



# Newsletter

**Next Monthly Meeting — March 7, 2023 at 7 PM**

**held IN-PERSON at the**

**Mount Vernon Christian School**

**820 W. Blackburn Rd. , Mount Vernon**

## YOUTUBE

Check out our instructional videos on our YouTube Channel

## BRING & BRAG

Click above to be taken directly to view projects from fellow members

## MEETING MINUTES

Click above to see what you might have missed at the last meeting, or the Board of Directors meeting

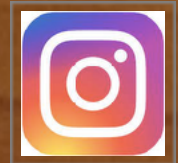
*Click the underlined title in the boxes above to be taken directly to that section of the newsletter.*

## **A Message from the President...**

Well, here we are, approaching March already. Although the year started with a bit of a challenge with no Program Committee, I am very pleased to report that we found a great work around solution and are making wonderful progress in getting some interesting presenters lined up. We have yet to receive any inquiries from anyone that might be interested in joining the Programs Committee so the Board "Members-at Large" have taken up the reins and are close to having our schedule confirmed thru June at this point. Way to go guys!

Thank you all for your participation in the regular meeting on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>. Although it was a different format than we are used to, I know it helped me and the board gather some information that will steer us in the direction you would like to see us go. Keep that info coming into us. I will continue to have suggestion slips available at the meetings and hope you will continue to use

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them. The March meeting will return to a more normal format and will include: "Bring & Brag" presentation, a raffle prize (more about that later in the newsletter), a guest presenter, and of course our "Coffee Club" will make sure we are refreshed during our break.

Our guest presenter at the March meeting will be Brian Griffin, a ukulele builder from Bellingham. Brian describes himself as "Just one old guy who loves woodworking and discovered the joy of the ukulele pretty late in life." I think even those that are not interested in building ukuleles will find Brian to be interesting and entertaining. I also think there will be hints and ideas he will pass along that everyone can use.

– John Ellis, NCWA President

## March 7th at 7 PM!

**The Mount Vernon Christian School**

### **Lutherie, an Unexpected Occupation:**

Brian Griffin retired as an insurance broker 32 years ago and soon found himself in another business selling and writing about Orchard Mason Bees. After a dozen years in the bee business he retired again to relax and play his homemade ukulele. His retirement did not last. For the last dozen years he has found himself in another business, Lutherie, the making of stringed instruments, namely the ukulele.

Griffin will tell of the unexpected growth of his new business, show us some of his instruments and discuss the methods and materials used in building a ukulele. He might even play us a tune.

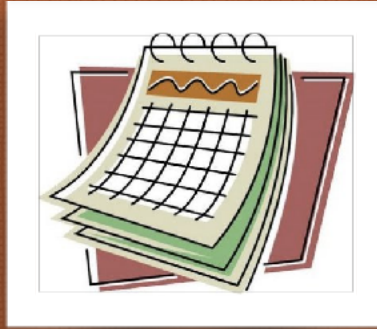


### **Raffle Prize at the March 7th Meeting!**

This month's raffle prize is a 9" x 12" granite surface plate. Normally seen in machine shops, this twenty pound piece of stone has ultra flat surfaces, (flat to .00005"). Ideal for checking flatness of items, it also allows for very accurate vertical measurements from its surface. In addition, it can be used for many general-purpose sharpening tasks. Simply wet the surface and lay a piece of wet/dry sandpaper (grit of your choice) and the capillary action of the wet stone will keep the sandpaper secure.



# Mark Your Calendars



***Lot's coming up, you're not gonna want to miss!***

**March 7th General Monthly Meeting** – Brian Griffin “Ukulele Craftsmanship” Check out Brian’s website [here...](#)

## **Griffin Ukuleles**

**April 4th General Monthly Meeting** – Russ Yeager. Check out Russ’ website [here...](#)

## **Yeager Woodworking**

**May 2nd General Membership Meeting** – Jim Toplin, co-founder of the Port Townsend School of Woodworking, “Project Design” Check out Jim’s Blogs [here...](#)

## **By Hand and Eye**

**June 6th General Membership Meeting** – Jewell James, master totem carver, author, and environmental activist. Check out Jewell’s Wikipedia Page [here...](#)

## **Jewell James**



# Bring and Brag

**Live Edge Box** – *Barry Tonkin* Maple with turned cocobolo top. Finished with Walrus Oil brand oil.



**Wooden Box** – *Marshall Eberhart*, Maple, Black Walnut Plywood, Koa Splines. Finished with Livos. Crafted in Jerry Couchman's Box Making Class.



**Three Projects** – *Michael Frosch* (new member, current member of the Wood Turners group), Double Wedding Ring Quilt Pattern: modeled off of his mother-in-law's quilt, includes purple heart, maple, cherry, pine; Compass: Black Walnut/Maple; Untitled Perspective Piece: Black Walnut and Maple.



**Chip Carved Lamp** – *Charlie Drake*

(Wayne Barton design), Butternut ,finished with urethane over gel stain.

**Hand-carved Earrings** – *Bill Pierce*

Small carved earrings, walnut (tip: if you're going to make earring beads, coat the inside of the hole you drill with CA glue to polymerize for strength)

**Pocket Mirrors –**

Kate Hirning - Turned & Carved Pocket Mirrors,  
Alder



**Intarsia pieces –** *Joan Mann* (new member),  
Intarsia pieces with various woods.

Cornucopia (spalted maple, juniper, zebra wood, walnut, pine, purple heart, poplar, ebony)



Octopus (walnut, blue pine, pine) from a pattern made by a friend.





**Wooden Box** – *Clark Douglas* - Walnut and Spalted Maple, finished with Osmo.  
Crafted in Jerry Couchman's Box Making Class.



## ***Library Open for in-person business at March 7th Meeting***

– Submitted by Bill Pierce 2/27/23



The NCWA Library will be **mostly** open for business at the March meeting. This means we should have books, plans and DVDs on tables and available for browsing and check-out. Returns will also be processed. Be sure to record your library activity on the logs provided. There should also be a magazine-exchange table set up.

If you have a few old issues of *Fine Woodworking*, *Shopsmith*, and the like, you would like to pass on, or you are looking for some new issues to read, this table is for you.

I say **mostly**, because we may not quite have our full collection moved to the school. If there is a specific item you want to check out, please let Richard Gillingham know a day or two prior to the meeting and we will have it waiting for you.

– Your Library Committee



## Community Bulletin Board

*If you'd like to let other members know of tools or wood you have for sale, or if you offer any type of service you feel would benefit members, here's the place to post it. Just send King Dahl an email at [kingdahl1@gmail.com](mailto:kingdahl1@gmail.com) for inclusion in the monthly newsletter.*

**Items for Sale : Contact Brannon Mucke** at [bmucke@mountvernonchristian.org](mailto:bmucke@mountvernonchristian.org) –

1.) 4" dust collection kit to hook up several machines to a dust collector. It has not been used. The list price is \$70.00, and I would like to sell it for \$40.00.



2.) Rockler Interlock Script Letter Kit for making signs. The model number is #57792. It is brand new in the box. The list price at Rockler is \$100.00, and I would like to sell it for \$60.00



3.) I also have a piece of Indian Rosewood that measures 3" wide, 1" thick, and 48" long that I would like to sell for \$40.00 (no photo available)

**Kiln Drying:** Jim Baker (360-739-6390) is offering his newly constructed kiln for the purposes of kiln-drying wood for members. The kiln can hold between 350-400 board feet at one time.

- To Dry Wood - .50 cents/bd ft (max 8' 6" L X 2' W)
- To Kill Bugs - .30 cents/bd ft (140° for 4 hours)



# Meeting Minutes

## Minutes of the NCWA General Meeting

February 7, 2023

Call to order: 7:03

### **Bring and Brag**

Michael Frosch (new member, current member of the Wood Turners group) - compass, black walnut, maple; double wedding ring quilt pattern modeled off of his mother in law's quilt, made with lots of different wood samples like purple heart, maple, cherry, pine; perspective content but not sure what it's supposed to be, black walnut and maple

Charlie Drake - chip carved lamp (Wayne Barton design), butternut finished with urethane over gel stain

Jerry Couchman's box making class:

Clark Douglas - walnut and spalted maple, put dividers in the top

Marshall Eberhart, maple, black walnut plywood, koa splines

Barry Tonkin - small live edge box, maple with turned cocobolo top

Joan Mann (new member) - Intarsia pieces with various woods, cornucopia (spalted maple, juniper, zebra wood, walnut, pine, purple heart, poplar, ebony) and octopus (walnut, blue pine, pine) from pattern made by friend

Bill Pierce - small carved earrings, walnut (tip: if you're going to make earring beads, coat the inside of the hole you drill with CA glue to polymerize for strength)

Katie Hirning - Carved pocket mirror, alder

### **Discussion**

Future of meetings will be a combination, prioritizing in-person but also continuing to have national presenters over Zoom. May get to the point where we can meet in person and Zoom for those who cannot make the in-person meeting. Will give it a try in March but not sure if we'll get the technology working.

Meeting information slips will be available at each meeting for members to suggest future presenters or topics. Can also email ideas to John at [sunnydaydulcimers@gmail.com](mailto:sunnydaydulcimers@gmail.com) or call at 425-426-4531.

Ideas/suggestions voiced during meeting

- Jim Scott - builds boxes for foster kids
- Ask Richard if we can include a field in the roster for each person to list their woodworking expertise/interest

## **Introduction of Board Members and Committee Chairs**

Board members

- John Ellis, President
- Nick Pederson, Vice President
- Al Ashley, Treasurer - today is the last day to pay dues to renew membership
- Christi Brua Weaver, Secretary
- Greg Koenker, Immediate Past President

Members at Large

- Craig Edwards
- Tony Etienne
- Chuck Barnett
- Peter Gantt

Committees

- King Dahl, Shows
  - Organize and coordinate the Anacortes Arts Fest in August and Woodfest on April 29
  - **Looking for 3 or 4 members** to be greeters, find members to do presentations/demonstrations, find volunteers
  - Also edits the newsletter - is open to submissions from club members (write them as you want them to be published); community bulletin board is also a place for tool sales
- Bill Pierce, Library
  - 4 members on the Library Committee
  - 300+ items including books, catalogs, DVDs, guides, plans, Fine Woodworking issues
  - During the pandemic, library moved to mail-based service.

- Currently, Richard sends out a list of what's available. You can reserve a book and he'll bring it to the next meeting. 3-month checkout period. There is a returns box at in-person meetings.
- Book reviews have been published in newsletters in the past. We're open to doing that again.
- Andrew Pellar, Education
  - In-person classes and maybe introducing Zoom-based classes
  - Upcoming class: building a mirror
  - Open to suggestions for new class topics, or if you want to learn something you saw at bring & brag
  - Can either teach a class or host an instructor/class in your shop
  - Sign up for class. If all spots are taking, sign up for the wait list because that's how we gauge interest.
- John Braun, Toys for Tots
  - **Looking for people to join the committee**
  - Donate toys to the Skagit Valley Herald Christmas Fund
  - Usually meet up once a month to work on toys for day
  - Also looking for members who have shops who would be open to hosting the group once a month or so
  - Learning opportunity for new woodworkers
  - If you want to come, reach out to John Braun to set up a day - lesjbraun@gmail.com
- Jerry Couchman, Membership
  - Unable to attend meeting
- Programs - Vacant
  - **Need a chairman and ideally three additional members**
  - Good chance for newer folks and beginner woodworkers, get to know people in the club and how the club works, meet interesting and highly skilled professional woodworkers
  - Members at large stepped up as the Programs Committee for the time being. This is temporary.
  - Next month will be Brian Griffin. 90 years old, started building ukuleles at age 76 and has since built more than 200
- Shop Tours - Vacant

## **Old Business**

MV Library looking for someone to build little free library doors. Someone in club reached out to the director. Director completed a count of all little free libraries and will be responding to the club members.



## **New Business**

### Adding Committees or Groups

- Committee chairs would be voting members of the board, but club would need to amend the bylaws to add new committees
- Groups would not be voting members

### Suggested Committees/Groups

- Photography Committee/Group
  - Take headshots at meetings for directory
  - Photograph and record Bring and Brag
  - Photograph events like picnic, festivals, field trips, etc.
- Picnic Committee/Group (every other year)
  - Select site for picnic
  - Plan menu
  - Arrange buying of supplies
  - Arrange for cooking supplies (grill, etc)
  - Create sub-committee for Library Sales, Silent Auction, Wood Sales, etc.
- Refreshments Committee/Group
  - Arrange for coffee and cookies at meetings
- Preferred Vendors/Group
  - Reaching out to vendors to ask about giving discounts to members
  - Asking for donations for raffle items
  - Chair + 4 members to cover of the regions/counties represented in our club

## **New members**

- Michael Frosch
- David Hardin
- Brent Kolb
- Michael MacLachlin
- Peter Denphe
- Joan Mann
- Ann Osborne
- Travis Bartholomew

## **Next Meeting**

- First Tuesday, March 7, at 7pm. Will be in-person at the Mount Vernon Christian School.

Adjourn: 8:55pm

## Minutes of the NCWA Board of Directors Meeting

February 16, 2023

Attendees:

John Ellis  
Nick Pederson  
Chuck Barnett  
Greg Koenker  
Christi Brua Weaver  
John Braun  
Al Ashley  
Andrew Pellar  
Tony Etienne  
King Dahl

Call to order: 7:02 by John Ellis

### **Treasurer's Report - Al Ashley**

- Cash balance approximately \$2,500 more than last year at this time - see Al's report
- 28 non-renewals, but still membership is 10 more than a year ago.
  - 9 folks told him they would not be renewing membership
  - 19 did not communicate so may still choose to renew. *Al has asked Membership Committee to reach out to these members to see if they want to rejoin, if they're comfortable doing so.*
- So far, 8 new members since January (some may have joined in late December but didn't pay till January, so different than what Jerry reports in email)

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Membership Committee - Jerry Couchman**

- Email: 6 new members this year plus 1 previous member rejoined.

#### **Programs Committee - Chuck Barnett - help from Craig Edwards and Peter Gantt**

- Presenters confirmed through June
  - March - Ukulele Craftsmanship, Brian Griffin (in person)
  - April - wood (to be more focused), Russ Yeager from Edensaw (Zoom or hybrid)
  - May - project design, Jim Tolpin from Port Townsend School of Woodworking (in person)
  - June - Lumi Nation Totem woodcarver Jewell James (in person)

- Suggestions from members: utilizing vacuums in woodworking, boat night, wood finishing, wood bending, hand tools (Japanese vs American), furniture styles; speaker: Steve Dando from Pratt Fine Arts Center
- Speakers fees?
  - Budgeted \$3,000 for the year (10 speakers at \$300)
  - Previously ranged from \$200-\$350 for some of the bigger named speakers, most of whom were on Zoom
    - Club members aren't compensated
    - Non-club members within driving distance - perhaps \$250 for inflation
    - Out of towners - \$300-350
  - In the past: Program Chair would take speaker out to dinner and club would reimburse for speaker's meal. Club has paid for hotel room in some cases.
  - Chuck, Peter, and Craig will reach out to their presenters and discuss fees

#### **Library Committee - Bill Pierce/Richard Gillingham**

- No update

#### **Education Committee - Andrew Pellar**

- A few classes for March but dates not confirmed; working out April and May
- Trying to get larger shops even if those folks aren't teaching
- Trying to reestablish intro to using power tools for newer woodworkers
- Requested waiver from Greg for students to sign to increase the comfort level for teachers/shop owners
- Andrew will review old newsletters to see who was teaching pre-pandemic; John has a list of all programs/field trips/classes from 2010-2017 and will send it to Andrew
- Andrew is going to reach out to folks who took the classes in the past and see if they'd be available for questions, like an informal mentorship.
- *Consider: How should we allocate the class spots considering in-person, Zoom, hybrid meeting model?*

#### **Toys For Tots Committee - John Braun**

- Val won't be able to host toy build sessions for a while
- John B and John E went to Barry Tomkins shop in Bellingham - expressed interest in hosting. Barry would be happy to do evening or weekend sessions till 9pm.
- Another member in the south has a shop and would like to get involved

#### **Shows Committee - King Dahl**



- Reached out to Woodfest and Anacortes Arts Festival. Both will get back to him with paperwork/contracts

## **Old Business**

### **Program Committee**

- Members at large right now but it's not a permanent solution
- John will talk to members who have been in the club a long time for suggestions on who to directly ask about joining the committee
  - *Other committee chairs are encouraged to do the same for their own committees*

### **MV Library**

- Little Free Library doors will be ready once hinges come in

## **New Business**

### **Committee Tasks/Responsibilities**

- Currently 7 standing committees (including inactive Shop Tours Committee)
- Bylaws allow for establishment of temporary committee as needed (no vote on board)
- Could establish Service Groups instead (no vote on the board)
  - Photography - could just be a volunteer; new member Travis Bartholomew expressed interest; Charlie Drake has a compact backdrop
  - Picnic - Every other year. This year is the woodturners' year
  - Refreshments - Coffee Club, currently in action and rocking it
  - Preferred vendors (re-start) - discussion of previous liaisons; has historically been part of the membership committee tasks
- Job Descriptions: written during strategic plan process approx 5-10 years ago (Library has copies of final Strategic Plan). John condensed and standardized them.
  - *Review the job descriptions pertinent to your committee; send John comments*

### **Production of Badges (and fasteners)**

- Greg has made badges using the new logo
- Alder, cherry, and birch work well; elm doesn't look as nice
- Fastener ideas:
  - Pins didn't work well, magnets weren't strong enough. Greg, Al, and King had different methods of using cord that work well

### **Future Meetings**

- Confirmed with Christian School for the rest of the year but something could come up last minute, or we could decide to have a field trip one month instead of a meeting.

- Hybrid meetings - March will be a hybrid meeting if we can figure out technology.
- *How many club members want the Zoom option? It's a lot of hassle for just a few people. Perhaps we do a poll?*
  - Pre-covid, 80-90 people on average attended. We had 45 at the library last time (but different location and no presenter). Zoom meetings started out a little higher and tapered off.
  - If we're going to continue doing this, Greg recommends buying a club computer so we're not relying on someone's personal computer. If Greg or King can't make it, then we don't have the Zoom option.
  - Christina or Christi can also be a backup.
- King won't be available in March - would like info for newsletter ASAP

### **Members ideas from slips of paper**

- John E has full list
  - Develop leadership with mentor/apprenticeship
  - Recognition or appreciation
  - In-person shop tours
  - Organize group buy of wood from Edensaw, etc - rent or borrow a truck
  - Class in which a machine is rebuilt or repaired
  - Manufacturer reps to talk about finish types, saw blade types, etc.
  - Presenters: Wood Whisperer, Bourbon Moth Woodworking, April Wilkinson, Rob Cosman,
  - Alternate every other month with a tool or wood sale at meeting
  - Bonding or filling cracks with epoxy
  - Fieldtrip to Windsor plywood
  - Viking longship project

Adjourn: 8:35

## Preferred Vendors offering DISCOUNTS to NCWA Members:

### NORTH –

Hardware Sales

Bellingham Millwork

Hardwoods to Get

Windsor Plywood

Village Books

### WEST –

Sebo's Hardware

### SOUTH –

Martin Lumber/True Value

Stormo Hardwoods

### CENTRAL –

Ekrem Hardware

Karl's Paints

Mt. Vernon Building Center

Cedar Country Lumber

Sherwin-Williams Paint

### EAST –

E & E Lumber

### SPECIALTY –

Edensaw Woods

FASTCAP

Klingspor

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. Dues are \$35 per year, payable to NCWA, 26220 48th Ave NE, Arlington, WA 98223. Submit newsletter articles by email to [kingdahl1@gmail.com](mailto:kingdahl1@gmail.com).

### NCWA 2023 Board of Directors:

**President** – John Ellis

**Immediate Past President** – Greg Koenker

**Vice President** – Nick Pederson

**Treasurer** – Al Ashley

**Secretary** – Christi Brua Weaver

**Members at Large** – Peter Gantt, Chuck Barnett, Craig Edwards, Tony Etienne

#### Committee Chairs:

**Programs Committee** – TBA

**Library** – Bill Pierce

**Education** – Andrew Pellar

**Membership** – Jerry Couchman

**Shows** – King Dahl

**Shop Tours** – TBA

**Toys for Tots** – John Braun

**Webmaster** – Michael Titus

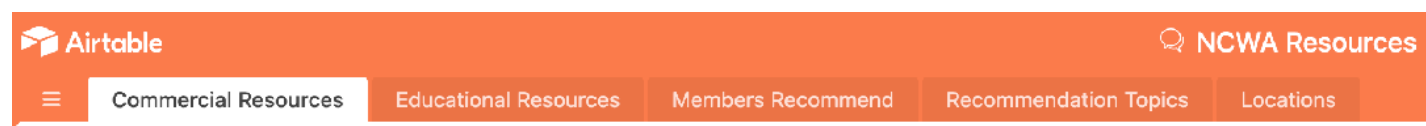
**Newsletter** – King Dahl



## NCWA Resources

Click this link – [NCWA Resources](#) – for our user-friendly database serving the purpose of storing information about recommendations from NCWA members.

There are 5 tables (1 tab for each) across the top, you can click each one to see its contents. This page is evolving and being updated in real time, so there will be new additions frequently.



- **Commercial Resources:** list of companies (incl website and phone #) and what people recommend them for
- **Educational Resources:** online resources for different topics, grouped by topic (this doesn't have to be limited to videos, we can have books and other stuff too)
- **Members Recommend:** This table is automatically generated by the first two, and keeps track of who's recommending what
- **Recommendation Topics:** This is another automatic table, and lists commercial resources (the first table) grouped by topic
- **Locations:** a final automatic table that lists which commercial resources (again, the first table) are located in which cities, so that it's easier to see what's near you

Let Tony know, or post on NCWA-Chat, what you think. This has the potential of being a super convenient, user-friendly database for all members.