



# Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association

September, 2002

## Next Meeting (Picnic) at Ray DeVries Shop 16942 Calhoun Rd., Mt. Vernon WA Sept. 10, 2002, 6:30 (360)424-5398

### Meeting Minutes of August 6, 2002

Thirty Club members and three guests assembled in Jake Strauss' woodshop following a thoroughly enjoyable walk in Jake's Woods. President Gary Holloman presided.

#### Old Business

Nick Van, acting Treasurer, announced a new balance of \$360, a somewhat better picture of fiscal health. Your Secretary reported all brochure racks in place on dealer counters except one, which will be held in reserve for Club use at demonstrations and public events; refill brochures were furnished to hosts. Members were reminded not to miss the excellent *Big Tree Project* exhibit currently showing at the Whatcom Museum.

*September's Annual Picnic* and next month's meeting will take place on Ray DeVries' farm on Calhoun Road in Mount Vernon on Tuesday, September 10. Lyle Hand described a catering problem and offered a possible solution, which was approved. Our Mount Baker caterer has declined to prepare the meals on site. Ribs, chicken, and other fixins' will be transported to the picnic in special containers and served buffet style. Ray will have a proper fire to keep the food hot. Cold sodas will be provided, but picnickers will do well to provide their own plates and flatware. Twenty-five members and guests will attend.

*Seattle Resources Bus Tour* is set for Saturday, October 19. Your Secretary outlined a change in itinerary (a visit to Hardwicke's new and used tool supply emporium in place of Rockler's) and reported that the large bus capacity made it possible to invite members of the Northwest Woodturners to share the one-day trip to central Seattle's woodworking supply houses. Members were urged to make their plans soon and get their advance payments of \$19 per seat to the Club Treasurer. Several did so at the meeting.

#### New Business

*Bring & Brag* bowls were the featured woodworkers' products this month. Dave Blair and Bob Bates each fashioned a pair from unusual woods. Bates teased us with a mystery wood that no one could identify. It turned out to be an alder burl. Blair claimed to have turned his from *chakteh-kok*, a Mexican import.

*Wood of the Month* turned out to be two woods, a striking oddity from Alaska and a commercially grown new hybrid to replace the diminishing supply of cherry. The Alaskan *Diamond Willow* features deep, red-colored diamond-shaped cavities in its trunk. The slow-growing, dense, white hardwood is abundant but small in diameter. The sample shown by your Secretary was only 2-1/2 inches in diameter and 55 years old by ring count. Older wood will grow to five or six inches in girth. The sample had three diamonds in its two-foot length. I removed about eight inches to try it as turning stock. The wood was purchased from an Alaskan visitor to Mount Vernon who has plans to import large quantities of the wood from his 260 acres.

Weyerhaeuser has a 10,000-acre plantation in Uruguay established from a hybrid of two eucalyptus varieties, the best of more than 800 species. Only 3 or 4 are actually useful to the hardwood industry. The new designer wood is expected to provide a furniture quality wood with the appearance and characteristics of cherry, a wood now in such short supply that furniture manufacturers can no longer promise it to clients. The new wood is *Lyptus* and it is now available from American distributors and dealers at a price about 20% less than cherry. I found it for sale at Edensaw in Port Townsend. Lyptus can be harvested in only 16 to 20 years, when it reaches 2.5 feet in diameter and grows to 140 feet tall; this is one-fourth the time it takes to grow cherry. The amazingly fast-growing Lyptus, which can grow only in a humid climate, will replace much of the old growth genuine mahog-

any, cherry, and jojoba. It will be used in this country for furniture, veneer, flooring and cabinetry.

**Tools of the Month** reported and displayed by your Secretary were a small, battery-powered laser straight line projector that eliminates the need for a chalk line; a six-inch stainless steel rule from Starett that features end marks for setting saw blade and router bit heights; and a woodworkers' dial caliper, six-inch and stainless steel, calibrated in fractional inches by 64ths with major divisions marked by terms we're all familiar with: 1/8, 3/16, 1/4, etc. (Highland Hardware.)

**Arts Alive** is set for November and we will be one of the organizational exhibitors at the Garden Club's building in La-Conner. Committeeman Nick Van passed around a sign-up sheet to test interest in this year's annual event. Members were asked their desire to volunteer for display set-up duties, to demonstrate woodworking, or to sell their products. The Club will demonstrate tool-sharpening techniques throughout the two-day event.

**Membership Dues** were the subject of discussion when your secretary proposed a \$6 increase in dues for year 2003. Funds have been low for the past few months due to increased Club activities and the purchases of material for the collaborative workbench, newsletter software, Club branding iron for the Flag boxes, cash donations to Arts Alive and Sedro Woolley Woodfest, member name tags, materials for construction of the 30 Flag cases donation, printing and binding of the Club roster and resources directory, printing of a Club brochure, materials for constructing 11 brochure display racks, the purchase of waterstones and accessories for the sharpening demonstration project, and the annual insurance payment. Dues have been at the same \$24 level since the inception of the Club in 1984. Your Officers believe worthwhile projects will continue to be served and in only a short time continued inflationary costs will hamper our capability to purchase materials and the necessary services. A 2003 membership fee of \$30 was proposed by the Secretary and a discussion followed. The proposal was withdrawn pending a budgetary review and presentation from the Treasurer at the October meeting

**Raffles** were featured at the August meeting for the very first time in living memory. Bob Doop offered his bench grinder as a prize for the first raffle. Following that, our host, Jake Strauss (bless his soul!) offered up a big pile of maple boards for the grand prize. Jim Fox won the lumber, and the Club's treasury was richer by \$179.

Gary then called it an evening.

Jay Geisel, Secretary

## **A Walk in the Woods**

We walked and Jake talked. It was a beautiful, warm August evening bathed in full daylight. Jake Strauss has fashioned a 30-acre plantation spread over fairly level ground crossed with vehicle-wide pathways to allow him to manage a tree farm that hosts 25 varieties of northwest timber. It was a meaningful, enjoyable jaunt through the woods.

It became apparent that managing a tree farm is far different from just watching nature take its course while trees grow. It takes knowledge and sweat to group species, thin groves, plant seedlings, cut and trim. Imagine taking a tall ladder to a tree, scaling it, and then lopping and sawing by hand all of its lower branches up to 20 feet above ground just to make sure the tree gets its share of necessary sun and water. Jake does that, often. New growth trees are carefully set in rows so that each is five feet away from another, assurance that the tree has every opportunity to mature and maybe Jake won't have to raise his ladder against it. Most of these Jake planted 10 years ago and they're looking good.

With the northwest struggling with raging forest fires this summer, woodworkers were concerned with the dried cuttings of limbs beneath some trees. Jake reassured us they posed no threat. The overhanging leaf canopy was far above ground fires, he said, and the trunks are not quick to catch fire.

Jake grows both soft and hardwoods and is concerned about giving his old growth trees room to breathe. Without sun and water the old growth trees will be anchored to barren and arid ground. Cedars and other softwoods will choke out hardwood varieties and that means constant vigilance and effort.

It was an educational adventure for all. Jake's effort shows how remarkable efforts can be obtained from a man's care and knowledgeable custody.

Jay Geisel,

## **220 Volt Wiring as Explained by Tom Gauldin**

I think its time for me to explain about 220 current and why it is so different from 110-volt service. First of all, it's twice as big. Secondly, it'll shock you more. Outside of that, 220 is really two 110 volt lines coming to your house from different parts of the globe.

The up and down 110 comes from the northern hemisphere, and the down and up version comes from below the equator. Without trying to get technical, it all boils down to the direction water flows when it goes down the drain. In the top of the earth, it goes clockwise,

while on the bottom of the earth it goes counter clockwise. Since most electricity is made from hydro dams, the clockwise flow gives you an up and down sine wave, while the counter-clockwise version gives you a down and up sine wave. Between the two, you have 220 volts, while either individual side only gives you 110 volts.

This is particularly important to know when buying power tools--which side of the globe did they come from? If you get an Australian saw, for instance, it will turn backwards if connected to a U.S.-generated 110-volt source. Sure, you can buy backwards blades for it, but that is an unnecessary burden. Other appliances, like toasters, cannot be converted from Australian electricity to American electricity, without horrible results. I knew one person who bought an Australian toaster by mistake and it froze the slices of bread she put in it.

If you wire your shop with 220 and accidentally get two U.S. generated 110-volt lines run in by accident, you can get 220 by using a trick I learned from an old electrician. Just put each source into its own fuse box and then turn one of the boxes upside down. That'll invert one of the two up and down sine waves to down and up, giving you 220. DO NOT just turn the box sideways, since that'll give you 165 volts and you'll be limited to just using Canadian tools with it.

#### **Thoughts from the Prez:**

The meeting at Jake's shop was outstanding. So nice to take a walk in the woods and learn first hand how to grow trees for the future. You can tell that growing trees is an important part of Jake's life. I think we are fortunate to have some like him in our club.

I also want to thank Jake for the donation of wood and Bob for donating a grinder that was raffled off to raise money for our club. We raised a little over \$200! That is a great show of spirit and support our group has for itself.

I really like having our meetings at a different shop or location every month. The little things you see like how one does a set-up or a jig or just a certain tool, it could be anything that will spark your imagination to be that much more creative.

Anyway, have a good barbecue. I will be in the back woods.

Gary

**Driving directions to Ray's  
located on page four.**

**Next Meeting:  
Gary Holloman's Shop  
Speaker: Stuart Welsh  
October 1,2002**

#### **New Members:**

Please add the following new members information to your membership rosters.

David Sophusson  
9007 Valley View Rd.  
Custer, WA 98240  
360-366-3055  
wife, Becky  
dave.sophusson@alcoa.com

Michael Larvia  
13098 Glenwood Dr.  
Mt Vernon, WA 98273  
360-854-0291  
mike.larvia@philips.com

Dave Curwick  
3111 "T" Ave.  
Anacortes, WA 98221  
360-293-2890  
whccci@cnw.com

#### **Wanted:**

Good used 12" jointer. 240 volt.  
Steve Intveld (360)592-5670

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



The picnic/meeting is set to go Sept. 10. The Ribs, Chicken and trimmings are all ordered. I will pick it up and haul it down to Ray's place, about a forty five minute trip with luck. If everything goes according to plan, dinner should be ready between 6:30 and 7:00 o'clock.

The meals do not include a desert, so if one is wanted bring it from home.

We have twenty five people who have signed up for the meals.

Lyle

**Don't forget our "Bring and Brag". We all do something unique or have something that others would enjoy seeing.**

### **Pictures From the September Meeting**



Jake leading the tour of his tree farm.



A group Photo of sorts



Jay showing his dial indicator which reads in fractions.



Bowls by Bob Bates

The NCWA was formed to promote high standards in woodworking, woodworking education, and showcasing local woodworking. The NCWA is open to all interested woodworkers.. Dues are \$24 per year, payable to NCWA, 7550 Ershig Rd. 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., 98226. Or call (360) 734-9473. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. Location announced in the newsletter

**2000-20001 Officers:**

President	Gary Holloman	(360) 855-3376	
VP	Larry Tomovick	(360) 293-4580	
Sec.	Jay Geisel	(360) 466-3908	
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Programs	Larry Tomovick	(360) 293-4580	
Editor	Tom Chartier	(360) 734-9473	

**NCWA Newsletter**

925 South Hills DR  
Bellingham WA. 98226.

