

# WarmStone

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



## Greetings from Ron

Spring has arrived in Paradise Valley, Montana. After a winter of absolutely beautiful weather, little snow, and fears of summer drought and forest fires, spring emerged with typical snow storms and much appreciated moisture for our thirsty streams and rivers.

With the wet snows of spring and cooler temperatures I was called upon to light the Tulikivi more than usual at this time of year. Our son, James, joined Desiree and me for Easter this year along with a small group of close friends. Our daughter Caroline is a freshman at Harvard and was not home for Easter. I roasted a prime rib of beef in our Tulikivi bakeoven and it turned out perfectly; I used Rann's recipe from Newsletter 7. With family, good friends, and a wonderful spring repast of prime rib and springtime vegetables we enjoyed a lovely day seated in front of our Tulikivi.

I was on the road a great deal this winter at several home-shows, customer visits, and attending the Hearth & Home Products Association Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, where I was able to attend some good workshops and network with others in my industry.

Tulikivi is awarding me a trip for two to Finland for having the most sales in North America in 2004. Desiree and I will be traveling there in July and we will take in a side trip to St. Petersburg. This will be Desiree's first trip to Finland and

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## The Perfect Wood Source for Your Tulikivi

Paul House of Bozeman, Montana, found a great source of firewood from furniture producers in Gallatin Valley, Montana. Most of these scraps are raw oak and small amounts are alder. Paul originally was using it to fire his wood fired boiler in his guest house in Bozeman that he rents out by the week. The guest house is run on renewable energy and solar hot water.

Paul is now selling and delivering his wood thanks to a phone call from Tulikivi owners Johanne and Frank Martino in Big Sky, Montana. The Martinos were looking for a wood source to burn in their Tulikivi and Paul's wood was a good fit. The untreated oak scraps are the perfect size for a Tulikivi. The wood that Paul delivers is already kiln dried and lights easily. And best of all, hardwood's BTUs are more concentrated than in softwoods such as pine. Less volume of wood offers more heat. This concentrated fuel is fully reclaimed and recycled and is the most environmentally friendly source of heat next to the sun.

Paul delivers the wood to your home in eight 33-gallon rubber garbage cans. He will be happy to sell you the cans or will transfer the wood into a receptacle that you may have. He also has recycled heavy duty mattress bags for dry storage that he will give to you. Many Tulikivi owners like to stack their wood in a wood shed or under a roof for continued drying and storage.

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# Customer's Corner



Above: Lori and Ryan Hopkins enjoy the radiant heat from their Tulikivi TU2200/1. Right: The exterior of the Hopkins's home.



## "Green" Couple Build Energy Star–Rated Home

When Lori and Jim Hopkins moved to Montana their goal was to "build green." They both believe that because of the economics of energy efficiency and environmental responsibility, green building is the correct way to construct a house today. As a result of their efforts, their home earned a National EPA "Energy Star" certification.

The Hopkins integrated a low emission Tulikivi TU2200/1 top-vented fireplace into their design criteria.

Jim first saw ads for Tulikivi fireplaces in several home building magazines. He contacted Cornerstone Masonry, and he and his young son, Ryan, made a trip to Livingston, Montana, to meet with Ron at the Crazy Mountain Cabinetry showroom. After extensive talks and learning the principles of what makes the Tulikivi a sound healthy choice for clean air both inside and outside of the house, the Hopkins made their choice. The heater was not only important to them because they are

both dedicated to being environmentally responsible, but because Ryan suffers from childhood asthma and reacts to dust and other allergens.

Jim was the designer and craftsman for their custom home. Adapting architectural plans, Jim designed a Prairie Style home in the tradition of Frank Lloyd Wright. The house is oriented on a western hillside with stunning views of the Clark-Fork River valley and two mountainside boreal forests in a small community close to Missoula, Montana. Significant effort was taken to minimize the environmental impact of the home on the site. The structure is thoughtfully integrated into the site location and complements the native landscape. They chose natural xerophytic landscaping of deer resistant plants, and even collected Western bunch grasses, which they acquired through local "native plant rescues."

The house was built with a tight "building envelope." This included insulated con-

crete forms, spray foam insulation and top-quality construction. The house walls are 11 inches thick including the synthetic stucco on the outside of the house. The stucco is framed with wood trim for accent. The roof has 4-foot wood overhangs/soffits made with tongue and groove. All wood is finished in latex in order to minimize off-gassing and other harmful effects resulting from the use of oil-based wood finishes.

The back up heat source for their home is a radiant heat system. Jim stresses that the Tulikivi does almost all of the heating of their home and that they have very low heating bills. Fifty to seventy percent of their home heating requirements are supplied by the low emission Tulikivi. The Tulikivi burns clean and is smoke-free, plus the air inside their home is especially clean due to an energy recovery ventilator which recirculates the radiant heat and the hepa filter—which filters out any pollution which may be in the outside air. Ryan

is comfortable in the house and does not have any “allergic” reactions there.

The home has an open floor plan, which was designed for both form and function. The Tulikivi fireplace sits literally in the center of the home, and Lori and Jim call it the “heart” of their home. The fireplace’s location encourages family gatherings. The Tulikivi can be seen from both the kitchen and the great room, where the family enjoys relaxing in front of the fire. Jim says that when anyone comes into their home through the main entryway, the first thing they see is the Tulikivi—literally everyone comments on how beautiful it is. “The Tulikivi was a great match for our needs,” said Lori.

It was no easy task for the Hopkins to gain the Energy Star rating—a home has to be certified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to be at least 30 percent more efficient than conventional homes. The northwest is known as the most difficult region in this country to attain this rating. But working through the National Center for Appropriate

Technology and with the assistance of Energetechs Inc., Lori and Jim’s home was certified.

Jim and Lori feel that their efforts and their home have paid them back with the good health of their son and because less money is spent on unpredictable and always increasing energy costs. Three years ago when they looked at the cost of the Tulikivi and energy efficient construction, they knew that the investments would pay for themselves and provide comfort and financial benefits for years to come. The house has no propane or gas bill. They heated, cooled, and lit their nearly 3000 square feet home for an average of \$100 per month.

“The Tulikivi has a strong presence in our home and we love it.”

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*Melanie Moroney lives in Paradise Valley, Montana, with her husband Fred and is a long time advocate of Tulikivi soapstone products.*

## Spring Cleaning Time Is Here

Spring cleaning is essential for your Tulikivi. This cannot be stressed enough. Wash the cast-iron parts with a mild solution of water and dishwashing detergent. If necessary, gently scour with a fine steel brush or green non-abrasive scouring pad. Rinse and dry thoroughly with a clean soft cloth.

When fired properly, your Tulikivi produces minimal soot. However, poor draft caused by not emptying the ash pan, under-heating or using uncured or damp firewood can cause a soot buildup in the exchange channels leading to the chimney. To ensure that they are clean, run a vacuum nozzle through the soot channels.

After the last fire of the season, remove the ash pan and open the damper for air circulation. This helps prevent condensation and the dampers from sticking. A stuck damper is a problem you will not want to face if it happens.

Stock your firewood for next winter. Stack your cut firewood in a criss cross manner so that air can circulate and take the dampness out of your wood. Dry, well-cured wood is the key to an efficient clean burning Tulikivi fire.

## Baking Thermometers

When roasting meats in your Tulikivi bakeoven it is always best to have a good quality thermometer to make certain your meat is not overcooked or undercooked. There are literally hundreds of good thermometers on the market.

There are styles of thermometers that you can insert into your roast that are oven safe and you can leave in your roast while it is cooking. When the dial lines up with the internal temperature you are seeking you know your meat is done.

There are digital thermometers that you can insert into your meat that produce a precise reading in seconds or less. Many of these cannot be left in your meat while it is cooking in the oven.

An instant-read thermometer fork digitally displays the internal temperature of meat and some have a timer that you can preset to remind you to check the display. Many have a built-in flashlight for use in darker oven (or for nighttime grilling).

There is a digital remote thermometer that lets

you be away from the oven while cooking and it will page you! You put the probe into the meat, enter the type of meat and doneness, then close the oven door. A wireless transmitter will page you within a 100 ft radius. This thermometer lets you customize settings.

Polder offers a similar product that is preprogrammed. You scroll the menu to select beef, lamb, chicken, or whatever, rare to well-done. Williams Sonoma offers many of these thermometers and all can be purchased for \$50.00 or less.

*Bon appetit!*





# Greetings from Ron continued

we look forward to seeing our Finnish friends while we are there. We will visit the new Stone Center in Juuka plus see what's new at the Tulikivi factory. Thank you to all of our wonderful customers for trusting me with your projects.

In January I had the unique experience of participating in a photo shoot for an article in *Mountain Living* magazine coordinated by our publicist Jackie Burton. Johanne and Frank Martino of Big Sky, MT held an afternoon gathering of friends at their home and I cooked in their custom TTU2700/5 Tulikivi for the party. We served focaccia pizzas and poached pears in a red wine sauce, prepared in the Tulikivi bakeoven. Look for the story and recipes in the April 2005 issue of *Mountain Living* or on their website at [www.mountainliving.com](http://www.mountainliving.com).

I urge all of you who own Tulikivis to begin your preparations for next winter's fire burning season by planning ahead and getting in your supply of wood.

Have a great summer! 🌸

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## The Perfect Wood Source continued

The price of the wood varies according to how far Paul needs to travel to make the delivery. Local delivery within 5 miles of downtown Bozeman is \$125.00. Additional miles cost \$1.50 extra per mile. Sixteen cans were recently delivered to Big Sky for \$265.00. Paul urges people to have their wood delivered in the spring and summer because the wood typically runs out during cold weather.

Those of you who do not live in the greater Bozeman area certainly should be able to find similar wood sources in your area by contacting furniture makers who have a supply of wood scraps.

Take a look at Paul's website for more information at [www.tulikivifuel.com](http://www.tulikivifuel.com) or give him a call in Bozeman at 580-3223. 🌸

## Tulikivi Western Distributors Form Cooperative

We Tulikivi distributors have gotten to know each other well throughout the years at the annual distributor meetings and industry conferences that we attend. We call on one another for advice and support for different projects that we may be working on. Recently, I have formed a cooperative effort with western region distributors Paul Hendrickson of StoneFire Design, Inc. in Vancouver, Washington, and Jamie Paiken of Alaska Masonry Heat in Ashland, Oregon, for advertising, home shows, and other Tulikivi marketing efforts.

In March, Jamie, Paul, and I shared a booth at the Log Home and Timber Expo in Sacramento, California. We all benefit greatly from doing these shows together because we glean so much from each other's experience and expertise.

Jamie's distributor area covers southern Oregon, California, and Nevada. Jamie also works with partners Susan and

Gary Ogden of Alaska Masonry Heat in Juneau, Alaska (907-790-9330). Contact Jamie in Oregon at 541-482-9379.

Paul's distributor area covers northwestern Oregon and most of Washington. For information and showroom location in Vancouver contact Paul at 360-696-4404.

My area is the Rocky Mountain region.

We are scheduled to do several shows together this year and in 2006.

### 2005 Log and Timber Expo Schedule

**September 30 – October 2, 2005**  
Denver, CO Merchandise Mart

**October 28 – October 30, 2005**  
Tacoma, WA Convention and Trade Center