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Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association

March 2013

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 5, Hillcrest Park Lodge

7:00 PM General Meeting

1717 South 13th Street, Mount Vernon

Phone: 360-770-7203 or 360-387-4174

I-5 exit 226 (Kincaid Street Exit). Go east up the hill. This is Broadway Street. Continue on Broadway 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 in front of the lodge.

March Program Great Vacuum Press Comparisons

Our March meeting will give us a chance to see the differences between at least two types of vacuum presses.



Jim Torrence recently bought a system that uses a hand pump, and will bring his latest project that he used it on - a hall table with a bent wood lamination curved front.

Tom Dolese has a Vacu Press system that he uses for Jennifer's beautiful marquetry and for veneering.

Charley Drake and Jim Bucknell are the proud co-owners of the system previously owned by Bob Doop and will be discussing their experiences with it so far.

There are at least two other club members with systems in their shops, so we should have a good discussion and hopefully a demonstration or two.

It will be interesting to compare the low tech system to the professional system.



The President's Corner

March, 2013

March brings the promise of growth and renewal.

Woodworkers should grow too. Our club offers many possibilities. Our classes are popular and fill up fast. We could use more teachers. Why not share your knowledge and offer to assist with or teach a class? Nothing will sharpen your skills like teaching. This I can guarantee.

Our library is good and getting better. Have you checked out a book or a DVD? More important did you try to apply the information? We would love to see you bring something to Bring and Brag - even if it is not finished or did not come out as well as you had hoped. Seek advice. Knowledge is in great abundance at each meeting.

Our spring shop tour is coming up. Go! Better yet, carpool with some of your fellow members. Invite a new member to join your group. Our club has many talented members. If you are not meeting them; you are missing out.

While desire to improve is important, one must actually do; actually make things. Join with some of our members that make toys. Start your own toy making group. Join me in a Step By Step project based mentorship build. Special Interest Groups have been recommended as a way for those wishing to delve more deeply into a particular area. They are languishing from lack of participation. This is a shame. You can help.

Spring is a great time to tune up your tools. The benefits are great. Why wait? And it is also a great time to clean up your shop. You know all those scraps you have been hoarding. Let the club help you help yourself. Donate some wood to the wood raffle. We sure would appreciate it.

- Andrew Pellar

Wood Raffle

We had a new addition to our February Meeting, one which we hope to continue. Several members donated wood for a raffle to help with additional club costs. Tickets were one dollar each or six tickets for five dollars. Though there were just a few pieces this first meeting, there were some very happy winners, as well as a bit of cash income for the club.

This months lucky members were:

John Bellinger	John Braun	Jerry Couchman	Clark Douglas
Ben Gage	Sherri Greenleaf	Jay Geisel	Jim Hickey
Val Matthews	Alden Wendt		



Thank you to all who donated!

February Meeting Notes

NCWA Burlington Library. Shout Out Grabs Attention

With an 80-plus crowd in attendance on a week-delayed, offbeat Monday night in February, members enjoyed yet another show-off in a series of member project challenges. This time the theme was “Something for the Kitchen” and the response was heartening.

Shut out of our usual Tuesday meeting place at Hillcrest Park Lodge in Mount Vernon, we settled in again at the Burlington Library on their first available date, which fell on Monday, February 11th. Despite the twists we had high attendance. Gary Weyers who heads up Member Activities, managed to get a strong delegation together to exhibit a variety of ideas for the home kitchen. Cutting boards, as you might expect, were the choice of most participating woodworkers. No less than seven boards --thin and thick, small to very large, and almost all made of contrasting wood species--were on display.

President Andrew Pellar asked for committee reports from Education chairman Gerald Anderson, Program chairman Jerry Couchman, Tours chairman Jay Geisel and Shop Tours chairman Gary Danilson. Treasurer Doug Duehning reported that he was still receiving late dues payments and would continue to do so. Gary Danilson told the assembly that the popular April visit to member workshops would be centered in the Bellingham area. (Details can be found elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter).

Pellar explained to members that a plan to make our December meeting a holiday celebration has been proposed, and he wanted the membership to voice their preferences at this meeting. In essence, the November meeting would deal with the year-ending submittal of Toys for Tots and the usual ceremony that accompanies it. The December meeting would celebrate Christmas with members’ family gathered together for a holiday meal. No meals would be served at the November meeting. The Club voted overwhelmingly for the December Holiday Party at the meeting. The proposal was called to vote and passed, thereby ratifying the Club’s wishes.

An NCWA proposal to visit Lee Valley Tools in Vancouver in April was presented by Jay Geisel, Tours chairman. A popular bus tour in the past, the proposal died unsupported when a minimum goal of 25 persons fell short.

The evening’s program, a first time trial at problem-solving woodworkers’ conundrums, set up a panel of five major craftsmen at the front of the room and had them attempt to decide how to fix problems submitted by two individual members. Couchman and Pellar introduced Joe Hoffman to panelists Art Learmonth, Rick Anderson, Andy Rudy, Val Matthews, and Tom Dolese. Joe had made his first veneered box on the table saw but had trouble setting up the hinges. The panelists, with help from the floor via Bill Baer and Phil Choquette, set him straight. Some of their suggestions were to place the jig closer to the fence and “Next time use a router.”

The second challenge was somewhat tougher when Ben Gage addressed them with one of his geodesic/round ball type bafflers. The problem was tear-out when using his off-center turning jig. Panelists had a good laugh but couldn’t help him. (Gage keeps pushing the envelope with his skills and talents.

February Presidents Challenge Something for the Kitchen

The Kitchen Challenge participants.

Carving and Cutting Boards were exhibited by Jim Bradbury, Phil Choquette, Bob Gaubatz, Jay Geisel, Andrew Pellar, Bill Rawls, and Tom Thornton. (in order below)



Other kitchen items on display were created by:



Paul Anderson, a count-a-cup fixture and steak knife box;

John Bellinger, serving tray;

Jesse Charette, carved cherry spatulas and a spoon



The Kitchen Challenge participants cont...

Jerry Couchman, casserole dish holder Jerry Haynes, pizza peel; Roy Little, turned rolling pin (displayed by John); Laura Matthews, turned maple bowl; Val Matthews, tortilla press; Andrew Pellar, three spatulas, Bill Thesius, a collection of photos taken during his just-completed kitchen rebuild; Tom Thornton, pizza cutter; Jim Torrence, a chip dip platter; Terry Wittren, set of coasters and caddy; Gary Weyers, paper plate holder and cook book holder.

There you have it. More than three dozen items were displayed.

--Jay



Hand Tool Special Interest Group

I bought a couple of hand saws for cheap, figuring they would be good candidates to explore saw sharpening. I read a little bit about the subject and planned to just give it a try. However, in talking with some other club members, I learned that others had knowledge about the subject and would be willing to share their knowledge. This is what Special Interest Groups are all about – getting together with fellow members to explore special interests.

Fellow club members Mike Titus and David Shull joined me for this group session. We learned about the geometry of saws. Terms such as TPI and Pitch and Fleam, Slope and Rake came to have more than academic meaning as we dove into the task. Like any new skill the road was not without bumps. While the basic concepts were not difficult, putting them to practice in a consistent manner was more challenging. This was my first time trying to sharpen a saw; it was in rough shape and badly need care. But I learned the basics and managed to get a saw sharper with some guidance.



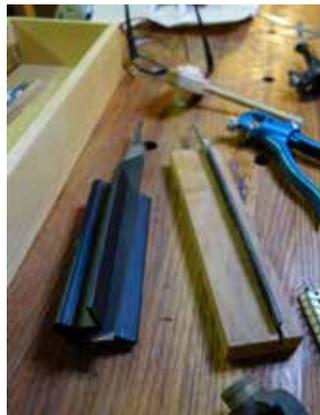
Mike Titus, David Shull, & Andrew Pellar

If you would like to read about saw sharpening look at:

http://www.evenfallstudios.com/woodworks_library/disston_saw_tool_and-file_manual_1953.pdf

We learned a lot from each other, had a good time and came away with sharper saws to boot. A good day in my book !

- Andrew Pellar



**Experience is not what happens to you;
it's what you do with what happens to you.**

Aldous Huxley

March Education Committee Report

If you are signed up for a class in March, please check your Emails daily, as we're encountering some potential unexpected date & class location changes. We're waiting for an update on the Wood Turning 101 class date. Everyone signed up for that class will be notified as soon as word is received from the WoodTurners.

MARCH CLASSES

Saturday March 2nd: Cabinet Carcass Construction - This class will be held at Bill Baer's shop in Bow. Please bring your personal safety protection equipment, as there may be construction demonstrations. *Class is full.*

Saturday, March 9th: Cabinet Doors & Drawers - This class will also be taught by Bill Baer at his shop. As before, please bring your personal safety equipment. *Class is full.*

Saturday, March 16th: SHOP TOUR – BELLINGHAM AREA.

Saturday, March 23rd: Block Plane--This class will be taught by Val Matthews at his shop in Bow. You must bring personal protection equipment, and a lunch. This is a hands-on class! *The class is full, with no wait list.*

Please keep bringing class ideas to us. We'll do our best to find instructors for them.

Respectfully submitted:

Jerry Anderson, Chair

Education Committee

360-770-8559

j.anderson9574@gmail.com

Library News

Greetings! From your Library Committee: Jim Torrence, Mike Titus, Laura Matthews, Steve Wagoner and Gary Danilson.

At our March meeting we plan to circulate a survey where you can indicate what areas of interest you would like to spend your library budget on. More books/dvds on handtools? Power tools? Jigs and shop improvements? Finishing? etc. Also feel free to let us know anytime if there is a particular book or dvd that would be a good addition to the library. Remember that our usual checkout period is for 2 months but that there will be new additions that we ask to be returned after 1 month. This gives other a chance to see what is new. If you return a new item and it's not checked out by the end of the meeting, feel free to check it out again. Remember that our magazine exchange table can use any woodworking mags that you are done reading or tired of dusting off.

Gary Danilson

David Selditz at The Center For Furniture Craftsmanship

The following is from NCWA member **David Selditz**, past presenter and member of Artwood. He's currently enrolled in a 9 month comprehensive woodworking program at the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship in Rockport, Maine. The program started last September and runs through May. See more at: <http://www.woodschoool.org/>



I don't quite know where to start because I've been busy since the first day of class. It really is an information overload experience. We finished the seven week case work segment and today we began bending and veneering with some marquetry and inlaying seminars in between. At the end of February we have the multiples segment where we design, build and price a piece of furniture that's easily and quickly knocked out and sells. After it's jigged the rest is bread and butter. Lastly, from April until the end is the chair making segment which I'm looking forward to. It'll be taught by Tom Keely who set up John Makepeace's shop in London. He's a crazy Englishman and I welcome crazy people from the UK.

I'll tell you a little about the school and try not to bore you. I never expected the level of instruction offered here because most of the instructors are from the UK and Australia. Their methods of teaching woodworking are different than the manner it's taught by a lot of instructors here. It's a pedagogy and a bit didactic in the beginning but for me it gave me a sense of structure and continuity which is what I think I needed. At this point things changed when the disciplines were practically applied to designing and making furniture. The course is segmented in different disciplines - case work, bending and veneering, multiples, and chair making. I forgot to mention the first project was a simple bench and a wall hung tool case made entirely on machines.

My lead instructor is Aled Lewis from the UK and he is one of the loveliest guys. He has the patience of a saint and knows everything about this discipline. He attended Rycotewood in London for two years in the '70's and ran his own shop making bespoke furniture and now has a job teaching here for the next few years. Neil Erasmus came in from Australia to help teach the case work segment and was just as terrific. Today we started with Adrian Ferrazuti who you probably know - (College of the Redwoods) who knows more about wood bending than anyone I've talked to.



I don't feel I'll be an expert or master woodworker when I return but I'll be much more confident with a broader working knowledge and hopefully some credibility after this is over. I've



always wanted to teach but didn't feel I had the chops to do so, but when I come home I want to make it an integral part of what I do and maybe give back to the guild in some way.

Spring Shop Tour

We'll be visiting the shops of some of our fellow clubmembers in the Bellingham area on Sat, March 16. The first shops will be open at 8:30 and we'll be having a bite to eat at our last shop around noon. We'll see some examples of making great use of both small and large shop areas including some innovative ideas on dust collection systems. There will be some good ideas for tool and wood storage and good examples of outfeed tables on a variety of machines. There will be a marquetry demonstration and we'll see numerous examples of the kind of quality craftsmanship your fellow NCWA members are producing in their shops. Whether you are new to woodworking or an old hand you'll see ideas that might work in your shop.

Plan on coming and bring a friend if you think they are interested in learning more about NCWA. Tour information will be available at our March meeting and will also be e-mailed to the membership.

John Bellinger/Gary Danilson

Bring 'n Brag



One of the biggest B&B woodworking projects to be exhibited at our meetings was the unusual doll house built by Jack McKee.

Other items included Rick Anderson's new Incra space-changing set-up tool he received during the Holidays;



Roger Shimer had a group of several thin, machined steel depth gauges and built a sliding top box in which to house them; Jack McKee constructed a "Build-a-Boards" fixture out of 3/4-in. plywood;

Geoff Peterson (right) brought a wall-mounted mahogany and quilted maple knife board; .



I showed several turned wood pens as well as the new 30 caliber bolt-action bullet cartridge pens turned in acrylic.

--Jay



Meet the New Members!

Colin Davidson

Colin Davidson is from Newcastle, England, and currently lives in Bellingham with his wife, Lindsey. His professional background is in IT and currently has a job in Bellingham in a related field. Colin is new to woodworking after receiving a Christmas present of a mandolin kit, which he successfully completed with only minor mistakes. He had a lot of fun with that, and is ready to learn more. He has been looking at our class schedule for this year, but most are full. Hopefully, something will open up. His “shop” reminds me of my first shop when I built a set of bunk beds 30 years ago. He has to share space in the laundry room!



Jared Loller

Jared Loller decided to join our club so that he can learn how to build toys and furniture for his new baby. In fact, he’s already taken Val’s toy class! Right now, he doesn’t have a shop other than his garage, but that will probably change. He picked up some of his first woodworking skills from his father and grandfather, who used to rebuild Chris Craft boats. Originally from Maryland, Jared currently lives in Anacortes. He’s stationed at Naval Air Station Whidbey as a pilot on the EA6b Prowler, but is looking forward to transitioning to the newer EA-18 Growler. It turns out Jared and I have a lot in common, since his current mission is the same as my last operational assignment in the USAF.



Shop Tips!

Hand Rubbed Look. If you want to give a semi-gloss finish that “hand-rubbed” look all you need is a brown paper bag (the kind you find in the grocery store).. The paper is slightly abrasive so it buffs the finish without acutally cutting through it.

Burn Marks. It’s easy to leave nasty burn marks when routing a profile onto the edge of a piece of cherry. And sanding a routed profile is tough. It’s easier to remove burn marks if you apply mineral spirits to the mark before sanding. The solvent penetrates the glazed area, and after a few minutes, you can sand if off easily.

(‘barrowed’ from 120 Tips and Techniques)

Website Review for February, 2013

This month's site is: highlandwoodworking.com

Highland Woodworking located in Atlanta, GA., specializing in woodworking tool sales, classes and hosting an online magazine. I've subscribed to the magazine and have found over 100 'how-to' videos, shop tips, photo galleries of projects, and many more items. Yes, the website does have ads in it, but they don't detract from the real content...helping woodworkers.

This is a 'must-use' website! Your comments and ideas are greatly appreciated. I'm always looking for new websites to review.

Jerry Anderson

Classified Ads

An older 8 1/4 Ryobi radial arm saw that has never been used. FREE!
Contact Jack McKee at the next meeting or thru email mchkee@earthlink.net.

NCWA Board Meeting February 13, 2013

NCWA Board of Directors met at the Farm House Restaurant on Route 20 near Mount Vernon at 7 p.m., President Andrew Pellar presiding.

A budget for 2013, WoodFest in April, and an increase in Club one-time lecture fees were topics that dominated the meeting. Treasurer Doug Duehning is working on the new budget for the year and directors' are concentrating on future needs as they consider all line-item expenses. Changes from previous years result from a rapid increase in enrollment. Costs of personal service items like name tags, printing, coffee and cookies, library, audio-visual efficiency, and education have risen along with the growth.

Program chairman Jerry Couchman asked for more leeway in spending fees for higher-priced speakers. He would like to engage a highly regarded instructor from the Whidbey Island School of Woodworking to a future NCWA meeting and such a singular event would price above our current policy. Following discussions, the Board voted to re-set the budget limit for speakers to \$500. Jerry would like to bring us a presentation by Garrett Hack or Chris Schwartz.

Several changes to the proposed new budget were agreed upon and Duehning is expected to have a final version ready for the Board's approval next month. Doug reported that 43 members did not re-sign for 2013. Of these, 17 were new members in 2011 and 2012, and included five who signed on at Cascade Mall last year. Our total membership stands at 125.

(Continued next page)

Board cont.

WoodFest, the Skagit County High School student woodworking competition at Sedro Woolley High School is set for the weekend of April 6 and 7. Chairmen Phil Choquette and Jim Torrence have been in contact with the event sponsor, the Sedro Woolley Chamber of Commerce, and have promised our support again this year. Held during the month-long Tulip Festival, WoodFest invitees include all county high schools that have student woodworking programs.

As in years past, Phil requested the Board to exhibit our members' projects on two tables and asked for suggestions regarding the active demonstrations we might provide this year. The Board agreed to again provide the People's Choice award, a high-value wood plane, that will be engraved with the winner's name. Jerry Couchman again volunteered to make a box that will be donated to the WoodFest public raffle. Phil announced that members will set up their displays between 7 and 9 a.m. on Saturday and remove them after 2 pm. on Sunday. Woodfest will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 2p.m. on Sunday.

Librarian chair Gary Danilson explained one of the problems facing his Library committee is keeping control of a growing amount of books and videos, and tracking their movement through a growing readership. He noted a scanning bar code system might be in the works. A larger budget will soon be needed to replace missing items and to add new ones. The Library is also receiving numerous gifts from members..

Gary, who is in charge of visitations to members shops twice a year, is completing plans for the April tour in the Bellingham area. The schedule and directions will be announced soon. The tour will end again at Tom Dolese's shop where a buffet will conclude the day's events.

Webmeister Mike Titus said that our Website continues to grow as he finds time to expand the many features he wants to offer.

Jessica Haag announced a call for volunteers at our general meeting on Monday night. Jessica is a member of the Leadership Skagit group, the same group that asked for our help in repairing summer cabins for the Camp Fire Girls several years ago. Working with the Skagit Valley Hospital's Cancer Center, Jessica's group would like to find some person to construct a wig tree for the Cancer Resource room where patients can try on wigs in privacy. **Gerald Anderson and Bill Baer** agreed to build the project. The project envisions a hat and wig tree and some shelving to display informational pamphlets.

Educational classes chairman, Gerald Anderson, told the Board that he would be alert to keep non-members from attending woodworking classes. Jerry said that a person tried to sign up for a class who had never been a member. That person got his information from our Website. Jerry informed us classes will soon be full as well as what subjects are still to be offered and where the vacancies exist.

Members present: Anderson, Baer, Bellinger, Chang, Choquette, Couchman, Danilson, Duehning, Geisel, Greenleaf, Pellar, Pysher, and Titus

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Geisel, Secretary

Reminder!

Name Tags should be worn at the meetings. It will cost you a \$1.00 if you don't wear it. Charlie Drake is drawing up a shopping list of new goodies for the club and we will welcome all the fines because Charlie has expensive tastes.

VENDOR SUPPORT GROUP

NORTH:

Hardware Sales	2034 James St. Bellingham	360-734-6140	hardwaresales.net
Stockton's Paints	1413 Railroad Ave. Bellingham	360-733-5630	
Targo Woods	1100 C St. Bellingham	360-738-9140	Targowoods.com
Windsor Plywood	1208 Iowa St Bellingham	360-676-1025	

WEST:

Sebo's Hardware	1102 Commercial Ave. Anacortes	360-293-4575	Sebos.com
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SOUTH:

Martin Lbr/True Value	2730 Broadway Everett	425-259-3134	Martinlumbereverett.com
Arlington Hdw & Lbr	215 N. Olympic Ave. Arlington	360-435-5523	arlingtonhardware.com

CENTRAL:

Karl's Paints	1515 Freeway Dr. Mt. Vernon	360-336-2855	Karlspaints.com
Mt. Vernon Bldg Cent.	815 Roosevelt Way Mt. Vernon	360-424-9073	
Sound Cedar	2600 Cedardale Rd. Mt. Vernon	360-424-4548	Soundcedar.com

SPECIALTY:

Edensaw Woods	211 Seton Rd. Port Townsend	360-385-7878	Edensaw.com
Hartville Tool	Catalog only	800-345-2396	Hartvilletool.com
Rockler Woodworking	3823 Stone Way Seattle	206-634-3222	Rockler.com
Woodworker's Supply	Catalog only	800-645-9292	Pro.Woodworker.com
Woodcraft	5963 Corson Ave. Seattle	206-767-6394	

COMING EVENTS

March 5	7:00 PM	Membership Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge
March 13	7:00 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Inn

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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 generally 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, 4212 Kiowa Drive, Mt. Vernon, WA 98273, or email to sherrigreenleaf@gmail.com or call 360-899-4154.

2013 Officers and Chairpersons

Past President	John Bellinger	(360) 366-5169	Education	Gerald Anderson	(360) 770-8559
President:	Andrew Pellar	(360) 708-4036	Librarian	Gary Danilson	(360) 424-9268
Vice President	Kent Crouse	(360) 224.5532	Newsletter	Sherri Greenleaf	(360) 899-4154
Secretary	Jay Geisel	(360) 466-3908	Membership	Ed Pysner	(360) 766-0136
Treasurer	Doug Duehning	(360) 466-1281	Shows	Phil Choquette	(360) 675-8320
Board at Large	Samantha Chang	(360) 941-3294	Toys for Tots	Bill Baer	(360) 766-6020
Programs	Jerry Couchman	(360) 366-5169	Webmeister	Mike Titus	(360) 714-8182
Activities	Gary Weyers	(360) 380-0888			



NCWA NEWSLETTER

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Mt Vernon, WA 98273