



Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association

, 2003

**Next Meeting: July 1, 2003 7:00 pm
Northern Marine,**

From I-5, take exit 230 to Anacortes. Proceed about fifteen miles. Turn right at the first light in Anacortes, go one block and turn right, drive to Northern Marine.

June 10, 2003

Prez Letter – June 2003

On the way home from our last meeting, where Vern Leibrant was so merciless to a huge block of sequoia, Ed Pysker, Tom Charrier and Zeke Secules and your humble servant started a discussion about what to do with the treasury that has been steadily growing for the last couple of years. While there was no real consensus about how it could best be put to use, the four of us agreed that the treasury should be put to good use, perhaps in the woodworking community in some way. We also agreed that there would be discussions about possible uses of the treasury at our next, and future, officers and committee chairperson meetings and that input from the membership will be essential for truly useful and beneficial allocation of treasury funds.

Now, your help is needed. At our July meeting, time will be allocated to hearing from you. Please be prepared to add your thoughts about ways to promote the club, assist the community, provide a benefit to a deserving

group or individual, educate the public about woodworking or, simply, use the funds to provide enjoyment or education for our members. Whatever your idea is, please bring it to the meeting.

Again, another of our members blew me away with his skill and experience. Vern Leibrant is a virtuoso of the lathe. Where a violinists make beautiful music and cast a spells over their audiences, Vern's bow is his gouge, his violin is his wheel, his music are the masterful bowls and shapes created from nature's grotesque and weird growths. I was spellbound watching this humble master at work. Thank you, Vern. And by the way, many thanks to Karen for her culinary delights and cordial hospitality.

Our next meeting will be equally as interesting. Mr. Doop has outdone himself by scheduling us into Northern Marine in Anacortes to view three luxury yachts under construction. For those of you who have ever done any woodworking on a boat, you know there are no square, plumb or level surfaces. All of the interior cabinetry and outfitting become ever more difficult than the same work completed

for woodturner and woodworker club members alike to see him demonstrate. Each time, when you think you've seen it all, he will surprise you with something new. Vern is a grand show as he attacks and tames those large spinning tree chunks with super-sized chisels and body strength to match.

What *was* significantly different for most of us on June 2nd were the preliminaries to the main event. In the early evening, before the regularly scheduled meeting, Vern hauled out a modest, table-mounted lathe and showed us new tricks in turning *small* stuff. It was fun to see another side of his turning ability. With an amusing running commentary, he quickly fashioned a light-and-dark colored wooden fan/light pull shaped in the form of an acorn.

Other objects followed. He quickly turned a 3-inch ball from a work piece jammed between the tailstock and a waste block mounted on a faceplate. Vern worked half of the sphere at a time and then rotated the jammed piece to work the other half. He then showed us how to make an attractive segmented bracelet of light and dark woods, turned out of a laminated 2x6 block. For the record, Vern noted that he joins two of his small lathes end-to-end to turn spindles up to 7 feet long. Other tips to turners concerned his preference for yellow glue in laminating and bulk buys of sandpaper. The later he buys from Klingspor; they sell "bargain" boxes filled with a variety of sandpaper sizes and grits made up from belt ends.

Turning Green

Vern turned a big 24-inch bowl for our program. Using a recently cut 12- to 15-inch thick slab of a tree trunk, he bolted the green wood on a stout faceplate, and began the roughing process to shape it round. This time, however, he had previously drilled a few opposing holes into the edges and filled them with saltwater, a process which will dye the internal grain structure with a pleasing reddish hue.

Vern's roughing tools are long, heavy-handed, and tipped with steel scrapers made from short segments of jointer blades. These straight-edged chisels quickly send streaming, spiraling sprays of sodden, slender wood pellets into the front-row audience, sprays that will eventually turn to thin ribbons of shavings when he switches to his more conventional bowl gouges. Vern likes to alternate turning from the front and then from behind the work, moving his weighty floor-stand tool rest into various working positions. He will then rotate the bowl and re-bolt it to the faceplate when he's ready to finish turning the inside. The saltwater did its job in revealing an inner splash of rouge to complement the attractive grain and texture of the open bowl..

Big O

Vern has devised an interesting jig to complete the bottoms of his bowls. Once the dished side is completed, he will remove the bowl from the faceplate and substitute a 3/4x8x36 inch plywood board (approximate sizes) that mounts to the lathe in propeller fashion. He

year is a featured stop on the Whatcom County Artist Tour. He is an avid demonstrator and lecturer and frequently trucks his heavy equipment on the road to fairs and arts and crafts events on both sides of the border. He keeps a large display of his work at the combined studio-workshop where he sells his bowls directly to visitors. We're proud to have this likable, modest, and talented man as a distinguished member of our organization.

Jay Geisel

Corrections to the Report on Tony's Hand-Tools Training Class

The report I wrote on Tony Konovaloff's recent one-day hand-tools training course for NCWA members contained several errors. The following items are his correct statements of advice and tips as presented to the class. I regret the errors and trust that readers of our Newsletter will take proper notice of these corrections:

1. Tony uses a metal vise on his workbench, but he has "little use for a tail vise."
2. He pointed out that strand or wafer board is used on his shop floor. "Concrete is the floor you don't want."
3. "Block plane bevels face **up**, not down."
4. "Stainless steel blades can be sharpened but not as fine as carbon steel."
5. "Alder is getting popular for reasons un-

known to me. Easily worked is only a possibility."

6. "I use clamps when gluing panels; there are times I don't."

Thanks, Tony, for setting me straight. I regret reporting anything in error. You gave us valuable advice and I personally enjoyed every minute of your top-notch presentation.

Jay Geisel

Officers and Committee Chair Meeting

Hi, y'all

Our monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 18 at the Farmhouse Restaurant on Highway 20 at 7:00pm. Hope you can all attend.

One item I would like to discuss will be what the club will do with its treasury. The monthly Prez letter also solicits ideas from the other members at our next meeting but I think we can get the ball rolling at our meeting next Wednesday.

See you then. By the way, Jay tells me you all left a bar tab in my name at the last meeting. Thanks. I'll take care of it in an appropriate manner.

Nick

June Meeting Minutes

Twenty-eight pairs of eyes were focused on

Vern's large bowl-turning demonstration, mesmerized by the steady spray of wood chips that poured out of the massive heart of a spinning log. Vern preceded the June meeting in his shop-studio with small-turning demonstrations that whet everyone's interest for the main event. The regular monthly business meeting was sandwiched between the demos.

President Nick Van brought the meeting to order promptly at seven o'clock. The forthcoming Deming Log Show was announced and members were invited to again take an active role in demonstrating, displaying or selling their handiwork. The Cedarville Road exhibition will take place on Saturday and Sunday, July 12 and 13, with set-up time allotted on Friday. The genial hosts invite members to stay the long weekend by promoting overnight camping for an attractive fee of only \$5 per night. Vern will be taking his heavyweight gear to Deming for daylong demonstrations and Judy Hemenway will surely be there selling her dove boxes. Exhibitors who have items for sale pay a modest 10% commission.

Ed Pysher announced the treasury had around \$1,700 the last time he looked, and was concerned with getting a good wood raffle started with seven prizes lined up for the evening. The raffle and a few new memberships surely raised the balance another couple C-notes.

Bring and Brag

Don Perry displayed an interesting lock and

key combination that he created in contrasting woods. The large padlock mechanism worked like a champ when he inserted its wooden key. Val Matthews concocted another jig to share with us. This time it was a device to make specialized router cuts. Your Secretary thought it apropos to display a little micro turning of a Tagua nut; the pitcher stands about an inch tall. The tools used in the turning were ground from Allen wrenches.

Call to OSHA

Al Stafford brought something he wasn't bragging about. He was wearing a blackened, bloodshot eye and facial and forehead lacerations, all stemming from an accident suffered when a turning of black walnut suddenly broke loose from his lathe. In his safety address to members, Al explained how he was taking heavy bark from the work piece, which threw it out of balance and allowed the tailstock to unlock. The heavy blow happened weeks earlier, but it still looked like a serious accident. Al reminded us to be prepared by wearing sturdy protective gear. A goalie's mask might have saved him some pain.

Jay Geisel,
Secretary

Don't forget "bring or Brag", We all do something unique or have something that others would enjoy seeing.

From Hills to Mills 4th Annual

Woodworking and Craft Show July 12&13

Chainsaw carving, bowl turning, Blacksmithing, portable saw mill and more. From I-5 take exit 255 (Sunset Drive/Mt. Baker Highway for about 10 miles, left on Cedarville, go 1 mile.

Heads up!

Arts Alive is closer that you think!

Now is the time for you to plan your project(s) for the show.



Future Events:

08/05/03 NCWA Picnic at the Matthews.
Do not forget to R.S.V.P. Laura or at the next meeting!

11/1&2/03 Annual NCWA show in Laconner.

12/02/03 Election of officers and dues are due!

Clockwise from the left: Vern turning an egg. Next he turns a bowl. A plywood edge trimming jig by Val Matthews. A working lock made of wood by Don Parry.

Librarians notes:

For the new members the club has a wide assortment of books and video tapes available for loan. Ask me about how the library works.

Also let me know of any good woodworking books that would improve our library.

Lastly please check out your shop and video cabinet for library books that are overdue.

Tom



The NCWA was formed to promote high standards in woodworking, woodworking education, and show casing local woodworking. The NCWA is open to all interested woodworkers.. Dues are 30 per year, payable to NCWA, 5268 Island View Way Bow, WA. 98232. Newsletter submissions are welcomed and are due by the 18th of the month to NCWA Newsletter, 925 South Hills Dr. Bellingham, WA., 98229. or call (360) 734-9473, or Email, tc1376gp@aol.com. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. Location is announced in the newsletter .

2003 Officers and Committee Chairs:

President	Nick Van	(360) 387-4174	Education:	Val Matthews
VP	Rick Anderson	(360) 647-7039	Public shows/exhibits:	Phil Choquette
Sec.	Jay Geisel	(360) 466-3908	Club Projects	Gary Holloman
Treas.	Ed Pysher	(360) 766-0136	Historian	Ray McInnes
Library	Tom Chartier	(360) 734-9473	Roster	Larry Tomovick
Programs	Bob Doop	(360) 293-4522	Membership cards	Vern Tator
Editor	Tom Chartier	(360) 734-9473		

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