



# Funds Distribution Report

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**Recipient Organization:**  
**Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding**

**Address:**  
42 N Water St  
Port Hadlock, WA 98339

**Contact:**  
(360) 385-4948  
<https://www.nswb.edu>

**Organization's General Goals:**  
Our mission is to teach and preserve boatbuilding and marine systems skills while developing the individual as a craftsman.

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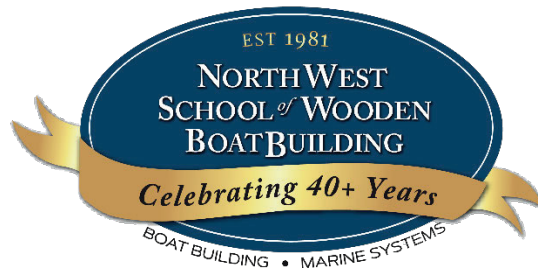
<b>Date of Award:</b>	<b>Level:</b>
2023 Q2	\$500 to \$2,500

For more information, please read the attached report from Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding.

8802 27th Ave NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271

**TulalipCares.org**

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**To: Marilyn Sheldon, Director, Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions**  
**From: Betsy Davis, Executive Director, The Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding**  
**Re: Grant Progress Report regarding [REDACTED] Grant Q2 2023 14.2**  
**Date: June 24, 2024**  
**URL: [www.nswsb.edu](http://www.nswsb.edu)**

The Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding (NWSWB) is pleased share information with you about the positive impact your grant had supporting the school's Prothero Internship program. For this school year NWSWB selected two recent graduates to serve as Prothero Interns -- Pearl Farley and Jeff Matthews. Each of the two worked on a range of projects and further developed their skills through this "apprenticeship" style internship. Their work is described below, including projects they've worked on, comments from them about their experience, and a professional evaluation of their work from NWSWB boatbuilding instructors. The primary recipients impacted by the grant are the **two** individuals who served as interns and the **40** other first year students attending the school who learned by watching the work of the Prothero Interns and asking them questions along the way.

### **Pearl Farley**



Pearl Farley came into the boatbuilding program (class of 2023) with no woodworking experience. She discovered NWSWB almost by accident after a disappointing stint as an undergraduate at a small liberal arts college and bartending work to support herself until she found her calling. "I felt kind of stuck," she recalls. "I didn't want to work in jobs where I had to put on a happy face." Then a friend told her about NWSWB. The one class she'd enjoyed as an undergraduate was ceramics. Maybe hands-on learning would be different...

"Up to that point education was something other people expected me to do. I had never felt excited about what I was being taught. Boat School was completely different. All day, every day, you're learning how to do things. You're problem solving, using your hands to figure things out. From the get-go it was a really good fit.

"The whole boatbuilding program was a lesson in being patient and gentle with myself. At first I was so nervous about making a mistake that it was paralyzing. Now I'm able to see mistakes as part of the learning process. That's been the most valuable learning experience from Boat School, and it can be applied to every aspect of life." "Pearl began with little to no woodworking experience and graduated at the top of her class," says Boatbuilding Lead Instructor Sean Koomen. "She brings a confidence and positive attitude towards any task--whether it's sanding, prep, or finish work -- that made her an ideal candidate for this year's boatbuilding Prothero Internship."

As a Prothero Intern, Pearl was challenged to work more and more independently. "Before I start something, my inclination is to ask someone how they think I should do it. I had to catch myself and say, 'How can I use what I've learned to make informed decisions?' That's been the most wonderful part of the internship: Being forced to tap into the knowledge and experience I've acquired over the course of the last year makes me realize how much I know."

In addition to her finish work on the Folkboat, Pearl has spent part of her internship speaking to high school students who are exploring trade school as an alternative to four-year college. "I had no idea what I wanted to do at that age. I just knew that what I was doing was not it. Now I have a path that is really exciting to me. That's just a huge thing and I want as many people to have that feeling as possible."

26' Nordic Folkboat	Custom 24' Troller
	
<p>Pearl Farley is shown here with John Backus of the Lucky Seven Foundation, another funder of the Prothero Internship program.</p>	<p>Pearl Farley is shown here working on windows for the custom 26' Troller.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• interior projects</li> <li>• the cabin sole</li> <li>• cockpit benches</li> <li>• a cabinet in the lazarette</li> <li>• a teak drop board companionwa.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All tasks associated with the pilot house windows – each of which has a unique shape.</li> <li>• handrails</li> <li>• installation of the wood stove</li> <li>• faired, finished and installed the upper guards</li> </ul>
<p>From instructor Tucker Piontek</p> <p><i>“Pearl did a ton of interior work on the Nordic Folkboat and all her work was super high quality. All very high finish. She would bring options to me and we would discuss them as co-workers. She came to the school with no woodworking experience and now she’s ready to be in the yard.”</i></p>	<p>From instructor Leland Gibson</p> <p><i>“Pearl’s work on the troller included traditionally built windows with laminated glass and bridle joints. It’s how a fish boat would have been built in the 1920s-1940s. It’s complicated, visually important work that involves a lot of fine joinery. Her dedicated effort, decision-making and quality of woodworking have been exemplary. Pearl’s woodwork has always been exemplary. Through this opportunity as an intern she’s been able to grow in other parts of the craft – the decisions you make, how you’re going to install things, the order of operations.”</i></p>

## Jeff Matthews

Jeff Matthews grew up in Olympia, Washington, kayaking, hiking, and exploring the Puget Sound. His childhood interest in creating things – whether out of wood, paint or food – led to work as a prep and line cook at a few restaurants before his mother suggested Boat School as a next step in his career path, something she’d always wanted to do.

As a boatbuilding student in the class of 2020, Jeff worked on Clean Bay, a zero emissions pump-out boat that gave students experience with laminating, strip-planking, and cold-molded construction; vacuum infusion; foam core construction; working with CNC production; millwork; and joinery. Jeff built on this experience as a private contractor for Devlin Design and Boatbuilding for two and a half years.

As a student in the Marine Systems program, class of 2023, he worked on a zero-emissions pump-out module commissioned by the Port of Port Townsend so they could use an existing workboat as a black water pump-out boat. The autonomous unit includes a 250-gallon waste tank, high-capacity pump, hoses, batteries and solar and AC charging equipment that can be put on the deck of any workboat. “I’m so proud of the impact these projects have had on the environment – not just locally but as prototypes for zero emission workboats and autonomous units that can be fitted onto existing boats to extend their utility.”

26' Nordic Folkboat	Custom 24' Troller
 <p>Jeff brought his experience in both the boatbuilding and marine systems programs to planning and installing systems aboard the 26' Nordic Folkboat that was designed for the rough water and heavy weather of the Baltic Sea.</p>	 <p>Jeff also brought his blended boatbuilding and marine systems experience to planning and installing systems aboard the 24' custom troller constructed of a purpleheart backbone, oak frames, and red cedar planking that will remain local, just to the south of the school, in Jeff's home town of Olympia, Washington.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• installing bilge system</li> <li>• installing electrical system; all wiring, including up the mast</li> <li>• wiring and installation of the Torqueedo electric engine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mounting all external components of the diesel engine and built the places to mount them</li> <li>• Installing steering and electrical systems under the cabin</li> <li>• aligning the engine and installation of its propulsion (shaft, stuffing box and propeller)</li> <li>• installing the fuel tank and plumbing to the engine through the fuel filter</li> <li>• installing of the exhaust system</li> <li>• installing of thru-hulls for various systems, including raw water for the engine, bilge pump, and galley sink drain.</li> <li>• Laying out the electrical system, wiring and installation</li> <li>• Sizing the battery bank to appropriately accommodate all the components going into the boat</li> </ul>
<p><i>From instructor Tucker Piontek</i></p> <p><i>"Jeff's work on the Folkboat has been phenomenal. He communicates really well. It's been a total collaborative effort – discussions about finish, complexity, what the client would want. He presents options and we discuss them. He integrates his skills with wood work and systems with each task. For example, instead of leaving the bilge system he was installing exposed bare on the side of the teak/mahogany in the cockpit, he came up with a wood cabinet and built it."</i></p>	<p><i>From instructor Leland Gibson</i></p> <p><i>"On the Troller project Jeff built panels and mounting systems for all the components. Because he had gone through both the Boatbuilding and Marine Systems programs, he knows how to shape a backing block for a thr- hull and how to use the tools. We spoke the same language – boat vocabulary. The Prothero Internship was a continuation of his Boat School training – not just the mechanics, but sizing and sourcing the drive train – shaft, propellor, double-checking the rudder. He also did all the ordering. I watched Jeff go from a student to a project leader – pulling a cohesive product together."</i></p>

"My biggest learning experience as an intern," says Jeff, "was the product management and the sourcing side of things as we planned and developed marine systems for the pump out module and the troller – that and learning to trust my knowledge, developing the self confidence that comes with experience.

"I really look forward to getting back out there with a bigger bag of tools and the ability to solve even more of the fun problems you come across as a shipwright. This profession tests you daily, but it's awesome to be able to work on boats for a living."

## IMPACT OF THE PROGRAM

From NWSWB's Boatbuilding Lead Instructor, Sean Koomen



*The Prothero Internship provides a valuable opportunity for NWSWB graduates to extend their learning experience. Given that wooden boat building is a traditional marine trade passed down through the generations, the interns are given the opportunity to refine and preserve their skills while absorbing as many of these traditions and techniques as they can. The school's founding instructor, Bob Prothero, sought to preserve craftsmanship by teaching boatbuilding. The school still prioritizes teaching craftsmanship. Because the interns are still working under the umbrella of an educational environment, they gain extra time to absorb, refine and preserve the NWSWB boat building techniques. The result passes skills and knowledge to more individuals, and also enables the Prothero Interns to enter the marine trades with a much broader and deeper knowledge of boat building techniques."*

## THANK YOU!

From Betsy's Executive Director, Betsy Davis



We are deeply grateful for your support of programs at the Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding. Your grant directly impacts the two individuals as described above. It also benefited the 40 students attending the school this year – they often learn by watching the work of the more experienced Prothero Interns.

For further information, please feel free to contact me!

Betsy Davis, Executive Director

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