



Newsletter

Next Meeting — Tuesday, July 2nd at 7 PM

Hillcrest Lodge

RECAP OF THE JUNE 8TH MEETING

GREG KLASSEN'S STUDIO & SLAB FARM

GET INVOLVED

Check Out these Great Volunteer Opportunities

MEETING MINUTES

Get caught up on the goings on of your club.

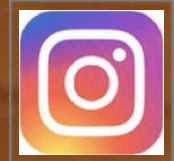
Click the underlined title in the boxes above to be taken directly to that section of the newsletter.

President's Message...

Hello fellow members- couple of asks this month- First we are ready with the first club survey in many years. This survey will help us understand your needs and wants and help the board of directors to build a stronger club going forward. We are pushing 250 members and as one of the largest woodworking clubs in the country we are having our growing pains. I know many of you want to help and make the club stronger and better, here is the way to help do that for a small amount of your time.

Please share your passion to help the board and yourselves build a better club. A separate link will come out in July for you to take the survey. This input will help the board and committees improve the club and help us know what we are getting right and what needs work. Back in the days when we were 90 strong it was pretty easy, with as many as we have now and the diversity we have, we need your help! Keep your eyes open for the upcoming survey. – *Barry Tonkin*

Connect with your fellow members:



[Instagram](#)



[Facebook](#)



[YouTube](#)



[Website](#)

**July 2nd, 7 PM
at the Hillcrest Lodge
1717 S 13th St, Mount Vernon**

"Pursuit of the Perfect Knife"



Widely considered to be one of the greatest American Bladesmiths of our time, **Bob Kramer** has been an instrumental influence on the custom and commercial culinary knife industry as we know it today.

Since 1998, Kramer Knives have become a coveted item for both cooks and collectors alike. It's a brand recognized for excellence, craftsmanship, and unbeatable performance.

Visit his website at kramerknives.com

July Raffle Drawing

Don't miss our July 2nd meeting, not only because of the excellent program, bring and brag, free cookies, coffee, Library access, etc, but you also get one **FREE RAFFLE TICKET** for a chance to win this nice WIXEY WR100 DIGITAL CALIPER! This is a precision stainless steel caliper that displays measurements in inches with fractions or millimeters. Constructed of high quality hardened and ground stainless steel components and advanced Wixey Technology.

A \$49.99 VALUE!



ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!



To our creative, passionate and talented members. We need help! We are looking for people interested in audio/visual work. If you have an interest in the area please contact Barry Tonkin. Time requirement is actual minimal and would help the club grow into the future . We are looking for around six people to share responsibilities. You just need to be interested and not have significant background experience.

Education Committee Update

The committee is busily working on offerings for fall and beyond.

Efforts to build up the teaching ranks are paying off. We expect to offer more classes and some bigger classes. I know many folks are frustrated by the few classes and limited spaces but that is the nature of hands on classes taught by generous volunteers.

Please consider getting involved to help out. At the top of the list is instructors. The 80/20 rule suggests that in a club of 240, we should have 48 teachers. Unfortunately this way off. Don't feel confident enough to teach, we can use assistants and shop hosts and administrative help from class development to scheduling.

Please consider joining me to make the club better. I am available at andf32plr@yahoo.com.

Thank you. – *Submitted by Andrew Pellar, Education Committee Chair*

2024 Anacortes Arts Festival Aug 2-4

We still need some more volunteers to help run our booth at the **2024 Anacortes Arts Festival Aug 2-4**. Many thanks to members who already signed up! Unfortunately, we are well short of being fully staffed. This is our most important event of the year where we showcase our work, demonstrate woodworking skills, promote Toys for Tots, recruit new members and even sell our work. Many of you have never participated in one of our shows so **this is your chance** to change that, and join the fun! These are the jobs that need to be filled:

- **Greeters**
- **Demonstrators on two work benches and the club Shave Horse**
- **Toys for Tots and Builder Boards (Kids Korral) assistants**



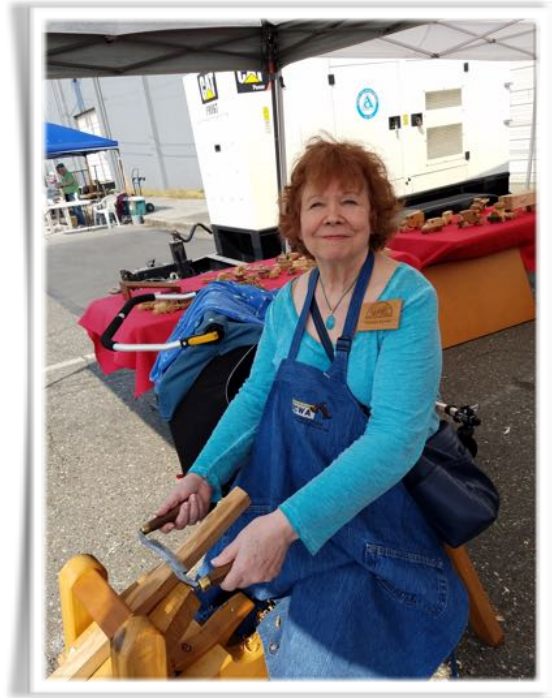
Shifts for greeters, demonstrators and Kids area assistants are 2 hours long beginning 10 am each day, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Power will be available for power tools. Club aprons will be available for all volunteers!

Please sign up at our July 2 membership meeting! Jim Bucknell and Jerry Couchman will have a sign up table in the back of the Hillcrest Lodge.

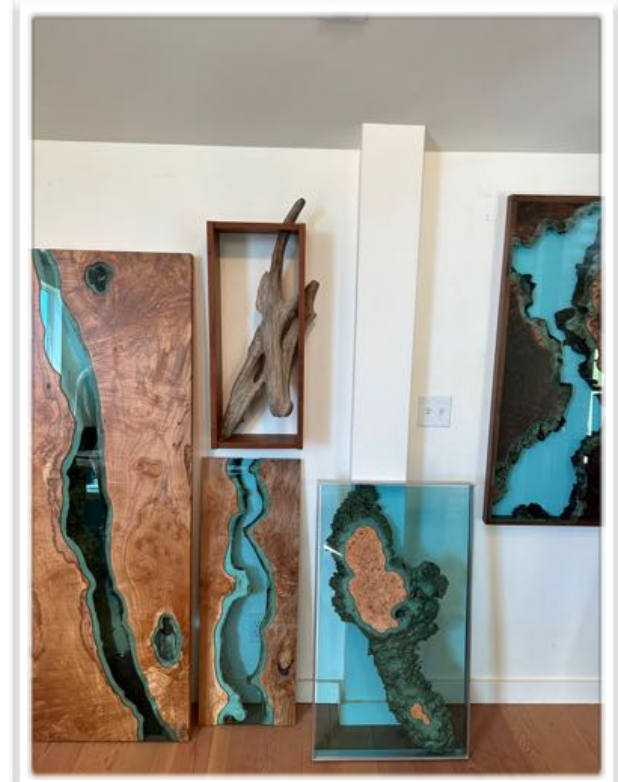
You can also contact Jerry Couchman at (360)255-1984 or sofa01@hotmail.com

Some more photos of the fun from the 2023 Anacortes Arts Festival are below...





Recap of the June 8th field-trip to Greg Klassen's Studio and Slab Farm.



The June NCWA monthly meeting was held on Saturday, June 8, at Greg Klassen's shop, followed by a BBQ and slab cutting demo at the Slab Farm.

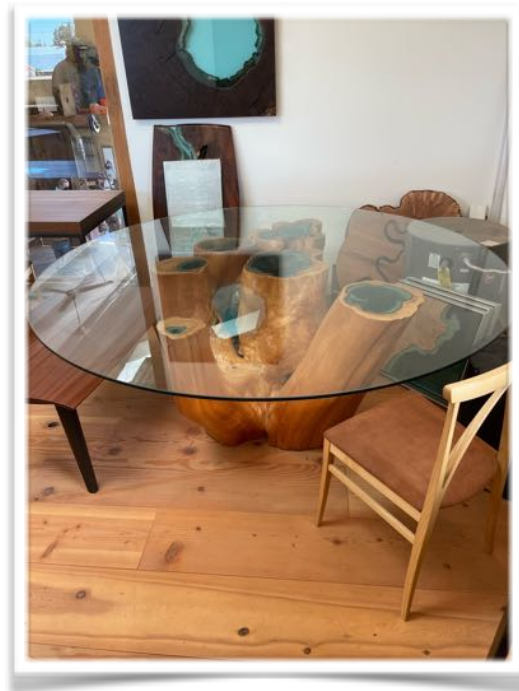
Inspired by the rugged beauty of the Pacific Northwest, Greg Klassen designs furniture and art from sustainably harvested trees at his farmhouse studio in Everson, Wash. A husband, father and

master craftsman, Klassen has studied furniture design and fine woodworking in such diverse locales as California's redwood coast and an island village in Sweden. In 2011, Klassen launched his trailblazing River Collection featuring wood slabs adorned with vibrant blue glass evoking the spirit of rivers, lakes and waterfalls.



Klassen is the original creator of the River Table design and it is the most widely imitated furniture design of his generation. His globally acclaimed work is crafted from carefully selected live edge wood slabs which inspire the form of each unique piece and is artfully joined together with hand-cut glass. The natural shapes of the wood ensure that no two of Klassen's pieces are the same and his deft touch makes certain each piece is filled with layers, texture and nuance.

His work lives in the personal collections of his fans and patrons around the world and has also been shown at national exhibitions including the prestigious Smithsonian Craft Show.



Slab Farm is a partnership between 4th generation Lynden farmer and engineer Landon Van Dyk and internationally-acclaimed woodworker and artist Greg Klassen. Our specialty is cutting large slabs on our Wood Mizer slabbing bandsaw mill using locally salvaged trees. Our inventory of slabs includes big leaf maple, fir, cedar, elm, oak, alder and various other local trees with an emphasis on larger slabs.



Mark Your Calendars!

July 2nd, 7:00 PM – Bob Kramer at *The Hillcrest Lodge*

August 2-4 – The Annual Anacortes Arts Festival!

August 17th – The Annual NCWA/Woodturners Picnic

Bring and Brag

Bring and Brag is Back at the July Meeting with The President's Challenge!

As stated when The President's Challenge was announced earlier this year, your project should include **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. Hope this has been fun and rewarding! – *Barry Tonkin*

BRING YOUR PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE PROJECT TO THE JULY MEETING!

Murphy Bed – Jerry Couchman When Julia told me three groups of her relatives would be staying with us in July, I knew there was a new project on my list! Rockler sells a Murphy bed kit made by Create-a-Bed, so after looking up their plans online, I decided to go for it. This is a queen size out of Sapele 4/4 stock and plywood (which hasn't gotten any cheaper!) I included 12v LED reading lights in the header portion of the cabinet the bed folds into. Since the bed is in an upstairs bedroom it took two of us to move all the parts up there, then final assembly in the bedroom. I hope I never have to move it.



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.

NCWA CHAT News

To help target communications on the NCWA chat according to an individual's interests, a change in the subject line guidelines is being made. Specifically, for Saw Stop users group and for Jigs & Fixtures topics, add the topic area name to the beginning of the discussion's title. Then proceed to enter your inputs using NCWA Chat as we have been doing. Examples:

Sawstop specific discussions:

[Sawstop] Stumpy Nubs weighs in on table saw safety discussion

Jigs & Fixtures specific discussions:

[Jigs] Clever jig for cutting tenons on the band saw

And for discussions that involve jigs fixtures on Sawstop table saws:

[Sawstop][Jigs] Shop made Sawstop table saw fence jig with integral push stick

Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2024

Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association

General Meeting/Field Trip

Field Trip

Greg Klassen's studio and Slab Farm in Everson (<https://www.gregklassen.com/>)

- Tour began in in Greg's studio where members could look at several in-process pieces and several completed pieces in the upstairs showroom
 - Greg is the original creator of the River Table
- Started woodworking while employed at Lynden Door, would take home scraps/useless doors
- Went to James Krenoff's school in California and a woodworking school in Sweden
- Before starting his business (16 years ago to the day), he would sell at the Bellingham Farmers Market and later at arts festivals, Smithsonian Craft Show
- He struggled during the first 6 years in business until he debuted his River Collection in Manhattan (February 2014)
 - He sold nothing at there but in July 2014, he did an interview with a blog and afterwards sold everything he made for the Manhattan show online
 - After that, his business exploded, has sold roughly 350 pieces from the River Collection
- Only builds his own designs; all designing is done by hand, no CAD software
- With the exception of his 13-year-old daughter who is his summer employee, he builds everything on his own
- Gets his wood from all over but now also gets wood from his own saw mill, the Slab Farm
 - Fairly new side business with his business partner Landon
- How did he come up with the idea of the River Table?
 - Had worked with dimensional lumber making mid-century modern furniture
 - Was introduced to live-edge slabs in 2010 by Howard Holtz; noticed that a live-edge slab, when ripped in half and the live edges turned to face each other, the negative space looked like a canyon
 - Also had just found out that glass could be shaped and came in different colors, so it just kind of came together; he uses an exclusive shade of blue for his glass (cut by Lyndale Glass)
- What kind of finish does he use?
 - Conversion varnish sprayed by a local show; it's hard, durable, impervious but doesn't feel like a film on the wood

- Glass is loose on tables to allow for wood movement; wall pieces have fixed glass but he accounts for wood movement in how the glass is attached
- Shipping crates are made from 1" OSB with foam padding
- Moisture levels: Ambient (10-12%)
- Also does commission pieces, including a 20.5-foot-long river table for a couple in Greece
 - Will deliver with his family in person, but he's having trouble figuring out shipping logistics because it's too big for his normal shipping companies
 - Just picked up the slab in Portland because that's the only place he could find in the US that had a slab big enough

Raffle

- Quart of Osmo finish, exterior with UV protection - won by Todd Wyder

Slab Farm

- Live slab cutting demonstration of a slab of oak and a large branch of western maple (see pictures) with Woodmizer LX250
 - Basically a giant horizontal band saw
 - Electric, so it's fairly quiet and moves forward on its own
- Uses farm equipment and forklifts to move logs and slabs
- Air dries slabs for 2-3 years

June 20, 2024
Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association
Board of Directors Meeting

Attendees

Barry Tonkin, Nick Pederson, Don Mason, Christi Brua Weaver, Jerry Couchman, George Knutson, Al Ashley, Mike Titus, Chuck Barnett, John Braun, Andrew Pellar, Bill Pierce, George Lanphear

Call to order: 7:20pm

Treasurer's Report - Al Ashley

- See Al's report for details
- About \$6,200 more in the bank than at this time last year
- 243 members (217 last year); 36 new members this year (17 in 2023)
 - 3 honorary members (included)

Toys for Tots South Program - George Lanphear

- Up and running but looking for feedback/guidance from the board
- Requesting clarification from John:
 - Can you clarify our involvement with Toys for Tots?
 - We donate toys to the Skagit Marine Corps every year. (Turners might also donate toys.) Money received from donations goes into Toys for Tots program to purchase wood.
 - Does Skagit chapter still exist? If not, can we work with Bellingham chapter?
 - Does our program fully support Toys for Tots? Are funds donated to Toys for Tots program used for anything else?
 - Do 100% of toys made go exclusively to Toys for Tots? There are other organizations in Snohomish County that are interested in receiving toys.

Survey Update

- Sent out to board members a few weeks ago and input has been incorporated
- Would like some more feedback from the board members before sending out to the membership

Picnic

- Will be August 17th, likely 1-4pm; school has been tentatively reserved
- Will need to work with Brannon about getting access to the school early for set up
- Set up will begin around 11-12; volunteers should show up around 11:30; sellers should show up early to set up too

- Club members should bring:
 - Sides or desserts for potluck
 - Chairs for themselves
 - Additional canopies if they want them
- Nick will be putting together a list of what will be needed for cooking (grill rental and food), set up, and volunteers (will need 2 cooks)
 - Grill rental has historically be from a location in Mount Vernon but it closes at about 2pm on Saturdays and doesn't open until Monday; George would prefer a member close to Mount Vernon would pick up and drop it back off the following Monday or find another rental location in Whatcom
- Cleanup takes a while, particularly for things that didn't sell
 - People who bring things for silent auction or for giveaway should take them remaining items back with them

Library

- Received a donation of DVDs that will be available at the next in-person meeting

Programs - Chuck Barnett

- July: Bob Kramer
- August: picnic - Aug 17
- September: open
- October: Loren Seeks - furniture maker
- November: Bob Behnke - Chemist from Titebond (Franklin International) on glue
- December: recap

Education - Andrew Pellar

- New teachers for fall classes, will start scheduling soon
- Encourages helpers and apprentices to increase the number of people who are able to teach classes; also "Teach the Teachers" class should be happening soon

Membership - Jerry Couchman

- Three new members in June and a two who joined in the end of May
- Survey will help us know what the membership is looking for
- As club grows, how can we change to meet new needs?
 - Will discuss this topic at a future meeting

Shows - Jerry Couchman

- Anacortes Arts Fest: Jerry is recruiting volunteers and has received 17 responses so far

- Need about 30 volunteers, so he will make an announcement at the next meeting and make phone calls if needed
- Still don't have a lot of information about the new location
- Looking for more canopies to borrow from members (Don and George possibly). If it makes sense to purchase more for Anacortes Arts Fest's new location, that is an option for next year.

New A/V equipment

- George will be meeting with Greg next week to text some options
- Looking for an A/V team of about 6-7 people to help out at meetings
 - Don will help at the next meeting

Adjourn: 8:38pm

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

Library – Bill Pierce

Education – Andrew Pellar

Membership – Jerry Couchman

Shows – King Dahl

Shop Tours – TBA

Toys for Tots – John Braun

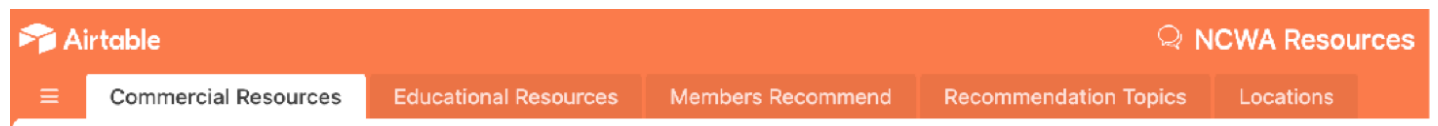
Webmaster – Michael Titus

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.



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 navigation bar 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.