

NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

October 2005

Al Stratton, NCWA Member Emeritus

A Tribute to Al Stratton.....Humanitarian, Naturalist, and Woodworker.

We are indebted to Al for giving this organization much to be proud of and for his constant effort to help anyone who seeks to tap his wealth of wood knowledge and woodturning. This is a kind and a quiet man who is confident in his abilities to work wood and serve as a guide for others, sympathetic to their struggles through a tough problem, and always eager to give his support to those of less experience.

Al enjoys his time with his grandchildren; he's a fisherman who is hooked on angling and delights in sharing those moments with his youngsters who he considers perfect fishing buddies. He'll stop turning at the drop of a hat and head for the nearest fishin' hole. What could be a better use of your time than fishin' and turnin'?



Al's contributions to the woodworking community and the Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association, in particular, couldn't have been better. He helped organize and nurture a young organization and kept it on its feet for twenty years. His countless donations to, and many years in management of our library, has given us priceless knowledge for our individual woodworking journeys. We enjoyed the time he's spent with us and we'll surely miss his thoughtful guidance and benevolent nature at future meetings.

God bless you, Al Stratton. Have a long, active, and healthy life in that delightful garden you call home.

Charter Member Recognition

We are so incredibly fortunate to have enjoyed the many, many years of participation and guidance from Al Stratton, to our NCWA. Much of what we enjoy today is as a direct result of Al's Charter membership, and deserves our recognition.

From Al's lifelong contributions to woodworking, and Charter membership to our NCWA, I am honored to announce that the Officers and Committee Chairmen of the NCWA have unanimously agreed that Al will also become our first, "*Member Emeritus*", for his significant contribution to woodworking and the NCWA.

To Al, our hats are off, our hands are out, we applaud and thank you.

James Haddock Sr.
President
NCWA

When Last We Met on September 7, 2005

The September meeting proved to be the launch pad for a comprehensive Fall educational program as outlined by Chairman Ed Pyshe. Enthusiasm for the series that begins with seven power tool classes and six sessions on tuning, sharpening and hands-on use of hand tools such as planes, scrapers, and chisels was evident from member replies to the recent survey.

It was back to school for woodworkers eager to brush up on router and table saw basics. These first classes, Ed reported, start at Gene Benson's home workshop on September 12, followed by an introduction to table saws by Val Matthews at his shop on the 19th with a follow-up class on maintenance and saw accessories on the 26th. Ed stated that training classes are given on daytime Saturdays and Monday evenings. He reminded us that no Monday classes are given during the same week as the regular monthly meetings.

Ed has set an ambitious training program for the next several months and has detailed the entire educational series through next April on a schedule printed in the September issue of the Newsletter. You can also keep abreast of the training sessions, their content and time schedule, by checking the Club's Website.

Thirty-three members, not a large crowd, made their way to Hillcrest Lodge in Mount Vernon for this end-of-summer meeting. President James Haddock, Sr. welcomed several guests and led us through a one-hour business meeting. The Activity Committee Chair, Nick Van, laid out his plan for another shop visitation tour for Whatcom County venues set for Saturday, September 10, between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Those members hosting Open Shops are Rick Anderson, Lyle Hand, Jerry Haynes, Vern Leibrant, Ray McInnes, and John Rutter.

Coming Events. Cec Braden, Program Chairman, outlined an October program that will present the favorite finishing technique used by three different woodworkers. The program will be given at the next meeting in Julian Lee's large home workshop. The Finishing School will be presented by Julian, Phil Choquette, and Braden. The November meeting is traditionally waived to allow members to concentrate on the Arts Alive festival. For the election of officers' meeting in December, which will be held at Hillcrest Lodge in Mount Vernon, Cec proposed a pre-meeting meal for members. Those wishing to dine together would make reservations in advance for sandwiches and beverages that would be catered by Geri-delis restaurant in Anacortes. More on this later.

Arts Alive! Phil Choquette, Arts Alive Chair, reported that we will be exhibiting at the Garden Club in LaConner again on the first weekend of November. Although the annual festival has been expanded to three days, Friday through Sunday, NCWA's Arts Alive! participation will be on Saturday and Sunday. We will use Friday to set up our exhibits and demonstrations between the hours of 5 to 8 p.m. Phil has some neat signage prepared to direct the public up the hill to the Second Street Garden Club.

Cloverdale Wood Show. Your scribe issued a plea for advance reservations for the Club's 2005 Cloverdale Tool and Wood Show tour by chartered bus on October 22nd. Reservations received to date have been disappointing, and I asked those having trip plans to pay early. About 16 riders have indicated their desire to attend the West Coast's biggest tool show. More will be needed to justify the bus

Next Meeting: October 4th, 7:00 pm

Julian Lee's Shop

3701 Rosario Crest Lane, Anacortes

Phone: 360-299-2900 or 425-501-0666 (cell)

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.

The October program is an extension of the very popular "My Favorite Finishes" program held last January in Julian Lee's shop. We are all a little intimidated when it comes to putting a finish on the woodworking masterpiece that we worked so hard to complete. We took great care with each step of the construction up to and including the final sanding. Are we now going to ruin it by putting a lackluster or brush-marked finish on it? Will it invite your spouse and/or friends to touch it and enjoy the satin smooth feel or will you hope they don't look too close and certainly not touch it? It seems that every woodworker eventually finds a finishing technique that "works" for them. We are honored to have two expert woodworkers who will demonstrate their favorite methods. Phil Choquette will demonstrate the art of finishing with shellac. Ron Grant will demonstrate his lacquering techniques. Perhaps you will find one of these processes to be just right for you as well. Don't miss this program!

charter. A final decision will be made at the October meeting.

Librarian Tom Chartier announced three new additions to the Club Library. They include two woodworking videos and a book on using the Kreg Jig.

Bring and Brag. Cec Braden's innovative plywood workbench that attracted the attention of *Fine Woodworking* magazine is expected to be a feature of the November issue. Color proof pages of the final layout of text and photos were sent to Cec for his review and correction. Cec brought a copy of the layout pages to the meeting, where they found an appreciative audience. A raffle for a similar workbench created by Cec continues through Arts Alive! celebration when the winning ticket will be drawn. Net proceeds go to our student educational fund.

Jim Murphy builds big things that he can't easily bring into a meeting. Case in point: Jim just crafted a monumental grandfather's clock out of birch.. It's beautiful; he loves it; he took pictures of it. We had an opportunity to enjoy it too.

Gary Weyers got a huge laugh out of members for his miniture table saw. His ingenious concoction was a scaled table with a handsaw partially embedded in its top.

Problem-Solving. Jim Davis asked for solutions to handling the corners of a tray he was building. His concern was in regard to routing round-overs on four sides of a serving tray and how best to handle the corners to protect them from chipping out. The answers were to back route (reverse) the corners before taking a light, final cut in the standard direction.

Larry Tomovick's favorite wood purveyor is Karl Stout, the Anacortes resident who regularly imports container loads of exotic South American hardwoods to this area. Karl has recently received a supply of Manzanita from Argentina, along with popular Quina. Larry boosts Karl's endeavors because he gets good discounts and finds Karl to be completely honest and forthright about the moisture content of his kiln dried products.

Woodworker of the Month. Richard Zegers was well prepared for his “three minutes of fame” address to the membership with two pages of thumbnail photos of his wide-ranging workshop projects through the years. His shop, as small as he admits it is has enabled him to produce décor and other items for the home as well as dozens of gifts for family and friends. Richard found it was an easy step from DIY work on his home into creating smaller objects like clocks, picture frames, bookends, lamps, and also the cane that helps keep him going. He spends a lot of time on that narrow strip of garage space that he calls his shop.

One of the features of the evening that gave particular joy to Ed, our Club Treasurer, was a raffle of several tools donated by Vice President Bob Doop. Beneficiary of all Club raffles is our student educational fund.

—Jay Geisel, Secretary



Richard Zegers.....Woodworker of the Month

Humorous and Disarming, Mayor Shows His Stuff

It isn't magic, but it could be called slight-of-hand. That's what Herb Kuhnly faces every day when he steps into his home workshop to work on scale-model vehicles that give him local celebrity status as much as being the Mayor of Stanwood. Kuhnly, you see, is one-armed, but this physical set-back has not deterred his woodworking habits in the least.

Credible stories of Hizzoner's toy-making talents were told and retold by Nick Van before we began making efforts to schedule the Mayor to one of our meetings many months ago. Well, we finally cornered him and he did not disappoint. Herb brought a dozen or more of his model vehicles, or toys if you want to call them that. He unloaded cars, trucks, road working machinery, farm and fire-fighting equipment, and other wheeled items onto a large table. Friends will ask him to create a favorite machine and he obliges them with a model wrought from a photo or sketch, and his fertile imagination. He has created dozens of toys for friends, as gifts for his family, and some he keeps for himself. They are well constructed, finely finished, and functional.



Mayor Herb Kuhnly w/ Prez James shows off one of his great toy creations.

Take his '34 Chevy Coupe, for example. The vehicle is an accurate depiction right down to the rumble seat door that opens and closes. Herb crafts his models with wheels that roll, cranes that move and lift, and cargo and ladders that can be removed from their vehicle. Herb makes his wheels from scratch and he does his work with ordinary machines designed for two-handed operation.

“As a one-handed woodworker, I’m really impressed by what a one armed person can do,” Larry Tomovick said after the meeting.

Car Pooling in, Charter Bus out, for Cloverdale Show

The NCWA trip to the Cloverdale Wood and Tool Show on Saturday, October 22nd, will be undertaken with vanpools instead of charter bus. Unfortunately, there were not enough reservations to warrant the 36-passenger tour bus. But the show will go on as planned. Several members have stepped forward to volunteer their vehicle for a “B.C. gaggle” that will accommodate all who have made reservations for the Cloverdale jaunt.

Present plans call for riders and the four or five tour vehicles to meet at the Bellingham Bellis Fair Mall Food Court entrance area before 8:30 a.m. for coffee and/or breakfast; we will make a start for the short trip to the Canadian border before 9. Parking at the Show has always been tight so we should arrive before the doors open at 10.

Remember to bring the proper documents needed for the border crossing. These include your passport or birth certificate; if you don’t have a passport you also need to show a driver’s license or other official document with your photo attached.

Riders will be asked for a \$10 contribution to offset fuel costs. Club Treasurer Ed Pysher is preparing to mail refund checks to all who have paid for the bus trip. If you have any questions about the trip please call me at (360) 466-3908. These instructions and any further changes will be repeated at the October meeting.

-Jay Geisel



A table full of Mayor Herb Kuhnly’s toy creations.....enough to delight a kid of any age!

In Memoriam

NCWA Member Dwaine “Tony” Lowe

Longtime NCWA Member Tony Lowe passed away at his Sedro Woolley home on September 16th. He was 86. Though Tony was unable to attend our meetings in recent years he remained a member to the present and is remembered by several of our longstanding members who knew him. Laura recalls Tony as an “adept tool collector”.....a fact confirmed by Phil who recalls Tony showing up at Arts Alive a few years ago with a near complete set of Bridge City Tools he had purchased for a pittance at a thrift store. Tony set the tools out on a table for all to envy and enjoy. Tony had proudly served in the CCC (Civil Conservation Corps) during the Great Depression. Reminders of CCC work still remain in many of our State and National Parks, including rockwork guardrail piers which can be seen along the roadway in the Deception Pass area. Tony also played baseball for a farm club of the Kansas City Royals and was a longtime member of the Sheet Metal Workers. Rest in peace fellow woodworker!

****WIN THE BRAEDEN BENCH!****

The unique workbench designed and built by Cec Braeden will appear in the November issue of *Fine Woodworking* magazine. This bench could be yours.....with the purchase of a \$5 raffle ticket. Buy yours now! And sell some to your friends. Proceeds go to the NCWA Vocational Education Fund.

**** ARTS ALIVE! ****

NOVEMBER 5th & 6th

Show Hours 10AM to 6PM

Setup Friday Nov. 4th 5PM to 8PM

Start your planning NOW! Get involved! Show a project.....sell your work (optional).....help w/ demos.....volunteer to staff the show. This is our big public outing of the year.....It's lots of fun! A sign-up sheet will be circulated at the October meeting for members who plan to display their craft as well as members willing to help with the show. **Please be sure to sign up!**

For additional information call Phil Choquette

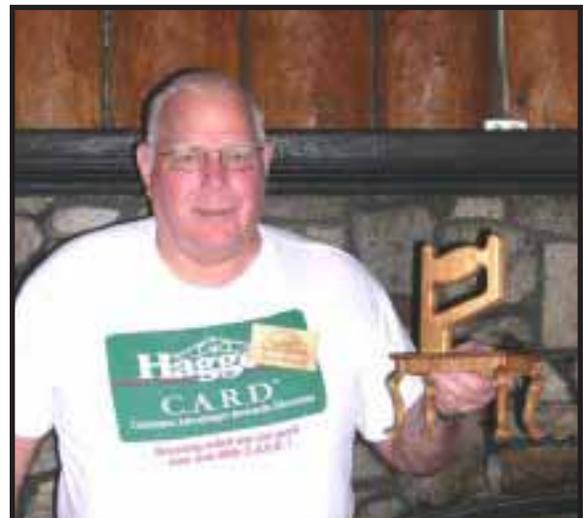
(360) 675-8320

NOTE: Arts Alive! is in lieu of our regular November meeting

Busy Members show their work.....



Gene Benson and a really, really big “Toy for Tots”.....an exquisite maple book case for the children’s section of the LaConner Library. Way to go Gene!



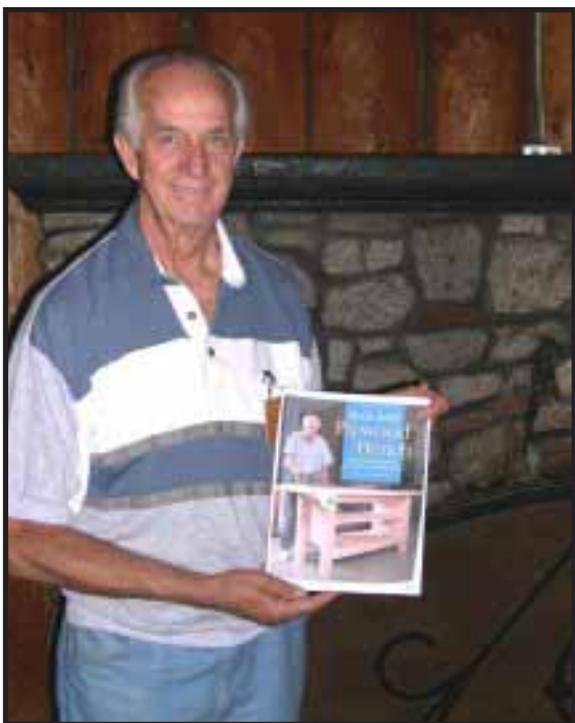
Gary Weyers took time out from his Toys for Tots production to build a new “table saw”.

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

PERFORMAX 22-44 PRO, 5 yr. old heavy-duty style, casters, poly feed belt, 115V or 230V option, probably \$200 worth of sandpaper, all for \$750. John Rutter 360-647-1343



The guy in *Fine Woodworking* looks surprisingly like the guy holding the magazine. Yup.....Cec Braeden & his workbench will soon be on the newstands! And if you haven't purchased a raffle ticket yet be sure to buy one.....you could win Cec's famous bench! (Also encourage your friends to buy tickets.....the \$\$\$ go to our Vocational Education Fund.)



Another Braeden Project.....Cec writes: "Here's a photo of my new lumber rack. I am pleased with the way the rack turned out. I adapted the plan from an article in the December/January 2004-2005 Wood magazine. I built a jig to make sure everything came out the same on each vertical. The arms are all pretty much level with the most deviation on any arm being about 1/8th of an inch across the breadth of the rack. The whole thing cost a little over \$100, including the Tapcon screws to attach the verticals to the concrete wall. Of course, the cost varies with the number of verticals and the number of arms. I have the jig if anyone would like to borrow it to build their own rack.

AS THE WEB SPINS.....

This month, a couple of favorite websites from our September Woodworker of the Month, Richard Zegers:

www.Klockkit.com

Full of plans, parts and ideas for making clocks.

www.wildwooddesign.com

Lots of ideas and patterns for the scroll saw craftsman as well as forums to exchange ideas and questions.

The original design called for verticals of 39" and just three levels for storage of lumber. I suspect the design was based on considerations of space and the fact that the verticals were attached to studs. I don't know what the load limits for studs are but I'm sure they are less than my concrete wall. My verticals are 7' high and are attached with six Tapcon screws into the concrete. The arms for the rack are 14" long, with 12" exposed. I made the lower rack 16" long with 14" exposed just in case I get some wider lumber. Actually, all of the arms can be moved around to change the configuration as desired. The gaps between the arms are exactly the same as the ones with the arms, so one could install more or less arms as desired."

COMING EVENTS

Oct. 4th	7PM	Monthly Meeting	Julian Lee's Shop
Oct. 19th	7 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Restaurant on Hwy 20
Oct. 22nd	Noon	Newsletter Deadline	Rick's Email Box
Oct. 21-23	10 AM	Cloverdale Woodworking Show	Cloverdale, BC
Oct. 22nd	8:30 AM	Club Trip (carpool) to Cloverdale Show	Cloverdale, BC
Nov. 4th	5 to 8 PM	Arts Alive! Move-In	LaConner
Nov. 5 & 6	10 to 6	Arts Alive!	LaConner (NOTE: Arts Alive! is in lieu of our regular November meeting)

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

Next time will you buy a "Cermet" blade?

An evolutionary saw blade with ceramic-metal teeth has woodworkers leading the charge to adopt the newest advance in cutting technology. Cermet-tipped blades will soon replace our carbide cutters; they allow blades to cut hardwood fast and cool with smooth, glue-line proficiency. Serious woodworkers and wood product manufacturers are already using cermet blades, but they often wait weeks to get their orders filled. Customers enjoy four times the performance and five times the life of cermets over their carbide-tipped blades.

In a review in the current issue of Woodwork magazine, cermets are described as solid chunks of new material on the blade tips and the number of teeth are reduced by one-third. Price for a 24-tooth blade is \$150 and an 80-tooth goes for \$229. Cermet blades are being developed by some of the world's biggest saw manufacturers who have found many successful applications. Right now the demand exceeds supply and customers are forced to wait weeks for delivery, but as production increase prices will drop.

Like carbide overtaking steel, its' only a matter of time before ceramics replace almost every other cutting material, they say. — Jay

Here's a website with more information on Cermet saw blades: www.carbideprocessors.com/saws/intro.htm

NOTE: The above article is a bonus for email newsletter "subscribers" only.