



NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

May 2006

Next Meeting: May 2nd, 2006
Hillcrest Park Lodge
1717 South 13th Street, Mount Vernon
Phone: 360-202-0099

Take I-5 exit 226. Go up the hill (east) on Broadway Street to South 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 adjacent to the lodge.

SAFE: *protected. Opposite, at risk, insecure, danger, un-safe* **SAFETY:** *freedom from danger, risk of injury*

When we were young, it was all about “never run with a knife.....look both ways before crossing...” There wasn’t much else to worry about.. But now that we are older and the risks are greater, the list is bigger, longer,better thought out.

The following is my short list of considerations for **SHOP SAFETY:**

Clean Air

- Dust
- Fumes

Body Parts

- Cuts, Amputation
- Puncture Wounds
- Broken Bones

Absorption

- Blisters

Eye Health

- Dusts, particles, chunks
- Fluids, chemicals

Shop Fire

- Electrical Shorts
- Heater Malfunctions
- Spontaneous Combustion

Theft

- Should it be locked up?
- Equipment marked with driver’s license?
- Video Camera
- Insurance coverage adequate?
- Big Dog

So, what can we do in the “small step” area? If not a new dust system, then a good respirator and fan for ventilation. Perhaps new quality safety glasses or a face shield we commit to use every time. How about investing in safety glasses in our own prescription? (That keeps them on MY nose.) Maybe it’s making a plan to always use the push stick or to build a sled for our table saw.....What about cleaning up the work area at the end of every day?

If not a flammable paint storage cabinet, then a fire safe can to hold all oily rags and paper towels. And on the subject of unexpected fire, do we have a currently charged fire extinguisher or two in the shop? (It’s a lot easier to clean up after the use of a fire extinguisher than after the results of a garden hose turned loose in the shop.)

Have we taken the time to finish the electrical wiring job in the shop; think wire lugs, tape, cover plates? What size is the wire in that extension cord we have plugged into that 20 amp circuit?

This is only the start of a safety list. What can you add to the list? Email me at bob.doop@fidalgo.net with your list additions, thoughts or experiences in this important area.

This is just a start of the list....If we go about this in a worrisome way, we will never work in our shop. But, we all can upgrade our approach to Safety by taking the small steps toward working **SAFE**.

Let’s all make **MAY** the month we think – do – work **SAFE IN THE SHOP!** bd

Big April Meeting; Big Crowd, Too

A crowd of more than 60 woodworkers convened in Gary Holliman's big shop at the Skagit County Regional Airport for a monthly meeting that featured the canoe-making abilities of John Gruenewald, and the meeting gave everyone a chance to visit Gary's new digs and learn what he was doing with them. Gary was back in business and evidently pleased with the way business was growing. Even with more than 60 members on hand (better than 80% of our membership), Gary's large building handled the activities with room to spare.

President Bob Doop

first called for an introduction of our lone guest and then congratulated Phil Choquette and Nick Van for our excellent exhibition at WoodFest on April 1 and 2. It was certainly this Club's finest participation at any Arts Alive! or WoodFest public event. Members displayed more than 50 pieces of excellent craftwork for

the Sedro Woolley annual event. Woodworking students from five area schools took part in the high school competition that was, for the first time, judged by a team of NCWA members. The schools' vocational teachers were pleased with the many contributions afforded by our Club.

The annual Peoples' Choice Award for the best student example of craftsmanship was sponsored for the first time this year by our guild. Top award went to Patrick Stewart of Sedro Woolley High. Patrick, who also happens to be the son of SWHS's woodworking instructor, Mike Stewart, was judged on his excellent maple chest entry. Patrick received our prize, an exquisite Lie Nielsen low-angle block plane at the Saturday afternoon award presentation.

Woodworker of the Month. Honors went to R. P. Myers, who finally identified himself as the real Robert Paul; however, he prefers to be called by his initials. RP has a new shop and his wife has found it a perfect

venue for woodturning. RP's interests lie elsewhere, however, in the direction of artistic endeavors like sculpting wood, stone, and bronze. A former gemologist, rock hunter, and all-around good-fella, RP has already spent considerable time with sculptures. (He exhibited a fine wood & bronze work at the WoodFest Show). The multi-faceted Myers has led classes in jewelry-making also. Robert Paul is self-employed and runs a building design and planning service out of his Anacortes home.

Committee chairmen made announcements,

as follows: Ed Pysher, who is turning the education programs over to RP Myers, reported that only two classes remain in the current series, Joinery and Design. (Both classes were later scrubbed.) Nick reminded everyone that, we should be mindful that Arts Alive! is not that far away. Nick encouraged everyone to make an effort to put on another good, WoodFest-type show in early November.

Gene Benson's Toys for Tots program

is on the same crash course with Arts Alive!, both being late year events. Gene has a good volunteer group promising to make strong contributions this year. "I'd like to see collaborative activity and effort among some of the members," he said, referring to the last year's Fidalgo Racing Team's work in creating toy racers. "Group activity produces good results and is a lot of fun," he added.

Librarian Jim Torrence is making giant strides in simplifying our Club Library. He has cut out the card system, preferring the efficiency of a one-line log book you sign when you borrow and scratch it out when you return. Jim says you can borrow a video or book for one month, and you can re-borrow it again if that item is not reserved by someone else. Jim announced that new material is on the way and most Library titles are posted on our Website. If you want to check out a book or video, give Jim a call and he'll deliver at the next meeting.

The May 6 tour of the Boeing Future of Aviation Center has interested 14 members and guests. I announced

FIRE!

A fire in your shop can ruin your whole week.....especially if your shop is in the basement or an attached garage. Our May program will be all about how to prevent such an occurrence.....as well as what to do if a fire should occur. Many of the steps to prevention are simple, and definitely worth the time spent to implement. The program will be presented by Jerry Anderson who has more than 25 years experience in fire and arson investigation as well as fire service training. Jerry has served as an Assistant Washington State Fire Marshall, started and taught the Fire Service Training program at Skagit Valley College and has extensive private sector investigation experience. There will be plenty of time for questions, so look around your shop and make a list of questions about steps you might take to help avert a disaster in your shop.

that riding pools are being formed for the trip to Everett and that individuals must make their own reservations for the group's 10:30 tour. We plan to spend about four hours at the Center where we will tour the plant and museum and lunch in the new café. Final details will be worked out at the May meeting.

Val Matthews, Projects Chairman, repeated his invitation to all members to participate in the May meeting "2 by 4 Bake-off." Members will have the opportunity to determine who has found a way to make something appealing out of an 8-foot-long 2 x 4. This should be a real fun project for anyone with imagination, and we all get a chance to vote. A prize goes to the winner. "Build whatever you can," he said.

Wood of the Month. A rather unremarkable section of small diameter shrub made its way into Dave Blair's inquisitive nature. Dave wanted to see what lay below the bark and then gave us a chance to look at wood in a different way. Dave revealed colors in wood illuminated with black light. His dense wood, garden-variety branch took on an appealing green under florescent illumination. In another wood discussion, I briefed members on the growing interest by furniture- and cabinet-makers in the use of Lyptus as a substitute for a dwindling supply of cherry. Fast growing Lyptus is replenishable in 15 years, it's less expensive than cherry, and you can find it at EdenSaw.

Bring and Brag. Fresh from the Sedro Woolley Show, eight hand made planes were again trotted out by their individual tool-makers for everyone to see. The planes are all true and good performers, and the crew had a great time putting them together with the considerable help of Val Matthews. It was announced that a new class of five students will be formed soon. Graduated in the first handmade plane class were Gene Benson, Dave Blair, Jay Geisel, Laura Matthews, Doug McPhee, Jim Torrence, Nick Van, and Lucinda VanValkenburg.

Horse of Another Color. Another great Val Matthews project was displayed at Woodfest and the April meeting. The collaborative effort by several members created an unconventional shop tool, a shaving horse, for those times when a woodworker needs to use a draw

knife or spokeshave to pare wood comfortably and efficiently. The Club's newest treasure made it's debut at WoodFest where it received considerable visitor interest. Lucinda got on her horse at the April meeting to demonstrate how to shape a mallet handle using a spokeshave. The shaving horse was built in Val's shop by a team that included Val, Nick Van, Gene Benson, Gary Weyers, and Steve Intveld, who graciously furnished the maple wood for the Club project.

Bring and Brag exhibits were numerous, a welcome sign that members are again enjoying the exchange of ideas in woodworking projects. New member Bill Lee harvested his own burl of Western Maple on Camano Island to put together a cribbage board with the requisite alternating color spaces of a checkerboard. Chuck Robertson showed fresh ideas in creating a wood tea tray with a fabric top protected by Plexiglas. Walter Meyers built a mechanical marvel, a working representation of a cylinder in action in a reciprocating engine. Walter suggest this might be a boy-toy candidate for young minds in the Toys for Tots program. Several students of Doop's basic veneering class brought their "hands-on" veneer panels to show what can be accomplished with imagination and balance when assembling four pieces from the same flitch.

And, finally, "The Nautical World of John Gruenwald," right after cookies.

Jay Geisel, Secretary

Canoe Row A Boat?

John Gruenewald Tells How He Built His Boat

Fifteen years ago fellow woodworker John Gruenewald made the decision to build a canoe, an enterprise in which he had no prior knowledge. Once his mind was made up John started the arduous task by studying books on the subject. Lots of books. He talked with people who had built canoes or who were planning to build. He even took classes in canoe building at a school in Seattle.

Now why did John want to do this? He didn't clear up that question, but



we can surmise that it was a challenging project for a woodworker bent on testing his skills. Anyway, he did it and it took him several months to research and build an 11-1/2-foot one-person canoe that weighed in at 35 pounds wet.

The canoe-building process begins. John first constructed a half-length mock-up that served as the canoe form. With frame members in place, thin cedar slats 1-1/2-inches wide were fabricated and placed on the form to give shape to his “boat,” as John repeatedly called it. The sides of each wooden slat had to be planed to the correct bevels to conform and fit tightly with its neighbors, and then each slat was edge-glued and stapled in many places to its neighbors, which formed a strong interlocking assembly, properly shaped and ready for some hard sanding to give it a seamless appearance.

Fiberglassing the outer hull was the next step while the canoe was still resting on its form. John explained in detail how to shape the thin bow and stern areas and how to glass and fair these areas. Once off the form, the interior of the canoe is glassed, gunwales affixed, and any features can be added. John’s bright green project, the final product of this endearing effort, was on hand for all to see and admire. John brought with him a load of research data, books, plans, and technical details, and he described the process in step-by-step manner as best he could recall from a decade and a half ago. He had to learn new techniques along the way, like working with fiberglass, and it was apparent that John performed his tasks well.

John offered this advice to anyone about to make a canoe: “Don’t call me.” —Jay

Plane Chatter

That Crazy Horse. The Club collaboration turned out exceedingly well. Several members got in the saddle during cockie time and liked the wood clamping feature and the ease of adjusting the saddle for a comfortable ride. Our thanks go to Steve Intveld who once again donated a load of maple to the Club project.

Rock Around the Clock. I took a look in Cec Braeden’s shop the other day to see what was happening to his rocking chair project. To my surprise the chair was almost completed and he was making parts for a second. It’s a real beauty, done in walnut, with lots of curves and flowing lines to give it a regal, or classic, look.

Another Canoeer. More than one individual voiced his desire to build a canoe following John Gruenwald’s presentation the other night. Val Matthews said he’d like to construct a larger, two-person canoe. He has that big facility and a river runs through it. Is a launching in the works?

It Had to Be Yew. When an acquaintance of Larry Tomovick’s asked for help in building an Indian drum, Larry was impressed. The individual had Cheyene blood and a couple yew logs. Together, Larry and friend constructed two tall floor-standing drums and two hand-carried, smaller ceremonial drums. I saw the near-completed drums in his shop the other day and can concur that they are worthy projects for Tomovick’s creative talents. The drum heads will be attached by an Edison leather expert, and Larry expects to show one or two at B&B in about two months.

Doop Duped. Prez Robert received a “cooked” version of the Newsletter last month. It was quite different from the Newsletter others received. The special April Fool issue noted that the canoe program had to be cancelled and was being replaced with a personal visit and talk by Gino Rossi, a woodworker (sic), who ran for State Governor a year ago. Bob, of course, doesn’t cotton to Republicans. The phony baloney was the work of Cec Braeden, Nick Van and Rick Anderson.

Mantra. Those members who have attended the Finishing series of classes given by Phil Choquette have finally gotten the message about the wonders of shellac. It didn’t take long before a familiar chant took over about every ten minutes of class time. Let’s hear it again for Phil: “Shellac is our friend!”

Flight Plan. My new woodworking project has been slow getting off the ground. It’s a mahogany model airplane, a WWI Bi-wing Foker D VIII, with a wingspan of 24 inches. I plan to hang it in our downstairs activity room, probably over my wife’s objections. —Jay

Education Committee News

We wrapped up this seasons presentation of the Introduction to Woodworking series last month, and it was another rewarding series. We had as many attend this year as last, and there were a bunch of repeaters. You committee is beginning to work on next year’s program and your new Chairman; RP Myers has some great ideas. We tried to accomplish several new things in this series based on what we learned last year. We expanded some of the classes, particularly in hand tools and sharpening, to be able to get into more detail. We also wanted to get

more instructors involved and to hold classes in more shops. Recognizing that we have members from Ferndale to Arlington, we tried to do a better job of spreading the classes between “north end” and “south end” so no one would have to do too much driving. These efforts worked well, but we will do a better job on these objectives next season. Again, we learned a lot.

As the out-going Chairman, I want to personally thank everyone who worked on the program. The presenters worked hard to have meaningful materials and content and were more than willing to share their considerable expertise. They were Rick Anderson, Gene Benson, Dave Blair, Phil Choquette, Bob Doop, Gary Holloman and Ray McInnis. Classes were held in the following shops; Rick Anderson, Gene Benson, Dave Blair, Bob Doop, Gary Holloman, Val and Laura Matthews, Ray McInnis, RP Myers, Mike New and Jim Torrence. (These folks also provided the cookies!) Committee members were Greg Anderson, Gene Benson, Jeff O’Donnell, RP Myers and Ray McInnis. The presenters were “ad hoc” committee members and contributed greatly to the strategy. As you can see, it took a whole host of folks to bring you this program and I think they all deserve a heart-felt standing ovation.

Thank you for your support and encouragement and for giving me the opportunity to orchestrate the program. It has been a lot of fun! -Ed Pysher

May Open Shop Tours

May 13th from 9-4, you can visit from one to four shops as you have time for. In the spring and fall of each year we will have multiple shops to visit on the same week-end. May will be our spring multi-shop tour so you can go to Nick Van’s, Cec Braeden’s, Bob Doop’s or RP Myers’ shops; any one or all. An E-mail will be sent out the week before as a reminder and to provide driving directions for each of the shops.

This is an ideal opportunity to see how several of your fellow wood workers set up their shops and to get help with a project. We have had a lot of fun in our first two months of shop visits, so don’t miss this opportunity to get to know other woodworkers and learn new skills. It has been expressed that some members feel they don’t have a shop worthy of hosting an open shop visit. This is not a contest; we are not judging the shops. This is really an opportunity to get to know your fellow woodworkers, to learn who has skills that may help you through a crisis at some point.

We would like to have some of the members who haven’t hosted an open shop yet to consider joining in on the fun. Feel free to call if you would like to host an open shop. You do not have to clean up your shop, just be yourself and join in on the fun. Our experience has been that each shop has about a dozen fellow woodworkers stop by throughout the day (not all at the same time) so you don’t need a big shop. Give me a call. RP Myers @ 360-708-4677

NEW LIBRARY ADDITIONS

The Club Library has five additions, three books and two DVDs:

1. From his personal library, Jay Geisel has given us a book titled *The Home Workshop Planner*, by Wood Books of Des Moines, Iowa.

2. On the recommendation of Phil Choquette the club has purchased *Fifty Years a Planemaker and User* by Cecil E. Pierce. Published on 1992 it has much basic information and many excellent illustrations.

3. Since Don Parry on several occasions intrigued us with his wooden locks, the club has purchased *Making Working Wooden Locks*, by Tim Detweiler. A 2000 publication by Linden Publishing it has five complete plans for working wooden locks.

4. At the request of Jay Geisel the club has purchased *Router Joinery* with Gary Rogowski. This 2003 DVD by The Taunton Press is 75 minutes long and covers many joinery operations using a router.

5. The club has also purchased *Mastering your Bandsaw* with Mark Duginske. This 2003 DVD by The Taunton Press is 57 minutes long is all about tuning and accurately using your bandsaw.

Remember, a listing of most of our library resources can be found on our website, www.ncwawood.org

Toys for Tots

This year is looking to be great. We have 28 woodworkers committed to making toys. I would like to initiate joint team efforts to both making the pendulum cradle and the train, both of which I made last year. I have made an extensive set of templates and assembly fixtures for the cradle and “as-built” drawings for the train. We can have full day hands-on sessions, which will be both learning and toy making. Let’s give it a try. My wife makes great cookies and anyone who has been to my shop knows I make fantastic coffee. All interested NCWA members can e-mail, phone or see me at our May meeting. Dates, attendees, etc. will be worked out. -Gene Benson

WoodFest 2006

A very special weekend!

People's Choice Winner Andrew Stewart (right) with his very well crafted maple chest featuring figured maple, dovetails and drawers. Andrew also won the award for Best Joinery. Andrew's proud dad is Sedro Woolley High School woodworking instructor Mike Stewart.



Other Woodfest winners (clockwise) were Patrick Janicki for Outstanding Craftsmanship with his bubinga & maple bed, Dylan Myers' oak cabinet won Most Challenging Project and Courtney Eby whose cutting board was voted Best Design. Not pictured is Sarah Martin whose segmented bowl won the Best Finish award. Also shining was Marco Berera (lower left) from the Vancouver guild inspiring us with his 2 x 4 contest winners.....the most recent a Swiss Army Knife which also contained a replica bandsaw and lathe. Previous winners by Marco include a scaled replica working treadle lathe and Gutenberg printing press.



BRING 'N BRAG..... an NCWA tradition!



From our Plane Making class led by Val Matthews.



New member Bill Lee shows off his maple burl cribbage board



A lesson in fluorescence by Dave Blair. Bottom photo is shown under a black light.



Walter Meyers internal combustion engine toy.



Lucinda puts the club shaving horse through it's paces as project leader Val looks on.

THE WOOD SHED.....

AMERICAN ELM SALE

5/4 X 8-10" Widths. 6' lengths. 200bf. \$1.50/bf
\$1/bf for whole lot. Steve Intveld 360-592-5670

COMING EVENTS

May 2nd	7:00PM	Monthly Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge in Mount Vernon
May 13th	10AM-4PM	Shop Tours	See Article Page 6
May 17th	7:00PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Restaurant on Hwy 20
May 20th	Noon	Newsletter Deadline	Rick's Email Box
June 6th	7 PM	Monthly Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge in Mount Vernon
August 5th	TBD	Annual Picnic	Laura & Val Matthews, 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.

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:	Mike New	(360) 707-2314

MISSING

Our scroll saw wizard Gary Weyers made a neat **Arts Alive!** sign for our show last November. But it seems to have been misplaced during move-out. So if you have any information leading to the recovery or apprehension of this sign, Gary would be forever grateful.

And while we are on the subject of

ARTS ALIVE!

It's only 6 months away.....let's aim for an even better showing than we made at Woodfest. Start planning your projects now!

AS THE WEB SPINS.....

Check out the latest online resource for woodworkers, www.thewoodworkingchannel.com featuring nonstop videos on woodworking techniques of all types.

The World's Largest Turned Bowl

Turned by Austrians, it measures 13.15 ft. in diameter and is 3.35 ft. from rim to base. Check out their lathe.....a Vicmarc it ain't! Their feat has earned them a place in the Guinness Book of Records. See more photos at: www.peter-andres.com/www_root/index_ie.html

