

# WarmStone

Created and Distributed by Ron Pihl  
Cornerstone Masonry Distributing, Inc.



## Greetings From Ron

Here in Montana we had a beautiful autumn featuring bright golden aspen and cottonwood trees, clear deep blue skies and snow on the mountain tops. Now we have record cold temperatures. Building fires in the mornings again is a pleasure and I enjoy seeing my daughter Caroline and Pauline, the French exchange student who is living with us this year, curling up, with their backs pressed against the Tulikivi, on our heated bench in the mornings before school.

By the time this newsletter comes out I will have completed two baking demonstrations; one at Rocky Mountain Stove in Wheatridge, CO where we have a TTU2700/1 Tulikivi with a bakeoven on display and the other at our showroom at Crazy Mountain Cabinetry here in Livingston. Hopefully I saw some of you at one of these events.

I seem to be getting more and more calls from Tulikivi owners requesting that I order them new metal log retainers (the cast iron part that attaches to the grate and directs air towards the glass to keep it clean) for their Tulikivi fireplaces as theirs have become warped. While these log retainers can wear out they will usually last for many years. Most damage is caused by operators not scraping the ash down through the grate after each firing thus causing the grate and retainer to warp because it is not cooled by normal air flow.

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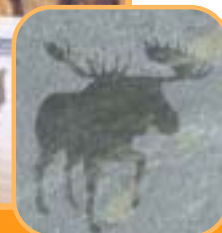
## Soapstone Etching

More and more owners are opting for a piece of art included as a part of their Tulikivi soapstone fireplace, soapstone tile or countertop projects. Decorative pieces are produced using different techniques. They can be decorative stone inlays (intarsia), sandblasted by computer driven software or hand carved pieces.

Many times the Tulikivi factory in Finland produces the piece. They have several designs to choose from. Cornerstone is building a custom Tulikivi fireplace for some clients in Wyoming who have chosen an etching for the front of their heater of a grizzly sow with two cubs. This work was done at the factory in Finland.

Cornerstone can now provide custom artwork for your Tulikivi done here in Montana. Paradise Valley resident Ann Swainson has produced sandblasted designs in soapstone for several projects in recent years. She most recently produced a bear followed by its tracks in the snow for a sink front in a home in Big Sky. This same home will also have designs by Ann on a tile wall that will go on either side of a Tulikivi that acts as a room divider. There will be moose standing in aspen trees on one side and elk grazing in a mountain meadow on the other.

Please contact us if you have an idea for including something special for your soapstone project.



# Customer's Corner

## Healthy House Design

Architect Thor Arnold had heard about Tulikivi Soapstone Fireplaces for quite some time. One of the houses he designed in Red Lodge, MT featured a Tulikivi, and since that time, Thor tries to incorporate a Tulikivi into each of the houses he designs, including his parents' home high in the mountains in Colorado and in his own home. There have been seven projects so far, plus two to four more are in the works that have Tulikivi soapstone fireplaces. Superior heating and workmanship, the natural soapstone, the look – these are all qualities that have sold Thor on Tulikivi masonry heaters.

When Thor first began his own architectural firm, Thor Design, his goal was to stay small, and he works hard to maintain that goal. Quality of life is important to him and his wife Jane not only for themselves but for their two young sons, Fritz and Swift. He does not advertise nor does he have a brochure or website. All his clients come to him via word of mouth. Many are his former fishing customers who pass his name along to their friends. He has been able to maintain a productive work schedule with this ethic.



Before beginning a design project Thor likes to take a good look at his clients and get to know them on a somewhat personal level. It is kind of a kick the tire philosophy to peek out what his clients are after in a home or project and to make certain that he is a good match for them.

Thor's typical approach to a project that he designs is the "healthy house" standpoint. He uses alternative building materials that are gentle to the environment and kind to our own health. Thor also uses recycled materials as often as he possibly can. He mixes his building materials quite randomly: old and new woods, raw metals, timber beams from old structures, metal clad windows, and stucco. He uses engineered/sustainably harvested framing lumber. Durisol woodchip blocks, which are blocks insulated with mineral wool bats, are the walls of his home. The walls have a stucco exterior and plaster interior. Many homes he designs are framed with Durisol blocks. And he does straw bale walls in some of his design projects. His homes usually lead towards zero maintenance and a highly insulated "breathable" exterior wall system. His roofs are typically designed and built in the non-ventilated methods and are also highly insulated.

Thor's own home is a perfect example of his architectural ideals. Jane and Thor Arnold live in an older, well established neighborhood in Bozeman. They built a studio on the property behind it with

straw bale walls. With their own family in mind, they wanted a larger living space and also wanted to design their own "healthy home." They bought the old house next door and tore it down, recycling whatever wood they could, re-milling some of the studs and reusing it as interior trim in their new home. Much of the recycled wood was used for the fence which surrounds their back yard.

Thor's home is made from Durisol woodchip blocks with a stucco exterior and plaster interior. The outside upper portion of the house is clad with various recycled wood. Some pieces painted, some not. It gives a beautiful effect. A huge timber serves as the main beam on the front of his house, which I later learned came from a barn at his family's ancestral farm back in upstate New York. Several years ago Thor traveled back there and disassembled the barn sending three semi truck loads of timber back to Montana.

As I walked into their living room my eye immediately went to the red chimney which stands behind their Tulikivi. The chimney is plaster with a beautiful, rich red dye pigment mixed in. It rises from the floor to the vaulted ceiling and is quite spectacular. Their Tulikivi is a TU2200 with wrap around mantels above and below the firebox, and has a three sided bench. The contrast between the red chimney and the gray soapstone is beautiful. The main floor is open so that the Tulikivi is actually part





of the living room and kitchen/dining area. The children play around the Tulikivi all of the time. One of the wonderful features about the heater is that it is kid friendly. The soapstone never gets so hot that Thor and Jane worry about Fritz and Swift getting burned. Although the cast iron door becomes hot while a fire is burning, their children have been taught to stay away from the door.

The soapstone countertops in the kitchen have a beautiful dark satiny patina and fits the ambiance of their kitchen. The children's bathroom has bright multi-colored handmade Mexican tiles and is trimmed in soapstone tile with soapstone shelves. The master bath has a tile shower and tile flooring; all soapstone. The shower stall walls are a mix of beautiful green handmade tiles and soapstone tiles.

Thor built a new work studio behind his home, also done with recycled materials. The work space is small but efficient for him and his assistant Rob Dougherty. Their work table is made from a thick slab of soapstone and the legs are made from timbers reinforced with metal. Thor said that the surface is great for writing and working on. Rob told me that he likes the feel and durability of soapstone. He mentioned how it constantly surprises him how long the Tulikivi in the Arnold's home retains the heat from a fire made the day before. Rob said, "Tulikivi is the best."

Tulikivi owner Dick Kendall and Thor met back when Thor was working as a fishing guide. When Dick and his wife Kristi were ready to build a new home in Gallatin Gateway, MT they contacted Thor to design it. Their house is Durisol block. It is built on a slab with radiant heat and the finished floor is stained concrete slab. The exterior is stucco and the interior is hand troweled plaster. Their kitchen has a Tulikivi HTU600

cookstove with a copper backsplash that is trimmed with soapstone. Thor's design also includes soapstone countertops, island and backsplash in their beautiful kitchen. The log posts and purlins in the kitchen are native lodge pole pine which Dick salvaged from a bug killed sight in a timberline basin on the edge of the Spanish Peaks-- the mountains that the Kendall's see from their front window.

Dick said that they use their Tulikivi cookstove all the time in the winter to heat up the kitchen first thing in the morning and to cook on weekends. "We love the stove," he said, "two or three charges of wood scrap or chunks of fir and it is still warm 12 hours later. My daughter loves to sit on the floor in front of the stove in the morning before school."

Dick feels that his Thor designed home is "very sturdy, warm in the winter, cool in the summer, and built to last for 100's of years" and that "Thor is an exceptionally talented architect with a terrific vision for Rocky Mountain located homes."

Tulikivi masonry heaters and soapstone are a perfect match with Thor's house designs. Natural materials, environmentally friendly, beautiful, and efficient-- Tulikivis truly belong in a Thor Design healthy house. 🌸



## From Our Customers

I would like to share some of the comments I have received from customers-

*"Really enjoyed the Newsletter. You guys do great work. We love our Tulikivi! It was the best thing we did when we built the house."*

Sally and Pete Hart- Montana

*"Our Tulikivi works very hard this time of year (and) it is doing a great job."*

David Lynn and Katie KellerLynn- Colorado

*"One of the best things I did when I built this house was to purchase the fireplace. We have natural gas and I have a furnace but I use the Tulikivi daily."*

Karen Hansen- Utah

*"Our Tulikivi is working flawlessly."*

John and Willa Voldseth- Montana

*"The fireplace has worked out very well for us. We have in floor radiant heat and it did not turn on once while we had the Tulikivi fired up (November thru March sole source of heat). We live at 8800 feet and this is a cold part of Colorado. As you've probably been told many times, we are also pleased with the aesthetic value. It gets a lot of comments from people. So thanks and keep up the good work."*

Ed Canane- Colorado

*"It (the Tulikivi) has been doing an outstanding job. We are both very happy with it. I've never had a fireplace start/draft the way this one does. We don't even use kindling anymore-- just a little paper and instant fire. It's great!"*

Mike and Patti Roth- Montana

## Ron's Perfect Bakeoven Salmon

*"Just last evening I baked wild salmon in my bakeoven. I put the fresh salmon, skin side down, on a shallow metal pan, brushed the salmon with melted butter and sprinkled it with sea salt. I put the pan right on the floor of the 475 degree oven and baked the salmon for 8 minutes. It was delicious."*

# Greetings Continued...

Another question that comes up often is "should I be cleaning my chimney?" The answer is, if you are burning dry split firewood and leaving the air louver wide open during firing no creosote should build up in your chimney and it will not require cleaning every year. However, it is a good idea to have your chimney checked by a professional chimney sweep once a year before you begin burning your stove. Make certain that there is nothing blocking your chimney - birds nest, wasp nest, etc. You should vacuum out the heat

exchange channels once or twice a year. Access to the channels is through the clean out plugs at the bottom of the heater. It is also a good idea to read your Operating Manual that came with your Tulikivi when it was installed from time to time. If you have lost your Manual please email me at [ronpihl@warmstone.com](mailto:ronpihl@warmstone.com) or call me and I will be happy to send you a new one.

I enjoy hearing from my customers and I encourage you to contact me with questions and comments!

With warm regards, Ron

## Soapstone Backsplash

When my husband Fred decided to remodel my kitchen he wanted the cabinets (made completely by Fred) to be white. I immediately had a vision of the color scheme for the kitchen. The last thing to go in was the soapstone tile backsplash. I have to say that the backsplash makes the kitchen. What was already a visually beautiful kitchen was complemented completely by the soapstone tiles. We also lined the inside of an area above our microwave with soapstone tiles and it makes for a beautiful decorative space in our kitchen. Caring for the backsplash is a breeze. I sprayed several coats of a spray that Tulikivi recommends and oils that splash up from the cooking on the stovetop are easily wiped off and have not changed the color of the soapstone at all. – Melanie Cornerstone Masonry Distributing Employee



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## New Product Soapstone Utility Sink

I barely remember my grandmother's utility sink in her basement – I like to think it was soapstone but it could have been concrete. Utility sinks built of both materials were available in her day.

My Partner Jerry Jessen decided to resurrect the design in soapstone last fall. We enlisted the help of architect Rann Haight to design an efficient and decorative metal stand to support the sink. It is an attractive and practical addition to any laundry room or mud room. The retail price including the stand is \$1720. This price does not include the faucet. For more information on sinks or countertops call or email Ron.



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