

# Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association

Volume 14 Issue 8

March, 2002

## Next Meeting: Jim Hume's shop 22334 Prairie Rd. Sedro-Woolley, WA. (360) 856-1646 March 5, 2002 7:00 pm

Minutes of the NCWA Meeting, February 5, 2002  
It was 7:15 before President Gary Holloman could pull members away from the exotic design pieces on display in Wes Smith's Bellingham furniture shop. Like the benches in their final finishing stage, the meeting turned out to be a gem, too.

Twenty-six members and two guests were treated to a preview of **The Tree** project taking shape in Smith's shop. It was a work of art in progress as benches, a lounge, bed, and other items were displayed in various stages of production. Following his usual custom, Gary asked those present to introduce themselves.

### Old Business

Seeming a bit more comfortable with Roberts' Rules of Order, Gary opened up a discussion of last month's tabled recruiting brochure prepared by Owen Huffaker and Jay Geisel. Just at that point, Bob Doop arrived with several copies, hot off the press, on a selection of light and heavy papers. After a brief discussion, Doop proposed that the Club authorize the printing of 1,000 copies on the heavier stock. Moved, seconded and passed. Doop also proposed to limit distribution to 10 commercial outlets as a first trial. That was also approved. Geisel will coordinate the production of the 10 brochure racks and he and Owen will select the 10 commercial locations.

Another holdover item from January was consideration of the *Woodworkers Unite for America* project for making American flag boxes to be presented to survivors of the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks. Vern Tator who introduced this suggestion last month said that he would bring a sample box from Oregon to show the membership. Vern announced that he had lined up a source to donate 150 pieces of glass (cut to size!) and Jake Strauss said he had enough #2 Alder at one dollar pbf. A dozen members volunteered a full Saturday of work to construct the 30 flag

boxes at Gary's shop, date expected to be February 23. Treasurer Laura Mathews reported on sources and prices for purchasing "Adobe Acrobat." software. By electronically transmitting the Club Newsletter each month, she said, the Club could save enough in printing and mailing costs to repay the one-time expenditure of \$249. Members approved the buy at "the best possible price." Laura also announced a Treasury balance of \$1,702.84.

Bill Hakins reported that the membership Directory was ready for production. Members were given draft sheets to check their personal data one last time before composition starts. He also announced that Anacortes clockmaker John Mann was offering his special router table for sale at \$100.

### New Business

**Wood of the Month.** Roger Pierce showed a 2x2x24-inch piece of Lacewood out of Australia or South America. It's an exotic, close-grained, distinctively patterned wood, light pink to brown in color, and flecked with short, dark lines. He said this somewhat expensive material is a favorite of woodturners and furniture-makers, and it's also fine for making musical instruments. Pierce added that he bought the wood from Woodcraft during a recent 40% off sale for \$11; a good price. Grizzly also stocks small sizes of Lacewood.

**Jig of the Month.** What do'ya do when your band saw blade suddenly snaps just before the evening news on a Sunday night? Jim Murphy has the answer: Weld it, using his handy soldering jig. Jim

showed how to grind bevels on the two blade ends so they overlap without adding thickness to the blade. He uses a thin ribbon of alloyed silver, clamps the blade ends in his steel jig equipped with thumbscrews, and applies 1800-degree heat from an acetylene torch to make the weld.

**Bring-and-Brag.** Up stepped Lyle Hand with a completed project in one and a carrier full of finishing supplies in the other. The project was a beautifully sculpted footstool featuring Lyle's first successful attempt at cabriole legs. (From Hand to foot, as it were.)

"I always wanted to make these legs," he said, "so I put them on a footstool. Besides," he added, "my wife likes it." And so did we.

Lyle used the stool to demonstrate his pad finishing technique. A key to his technique is the tennis ball-sized linen bundle tied off to form a ball shape, with material left over to make the tail-like handle. The inner fill is a soft and porous man-made material used by quilters, but Lyle didn't identify it. He demonstrated how to load the pad by dipping it in a polyurethane wood finish ("Tuff-Cote" from Woodcraft) and then stroking it evenly on the wood surface. To solve a problem of premature hardening of the liquid once the bottle is opened, Lyle now transfers it to a plastic bottle having an integral spout and cap. Before putting the "Tuff-Cote" away he unscrews the lid and injects a short burst of "Bloxygen," an inert gas, to displace the air inside. When the bottle is inverted, the gas moves to the upper end and fills the void. Preserving the finish, Lyle finds, makes the gas purchase cost-effective.

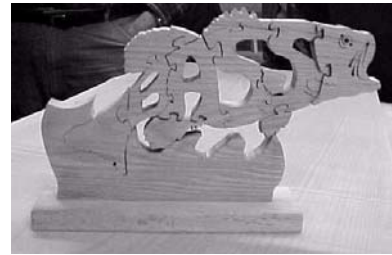
More **Bring-and-Brag** was introduced by Curtis Crape who displayed a scroll saw interlocking puzzle cut in the form of a fish and mounted on a tabletop stand. Curt asked for advice on how to finish his project and the answers were many and varied. One that seemed most acceptable was to spray it with "Deft," a lacquer, from a rattle can. Jim Murphy also polled members on the best way to bend a piece of red oak. He didn't want to deal with edge-treating a lamination, he said. The only other suggestion offered was to pre-soak the timber.

Wesley Smith's interesting and informal discussion of **The Tree** project followed the business meeting.

Jay Geisel,  
Secretary

#### Directions to Jim Hume's shop

From I-5 take exit 236, turn east on Bow Hill Rd. which becomes Prairie Rd. Jim's shop is about six miles from I-5 on Prairie Rd.



Scroll saw Puzzle by guest Curt Crape



Band saw blade soldering clamp by Jim Murphy



Cabriole leg foot stool by Lyle hand

#### Jake Strauss

Kiln dried NW Washington hardwood lumber. (Sales by appointment only)  
6389 North Star Rd.  
Ferndale, WA 98248 (360)384-3948

#### It's Not Just A Tree; It's *The Tree*

Mr. Smith went to town and brought home a 90-foot, 118-year-old maple. He's been chipping away at it for two years now and what he's wrought defies description. More than 40 pieces of his gallery quality furniture will be on display in April at the Whatcom Museum in Bellingham, the entire wood content produced from this monarch he calls **The Tree**.

The lines of Smith's designs have a natural symmetry; edges follow the original shape of the trunk or the curve and undulations of the limb from which they were taken. There's no four-square look you usually expect from furniture. Working from photographic records of the various

tree parts after felling and arranging them on the ground in a two-dimensional replication, Smith and his co-worker Andrew Valley have established and graphically depicted the anatomical location of each tree part that was worked into their different furniture pieces. All this romantic relationship of tree to crafted and utile wood-shaping will be a part of the museum presentation.

The mature broadleaf maple was a donation for this worthwhile project to Smith and his Smith Lumber Company, both noted for quality custom furniture. The timbers that came out of **The Tree** are truly beautiful. Thick slabs of the creamy wood, laced with dark reds and browns and with fine features of curly maple and fiddleback, line the walls of Smith's shop, ready for use in the vast furniture project. The 1700 board feet of usable timber was kiln-dried by member Jake Strauss at his Ferndale shop.

The exhibition consists of a queen bed, lounge, chairs and tables, liquor cabinet, coffee table, a flat file for large plans and detailed drawings, six mirrors, benches, and other items that add up to some 46 pieces in all to come out of the same tree. It's a big undertaking, but Wes Smith says they are on schedule to finish the entire presentation on time. The museum tour is slated to run into October; after that Wes hopes to find sponsorship for other museums that will put his show on the road.

Members will have an opportunity to see **The Tree** during a group visit to the Whatcom Museum, and possibly a business meeting at the exhibition center, in late April or early May.

Jay Geisel,  
Secretary

Sample furniture  
from "The Tree  
Project" by  
Wesley Smith and  
Andrew Valley



#### Note from the Editor:

The Adobe Acrobat software has arrived! The newsletter is now available by Email.

Some of the benefits of receiving the newsletter by email are: quicker delivery and much clearer photos in addition to saving the club money.

Send me your Email address to try out the new delivery method.

Tom [tc1376gp@aol.com](mailto:tc1376gp@aol.com)

#### Notes from the Prez:

It was really a pleasure going to Wesley and Andrew's shop. They are doing some awesome wood-working. The idea of documenting the process of how the tree is utilized in the making of fine furniture is pretty cool. I am hoping we can get a preview when they get their exhibit complete for the museum.

The flag display box project, I hope can begin at the Holloman shop on march 8 about 10:00 until 4:00. We can talk about it more at the meeting. It is possible we could start as soon as March 2. Anyone with input can call me at 855-3376. Anyway, see you at Jim's shop!

Gary

#### Attention tool Junkies! Stanley "45" Plane for Sale

In original box, minus the top. All blades in in the set included. \$125 or best offer.

Stan Richardson 360-734-2633

#### Router Table For Sale

Router table with fence, removable router mounting plate and dust extractor fitting. Used, but in good condition. \$100. John Mann (360) 0299-4663

**Don't forget our "Bring and Brag". We all do something unique or have something that others would enjoy seeing.**

The NCWA was formed to promote high standards in woodworking, woodworking education, and showcasing local woodworking. The NCWA is open to all interested woodworkers.. Dues are \$24 per year, payable to NCWA, 7550 Ershig Rd. Bow, WA. 98232. Newsletter submissions are welcomed and are due by the 18th of the month to NCWA Newsletter, 925 South Hills Dr. Bellingham, WA., 98226. Or call (360) 734-9473. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. Location announced in the newsletter

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**NCWA Newsletter**

925 South Hills DR  
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