

NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

April 2012

**Next Meeting: Tuesday April 10th, Burlington Public Library
7:00 PM General Meeting
820 East Washington Avenue
Phone: 360-770-7203 or 360-387-4174**

From Burlington Blvd. headed North turn right onto E. Fairhaven Ave. Turn right at the four way stop onto S. Anacortes St. (about 8 blocks) Left at E. Washington Ave. The Library is on your right.

Not the first Tuesday. Not at Hillcrest Lodge. Not Not Not.

Attention: Our April meeting will be held on the second Tuesday April 10th at the Burlington Public Library. The meeting room is the first door on the left as you enter the library. Hope to see you all there. The Library is one block south of Fairhaven at the corner of Washington Avenue and Holly Street.

~John Bellinger

April 10th Program - Don Wood, Artist

Don Wood was recommended by one of our new members, Tom Napier, because he's not only an accomplished wood sculptor, but also makes handcrafted knives, 18th century firearms and is an expert scrimshaw artist. Don's interest in art began as he grew up in Toronto. His family moved to Southern California and he eventually enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. After a cruise on the Lexington, even the USMC recognized his talent and assigned him as a draftsman and illustrator. After the Marines,



he studied art, and his life time profession was in Lithography. Along the way, he continued to refine his artistic abilities. Don will talk about his work and show examples of all four of his crafts with pictures and several of his favorite pieces.

~Jerry Couchman

Jay Smith Info:

Here is a link about Jay's project. <http://www.wildexpeditions.org/index.php/viking-ship>

Art Learmonth Delights and Inspires Fellow Members

If I had the wherewithal to decorate my living space with the most inspirational furniture I could find I'd start with the designs of Art Learmonth. His work has impact, an excitement that I don't see in most home furnishings. Learmonth, an Anacortes member, made an outstanding statement that left me, and dozens of fellow members, inspired at the conclusion of his talk at the March meeting.

Art truly lets the wood dictate the form of his creations. He told us that "sometimes a piece of wood will inspire an entire design," and that he sees beauty in wood and then tries to find a way to express it. His designs are original, but not limited to furniture. With broad media interests, he ventures into wood turning, carving, and metallurgy to let the exotic and highly figured woods speak in various forms of cabinet door paneling, bowls, table tops, and wall art. He has mastered floating table tops, book-matching, and natural edges. There is nothing common about his work; his pieces are different and eye-catching. There are no "I've seen it before" comments because Art has such strong visualization powers and has yet to run out of ideas.

At one point in his projected imagery we saw a kayak so different and appealing. You never saw its likes before. His catalog of pictorial images is a pleasure trove and we are proud to have Art as one of our very talented members.

The photography, prepared by Newsletter editor Charley Drake, is excellent.

--Jay

NWCA's March Madness Attracts 100

The March 6, 2012 meeting was the largest attended general meeting in Club history. Our speaker and high-interest activities planned for March combined to fill Mount Vernon's Hillcrest Lodge. With guests introduced, President John Bellinger called upon several committee chairmen



Cabinet by Art Learmonth

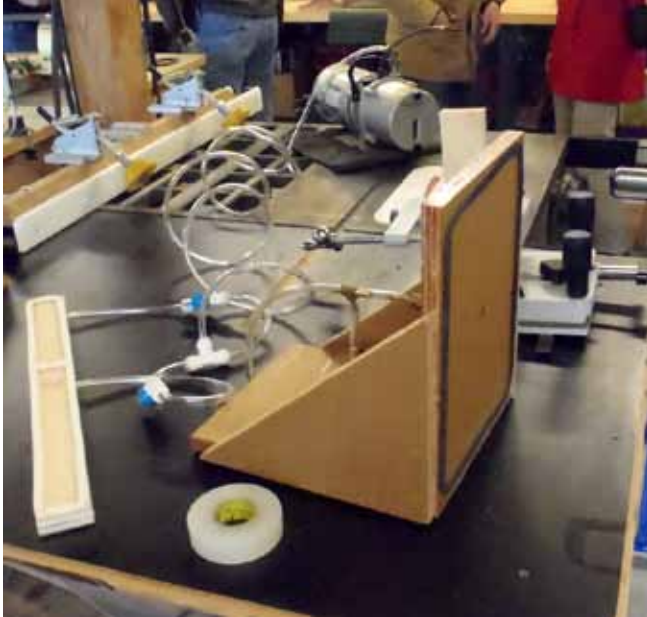
for announcements or reports.

Gene Benson told us Toys for Tots construction is in full swing at Val Matthews shop where 14 toy makers are building a series of toys that will eventually include an airplane, a pull toy bee with revolving "wings," a racer, cricket, and other designs that have been stock items produced in abundance over the past several years.



Larry Tomovick's Shop

Members were told that driving instructions will be posted online for the Anacortes area Spring shop tours scheduled for Saturday, March 24. Gary Danilson has shop visits planned at Charley Drake's home from 8:30 to 10 a.m., Larry Tomovick's home from 9:30 to 11 a.m., and Jim Gleeson's home



Jim Gleeson's Vacuum Clamp

from 9:30 to 11 a.m. The day's tour will end at Jay Smith's commercial workshop where two lapstrake Norwegian Viking vessels are under construction. This visit is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. A light lunch will be served following Jay's talk. Routing maps are being made available online by Charley Drake.

A week later we will again celebrate the woodworking abilities of our local area high school



Charley Drake's Shop

students who will put their school wood projects into competition in Sedro Woolley High School's gymnasium on Saturday, March 31 and Sunday, April 1. Several high schools will compete this year and our Club will again furnish a prize for the Best of Show entry. WoodFest is an annual affair during the Tulip Festival. Sponsored by the Sedro Woolley Chamber of Commerce, WoodFest also attracts some 30 vendors to the two-day exhibition and contest. NCWA members have volunteered to man two large tables of displays and for-sale items during the event. Competing high school wood technology teachers will judge the entries. Phil Choquette and Jim Torrence are co-chairmen of our participation in Woodfest.



Jay Smith's Shop

Bring 'n Brag.

A variety of member wooden projects were featured at the March meeting. President John Bellinger displayed a model Jeep he recently completed out of straight-grained fir. About 7 inches in length, the U.S. Army vehicle was finished in shellac. Bill Rawls contributed an interesting "Alligator" table made of walnut and purpleheart while Dave Strauss showed off his woodworking skills with a boat and toy box. More furniture was added to the mix by Andy Rudy who brought his oak table to the meeting.

Jim Houston recently added his own drill press



Jim Houston's Drill Press Table

table to his shop furnishings. The table includes a much-desired drawer to the unit. He chose tung oil as his finish. Mike Titus also improved his shop with a well-designed chisel box. Jim Davis was on hand to describe the laser train he constructed. It's always interesting to see our members display their wood carvings and we thank Robert Brester for bringing some of his examples. The displays would not be complete without boxes and two members brought their recent creations. Greg Koenker showed off a design that features a rounded top. Jerry Couchman created a fairly large pagoda chest with rooflines to match. He reported using walnut, Alaska yellow cedar, ebony, and cocobolo woods with a varnish and wax finish. Thank you all for a great, eye-popping Gallery!

--Jay



Jim Davis's Laser Cut Train



Greg Koenker's Container



Jerry Couchman's Box



John Bellinger's Jeep



Dave Strauss's Boat



Bill Rawls's Gator Table



Andy Rudy's Table

Tool-Making Can Be Your Legacy

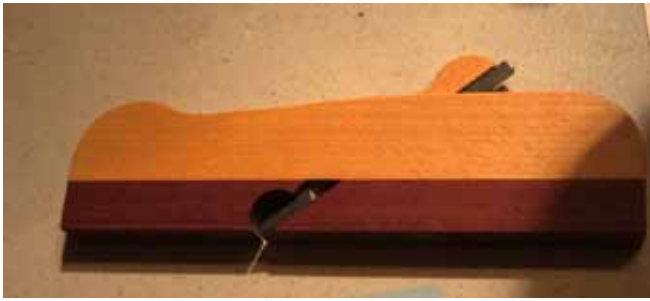
There's hardly anything that gives a woodworker more pleasure than making a fine hand tool. One that is so usable that you want to hand it down to your kids and theirs as well. I have a few of my Dad's tools, some still useful, but only one that Dad made. He was a steam engineer for U.S. Steel and taught machine shop classes on the side. I still use one of his adjustable wrench creations..

More than three years ago I attended Val Matthews' early hand plane making class and thought it was the best and most enjoyable experience of my woodworking life. The end grain tool was good looking and performed its job successfully. Others who took Val's class agreed; it was fun and you made a tool worth bragging about.

Several months later I approached Val with

a question: Would he want to teach us how to construct a shoulder plane? Val was also excited about such a prospect and together we searched for an appropriate, plane blade. We didn't have any luck for almost two years until our regular plane blade-maker, Hock, introduced a shoulder plane kit several months ago. The kit, acquired by Val, included the beveled plane blade with a tang and five small pieces of shaped hardwood (about \$150). About three weeks ago Val completed an attractive, serviceable shoulder plane and announced a class would soon follow.

With a high degree of anticipation I and three other NCWA members attended the first shoulder plane class on March 17th. Val had his instructional sequences down pat and the construction process was smooth as glass. It took us six hours. By the



Val Matthews's Shoulder Plane

end of the third hour we had our wood machined to thickness (two wood species for contrast), trimmed to size, pin registered, and in clamps. We took a lunch break while the glue set. We learned that the wedge pocket angles had to be precise and the layout lines extremely accurate to ensure that the bevel-down blade would cut effectively. One of the pitfalls: during clamping glue can spread into the wedge pocket where the tang and wedge come together. Even a small dot of dried glue can prevent their alignment and must be removed laboriously with a small chisel.

We completed our work in late afternoon except for the finishing coats. The plane blades, which cost each of us \$30, were pre-sharpened, but further honing is needed to make this a superb tool. I was elated to have another handmade tool for my shop and one I would to pass on to my family.

-- Jay

MEET THE NEW MEMBER

Tom Dolese gave a presentation of his work and how he became a woodworker two years ago, and his shop was included in our Fall 2011 shop tour. Tom is a member of Artwood in Bellingham, which displays his work often incorporating his wife Jennifer's beautiful marquetry. In addition to turning out furniture on commission and for galleries, Tom teaches woodworking in his shop and at the Port Townsend School of Woodworking. His next course starts April 16th in Port Townsend. Some of our members have already taken Tom's chair making course. Nearly all of his work is assembled with floating mortise and tenon joinery. Mortises are cut



Tom Dolese

with a Stanfield horizontal mortising machine which Tom plans to demonstrate at our May meeting.

~Jerry Couchman

Greetings from your library committee. We have some great new additions that will be available at our next general meeting on April 10th. New NCWA member Jack McKee has donated 2 books with kids in mind. Builder Boards is a guide for making a take-apart playhouse that even very young kids can use to build their own creation.

Woodshop for Kids is about introducing kids to woodworking and includes 52 projects. Incidentally, the author of both books is new NCWA member Jack Mckee.

We have also added 2 DVDs to our library. Both are part of the Wood Magazine series. Make Simple Face-Frame Cabinets and Doors and Drawers Made Easy will be available for check-out after our meeting's coffee break next week. A reminder that we try to limit new additions to a 1-month checkout. See you April 10th in Burlington.

~Gary Danilson

«Books are lighthouses erected in the great sea of time» Edwin P. Whipple

NWCA Board of Directors Meeting, March 14, 2012

NCWA's Board of Directors met at the Farmhouse Restaurant on Route 20, Mount Vernon, on Wednesday evening, March 14, 2012. The dinner meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. First order of Old Business related to the present standing of the office of Vice President, which has undergone a change. President John Bellinger explained the situation as follows:

Elected as Vice President last December, Bill Baer desired to vacate that office and has accepted instead the vacancy of Member-at-Large on the Board of Directors. The President has named former Member-at-Large Andrew Peller as the person to fulfill the remaining term of Vice President.

Treasurer Doug Duehning reported a treasury balance of \$5,266 and noted that current membership stands at 125. Liability insurance coverage was discussed further with no sign of an acceptable solution. Gerald Anderson announced that additional scraper classes were planned and that Val Matthews' first one-day class in making shoulder planes was set for Saturday, March 17. The latter course is limited to four students at a time and will be offered on several dates.

It was announced that Tom Thornton has accepted coffee-maker duties for regular Club meetings where, it has been estimated, 180 cups of coffee are consumed each month.

The Directors then turned their attention to two major outside activities that occur later this month. Our Spring Shop Tour program for the Anacortes area will take place on Saturday, March 24. Chairman Gary Danilson has selected three Anacortes shops and Jay Smith's professional workshop as the tour targets. Tour driving directions will be handled online by Charley Drake.

Co-chairmen Phil Choquette and Jim Torrence will direct Club participation at WoodFest on March 31 and April 1 when Sedro Woolley High School hosts its annual student competition in woodworking.

Our Club will have two tables ready to display our projects and sale items. Enough volunteers have volunteered to assure manpower to meet the public and answer their queries during the two-day event. The Club will again make the award for the winning student entry "Best of Show."

Two other outside activities are in the offing and the Board heard plans from Program Chairman Jerry Couchman about our second Father's Day Weekend at Cascade Mall. Jerry will pretty well follow the format established last year when we occupied Center Court at the Mount Vernon retail giant. The attractive posters created by Jim Bucknell in 2011 will be prominent again. The April meeting program, Couchman said, will feature local wood sculptor Don Wood. Our Summer Picnic has been scheduled for Saturday, August 18, at the Matthews' Gardens in Bow.

Webmaster Mike Titus gave us a preview of what to expect from his revamped Website. The new look was programmed on Mike's laptop and projected on a big screen. It's almost complete, works and looks great, and you can see it for yourself right now.

The Board meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Directors present: Anderson, Bellinger, Benson, Couchman, Drake, Duehning, Geisel, Peller, Titus.

Respectfully submitted by Jay Geisel

Classifieds

Delta 14" Bandsaw, \$550

Enclosed base, includes 6" riser block (12" resaw capacity), upgrade to Grainger heavy-duty motor (for better resaw), mobile base, MDF High Fence Extension, cool blocks, a few blades (used some) and a nearly complete circle cutting jig. This saw is finely tuned to produce thin veneer resaws, and tracks well for curved cutting. Excellent condition. I now have a 20" saw and need floor space.

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COMING EVENTS

April 10th	7:00 PM	Membership Meeting	Burlington Library
April 11th	7:00 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Inn
April 14th	9-12	Building Cabinet Drawers	Bill Baer's shop
April 21st	9-12	Constructing Cabinet Doors	Bill Baer's shop
April 25th	6 PM-9 PM	Box Making	Jerry Couchman's shop
April 28th	9-12	How to Tune the Bandsaw	Charley Drake's shop

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, 5955 Central Ave., Anacortes, WA 98221, or email to cndrake@wavecable.com or call 360-588-8448.

2011 Officers and Chairpersons

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**NCWA NEWSLETTER**

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