

NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

December 2006

Next Meeting: December 5th, 7:00 pm

Hillcrest Park Lodge

1717 South 13th Street, Mount Vernon

Phone: 360-202-0099 or 360-319-7600

Take 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.

SHIPSHAPE: Trim, Tidy, Ready to sail.

At our last board meeting I asked each member for their appraisal of the “state of our guild” and what needs to be improved, changed or added. Are we shipshape? I invite each and every member for their input too, for it is *your* guild. Your input is always welcomed.

Overall, the answers to my question were positive, yet there is always work to be done. The greatest ongoing challenge is to spread the load amongst more of our members.....especially important as we grow. There is always work to be done in an organization as large and active as our guild. Grab an oar! You will find it rewarding in many ways.

Our Education program is in good hands and growing. Repeat offerings of previous classes continue to be popular and some of our new classes are downright exciting! If you haven't taken advantage of the many great classes, get signed up. It's a great way to learn and a great way to become better acquainted with other members.....and it's always a chance to see other member's shops too!



Our two shows this year have been great successes. Never before has our guild exhibited so many member's projects. WOW! And a huge THANK YOU to Phil Choquette for organizing our shows and to Nick Van for encouraging and organizing our members display of their works.

Toys for Tots is on the track to another big holiday contribution to the kids of need in our communities. If you have not made any toys there is still time.....right up until the 21st or so. And then get an early start for next year.....THANKS to Gene Benson, Toys for Tots has become an NCWA tradition!

Our Programs have been fun and informative. We've learned a lot. And jig night was a special treat.....it seems most everyone had a jig to show.....even Phil and Val too! Several of our best programs this year were put on by our own members.....once again proving the depth and value of the knowledge within our guild. THANKS to Cec Braeden

THANKS BOB.....for a great year of leadership!

for organizing another great year of programs! Our website is growing both in size and as our up-to-the-moment "bulletin board" THANKS to Greg Shumate. We still need more additions to our photo gallery of member work. If you need help with formatting the photos, etc. be sure to contact Greg.

Our newsletter is one of the jobs that we tend to take for granted. I know it takes several hours each month to put together. THANK YOU Rick! We are always anxious to feature member's work and experiences in our newsletter. If it's new, unique or of interest to other members be sure to provide the info to Rick.

Finally, THANKS to all of our members who have shared their time, knowledge and energy setting up and helping with shows, teaching classes and providing programs.

For me, it has been a fun and rewarding year. I have learned a lot and made new friends. We have an incredible group of members and an excellent Board of Directors. You have all made the job of President a joy. This is a very SPECIAL organization. THANK YOU TO ALL!
bd

2006 Arts Alive Brings out our Best!

Like fine wine, 2006 will be remembered by Northwest Corner Woodworkers as a very good year. It seems that wet weather presages Arts Alive! That's the reality for several years' running. However, 2006 taught us that although crowds thin there will always be hardy souls looking for art and bargains in all the right places. Our participation at the Garden Club was short on visitors, but those who made it to the top of the hill on Second Street in LaConner were delighted to find a cornucopia of wood arts and crafts. We had many vendors, good workmanship, and a great variety

of ideas in wood to sustain a weekend of rain, and the shoppers responded with open wallets.

Twenty-two members participated with salable or "exhibit only" items. Eight other members who also belong to the Washington Woodturners' organization were selling their turnings. Excellent furniture dominated the show: Cec Braeden's walnut rocker, Michael New's curved front drawers in cabinet; a rocker by Jim Hume; three large cedar chests from Nick Van; a grand Morris upholstered chair by Laura and Val Matthews, curved-top benches by Logan Sullivan; a table under construction by Greg Anderson; and my pine wood media table and the excellent stool presented to me by Club members.

Other items included the Club's collaborative workbench, a cedar garden structure from Rick Anderson, two wall hangings

from Ray DeVries, a bronze sculpture from RP Myers; craft items from Shelly Clouse and Richard Zegers; a large collection of vehicles and train sets from Gary Weyers and Gene Benson, all donations to the Toys for Tots program; a large Cheyenne Indian ceremonial drum and stand created by Larry Tomovick, plus a couple examples of his cribbage board game sets; bent wood boxes from both Julian Lee and myself; a table full of dove boxes, tree ornaments, wood feathers, and other wood objects by Judy Hemenway; several jewelry boxes from Lyle Hand; unusual end-grain cutting boards from Phil Choquette, and various exotic wood cutting boards from Logan Sullivan. (Forgive me if I missed someone.)

We had demonstrations throughout the show. Lucinda van Valkenburg served as a primary demonstrator of how to make wood handles for hammers and similar tools with a draw-knife while seated on the Club's shaving horse. We collected a few hammer heads prior to the event and Lucinda and others volunteered to make

December Meeting Toys for Tots Night

The December meeting will be held at the Hillcrest Lodge on the 5th of December. Once again, we will be starting off with an optional box dinner catered by Gere Deli at 6:30 PM. If you plan to partake of this dinner, you must have previously stated your desire to do so by calling Cec Braeden at 588-9830 or emailing him at cb@ncwawood.org with your dinner preferences by the 30th of November.

This promises to be a fun filled evening with a brief business meeting and reports from committees starting at 7 PM. Following the meeting, we will have an opportunity to view the Toys for Tots, which our members have made, and then the items will be presented to the Marine Corps Reserve representatives. See you there. Get your meal requests in early! --Cec Braeden

ARTS ALIVE! 2006



Just a few of the many projects displayed at **Arts Alive!**: Clockwise from upper left: Dennis Shinn takes his turn on the club shaving horse; Nick Van's granddaughters will be delighted with their blanket chests crafted by Gramps; Larry Tomovick displayed a replica of a Cheyenne Indian ceremonial drum, Logan Sullivan displayed several projects including these well crafted stools.

replacement handles. It was a "first" for us and an evident crowd-pleaser. Scrolling was another demonstration that attracted attention. Gary Weyers set up his scroll saw near the entrance where he maintained a steady production of tree ornaments and other cut-outs of thin birch plywood pieces for sale. Gary showed how to stack-cut as many as a dozen ornaments at a time.

All-in-all it was probably the best show we've put on in recent memory. The dramatic increase in member

participation created a few challenges in display arrangement and traffic flow to resolve for future shows. But that's a good problem! Participation was high and for that we must thank Nick Van for his dogged work to get exhibit commitments from members and to Phil Choquette for his planning and organizational work, and also his tenacity. Our venues co-chairmen will next work together on the up-coming WoodFest in April. --Jay Geisel, Secretary

Sam Maloof at 90 Still Has the Magic!

How many woodworkers in this World can say they shook hands with the Master? He's 90 and I'm 85. He signaled me out from the crowd, offered his hand, and thanked me for coming to his lecture! His grip was firm and I couldn't help marveling at the lack of coarseness in the hand that had guided thousands of plane strokes and a mountain of sandpaper. Sam Maloof made a rare appearance in the Northwest a few weeks ago when he gave a one-evening, sold-out lecture at the Bellevue Art Museum.

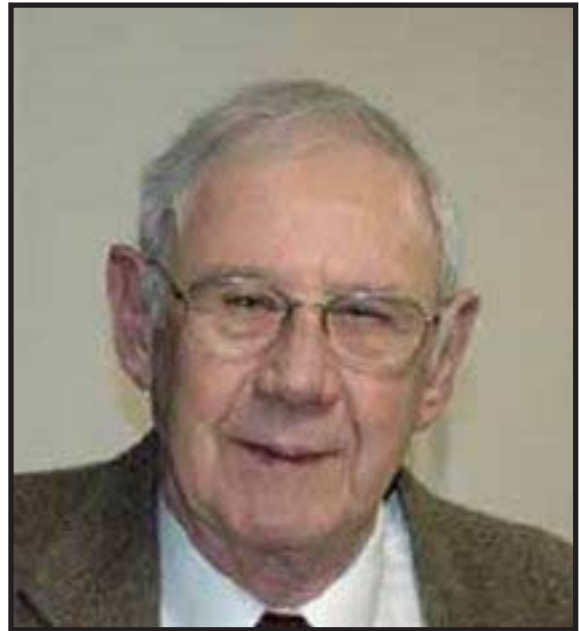
Maloof's furniture and designs, and his definitive rocker styles (he says he has designed 15 different ones), have won him fame everywhere; he is a living legend. And the Maloof legacy will continue beyond his lifetime when his three loyal assistants (each has worked for him for at least 30 years) will inherit the Maloof nameplate and all of the studio properties. The Studio has a backlog of furniture orders that will last more than a decade and a fine supply of hardwoods that will outlive the new owners. But for now, Sam is running things; he works 10 to 12 hours a day, six days a week, keeps an eye on production, does a lot of the actual saw operations, and always handles the final assemblies.

Handmade Maloof furniture has grown so popular that prices double up every few years. This likable, modest man told a few stories that left everyone chuckling. A person who bought a Maloof dining-room set of table and chairs for \$3,000 offered Sam a chance to buy them back several years later for \$60,000. After Sam turned him down the owner sold them at auction for \$250,000.

The lecture included a couple of short DVD presentations that were quite interesting to woodworkers in the audience, especially one filmed in the production shops where Sam and assistants were at the machines creating yet another Maloof rocker. Following the lecture several dozen people lined up in the Museum foyer to get the Master's choice inscriptions and signatures in their Maloof biographical books and other works. NCWA was well represented by Rick Anderson, Cec Braeden, Bob Doop, RP Myers, Larry Tomovick, and your scribe. It was a very enjoyable visit. —Jay

In Memoriam: Herb Laiche

We lost a good friend on November 11th. Herb Laiche was a member of the NCWA since March of 2005. In all probability many of you never had a chance to really get to know him. Those of us who did are very fortunate. Herb was one of those people who was very easy to like. He was many people's best friend. He was a kind and generous man who never hesitated to help out wherever there was a need.



Herb was raised in a small town in Louisiana and was a "good old country boy" of the best kind. He served 20 years in the Navy as an aviation machinist and worked another 20 years at the Shell refinery as a safety inspector. He loved cooking and willingly shared Cajun recipes with others. Herb enjoyed woodworking and especially liked working on projects with others. You may remember that he built a secretary desk with quilted maple that he bought from Steve Intveld using Cec Braeden's plans, in Cec's shop. He was in the process of expanding and upgrading the shop in his home. Herb will be missed. --Cec Braeden

Toys for Tots

This is our big day coming up, Dec. 5. Bring all your finished toys to display for your fellow club members and then present them to our marine friends. For any toys still in process we still have till the 21st to 22nd to get them to the marines. Should you need delivery help, I'm available.

I, the NCWA board, the marines and especially the kids thank you with all their hearts for your dedication and efforts toward Toys for Tots. All of you are really special people.

This meeting is dedicated to you. Sincerely, thank you with all my heart..... --Gene Benson

WOOD BENDING CLASS

An Outstanding wood bending class was held last Saturday at Val Mathews shop. The success of the class was in large measure due to the excellent instruction by Val, Bob Doop and Cec Braeden. Approximately 12 members attended the class with vacuum bending by Bob with a hands on project. Cec covered bending with laminations glued up and clamped into forms. Cec demonstrated using forms for his walnut rocking chair. Val demonstrated steam bending with white oak and a form used to make his craftsman chair and ottoman. It is rumored Val's steaming apparatus is really a still in disguise. Our thanks to the three instructors for a superb class. If there is enough interest, perhaps another session will be forthcoming. -
-Jim Torrence



Val demonstrates his dual purpose "steam box".



Cec demonstrated his jigs and techniques used in bending parts for his rocking chair.



Greg and Laura help Bob drape the bag over Bob's demonstration of the power of vacuum.

Shelly Clouse Critically Injured after Woodbending Class

Shortly after leaving our Woodbending Class on November 11th, Shelly Clouse was involved in a very serious accident at the intersection of Ershig Road and Bow Hill Road. Both Shelly and the other driver were airlifted to Harborview Hospital in Seattle where, at press time, Clouse remained in critical condition with numerous injuries. She has shown some improvement, but will have a lengthy recovery ahead. Shelly joined NCWA in March of this year and was enthusiastically partaking in our many activities. RP Myers has been in contact with Shelly's husband and will be providing updates via email as her recovery progresses.

Please remember Shelly in your thoughts and prayers!

Cloverdale Tool Show Lacks Energy and Vendors

A row between a Canadian vendor and the tool show organizers put the usually great Pacific tool show in Cloverdale to shame this year. About a third of the exhibition of wood and tools were missing in action yesterday when NCWA's chartered bus rolled into the Surrey rodeo grounds for this year's premier show by America's top tool vendors. One whole barn in the three big barn line up sat idle and vacant stalls were seen in the other two.

The story that passed around was that KMS Tools, one of the biggest show vendors in the past had their nose bent out of shape when the Show's organizers, CanWest, wouldn't let the vendor dictate location for his 2006 exhibit, stating that it would be unfair to the other vendors. So what did KMS do? They announced their own tool show at their Vancouver store and mailed out special catalogs and invitations to their patrons only a few days before the Cloverdale event. Other vendors dropped out fearing a loss of showgoers.

We were unaware of the cause, but the decimation was obvious. The 2006 Cloverdale Wood and Tool Show was not the same as last year, and if conditions don't improve this might be the end of our Club's attendance. Several veteran patrons on the bus were adamant about that.

But we managed to find good buys and learn about new tools from those demonstrators that did stay the course. Lie Nielsen, Veritas, Woodline, Summit Tools, Stockroom Supply, R and D Bandsaws,

Royce Sales, and other favorites were on hand along with reps from General, and the usual big American tool manufacturers. Members spent money on V-drum sanding kits, a new router dovetail jig that was demonstrated to large crowds, and specialized items displayed from Veritas' huge catalog. Discounts and the

exchange rate, however, were not in our favor.

One of the more interesting demonstrations occurs each year outside the main entrance. That's the continuous log-sawing act by WoodMizer. But the overall exhilarating atmosphere was missing. Going back home, people on the bus were talking about the up-coming Washington annual tool show at the Tacoma Dome. See you there. --Jay Geisel

Sawmill Tour Creates Buzz

An enthusiastic crowd of about forty members took advantage of the opportunity to tour the Washington Alder plant on October 3rd. The big mill has long been an attraction to NCWA members, and we finally had an invitation from plant

manager Jerry Holmes for a personally conducted tour of his facilities. Washington Alder products, which include some maple and cherry, are shipped to furniture builders in North America and Asia.

The tour actually started at the lumber storage and shipping areas and progressed in reverse through the various stages of lumber production. From finished lumber cut to same lengths and stored on pallets, we worked backward to a series of conveyors carrying long pieces of two-bys finished four sides and marked and graded by a team of inspectors. The lumber grading system determines the value of each piece and the people that make such decisions are the second highest paid workers in the plant, Jerry said.

The Collector is Back!

Gosh, it's almost December already! That means it's time for your Treasurer to start collecting NCWA club dues for 2007! It's still the greatest bargain you'll find . . . only \$30 for a whole year of camaraderie, sharing, education and fun.

I will be collecting 2007 dues at the December meeting, so bring your check for \$30 made payable to "NCWA." If you don't plan to be at the December meeting, please mail your check to your humble Treasurer, Doug Duehning, 150 Swinomish Dr., LaConner, WA 98257.

As always, if you feel this is just too cheap for such a fine organization as NCWA, the club will gladly accept payments greater than \$30.

If for some strange reason you don't intend to renew, please email Doug at daduehning@yahoo.com or phone (360) 466-1281, so that he doesn't continue to pester you.

From this point we were ushered into an area where huge machines, a couple stories tall, were fed lumber pieces automatically to be finish-sanded, or “ground,” before advancing to the inspection line. The towering machines create a lot of sawdust and all of it goes into silos from where it is packaged and sold to nurseries. From the grinders we climbed atop a high bay building that housed the drying kilns and walked a long corridor above the ovens that contain the controls and instrumentation for operating the individual kilns. Back on the ground we were treated to rows of rail cars each loaded high with long, freshly cut 2 by 8 lumber. These loaded rail cars on tracks were waiting in line to enter the kilns where they would remain for five-and-a-half-days.

and mesmerizing to the observer. Unwanted pieces are cut and discarded onto a conveyor that sends them to sawdust while the operator tries to form a squared billet that will yield the beam to specific dimensions in a short period of time. The resulting timber is sent to another station where a second operator aligns it, with the help of lasers, before shunting it into the gang saw where four perfectly formed 2x4’s are spit out and sent to the main conveyor line. It’s all very interesting mechanical work as seen from above. The high-speed action is so intense that operators are changed every two hours. —Jay Geisel, Secretary

But the high point of the tour was at the point where the raw logs enter the building on yet another set of conveyors. A steady stream of logs descend a ramp affair where they wait to be loaded aboard a speedy log sled that runs them through an endless bandsaw blade. The blade is more than a foot wide with carbide teeth. These very large blades need to be re-sharpened every five hours and that’s accomplished in the loft area immediately above the saw where five men constantly sharpen and re-blade the big mill.

The cutter operator, who is the highest paid worker in the plant, sits in an enclosed cab above the sled track and must make split-second decisions on how to best cut each log. His equipment allows him to turn the logs into suitable positions before they are run through the blade. The action is fast



Hard heads of every size, shape and hue enjoyed our tour of the WashingtonAlder Mill!

AS THE WEB SPINS.....

Sam Maloof needs no introduction to woodworkers. A non-profit foundation has been established in honor of Sam and his late wife and most ardent supporter, Alfreda. The Maloofs are known for their support of the crafts of all types both through their purchases and donations. The mission of the foundation is: *Recognizing and celebrating fine artists and craftsmen who skillfully create timeless treasures with their hands. . . this is the legacy of master woodworker Sam Maloof and his late wife and partner of fifty years, Alfreda.*

The Maloof Foundtion website can be viewed at: www.malooffoundation.org

THE WOOD SHED.....

Dry Kiln

I’m soon moving to a smaller shop.....and can’t find room for my dehumidification dry kiln. So here’s your chance! Well insulated with all the appropriate controls it will hold a load of wood approx. 30” x 30” x 10”. Built from plans in Fine Woodworking. \$395 (but I’ll take \$350 from NCWA members). I’ll load it, you haul it!

Rick Anderson 360-650-1587 rick@gardenarches.com

Maple ‘r Us!

Lots to choose from in a wide selection of sizes.....\$.75-\$2.00/ BF. Call Steve Intveld 360-592-5670

COMING EVENTS

Dec. 5	7:00PM	Monthly Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge
Dec. 20	7:00PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Restaurant on Hwy 20
Dec. 23	Noon	Newsletter Deadline	Rick's Email Box
Jan. 9*	7:00PM	Monthly Meeting,	Hillcrest Lodge

*** January Meeting Date Changed to January 9th ***

Be sure to note that the January meeting will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of January instead of the 1st Tuesday..

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, 1331 Meador Ave., Suite J105, Bellingham, WA 98229 or Email to rick@gardenarches.com or call 360-650-1587.

2006 Officers and Committee Chairs:

President:	Bob Doop	(360) 293-4522	Librarian:	Jim Torrence	(360) 629-6670
V.P.	Ed Pysher	(360) 766-0136	Newsletter:	Rick Anderson	(360) 650-1587
Secretary:	Jay Geisel	(360) 466-3908	Membership:	Ed Pysher	(360) 766-0136
Treasurer:	Doug Deuhning	(360) 466-1281	Shows:	Phil Choquette	(360) 675-8320
Programs:	Cecil Braeden	(360) 588-9830		Nick Van	(360) 387-4174
Activities:	CHAIRPERSON NEEDED		Projects:	Val Matthews	(360) 757-7730
Education:	R.P. Myers	(360) 708-4677	Toys for Tots:	Gene Benson	(360) 466-3004
Co-Webmaster:	Greg Shumate	(360-387)-2066	Co-Webmaster:	Mike New	(360) 707-2314



NCWA NEWSLETTER

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