



# NEWSLETTER

VOULUME 1 ISSUE 4 1 JULY 2005

## NATIONAL FISH CARVERS GUILD UPDATE

### NATIONAL FISH CARVERS GUILD

#### Special points of interest:

- *NFCG Updates*
- *Events Calendar*
- *Editors Notes*
- *Featured Artist*  
*Cathy Ruiz*
- *Guest Article*  
*Craig Springer*

#### Inside this issue:

Classes Available	2
Events Calendar	2
Collecting Reference Materials	3
Editors Notes	3
Membership App Accessories	4
Cathy Ruiz Sublimity, Or	5
Craig Springer U.S. Fish & Wildlife	5

The NFCG continues to forge ahead with tremendous progress in developing its infrastructure, membership, and publications.

#### Infrastructure

Web Page— our web page team is just a few weeks away from completion of the NFCG web site. This will give our membership access to a tremendous amount of resources to enhance your artistic license in the art of fish carving.

Shows— At the last Board meeting the Directors approved the development of a mini-show kit that can be sent to members so you can enhance your fish carving displays at local events.

Networking—The NFCG is proud to affiliated with, and appreciate the support of the following organizations: Breakthrough Magazine, Fishcarving2 yahoo group, Fishcarver.com, Canadian Fish Carving Championships, and to the IWFCA.



**New to fish carving Jordan Gees is 11 yrs old being Mentored by one of our members**

#### Membership

Demographics- The membership continues to increase steadily every week, if current trends continue we will be over a 100 members within a couple of months. Our membership spans all across the United States, from coast to coast to include Canada. We are truly a National Organization.

#### Publications

Newsletter—the NFCG newsletter will continue to develop and break new ground as we evolve into a viable organization with a multi-dimensional approach. It doesn't matter if you're a true artesian with unlim-

ited creativity; or a true competitor striving to become a master carver with a world title; or someone in between, we are here to promote and enhance the art of fish carving.

Journal—Last month was our first edition of the NFCG Journal. The primary focus of this publication is to enhance your technical expertise in the art of fish carving.

This is where we need your active participation. As our customer, tell us what your needs are and we'll put together all our available resources to deliver you the best possible product.

## NFCG REPORT ON CLASSES & EVENTS CALENDAR

---

Brown Trout Class - \$325

Aug 13-16 2005

Salem, Oregon

By

**Clark Schreibeis**

Contact Ed Barrett

at

(503) 623-0100

Edwin\_barrett42@msn.com

Class limited to 14

Offered to the NFCG members  
at a special rate

Urethane Fish Carving Course

Large Mouth Bass - \$550

Jan 23-27 2006

Chinook Salmon - \$550

Feb 6-10 2006

By

**Ed Walicki**

Fishcarver.com

Email: ed@fishcarver.com

Novi, Mi (248) 305-5557

These classes are being offered  
at 10% off for all NFCG mem-  
bers

Carving Wildlife in West  
Yellowstone

Aug 22-26 2005

By

**Bob Berry** - 14" Rainbow

&

**Don Van Horn** - Red Breasted  
Nuthatch

Contact

Royann Baum

at

801-373-5729

email—rbaum1650@aol.com

Classes limited to 12 students

- July 9—**Delafield, Wisc.** Lake country Carvers host 24th annual show. Tom Ellenson (262) 542-3867
- July 9-15—**Creede, Colo.** 14th annual Woodcarvers Rendezvous. Karen Oquin (303) 940-3505
- July 15-17—**Titonka, Iowa.** Waldorf Woodcarving Seimnar XIV. Joy Boyken (515) 928-2627
- July 17-22—**Missoula, Mt.** Annual Montana Carving Seminar. Mel Sobolik (406) 327-1241
- July 17-22—**Crete, Nebr.** 15th annual Western & Wildlife Art Workshop. John and Nancy Burke (402) 623-4292
- July 31-Aug 6—**Frontenac, Minn.** Villa Maria Wood Carving Workshops. Steve Scolar (817) 929-1935
- Aug 6-7—**Independence, Kans.** Fifth annual woodcarving show and competition. Berry Yakshaw (620) 331-6694
- Aug 13—**Harrison, Mich.** Harrison Carvers' show, competition, and sales. Dave Sanderson (989) 539-1110
- Aug 13—**Rockford, Ill.** Blackhawk Woodcarvers' 10th annual show/competition. Roger Benedict (815) 397-8910
- Sept 9-11—**Kitchener, Ontario , Ca.** International Carvers Conference by Chipping Away. [www.chippingaway.com](http://www.chippingaway.com)
- Sept 9-11—**Sudbury, Ontario, Ca.** Wood show North. Brigitte Thompson (877) 503-1601
- Sept 9-11—**Evart, Mich.** Fifth annual Spit n' Whittle at Osceola County fairgrounds. Sandy Holder (231) 734-5125
- Sept 10-11—**Vancouver, Wash.** Feather & Quill 17th Columbia Flyway Show. Don Brenteson (360) 883-1211
- Sept 17-18—**Wilmot, Ohio.** Wilderness Center Woodcarvers annual show. Mary Daniels (330) 359-5235



(Top left to Bottom right) Ron Edwards fly fishing the Deschutes, Juvenile Deschutes Rainbow, Ray Dodge netting an excellent Specimen, Eric Knolton on the Russian River in Alaska sporting a beautiful Rainbow, costal Cutthroat caught on the Nestucca River in Oregon, and a trophy Bull Trout by Royce Embanks in Madras, Oregon.

## Notes from the Editor

In my short tenure as a member of the fish carving community I've observed our art form has a broad spectrum of focal groups.

In one group you have fish carvers that invoke their artistic license with unbridled restrictions on materials used and artistic representations. The other group is the competitors, disciplined to an established set of rules, validating their skill levels in a competitive format.

Obviously these examples identify the two major ends of the spectrum but there is a large community of fish carvers that fall some where in the middle of the road.

The NFCG has a deep cense of respect and commitment to both spectrums of the community and everyone in between. It is our goal to enhance the entire fish carving community with quality resources and information so everyone may

excel in their art form.

We want to encourage everyone to actively participate in these goals by sharing your expertise. We welcome articles on carving techniques, featured artist, club activities, reference material, events in your region, or anything in general that adds value to fish carving.

Please send your communications to:

[Flyboy@bendcable.com](mailto:Flyboy@bendcable.com)



**NATIONAL FISH CARVERS GUILD**

**ORDER FORM**

PRINT THE FORM BELOW, FILL IT OUT, AND ENCLOSE YOUR CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO (National Fish Carvers Guild), and MAIL TO: 730 SE CEDAR AVE \* DALLAS, OR 97338

- Long Sleeve Shirt \$40.00 sm/med/lg**
- “ “ **42.00 xlg/x long**
- Hats 18.00 universal size**
- Patches 14.00**

**Other items such as summer golf shirts, jackets, ect., will be added as we expand these services.**



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Item \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Shirts are of the highest quality by  
*CALEBELA'S OUTDOOR GEAR*  
All items are beautifully embroidered  
with our distinctive NFCG logo

**Membership application**



**NATIONAL FISH CARVERS GUILD**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

PRINT THE FORM BELOW, FILL IT OUT, AND ENCLOSE YOUR CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO (NATIONAL FISH CARVERS GUILD) AND MAIL TO: ED BARRETT \* 730 SE CEDAR AVE \* DALLAS, OR 97338

INITIAL MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE \$25.00 FOR A SINGLE OR FAMILY MEMBERSHIP. RENEWABLE MEMBERSHIP WILL BE \$12.00 PER YEAR PAYABLE EACH JANUARY.

Please enroll me as an Associate member of the National Fish Carvers Guild

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street: \_\_\_\_\_ PO Box: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hm Ph: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Wk Ph ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Family members  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## FEATURED ARTIST - CATHY RUIZ



Cathy Ruiz

Congratulations go out to Cathy Ruiz for her outstanding showing at this years Tri-Cities Rendezvous show in Washington.

Kathy has been carving seriously for the last 4 years. Her most recent carving of a Redside trout earned her high honors with a First Place, Best of Class, Best of Divi-

Best of Show in the Novice Division.

Cathy currently lives in Sublimity, Oregon. She has two sons and one daughter, five grand daughters and three grand sons. She's promised her two daughter-in-laws that she would not continue to give her sons any more fish, but with a future son-in-law on the horizon he may be next.

After her husband passed away Cathy decided to take on new challenges and hobbies. She saw an advertisement for the Capitol Carvers of Salem and thought why not give it a try. "I think it is the best decision I could have made at this time of my life."

At the Costal Carvers club Cathy had the opportunity to be introduced to Ed Barrett whom she

attributes her success from classes and mentoring. Cathy is currently a member of the National Fish Carvers Guild, Capital Carvers of Salem, Or. And the Costal Carvers of Lincoln City, Or.

Well done Cathy and best wishes on your successes from the National Fish Carvers Guild.



## GUEST ARTICLE *by Craig Springer*

### THE COURSE of CREEKS

We are what we cross paths with, not what we seek out but what takes hold of us. These associations create our core; they become the essence of our being.

A little stream took a hold on me and became a meandering baseline, an anchor point from where I would take all bearings for things to come. Creek chub, smallmouth bass, and green sunfish: they caught me. And it was angling for them that brought me to take in the essence of land; it was angling that immersed me in a narrative with the stream and lands that drained into it.



Craig Springer

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## Continued—The Course of Creeks

Four Mile Creek heads among the uplands near the Ohio-Indiana line in hills left behind by retreating glaciers. Springs well up into the light of day into tiny rivulets formed in the folds of the land, mostly cleared for corn and beans. One rivulet begets two and so on, forming Four Mile; the creek gathers more waters as it glides downhill cutting over ancient glacial till carried far from the north.

In these quiet waters, damselflies dimple their metallic-blue tails on the smooth glides as their eggs drop into the creek. They waft erratically on the wing as if they have no purpose nor care. Save for coming into the maw of a kingbird, they probably don't. Four Mile's erosive forces elbow into the foot of a hill, undercutting the banks that stay stitched together by sycamore roots. The shade of the undercut, the tree roots, the shards of turquoise - - little green sunfish, they lie there waiting for the groceries to come to them. It's a good strategy for making a living in a creek. Find a place to hide from herons and kingfishers, stay in shade so unsuspecting minnows can't see you, and sit there and wait for food to come drifting.

The strategy must work. Green sunfish live naturally all over the Midwest. And that speaks to their durability of extremes, not to mention their capacity to procreate. Their fecund nature lends to their reputation as being a child's fish. They look to me like a mix between smallmouth bass, bluegill, and rock bass - - like an animal confused, not knowing which evolutionary trajectory to take. A big gape allows the green sunfish to eat most anything that it wants; bats and shrews have shown up in their gullet, but bugs are the favored fare.

Among Midwestern upland streams, the smallmouth bass is king, and the green sunfish is a mere commoner. But literature professor, Marcus Selden Goldman, who 90 years ago fished Four Mile while at Miami University, strikes a chord in his book *In Praise of Little Fishes*: "The crowd in its ignorance deems it manly and impressive to catch crappies and bluegill, but scorns anything called 'sunfish.' The result of this attitude is that only seasoned and thoughtful anglers know or care to know how to identify the different species of sunfishes."

I don't disagree, but I know of no one that would plan a vacation around green sunfish. And I have to admit, I probably wouldn't either. But I would like to see Four Mile again. It's a yen in part for yesterday; a yearning to reacquaint myself with that baseline, the habitat where I came of age. Neil Young said it perfectly in song: "In my mind I still need a place to go. All my changes were there."

## **Continued—The Course of Creeks**

Too many summers have slipped downstream. But still in my mind's eye a diving beetle lumbers to the surface for air, a blue damselfly on a water willow lightly and gracefully moves its wings. The sodden smell of sticky mud fills my head. I can feel in my forearm the sudden tear of a smallmouth bass taking off with a spinner. And I wouldn't mind the light plodding of one of those little cyan sunfish with a mouth big enough to take whatever it can.

A creek is more than a place for bass and bream, warblers and wood ducks. It's habitat for people. Habitat conservation benefits people. Creeks course through people. A tall, fat gray-green sycamore on a shady undercut bend grows naked with age. Slow-moving dark water spattered with yellow sunlight pours over fossil-littered limestone slabs. In the shelter of a pool in a tangle of roots, little fish wait there, the wild consequences of time preserved in living turquoise shards.

\*\*Most if not all, fish carvers are first and foremost, serious fishermen. Some of the best reference material available to us is right there on the stream bank, or lake shore. Articles like "The Course of Creeks," by Craig Springer are meant to inspire us to get out there and do our research. The NFCG extend our heartiest gratitude for Craig's contribution to our publication.

## **SEEKING MEMBERS REFERENCE PHOTOS FOR NEXT ISSUE**

I think everyone would agree, it's great to put a face with the names of our members throughout the United States and Canada. Not only will it provide an avenue for us to know each other a little better, but will inform the general membership what types of fishing are available in your areas. This edition of the newsletter featured some pictures of members fishing for some cold water species of trout. In the next edition we are requesting those of you who enjoy "warm water fishing" to send in your photos for posting in the newsletter.

There is no doubt in most fish carvers minds that the collection of reference material is vital in the reproduction of any quality carving. The next edition of our "featured article" will focus on the importance of collecting reference material as well as how and what photos you should capture.

One of the NFCG projects on the table is to develop a standardized reference library to assist members in their carving endeavors. This is an area where all of us can actively participate in it's development. As we learn the art of reference gathering in our next "featured article" we can collectively contribute to this project. So anticipate an outstanding article on collecting reference materials in the next newsletter. Until then keep the chips flying, your lines wet, and those cameras ready.