



# NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

October, 2008

**Next Meeting: October 7, Hillcrest Park Lodge  
6:00PM Roundtable Discussion, 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.**

## **From our V.P.....**

I would like to welcome our new members to the NCWA. I would also like to thank the NCWA Board on revising the by-laws. They worked hard and there was no blood that was shed. I'm asking all members of the club to read the by-laws. Arts Alive! is coming in November. If you plan to bring anything to Arts Alive! please contact Phil Choquette at 360-675-8320

Thanks,  
Jeff O'Donnell  
Vice President

## **Our October Program.....Jigs!**

At the October 7 meeting, the program will be a discussion of jigs. This was the topic of a program in the past. It was a popular program and there have been several requests for another similar program. All members are invited to participate. If you have a jig you would like to tell the group about, please do the following:

- 1) Contact Jim Bucknell and let him know that
  - a) you will present a jig,
  - b) what it is for
  - c) what it is made of
  - d) whether it is purchased or homemade and
  - e) how long it will take you to describe it or demonstrate it.

2) Prepare notes, diagrams, pictures etc. that can be used as a handout so everyone will be able to take information with them when they leave the meeting.

Given that the program is about 1 hour long, we are only looking for 5-10 jigs depending on how long the presenter needs to present them.

This can be a very interesting and informative session but it requires the participation by some of our members. Please think about the jigs you use in your shop and whether they warrant sharing with the rest of the group. If you have one (or more) to present, complete the information above and send

a copy of your notes to Jim no later than Wednesday, October 1. Thank you and see you on October 7.

Jim Bucknell,  
Program Chairman  
[jimandjudy@earthlink.net](mailto:jimandjudy@earthlink.net)  
360-766-5088  
(evenings and weekends)

**ARTS ALIVE!**  
**November 8th & 9th**  
LaConner Garden Club Building  
Show Hours: 9am-5pm  
**Setup:** Nov. 7th: 5-8pm

Bring your projects to display....selling is optional. All projects encouraged.....new, old and partially completed! Volunteers needed to staff our display. Contact Phil Choquette for additional information: 360-675-8320

President Jeff O'Donnell opened the meeting with an introduction of several guests and two of them signed on the same evening. Our membership count now stands at 85, a new record. Chuck Robertson outlined a strong schedule of forthcoming classes that will carry us through May of next year. All are posted on the Web and

**NCWA Opens New Season.....**

September's meeting got off to a rousing start as a full house started building early with many members joining the 6:30 p.m. round-table discussions seeking answers to woodworking problems. After an indifferent summer of warm and cool weather it seemed that everyone was again eager to get in more shop time, start new projects, and enroll in some of the Club's educational workshops. The start of another season was highlighted by some interesting Bring 'n Brag demos, a final appeal for projects to exhibit at our Arts Alive! show in early November, and a hoped-for, big contribution to the Toys for Tots program the following month. As usual in the Fall, elections of officers are in the offing as we head into December's year-end meeting.

most are limited to hands-on workshops of six students or less. If you don't want to miss one you are urged to sign up for courses early. Phil Choquette is attempting to get member moving to exhibit their handiwork at Arts Alive! on the first weekend of November. "Whether your project is completed by that time or still a work in progress," he said, "we want your participation."

Members can exhibit or sell their products as this two-day event in La Conner's Garden Club building on Second Street. Each year the local woodturner and woodworking clubs have exclusive use of the building.

**Picnic 2008.....Fun, Food and Fellowship!**



**Bring 'n Brag.** Gary Weyers, Activities, lamented that there were only five entries in the Club's 2x4 contest, which concluded at the August picnic. However, he thought they were innovative and he expects a better showing next time. Gary showed two pieces that he made from his 2x4, one a general use box and the other a clever piano with an animated pianist.

George Smith explained how to use his thoughtful jig for making angled rip cuts on the table saw. His jig uses a system of strategically placed clamps on a long board to provide ideal wedge shaped cuts.

Jim Torrence has taken to music. Impressed by flutes made by native Americans, Jim has matched wits with native flute-makers and turned out several wooden beauties that can carry mellow sounds. His wood selections have been Western Cedar, Honduras Mahogany, and Hemlock. While he continues his search for the best material we are hopeful that he can learn some melodies and give us a concert at a future meeting

Jim Bucknell, then introduced Fast Caps, our program of the evening.  
—Jay Geisel, Secretary

### **FastCap Puts on A Show.....**

Wow! Freebies, discounts, and a raffle! Such things make grown woodworkers salivate We were introduced to FastCap, a burgeoning Bellingham tool manufacturer, by one of its most attractive promoter, Ellie Bird, who has enough personality to carry tough old workshop warriors through a catalog of products in a single hour. It was a demonstration that bordered on entertainment



With a table loaded with company products in front of her, Ellie introduced us to some very innovative and useful new woodworking tools that include a line of six different tape rule blade styles, chisels with folding handles that can be carried safely in your apron pocket, and FastCaps made of PVC, natural wood, or wood grain imitations that can cover screw heads, wood wounds, plumbing and electrical holes in the wall, and even Kreg-drilled openings. The latter adhesive-backed FastCaps are the flagship products that put the company in its prominent position as an innovative company. FastCap has taken promising inventions by various cabinetmakers and contractors and put them into production

Their catalog lists FastEdge peel and stick items for edgbanding wood products and the accessories to mke the job easy, such as their Flush Cut Trimmers to trim PVC edgbanding on solid wood, both sides at the same time with carbide cutters. Other aids are a custom color punch kit to make your own FastCaps with your own custom colors, a unique flushmount drill sysem that puts a hole in the wood surface just deep enough to sink the FastCap flush with the surface, and a line of SpeedTapes of different widths to apply a high performance, waterproof acrylic bond of adhesive. They also devised a SpeedRoller to apply pressure to the veneers and edgbanding.

**Some of my favorites:** Woody, a folding knife with a custom Pakka wood inlay. It's attractive, strong and carries a dual blade easily changed into a sharp, square-edged scraper. Also innovative are the line of safety glasses with plastic diopter lenses for those needing a little boost in their vision. Diopters of plus 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, and 3.0 are offered in a great looking "CatEyes" design. The GluBot that sucks is also from FastCap. They have two sizes and Jim



Bucknell really finds them useful with any gluing job, particularly when tackling large cabinets. A strong candidate for everyone's approval is the major improvement FastCap offers in dust masks, the MXV pocket dust mask distributed to all in attendance. The mask's protruding front keeps the material comfortably away from nose and face for a better fit. It's packaged in a zippered bag for pocket or apron and is reusable.

**Ellie was quite the showman.** She operated two battery drill/drivers, pounded mightily on the folded chisel handles, and did a quick-draw impersonation with a tape measure and pocket holder. The raffle was an enjoyable highlight that brought needed monies to our depleted treasury. And suitably, our Treasurer Doug Duhning won the big prize, a Professional Adhesive system package. Others won a selection of the company's measuring tapes, which have been awarded the "Best Tool of 2004." by American Woodworker magazine.

You can find the full line of FastCap products at Windsor Plywood and Hardware Sales in Bellingham. Both are ten percent discounters to NCWA members.

For those few that thought the program too commercialized, you have to remember that, as in television, advertising powers free entertainment. —JG

### **Upcoming Education Classes.....**

The club had a very successful class on keeping your band saw in shape and how to make nice smooth cuts. Thanks to Charlie Drake for being such a good instructor.

Our next class will be on October 4 when Gary Holloman will teach us everything about planers and jointers. These are two very handy tools for your woodshop. If you don't have one, you should plan to attend to see what they can do and maybe get some hints on which would be the best to buy. If you do have one you will need to change cutting blades either for sharpening or replacing. In my opinion, this is the most difficult thing to do in the shop. Gary will show us how to get all the blades

aligned and at the same height. The class will be held at Gary's shop in Burlington.

You still have time to sign up. Just email Chuck Robertson at [cerjor@hotmail.com](mailto:cerjor@hotmail.com), go to the club's website, or call Chuck at 360-941-0005.

Also in October, Rick Anderson will be the instructor for a class on dust collection. (I think I will go in hopes of eventually clearing my sinuses.) That class will be on Tuesday, October 28th at Rick's shop in Bellingham.

These classes are great in two different ways. First, you learn about the tools that can really improve your woodworking projects and second, you meet other members and learn more about their lives and projects. Plan to attend some of these classes during the year. Go to the NCWA web site (<http://www.ncwawood.org/>) and click on "Classes." Chuck Robertson, Education Chairman

### **Toys for Tots.....**

There are only 60 days left until our December 2nd meeting when Toys for Tots projects are due and will be delivered to the Marines for Christmas gifts for needy kids.

Santa's helpers are busy throughout the club. Here in LaConner several members meet each Tuesday to work cooperatively on our projects. We are making rocking horses, blackboard easels and wagons. Val and Laura also need some help on Saturday's for their projects. Gene Benson is making cradles and could also use some extra help.

We want to display our Toys for Tots projects at the November Arts Alive festival. Please bring what you are making for display whether they are finished or not.

Purchased toys, as well as hand crafted ones, are very welcome and gladly accepted. Keep an eye out for that special toy for a special tot.

Some alder and maple is still available. Contact Glenn @466-5910.

Glenn Koontz, Toys for Tots Chairman

## Greetings from the Membership Committee.....

We have quite a few new members since the last membership list was sent out and would like to recognize them. Most have name tags, and I'll be passing out their membership cards at the October meeting. Here's the list:

George Brooks	Jean Shumate
Peter Edelson	Bill Hakins
Marshall Eberhard	Roy Little
Joseph Yob	John Isakson
John Bellinger	

Let's give these folks a hardy welcome. Over the next month or so, committee members will be visiting each of the new members to learn more about them and to find out how NCWA can help them.

We have received a lot of inquiries as to when we will be starting the shop tours. We are in need of someone to take on that project. Please give me a call/email if you are interested. This is a really fun project.

I hope to see you all at the October meeting.  
Ed Pysher, Membership Chairman

## A Tree Grows in Lynden.....

There's a black walnut tree for sale if anybody wants it. It's about 80 feet tall, about 30 inches in diameter about breast height, and there's enough lumber for many projects, enough crotches for the turners and enough leaves and debris to cripple a large shredder. It's a beautiful tree and your board members investigated the idea, offered by new member Joseph Yob, of purchasing the tree, putting it on the ground, bucking the trunk and primary

branches into 8 - 10 foot sections and hauling it off to the band saw to be cut into rough lumber.

After viewing the tree and making a few inquiries, we determined that the club didn't have the treasury to finance the deal, nor the staying power to manage the project to its conclusion. So, the tree is still available at this writing. If anyone is interested in buying the tree (pictures below), contact Ed Pysher for details. -Nick Van



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

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**COMING EVENTS**

Oct. 7	6:00 PM	Roundtable Discussion	Hillcrest Lodge, Mount Vernon
Oct. 7	7:00 PM	Membership Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge, Mount Vernon
Oct. 15	7:00 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Restaurant on Hwy 20
October 18	Noon	Newsletter Deadline	Nick's Email (nvan@verizon.net)
Nov. 8-9	9am - 5pm	Arts Alive!	LaConner Garden Club Bldg.

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**

President:	Vacant	(360) 279-8632	Education	Chuck Robertson	(360) 387-6333
Vice President	Jeff O'Donnell	(360) 678-2205	Librarian	Jim Torrence	(360) 629-6670
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Board at Large	Glenn Koontz	(360) 466-5910	Shows	Phil Choquette	(360) 675-8320
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Programs	Jim Bucknell	(360) 766-5088	Toys for Tots	Glenn Koontz	(360) 466-5910
Activities	Gary Weyers	(360) 380-0888	Webmeister	Mike New	(360) 707-2314

**NCWA NEWSLETTER**

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