



# NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

October, 2009

**Next Meeting: October 6, Sound Cedar Lumber**

**7:00PM General Meeting**

**2600 Cedardale Road, Mt Vernon**

**Phone: 360-770-7203 or 360-387-4174**

**I-5 exit 225 (Anderson Road Exit). Go East to Cedardale Road. Turn left onto Cedardale Road and proceed north to Sound Cedar Lumber. Park in front of the store.**

## **The September Meeting. It's All About Arts Alive!**

The new season for NCWA members is at hand. With Summer's end and the kids back in school our thoughts return to the woodshop where we want to spend more and more hours. Someone's got to do it because we are expected to show our projects at Arts Alive! and that event is only four weeks away. We live for this moment to show our stuff.

**Phil Choquette** has asked many members point blank: "What are you bringing to Arts Alive!" And he expects us to make good on our promise. "No excuses," he said. "Just get started." NCWA is committed to demonstrate our members' skills to the general public and to

promote woodworking in all its forms. We will show our members' projects, completed or in progress, brand new or older, finished or unfinished, for sale or for display, hardwood or softwood to demonstrate that membership in our club leads to improved skills and access to techniques and processes in the knowledge base of the people in our club.

## **Special Meeting!**

**October 6, 2009**

**Sound Cedar Lumber**

**2600 Cedardale Road  
Mount Vernon, WA**

**The folks at Sound Cedar will introduce us to their facilities and product line. This should be an interesting and informative meeting.**

Phil will assign cashiers and floor personnel to duties at the next meeting. You can expect to see some demonstrations and a lot of member projects, and, of course, the various toys being donated to the Toys

for Tots program. "If your project is not for sale," he said, "mark your tag with NFS or For Display Only."

Arts Alive! kicks off the first Friday of November. We use that day to set up our exhibits, from 5 to 7 p.m. The festival continues through Sunday afternoon.

A large crowd of enthusiastic woodworkers came to the September meeting. Their expectations were high for the forthcoming educational sessions and that appetite was whetted by the showing of a DVD training film covering the selection and preparation of wood for forthcoming projects. A big thanks to **Gary Danilson** for selecting the movie, **Jim Torrence** for furnishing the video equipment, and our Program Chair **Jim Bucknell** for the delicious popcorn.



Da Gang Groovin' on da Trainin' Flick

In the meantime, this year's Nominating Committee, headed by **Phil Choquette**, announced its selection for 2010 officers, who will be voted on at the October meeting. The slate: **Jim Torrence** for President, **Jerry Couchman** for Vice President, **Doug Duehning** for re-election as Treasurer, and **Jay Geisel** for re-election as

Secretary. **Jim Torrence** is currently Vice President.

Also coming up fast is the December meeting when we turn over our year-long effort to produce Toy for Tots to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. **Gene Benson** is helping the local Marine Detachment in its effort to raise monetary support for the local Boys and Girls Clubs who have seen deep drops in funding their activities this year. Gene will have raffle tickets available at the October meeting, which will be held at **Sound Cedar** in Mount Vernon. **Sound Cedar** has agreed to participate in the NCWA discount-to-members' program. —Jay Geisel

### **HELP WANTED – AS IN HELP, HELP ALREADY!**

Now this is serious, folks. Our Coffee Meister notified me at the meeting Tuesday evening that he has a major schedule change coming up at his office and he will not be available on Tuesday evenings in the future.

We need someone to take on the coffee making duties. The only thing worse than no coffee would be for me to start making it again, and the last time I did we had three folks call in sick the next day.

So, some caring, thoughtful person needs to call (360-770-7203) or email ([epyshe@aol.com](mailto:epyshe@aol.com)) and let me know they will save the membership from my coffee by taking on the job. By the way, no coffee, no cookies. —Ed Pysher

### **James Krenov September 12, 2009**

James Krenov, a legendary woodworker, author, and founder of the College of the Redwoods Fine Furniture Program, [died yesterday at 89](#) according to colleague and family friend, David Welter. Through his school and his furniture, Krenov inspired a generation of furniture makers with a high regard for both materials and craftsmanship

and design with an aesthetic informed by organic, subtle details.

The son of Russian aristocrats, Krenov was born in Siberia in 1920. His family eventually settled in Seattle, then [Krenov](#) moved to Sweden in his mid-twenties. He began his career in woodworking there, studying with famed furniture designer Carl Malmsten. Until his work began to take off, his wife Britta kept the family afloat on an economics teacher's salary.

After 30 years in Sweden, Krenov returned to the United States and published his first book, [A Cabinetmaker's Notebook](#), in 1976. It articulated a new way of woodworking, one that intimately involved the maker with the material.

In 1981, he founded the influential College of the Redwoods furniture program in Fort Bragg, Calif. Krenov speculated on the influence he has had on woodworkers throughout his career in a March 2003 [interview with \*Fine Woodworking\*](#), "It's not that I had a message that was outstanding or unique or anything like that. I just expressed the feelings that a great number of people had ... 'Live the life that you want to live. Don't be unhappy in your work.'"

His work is displayed in museums in Sweden, Norway, Japan, and the United States. Since his first book, he wrote four other books on woodworking: [The Fine Art of Cabinetmaking](#), [With Wakened Hands](#), [Worker In Wood](#), and [The Impractical Cabinetmaker](#).

He retired from the College of the Redwoods in 2002 after more than twenty years of instruction and inspiration. He continued to build custom cabinets from his home shop in Northern California until his failing eyesight prevented him. Since then, Krenov continued with his passion for wood, building his classic wooden hand planes.

Krenov [was asked] how he would like to be remembered... He responded, as a "stubborn, old enthusiast."

## Toys for Tots

First- Raffle Ticket #4131, purchased by ????? has kept the stub. I hope you will bring it to the next meeting. No tickee, no prizee!

Again, tempus is afiggetin' and time's getting' short to bring a happy Christmas to kids who may not have any hopes of being visited by Santa.

Join our Toys for Tots efforts. The wonderful satisfaction gained is indescribable. You know you will be making a difference to a child in need. – Gene Benson

## More About Hartville Tools

I asked Doug Weingart at Hartville Tools if they were going to come out with a new catalog. I also asked if they had a plate jointer, that I could not find one at their "on line" catalog. The following is his response, which I thought would be good to include in the newsletter for the members to be aware of.

"In answer to your questions:

1) Catalogs — For the most part, continue to use the Master you have now, but call or check the web for current pricing and availability. We will have a Holiday Sale Catalog coming out at the end of October, and anticipate printing a 2010/2011 Master Catalog in early 2010. We just launched our first ever Virtual Master Catalog online this week. Please encourage your members to check it out. It's quite nice.

2) Plate/Biscuit Jointers - Not yet, but we may soon offer one. Just this summer we started to work in cooperation with our store to offer power tools online. We will continue to add more as time goes on. Be sure to check out the Power Tools

category for what we're offering now. Our retail store, Hartville Hardware, does offer several Biscuit Jointers. You can reach them directly by calling 800-877-3631. Ask for the Power Tool Dept. They do ship from the store and their prices are very competitive." —Ed Pysher

### Good news for Toys for Tots

The following message was received from Richard Crossely of the Toys for Tots Foundation regarding acceptance of homemade toys. This response answers our questions having to do with product safety and our continuation of our participation in the Toys for Tots program.

"Gene, As you well know the past several years we have accepted the toys from the Woodworker's based on the theory that they were new toys. We did this on the local level. This year, the Foundation has addressed this issue. A new section was added to the SOP. Here is that addition. It has resolved the question in our favor. Here is the section for you and feel free to share this with the Woodworkers:

6.9 Homemade Toys. Of growing concern, is the donation of homemade toys, and whether or not Toys for Tots will continue to accept such toys, even though they may not have undergone the new testing process required for toys. The Foundation is taking the position that since homemade toymakers are not producing toys for the purposes of making a profit and have no reason to cut corners to increase profit margins or reduce their inventory, and that the toys are generally safe with minimal moving parts that could cause injury, that we will continue to accept homemade toys. In doing so, there are three layers of safety that must be in place to ensure this policy can continue.

Layer One: Toy makers must understand the requirement that homemade toys be safe (no small parts; rounded edges; lead-free paint; etc.)

Layer Two: Toys for Tots coordinators (and their volunteer assistants) must take steps to ensure the makers are informed of the Layer One requirement, carefully inspect homemade toys when they are donated, AND make every effort to distribute such toys appropriately.

Layer Three: Parents must ensure that any toy given to them to, in turn, present to their child, must be age appropriate.

I have now complied with Layer One.

I will be having a Toys for Tots meeting in the next couple of weeks to get this year off and running.

S/F—Rick"

I thought you'd all like to know. —Gene Benson

### Shop Tour - Saturday, October 17

Our last shop tour of the year will be **Saturday, Oct 17**. We will be visiting 4 interesting shops in the Bellingham/Ferndale area. We'll see a couple of well-designed central dust collection systems, a single-car garage turned into a complete woodshop, some great ideas for wood storage and shop organization and as always lots of examples of our fellow club members' innovation and craftsmanship. Our tour starts at 9:00 and we should be done between noon and 1:00. Tour info and maps will be available at our October general meeting and will also be e-mailed to all members. We will also have complete tour information at our first stop of the day, Rick Anderson's shop at 4219 Adams Ave., Bellingham. Join us at Rick's shop for coffee and muffins and the start a great morning of shop visits.

**Save the Date - Don't miss this one.** —John Bellinger/Gary Danilson

## More About NCWA Library

Your Library Committee continues to diligently move forward in spite of the fact that our favorite coffee shop has closed. We won't have the complete library at our October general meeting since we will be meeting at Sound Cedar in Mt. Vernon. However, we will bring the video collection since it will be easier to set up. We'll also try to have available the 5 new books recently added to your library. If you haven't seen them they are:

[Choosing and Using Hand Tools](#)  
[Care and Repair of Shop Machines](#)  
[Building Doors and Drawers](#)  
[Furniture and Cabinet Construction](#)  
[Working With Wood](#)

"The true university these days is a collection of books" Thomas Carlyle

See you at Sound Cedar. —Gary Danilson,  
Steve Johnson, Jim Torrence

## Great Source for Wood

I recently met with **Art Learmonth**, a new member, and as I admired the remarkable collection of rough sawn lumber that he had, he willingly revealed his source (His right arm should be out of the cast by the end of December).

The source is **Jack's Custom Sawing**, which is just before you get to the Baker Lake road on Highway 20. If you get to Concrete you have gone way too far.

I visited Jack recently and learned that he is going to be relocating to Republic, near Omak by the end of October, and is selling everything at wholesale or better. A partial list of woods and prices per board foot are below. I came away with a remarkable 3" slab of black walnut that literally grabbed me by the lapel and shouted in my face, "TAKE ME WITH YOU!" (\$8 per board foot.)

Jack has a collection of African hardwoods, notably Sapele and Padauk (Go to Google and type the name). The Padauk is book-matched, and the pieces are about 12' X 10" X 1" or better. The ones that I looked at were perfectly clear.

Jack has a large amount of Zebra wood in 10' and 12' lengths. He also has supplies of local woods, such as alder, all kinds of maple, various "nut woods" as he called them, yew, red and white oak and old growth yellow fir. In addition, he has some wonderful, beautiful wood that is just stunning, but I'm probably going to buy the whole pile, so I'm not going to tell you what it is.

If you visit Jack, be sure to tell him you are with NCWA. One thing to remember, though, is that if you visit Jack and don't buy some lumber, you have to take a kitten home with you.

Jack's address is 38834 Highway 20. His cell phone, which he says is the best way to reach him, is 360-708-3607. He also has a web site, [www.jackscustomsawing.com](http://www.jackscustomsawing.com). Check it out.

Below are some prices Jack gave me, adding that the fancy grades are a bit more, are:

Alder \$3.50  
Maple \$4.00  
Nut wood \$6.00  
Yew \$10.00  
Birch \$3.50  
Old growth yellow fir \$5.00  
Zebra wood \$12.00  
Sapele \$7.00  
Padauk \$8.00

It would be worth your time to take a run out to Jack's and see if there's something there you could not possibly live without.

Have fun, and I'll see you at the October meeting.  
—Ed Pysher

### “Oyster Run” Hogs, Ferries, Parking Cancels Eden Saw Tour

The annual Oyster Run that brings up to 6,000 motorcyclists to our area on a September weekend hit at the wrong time for NCWA. Our plans for a woodworkers’ tour of Eden Saw’s Port Townsend facilities and an opportunity to select some of their fine lumber for the fall season were blasted when mega numbers of hog owners took to our roads, cities, ferry and ferry parking areas on Saturday, September 26.

All of Saturday’s ferry reservations were booked and available roadside parking on Whidbey Island was filled days before our scheduled 10:15 a.m. ferry crossing at Keystone. We learned on Friday that Keystone parking, which is roadside only, would be overflowing with vehicles. Regretfully, we were forced to cancel.

Our host, **John Montgomery**, and all the other nice people at Eden Saw want us back so we settled on Saturday morning, October 10<sup>th</sup>, as our visiting day. We’re expected at their plant at 11 AM so make appropriate preparations. New volunteer drivers will be announced at the October meeting. –Jay Geisel



Please Meet New Member -  
Lori Michalec



Please meet new member -  
Art Learmonth



Cec Braeden with his “Workshop Beware -  
Dust Flying” award presented by Gary Weyers

## Fiction and Fact From Nick's Almanac

... Hailed as a wonder drug in the 19th century, cocaine was outlawed in the United States in 1914.

... The little lump of flesh just forward of your ear canal, right next to your temple, is called a tragus.

... The words racecar and kayak are the same whether they are read left to right or right to left.

... A snail can sleep for three years. This is going to be my next incarnation.

... More people are killed by donkeys annually than are killed in airplane crashes.

There is nothing political in this factoid.

... Most elephants weigh less than the tongue of a blue whale.

... Mosquitoes are attracted to the color blue twice as much as to any other color.

... "Underground" is the only word in the English language that begins and ends with the letters "und." Und dats a fact!

... The housefly hums in the middle octave, key of F. Voice lessons anyone?

... The first word spoken by an ape in the movie "Planet of the Apes" was "Smile."

Was the second and subsequent words "you're on candid camera?"

... The muzzle of a lion is like a fingerprint - no two lions have the same pattern of whiskers. Wanna test this hypothesis?

... Charles de Gaulle's final words were, "it hurts." Kind of sums it all up, eh?

... Pocahontas appeared on the back of the \$20 bill in 1875. By that time, she was over 200 years old and looked a little haggard.

... And finally, a group of officers is called a "mess," a group of ravens is called a "murder," and a group of owls is called a "parliament." An apt description of Congress, don'tcha know?

For sale 4 Pc. Woodworking Spring-tool set. It is on page 94 of the Hartville tool catalog, or on page 22 of their 2009 Winter catalog. I don't have enough strength in my hands to work them properly, so they have been used very little. I paid \$31.96 for the set, but will sell them for \$25.

Richard Zegers ph. 360-734-7087

[zegersre@comcast.net](mailto:zegersre@comcast.net)

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

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**COMING EVENTS**

Oct 6	7:00 PM	Membership Meeting	Sound Cedar - Mt Vernon
Oct 10	11:00 AM	Edensaw Visit	Port Townsend
Oct 17	9:00 AM	Shop Tour	Don't Miss This One!
Oct 21	7:00 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Restaurant on Hwy 20
Oct 24	Noon	Newsletter Deadline	Nick's Email (nvan@verizon.net)

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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Board at Large	Dave Blair	(360) 733-3911	Toys for Tots	Gene Benson	(360) 466-3004
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**NCWA NEWSLETTER**

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