

THE CAROL WOODS NEWS

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CRAFTS SHOP

Are you one of those people who worries that living in Carol Woods will cut you off from what you enjoy most?

Worry no more.

One of the best-kept secrets of life here is the corner of the campus called the Crafts Shop, a relatively new building filled to overflowing with state-of-the-art power tools and a daily calendar of dawn-to-dark access.

Committee members **Charlie Heuer**, **Jim Summerville** and **Ken Pickett** have transformed this space from a facsimile of your old basement workshop into a haven of campus outreach, where people with the skills and interest can make something completely new, or turn something treasured into good-as-new.

Outfitted through donations over the years, the workshop features table saws of all sorts, drill presses, sanders, lathes, planers and joiners, and lots of hand tools for use by anyone with competence for individual projects. In fact, this availability of tools for do-it-yourself projects is even more than any of us dreamed of when we were making those endless treks to Home Depot. And if a donation of a new and better power tool than one already on site is offered, the newer one inevitably replaces the older.

Individual projects have ranged from simple shelves, plant stands and computer cord housings, to loom parts and a printer table. **Blair Bowers** built a laundry room cabinet; **Roy Lindahl** built a cherry wood desktop; and **Lee Sockwell** built a fabulous walnut king-size headboard.

The Crafts Shop Committee also assists or repairs things for people on campus who lack their skills. Crafters may repair a broken wind-chime or picture frame; **Lew Woodham** and Charlie Heuer are in

great demand by the Decorating Committee for refurbishing old chairs and tables; and Charlie fixes our heavily-used dining room chairs regularly. Members have also built new furniture and cabinetry for our public spaces such as sewing room and library furniture, and a sizeable base for the Health Center aquarium. New or old, the work emanating from the Crafts Shop keeps the handy occupied and the environment of the less-than-handy well maintained.

There is a distaff side. The pottery-makers, mostly women, share this space with their fellow crafters and rely on them to keep pottery machinery functioning so that their own work is continually created. For more about this, watch this space.

Meanwhile, this summer Jim Summerville and his eleven-year-old grandson, Kenny, will be building a go-cart at the Crafts Shop that will burn up the sidewalk outside Kenny's house to the amazement of his neighbors and the amusement of his friends.

MR



*Ken Pickett (in mask) and Bert Liverance
at work in the Crafts Shop*

THIS IS WABI-SABI

“Material poverty, spiritual richness” is a quick interpretation of Wabi-sabi offered by Sen no Rikyu, Japanese Tea Master and Zen monk of the sixteenth century. As I read from the Web in my sun-filled apartment in Building One at Carol Woods, the concept, as I understand it, gives me a feeling of great contentment with my life. For Wabi-sabi is the beauty of things imperfect, impermanent and incomplete, and that fits neatly into my own world viewpoint. It is the beauty of things unconventional, the perfect antidote to a society overbalanced by speed and materialism, a clutter of unnecessary things. It is the acceptance of the transient nature of our lives, and the satisfaction with the choices we make, yet being easy without needing to make a choice every time.

As I see it, an example of Wabi-sabi is my antique Chinese one-person tea set — copper pot, bowl and cup with rich blue ceramic linings. It sits on a fragile, somewhat bent rimmed tray. The copper is spotted and tarnished, dull with the mysteries of the air it has lived in for a hundred years and more. When I first received the set as a gift, I thought to grab my metal polish and rub it shiny again. Then I happened to read about Wabi-sabi (strange how mind-altering a tiny magazine article can be), and I decided instead to enjoy the soft oldness and serenity of my tea set just as it was.

This gentleman, Sen no Rikyu, desired to learn The Way of Tea, so he visited the Tea Master, Takeno Joo. (As you remember, the guru must always assign a task for the pupil.) Master Joo ordered Sen no Rikyu to tend the monastery garden. Eagerly he set to work raking the beds and paths till all were perfectly clear of debris. Then he stood and surveyed what he had done. It came to him that he was not yet finished. Whereupon he shook a nearby cherry tree to make a scattering of flower petals on the spotless ground. Tea Master Joo at once admitted Rikyu to his school.

It was he, Sen no Rikyu, in later years a great Tea Master himself, who introduced the concept of Wabi-sabi, a state of grace attained by his modest

philosophy of beauty in nature and acceptance of change. Produced by economy of means, use of earth materials pared down to their essence, Wabi-sabi would exist comfortably side by side with daily life: Wabi-sabi could speak for humbleness: it would be a part of the world and yet have special meaning for the individual. Wabi-sabi acknowledged three basic principles: nothing lasts, nothing is finished, and nothing is perfect.

When I look beyond my living room and the patina of my tea set, I turn my mind to the larger world of Carol Woods. Everywhere I look I see the unspoken grace of Wabi-sabi in play. Here my imperfections are accepted as I accept those of others. My aging is not alone. And if I do not finish what I had planned for tomorrow, those around me will quietly carry it on.

JB

Grateful acknowledgment to Google and Wikipedia: see *Wabi-sabi*:

also see Google for Leonard Koren, author of more material on *Wabi-sabi*.



Jane's antique Chinese Tea Set

WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS



Mary Lou and Bert Liverance (Cottage #128) were both born in Ohio. Mary Lou remained there and earned an education degree from Ohio State. Bert lived in several eastern states and received a degree in hotel and restaurant management at Michigan State.

They met during college years working at a Wisconsin summer camp. They married after Bert met his military obligations, including Korean service. Their daughter lives in Connecticut and their two businessmen sons, in Toronto and Alaska.

They arrived in Chapel Hill in 1975 when Bert became eastern NC Regional Director of Macke Food Services. A decade later he formed a company to market durable medical equipment. Meanwhile, Mary Lou taught school in Chapel Hill and at Durham Academy.

Both have been committed to community activities: Mary Lou, the Preservation Society and Ackland Museum; Bert, the Chapel of the Cross and Habitat for Humanity. Bert hammers every Friday and, as chair of Habitat's Construction Committee, works to lower costs and to improve procedures and house plans. He recently received a NC Governors Award for Outstanding Volunteer Services.

Hersch Slater

FOR ALL THOSE BORN BEFORE 1945

WE ARE SURVIVORS!!! Consider the changes we have witnessed. We were born before television, penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, Frisbees and "The Pill"; before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams, and ball point pens; before pantyhose, dishwashers, clothes dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners—and before man walked on the moon.

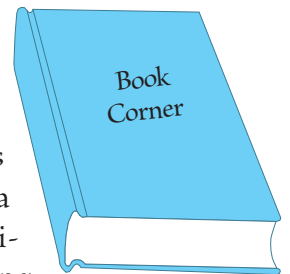
We got married first and then lived together. Closets were for clothes and not for "coming out of." Designer Jeans were scheming girls named Jean or Jeanne, and having a meaningful relationship meant getting along with our cousins. We were certainly not before the difference between the sexes was discovered, but we were surely before the sex change; we made do with what we had.

For us, time-sharing meant togetherness – not computers or condominiums; coke was a cold drink, and pot was something you cooked in; a chip" meant a piece of wood, hardware meant hardware, and software wasn't even a word. No wonder we get confused!

Excerpted from a piece submitted by **Rosalie Williams** from her Alumni newspaper

BOOK CORNER

Occasionally I read a book whose ideas or scenes rise up unbidden months or years later. One such book is *The Sparrow* by Mary Doria Russell. Spurred by anti-colonial rhetoric surrounding the 500th anniversary of Columbus' arrival in the Americas, Russell decided to explore through a novel what might happen today if educated, enlightened and well-meaning individuals came in contact with a totally alien culture. Because this is no longer possible on earth, she chose to have this meeting occur on another planet. As an anthropologist and a Jewish convert who was raised a Catholic, she has both a personal and an academic interest in cultural definitions of faith, truth, ethics and morality. Through a compelling plot driven by psychologically complex characters she invites her readers to examine their prejudices and beliefs. Although not usually a fan of science fiction, I could not put this book down.



A copy is in the Carol Woods library.

APRIL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING

The nominating committee presented its slate of candidates for Council Members in 2007-2008 which included Charles Paddock, President; Jean Joseph, Vice President; Ken Reeb, Secretary; Lois Frost, Treasurer; Nita Donaldson, Rod Gorham, Sara Hill, Dot Lineberger and Edith Wiggins, Council Members at large.

Some of the topics covered briefly included: The Research Committee has cleared three new research projects for participation of residents; The audio system in the Assembly Hall has been improved; the Council approved the appointment of a Special Programs Committee to deal with requests from outside Carol Woods to use our facilities; Tony Bayless, Director of Landscaping and Grounds, has been elected Vice-President of the NC Chapter of the Professional Grounds Management Society.

CEO Pat Sprigg announced the arrival of the new chairs for the Assembly Hall and the opening of the refurbished swimming pool. She commended the recent Forum on Safe Driving that distributed an informative folder on Transportation opportunities at Carol Woods for those no longer able to drive. She reported that the Board has approved the Master Planning Task Force floor plan for the renovation of the original cottages.

RM

STAFF: Nancy Martin, Chair; Jane Berryman, Ginger Davis, Betsy Hewitt, Ray Mack, Dorrie Prouty and Mary Reeb. Pat Bartell, proof reader.

Circulation: Barbara Allen, Janet Campbell, Helen Hawley, Beth Jukes, Eva Lynch, Jessie Lutz, Stella Lyons and Lang Prouty.

PICTURES: Bill Bayliss, Nancy Martin

CONCERTS AND LECTURES

Lectures:

- May 17** – Stan Black: Constitutional Issues with the European Union
- May 24** – Andrea Bazan-Manson: Triangle Community Foundation
- May 31** – Michael Lienesch: Origins of the Creationist Movement

Concerts:

- May 16** – Tom Otten, Piano
- May 23** – Chorus, directed by Raleigh Mann
- May 30** – “The Voice of the Cello” – Steve Ellis and others

Summer Festival:

- June 6** – The Village Band
- June 7** – Marianne Hassan: *Duke in Saudi Arabia*
- June 8** – film: *The Buena Vista Social Club*
- June 13** – Bland Simpson, of the Red Clay Ramblers
- June 14** – The G.O.A.T. String Quartet
- June 15** – Kathy Lee, from the Eno River Association

CAROL WOODS

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