



NEWSLETTER

VOULUME 1 ISSUE 6 1 NOV 2005

NATIONAL FISH CARVERS GUILD

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WELCOME

Welcome to the NFCG final edition of Volume 1 to complete our first years publication. It's with a great sense of pride and gratitude that the NFCG is approaching it's first anniversary during the holiday season. What better time to reflect and give thanks to our success as we celebrate and share the blessings we all have with our family and friends.

You will find a wealth of knowledge and valued added information in this months edition. We have in store for your reading pleasure and outstanding article on "Live Reference" by Ed Walicki, our Featured Artist Ray Dodge up in the Northwest, events calendar, and an excellent article that takes you back in time before the days of air brushes and power carvers.

From all of us at the NFCG, we wish you the blessings of the holidays and much success in your fish carving ventures this coming year.



**Jordan Gee - First Fish Carving / 40+ hours
2nd Place Columbia Flyway Show / Priceless**

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MENTORING

Please join us in congratulating Jordan Gee on an excellent first time fish carving.

We want to encourage all our members to renew their memberships and introduce new members to the art of fish carving. Mentoring is going to play a vital role in our future and success. Anyone can be a mentor, just reflect back upon your first carving and those that taught and inspired you to create your first master piece.



FEATURED ARTIST— RAY DODGE



Ray is an accomplished wild-life photographer, artist and designer. He is a graduate of Pacific Northwest College of Art. As for carving fish, he will be the first to tell you his

best schooling took place stream-side where he learned to appreciate the subtle differences in one fish to another. He is passionate about his fishing and his art, a combination that has served him well to produce award winning carvings.

Ray is currently serving as an executive Board member of the NFCG and is Co-chairman of the Western Chapter. His most recent accomplishments in the art of fish carving include First Place and Best in Division in the Open class at the Pacific Flyway show in Vancouver, Wash.

More of Ray's talents can be seen at the following web site:

www.wildfishcarvings.com



RAINBOW TROUT
FIRST PLACE
BEST OF DIVISION
COLUMBIA FLYWAY 2005

EVENTS CALENDER

Nov 12-13 - **Puyallup, Wash.** Northwest Wood Carvers Association, Larry Smart (206) 933-0953 larryandmari@hotmail.com

Nov 26-27 - **Evansville, Ind.** Tri-State Woodcarvers Club, Linda Allen (812)867-5734 Brulinallen@aol.com

Nov 19 - **Deltona, Fl.** Deltona Woodcarvers Club, Contact Jim Bergman 386-985-5805 deltonawoodcarvers@yahoo.com

Jan 14-15 - **Lincoln City, Or.** Lincoln City Costal Carvers, Jon "Andy" Anderson 541-994-4841 or icarve@charter.net

Jan 20-21 - **McAllen, Tx.** 20th annual Rio Grande Valley Woodcarvers Contact Dorothy 956-519-2448

Jan 23-29 - **Mercedes, TX.** Rally On The Rio Margaret Cawood 956-686-3942 mcawood@2000.net

(MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SEND IN LOCAL EVENT DATES)

**(WE WANT TO ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO RENEW THEIR NFCG
MEMBERSHIP FOR THE BARGAIN LOW RATE OF \$12.00 PER YEAR)**

COLLECTING REFERENCE MATERIAL (First in a series of 6 guest articles)

Live Reference by Ed Walicki

Reference Aquarium - the ultimate in carving reference!



The best reference for wood carving is live reference. Those of you with an empty aquarium in your attic, there is your library, go catch your books. Most warmwater, and some coldwater fish thrive well in captivity and offer unlimited study (*check you local and state laws on captivity first*).

It's easy to spot a carving from somebody who has studied a live fish at depth, they always seem to capture the fish's spirit in their work. This cannot be done from a photograph or a taxidermy mount. Aquariums offer the best in habitat study as well. Plant reference, driftwood shape, and stone coloration questions are quickly answered with in-house stock.

For the fish carver committed to taking his or her work to the highest level an aquarium is a necessary and enjoyable investment. One fish in captivity can answer more questions than a ten foot stack of reference pictures. Studying fish in their natural environment will help you understand things you would have never noticed from pictures. Things such as; how are the fins positioned on a trout holding in steady current? Their position while in pursuit of a bait fish or lure? At what point does the fish open it's mouth to inhale a bait fish? These are all questions that can only be answered from studying live fish.

How many times have you seen a carving or mounted fish chasing a school of bait fish with every fin on the fish flared in an open position? I am sure you will agree this fin positioning is used more often than not. Is it correct? No, when a fish is in hot pursuit they are very streamline, bullet like in appearance, the dorsal, pectoral, pelvic, and anal fins are collapsed and full forward power is developed from the body and caudal fin. Pelvic and pectoral fins are used for quick directional changes only.

What many fish carvers fail to realize is fin position is as critical as wing position in a duck carving. When a duck takes to flight from a floating position on water the wings are opened, pushing down compressing the air trapped between the lower wing surface and the surface of the water lifting the bird off the water and into the air, an appropriate action for the desired result. Would you display a duck carving open winged floating at rest on the water? Even if I could show you pictures of ducks with their wings spread? No, because we all know ducks don't normally float like that. You would never use reference pictures of ducks in flight for a carving of a duck at rest in the water. However many fish carvers continue to use pictures of fish held in hand, fins flared, as reference when creating a carving displaying in pursuit of quarry. Drop a minnow into a aquarium full of hungry fish and in three seconds or less you will know how to position the fins of a fish in hot pursuit.

CONTIUNED— Live Reference

Which brings me to another question. At what point does a fish open it's mouth to inhale a bait fish? We often see carvings of a large fish chasing a school of bait fish, it's mouth opened full, ten inches behind the bait. In reality this would never happen. A fish opens it's mouth a split second before inhaling the bait fish. They use the vacuum generated from quickly opening their mouth to suck in the bait fish. If they were swimming fast with their mouth wide open, the trapped water in their mouth would push the bait away instead of drawing it in. At the moment of attack the gill covers are closed and the mouth opens quickly sucking in everything immediately around it. The gill covers open and the mouth closes in one fluid movement. The water is pushed out the gill covers and the bait stays in the mouth. Mother natures landing net, of sorts.

So why is the pike carving displayed with flared fins and an open mouth chasing a carved perch six inch's away? The carver has not studied live reference, the minnow experiment above would have answered this question as well. This is the type of information you wont get from a picture in a magazine or a stack of reference photos, you need to see the real thing, in action. This alone makes an aquarium a priceless source of reference.

When it comes to aquariums, bigger is definitely better. With large fish come problems that are difficult to manage in small aquariums. They require more space and tend to pollute the water faster with waste products. Overcrowding in small tanks make it tough to keep water conditions and health problems under control. A good starting size for a panfish collection would be a 55 gallon aquarium. I wouldn't bother with anything smaller. This will provide ample space for a half a dozen small panfish and still have enough room as they grow, provided territorial tempers remain in check. If you want raise a couple of 12" trout then a 125 gallon long or larger is a good choice. Keep in mind fish grow quickly and often become territorial so purchase an aquarium as large as your space and budget allow. Coldwater fish will need a chiller operating to keep the water at a cold temperature so they can survive.

Warmwater and some coldwater fish are very easy to raise in captivity. They are not as fragile as some of the tropicals found in most pet stores. These type of fish will require a large aquarium to thrive in captivity. Larger aquariums hold a consistent water temperature better, and if used indoors will not need a heater to warm the water. Panfish, warmwater gamefish, and some cold water fish can handle a wide temperature range from 40 - 80 degrees with ease, except trout that need it a little cooler, 50- 65 degrees is ideal but most will tolerate temperatures as high as 70 degrees for a short time if water circulation is strong. If keeping trout is your preference consider making a water cooler by circulating the water (from your filter) through a copper coil positioned inside a small refrigerator, three cubic feet or smaller. These little refrigerators do a great job of cooling the water to 55 degrees and keeping it there at a low cost. The colder the water the longer it can hold oxygen.

Try to keep all tank habitat natural, live plants, sand and gravel common to the fish's natural habitat. Leave the blue plants, bubbling treasure chests and swimming scuba diver toys for the goldfish. When fish are uncomfortable with their surroundings, they become scared, losing color and darting about the tank wildly. Imagine how you would react if somebody dropped you into a new house with florescent carpeting, and neon colored plastic furniture that squirted water every 15 seconds while your pink dog floated around the room by his leash. Would that cause you to dart around the house in a panic or appear a little flush?

Position your aquarium near filtered sunlight, fish need the same exposure to sunlight in captivity as in the wild. Fish kept under artificial lighting only, often exhibit washed out coloration, providing poor paint reference. Sufficient sunlight will also allow live plants to thrive and algae to grow, both are a necessary part of a fish's diet and the aquariums ecosystem. If placement near a window is not possible than consider purchasing a florescent light bulb designed to simulate natural sunlight conditions. Grow lights are strong in the blue / red spectrums, necessary to support plant life. Figure on enough lighting to supply 2-3 watts per gallon of aquarium water. This type of light should be on 12 hours a day. Many aquarists use an inexpensive timer to control the

CONTINUED— Live Reference

on / off cycles of the lights. Any disturbance in the on/off cycle duration will confuse your live plants causing poor growth and possible algae problems.

When setting up your aquarium NEVER use lake or stream water. This water contains bacteria that may upset or destroy the working bacteria in your aquarium filter. Many people feel a gallon of this water will jump start their new tank and begin the cycling process sooner. Avoid the temptation, this will not work and should not be attempted. If you want to speed the cycling process of a new tank use a small amount of water from a healthy established aquarium to seed your bacteria growth. An old filter pad or a gallon of water vacuumed from the gravel of an established aquarium is often all that is needed to seed a new aquarium with beneficial bacteria. Newly setup aquariums should be run at least six weeks with a few goldfish before any reference specimens are added. This will allow the bacteria colonies to grow and become established before new fish are added. Larger fish generate more waste products, this may shock a newly set up aquarium and overpower the working bacteria causing health problems from the start. Add to your new aquarium slowly and let bacteria colonies grow to accommodate the need.

Try to create a balanced ecosystem to maintain a healthy chemical free environment for your study fish. Refrain from using chemicals as much as possible. Don't rush to poison a problem, cure it naturally for best results. Add missing pieces to the puzzle until a balance is reached. If algae gets out of control add snails to consume the algae, they will reproduce quickly providing a steady food source for your bluegills and sunfish. If the water appears cloudy add freshwater mussels to clear the water, they feed on micro organisms that cloud water. If bottom wastes become a problem add bottom feeders such as small catfish or crayfish.

If your live plants begin to die from lack of carbon dioxide don't pour in chemical fertilizers and wait for a miracle. Add carbon dioxide to the water. In a large sealable bottle add sugar, water and yeast, cap the bottle and vent it into your water with a length of plastic airline. When yeast consume sugar they give off carbon dioxide. The gas will escape the sealed bottle through the air line and bubble off into the water of your aquarium. This set up will produce carbon dioxide for weeks. Water absorbs carbon dioxide very quickly and small amounts will be all that is necessary to maintain healthy plants. Keep in mind most plants thrive in swamp type conditions where vegetation decomposes giving off gasses that help feed other growth. This is a difficult environment to duplicate in an aquarium, spend the time necessary to learn how to balance the cycle and you will be rewarded with a self running aquarium requiring little maintenance.

Feed your fish foods they would normally eat in the wild, if possible. Altering their diet may cause health problems, color changes and poor growth. There are many great sources for live food, bait shops, pet shops, your own backyard. Leave a 4 foot fluorescent light on in the backyard after dark and you would be surprised at the amount of live insects you can collect on a warm summer evening. Collect night crawlers and store them in a large cooler filled with mulch. They will keep for long periods if kept cool. Feed them corn meal and keep their mulch damp and they will continue to breed and grow providing an endless supply of fish food.

If you are looking for bulk insect feed head to the nearest lake in the spring when the mayflies hatch. During the night they cling to anything that is lit up, gas station pumps seem to be their favorite around here. You can scoop them up with a shovel during a hatch there are so many. Place them in freezer bags in your freezer and save them for year long use.

Large fish require more food, increased water filtration and aeration. Constant monitoring of water quality is a must. Visit your local pet shop for advice on equipment needed to maintain a healthy environment for your study fish. There are many newsgroups on the internet dedicated to helping people raise fish in captivity. Some of them to visit are [rec.aquaria.freshwater.misc.](#), [rec.aquaria](#), [rec.aquaria.tech](#), [alt.aquaria](#), and [sci.aquaria](#).

Once your aquarium has been operating for at least three days you can begin adding small fish. Start with a few small fish to begin the bacteria cycle and slowly add more after six weeks. Monitor your water quality closely

CONTINUED— Live Reference

as you stock the aquarium, overloading will cause high ammonia levels that will harm your fish.

When collecting fish care must be taken to ensure a safe transition from the wild to captivity. The ideal transport container is a large insulated cooler with a water circulating pump (the type used to keep bait alive). Coolers help keep the water temperature consistent during transportation. To avoid injury to the fish during transportation line the inside of the cooler with 1" foam rubber. Cut four pieces the size of the cooler inside walls and glue them in place with aquarium silicone days in advance. Silicone adhesive will not leach into the water once cured and cause harm to the fish like most adhesives will. The wet foam rubber will pad the walls of the cooler and prevent injury to the fish's skin and eyes as they dart around wildly in the cooler. The plastic flashing and mold imperfections on the inner walls of the cooler will scratch the eyes of your study fish as they swim around trying to escape. A soft foam liner will prevent any lasting abrasions. Fill the cooler to a depth of at least twice that of the fish with water from the lake or river.

The use of marine drugs can be helpful. There are tranquilizers available from most pet stores that can be added to the water to calm the fish down and prevent injury while contained in the cooler. Some fish require sedation to calm them, some don't. Another good chemical to add to the transport water is a stress coat. This chemical covers the fish in a protective coating to help them avoid abrasions and damage to their skin and eyes while being transported. This coating will dissolve several hours later when protection is no longer necessary. It can be purchased from any tropical fish store or pet shop.

If you have concerns as to the fishes health upon capture release it, don't contaminate your aquarium with sick specimens. Inspect each fish for any signs of flukes. Flukes are small worms that are ingested by fish. Flukes live off the flesh of fish as they burrow out through the stomach of the fish. Obvious signs of fluke infestation are sores or small holes in the skin of the fish. If your fish show any questionable spots or sores when caught, release them. Flukes can wipe out an aquarium of study fish in short order if gone unnoticed, or untreated. The chemicals used to treat many illnesses often kill helpful bacteria and algae necessary to cycle your tank. Introducing sick or weak fish may destroy the delicate balance that you have worked months to achieve.

Once home acclimate the fish to the water in the aquarium by adding small amounts of aquarium water to the cooler until you have a 50:50 mix, leave fish in this water for 15 minutes or more. Compare the temperature of the water in the cooler to that of the aquarium, slowly raise or lower the temp of the cooler water as necessary by adding more water from the aquarium to the cooler. Once the temp is the same between both remove the fish from the cooler and release it into the aquarium. Turn off the lights and allow the fish time to adjust to the water without being harassed by the resident fishes. After a while turn on the light.

If you have a large community tank consider setting up a small quarantine tank for your new arrivals. Treat the water with medication designed to kill internal and external parasites and quarantine new fish for 7 days in this water. If after 7 days the fish appears healthy introduce him to the main aquarium. This is the safest method of keeping healthy specimens.

I know once you spend a little study time with live reference the trouble involved with setting up and maintaining an aquarium will reward you ten fold with results in your next carving.

** A special thanks goes out to Ed Walicki for his contributions to the National Fish Carvers Guild.

** Please be sure and check out his new "Water Splash DVD Course" now available on Fishcarver.com.

NFCG PROMOTIONAL ITEMS



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

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 \$ _____

Shirts are of the highest quality by

CALEBELA'S OUTDOOR GEAR

All items are beautifully embroidered

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: _____

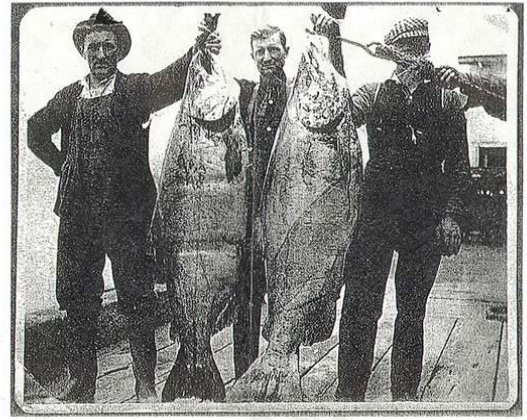
Spouse: _____ Other Family members _____

OUR FISH CARVING HERITAGE

The following articles are a look back at the relationship of Roderick Haig-Brown Canada's Premier angling writer and Tom Brayshaw a pioneer in the art of fish carving.

My Friend, Tom Brayshaw

By Roderick Haig-Brown



This picture was taken at the Union Fisherman's Dock in Astoria, Oregon in about 1910.
Left to right - Salmon weights 116 lbs and 121 lbs.
They were salted down in 100 lb barrels and sent to Europe on sailing ships.

Ask Tom Brayshaw if he can do something and he will tell you he cannot. That is cue to watch closely while he does it.

He once spent one-half an hour telling me he could not possibly land a 40-pound Chinook he had hooked on a six-ounce fly rode and 90 yards of monofilament. At the end of the half hour, there was the Chinook on the beach.

When I asked him during the war if he could do the illustrations of a new edition of *The Western Angler*, he gave me at least a dozen reasons why he could not. All the while he was busy sketching away on odd sheets of hotel notepaper. "This sort of thing?" he asked.

He would probably tell you he could not design a golf course or win a pistol championship or match his age with his golf score, yet he has done them all at one time or another. He told me he could not possibly learn to make a split bamboo rod, yet he learned in his sixties from Letcher Lambuth, Harold Stimson and other Seattle masters and made a score or more of good ones in no time at all.

There are, of course, some skills Tommy will admit to. I do not think he would deny, for instance, that he can tie a full dressed Atlantic salmon pattern without a vice or match a mayfly while sitting at the water's edge in less time than it would take most of us to do it at home and with a vise. I suspect he would agree that he knows more about steelhead life histories and management than most of the fish and wildlife types he has run across. And now, I understand, he is now about to admit he knows how to carve a fish model.

I first met Tommy some 35 years ago, on the Spit at Campbell River. He was bending over a massive tye salmon, making little sketches and notes about its shape, colour, condition, with appropriate comments on its sexual proclivities and religious affiliations. In due time the tye became a model, accurately carved from yellow cedar and painted in the full glory of its maturing coloration. It was not just a model of any old tye, but a perfect representation of the very fish that the happy angler had brought so proudly to the scales that morning – more life-like and far more enduring than any success of the taxidermist's art.

In the matter of drawing, painting or carving fish Tommy is a perfectionist, not to say down right fussy. He is, as I have said, intensely concerned with details of color, markings, fin ray counts and body proportions: but he is also intensely conscious of such effect as the pressure distributed about the body and fins of a fish in water, the degree of curve of which a fish's body is capable and the visual effect of shadows cast upon the fish or by the fish upon its surroundings. The sum of all this is in the fluid, vibrant creatures we all know in his paintings.

No one really knows how Tommy learned to do all these things. Skillful hands, a mathematical mind, quick and accurate eyes, abundant energy and enthusiasm and a capacity for taking pains have played their part.

CONTINUED - Carving Heritage

But a love of fishermen and fish, together with a profound understanding of the very spirit of the sport of angling and all its traditions have certainly played an even larger part. A generous spirit towards his fellow anglers is yet another of Tommy's well know marks, and his present offering is one more example of it.

HINTS ON MAKING WOODEN FISH MODELS

By Tom Brayshaw

1. Someone must first catch a fish. If possible, I like to see it.
2. Lay it on a sheet of brown or other suitable paper and carefully draw an outline. Mark on this any observations as to colourations, scale count along the lateral line, spots, or other markings. Take a good photo of it.
3. Get a suitable-sized piece of first class clear, kiln-dried yellow cedar or white pine. Examine it carefully for any signs of checking after keeping it in a warm dry place for some time – the longer the better. In making large models it may be necessary to get the block of wood laminated.
4. Trace the outline from the paper pattern on both sides of the block, taking great care to have both tracings opposite to one another.
5. In large models the outline may be cut out with a band saw; otherwise it must be done with handsaw and chisel, a slow and laborious job.
6. One side of the fish is roughed out with chisels, and gouges.
7. The front of the model is carved. The back of the model is hollowed for lightness.
8. Give the model a coat of white ground paint. Pencil in the lateral line. With some blunt tool make a row of dotted indentations along the pencil lateral line. From your scale count, figure out how man scales there will be to an inch and, having marked with a pencil inch spaces along the lateral line, pencil in the number of scales in the first inch or two of the lateral line. We now come to the scaling, which always intrigues people, who seem to think each scale is carved out separately. Heaven forbid! The scales are merely cross-hatching done freehand with a chisel edge pressed on to make a visible mark in the wood. Having pressed in the lines from the back to the lateral line, do the same from the lateral line to the lower flank, then shift the model around to a convenient position and draw in the cross-hatches with the chisel edge. You now have the side of the model covered with a grid of small diamond shapes – the scales.
9. The rays of the fins are easily suggested with some suitable gouge.
10. Now comes the colouring. I use ordinary flat paints, chiefly white, and spar varnish. I use these as a base and then add artists' oil colorurs. I used to use oil paint, but they took so very long to dry. When mixed with quick drying paints or varnishes they seem to produce a very satisfactory medium. If the fish is a silvery one I spray the flanks with a lacquer made from the scales of herring, pilchard, etc., which can e obtained from Paispearl Products Inc., 24 Aqueduct Lane, Hasting-on-Hudson, 6, N.Y. As lacquer is a paint remover, the application must be carefully and lightly done. I spray it on with the vacuum cleaner with a tube attached to the blowing outlet instead of the "sucking" one. Fluff it on and allow a few minutes between fluffs for it to dry.

CONTINUED - Carving Heritage

To get a brilliant look on the model it is usually necessary to touch up the scales with a spot of white or some colour. This touch-up is visible on the finished model which shows a big tyee mounted on a dark blue board. I usually mounted the large models but smaller ones can just hang on the wall.

That's all I think. The above rigmarole may help someone, but if there are any points I haven't made clear, Just writ me. I'd be delighted to help anyone who would like to tackle the job.

Roderick Haig-Brown was born in England in 1908 and finally arriving in North America in 1927, by 1950 he was surely Canada's premier angling writer. By the time of his unexpected death in 1976, Haig-Brown was recognized by most as the 20th century's finest angling scribe.

Tom Brayshaw was born in Yorkshire, England in 1886 and moved to Canada in the early 1900's. He was a well-known sport fisherman and devoted most of his adult life to catching, studying and drawing of fish. His fish carvings were illustrated in several of Roderick Haig-Brown's books. Tommy retired in Hope, B.C. after growing fruit in the Okanagan between the wars until his departure in 1967.

EDITORS NOTES—DALE BARRETT

“Wouldn't it be great if we could share this experience with others.” What a profound statement when you look back to Nov 6, 2004 when the seed was planted to create what is now known as the “National Fish Carvers Guild”.

What a success story, the first national organization committed exclusively to promoting and enhancing the art of fish carving. Members throughout the United States and Canada are benefiting from the dedication and talents of some of the best fish carvers in the World.

Newsletter, journals, world class carving classes, seminars, new techniques, mentoring, and exhibits are just a few of the programs sponsored by the National Fish Carvers Guild. Adding value to the fish carving community with Integrity, Service and Excellence.

It has been my experience over the past 25 years in public service that when new organizations are established they go through several stages of development. To sum it up those stages are; forming, storming, norming, and performing.

The National Fish Carvers Guild in my opinion, is an exception to the rule. It skipped the usual developmental stages and went right to performing. This rare and extraordinary event occurs only when you have a membership focused on common goals and values.

We know where we've been in our short tenure. Presently our programs are being continuously improved and developed. On the horizon of our second year, the NFCG future is robust to say the least:

- Our teams are focused on continued web site and infrastructure development.
- Negotiations are underway to provide seminars, sponsor awards, and improve fish carving skills at regional shows.
- Publications will continue to focus on information, education, and announcements.

I want to encourage everyone to renew their memberships, and publicly express my gratitude to the Board of Directors who work diligently on our behalf, our members who support the National Fish Carvers Guild mission, and our affiliates who sustain our vision to promote and enhance the art of fish carving.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS