



NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

December 2005

**Next Meeting: December 6th,
Sandwiches at 6:30 pm, Meeting starts at 7:00 pm**

See meeting notice on Page 3 for further details

**Hillcrest Park Lodge
1717 South 13th Street, Mount Vernon**

Phone: 360-299-2900

Coming from the North take exit 226. Turn left to go under the freeway and 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 S 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.

Coming from the South take exit 225. Turn right off the freeway then take a left onto Cedardale, which is the frontage road to the freeway. Go to the stop sign. Turn right at the stop sign onto Blackburn, go about a block and turn left (north) onto S 13th Street. The park entrance is on the left about a block from the intersection, just past the soccer field. The parking lot is on the left with the lodge in the northwest corner of the parking lot

NCWA 2005 Year in Review.....

Hello everyone, what a year this has been! One word sums up your NCWA. Awesome. Looking back at all that has been made available to us in 2005 to enhance our respective woodworking journeys, allot was put out there for us to feast on. By the large and growing number of current and new members that have taken advantage of these numerous opportunities, it is clear that the NCWA has become a solid and dynamic resource for us all.

Give me an S!

When you sit down and think about that fact for just a minute, that's fairly remarkable. To know that you are a part of this group, that's exciting. How could all of this have been accomplished? Simple. Great people, great planning and great execution. I've said it before and it's worth repeating, the bulk of what we enjoy, the growth of

our group, the growing number of members enjoying meetings and classes, is due in large part to the great Committee Chairs we have had in 2005 their members and your Officers. **I applaud each and every one of them**, we all should.

Give me an O!

We also took the time this year to put a firm foot on the brake pedal, stop all that we were doing amidst our great programs, classes and events to take stock of one of the principal bulwarks of our NCWA. The most significant mechanisms to improved human intelligence can be debated on several fronts, but few would argue that the written word can be eclipsed. To that end, we would not have the strong foundation of knowledge today, were it not for the tremendous generosity of the numerous donated book titles, time and personal woodworking knowledge over the past

twenty years, by now our first and celebrated, Member Emeritus, Mr. Al Stratton. Salute.

Give me another O!

In case you did not have a chance to meet with us as much as you would have liked in 2005, let me fill you in on a little secret. In 2005 we laughed at ourselves, laughed at each other and learned a thing or two about different approaches to our work that improved the “so *that’s* how you do that”, factor. We each had these great experiences because we did something unheard of by some, we challenged ourselves. I’ve had a peek at what 2006 looks like and I see a lot of opportunity to be challenged, to laugh and to learn again. I’m excited with what’s coming, you’ll be too.

Give me a T!

In closing, **thank you each** for your being part of this great group. Serving as your President this year, I’ve had the good fortune to get to know many of you better and am looking forward to passing the gavel to our next designates.

Give me another S!

We’ve got a barn burner of a meeting set as our last one for 2005, no kidding, don’t miss it. See you all there, and the kickoff to 2006, January 3rd.

What does it spell? S.O.O.T.S. What does it mean? Come to the December meeting and you shall see!

Enjoy the craft, enjoy your NCWA in 2006!

James D. Haddock Sr.

President

NCWA

NCWA Displays Lackluster Face

It wasn’t the best of times, nor the worst of times. What NCWA put together for Arts Alive! 2005 was neither a lively nor awe-inspiring depiction of what good woodworkers are capable of creating. On the other side of the aisle the Woodturners added even more tables to display their always delightful eye candy.

A few years ago our participation began to wane and our one big opportunity each year to showboat our stuff started to deteriorate. Have we lost the desire to show our craftwork or are we so mired in current

affairs that we lack the time to create? Some of our finest woodworkers showed up in person to work the show, but few had anything to exhibit. Our normally strong furniture presentation was limited to a handful of small tables and the once-strong, perennial commercial exhibitors were down to one.

The big feature for NCWA’s Showtime was, of course, the raffle of Cec Braeden’s unique workbench. Cec won an MA degree in Salesmanship as the greeter of visitors coming through the front door. He sold 155 tickets (in addition to the 33 pre-show sales) to ensure a healthy boost of \$540 to our student vocational fund. The big raffle winner was Dawn New, who screamed with delight as the news was flashed to her from the Garden Club on Sunday evening.

Weather-beaten crowds trudged up the hill from LaConner’s First Street, the artery that runs along the Swinomish Channel, eager to see what was behind the new signs that Phil Choquetee had placed on their main thoroughfare. Did we fulfill their curiosity or were we a dud? Certainly the Woodturners did not disappoint. Despite the wind, rain, and cold they managed to sell almost \$2,000 worth of turnings. Prolific turner Lucida van Valkenburg sold almost 30 items, mostly utensils, bottle stoppers, fan pulls and the like to capture the biggest money share. Other members, including Julian Lee, Bob Doop, John Mull, and Ron Grant sold bowls that ranged in price to \$250. There might have been others. In fact, more of *our* members displayed their turnings than exhibited other woodcraft.

From the Woodworkers’ side of the Garden Club perennial favorite Lyle Hand couldn’t be missed with his fascinating assortment of jewelry boxes and beautifully fashioned hand fishnets. Lyle reported good sales also. New member Clarence Ochsner from the Ferndale area exhibited for sale a number of different sized band-sawn boxes and bookends. These unusual pieces feature a scrolling and fluid carcass with multi-curvature drawers all cut out of thick wood or laminated stock. Greg Anderson presented, for display only, his first venture in table-making. The coffee table was neatly executed in two colors of natural hardwoods and featured pinched corners at each end. The table was notable also for its raised curved rim that appeared to have been constructed from one elaborate cutout, but instead was formed from many well-joined segments.

Twenty-year old new member Logan Sullivan put two of his small tables on display also. It got good grades for eye appeal and construction. We look forward to seeing more of this young man's work. In the center of the hall where he invariably pitches his commercial garden arch, Rick Anderson decided this year to show a different product in his line of cedar garden structures. This time it was an 7-foot tall obelisk with an upperworks designed to accept a floral arrangement, birdhouse, or other attraction. Our lone demonstration table was assigned to sharpening duties again, but did not garner the interest of past years.

A bland presentation by NCWA is cause for serious concern. Each year Stuart Hutt, owner of the Wood Merchant store in LaConner, offers our Club the weekend use of the city-owned Civic Garden Club. He pays the fees, except for our stake in the Arts Alive! promotions expense, and each year he expects an exhibition of first-class, handmade furniture and other noteworthy woodcraft items made by us for public viewing. Selling is permitted, but not mandatory. Is he getting what he's paying for? Not this year, to be sure. Stuart has often stated that if we didn't have enough furniture to fill the hall he would feel obligated to bring in some of his own store items. A few years ago we felt this pressure and went up to Smith Woodworks in Bellingham who were hard at work making fabulous furniture from The Tree, a stalwart maple from a sustainable forest. The partners created some 40 big pieces of fine furniture from the one tree donated to them and their completed production was put on display in Bellingham and other city museums. They obliged us with a pictorial explanation of the program underway and showed some examples at Arts Alive!

Your officers are cognizant of the challenge. We cannot lose this valuable venue, a showplace for our best

woodworking efforts and the only one in which we invite the public to take part. At the NCWA board meeting a few days ago, it was decided to augment the committee for public venues with a co-committee to solicit & manage the content and manner of

presentation of future Club exhibitions. Nick Van has volunteered to head this committee as co-committeeman to Phil Choquette, who will continue to coordinate the Club's participation in such events with their *s p o n s o r i n g* organizations. Val and Laura Matthews have also volunteered their services to work with Van.

Possibly the energy expended on the next-to-last month of the Toys for Tots program has sapped our urge to put on a good show in November. In any case stronger commitments from our

90 members will be needed to bring NCWA back to the glory days of Arts Alive!

Jay Geisel, Secretary

Who Will Be the Winner of Our First Model Race Car Challenge?

It's Racing Time. You have only a few days to complete your race-car if you intend to compete in the challenge downhill event cooked up by the Fidalgo Formula Racing team. The venue is Hillcrest Lodge on Tuesday night, December 6. Any card-carrying NCWA member can enter. It costs nothing and prizes will not be awarded to the winners. Fame and prestige are the honors. Winners will have braggin' rights for

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Don't forget that we will be having an optional box meal prepared by Gere Deli of Anacortes at the December meeting, starting at 6:30 PM. Here are the options you have to choose from: Pastrami on Rye with provolone cheese; Turkey on white bread with Swiss cheese; Ham on rye with Swiss cheese; and Roast beef on whole wheat bread with provolone cheese. All sandwiches come with lettuce, tomatoes, onions, sprouts, mayonnaise, Dijon mustard and potato chips. Price is \$7.50 for each box meal, which includes one soft drink. Coffee will also be available. If you would like to order a meal, contact Cec Braeden at 360-588-9830 or email cb@ncwawood.org. If you have already signed up for the meal, you need not do so again. The order will be placed with Gere Deli on Friday, the 2nd of December. Money will be collected at the door. Remember, if you sign up for a meal, you will be responsible for paying \$7.50 for it whether you actually attend the event or not. The December meeting will be a truly great event, one that you should bring your wife to. (Don't forget to order her meal!)

up to a year when, we expect, we'll have another race.

The FFR team is racing early to get a track completed. I worked with Julian Lee on a Friday afternoon and again on Sunday, when Larry Tomovick joined us, to put together a downhill competition raceway that will ensure the success of this project. It's a handsome piece of work when you consider the short construction time. Julian's design is simple and parts can be assembled quickly. Originally planned as a race down the Lee's newly paved hillside driveway, the project was later moved indoors because of weather uncertainties. Now we have a portable track, self-sustained, that can be used anywhere.

As for specifics, the track is enameled steel roofing attached to pairs of 2 x 4 longitudinal support beams with 1 x 4 and 2 x 4 wood crosspieces at the joins. The entire track is supported by internal, swing-down, 2 x 4 leg pairs of varying lengths. The track has two 12-inch wide lanes to allow one-on-one competition and an overall width of 26 inches. It slopes from a height of 4 feet to ground zero. Here's the grabber: the track is 60 feet long and will barely fit into the length of Hillcrest Lodge! Join the fun; you can bet on this one!

—Jay

Projects: Committee: Toys for Tots

The Dec. 6 meeting is focused on the Toys for Tots program. Let's have a full turnout of all club members to see the results of the woodworkers, sewers and quilters efforts for this past year. Fifty cradles with cradle sets by the women quilters and sewers alone are a sight to see. The joy for the little gals just can't be imagined. Each cradle with its individual cradle set is different and just heart warming. Such a fantastic display must be seen. Then you can easily imagine the joy this effort will bring.

Julian Lee and his cohorts (Jay Geisel and Larry Tomovick) and Gary Weyer made over a hundred

vehicles. Wow! Julians' group produced racers and Gary a variety of classic vehicles. Think of the boys who couldn't even dream of receiving such a gift. Jamie Haddock made a bunch a chalk boards. I believe, 32, and she isn't even a card carrying member. How can we live up to this kind of effort? There are other toys, monster trucks, pull caterpillars, block sets. All the toys will be on display, so come early and enjoy. All the contributors will appreciate your coming to see their work. The Marines will be present

to provide certificates of recognition and receive the toys. Let's all join them.

Gene Benson

HELP WANTED

Committee signup will soon be underway. In addition to soliciting volunteers to staff all of our committees, we are in need of chairpersons for the Activities Committee and for the Membership Committee. Please step forward so these important functions can continue. Contact Bob Doop for further details. Like a good woodworking project, our club is a function of ALL of it's parts. Please do your part!

Education Committee:

It was a good year for the Education Committee. We finished up the 2004-2005 series, which was the very first series, in April 2005, exactly one year to the day from when we started. Since this was our first series, we ended up doing a lot of things "off the cuff", and we learned a lot.

The Education questionnaires that everyone filled out for us gave us a ton of information, which we blended in with the things we had learned and our 2005-2006 program is bigger and better as a result. On that note, all of us on the Education Committee want to thank all of you for your input, your help, and most of all, your seemingly infinite patience with us as we worked our way though the first year of the program.

The first series started out with 13 classes and I'm still not sure how many we gave. It was kinda confusing there for a while as the interest in hand tools exploded around us. The 2005-2006 series has 24 classes. There were three other subjects that we wanted to add, but we ran our "year", so to speak. These are being considered for subjects of main meetings later in the season.

Of necessity, we are building some of the classes as we go. We will email you each month with information as to upcoming classes, but be sure to check the monthly bulletin and the website for updated information on class content and locations.

Thanks again for all your help. Please continue to give us your input. It is really the only way we know whether we are getting the job done or not.

Ed Pysher

The Bookcase

“How to Create a Big Learning Experience”

Always say yes. When I received the request to make a bookcase, I really balked. Could I just come over to show you the simple bookcase that we, the “Friends of the La Conner Library” are hoping to get for the library? I hate it when women make it sound so simple. I shuddered, held my breath and ended up saying yes. Now came the knife at my throat, but I was really standing my ground. I have toys for tots and a bunch of other critical things to do. But, this is for the “children’s” section! That was the knife thrust.

Well, a few sheets of plywood, a few dados. What the heck, can’t be that tough. Oh, but I’m a woodworker. I need to make a bookcase that reflects well on NCWA. With Steve Intveld’s maple, I could make a great bookcase.

All of a sudden, I’m all excited. I got a lot of maple, prepped the dickens out of it and decided to start bookcase making. Holy mackerel, this thing is way beyond my woodworking knowledge and skills. What did I commit to by opening my “little” mouth and telling her all about the great and glorious bookcase I would make for the kids.

To make a long story short, this was the greatest learning and satisfying experience of my very short woodworking career. Nothing existing in a design, how to assemble. This

is solid maple, shrinking/growing. No theory, e-gads, this is for real. So you learn on the job. Decided on raised panels and frames, face frames, etc. Talked with Val. We liked what I was going to do. Great, this will all be a wood working first. Assembly was the most absolute challenge.

A real challenge and a fantastic opportunity. To do this for the library, the kids, the community is just a very marvelous experience. A big bonus for me was what I learned and the new

skills I developed.

It is hard for me to explain the immense satisfaction I got from doing something for the kids that can last for generations.

I hope this little dissertation wasn’t too long or boring, but this kind of experience really makes me extremely happy to be a woodworker and able to do something good for someone else. I just pray it doesn’t fall apart.

Gene Benson

Greetings from the Money Man!

Cecil Braeden’s workbench project was a genuine financial success for NCWA. NCWA members purchased 33 tickets before Arts Alive and Cec sold an additional 123 at the show. The gross on the project was \$780. NCWA reimbursed Cec for his costs of

\$240 and netted \$540, which was deposited to the Vocational Education budget. Great job everyone!

On that note, Yours Truly will begin “**accepting**” dues for 2006 at the December meeting. The dues are a minimum of \$30, and there is no maximum!

Ed Pysher

How Important is Finishing.....?

“At the completion of a project, a good finish is just as important as good design and quality workmanship. It’s one of the three legs of every successful project. Any leg missing means the project won’t stand up.”

Steve Shanesy, Editor
Popular Woodworking Magazine.



Gene Benson’s exquisite maple bookcase which is now in use in the LaConner Library children’s section.

ARTS ALIVE! 2005



We knew Cec could fly a plane.....but we sure didn't know he was a Super Salesman. 123 tickets in one weekend! **WOW!**



And the winner is.....DAWN NEW! Thanks to Dawn and ALL who purchased raffle tickets. A successful project indeed!



Jay's Great Granddaughter will sure have fun with her new train!



Forever Sharp.....Money Man Pysher works on the edge!



New member Logan Sullivan proudly displays his tables and other projects.



More great boxes (and fishing nets) from Lyle Hand!



The Toys for Tots Collection continues to grow under the persistent leadership of Gene Benson.

Be Sharp!

Dave Blair's sharpening class was enjoyed by all who attended. If you missed this session, be sure to sign up for future classes.



Instructor Dave Blair demonstrates the fine points of sharpening.



Lucinda VanValkenburg puts the day's lessons to the test.

A Tool Tip from Julian Lee...

I have an early version of the Dewalt 708 12" Compound Sliding Chop saw and the dust pick up was very inadequate. I noticed this has been greatly improved in later versions of the same saw. A retro-fit kit is available from Dewalt the part number is 605408-01 at \$13. Dewalt .com or 800-433-9258.

AS THE WEB SPINS.....

Drivers, s..t..a..r..t your engines!

Tips, Hints and Sources for building the winning race car! Check them out and then hit the shop.....time is running out!

http://www.maximum-velocity.com/new_builder.htm

<http://www.pinewoodpro.com/>

<http://www.abc-pinewood-derby.com/>

<http://members.aol.com/randywoo/pine/>

<http://win-edge.com/PinewoodDerby.shtml>

<http://home.simplyweb.net/bosworth/>

THE WOOD SHED.....

6" JOINTER FOR SALE Sunhill manufactured by Geetech of Taiwan. 6" X 52" table with extra set of cutters. Works great. Needs guard spring. \$300. Call Nick Van 360-387-4174.

BIG HOG AKA CRAFTSMAN RADIAL ARM SAW FOR SALE
\$150, James Haddock 360-650-1562

MAPLE FOR SALE

Very nice maple boards for a great project! Will cut my logs to your specs. Steve Intveld 592-5670

RADIAL ARM SAW FOR SALE

9" Dewalt Model MBF. Vintage quality. Good condition \$195 Rick Anderson 650-1587

COMING EVENTS

Dec. 6th	6:30PM	Sandwiches & Shop Talk	Hillcrest Lodge in Mount Vernon
Dec. 6th	7:00PM	Monthly Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge in Mount Vernon
Dec. 21st	7:00PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Restaurant on Hwy 20
Dec. 27th	Noon	Newsletter Deadline	Rick's Email Box
Jan. 10th	7:00PM	Monthly Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge in Mount Vernon

NOTE: The January meeting will be on the 2nd Tuesday of the month due to the New Year's Holiday.

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, 5268 Island View Way, Bow, WA 98232. 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.

2005 Officers and Committee Chairs:

President: James Haddock	(360) 650-1562	Newsletter: Rick Anderson	(360) 650-1587
V.P. Bob Doop	(360) 293-4522	Librarian: Tom Chartier	(360) 734-9473
Secretary: Jay Geisel	(360) 466-3908	Shows: Phil Choquette	(360) 675-8320
Treasurer: Ed Pysher	(360) 766-0136	Membership: Bob Doop	(360) 293-4522
Programs: Cecil Braeden	(360) 588-9830	Activities: Nick Van (Acting)	(360) 387-4174
Education: Ed Pysher	(360) 766-0136	Projects: Gene Benson	(360) 466-3004



NCWA NEWSLETTER

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