

Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association

May, 2003

Next Meeting: May 6, 2003 7:00 pm

Frontier Building Supply, 1911 Commercial St., Anacortes.

Driving directions: From I-5 proceed west to Anacortes (about 16 miles), turn right on Commercial and proceed to 1911.

Prez Letter -- April 2003

What a privilege!! To witness the creation of a precision instrument (used by hunter/gatherers for catching unsuspecting and totally defenseless denizens of the deep) from a stick of specially selected bamboo was a treat. I've come to realize that each member of our group has so much knowledge and skill to share and that, sometimes, pure artistry in the care and use of the tools of our trade can produce works of poetry. Thank you, Lyle Hand, for sharing your love of fly rods. I was captivated by the precision, methods and care you impart into each one you create. And thank you, Bob Doop, for sharing your house of worship for our meeting.

April Fool's Day was eventful. Final preparations were made for Woodfest in Sedro-Wooley on the 5th and 6th of April, and our day trip to Vancouver, BC was discussed and members were informed about what was planned. In addition, we learned that a "hand tool" seminar will be held on May 17 at Gary Holloman's shop. Members were encouraged to sign up as soon as possible because the seminar will be limited to 12 of our members (although, if enough are interested, it can be repeated).

All this brings to mind why we're in business. One of our objectives is to educate ourselves and the public in the art and science of woodworking. Woodfest gives us the opportunity to educate the public and to showcase our woodworking. The trip to Vancouver gives us the opportunity to educate ourselves by visiting places where woodworking is practiced. The "hand tool" seminar will teach those of us much that we haven't known before and refresh the skills of those members who are more practiced in the woodworking arts.

And, by the way, Woodfest was good for the club and we made a number of new friends. Gary Holloman provided, and we displayed, among other things, about 25 sample woodworking joints. Jim Fox and your humble servant manned the chisel and plane sharpening display and Phil Choquette, Jay Geisel and Lyle Hand showcased some of their work in addition to doing yeoman service on the club display table. The Skagit Valley Herald had a nice, front page article wherein Phil was interviewed and quoted extensively. Good, wholesome publicity for our organization. A number of potential new members introduced themselves and many members of the community stopped by to discuss methods, tools, techniques and projects. I think it was very useful to be there with non-commercial displays. We were able to chat, listen, make friends, and, most of all just have fun. Not a bad weekend!!

And so, fellow woodworkers, April has been a good month. We are looking forward to additional programs for the benefit of the membership in the months to come.

Finally, please remember that the officers and committee chairs will meet on Wednesday, May 21, at 7:00pm at the Farmhouse restaurant on Highway 20, to discuss other programs and activities of the club. Members are certainly invited to attend. Please remember that seating is limited, so if you want to attend, please call me in advance so we can be certain there will be enough room.

Thank you for your continued support and participation. See you at Frontier Industries in Anacortes.

Nick

Lyle Hand Makes a Fly Rod

Lyle hand has a deep passion for fly rod fishing and is equally enthusiastic about woodworking. It's not surprising then that this gifted, serene member of our woodworking community creates beautiful, practical gear for himself and his fellow *pescadores* in his home workshop. That he can make a fly rod "to die for" is notable. Accolades and stories of his rod craftsmanship are spreading through the Northwest fishing circles where Lyle's limited production of world-class bamboo rods is finding eager buyers.

Ask Lyle to describe the process of making rods from bamboo and you're unlikely to get a clear picture. It's that complicated. Fortunately for us, we got a clear picture of how it's done on the large screen TV at the First Baptist Church in Anacortes where Lyle's videotaped picture and soundtrack were shown to members at their April meeting. From inception to finish, it's a procedure that taxes the patience but rewards the artist.

The long, intricate process is akin to making a fine musical instrument and the remarkable results justify the effort. Lyle's signature rods are in demand because they have the balance and flexibility that fishermen love. They catch fish. His output of these beautiful rods, maybe twelve a year, will never answer demand.

He starts with a selected, long bamboo log about two-inches in diameter and splits it lengthwise with a knife into six equal parts which he proceeds to thin down so that only the outer 1/4-inch thick strips of the

bamboo remain. Lyle explained that the long fibers that make up the dense outer husk are what give the spring and strength to the finished rod. He must now work each element down in size and provide the necessary taper from butt to tip. All six pieces will be formed and glued into a pencil-sized sheath that resembles six wedges of pie in cross-section. To get a true picture of the task ahead, Lyle must create a continuous taper that, at its tip, will be only an eighth of an inch in diameter! He uses a modified lathe for part of the process but most of the effort is all handwork, paring away with plane, scrapers, and sandpaper.

Glue-up must be precise to avoid any twists or bends in the finished sheath. The rod is then cut to the length of its two pieces and further sanding and scraping is done. When the physical rod is shaped and sized to Lyle's satisfaction, he dips the rod in a finishing varnish, lets it air dry, and dips it again, and again. The rod is then cut to its final lengths. The stainless steel coupler is fitted to the two joining ends and the other hardware is attached. Each ferrule and tip are glued and lashed. For the butt end, Lyle adds several doughnut-shaped pieces of cork stacked and glued together under pressure to form the rough handle, which he then shapes into a serviceable grip contoured for the hand. Words alone cannot describe the complexity of the project, but the finished rod is exquisite, a joy to behold, as well as held.

Lyle wouldn't divulge the amount of time it takes to make a rod, instead he says, "It takes as long as it takes. I enjoy making them, but I don't keep track of my time." He has made three rods so far this year yet found time to make hand nets, portable lure cases, and jewelry boxes, some of which he sold at Woodfest 2003.

Lyle concluded his presentation with a discussion of the historical beginnings of man's fishing with a pole and gave us some humorous anecdotes from Roman times of the fishing contests between Anthony and Cleopatra.

Submitted by Jay Geisel,
Secretary

NCWA Shines at Woodfest 2003

An interesting display and charming hosts created considerable interest in our woodworking organization at Woodfest 2003. A sharpening demonstration combined with an exhibition of easy-to-assemble-and-disassemble good wood joints was capped by dozens of craft projects, some offered for sale. Three genial advisors, Nick Van, Jim Fox, and Phil Choquette, worked both days of the event. Between them, hardly a woodworking question went unanswered.

Sedro Woolley High School students put their best wood projects on display and many were good enough to win blue ribbons, including everything from multi-colored wood cutting boards to large furniture pieces. Dozens of vendors from Seattle north set up shop in the school gymnasium while four or five chainsaw carvers were vying for attention in the parking lot outside. Near the entry, the NWW woodturners held center stage with a large exhibition of bowls and other turned items. Members Judy Hemenway and Larry White set up separate sales booths.

In the NCWA booth Laura Matthews, Lyle Hand, Phil, and myself had

items for sale. Lyle, Judy, and the Woodturners reported good sales. The Club workbench was loaded with beautifully sharpened chisel sets, various sharpening systems and accessories, and a super-sized wood chisel almost three feet long. Also eye-catching was a custom fluted column from Gary Holloman, one of several that will be installed on a 156-foot yacht.

We were well identified by our large banner behind the booth and by the numerous brochures we gave away. We expect new members from this promotion.

Submitted by
Jay Geisel, Secretary

Workshop by Tony Konovaloff

As announced at the April 1st meeting, we will be having a one day hand tool workshop taught by Tony Konovaloff. Tony is well qualified to teach this workshop, he has been through Krenov's program at The College of the Redwoods in Ft. Bragg, California. It is Tony's preference to work only with hand tools and he turns out beautiful furniture with them. He has twice been featured on the cover of *Fine Woodworking*, check out issue #90, pgs. 62-65 or issue #106, pgs. 60-63. Also see article in *Home Furniture*, issue winter 95, pgs. 64-65, 102-103, & 117.

The workshop will take place on Saturday, May 17th at Gary Holloman's shop in Sedro Woolley. The fee is \$35 per person and the class size will be limited to 12 people. As we have 7 people signed up now, there are only five openings left. These will go on a first come first served basis and we cannot hold a spot without payment. You may send me a check or pay at the May 6th meeting.

Val Matthews

A note from Jim Fox:

Jim Fox reports that Bellingham Millwork Supply is now carrying some exotic hardwoods. In response to requests, they have an account with Edensaw (Pt Townsend), and if not in stock, can special order for local pick-up. They are at 3879 Hannegan Rd, (I-5 Exit 255; Sunset Drive, 1-mile east; Hannegan, 1/4-mile north, past Builders Alliance} . Call (360) 734 5700 for specific information and pricing.

For Sale:

Grizzley 8" Jointer. \$400. Bernard Dorman (360)733-4435

Meeting Minutes of April 1, 2003

We all went to church on a Tuesday night. It was Bob Doop's idea and his church, the First Baptist in Anacortes. The better to see Lyle Hand's demo, he said. It was all there on a big TV screen. Hallelujah! What a fine presentation it turned out to be for 40 NCWA members who now understand what making a bamboo fly rod is all about.

President Nick Van got the business part of the meeting going right on time. Officers and committee chairmen made their announcements followed by a good supply of Bring and Brag. Nick introduced two long-time woodturning club members who just signed on with our organization. Ron Grant, WWA president, and Jim Davis were given a hearty welcome.

Old Business

Nick announced the acquisition of the *Fine Woodworking* magazine disk and said it is now installed on Tom Chartier's computer for all members to use. To obtain a project or method of work on your monitor, e-mail your request to Tom, citing the item you wish to retrieve from the magazine's latest printed index, the disk's index, or you can ask for coverage on a non-specific article, such as "Picture Frames." Your Secretary who also chairs the Tours committee issued a last call for the April 19th Vancouver bus trip to Lee Valley/Veritas and KMS stores. Twenty-six members and guests of the woodworkers and woodturners clubs will make the trip. Seats are still available. Program chairman Doop gave information on future plans and noted that the May meeting would be a return to Anacortes for a business meeting and program at Frontier Hardware on Commercial Avenue.

New Business

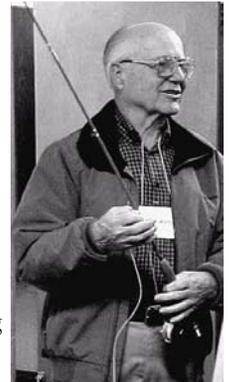
Venues chairman Phil Choquette announced that our participation at this year's Woodfest included both demonstration and sales tables in the April 5th and 6th festival honoring Sedro Woolley High School woodworking students. Members who have exhibition work or craft items for sale are welcome to join the vendors and exhibitors. Phil asked for volunteers for the two-day event and Nick responded by asking who would join him at the sharpening table. Jim Fox, that's who.

Education chairman Val Matthews announced an all-day, hands-on seminar on the skillful use of hand tools would be given by noted woodworker and teacher Tony Konovaloff on Saturday, May 17th at Gary Holloman's shop in Sedro Woolley. The \$35 class is limited to 12 students, he said. A sign-up sheet was passed around and eight members completed registration that night. Val said the fee will pay for the instructor, your materials, and use of shop and cost of shop material.

Membership chairman and Vice President Rick Anderson announced 67 woodworkers have signed on for the year, a new high for the Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association. New member cards have been distributed and everyone will have a nametag at future meetings. He also said that Ray McInnes has agreed to head up the sub-committee that distributes our recruit-

ing brochures in the two-county area. Re-printing of the brochure is in the works.

Officers and committee chairmen previously determined that a re-issue of the Club Roster and Resources booklet was not feasible due to its short life of six or seven months in a calendar year. Treasurer Ed Pysher will release up-dated membership lists every few months. The complete lists will be made available to all members. Nick announced April 17th as the next meeting of officers and committee chairmen.



Top: Val's jig for spacing shelf pins. **Right:** Lyle Hand about to demonstrate fly casting. **Bottom:** A scroll saw project by Gary Weyers.



Photos from the recent field trip to Veritas. Photos courtesy of Lyle Hand.

Jake Strauss
 Kiln dried NW Washington hardwood
 lumber. (Sales by appointment only)
 6389 North Star Rd.
 Ferndale, WA 98248
 (360)384-3948

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 \$24 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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 925 South Hills Dr
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