

NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

February 2006

Next Meeting: February 7th, 2006

Hillcrest Park Lodge

1717 South 13th Street, Mount Vernon

Phone: 360-202-0099

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

FROM OUR PREZ.....

What do I have to say that will be worth your time.....? Well, here goes.....

Who are we? We are a guild of 5% completely inexperienced novices, 5% professionals and 90% "Tweeners.....and it is to this last group were we place most of our efforts, but NOT at the exclusion of the other two groups.

Our Education Program is one of the very best, thanks to the efforts of the leaders, teachers and shop hosts. Every class that I have attended I have come home with a new "tool" (figuratively, not literally) of knowledge to put in my "tool bag". And that is how we all accumulate the knowledge that will make us better woodworkers. It is often the interchange between woodworkers that provides great enlightenment in the form of tips and tricks.....the classes are worthwhile no matter what your skill level!



Our programs are also geared toward the "tweeners". Last meeting what a kick it was to see the whole group drilling pockets and screwing boards together. I know of at least two new Kreg jigs which have been purchased since the meeting.....and I suspect several more have come down from the shelves and been dusted off and put to use.

This month's program will be on design and promises to be outstanding.....for woodworkers of all skill levels. So what is design? It's everything from initial dreams and sketches to the cardboard mock-up.....from selecting the right grain pattern on a board to the right color of finish. Design is one of the Big Three: Design, Construction, and Finish. Combined, these three are the foundation of a successful woodworking

Bionic Bob does wheelies on his way to kicking off another year of NCWA!

project.....and, like the legs on a three-legged stool, if any of the elements are missing the project will tumble. Our program on design will help us build a sturdier “leg” on our “stool”.

As our new year begins, I invite everyone to get involved.....one of the best ways to learn is rubbing shoulders and trading lies....oops, I mean tips..... with other woodworkers. But like a successful project, we need all of our “legs”.....and this means we need members to pitch in and help with our many programs and activities. Involvement leads to learning.....and together we can all build a better stool!

Happy Woodworking!
bd

PS: Don't forget to bring your favorite Push Stick for the Val's great Push Stick Challenge! See page 4 for more details. It should be a fun time and we will all come away with some new ideas for safer woodworking. Three Finger Van will be the judge!

Meeting Minutes of January 10, 2006

With a growing membership and a great January turnout, we kicked off year 2006 with new enthusiasm and a determination to meet higher goals in member training, support of youth education, public perception of NCWA woodworking craftsmanship, and even improving on last year's production of childrens' toys. It was that kind of meeting. New President Bob Doop kicked us into a higher gear when he demanded more involvement by members in the wide spectrum of activities that NCWA embraces. Everyone is being asked to serve on at least one committee, and sign-up

sheets are being circulated asking members to commit to their favored activity or function.

OUR FEBRUARY PROGRAM **Stuart Welch on Design**

The February program promises to be a great one. We are honored to have Stuart Welch, a renowned furniture designer and maker. Stuart says he is a “design affected” woodworker. He will discuss how to design furniture with a different (non-conventional) appearance. He will discuss new principles and new approaches to design of studio furniture. Studio furniture is the name given to artist's and craftsperson's creations that are one of a kind works, or at most very limited editions. Stuart is a graduate of the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) and was employed by Wendell Castle Furniture Maker. Wendell Castle is the most prominent studio furniture "maker" in America today. He is to the field of studio furniture what Dale Chihuly is to the Studio Glass movement. His (Wendell Castle's) designs show a playfulness and willingness to defy convention. His larger pieces of furniture now command as much as \$100,000 or more. Stuart's design approaches are influenced by his experience working for and with Wendell. For a sneak peek at the kind of furniture Stuart will be discussing, go to www.wendellcastlecollection.com/default.asp -Cec Braeden

A large attendance was on hand to hear what ideas and plans their new prexy had in store for them. Doop made it clear that he wants to revive a failing *Bring and Brag* program and to get everyone to take advantage of the increased training and monitoring sessions planned for the coming months. He also wants to correct our public image, to improve on what we display at public shows such as *Arts Alive!* and *WoodFest*.

WoodFest Coming Up Fast. Nick Van and Val and Laura Matthews are on a fast track to solicit members to put their best woodworking projects on display at *WoodFest*, the annual event honoring the woodworking abilities of area high school students held at Sedro

Woollley High in early April, where, inevitably, our work is compared with the woodworking capabilities of vocational students from several local high schools. Peoples' Choice Awards go to the best student woodworkers and our organization usually follows with a significant gift, such as a woodworking tool. We now have a student vocational fund worth more than \$700 and will soon be making decisions as to how that money will be disbursed. Cec Braeden and Van will formulate ideas for the Board's consideration. Co-chairman Phil Choquette, who is in charge of *WoodFest* arrangements, said that the April date has not been firmed up but might possibly fall on the first weekend. Every year we buy booth space for our own exhibits. Members are permitted to sell items or display them.

Vice President Ed Pysher discussed woodworking classes and the importance of signing up in advance. Classes are limited by space available making reservations necessary. Pysher also

told members that a search is on for an Education Committee Chairperson. Treasurer Doug Duehning reminded those present that membership dues are being collected now and he welcomes their timely payment. Doop granted Gene Benson two minutes to discuss the new *Toys for Tots* program just underway. Gene's efforts to enroll new adherents and promote an early start actually lasted four minutes. Not bad.

A new Club Projects program under the chairmanship of Val Matthews was announced as a "Push Stick Challenge." Val asked members to bring a woodworker's push stick of their own design and creation to next month's meeting. Every so often a new challenge will be announced and members will be allowed to vote on the merits of each entry. Prizes will be awarded. Doop and Matthews

Please share your time & talents.....

Our organization is everybody's responsibility. During this time of year we ask for members to volunteer to serve on committees and help with our numerous projects and activities. Please get involved.....

"There was a story about four people named **Everybody**, **Somebody**, **Anybody** and **Nobody**. There was an important job to be done and **Everybody** was sure that **Somebody** would do it. **Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it. **Somebody** got angry about that because it was **Everybody's** job and **Everybody** thought **Anybody** could do it, but **Nobody** realized that **Everybody** wouldn't do it. It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have done."

Please keep in mind that everybody has something to offer, if nothing more than helping another member with any task at hand. Many hands make light work. When the committee sign-up sheet is passed around.....Please Volunteer!

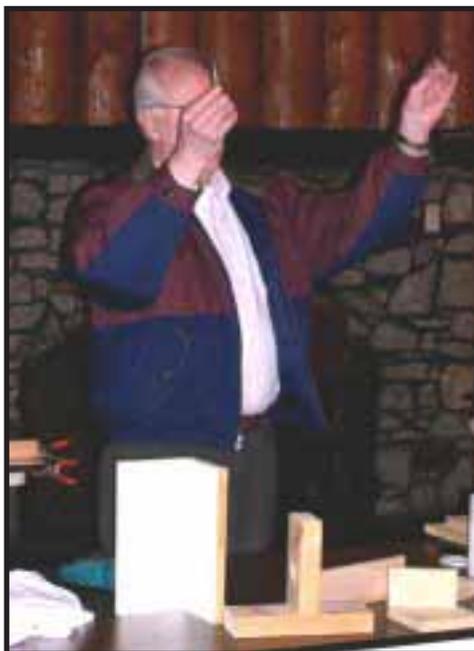
To those who have already volunteered.....**THANKS!** -bd

say the monthly projects are designed to be both fun and informative. Matthews added that his committee would be spearheading the building of a shaving horse that would prove useful in educational classes and at public demonstrations. -Jay Geisel, Secretary

Pocket Screw Joinery ruled....

.....at our January program. We had a lot of fun working with pocket screws at our last meeting. Phil Choquette, Dave Blair,

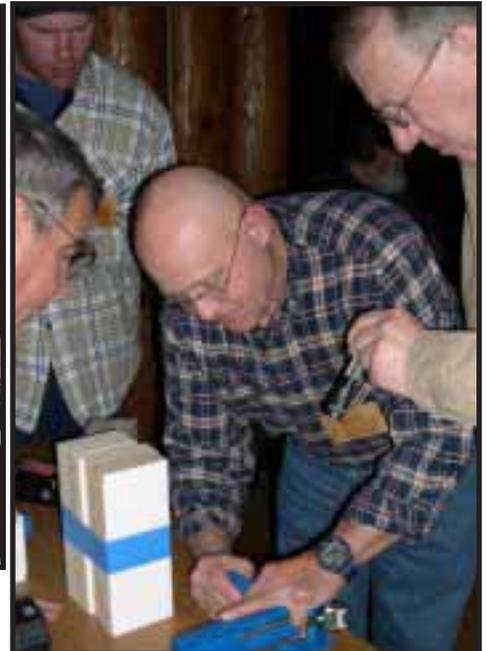
Cec Braedan, Val Mathews and Nick Van demonstrated different methods utilizing pocket screw technology. Phil



Phil Choquette explains the principles and elements of pocket joinery.



Nick leans into his demo.....showing us the fine points of face frame construction w/ pocket joinery.



Dave Blair demonstrated carcass construction using pocket joinery.

gave an overview of the principles of pocket joinery. Dave demonstrated how to join carcass pieces and Nick demonstrated how to form a face frame. Cec showed us how to join to boards and Val demonstrated how to do most anything utilizing pocket screws. The most important lesson we carried away from our last meeting was that there are people in our club who can do most anything, with expertise, and we can all benefit and borrow therefrom. The people who provided examples of pocket screw technology are also the people that you will want to talk to and borrow their equipment when you want to accomplish your current project. -Nick Van

The Push Stick Challenge

Don't forget to bring your excuse for a push stick to the Feb. 7th meeting. All entries will be judged, by a yet to be named panel of former high school woodshop dropouts, for originality, practicality, esthetics, fit, finish and fiddle-faddle! Bribing of the panel members is required, but will probably prove fruitless as our esteemed leader has vowed to count the ballots until he wins. -Val Matthews

Projects Committee.....

The following quote comes from David E. Davis, founder and editor emeritus of Automobile magazine. This quote is taken entirely out of context. Or is it? **“We Americans can't seem to dabble in spare time activities. We become obsessive and immediately start organizing committees to see if we can't restructure the thing in such a way that it won't be fun anymore.”**

I assume we can all agree that the bond that draws us all together is an interest in, or love of, woodworking. We treasure our time in the shop, time that is, for some, hard to come by. We enjoy getting together, sharing our projects and ideas, visiting each others shops, learning, one from another. Of course, for such opportunities to occur, some MINIMAL amount of organizing has to take place. Organizing, planning, committee meetings, etc. all detract from time available for the enjoyment of woodworking. Fortunately, we have a number of members who have, or are willing to make, the time for organizational activities. I suspect that some of these members actually enjoy these activities. It is, however, unreasonable to expect that everyone in the club will enjoy or even be willing to participate in organizational activities. I believe that the majority of the membership would prefer attend meetings to enjoy the company of other wood workers, to share to learn and yes, to B.S.! In short,

the primary activity of the club is woodworking, not organizing. To my surprise and dismay, I see that I have been listed as the head of the projects committee. Gene Benson somehow slipped out of that position and is now merely the head of Toys for Tots. (I suspect the load of it all was eating into his woodworking time!) I owe you, Gene. Let me take this opportunity, as the head of the projects committee, to say that, if you don't really have the time or desire to be on a committee, this is the committee for you! Feeling guilty about not doing your part? You definitely want to be on the projects committee! Let me explain. Firstly, there will be NO COMMITTEE MEETINGS!, any gatherings will take the form of hands-on workshops. Yes, actual in the shop xperiences involving tools, sawdust and

B.S.! Secondly, and most important, YOU WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND! This should be perfect, you can absolve yourself of guilt now! Join the projects committee today, free ride the rest of the year!
-Val Matthews

Wooden Plane Workshop

We have a sufficient number (eight) of people signed up for our first wooden plane workshop. Those who wish to participate but have not signed up yet, will have to wait for the next session. This may turn out to be a distinct advantage as the first workshop will be a learning experience for all (well, me anyways) and the second one should benefit as a result.
-Val Matthews

Shaving Horse Project

The object of this project will be to build a shaving horse for the purpose of demonstrating it's use at the Arts Alive show in November. I would like to take this opportunity to say that I once saw a picture of a shaving horse in a magazine. THIS IS THE TOTAL EXTENT OF MY EXPERTISE! I long to hear from someone who has ridden one of these devices. Any knowledge will be appreciated and I would particularly like to know about the advisability of using spurs on one of these beasts. -Val Matthews

Plane Chatter.....

Three of us journeyed over to Vern Tator's shop on Friday Harbor in early January to pick up some good lumber buys. Vern, as some of you know, is shuttering his door-making business and leaving the island for a home in Langley on the southern tip of Whidbey Island. Cec drove his '75 Classic Chevy truck with Larry Tomovick and I aboard, and we filled her up with some good sticks at bargain prices. We also brought back a pile of lumber purchased by Bob Doop. We bought a lot of Vern's white oak and mahogany. Anything shorter than five feet was free. Vern also loaded us up with bundles of hardwood, tools, and materials he did not want to move. These items he donated to our Club, and they were subsequently raffled off at the January meeting. Raffle proceeds go into our Student Educational Fund and Vern's gift bumped that total to a new high of \$770. We all thank Vern for his generosity and hope that he will continue to be active in our organization. He's a fun guy to be around and a long-time member. We wish him the best in whatever new career he embraces.

Moving Parts. Some of our respected (?) members are getting makeovers. Not the TV kind. Surgeons with keen-edged tools have been called to take on woodworker projects like Julian Lee, Bob Doop, and Cec Braeden. The makeovers were successful. Julian had his nasal passages routed; Bob has been jumping from one gurney to another for needed hip and knee joint replacements; and Cec had a hernia repaired after trying to move a rock using a puny lever.

Turners. It's surprising to see the large number of Guild members embracing woodturning. At least 20 men and women belong to both NCWA and the Northwest Woodturners Association. Julian Lee is the new president of the Turners and Ron Grant is VP. Both organizations are growing fast, and about 60 woodturners showed up for their January meeting. I recently moved up from a Mini Jet to a larger Nova but decided to keep the small lathe, too. I am fascinated by vacuum chucking, a fast technique for mounting your workpiece. Bob Doop started the recent trend and several members, including me, have jumped on the bandwagon. Julian Lee has given me invaluable help in putting the system together and helping me get started. I recently asked Larry Tomovick if he ever tried to add woodturning to his remarkable woodworking repertoire. His reply follows:

Larry's Lament. "Having been a member of NCWA and a woodworker for many years, I lament the fact that many friends I've met in the Guild have become woodturners. Now, when we're together they want to talk turning more than anything

else. I like to point out to these friends, while rolling my eyes with good humor, that they are *just turners*, meaning they are an eccentric lot who can no longer make furniture and now have an addiction that is beyond the reach of any good 'Twelve-Step Program.'

"Recently, while hanging out with Julian and Jay, the conversation turned to woodturning and they told me I could become a turner, too. At this point I told them the story about my woodturning experience, and Jay asked me to repeat it in our Newsletter.

"When I first moved here sailing was my first priority over woodworking so I didn't have many tools. However, I soon discovered that the Oak Harbor Naval Base had a fairly well-equipped woodshop that I could use, as a military retiree, after taking their safety class. After jumping through their hoops, I decided I wanted to make a coffee table that would give me a chance to use their large 24-inch planer, but it was broken and out of use for two years. I then decided to use their wood lathe and turn some simple legs. Despite the fact that I had lost a leg, my right hand, and a considerable amount of vision in Vietnam, these things didn't seem to slow me down much in woodworking, and I also had some woodturning experience in high school.

"So, without instruction, but plenty of confidence, I chucked up a piece of wood in the lathe, slid the tool rest forward, grabbed what looked like the right tool, turned the machine on, put my nose about five inches from the wood so that I could see it clearly through my bifocals, and I began to turn. Well, trying to cut off those square corners to begin with is not a good idea, nor is holding the tool with just one hand, nor is having your face five inches from a piece of wood that looks like it's turning at the speed of light. As chips began flying I quickly became terrified, stood up, shut the machine off, and thought about what a friend of mine once said: "Know your limitations."

—Jay

Toys for Tots

With the year moving right along, I would like to establish the list of "toys" woodworkers and the list of those electing to not make toys this year. Those planning on making toys at any time during the year, please get your name to me ASAP. This will enable us to first, get started, next, who will make what and how many, who needs or would like help, and to get wood. I have the club's maple, rough sawn,

which I will help prep for you if needed. I also have rough alder which is great for small cars, trucks, planes, blocks, etc. You may want to join Julian Lee's team to make racers. Let's hear from all T for T interested people now.

I would like the list of those who can't or have other important priorities that does not enable participation in Toys for Tots. The reason, I then will not be bugging you all year. Sounds like that would benefit you as well as me.

I'll be waiting for your response.

Gene Benson

Looking for used tools? New member Tim Hyatt has discovered a great place in the Ballard District of Seattle. The Tool Trader buys, sells & consigns all sorts of tools. Tim says it's a great place to visit....and prices are reasonable.

The Tool Trader
1149 NW 52nd Street
Seattle, WA 98107
Corey Breuer
206-783-8665

AS THE WEB SPINS.....

With the February program focusing on design and studio furniture here's some resources that will expand your knowledge of this segment of the woodworking craft:

The Furniture Society's web site is a mother lode of information and ideas.....and most pertinent to this month's subject is their page on studio furniture makers. This page gives a vast listing of studio furniture makers websites....worth an evening of browsing for sure. And if this site doesn't give you some ideas and inspiration, I would suggest you dial 911 and invite the medics over to check your pulse!
www.furnitureociety.org/collect/makers.php

Of particular interest, while cruising the Furniture Society's listings, be sure to check out the website of Garry Knox Bennett of Oakland, CA. Garry is considered the Dean of Studio Furniture makers in this country.....along with Wendell Castle. Since June of last year, he has been building chairs for a traveling exhibit which is slated to open at the Bellevue Art Museum in June of this year. His plan is to build 100 chairs for the exhibit. 100 chairs.....no two alike....in less than a year! Not bad for a 71 year old. We are trying to get more details on the Bellevue exhibit and will pass it along as soon as possible.

REALLY IMPORTANT STUFF!

IT'S TIME TO PAY OUR DUES! You thought that Fast Eddie was a tough collector of the bucks? You trembled when he put the threat of his cousin Guido on your pocket book? Well, Fellow Woodchucks..... you ain't seen nuthin!. Our new money man, Doug the Dinger, is gonna make Fast Eddie look as rough as a sheet of 1200 grit. Don't let that sweet smile fool you.....this guy will be all over you like a rag soaked in Profin. So do Doug a favor and send him your dues today! \$30. A REAL DEAL!

LIBRARY EXPANSION PLANS! Our club library has again been allocated a budget of \$250 for new acquisitions. If you know of a new book or video that would be a worthwhile addition to our library, give Librarian Jim Torrence a call or email. He needs your input. (360) 629-6670 or Jetink@direcway.com

**Do you have a photo of your latest project?
Have you seen an article or tip of interest?
Want to share your thoughts with fellow members?**

It could be shown here instead of all this white space!
Member contributions to the newsletter are encouraged!

THE WOOD SHED.....

MAPLE FOR SALE

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

SHOP SMITH & RADIAL ARM SAW FOR SALE

Shop Smith Combination Saw System complete with Band Saw, Jig Saw, Planer/Jointer, Belt Sander, Table Saw, Disk Sander, Lathe plus other attachments...\$1500

DeWalt 12" Radial Arm Saw with Mobil Table...\$275

For both items, Contact Jim Corbin, 360-766-8705, jscorbin@wavecable.com. If you would like to stop by, please call first to make sure I am home...5792 Inez St., Bow [2-blocks north of the White Church next to Bow Hill Road midway between I-5 and Chuckanut Drive]

COMING EVENTS

Feb. 7th	7:00PM	Monthly Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge in Mount Vernon
Feb. 15th	7:00PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Restaurant on Hwy 20
Feb. 18th	Noon	Newsletter Deadline	Rick's Email Box
March 7th	7:00PM	Monthly Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge in Mount Vernon
April 1st	9AM-5PM	Woodfest	Sedro Woolley High School Gymnasium
April 2nd	10AM-4PM	Woodfest	Sedro Woolley High School Gymnasium

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.

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		Toys for Tots:	Gene Benson	(360) 466-3004
Education:	R.P. Myers	(360) 708-4677	Webmaster:	Mike New	(360) 707-2314