



# NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

January 2005

**Next Meeting: January 4th, 7:00 pm**

**Julian Lee's Shop**

**3701 Rosario Crest Lane, Anacortes**

**Phone: 360-299-2900**

**6 miles South of Anacortes on the South end of Fidalgo Island - On Sares Head above Rosario Beach. From I-5 at Burlington take SR 20 East and follow Oak Harbor directions. At Pass Lake turn North on Rosario Road for 1-1/4 mi. Turn left on Cougar Gap Road and immediate right into my driveway-Rosario Crest Lane. Follow the Lee sign right, and up the hill, turn right at top and park on the apron in front and East of my shop.**

## **FROM OUR PREZ.....**

Hopefully this letter finds you all in a growing calm from the holidays we have just gone through, refreshed and ready to gain some great wood working experiences in 2005 with the NCWA. As your humble servant, and fellow woodworker, I am very excited about this coming year. Our committees are being fueled with suggestions supplied by all of us, to assist in our enjoyment of the craft through several different classes, projects, programs and club tours to name a few. Our club library

continues to be expanded with suggestions from all of us, now totaling over 70 great titles! Look for a complete listing of all titles as a component of the *NCWA 2005 Member Packet* that all of

us will be receiving at the February meeting, and presented to new members joining us through the year.



We are so very fortunate that within our organization exists a great resource of diverse woodworking talent, which still continues to surprise me by its depth. Both our ongoing and new members have much to share with us all, tapping into those resources is one of the keys to our collective

*Laura Matthews with her beautiful mahogany  
Toys for Tots Doll Cradle*

enjoyment as members, while also providing new ways to approach our specific woodworking challenges. To that end, I hope you will look forward to participating in our re-dedicated Mentoring Program that will have collaborative ties to our great and getting stronger Education Program. If you are an individual that could share your talents and expertise with us, we all benefit. Look for a call from V.P. Bob Doop over the short time to come to see what we could learn from you, and also where you would like to expand your woodworking knowledge.

We also need your participation on our great committees! Yes folks, the Committee sign up sheet will be circulated at the January meeting and I will highly recommend that you sign up early. Roll up your sleeves and get in there, it's guaranteed to put a smile on your face the same way your favorite wood does!

So, with all of that said, I also want to thank Rick for this past year, and ALL of the committee chairs and members, for without their selfless contributions we would not have the organization we all enjoy.

Ok, enough already, lets make some sawdust!  
*James*

## **December Meeting Minutes**

*It was the best time of the year* to have the best meeting of the year. It was time to settle back and contemplate the achievements of 2004, the programs and projects, a satisfactory membership growth, and the educational opportunities that we made happen. It was time to slap each other on the back and recognize these contributions. We took Big Steps forward in '04.

It was *Déjà Vu* all over again as members gathered in Nick Van's commodious Camano Island shop to elect a new slate of officers for the coming year. The general meeting served as

the annual election of officers for 2005, and Rick Anderson's broad smile clearly announced that his turn at the wheel soon would be over. Rick served honorably and well; he now stands ready to assume even more time-consuming duties as the new editor of the NCWA Newsletter, relieving Tom Chartier of his decade of labor behind the editorial desk.

***President-elect James Haddock*** will assume his new duties next month. The 2004 Nominating Committee selected Bob Doop as Vice President, and both men received unanimous approval from members present. Ed Pysher and Jay Geisel retain their offices of Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. Haddock will turn his Membership Chairman job over to Doop, who directed meeting programs over the past two years. It is expected that both will be busy selecting organizational committee chairmen before the year is out. A meeting of the Board was scheduled for December 15. With the start of a new year of activities, members can be assured that Treasurer Ed Pysher will be urging them to renew memberships immediately and pay their yearly dues of \$30 before late fees are assessed.

There was much to feel good about as this year draws to a close. A score of members were singled out with thanks and praise for their individual efforts. James Haddock's contribution of the wood for the new nametags, Ed's hard-driving command over a very successful, first-of-its-kind woodworking education program, and Gene Benson's strong leadership in putting the talents of this organization into a national Toys for Tots program are good examples of the selfless contributions made by members during the past several months. Tom Chartier, who is retiring from his long tenure as Newsletter editor, received heart-felt congratulations, and Phil

Choquette and Ron Grant were thanked for their tireless efforts in bringing Arts Alive to a successful conclusion.

**Officers and Committee Reports.** Treasurer Pyscher announced that the Club gained 12 members and lost 12 members early but regained additional ones to end the year with 71. Activities Chair Van has planned two Saturday workshop visitation activities for next year, in Spring and Fall. Membership Chair Haddock reminded members that the first nametag is granted without charge, but if you lose it you'll have to pay to replace it. Also, it was announced, if you fail to wear your nametag at meetings and other Club sponsored activities you will be asked to contribute one dollar (in U. S. funds) to the Club treasury. Librarian Chartier reported that two new books have been added to the Club Library this month and that \$50 remains in the original allocation to buy other volumes that might be named by the members. Rick, as the new Newsletter editor, stated that his deadline for submittals to the monthly Newsletter will be the third Saturday of the month. If it's late, you'll wait.

Gene Benson prepared his fellow members for the 2005 Toys for Tots program by stating that we had to start earlier in the year to make our goals. He envisions more choices and easier constructed toy projects than the toy trucks and doll cradles of 2004. Gene would have liked to speak longer, but he became a victim of Rick's enforced time limit.

**Toys for Tots Recognition Award.** Highlight of the business meeting was the presentation of toys to the Marine Reserve, the introduction of guests who volunteered their services to our program, and the awarding of certificates. Gene presided over ceremonies that recognized the achievements of members and others who gave outstanding performances in

completing the 2004 donation project. He lauded their help and perseverance in successfully reaching a tough production goal. Without their unstinting help, he said, the program would have failed.

Representatives of the local Marine Reserve were on hand to officially receive the Club's donation. Gene introduced Jeff Murphy, Commandant of the Marine Corps League of Skagit County, and his assistant and co-chairman of the local Toys for Tots program, Jim Angell.

Participating members were recognized and thanked each were given a certificate of appreciation from the Toys for Tots Program. These members produced amazing totals of 36 doll cradles and 41 trucks in less than three months of work.

Gene also recognized the tole painters who hand-decorated the doll cradles with animal and floral designs as well as the volunteers who provided the layette sets (pad, blanket, and pillow) for each cradle. Gene gave a special thanks to Carol Thomas for organizing and leading this activity. (See a complete listing of Toys for Tots participants in the Projects Committee Report).

**Laura Matthews, Woodworker of the Month.** Laura volunteered to tell her story and, at the same time, she spilled the beans on her husband. Val, it seems, doesn't take to marital woodworking competition, so the couple agreed that Laura would concentrate on round things and Val on square things. Laura has a big General wood lathe and doing the "round things" suits her fine. She briefly traced her life from raising a family to working 41 years in the retail grocery business (where she was particularly delighted with round things such as pickle jars and bread loaves?) Anyway, Laura is a gem of a woman, an

excellent woodworker, and a decided asset to this Club. Next month's volunteer Woodworker of the Month is Nick Van.

**Bring and Brag.** Bob Doop told members that just because the tree is dead its wood can be quite alive. He made his point by showing a madrona wood bowl freshly turned while green (wet) which had deformed from its original circular form into an oval shape that was changing by the minute (well okay, by the week.) Haddock showed the group some Spanish Olive, an intriguing wood with attractive figure. On display were some of Doop's bowls turned in the same wood, and a resawn cut to show a book-matched pair. Steve Intveld (the gentleman that owns the Big Sky Lumber Pile up on Mount Baker Highway and the same guy that won one of the two coveted Titebond HiPURformer Kits in the evening's raffle) came forward with some nice maple samples that also included an attractive book-matched pair.

Doop announced that the next meeting would be held in Julian Lee's shop. Three members will present a program on the theme: "My Favorite Finish."

I wish to thank my friend and neighbor, Doug Duehning, for his gracious help in putting this report together.

Jay Geisel, Secretary

## **Ron Grant Talks**

### **Bowl Segmentation**

After Ron Grant's presentation last month we know how to do it. Or do we? It ain't as easy as turning a bowl from solid wood, but turners and non-turners alike were fascinated by the process, a sort of magical mystery tour that involves a lot of precise shaping and forming of many pieces of different woods into a glued-

up, solid block that is turned into a shaped bowl to reveal a colorful mosaic of pattern and texture. The final effect is stunning, imaginative and truly original.

**Bowl Prep.** Ron showed members by word and example how to set up a table saw, band saw, and a 12-inch power sander to cut the angles properly, size the pieces, and create precise mating faces of the various wood pieces that fit the completed structure before it is turned. He supplied drawings and written descriptions of the machining process, parts of the handout material used in the class he teaches at the Puget Sound Woodworking Center. (Ron is forming a new class for six students on the first weekend of February.)

Kits already prepared for segmented bowl turning can be purchased from Craft Supplies in Utah, but they are pricey. Ron provides his own kits for his students and then shows them in detail how to prepare future materials. Stave construction is what he teaches now. These are vertical segments, much like orange sections. Larger diameter bowls are made from flat ring sections that vary in diameter in accordance with the desired shape of the bowl. Flat ring segmentation will be presented at a later meeting.

**Vertical Segments.** Stave construction that Ron described allows the turner to use any number of different wood grains and colors. Each segment, or slice, is cut to the same angle. Diameter of the round is determined by the number and thicknesses of the segments. Ron will combine sets of two or three wood species separated by a contrasting slice of veneer, for example. When all pieces are glued together the pointed ends of the segments face inward, creating a small void in the center; these parts are eventually cut away as the bowl interior is hollowed and wall thickness finalized.

Ron's visual patterns spring from a fertile imagination of geometric designs and particularly the color and symbols exhibited by the Indians of the Southwest. He finds inspiration and ideas everywhere, even to the patterns woven into fabrics used in airliners. After the design stage the artist must establish a plan of execution and interpret how best to select and present his materials. This means long hours of drafting to determine how and what woods will be used and in what form and shape they will be cut.

**Experimenter.** Ron Grant is regarded by others as an innovator. In the past three years he has pushed the envelope with experimentations in surface ablation. His process allows him to carve figures and other designs on bowl surfaces by using sand-blasting techniques. His trials finally led to the right resist materials to preserve desired wood portions and help define the sharp lines between image and the area to be eroded. Ron has shown us some examples of these beautiful works. He is the first woodturner to perfect this process, and he is now passing that knowledge on to others.



*A fine example of Ron Grant's segmented turnings.*

Woodturner and teacher, Ron is always happy to help fellow turners and share his ideas with NCWA woodworkers. Every year he shows

up at Arts Alive with a generous sampling of his turning art and twice a year he takes some time off to participate in his favorite art shows, one in the TriCities area in the Spring, and then in early July he'll pack up some of his quality work and head for the Coeur d'Alene and Lewiston art shows for a week of selling while camping out along the Snake River, dreaming up future designs, relaxing, and catching fish. It is a pleasure to have Ron in our organization, a warm friend and noted woodturner. JG

### **Projects Committee:**

December saw the "Toys for Tots" complete the year by exceeding the commitment of 25 Pendulum Cradles and 25 Model T Trucks. Heartfelt thanks go to the large number of contributors.

#### **Cradle Set Volunteers from the "Camano Island Quilters":**

Dorothy Bourgeois; Melinda Brown; Judy Downing; Mary Duclos; Linda Flanagan; Pam Fredricksen; Chris Hagen; Karen Lowry; Polly Opprecht and Carol Thomas. Special thanks to Carol for organizing and leading this activity.

#### **Cradle Set Volunteer from Shelter Bay: Doris Benson**

#### **"Tole Painting" Volunteers:**

Lois Haddock; Virginia Knight; Jean Stuercken

#### **Cradle Woodworkers:**

Greg Anderson; Rick Anderson; James Haddock; Lyle Hand; Steve

Intveld; Laura Mathews; Michael New; Joe Thomas and Nick Van. If you missed seeing the cradles after the work by these people, you will not want to miss out again in '05

#### **Model T Truck Woodworkers:**

Gene Benson; Cecil Braeden; Bob Doop; Michael Larvia; Val Mathews and Don Parry.



The toys for tots team produced 36 cradles and cradle sets (that's mattress, pillow and blanket/ set), plus 41 trucks.

We invited Jeff Murphy, Commandant of the Marine Corp. League of Skagit County and Co- Chairman of "Toys for Tots" and his assistant Jim Angell to the Dec.7 meeting to receive the toys and meet many of the T for T participants.

For all who are interested in participating in the Project Committee next year and toys for tots, I'll be looking for volunteers in the very near future and explain the new planning for '05.

**Latest news:** I visited the T for T collection center at the American Legion Hall in Sedro-Wooley today, Dec.17. All the cradles have been distributed, plus at least half of the trucks. Rick Anderson, please take note. I delivered your last two cradles and they were set aside for two, age five, twin sisters. The marines were just happier than.....! We are a very welcome addition to the toys for tots program. Note for Nick Van: They get a lot of dolls, which were added to the cradles. Gene Benson

**NAMETAG REMINDER**  
Be sure to pick up your new nametag at the next meeting. 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. These \$ will go to a worthy cause.....our fund for support of vocational education!

**Greetings From The Education Committee:**

We ended 2004 with Phil Choquette's presentation of Glues & Gluing to a "sold out crowd" on November 15. We still have several sections to go to complete the series, but we will hold off on those until after the holidays. These are, Wood Selection & Preparation,

Basic Joinery, Basic Finishing, and Projection Layout and Bill of Materials. We will schedule these after the first of the year.

Getting this project off the ground has been quite an experience. As we moved from the hardware sections into the sections on techniques we began to see the more experienced members showing up. We started out with 4 or 5 participants and at the last three sections we have had between 10 to 14. There are 17 members on the list to attend. (That's 24% of the membership!) The dialog at these sessions has been wonderful. The more experienced members asked a lot of great questions that were truly helpful to us "starters".

Your committee met earlier this month to review our experiences and to see if additional sections should be added to the series. The presenters who are not on the committee participated in this meeting and shared their visions as to what we need to change/improve and where we need to go from here. Our goal for 2005 is to learn from the past and to polish the program so it will be even more helpful to the members in the

future. We are working the comments into the program for next year and will have a schedule for you before the next regular meeting. We will email it separate from the bulletin.

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone involved, particularly the presenters who individually invested an enormous amount of time

researching their subjects and developing their handouts and presentation. These are Gene Benson, Ray McInnis, Rick Anderson, Dave Blair, Bob Doop and Phil Choquette. We are also particularly grateful to Val and Laura Matthews who graciously submitted their shop (and Laura's cookies) to the program's needs whenever asked.

As always, we would really appreciate your comments and suggestions. Please email or call me (epysher@aol.com or 360-766-8019) if you have any comments or suggestions at all.  
Ed Pysher

### BOOK REVIEW

Jim Tolpin's *Woodworking Wit & Wisdom* (2004) is a thoughtful, engrossing account of lessons learned during the author's 30 years as a furniture designer and builder to the trade. This is not an autobiography, but rather an accounting of the anguish and frustrations of a talented woodworker trying to succeed in the furniture-making business. It is a series of lessons learned the hard way of what works and what does not. Tolpin has authored two previous, well-received woodworking books: *Measure Twice, Cut Once* and *Jim Tolpin's Table Saw Magic*.

His opinions and summing-up are revealed in text and pen-and-ink sketches both witty and truthful. He tells us important things that he learned from trial and error so that we don't need to reinvent the wheel. In creating salable furniture, Tolpin has advanced 60 essential lessons. These concepts, ideas, and techniques can be learned quick-time on just 112 pages (*Popular Woodworking Books*, \$19.95).

Some of Tolpin's ideas: "There are no mistakes in woodworking. The three most fundamental and essential tools can't be bought. Sanding is the slowest, most tedious, and most counter-productive way to prepare a surface for the

clearest, richest finish. The absolute strongest bends are made without bending the wood. A scrap of tarpaper and a chunk of wood comprise one of the most precise layout tools available to a woodworker." And so it goes. His aphorisms include "Dowel joints are foul joints; Dovetails are not the holy grail of woodworking; Plywood is overrated; Ornamental moldings are not always ornaments, in fact, that is often the least of their functions." His lists of twenty best tools and 20 best books may surprise you also. (One selection is the multi-pocketed Carhartt coverall complete with essential pocket items like small combination square, bevel gauge, spiling blocks or story sticks, dividers, tape measure, handkerchief, and half-eaten Kit Kat bar.)

An example of his sage advice on routing a downhill cut: "You are feeding the board the same direction as the blade is spinning. Caution: If you stop pushing, the cutters may keep pulling the board forward. . . you must make sure that no one you like or owes you money is in the potential line of fire if the stock should get away from you."

Tolpin's book is bound to change some of the ways you work wood, but the ways can be quicker, safer, or save time or money. It's a highly recommended eye-opener. JG

### **THE WOOD SHED**

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## COMING EVENTS

January 4	7 PM	Monthly Meeting	Julian Lee's Shop (see directions on Page 1)
January 19	7 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Restaurant on Hwy 20
February 1	7 PM	Monthly Meeting	Rick Anderson's shop in

The NCWA is open to all interested woodworkers, and was formed to promote high standards in woodworking, woodworking education and showcasing local woodworking. Monthly membership 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](mailto: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	Tours: TBA	
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: TBA		Activities: TBA	
Education: Ed Pysher	(360) 766-0136	Projects: Gene Benson	(360) 466-3004
Librarian: Tom Chartier	(360) 734-9473		



### **NCWA NEWSLETTER**

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