details of the

project, from giddy-up to whoa. This will be a very interesting, informative program.

Glenn Koontz presented our new brochures to President Ed. Glenn and our revered club secretary, Jay Geisel finished the brochures during the past month to replace brochures that are many years old and obsolete. Thanks Jay and Glenn.

And finally, Karen New of Chemco reminded us to find a way to show her the projects we complete with the Alowood donated to our club. Her objective is to learn all the pros and cons of using Alowood and to view the many different objects for which Alowood can be used.

-Nick Van

## Alowood Night at Chemco.....

About 50 of the NCWA membership were treated to a preview of things to come. The folks at Chemco in Ferndale gave us a royal welcome and a fine program explaining the genesis, process, and utilization of Alowood, a new and, quite frankly, amazing transformation of a rather common softwood into a complete product line of hardwood like lumber mimicking the species we have been using in our woodworking activities.

We were guided into Chemco's lunch/meeting room and introduced to the daughter of member Mike New. Karen New explained that the wood used in the Alowood process is normally *Pinus radiata* (common name is Monterey Pine). Radiata Pine is the most commonly planted pine in the world and is used for construction lumber and pulp and paper production world wide. Many stands of the tree can be found in our country from San Luis Obispo north into southern Oregon on the Pacific Coast side of the coast range.

Chemco utilizes pine taken from sustainable plantation stands of Radiata pine in New Zealand where it is rough milled and transported to Ferndale. By the way, the "Alo" in Alowood comes to us from the Latin meaning "to sustain" or "to nurture." At their Ferndale plant, the folks at Chemco extract all moisture from the wood using very large vacuum retorts and then use the same retorts to replace the moisture with natural occurring polymers and starches to harden and stabilize the wood. At the same time, color is added so the final product is colorized from surface to core. The wood is then dried and prepared for shipment.

According to Chemco's product brochure, the "result is Alowood, an entirely new wood, capable of surpassing other medium to high density hardwoods for durability, strength and applicability for milling." Colors added range

from jet black, through blue and green, to most shades of brown from dark to light, simulating hardwood species such as ebony, cherry, oak, maple, teak, rosewood walnut and ash, among others. While Chemco has also worked with Ponderosa and Yellow Pine, their current primary source of product is Radiata Pine.

Our membership was also treated to some beneficial announcements by Karen, and her sidekick, Ken Fasnacht, VP of Operations for the Alowood project. They were kind enough to point out a stack of "developmental stock," not saleable to the general marketplace, and donated the wood to our membership in return for reports from us, good or bad, about our opinions regarding the material. I was impressed about how quickly the piles disappeared into the back end of our respective trunks and pickup trucks. In addition, Mr. Russ Yeager from Edensaw in Port Townsend was present and offered a 20% discount to our membership for Alowood purchased from Edensaw before the end of October, 2007.

The program was a smashing success. Thanks to the folks at Chemco, Karen New and Ken Fasnacht and Russ Yeager from Edensaw for hosting us. Thanks also to Cec Braeden and Mike New for begetting such a gracious and beautiful daughter. -Nick Van



Karen New, our co-host for Alowood Night at Chemco.....explaining the properties and advantages of Alowood prior to our plant tour

## ALOWOOD NIGHT at CHEMCO



Untreated wood is dried and then saturated with the magic formula in the retort (left). Small batches are whipped up in the “test kitchen” (below).



Our other co-host for the evening, Ken Fasnacht shows the untreated Radiata Pine and the treated finished product (below).



After Alowood comes out of the retorts it is stacked & stickered to dry (above).

Some of the sample products made from Alowood include a chair (right) and a variety of scroll saw projects by Gary Weyers (below).



The End of the Rainbow! Not only a rainbow of colors.....free samples (whole boards!) for all. Remember, that Karen New wants to hear back from us about our experiences with Alowood and would greatly appreciate photos of our projects.





**More Alowood projects!**

Note that the hardwood floor under the chair is also Alowood. Photos courtesy Karen New at Chemco.



### **AL STRATTON'S WOOD SALE**

Al & Mark Stratton are going to hold another wood (rocks too) sale at Al's place the **Saturday & Sunday October 13 & 14 from 10 to 4 each day**. Al still has lots of lumber in several hardwood varieties plus lots of turning material in many varieties. This is a great chance to pick up some special pieces of wood and visit with our Member Emeritus! Information: Al 360-398-2581 or Mark 360-398-2216 1746 Kelly Road, Bellingham

### ***AS THE WEB SPINS.....***

It's **Toys for Tots** time! Here's links to two other woodworking guild newsletters that also share their talents with those in need.

Triangle Woodworkers Association    [www.ibiblio.org/twa/news/letter2006\\_01.pdf](http://www.ibiblio.org/twa/news/letter2006_01.pdf)

Sacramento Woodworkers    [www.sacramentoareawoodworkers.com/newsletter/nl200407.pdf](http://www.sacramentoareawoodworkers.com/newsletter/nl200407.pdf)

### ***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

#### **DELTA MODEL #46-700 VARIABLE SPEED WOOD LATHE**

12" x 36" w/ #2 morse taper, 2 tool rests (4" & 12"), spur drive, dead center, knock out bar, 2 face plates (3" & 6") and instruction manual. \$150 Laura Matthews 360-757-7730

#### **VARIABLE SPEED MOTOR**

1 HP Totally Enclosed Fan Cooled DC Motor w/ electronic speed control. \$350

Laura Matthews 360-757-7730

#### **POWERMATIC MODEL 100 12" PLANER**

3HP Baldor 3 phase.....can be run on single phase power with the addition of a static phase converter. New knives. Good condition. \$795 Rick Anderson 360-650-1587

## COMING EVENTS

Oct. 2nd	7 PM	Membership Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge, Mount Vernon
Oct. 17th	7 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Restaurant on Hwy 20
Oct. 20th	Noon	Newsletter Deadline	Rick's Email Box
Nov. 2-4	10-5	Arts Alive!	LaConner
Dec. 4th	7 PM	Membership Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge, Mount Vernon

**NOTE: No regular meeting in November .Arts Alive! serves as our November Membership Meeting.**

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 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	Dave Blair	(360) 733-3911	Projects:	Val Matthews	(360) 757-7730
Programs:	Cecil Braeden	(360) 588-9830	Toys for Tots:	Glenn Koontz	(360) 466-5910
Activities:	CHAIRPERSON NEEDED		Webmaster:	Greg Shumate	(360) 387-2066
Education:	Chuck Robertson	(360) 387-6333			



**NCWA NEWSLETTER**  
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