



NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

June 2005

Next Meeting: June 7th, 7:00 pm

NorthStar Woodworks

6186 Portal Way, Ferndale

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

Coming from the South take I-5 exit 263. Turn right at bottom of off ramp onto Portal Way. Follow Portal Way for 1/2 mile to 6186 Portal Way. NorthStar WoodWorks is on the right hand side, a dark blue building setting back from the road. There is no name on the building, but the street numbers are. Watch for sign for Coast Const. & Clearwater RV at the driveway. For those coming from the North, the directions are the same except turn left at the bottom of the off ramp onto Portal Way and pass under I-5 onto Portal Way.

From Your Humble Prez....

I've just skidded back into the driveway from a wonderful Saturday spent enjoying members shops in the spring run of our "Shop Tours". The diversity of talents that we have in our organization still continues to amaze me. I think part and parcel of our individual efforts in the craft, is the ingenuity that we each bring to problems that we run into, or, different approaches we have to improving methods. I know I learned a few things today, as I hope all of you that were able to enjoy the "open" shop environment. Thanks to each of you that were kind enough to open your shops to us, and a BIG "thank you" to Nick and his committee for getting all of this organized so we could enjoy the day.

"Stranded on a desert island".....well not quite. Rick told me that the ferry ride to Guemes Island for our May meeting at Dick Iverson's shop was close to 4 minutes 30 seconds, about long enough to wonder "was that it?".

Yours truly had a family commitment that did not permit me to enjoy the day with you and Dick, and from all accounts I should have found a way to "call in sick". Other and better reports about Dick's work you will find in this months newsletter, but suffice to say that without question I know for one, "I missed a goodn'. I also want to especially thank Cec for all of

his time in organizing this great experience, ANOTHER great meeting Cec, we thank you and your committee.

And for those of you that have asked, I can announce that this years picnic location will at the Matthews' (Thanks Val and Laura!).

Well it seems that every time I am writing this I have something that I'm in the middle of gluing and need to sign off to get it done. Glue as you know, takes very few prisoners, and makes no apology to an individual's lack



Island Days at Dick Iverson's shop
See Page 2

of planning. My motivation this time is not for an awaiting glue-up, but similar in its causal punishment, is an even larger, volatile reaction by the newsletter editor if the 12:00 noon Saturday DEADline submittal is not met. OK, I've totally blown the noon thing, but I really enjoyed the shop visits!

Enjoy the craft, enjoy your NCWA,
James Haddock Sr.
Your Humble Prez

Ferryland Visit Delights NCWA Island-Hoppers
We never thought a monthly meeting could be so enjoyable. Unusual? Yes. It was Saturday afternoon, not Tuesday evening and twenty-eight members took the challenge to meet on Guemes Island in the workshop of a fellow who had some success making rustic driftwood furniture. That's as much as we were told.

We found our hosts, Jan and Richard Iverson, at their ocean-front home close by the island ferry dock. Tables, set up outside Dick's expansive shop, offered a spread of fruit, cake, cookies, and other light refreshments. What a welcome! It was an idyllic scene with broad, green, well-trimmed lawns bordering several other buildings and leading right down to the Guemes Channel that separated us from Anacortes. Jan Iverson was busy with her garden duties but eager to meet us and, at one point, answer a question as to why tall wire fencing surrounded part of her garden area. (We were told that it was protection from foraging deer that roamed the island.)

The Meeting. Chairs were set up in front of a partially assembled double seat bench where Dick introduced himself and gave us some background on how he got

started in the driftwood furniture business. First, twig furniture and then came the big stuff, he related. He told how he finds his driftwood: He rises at sun-up and pokes his small boat into different spots in mostly uninhabited areas on this and other islands looking for the right pieces, exploring coves, tidelands, and probing half-buried logs to find bowed, crotched, and forked shapes that might be turned into furniture. This is the fun part, he said. The joy is in the hunt. He showed us his small power saw that hangs on his belt and is used to cut out the pieces that he wants to load in his boat. Beach-combing lasts for several hours, until the load is worth taking home. The best months for finding driftwood, he said, are December, January, and February when winter storms and high tides drive flotsam ashore. In a nearby building Dick has stored considerable treasure from many years of driftwood hunting.



Dick Iverson regales us with the story of his Guemes Island driftwood furniture business

Dick's *All Washed Up Custom Rustic Driftwood Furniture* features "The Pier," his very popular single or double-seater comprised of 20 different driftwood pieces "pieced together using over 75 bolts, screws, tenons, plugs, and rustic furniture joinery techniques..." The sturdy benches are almost earthquake-proof and Dick guarantees them to last forever. He demonstrated the steps he follows to assemble a chair and the jigs he devised to maintain their design commonality. "The Pier," is aptly named; it is a beefy, majestic piece of work that bears a strong resemblance to a marine dock with two "pilings" supporting the seat and back sections. These are heavy pieces that form the rear legs of the bench and usually run 5 or more inches in diameter and are

approximately 5 feet tall. A heavy inverted chevron-shaped piece of driftwood spans the vertical pilings at the top to anchor the rear legs and give the bench the familiar Iverson signature.

Whimsey, Too. Dick adds decorative features to his finished benches. A carved seagull rests on one of the pilings and a couple hemp rope windings add to the marine

look. Other decorative materials include a starfish, a shell, or a section of fish netting. But the artistry is in the design, the symmetry and balance that Dick is able to give a work that is made almost entirely from found materials, driftwood used in its found state without further changes or machining of any kind. A testament to his ingenuity is that he makes repetitive copies of "The Pier" and they all have a strong resemblance despite the diversity of their individual pieces.

Dick's charisma and good humor kept us entertained throughout the presentation and time passed quickly. He told a story about delivering several benches to a customer in Canada. The Custom's agent, trying to assess the value of such unusual furniture, asked whether the driftwood was from American or Canadian waters. Dick, pointing to several pieces of wood, said, "Well, this one and these two are from Canada, and I believe..." The befuddled agent cut him off and moved him on. The bench that Iverson had before us is his 151st. He has back orders, but he works alone, producing four types of benches for customers throughout the U. S. and into Canada.

During his demo he showed us various tools that had to be improvised to make, for example, the hemp rope wrapping that decorates his benches or the flailing tool that ages the chair seats. These tools were the brainchild of his friend Scotty who has a shop down the road. Dick invited us to meet Scotty and get a good look at his unusual shop. So we did.

JUNE MEETING.....A TOUR OF NORTHSTAR WOODWORKS

The evening of June 7th will be our next NCWA membership meeting and will be held at NorthStar WoodWorks in Ferndale. This promises to be a very interesting evening as owner Frank Chambers, a former NCWA member, leads us through the equipment and processes Northstar uses to create custom wood doors and windows for distinctive residences and commercial buildings throughout the U.S. NorthStar was founded in 1979 in a small shop west of Ferndale, and has grown to now occupy a state of the art shop in Ferndale filled with lots of great machinery.

too old to classify or identify. Almost everything he has generates the "What is it?" question. He delights in getting the heavy stuff to run again even though replacement parts are just a memory. High up on the shop walls Scotty displays a collection of antique hand tools that could stock a museum. It was his wife's idea, he confides. You have to admit that this Colin Glencannon look-alike with a humorous demeanor and a twinkle in his eye is a fun person to be around. His accent, mustache, constant cigar, and mock affronts only heighten the characterization.



Scotty Campbell demonstrates his vintage Greenlee mortising machine.

During informal discussions around a sizable cedar log standing on end, scuffed with the tooth marks of a chain saw, is one of Scotty's many projects in progress. Here we learned that Cec Braeden, our program chairman who put this tour together, and his friends Dick Iverson and Scott Campbell, all

worked at one time for Boeing where these friendships were forged. Both Cec and Dick are former Air Force pilots.

Adieu to A Ferry Nice Day. We had spent almost four hours with our hosts and it was time to meet the

Meet Mister Glencannon. A retired machinist and toolmaker, Scott Campbell is a colorful Guemes resident and an unquestionable jack-of-all-trades who must hold the title of having the most, and oldest, tools in the state. His two large Quonset buildings are loaded with equipment, some

home-bound ferry. Those who had cars gathered up their riders and headed for the ramp. While waiting for the ferry to appear, I walked over to the nearby general store where I had spotted “The Pier” at the store entry. I sat for a moment in this big, comfortable chair struck from timeless, water-borne wood and reflected on the imagination and artistry a man must command to create such beautiful work.

Jay Geisel, Secretary

You’re invited! Dine with the Fine Woodworking Editor.....

Did you ever write a “Letter to the Editor” and wonder if it ever made it to his desk? One of the world’s most respected woodworking magazines, *Fine Woodworking*, is sending an editor to our area, and while here he wants to hear your gripes, probe for ideas, and poll your opinions.

You’ll have an opportunity to talk with Assistant Editor Mark Schofield after he visits Cec Braeden at his Anacortes home workshop on June 28th. The editor will be in town one day only to take photographs for an upcoming article that will feature Cec’s innovative workbench. Mr. Schofield has generously accepted our invitation to address NCWA and NWWA members at a casual dinner in Mount Vernon that evening. The catered affair is set for 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 28th, at the Hillcrest Lodge.

Local area Woodworkers and Woodturners are invited to dine and meet with Mr. Schofield and get a rare insight into how the magazine is developed and what drives this popular magazine and the various enterprises of The Taunton Press, which bills itself as “Inspiration for hands-on living.” We’ll each have an opportunity to meet the press and speak our mind. It should be an enjoyable confrontation.

If you would like to Dine with the Editor, please make an advance reservation by calling Cec Braeden at (360) 588-9830, or send e-mail to Cec by June 25th. (cb@ncwawood.org) Delicious sandwiches will be catered by Gere-a-Deli’s of Anacortes. Soft drinks and coffee will be provided. The price is \$7, payable at the event.

Shop Tours.....a great day on the road!

Even though we had all been in *Val and Laura Matthews’ shop* several times in the past, we decided to begin our day of shop tours with a re-visit.....for we always find some new and interesting ideas when visiting our friends in Bow. And this visit was no exception. The coffee was ready and the cookies had just come out of the oven....so our timing was great! Laura’s primary interest is in woodturning.....while Val rarely goes in circles, but much to our surprise, we discovered that Val had invaded Laura’s territory and his current experiment was set up on Laura’s lathe. Val has been working to perfect converting the bottoms of pop cans into wheels for Toys for Tots cars. He has perfected a vacuum chucking system and then “spins” the aluminum into shape. Now he is working to form rubber tube into tires. It will be exciting to see the finished wheels on the cars. Also on display was a small cabinet that Val is making for a client.....sadly the great craftsmanship is scheduled to be painted over..... as well as several of Laura’s turning projects and their myriad of jigs and tools. As if woodworking wasn’t enough, a vintage truck project presides in the adjoining “auto shop”, though Val concedes it hasn’t seen much attention in recent months. Filled with our share of cookies and ideas it was time to venture further south.....

Jim Torrence has poured the past twelve months of his life into building a dream shop that follows sound rules of layout, flowing lumber through a receiving door and storage area and from there to the table saw and on to the assembly bench. He’s arrayed supporting machines along the walls and each station is afforded generous working space. His project for now is to complete the shop by installing ducting and equipment for an efficient dust collection system. We found an organized, neat work space ready for a photographer. Of particular interest was the beautiful CVG fir paneling of one side of the shop which was salvaged from the dumpster at the moulding plant down the road. Little did we realize that our friend spends his leisure time dumpster diving!

Above the high-ceilinged, well-lighted shop Jim has added a loft for storage. His shop is actually built inside a 4800 sq. ft. high-bay building and occupies only a small part of the interior space. But he sure has lots of room for future expansion! During our visit, Jim had an antique doll cradle on his bench, a project needing minor repairs; he estimated the family heirloom was built in the 1870’s. As a woodworking project, the hand-crafted toy was swallowed

up by the vastness of the shop and the powerful machines standing by. Jim is hoping to make some reproductions of the cradle for this year's Toys for Tots project.

In contrast, **Ron Grant's shop**, though smaller, has endured years of woodturning activity. The bowl-turning guru has surrounded himself with accoutrements that support his considerable turning talents and allow him to produce state-of-the-art segmentation. His lathes (he has three or four) and general woodworking equipment make for a complete shop but are not remarkable by themselves. What is unusual is the extent of the modifications he makes to standard machines; his jigs and fixtures are evident everywhere you look. His favorite, and most used, tool is an inexpensive 12-inch disc sander on which he shapes the beveled faces of the small wood segments that constitute the vertical and horizontal bowl segments. Ron has devised several jigs for this operation. His sliding saw table and standard band saw get heavy workouts as well. He's got a laser and table saw alignment scheme currently in design. The shop is full of equipment and machines are grouped to reduce extra steps.

It's always interesting to talk woodturning with Ron. He has dedicated his shop to woodturning, making it a laboratory for lathe work. He is an "idea" man, a tinkerer, who is intent on pushing the envelope, an finding improved turning methods. His experiments are often successful. He has built a name for himself with new style surface treatments on bowls. His experiments with sand blasting have sparked an art trend copied by others who are now using his surface ablation techniques to impart designs on bowl surfaces. Ron is an excellent gouge sharpener and he often re-grinds chisels and gouges to suit his personal tastes. A large roughing gouge that he altered has caught the interest of a prominent toolmaker in England. Ron changed the profile by grinding a long bevel from flutes to tip and applies the gouge to the wood in an inverted position with both flutes placed on the tool rest. The upside-down gouge simulates a rounded scraper; it's smooth working and doesn't require re-sharpening. For the benefit of his visitors he demonstrated a commercial tool that roughs out multiple bowls from the same piece of wood, and he revealed some of his most effective finishing techniques, including the use of an airbrush right at the lathe.

Leaving Ron's shop we headed up Highway 9 toward the Sedro Woolley shops.....a leisurely and scenic drive.....and soon arrived at **Ron Engstrom's shop**. Ron's unique shop is truly a display of what can be done

in minimal space. Starting with a portable garage from Costco, Ron proceeded to build a shop under it's cover (and undercover) and he now has an insulated and paneled shop filled with a wide variety of tools. All of Ron's tools are on casters so they can be moved to accommodate his projects. Amazingly, also in his shop was a jig for assembly of the bunk beds that Ron builds and ships to orphanages in Mexico. He has built several dozen of the beds thus far and had another batch in progress when we visited. It's quite amazing what Ron accomplishes in such a small area.....not a square inch of space is wasted, and, unlike some of our member's shops, heating his shop in the winter is no problem at all.

Last stop on our tour day was a visit with **Jim Murphy**.....who has to be the renaissance man of NCWA. His repertoire of tools and projects is truly amazing.....from laminated fishing nets.....to replica cannons.....to hot rods.....to turned bowls. It seems this guy can do it all and it is obvious that he truly loves what he is doing! Not only does Jim build lots of projects, but he has built much of his own equipment too....including his wood lathes and many of his turning tools. I was fascinated with his collection of half scale cannons which displayed a combination of his skills as a master machinist and a fine woodworker. Before starting construction much research was done in order to create replicas with great accuracy. Not only did Jim study the construction of the guns, he also is well versed on their use and the reasoning behind many of the design details. Particularly fascinating were the wheels on the Napoleon Field Gun with spokes that flare outward from the hub to the rims, thus creating greater stability when the guns were being pulled from battle to battle. Another project Jim currently has underway is the construction of a large dedicated bowl lathe.....he's almost ready to pour the concrete ballast.....so we will likely soon see some rather large bowls for Bring 'n Brag.

Once more, our day of shop tours was a great time.....so much to see and learn, it would be tempting to spend an entire day at each shop. Thanks to Nick Van for once again arranging the tours, and to all those who opened up their shops and generously shared their time and expertise. **Thank Yew!**

See photos next page.....

Jay Geisel & Rick Anderson

Visions of shop tours.....



The Dream Team.....aka Val & Laura..... face off.....it's bowl gouge-vs-chisel!



Jim Murphy's replica field cannon..... wood-working and metalworking unite!



Ron Grant discusses his latest bowl project.



Ron Engstrom proves that shop space is overrated.....



Jim Torrence with antique doll cradle.....wall ala dumpster in background.



Jim Murphy's spalted maple bowl with a twist!

And when Murphy sez he's gonna add a little power to the bandsaw.....



Just Plane Chatter

Goodness abounds in our organization. It's like another perk for members. Just last week horticulturists Cec Braeden and Herb Laiche planted a summer garden for Larry Tomovick. A couple months earlier Larry was the recipient of another favor from Julian Lee who hauled a load of top-grade Bubinga from Portland to Larry's Anacortes' home. Upon the arrival of Julian's big truck other volunteers cut the 17-footers into predetermined lengths. The bulk was stickered and stacked in Larry's two bedrooms. And so it goes. Bob Doop has been helpful to me in one-on-one instructions in using the Wolverine system for sharpening turning gouges. Meanwhile, Club officers are trying to formalize a mentoring program that already exists!

Many bouquets have been tossed in Rick Anderson's direction for the new look he has given our NCWA Newsletter. Rick's a perfectionist and continually strives to improve his journal, but the newsletter would be for naught if it wasn't for the great writing by our loyal scribe Jay Geisel. Thanks Jay for your steadfast contributions!

Another strong personal effort has created a stir among members. Our Club Website is up and running and couldn't look better. Webmaster Mike New has granted hours of experienced labor to quickly set our site in motion, and he is now urging members to contribute photos and data that will be useful to all. Kudos go to all for their accomplishments! Membership advantages in NCWA gets better and better.

PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Surprise, we are still looking for a few good men, hopefully, 20-30 or so. Boy toys are more than scarce, they are just about non-existent. We have plenty of wood and more than enough vehicles to choose from. Your choice! No museum or mantle piece is required. Solid, simple, fun toys for boys are needed.

I have purchased a Lincoln Log set (all wood of the original configuration), a full set of building blocks, a small train that requires some "putting pieces in the correct location" by the kid to complete the building. These will serve as the prototypes for us to use.

Cradles are going well. There is a lot of activity in this arena.

The projects group has been selected to make some signs for "Arts Alive". We are looking for ideas, especially from those who have been involved with this activity over the years.

We welcome your input and participation! All the wood you need is available, bot maple and alder.
Gene Benson

PRODUCTS AT A DISCOUNT

I realized shortly after the meeting on Saturday that a lot of people had left the island and since I was staying on the island a while longer I wouldn't be able to distribute products immediately following the meeting out of my home. My apologies there, so I'll bring the items early to the next meeting for distribution. If you are unable to make the meeting call me before hand to arrange pickup at your convenience, so if I don't hear from you or see you at the June meeting I'll assume you are not interested in the products and I'll return them to Frontier.

The good news is the glue has dropped to \$5.50 per quart. Please remember to bring glue containers, a lecture buying a gallon, and try bring exact change.

Larry Tomovick
(360) 293-4580

Did you know that it is not unusual for a live tree to contain twice the weight of water over wood?

As the Web Turns.....

The "DIY" Do It Yourself TV network offers printable step-by-step instructions on www.diy.net. Family Handyman Magazine offers more than a hundred on-line home improvement projects and Handy Hints on www.familyhandyman.com.

THE WOOD SHED

MAPLE FOR SALE Very nice maple boards for a great project! Will cut my logs to your specs. Call Steve Intveld 360-592-5670

COMING EVENTS

June 7th	7 PM	Monthly Meeting	NorthStar WoodWorks (Ferndale)
June 15th	7 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Inn (Hwy 20)
June 18th	NOON	Newsletter Deadline	Rick's email box
June 28	7PM	Evening with Fine Woodworking Magazine	Hillcrest Park Lodge (Mount Vernon)
July 12th	7 PM	Monthly Meeting	Hillcrest Park Lodge (Mount Vernon)
August TBA	TBA	Annual Picnic	Val & Laura Matthews' Lawn (Bow)

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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