



Newsletter

LOCATION CHANGE! Next Monthly Meeting — February 6, 2024 at 7 PM

IN PERSON at the HILLCREST LODGE in Mount Vernon

LOCATION CHANGE

The Tuesday, Feb 6, Meeting will be held at The Hillcrest Lodge in Mount Vernon

RAFFLE PRIZE

Check out this month's Special Raffle Prize!

MEETING MINUTES

Get caught up on the goings on of your club.

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

President's Message...

Welcome to February! Wait ! What !... What happened ? One month down already, soon Costco will have it Christmas stuff out again! And with time marching on ever faster there is no time to waste. I know for many, this is a tough time to work with cold shops, but weather is warming quickly and a great time to start something in the shop again. Remember just start- one step at a time, practice working on each step, getting you closer to your finished project or goal. Mine this month is hand cut dovetails! I took a class from David Shull teaching and Andrew Pellar heading the education committee setting up the course and was a great introduction to the skill. My class version was not bad- my first attempt when i got back to my own shop was hideous! But, four days later and five more attempts, still not perfect, but getting soo much better. If you have not taken a class there is always something new to learn, build expertise on, and refresh forgotten methods - please check out what the Education committee has in its offerings. And if that is not your learning style, Bill Pierce and team have some amazing books curated in the library you can study.

I hope you are also starting on the president's challenge and have a design for your entry – something with Butterflies and a new joint. Challenge yourself and grow your

Connect with your fellow members:



[Instagram](#)



[Facebook](#)



[YouTube](#)



[Website](#)

abilities. Really looking forward to what the membership can come up with! Remember we will have different categories for new to woodworking and experienced!

Barry Tonkin and Nick Pederson – NCWA Dynamic Presidential Duo

February 6th! Special Program, Special Location

PLEASE NOTE LOCATION CHANGE: This month's meeting

– Tuesday, February 6th, 7 PM –

is being held at

The Hillcrest Lodge, 1717 S. 13th Street, Mount Vernon



Dale Brotherton

Unlocking the Mystery of Japanese Tools

Dale began working in his field in 1978. He spent 6 1/2 years in traditional full time apprenticeship with a well-known Japanese teahouse carpenter in the San Francisco Bay Area. This apprenticeship was dedicated to concentrated practice with traditional hand tools and learning refined joinery methods. Dale then spent 2 years as a "journeyman" in traditional residential construction in Nagano-Ken, Japan expanding his skills, studying building design and structural layout.

For the past 36 years, as a builder based in Seattle, he's undertaken hundreds of projects ranging from detailed interior finishing, to furniture, to whole house construction, along with garden structures located in private and public gardens. As designer and consultant, his expertise in authentic Japanese Architectural Woodworking helps project teams achieve extraordinary results. Devoted to integrating this ancient craft into the culture of the Pacific Northwest, Dale also teaches classes annually at the Port Townsend School of Woodworking and often makes presentations at Japanese cultural festivals and woodworking venues in the Seattle area.

This is a **DO NOT MISS!**

This Month's Raffle Drawing X TWO!

All members will receive a **FREE** raffle ticket at the **February 6th Meeting** at **The HILLCREST LODGE in Mount Vernon**, for a chance to win either...

Chicago Biscuit Joiner

(valued at \$50)

– OR –

Grab Bag/Box of a variety of Sandpaper/ Abrasives



Courtesy of Klingspor Woodworking Shop (valued at \$20-\$25).

*****Follow Up Notes from the NCWA January Meeting:**

Our January presenter, Tim Lawson, from the Port Townsend School of Woodworking, has put some documents specifically on finishing, including his 'Three-Part Finish' recipe, on his website, just for us. You will find these useful docs by clicking here – [Tim Lawson](#)

Mark Your Calendars

February 6th, In Person at **The Hillcrest Lodge in Mount Vernon (location change!)** – [Dale Brotherton](#) discusses Japanese tools and woodworking.

March 5th, In Person – [Stewart Wurtz](#), custom furniture maker, shares his work.

April 2nd, In Person – A Panel Discussion on customizing small, medium, and large shop sizes.

April 5-7 – [The Skagit Wood Expo](#) at the Skagit County Fairgrounds in Mount Vernon. The Shows Committee is looking for members to be greeters and demonstrators in our booth. Come hang out with fellow NCWA Members and interact with our booth visitors.

We are also looking for projects to have on display and/or for sale at the Skagit Wood Expo. Display items can consist of projects completed in one of the NCWA Classes, or any projects you choose. It's a great place to showcase your work! Sign up sheets will be available at the February and March meetings.

Annual Membership Dues

ONE LAST CHANCE TO PAY YOUR 2024 DUES - \$35.00

Submitted by Al Ashley, NCWA Treasurer – Most members have paid their dues for 2024. There are a few that haven't, but there is still time. February 6th is the cutoff date for members to pay their dues and renew their membership. Any member that has not paid their dues will be dropped from membership.

If you are not sure if you have paid your 2024 dues, please contact the Club's treasurer at: ncwa@wavecable.com

Members may renew their membership and pay their dues on-line using PayPal or by mailing a check to the NCWA Treasurer.

1. To pay dues on-line with **PayPal**:
 - Log on the NCWA web page (<https://www.ncwawood.org/>) and click on the "Debit or Credit Card" PayPal button, enter your debit or credit card information (\$35.00 will automatically be charged to your card).
2. To pay dues with a personal check:
 - Mail a \$35.00 check (payable to: **NCWA**) to the Club's treasurer:
NCWA
c/o Al Ashley
26220 48th Ave NE
Arlington, WA 98223

Membership cards will be mailed to each renewing member upon receipt of 2024 dues.

President's Challenge

The Presidents challenge is BACK!

For this year I would like to challenge my fellow members to create a project with Butterflies and a NEW joint you have not done before or in at least the last 5 years (honor code applies- I trust you)

Now "Butterflies" can mean many things, and I leave it vague and up to your imagination!

Timeline: You have until the May meeting (If that meeting is ends up being via Zoom for some reason, we will push the completion date to the June meeting)

Who: I encourage novice makers and experts/professional to participate, the judging will take this into account.

This is about testing your own skill and expertise, so you can compete in your own right, so have fun and I really look forward to all that the membership can come up with!



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 for inclusion in the monthly newsletter.



Bob Pavia – For Sale: 1hp, 650 CFM model that runs on 110v. It has the Jet 2 Micron Canister filter to both reduces dust getting back into the shop and helps to improve collection efficiency. It is in excellent working condition, with one small dent that does not affect operations. I am asking \$400. I am located near Edison, but can meet in Burlington/ Bellingham.



Email Bob at bob.pavia@gmail.com

Jack McKee – Wanted: Small pieces of 3/4" plywood that has been laying around your shop for years. It will be put to good use.

I make these little building sets for kids called Builder Boards. Some members may remember from when I brought them to WoodFest a couple of years pre Covid. This summer I took "the world's largest set" to a preschool (several times), the Barkley Village farmers market, neighborhood parties, (Sunnyland Stomp) and twice to the Wednesday food distribution for farm workers in Lynden. Its been fun and interesting...

During Covid, the plywood I used became unavailable and I used a plywood of lesser quality for twice the price.





I started making sets from recycled or plywood leftover from other jobs.

These are the first boards I made from recycled and leftover plywood. I liked the fact they were all different so when I find the wood I'll make pieces. I found wood for quite a few pieces in my own shop. I combed Craigs list and received pieces from friends. I took apart bookcases. Then I started thinking about NCWA.

Is anyone interested in donating any amount of those smaller pieces of leftover wood to a good cause? The wall boards are 5 1/2" wide and vary in length. Most 3/4" will work although some is too thick or too thin. I use 1/2" for the roof too, but the boards are longer which is harder to find.

Contact:

Jack McKee

Hands On Books

woodshop4kids.com

The second edition of Jack's book, **Builder Boards**, will be out soon.

Library News

Library Unavailable at Alternate Meeting Sites – Submitted by Library Committee

The NCWA Library resides on a large cart at the Mount Vernon Christian School. At alternate meeting sites, such as this month, when we'll be meeting at the Hillcrest Lodge, library access will not be available. Library returns will be accepted at the meeting, and some magazine issues will be available. If you have a question or urgent request for library materials, please write to library@ncwawood.org. Thank you.

NCWA Library Sale Distributed Throughout the Year – *Submitted by Library Committee*

Due to a shortage of storage, the NCWA Library sale will be moving from an annual event to pop-up sales at our meetings, throughout the year. This is a great way to augment your personal woodworking library with books, plans and DVDs, **available for \$6 or less**. Proceeds from the sale support the purchase of new items for the library and the club.

Donations of books, plans and DVDs on the topics of woodworking, boatbuilding and carpentry are being accepted. We make every effort to find new homes for old books. Please contact Bill Pierce (library@ncwawood.org) to arrange a donation.

Thanks to all members who donate items to support the library.

In-Shop Educational Opportunities

The NCWA Educational Committee works tirelessly to bring a variety of woodworking classes to our members throughout the year. These classes are informative, fun, and good for all levels of woodworking skill. And best of all, they are *very* inexpensive.

Submitted by David Shull –

Hand-cut dovetails class was held at David Shull's shop on a bitterly cold Saturday morning. The shop was a little chilly despite three electric heaters and one propane heater, operating simultaneously. Fortunately, hot coffee and lots of sawing and chiseling warmed everyone.

Barry Tonkin, Ann Osborne, and George Knutson each completed a through dovetail joint.



Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the NCWA General Meeting January 9, 2024

New Members

Introduction of new (and newish) members: Nick, Eric, Dan (SW Woodshop instructor), Howard, Roy, Parker, Bob, Mark, Patrick

Wood Expo

River Mitchell

- April 5-7 (Friday - set-up and invite-only vendor party)
- Wood Expo began as a way to sell slabs and other wood at Skagit Fairgrounds
- Expanded to include education, live sawmill demos, Woodturners demo, craft marketplace with about 25 vendors in 2023, wood auction - low-cost slabs
- Will expand to two more heated buildings this year; demos will be in one building
- NCWA will participate in 2024 instead of WoodFest; more than 2,000 visitors in 2023

Committee Reports

- **Education (Andrew Pellar):** Need more teachers - sign ups available for classes on how to teach - routers and table saws
- **Food and Beverage:** Need a new chairperson - set up and clean up coffee and baked goods, approximately 3 hours per month. Barry has job description.
- **Programs:** February - In person, Dale Brotherton, Japanese woodworking
- **Library** - full set of Fine Woodworking available at meeting, will be donated if no takers
- **Treasurer (Al Ashley):** collecting dues. If you haven't received your membership card, it's probably because you haven't paid. Hats for sale, \$24.

New Business

President's Challenge: 1 challenge, 2 components

- Part 1: Make something with butterflies (joint, inlay, up to your interpretation)
- Part 2: Make something with a new joint

Survey: Will be emailed to membership: What would you like to get out of this club?

Viking ship field trip: Jan. 23rd, 10am, Anacortes; info will be emailed, carpool required

Bring and Brag

- Jim Bucknell: Cabinet (James Krenov style), no plans or drawing, has a hidden drawer, white oak, walnut veneer door and legs, finished with Sam Maloof; Three boxes, figured maple; walnut with rosewood handle; CVG fir with continuous grain, rosewood accent
- George Lanphear: Cabinet for wife, red oak and oak veneer, finished with wipe-on poly; Rockers for children - elephant made from 1 2x6 lumber; flying horse

- Joan Mann: Things you can make using a scroll saw - intarsia sleigh made from juniper; husband's fretwork using scroll saw including ornaments and a sleigh; snowman, bell, reindeer
- Bob Laufenberg: Rocking chair a z-shaped arm that connects into legs

Raffle

Porter Cable Dovetail Joint jig - won by George Knutson

Presentation

Tim Lawson (Port Townsend School of Woodworking) - Traditional Finishing

- Why do we finish? Protection, enhancing beauty and depth of grain/popping the grain, hiding defects, tactile improvement, change color, minimize moisture transfer in and out of wood/moisture control, prevent color change/oxidation, add sheen
- Different finishes work in different ways
- Traditional finishes: varnish, latex paint, wax, shellac, oils (tung, walnut, linseed), milk paint, stains/dyes, chemical alteration
- Not traditional: spray acrylic, lacquer, poly
- Two impervious finishes that will not allow water to go through them: epoxy and gold leaf
- Touch: fingertips have merkel cells, very sensitive - trust your fingertips, if it feels smooth, it is

Three things finishes do

- Impregnation - Oil. Creates surface reinforcement of the wood. You want the finish (like an oil) to go deep inside the grain. Let layers of oil sit on surface until it soaks in, reapply until it won't soak in anymore.
 - Fingernail test: Can you make a dent with your fingernail? Oil should make the wood stronger
- Encapsulation - Varnish and shellac. After first coat penetrates the wood, you build on the finish (really thin layers of shellac dry so quickly, you really don't get any penetration at all)
- Leveling - Works best with oil-based finish. Tim sands (220-400 grit) finish while it's wet and distributes the slurry across the wood, smooths and levels surface.
- Changing the appearance of the wood
 - Popping the grain - changes the angle light hits the grain so we can see it better
 - Chatoyance (cat's eye) - effect in some figured wood
 - Changing the color
 - Stain: particle of pigment
 - There is a lower limit of particle that you can grind (can only get so fine a particle)

- May be selectively taken up by some parts of the wood more than other parts
- Dye: molecule
 - Tends to uniformly affect wood

Physics and Chemistry of Finishes - Reactive and Evaporative processes

- Reactive - Anything that undergoes a chemical reaction that allows molecules to polymerize/react with each other
 - Example: Linseed, walnut, tung oil - made from the kernel of the seed, the oils are omega 3 fatty acids that polymerize when they mix with oxygen
 - All great finishes and food safe
 - Reaction is exothermic (gives off heat and can cause fires)
 - Put rags in water or flatten out and put outside so they polymerize, reduces chance of shop fire
- Evaporative - Removing solvent
 - Example: Shellac - lac bug secretions dissolved in alcohol. As solvent evaporates, the shellac forms into a layer on the surface of the wood. If you add alcohol back, it is a reversible finish
- Some finishes are a mixture of the two, like latex paint

Dry time - Open, tack, drying, cure times - different finishes take different amounts of time to move through each phase and to fully cure

- Tung oil (and many other oils) has an open time and tack time each about 1 day long. Dry time is several days long. Takes at least a week to fully cure.
 - Can speed up oil cure time by increasing temperature - for every 10 degrees C, the reaction time doubles (goes twice as fast)
 - If the layer of oil is thick, the outside layer might fully cure but the inner layers of the oil might have a harder time reacting with oxygen and fully polymerizing. So use thin layers.
- Shellac has a very short open phase and moves through the tack, drying, and cure phases very quickly, less than an hour, especially with thinner layers

Finish	Solvent	Binder	Payload
Tung Oil	---	Pretty much all binder	---
Latex Paint	Water	Latex	Pigment
Varnish	Mineral spirits	Usually tung oil/modified tung oil	Resin, UV suppressant

Sam Maloof	Mineral spirits (probably approx 80%)*	Tung oil (probably approx 19%)	A little bit of resin (probably approx 1%)
Stain	Some solvent	Something like tung oil	Pigment

* most commercially available finishes are mostly solvent and as little binder as possible

Making your own finish

- Really easy and you can customize the finish based on the properties you want it to have
- Ex: Making a stain: Use a solvent, mix in some tung oil based on your personal preference, and then add in whatever color oil paint (pigment + boiled linseed oil, burnt umber and burnt sienna are common colors) you want (approx 0.5"-1" squeeze of tube mixed in about .5 cups of solvent/binder)

Tim's favorite finish - Garrett Hack's finish:

- 1 part turpentine (solvent)
- 1 part tung oil (binder) - **not** boiled - boiled is partially polymerized already
- 1 part Marine spar varnish
 - Mix into mason jar and shake it up
 - Flood it on, sand it and redistribute the slurry, then wipe it off
 - Sands from 220 to 400
 - Timlawson.net - most recent blog shows description of how to make this
 - https://docs.google.com/document/d/13d_QJ1tbNI6MzENz0r1jTHQRoL4PUjTvidQJDDGIRss/edit
 - Will add links to his favorite books on finish
 - Fine Woodworking article about this finish: <https://www.finewoodworking.com/1997/02/01/oil-varnish-mixture-is-durable-easy-to-apply>

Tips

- Always test out a finish to see how a finish will look on a specific piece of wood. Some woods are oilier (such as bubinga) than others and might not work with every finish.
- For oilier woods, several very thin coats of shellac is also a nice finish that is easy to get right. Make your own for better quality - shellac.net (store flakes in the freezer)
 - Tim makes a saturated shellac solution - puts flakes in the bottom of a jar and adds just enough alcohol to cover the shellac flakes, and then adds a little more alcohol until flakes are dissolves
 - Recommends finishing pieces of a project before assembling, use masking tape to protect glue joints from getting finish on them.
- Finishing Cheat Sheet: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1LBLI7H-dyWadK4Bt5r1NR73bGOAKRg-t6m-O4GgUtOQ/edit#gid=0>

January 18, 2024
Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association
Board of Directors Meeting

Attendees:

Barry Tonkin
Al Ashley
King Dahl
Christi Brua Weaver
Jerry Couchman
George Knutson
John Braun
Nick Pederson
Don Mason
Chuck Barnett
Bill Pierce
Andrew Pellar

Call to order: 7:04pm

February and March Meeting Location

- Need to book the Hillcrest Lodge for Feb. 6 and check audiovisual/lighting situation
- Presenter is bringing his own workbench
- Also need to book a location for March - Hillcrest or Burlington Library?

Roles and Responsibilities Update

- Barry will send out President R&Rs for review before next Board meeting
- Food and Beverage R&R is nearly done
- Don and Barry have been working on Club Photography R&R
 - Still looking for a club photographer
 - Don will take some pictures in the meantime and work video camera
 - Members have indicated that they like pictures of Bring and Brag items in the newsletter, also important to have the descriptor sheets
 - In the past, we had a soft box to put items in to photograph them.
- Al sent Treasurer's R&R to Barry for review

WoodExpo

- Organizer, River, presented at January meeting
- \$175 fee to have a booth - King will book us a booth
 - We can sell in the same booth or in a separate tent if we need more space
- Can also do a demonstration at the main stage
- Jack McKee will bring his builder boards so will need a larger booth space

Anacortes Arts Festival

- Ready to start taking applications for booths/working studios
- Email/website does not indicate that working studios will be moved, however the art gallery will be moved to the depot
- King will ask directly if working studios will be moved and if so, where?

Survey Questions

- What questions would committee chairs like to ask the membership? Chairs should email Barry, George, and Jerry with their questions.

Programs - Chuck Barnett

- Peter is taking over as chair
- February, in person, location TBD: Dale Brotherton, Japanese Woodworking
- March, in person, location TBD: Stuart Wurtz from Bellingham, custom furniture
- April, in person: Panel discussion on three different shop sizes
- May, virtual or possibly hybrid: Tom McLaughlin, Epic Woodworking - using woodgrain to enhance your projects

Library - Bill Pierce

- If the meeting is not at school, Library won't be available

Toys for Tots - John Braun

- Class/workgroup/open house idea? Toy making, template making, etc.
- John has talked to people about possibly hosting toy building groups

Education - Andrew Pellar

- Looking at possibly holding a CNC class (and maybe program)
- Andrew is rebuilding curriculum, developing new classes, and recruiting new teachers, is looking for an admin assistant to provide support/backup to help with reminders, etc.

Membership - Jerry Couchman

- 7 new members in January

Treasurer's Report - Al Ashley

- See Al's report for details
- About \$7,000 more in the bank than at this time last year
- 246 members (225 last year); 40 new members in 2023 (23 in 2022)
- 79% (194) of membership has renewed for 2024
 - Al emailed members who haven't renewed yet
 - Roster will be updated in first Tuesday in February
- How is budget projected? Treasurer reaches out to committee chairs for their projected expenses, then works up preliminary budget and submits it to Board in September for review, edits. Revised budget discussed and approved in future meetings.

Hats

- Board voted to give out hats to presenters, teachers, volunteers. Adjourn: 8:57pm

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

Stockton's Paints

Mt. Vernon Building Center

Cedar Country Lumber

Sherwin-Williams Paint

EAST –

E & E Lumber

SPECIALTY –

Edensaw Woods

FASTCAP

Klingspor Woodworking Shop

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.

NCWA 2024 Board of Directors:

President – Nick Pederson

Vice President – Barry Tonkin

Treasurer – Al Ashley

Secretary – Christi Brua Weaver

Members at Large – Peter Gantt, Chuck Barnett, Don Mason, George Knutson

Committee Chairs:

Programs Committee – Peter Gantt, Chuck Barnett, Craig Edwards

Education – Andrew Pellar

Shows – King Dahl

Toys for Tots – John Braun

Newsletter – King Dahl

Library – Bill Pierce

Membership – Jerry Couchman

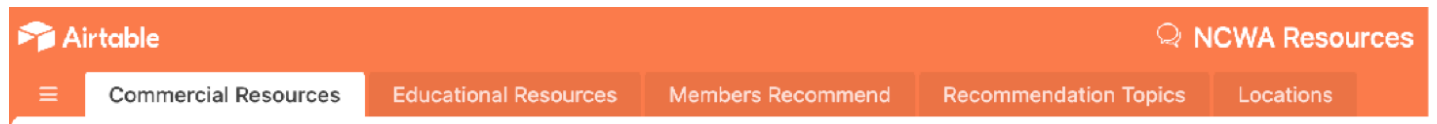
Shop Tours – TBA

Webmaster – Michael Titus

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.



The screenshot shows the Airtable interface for 'NCWA Resources'. The navigation bar includes the Airtable logo, a search icon, and the title 'NCWA Resources'. Below the title are five tabs: 'Commercial Resources', 'Educational Resources', 'Members Recommend', 'Recommendation Topics', and 'Locations'. The 'Commercial Resources' tab is currently selected.

- **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.