

# Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association

December 2004

## **Next Meeting: Nick Van's Shop, December 7, 2004 7:00 pm 24 Jacks Pass Court, Camano Island Phone is 360-387-4174**

Interstate Highway 5 to exit 212. West on Washington Highway 532, through the City of Stanwood, to East Camano Drive (about 7 miles). South on East Camano Drive, passing the strip mall and alpaca ranch, to Camano Hill Road. West on Camano Hill Road to Glacier Peak Drive (1/2 mile). Drive through the gate and turn right at Jacks Pass Court (the first right turn possible after passing through the gate). Please angle park on the street. Tom Chartier will have the library, Bob Doop will have the chairs, Ed Pysher will have the treasury (and we always respect that), Ron Grant will have the program and each of you will have reason to park near the shop. For Gene Benson, please advise the Marines to also park at the top of the driveway. There will be plenty of parking for you folks. Thank you for your consideration.

Thanks, Nick

### **Hello!**

It's been another busy month for NCWA! Arts Alive was again one of our key annual events despite poor weather on Saturday and subsequent lower attendance than usual. THANKS to all of those who helped with the show.....and a SPECIAL THANKS to Phil Choquette for once again organizing this event. It's always a fun time for those who participate.....a chance to talk wood as well as display our craft to the public. Also, THANKS to Nick Van for his generous donation of bird houses and feeders for sale. The proceeds generated \$166 to establish a special fund for future programs supporting vocational education students from our local high schools.

Also prominent on our November schedule were a couple of well-attended classes on Dust Control and Glues & Gluing. When I look back at the achievements of our club this past year nothing stands out

more than the education program that Ed Pysher and his Education Committee have created. This program has added a much appreciated element to our club.....and has become one of the most significant "benefits of membership" that our club has ever offered. So a HUGE THANKS to Ed, the Education Committee, and all who have shared their time and talents to prepare and teach our classes.

We now have our new nametags! Please be sure to see the notice elsewhere in the newsletter regarding this. THANKS to James Haddock for taking on this project! James donated and produced the beautiful figured maple blanks for our nametags and coordinated the engraving. They are beautiful and a great way to display our "stuff" at our shows, meetings and other events.

Another THANKS to Gene Benson and his Project Committee, as well as all who created toys, for a job

well done with our first annual Toys for Tots Project. I hope this will be the first of many successful toy projects in the years to come.

Finally, this has been a fun and busy year for NCWA. I would like to personally thank everyone who so generously participated to make the year a great success. There is great enthusiasm and momentum within our club and I predict it will only continue to grow in the coming years thanks to the hard work of so many members. THANK YOU!

**Happy Holidays to all! Rick**

### ***2004 Arts Alive Wasn't***

***Not exactly dead, either,*** but crowds failed to materialize for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, three-day major NCWA exhibition in LaConner. Light to heavy rains and chilly temperatures greeted vendors and visitors on opening day, Friday, and continued to dampen the enthusiasm of shoppers too soggy to shop.

We prepared a fine party; the tables were laden with hand-made gifts and volunteers were on hand to greet the visitors. For the first time Arts Alive failed to live up to its name. We were victimized by indifference and weather. Lack of parking facilities and the steep climb up the hill from the waterfront businesses on First Street didn't help either. But in roaming those businesses, we failed to find significant buyers on any day of the extended annual pre-holiday festival. There were times in our Civic Garden Club building when you could roll a bowling ball down either of the two main aisles and hit woodworkers but never a patron.

***Phil Choquette's layout plan*** this year was neat and orderly and far less congested than the previous year: fewer vendors, fewer tables, and, unfortunately, far less furniture than ever before. Most of the furniture items were multiple offerings from three members: Eugene Benson, Jim Murphy and Larry Tomovick. All were elegant and finely crafted, but unfortunately not for sale.

For sale items included perennial entries from Rick Anderson (garden arches), Bob and Judy Hemenway (dove boxes and tree ornaments), Vern Tabor (premier doors), Phil Choquette (breadboards), and Lyle Hand (fishing nets, lure boxes, and jewelry cases). New craft items offered for sale this year were the blacksmith works from Rob Summers, who featured his braided iron jewelry, knives and letter openers, and about 30 birdhouses and feeders in a variety of shapes and sizes crafted by Nick Van who donated all proceeds to our high school manual arts educational program.

***Three Club displays or demonstrations*** highlighted 2004 participation.

Our expanding display of wood joint examples continues to intrigue the public, and this year's "Toy for Tots" project held the featured spot near the building entrance. Gene Benson was the perfect greeter, manning his Toys exhibition with unabashed enthusiasm. Nearby, our demonstration volunteers Vern Tator and Dave Blair showed the public techniques for joining wood with biscuits and the Kreg Jig system, respectively. These demonstrations replaced the sharpening demos of previous years and were also well received.

Lyle demonstrated an innovative drum sander he created from a recently marketed kit purchased on the Cloverdale trip. The power-driven drum, approximately 3-inches in diameter and 18-inches in length, is wrapped with hook and loop sandpaper, supported on pillow blocks, and retained in a slot in the tabletop. An adjustable screw minutely raises or lowers the work surface in relation to the drum. The user passes the face of the workpiece across the spinning sandpaper drum. The demo raised considerable attention from other woodworkers. (For further information see [www.stockroomsupply.com](http://www.stockroomsupply.com)).

***Sales were made.*** Lyle, Nick, and Phil each sold several items and across the way, in the Woodturners' area, Bob Doop sold out his collection of green-turned Madrona bowls. Sunday turned out to be a fine, dry day, but the hoped-for after-church crowd

didn't show up, and by six o'clock we were ready to pack it in.

As always, the companionship and sharing of techniques and individual knowledge made this year's event particularly enjoyable for those members who participated. Phil and the rest of us threw a great party.

***In Conclusion.*** Is public interest in our woodworking projects on the wane? Could it be that we offer too little to a *buying* public? Showcase products have turned into "exhibition only" in the past few years. Our furniture is almost always exhibited as "not for sale," much to the chagrin and disappointment of shoppers. I was on the defensive a year ago when several shoppers were denied opportunity to purchase several attractive pieces marked "NFS." These people thought Arts Alive was a shoppers' market! Except for MONA, LaConner galleries sell what they show and the Wood Merchant store, like others, depend on this early pre-Christmas event to kick-off holiday sales. The perception is that NCWA at Arts Alive is not a woodworking gallery but rather a museum. And museums attract few shoppers.

Would Mr. Stewart remain generous in underwriting our presence in the Garden Club building if we were in a head-to-head competition on furniture and other wood items on sale in his Wood Merchant store? Of course. Our small output once a year would not compromise his buyer base. And we are always at the disadvantage of occupying a building with little parking space up-hill from the "madding crowd," if there is one.

This might be the time to eliminate "On Loan" and "NFS" and treat Arts Alive as the sales venue it always is and will remain. Our attitude for 2005 could well be "Show and Sell!"

**Jay Geisel, Secretary**

## **Meet the Newbies – October/November 2004**

### **Tony Birdsall**

We're pleased to welcome Tony to the club. Tony recently retired from the engineering group at Puget Sound Energy and has selected woodworking as his hobby of choice. He will tackle any project, big or small, and has built patio furniture, enjoys scrolling and crafting small projects for his grandchildren. Tony is looking for knowledge from those of us with similar interests. Take advantage, Tony. There's much to learn and each member of the club is willing to share.

### **Jonathan Blake**

We glad to welcome Jonathan Blake to NWCWA. He is currently working as a job site superintendent, building several homes in Anacortes and has been working in the residential construction trade all his adult career. Jonathan began his interest in woodworking at age 18 and has not looked back. Between working his tail off and building music stands, he is rehabilitating an old garage into his workshop and is remodeling his home in Sedro Wooley. Jonathan hopes to soak in the knowledge and experience of NWCWA members and learn about our interests and expertise. You'll have much to contribute, Jonathan. Step up, take part, and enjoy.

### **Glenn Koontz**

Glenn comes to the club by way of Boeing (25 years) and his own machine shop (10 years) where he was engaged in tool and die making. He built his current home and likes to work on furniture and other projects of necessity. Glenn displayed a beautifully crafted foot stool at the Art's Alive festival in LaConner. He vows that he will finish his shop this winter so that he can start picking our brains about woodworking and utilizing his Bridgeport mill that he managed to confiscate from his tool and die shop. Welcome Glenn!

**Dan McGee**

Dan and his wife, Kathy, moved to our area from Kansas in April of this year. Kathy is a caricature wood carver and is currently devoted to Santa's Sweatshop, making Christmas presents. Dan is also a wood carver and also enjoys Intarsia. Both Dan and Kathy have enjoyed meeting some of our members and believe that all woodworkers are nice people, everywhere. Thanks Dan, and thank you, Kathy. We'll enjoy having you as members of NWCWA. We, too, believe that all woodworkers are socially redeeming people.

**Matthew Oppliger**

Matt Oppliger is a mason by trade and lives with his bride in the home they built on Lake Goodwin. About a year ago, Matt built his 27X40 workshop and is currently engaged in building his "bench" room after completing the "machine" room last year. Matt misses the give and take he experienced while enjoying the Puget Sound Woodworking Center and hopes that the activities of NWCWA will be a good substitute. Matt shows wonderful talent for woodworking (It's a lot lighter than bricks, say what, Matt?) has completed a dovetailed cherry blanket chest, picture frames, a cherry dresser and is currently building some cedar tables for Christmas gifts. Welcome aboard, Matt. I'm certain you can teach us a thing or two about woodworking. You'll find we're also eager to help you when you need it.

**Tom Rosaduik**

After deciding that farming in northern Alberta was not for him, Tom migrated to Fairbanks, educated himself and formed a successful engineering and surveying firm with offices in Anchorage and Fairbanks. After retirement, he moved to Shelter Bay and is currently working on finishing his workshop. Woodworking experience includes remodeling his home and offices in Fairbanks. While visiting the big island of Hawaii, he bought a turned bowl made from Norfolk pine, worked to a point that it passes light through the sides. This provoked an interest in woodturning and he intends to spend some serious time in his shop between visits to an island 25 miles

west of Ketchikan (would that be Annette Island, Tom?) and other adventures. Tom has begun attending our education classes and is enjoying the trip. Welcome aboard, Tom!

**NEW NAMETAGS ARE HERE!**

Our new nametags are here and will be available at the December meeting. They are laser engraved on beautiful figured maple and look great! With the advent of the new nametags we will also be changing the handling of the tags. Each member will maintain possession of his or her own tag. While the club treasury funded the initial purchase of tags, members will be charged \$10 for replacement of lost nametags. It is also rumored that our Treasurer will be soliciting \$1 donations from those who aren't wearing their nametag at meetings effective with the January meeting. These \$ will go to a worthy cause.....the club treasury!

**Projects Committee:*****Toys for Tots:***

NCWA will exceed it's 2004 commitment of 25 each, Model T's and Pendulum Cradles, thanks to our volunteer woodworkers, a group of Camano Island quilters, plus a Shelter Bay quilter. Come to the Dec.7 meeting to meet the marine responsible for Toys for Tots activity for this area, plus hopefully, all those who were active participants in the toys for tots project, and if you are so fortunate, a few words of recognition and thanks from the Marine Corp and yours truly.  
See you there.

Gene Benson

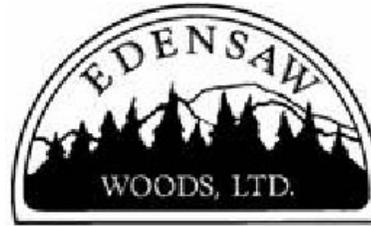
**Greetings From The Bookkeeping Department:**

Guess what! It's that time of year again! It be dues time!

Bring a \$30.00 check or an equal amount of cash (no green stamps) to the December meeting, folks and be sure I check off your name. If you can't make the meeting, send a check payable to "NCWA" to me at 5268 Island View Way, Bow, WA 98232. (Please be sure to get your dues in soon folks. As some of you may recall, I am quite willing to make house calls, but it will cost you dearly; maybe even a cuppa and a cookie.)

I'll put together a statement of receipts and disbursements through November and have it available at the December meeting.

Ed Pysher



**SPECIAL OFFER FOR NCWA MEMBERS!  
EDENSAW WOODS WILL  
GIVE YOU A 5% DISCOUNT ON ONE OR-  
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\$300. THIS OFFER IS GOOD THROUGH  
12-31-04. (ORDERS MUST BE  
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TION.) 1-800-745-3336**

### For Sale

One sheet of furniture grade Mahogany plywood (no voids) If interested call Charlie at (360)293-2929

Maple burls and rough cut Maple 1-3" thick or custom cut. 1776 Logging.  
Tom Goetz 360 333-2006 Burlington, WA 98233

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110v, 1/2 Hp Can be used as a bench-top or on a stand.

New tires, Excelent condition. \$180  
John Novak 360-671-7925  
e-mail jcnovak1@comcast.



**Above:** Bench and table by Eugene Benson.

**Below:** Coffee table by Larry Tomovick and bowl by Bob Doop.



The NCWA was formed to promote high standards in woodworking, woodworking education, and showcasing local woodworking. The NCWA is open to all interested woodworkers.. Dues are \$30 per year, payable to NCWA, 5268 Island View Way Bow, WA. 98232. Newsletter submissions are welcomed and are due by the 18th of the month to NCWA Newsletter, 925 South Hills Dr. Bellingham, WA., 98229.or call (360) 734-9473, or Email, [tc1376gp@aol.com](mailto:tc1376gp@aol.com). Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. Location is announced in the newsletter .

**2003 Officers and Committee Chairs:**

President: Rick Anderson	(360) 671-0532	Editor:	Tom Chartier	(360) 734-9473
VP: James Haddock	(360) 650-1562	Tours:	Jay Geisel	(360) 466-3908
Secretary: Jay Geisel	(360) 466-3908	Public shows/Exhibits:	Phil Choquette	(360) 675-8320
Treasury: Ed Pysher	(360) 766-0136	Membership:	James Haddock	(360) 650-1562
Programs: Bob Doop	(360) 293-4522	Activities:	Nick Van	(360) 387-4174
Education: Ed Pysher	(360) 766-0136	Projects:	Mike Larvia	(360) 854-0291
Librarian: Tom Chartier	(360) 734-9473			

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**Seasons Greetings !**

