



# NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

September 2006

**Next Meeting: September 5th, 2006**  
**Gary Holloman's Shop**  
**11966 Westar Lane at Skagit Regional Airport**  
**Phone: 360-202-0099 or 360-840-3701**

Take Hwy 20 to Higgins Airport Rd. at the sign marking the entrance to the Skagit Regional Airport. **From the West**, this is approx. 2.8 miles east of the Farmhouse Restaurant. **From the East**, this is approx. 2 miles west of Avon Allen Rd. Go North approx. 1.6 mi. on Higgins Airport Rd. until you reach the airport area. Turn right onto Peterson Rd. and go 100 yards and turn left onto Westar. Go 25' and turn left into the parking lot. Gary's shop is the first building on the northwest corner of the intersection. Enter at the first door on the east end of the building. Gary does not have a sign on his building. **Gary's cell, in case you get lost, is 360-840-3701**

**It's all about the glue!** That's the stuff that holds our projects together. But what is the glue that holds our guild together? I think it is the SHIPS.

**FELLOWSHIP:** *A community of interest, a company of equals, association, sisterhood, brotherhood, camaraderie, guild.* When we come together it is for the shared interest of working with wood. "What project are you working on?" "What wood are you using?" "How much did your new bandsaw cost?" This is all familiar talk amongst longtime guild members.

But how do we bring guests and new members into our conversations? You and I need to look for someone not familiar to us, be it a guest or new member. "Hi, my name is Billy Bob....what is your sign?" Rather, "do you have a bandsaw?" "Tell me....when did you get the woodworking bug?" "What aspects of woodworking are of the most interest to you?" And any other questions that will truly get you acquainted rather than just exchanging pleasantries. You will discover things of common interest based on a mutual love of working with wood. And from this, friendships often develop.

**FRIENDSHIP:** *Friendliness, Harmony, Rapport, Association.* It is our wood centered friendships that make it so easy and enjoyable to drive an hour in the rain to a guild meeting or class. And it's there that we discover that Fast Eddie bought a new bandsaw.....and Nick bought another 1510 B.F. of Poplar. And you will soon discover equally exciting things going on with your new found woodworking friends. Including them in our conversations will broaden our experiences.....and theirs too! Make the effort to broaden your circle of woodworking friends.

**MENTORSHIP:** *Guiding, Teaching, Coaching, Training.* It's a natural extension and development of our Fellowship and Friendship. Not just the classes we hold or the chat that goes on before, during and after our meetings, but just as importantly knowing that we can call on a fellow member to guide us with a project or problem.....or help us make a difficult cut.....or veneer a cabinet door. We hope to create a more formal mentoring program with a member resource list.....but meanwhile, most members have discovered our informal mentoring system to be one of the key member benefits. Let's be sure to include our newer members in our mentoring networks.

**RELATIONSHIP:** *Affinity, Likeness, Relevance, Kinship.* As a natural result of our guild many members

develop relationships with other members based on common interests and activities. Often these relationships fill in the gaps between meetings. . . . lunch together, share a tool or piece of wood, develop a new technique together, laugh at red & blue emails knowing that our common love of woodworking is a stronger bond than any political affiliation will ever be!

So there we have it. . . . the SHIPS that make up the glue of our guild. May our glue pot never be empty!

bd

## Notes on A Paper Plate

### We owe them so much.

Val and Laura Matthews have for the past several years made our annual picnic possible and enjoyable. Our gracious hosts showed us again the tremendous amount of energy it takes to prepare for our seasonal visit. Elegant gardens, freshly trimmed lawns, seating and shade providers, and the household services offered all remind us that this is a tremendous task. (And then there's the clean-up!) Val and Laura, we thank you from the bottom of our dusty hearts!

### We don't want to overlook another tremendous job from

**Bob Doop.** Each year he manages to put the food preparation task into operation. The feeding of ever-increasing crowds of hungry woodsmen has reached epic proportions. With a crew of assistant cooks, Bob, along with several volunteers, manages to produce delectable

food while we laze about in the summer sun. We thank them all for their talented, unstinting efforts.

### Woodturners' President Julian Lee

broke out his truckload of parts and reassembled the 60-foot model racecar track for its second use, this time at our picnic. The monster downhill dual-track was set up in the Matthews' driveway for an afternoon of racing fun. A half-dozen enthusiasts used their design and crafting skills to vie for first-place honors, but again that award went to Val who was not content to re-race last year's winning car but put together a delta-shaped vehicle with the same skinny wheels, axles, and tires that have worked so well for him. Rick Anderson's entry this year had the requisite number of wheels and fared much better than the first time. Julian's second-place racer was fast but prone to spinouts. Nevertheless he took second place again. As for the others, they were lucky to make it to the finish line.

### Again this year our Silent Auction was a huge

**success.** Sellers of unwanted tools found eager buyers intent on out-bidding others for the privilege of adding more stuff in their shops. There were some good buys and even new tools offered. Herb Laiche took home a new band saw. —Jay

## September is Jig Night

Jig night – Jigs are those wonderful devices that make woodworking easier and more precise. There are many that are well known and nearly universal in acceptance. Some have proven so popular that they become commercial items. Others are made by the woodworker to solve just one problem in one particular project and then never used again. Some jigs might better be called fixtures because we rely on them repeatedly in our work.

Well-designed jigs and fixtures increase the accuracy of our tools and make them safer and easier to use. We should spend some time before we build our jigs really thinking things through. If our design is too complex, it may not be worth the effort it takes to build.

Please bring your favorite jig or fixture to the September meeting. (You may bring more than one if you like) Don't think your jig isn't worthy of being shown because it is too simple. When it comes to effective jigs, simplicity is usually best. Be prepared to discuss your jig's design and use. Don't worry, this doesn't have to be a formal presentation, just imagine you are explaining it to your best friend. If possible, bring sketches or a drawing of your jigs with measurements and other details regarding their use. If practical, make about 20 copies. Alternatively, the club can take your drawings and make copies for handout at a subsequent meeting. Don't let the lack of a drawing keep you from participating in this program.

If you think enough of your jig or fixture and that it would be of interest to others, make one to be included in a raffle at the September meeting. We will place all of the items on a table to be raffled off with the proceeds from raffle tickets going to our Education Fund. As is our usual practice, raffle winners will have the opportunity to select from whatever is left on the table when their number is drawn.

## August Rites Proclaimed "Success"

**Why do we like picnics?** They get us outside, away from suburbia and worldly cares, computers, and the trappings that dominate our daily lives. We snuggle up to Nature and smell the roses. Picnics are panacea for the troublesome grind. Did

you ever see picnickers who weren't smiling? (Other than Bob Doop, perhaps?)

**A picnic might be life at its finest moment.** Some of the unforgettable joys are the companionship, making new friends and, of course, anticipating the Feast ahead as we watch our volunteer cooks and food handlers get things in order. The smoking barbeques and the tangy cooking odors put our salivating gears in motion. Some people say they never eat a hot dog unless it's at a ballpark. Well, they forget about those they relished at a picnic, for they are the best.

**Here we are, 70 to 80 decent folk**, gathered in sylvan glory at Val and Laura Matthew's home in Bow, chomping on the best eats this side of the Great Divide, settlers circled around the cooking fires eating tender-kernelled ears of corn, smoked sausage that melt in the mouth, half-foot long hot dogs, and juicy cheeseburgers bearing recent marks of searing flames.

And that's just the hot food. As with any well-organized gustatory event, each person brings a favorite dish to join the sea of other covered dishes that lade the tables with yet another way of making potato salad, for example. Vegetables, fruit, salads, and desserts are prepared in individualized, tantalizing styles that delight both eye and tooth. We don't stop chewing until we reach a sated state of near immobility, like some overstuffed parlor piece.

**Now that's a real picnic.** No speeches, no political pandering, and not a growler in the crowd. Wouldn't it be nice if every day were a picnic? —Jay

### **All Aboard for Cloverdale, B. C**

**If you are planning to join the Club's group trip** to the giant Wood and Tool Show in Cloverdale (Surrey) on Saturday, October 21, you'd better have your bus fare ready for the September meeting. The only bus available to us this year is a comfortable 30-passenger charter from Hesselgrave International in Bellingham. That limits members and wives to a smaller ridership than before. Members can assure a seat by paying their fares at the September meeting. If any seats remain, they will be offered at the October meeting. Pay now and you won't be disappointed. The fare is \$20 per person.

**Schedule:** Passengers will load at Mount Vernon and then Bellingham. Mount Vernon departure is 8:30 a.m. from Lowe's

parking lot (SE corner) on W. College Way near I-5. Our bus will arrive at the entrance side to the Food Court at Bellis Fair Mall in Bellingham about 9 o'clock. There will be time for a quick breakfast or coffee before departing the Food Court at 9:30 a.m., with our northern passengers on board. The Canadian arrival will take another 30 or 40 minutes. We plan to arrive back in Mount Vernon about 5 p.m.

**All passengers must carry proper border-crossing documents** with them. A Passport alone will suffice, but

those without passport will be required to show two items: a U.S. Birth Certificate and another ID with picture, such as a valid Driver's License. One of the joys of crossing by bus is the expediency offered. Busses and trucks use a different route and gate over the border, which usually means a faster crossing. Also, on return,

riders can obtain instant refunds of the GST taxes for items they purchase. The Tool Show offers plenty of good tool-working seminars. To fit these one-hour demos in your schedule, we suggest you plan your day's activities as soon as you get a copy of the day's planned events. Wear comfortable shoes and enjoy the experience! Jay Geisel, Tours

### **ARTS ALIVE ALERT!**

Woodworkers start your projects! Arts Alive! is coming **November 3, 4 & 5** in LaConner. This is our chance to show off our craft! Member sales are permitted, but optional. Let's show our community what we do instead of mowing our lawn! For more details, contact Phil Choquette or Nick Van.

### **Open Shop Visits**

September kicks off our 2006-2007 Shop Visit Schedule. This year we are going to have two open shops per month in the same vicinity to make it easier for members to participate. I will announce the current months visit at the monthly meetings and send out a reminder E-mail the week prior to the shop visit. Don't miss this opportunity to get to know your fellow woodworkers, see how others deal with the same issues you do and share helpful tips and skills.

The following is the schedule for the first six months:

September: Richard Zegers & Targo Woods

October: Logan Sullivan and ? (I need one shop in the Mount Vernon area)

November: Jeff O'Donnell & Walter Meyers

December: Chuck Robertson & Nick Van

January: Jay Geisel & Gene Benson (Maybe others in the Shelter Bay Community)



February: RPMyers & ? (I need one more in the Anacortes area)

March: OPEN

April: OPEN

May: OPEN

-RP Meyers

## Toys for Tots

We are entering into the last quarter of 2006 for doing something to bring some joy to kids in need this Christmas. What better way to express your love for kids through your woodworking by making toys. Your pleasure and satisfaction in working with wood is enhanced many fold by the good you are doing for the kids that will be without, except for your dedication.

The first weekend in Nov. is the time we will be able to first show our work for this year, at "Arts' Alive". The next opportunity will be at our regular meeting the first Wed. in Dec.

Thanks for all you have done for Toys for Tots so far this year; let's make the most of the time now before Christmas. Toys for Tots is looking for a new chairman to run the program. I know someone out there would do a great job with the program, so please come forward. -Gene Benson

## A Visit to Al's Place

The day could not have been more beautiful. A gorgeous sunrise over the Cascade mountains, light fleecy clouds, a light breeze from the north and no traffic for my journey the Al Straton's place north of Bellingham. You see, Al is selling his inventory of fine woods of most shapes and stripes. I wanted to be first in line.

Arriving at about 9:00AM, Al was already at work guiding interested woodworkers around his property. Each of his outbuildings contain numerous treasures. In one, there are turning blanks of western locust, maple, birch, crabapple and just about every other local species you can imagine. Included were unpolished agate and other beautiful stones of almost any shape and color; some sliced into small slabs; some untouched.



Like kids in the proverbial candy store, NCWA members (Dave & Rick above, Scott below) had a fun time finding the perfect pieces (MANY pieces) of wood for their next projects.



In the next building, Al showed us a number of wonderful 1/8" sliced veneers. There were redwood slices showing character and figure almost like lacewood. The character of the wood showed through, even before surfacing so one could only conclude that the finished veneer will be spectacular! There were more turning blanks, crotches, bowl blanks, and other pieces of numerous species. A quick look up, down and sideways revealed more dimension lumber – crabapple, butternut, manzanita, walnut, oak, ponderosa pine, fir – all neatly stacked and stickered.

And, finally, we found the lumber shed. My goodness! Butternut, pine, crabapple, maple, and my favorite, English Brown Oak (I bought the stack). Wood carefully stickered and stacked with care in the same order as when the boards were sliced from the log. Lot's of bookmatching opportunities here. What's more, Al's pricing is very reasonable.

When my personal tour was over, I noticed ten to fifteen pick up trucks parked in the drive and from each came woodworkers who would receive the same gracious attention I received from Al and his family. Each woodworker found something they couldn't resist since the choices are many and the pricing is affordable. And Al seemed to have a close friendship with each piece in the inventory.

Al has been a thoughtful steward of the wood he has nurtured. Yes, nurtured. You see, when Al purchased his land many years ago, it was virtually stripped of trees and was being used to graze sheep. The trees on his land, and the resulting lumber, were planted, thinned, pruned, and sheperded by Al and his family through the years. The floor of the forest has been neatly maintained and thinned so the scene is idyllic.

The property is sublime, heavily wooded with subtle undergrowth. Most of the trees are native to the Pacific Northwest, but there are non-native hardwoods of many varieties mixed in. Al's stewardship is evident everywhere on his land, even to the multitude stacks of firewood gracing his driveway, all neatly cut and stacked in brigade like rows. I was honored to have visited his small slice of heaven once again and encourage all of our members to visit Al to take part in his lessons of using nature's bounty. —Nick Van

## Book Review

### **One Good Turn, A Natural History of the Screwdriver and the Screw**

**When his New York Times editors** asked him to write an essay identifying “the best tool of the millennium,” award-winning writer Witold Rybezynski, who once built a house using only hand tools, started a quest that eventually led to the invention of the helical screw in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> Century, “without which there would be no telescope, no microscope – in short, no enlightenment science. The screwdriver, perhaps the last hand tool in a world gone cyber, represents nothing less than the triumph of precision.”

**The elegant journey back in time** explores the steps that led to the screw and how mankind's inventive mind worked out solutions to ancient problems. Archimedes in the First Century B.C. invented the water wheel and designed the helix. Armorers used mail first but then up-graded armor with threaded screws to bolt plates together. The first trigger mechanisms in guns required two screws to make them work. Early screws made from sketches by Leonardo were made for a long time by laboriously filing their threads to shape. Adding helical threads, in a cone shape, was a fabulous invention. The story of mechanical discovery and genius takes readers from Ancient Greece to Victorian Glasgow, from weapons design in the Italian Renaissance to car design in the age of American industry.

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**The author describes the importance of the screw** in paper, linen, and printing presses and describes the first screw-cutting lathe of 1797. The screwdriver, then identified as the *turnscrew*, was the necessary tool invented to fit the slot that turned the screw. By the early 1800's the demand for screwdrivers was large enough to warrant factory production and Sheffield, then the center of the British steel industry, produced the finest. In their earliest tool catalogs the author found an entire family of screwdrivers running from 3 to 14 inches in length in two patterns, Scotch (flat, tapered blades) and London (more elaborate, waisted blades) titled “sewing machine turnscrews, cabinet turnscrews, and a small pocket model, the Gent's Fancy Turnscrew.”

**Considerable information is given** about the invention of other ancient tools, the A-Level, for example, that preceded the spirit level, braces, spokeshaves, etc. The author explains how Canadian Peter L. Robertson came to invent the square-socket screw head and why it took so long to be accepted by the American auto industry.

**All-in-all, this is a fascinating excursion** into tool history and development, one that woodworkers can truly enjoy. The volume is heavily illustrated with pen and ink drawings and old catalog sketches, many resembling the hand tools we use today.

Published by Scribner in 2000, the small book originally sold for \$22. I was lucky to find it on sale at University Book Store for about \$6. What a find! (Ubookstore.com., or 1-800-335-READ. ISBN 0-684-86729-X.)

**So**, when others say “Screw you!” smile and take it as a compliment, for they know how important that little object is in the talented hands of a woodworker. —Jay



# NCWA Picnic 2006



The hordes swarmed upon the silent auction in search of the elusive bargain.



LOTS of happy faces!



Crowds gathered early in anticipation of race day excitement.....



Precise placement insured a fair start for all.



A variety of sleek vehicles *streaked* down the racetrack.....some even finished!



LOTS of great food.....LOTS of warm fellowship.....and a good time was had by ALL!!!

***Coming in November.....***

The Garry Knox Bennett exhibit of studio furniture chairs is currently showing at the Bellevue Art Museum until November 26th. Planning is underway for an NCWA group tour to the exhibit on November 18th which will include a guided tour. More details at the September meeting.....or contact Rick Anderson 360-650-1587 or rick@gardenarches.com for further details.

**THE NEXT CHALLENGE !**

**1st ANNUAL FOUND OBJECT CONTEST**

Thanks to all who participated in the "2 x 4 Bake Off", both those who actually built projects and those who took the time to vote for their favorite 2 x 4. There has been some comment about the short lead time ( 2 months) for this contest, therefore, you are now being given **6 months warning** of the next challenge. This yet to be named contest will involve building a woodworking project around a "found" object. You may use anything from a rusty hinge to a '53 Cadillac bumper, complete with dagmars, as a basis for this project. Now is the time to get started! Begin by combing secondhand stores, garbage dumps, or roadside ditches (perhaps in that pile of junk you keep behind your shop) for that perfect object to construct your masterpiece. This challenge will be terminated at the **Feb., 2007** meeting and it is fully expected that someone will not have had enough time to complete a project, don't let it be you! Hopefully this project will get everyone's creative juices flowing and all will be awed by the collective brilliance of our constructions. Personally, I hope to be dumbfounded! -Val Matthews

CLIP & SAVE!

**Calling all Hammerheads!**

We will be demonstrating the use of our club's Shaving Horse at Arts Alive! in November, with club members making hammer handles throughout the show. Of course, every hammer handle needs a head.....so if you have any handleless hammerheads laying around gather them up and bring them to Arts Alive! where they will be reunited with a handle! And plan to try your skills at making a hammer handle too. For further information contact Val Matthews or Lucinda VanValkenburg

***THE WOOD SHED.....***

**Dry Kiln**

I'm soon moving to a smaller shop.....and can't find room for my dehumidification dry kiln. So here's your chance! Well insulated with all the appropriate controls it will hold a load of wood approx. 30" x 30" x 10'. Built from plans in Fine Woodworking. \$395 (but I'll take \$350 from NCWA members). I'll load it, you haul it!  
Rick Anderson 360-650-1587 rick@gardenarches.com

**Maple 'r Us!**

Lots to choose from in a wide selection of sizes.....\$.75-\$2.00/ BF. Call Steve Intveld 360-592-5670

## COMING EVENTS

Sept. 5th	7:00PM	Monthly Meeting	Gary Holloman's shop @ Skagit Airport
Sept. 20th	7:00PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Restaurant on Hwy 20
Sept. 23rd	Noon	Newsletter Deadline	Rick's Email Box
Oct. 3rd	7:00PM	Monthly Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge, Mount Vernon
Oct. 21st	8:30AM	Cloverdale Show Trip	See Page 3 for details
Nov. 3,4,5	10AM-5PM	Arts Alive	LaConner Garden Club Bldg.
Nov. 18th	TBD	Gary Knox Bennett Tour	Bellevue Art Museum

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, 150 Swinomish Dr., Laconner, WA 98257. 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:	Greg Shumate	(360-387)-2066	Co-Webmaster:	Mike New	(360) 707-2314



**NCWA NEWSLETTER**

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