



Newsletter

NOTE LOCATION! Next Monthly Meeting — March 5th, 2024 at 7 PM

IN PERSON at the HILLCREST LODGE in Mount Vernon

LOCATION CHANGE

The 3/5 mtg featuring Stewart Wurtz will held at The Hillcrest Lodge in Mount Vernon

RAFFLE PRIZE

Check out this months 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...

Hello my fellow woodworkers,

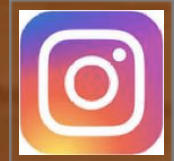
In the upcoming month, the board and I will have prepared a survey for the membership. Now I acknowledge that survey fatigue is a real thing, and while I do not wish to add to it, we are well overdue to have one (last was 6-9 years ago) for the betterment of the club and your experience with it as a member.

While we have cut lots of questions from the original 50, we have whittled it down to more reasonable 25 "ish." My ask is this - please volunteer some of your precious time and share your thoughts and input. Take the time to complete it fully and shape your club to what works for you. This will allow the various committees and the Board to shape the club in the future to be more engaging and fulfil your needs more accurately.

Volunteer ask: We could really use help pulling together the newsletter- If you have interest in editing and/or curating content for the group, please let King Dahl know. We can provide more detail and understanding on what would be needed time wise and skills. This is a great role to make connections and learn about the club.

B and Nick

Connect with your fellow members:



Instagram



Facebook



YouTube



Website

March 5th!

*Due to an unavoidable scheduling conflict, the March meeting
will once again be held at*

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



Stewart Wurtz

"All I can hope for in making my furniture is to pay homage in some small way to the wonder and beauty of our natural environment. I strive for an economy of form in my work and like to use simple lines with spare detail to achieve this balance. My work is meant to be utilitarian, and I'd be honored to think that it will be enjoyed both today and well into the future"



This Month's Raffle Drawing!

All members will receive a **FREE** raffle ticket at the **March 5th Meeting** at
The HILLCREST LODGE in Mount Vernon,



Set of 6 Wood River Chisels

(valued at \$112.99)

This brand new set of chisels comes sharp, with a fresh micro-bevel, courtesy of Jerry Couchman.

Mark Your Calendars!

March 5th, In Person at ***The Hillcrest Lodge in Mount Vernon*** (**location change!**) – 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 the NCWA booth. Come hang out with fellow NCWA Members and interact with our booth visitors.

- **Please email Jerry Couchman at sofa01@hotmail.com to volunteer to do a woodworking demonstration.**
- **Please email Bill Pierce at soaringswallowfarm@gmail.com to volunteer to be a greeter, and/or to help set-up and take-down the NCWA booth.**
- **Please email John Braun at jhdixbraun@gmail.com to assist with the kids Toys For Tots area and Builder Boards.**
- **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 March meeting.**

May 7th – ZOOM Meeting featuring acclaimed woodworker, Tom McLaughlin of Epic Woodworking.

Save the Date(s) – August 2-4 – for the annual Anacortes Arts Festival!

President's Challenge

June will be here soon. Has your President's Challenge project been started?

... A project with Butterflies and a NEW joint you have not done before. Note: "Butterflies" can mean many things, and I leave it vague and up to your imagination!

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

This is about testing your own skills, so you can compete in your own right, so have fun!

– *Barry Tonkin*



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.

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.

Bring and Brag

Just a reminder, if you have a project you'd like to showcase for Bring and Brag at an upcoming meeting, but your project is too large to bring in person, please send photos to Greg Koenker at gkoenker@gmail.com a few days prior to the meeting. This allows Greg ample time to get the photos uploaded, and ready for display.



Don Nelson
Black Walnut
Cherry Tree
Crafting (Sawdust)

See meeting minutes
below for descriptions...



Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the NCWA General Meeting February 6, 2024

Vice President: Barry Tonkin

Call to order: 7:00

Approximately 85 attendees

New Members

Introduction of new members: Todd, Scott, Brian, Tim, Rodney, Matt, Dave, Stuart (will be presenting next month), Grant, and Josephine

Committee Reports

- **Education (Andrew Pellar):** Classes available for signup - Math for Woodworkers and for new teachers. Need more teachers - sign ups available for classes on how to teach - routers and table saws
- **Library:** Library won't be at this or next month's meeting but will be taking returns
- **Shows (King Dahl, Bill Pierce):** Volunteer signups for Wood Expo, first weekend of April at Skagit Fairgrounds. You can set up Friday; be a greeter, demonstrator, or do Toys for Tots/Kids Construction zone on Saturday or Sunday; or tear down Sunday. Think about items you want to display (including those made in classes) and things to sell.
- **Treasurer:** Collecting dues, this is the last month to pay dues before you're dropped from roster

Bring and Brag

- Richard Gillingham - narrow band weaving loom (can make shoelaces or guitar straps); European beech and sapele lever mechanism that Richard patented, rock maple or hickory pegs, takes more than 300 separate actions to make each loom, finished with 1 coat of Arm-R-Seal applied with cotton balls wrapped in cut-up t-shirt (like french polish rubber)
 - Looking for a helper for a few hours each week - for someone new to woodworking who would like to learn how to use the tools and learn techniques
- Charlie Drake - Cedar carving he made at a carving symposium last summer, finished with oil-varnish mix and dark and natural wax; very detailed carved duplex made of cottonwood bark (cottonwood is not thick enough around here, but places that get really good like ND get thick enough)
- Ann Osborne - squaring stick for use when measuring diagonals, cherry with wax finish
- Joan Mann - Intarsia heart; intarsia bell on fretwork background; intarsia fish on fretwork background; open fretwork over a mirror and a fish with a black background
- Don Mason - cutting board, black walnut end grain and cherry border finished with as much walnut oil as it would absorb. After a few days, the board cracked from all of the walnut oil

Raffle

Chicago Biscuit Jointer - won by Dan Cauldwell

Variety of Sandpaper/Abrasives - won by David Steele

Presentation

Dale Brotherton - Unlocking the Mystery of Japanese Tools

- Studied 9 years in Japan
- Introduction to Japanese tools and techniques for using those tools
- Examples of Japanese joinery - 1 post and 2 beam lock together like a puzzle, wedges pounded in to keep everything in place; dovetailed beams; blind dovetail that sides into place so you can't see how it's done - finish joint, not structural
- Handworking without jigs or power tools - layout is critical because you rely on lines drawn on with bamboo brush (sharpened with chisel) and sumi (charcoal) ink - permanent, so you must plane the surface to remove the lines. If your layout is good and cuts aren't great, you can probably still make it work, but if your layout is poor, your project will be poor
- Uses very delicate stainless steel square (Sashigane) with Japanese measurements
- The key to accurate layout - if you make a line and follow it up around the board and the lines don't meet - keep your hand straight. Concentrate pulling it in a straight line. Every time you change angles, you wobble a bit. Use your whole body to pull straight, not just your hand
- Japanese Marking Gauge (Kebiki) - 2 adjustable legs with slicing knives that can be sharpened with a file, can mark both sides of the board at once
- Traditional Saws (most saws you'll buy have replaceable blades):
 - 2-edge saw (Ryoba - many sizes 210mm to large enough for lumber) - cross and rip cut on the same saw, cut on the pull stroke - don't try to cut on the push stroke because the teeth are very thin, don't need to grip it tightly, should have a light touch, don't force it. Hardest part is starting the saw. Use thumb to guide blade into place and very lightly use the saw. The lower angle, the easier to start but more likely to slip; higher angles are harder to cut; find the sweet spot. If you're cutting a line the whole way around, initiate the line cut on every side, then proceed with the cut. Having the kerf established helps keep you on the line. If the offset teeth are dull on one side, it will affect the cut. How do you know if the blade is dull? Get a thin scrap of wood (3/16") and cut perpendicular to the edge of the wood. Don't use much force, don't guide, just lightly cut. Make three cuts. If the saw consistently pulls to one side, you know it's not you and it's the blade.
 - Single-edge cross cut saw (Kataba [Crosscut: Yokobiki; Ripcut: Tatebiki]) - harder to find
 - Dozuki - very fine kerf
 - Azebiki - very short-bladed saw with curved edges (could be compared to a panel saw) intended to start a cut on flat surface, getting into tight spaces, no need to buy a fancy one of these, junky ones work just fine. Normal-size saws with curved edges are Anabiki.
- Chisels (here is a link with pictures and descriptions of Japanese chisels: <https://brianholcombwoodworker.com/guide-to-japanese-chisels/>)
 - Designed to be used with a steel hammer because it has a ring on the end of chisel
 - Main body of the back of the blade is wrought iron (using old chains or anchors) and forged onto that is the steel cutting edge - back is hollowed out a little to allow for easier

sharpening - if you sharpen so much hit the hollowed out section, just flatten out the edges again - very light bevel

- You don't want the whole back of the chisel to be flat like in western chisels - only about $\frac{1}{3}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ of the length of the blade and only on the edges should be flat. Allows for more leverage so the chisel doesn't get pulled in one direction
- Bench chisel (Oire nomi)
- Slick chisels (Tsuki nomi) for finishing after you've done the rough work
- Some chisels are large enough for timber framing (Tataki nomi: 1-2 inch)
- In-between size chisels (Chu Tataki nomi)
- Small chisel that allows you to get into grooves/recessed area
- Use a chisel a little narrower than the mortise - score inside the line, including very lightly along the grain so you don't split the grain. Then do a wedge V cut on your cross grain cut over and over, going deeper and widening the V, loosen up the fibers in sequential cuts, and chip them out by chiseling along the sides - with the grain. Repeat process if you want to go deeper. To make a through mortise, continue till half way though, and then do the same on the other side. If you're making a stop mortise, just try to even out the bottom. Finish with a slick chisel out to your lines (does not use a hammer with this). Make sure to get all of the bulk from below the line because if the mortise is too tight, it can split the wood when you put the tenon in.
- Checks for square using sight by holding the square up to it.
- Dale doesn't use a bench vise to hold the piece in place, he uses his leg, prefers a lower bench for this purpose and to get enough down force when using the slick chisel.
- Chamfer corner chisel designed to work with pre-drilling first
- Handplanes
 - Look simple - blade wedged into a block of wood with a chip breaker - work on pull cut
 - Main body is on the front of blade
 - Shaves amazing thin ribbons of wood, thinner than crepe paper - thickness determined by the distance the blade sticks out from the surface in front of the block
 - To take the blade out, hold onto both blades, tap plane to slide blades out. Main blade is hollowed out on the back laminated steel like a chisel. Blade is wedged in, tapered, tap it in with a hammer or mallet, and tap so the blade edge is level - back it out by tapping on the block
 - Block condition is very important - uses 90-degree plane to condition the block, scraping across the grain. Checks in front of the blade to make sure it's flat, then flattens the front of the plane, then uses winding sticks to make sure both surfaces are flat with no twists
 - Problem happens behind the blade from the pressure of the blade - can cause the wood to bulge out, so need to make sure that's flat
 - But sharpness of the blade is most important
 - Chipbreaker should also be laminated steel - cheap Japanese planes will just be stamped steel - not worth using a chip breaker, just use it as single plane with just the blade.

- Chip breaker is faceted, tap into place so it's very close to the cutting edge so when a shaving comes up and hits the facet, compressing the shaving and breaking the fibers, preventing the fibers from tearing out in front of your cutting edge
 - If it tears out, just tap the chip edge closer to the cutting edge - shavings will get more compressed and wrinkly
- Does not have a specific bevel angle that he sharpens to - depends on the blade and situation - prefers the shallowest bevel angle he can get for that particular blade because it will stay sharper longer.
 - For harder woods like oak, prefers he steeper angle.
 - Softer woods like red cedar need a shallower bevel angle. He also always uses a flat blade, not a curved or angled blade because it cuts cleaner and he can easily pick up right at the end of the last cut

February 15, 2024

Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association

Board of Directors Meeting

Attendees:

Barry Tonkin, King Dahl , Christi Brua Weaver , Jerry Couchman , George Knutson , John Braun , Andrew Pellar , Peter Gantt , Don Mason, Bill Pierce

Call to order: 7:02pm

Future Meetings

- Hillcrest Lodge for March's meeting
- Back at the school in April

President's Challenge

- Due in June because May meeting will be over Zoom

Raffle Items

- Jerry is using a Woodcraft gift card that was gifted to club to purchase raffle items

Survey Questions

- Fine-tuning questions; expect to have a finished draft by next Board meeting

WoodExpo

- Contact Bill Pierce if you want to volunteer as greeter, Toys for Tots, or set up
- Contact Jerry Couchman if you want to be a demonstrator

Roles and Responsibilities Update

- President
 - Suggestion to add duty to collect information from Committee chairs - business continuity planning as backup/redundancy/manage BCP
 - Board voted to approve description with edit
- Photographer

- Will set up Google Drive - Board members can upload pictures, Membership can send pictures to Don Mason, photographer
 - Photo curation will add an hour a month
- Board voted to approve description with edit
- Food and Beverage
 - Increase time commitment to hours/month, remove picnic responsibilities
 - Will ask Committee members for more input; postponing vote until next month
- Shows
 - Adjusting time commitment 25-40 hrs/year
 - Board voted to approve with edit

Membership - Jerry Couchman

- 3 new members so far in February

Library - Bill Pierce

- Library received donation of 4 boxes of new books, committee will go through the books and decide what to do with them
- If the meeting is not at school, Library won't be available but you'll be able to return books/DVDs
- Library is seeing about 10 checkouts per month, limited number of people who it; usage reports will be sent to the Board
 - Question about library relevancy will be in the survey
- Magazines and book sale have enough support

Programs - Chuck Barnett

- March, in person, Hillcrest Lodge: Stuart Wurtz from Bellingham, custom furniture
- April, in person, Christian School: Panel discussion on three different shop sizes
- May, virtual: Tom McLaughlin, Epic Woodworking - using woodgrain to enhance your projects
- June program is in the works, but looking for more presenters for the rest of the year, possibly CNC topic
- Suggestion to use funding to bring in presenters from other parts of the country

Education - Andrew Pellar

- Andrew is still developing new classes and recruiting teachers
- Looking for an admin assistant, will develop a job description

Toys for Tots

- Still meeting at Val's shop, would appreciate other members who know Val stopping by or calling

Treasurer's Report - Al Ashley

- See Al's report for details
- About \$5,000 more in the bank than at this time last year
- 223 members (206 last year); 13 new members this year (8 in 2023)
 - Club voted to again put red dots on new members' name tags
- 33 members did not renew (28 in 2023)
 - Roster has been updated

Adjourn: 8:28pm

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

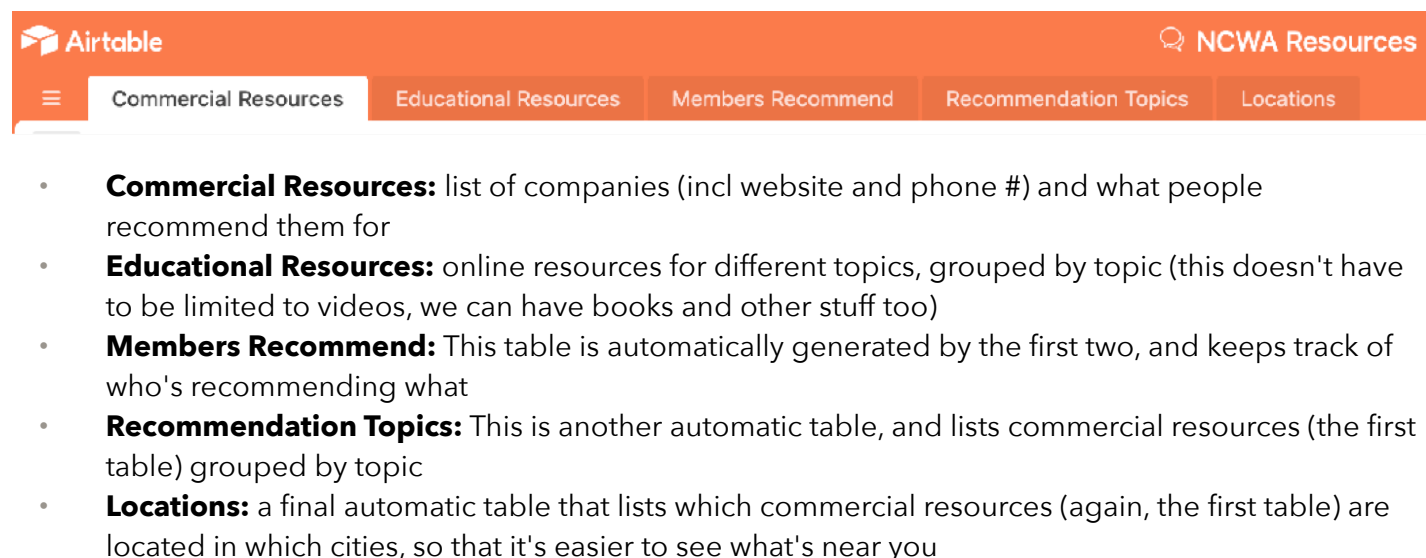
Shop Tours – TBA

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.



- **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.