

# CEDAR HOLLOW VESSEL

## HANDMADE FROM 1840 ERA INNSBROOK LOG CABIN WOOD BEAM

JUNE, 2010

INNSBROOK HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Homestead Log Cabin  
as seen in 1941  
photo courtesy of Gerry Murphy

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*Additional information*

[www.innsbrookhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.innsbrookhistoricalsociety.org)

“It is remarkable what a value is still put upon wood, even in this age and in this new country, a value more permanent and universal than that of gold.”

**Henry David Thoreau in *Walden* first published 1854**

- Hand hewn local timber which provided shelter for early settlers, today offers artistic beauty to 21st Century Innsbrook residents, neighbors, and friends.
- Wood with its intricate grains and patterns tells stories about years of life.
- Times of stress and times of plenty for man and tree may be conveyed in the imperfections and perfections of wood.
- Every growth ring on the hollow vessel is another year of life shared with the tree.
- Thicker rings are warmer or wetter years, especially good for growing.
- Narrow rings show years of drought or maybe a late season ice storm that stunted that year's new buds.
- The natural shape of the wood guides the hand of the artist and creates the final artistic work.

1. This finished cedar hollow vessel, handmade by Innsbrook woodworking artist Robert Goulding, stands 6" in diameter, is 9" tall, and has a wall thickness of 1/8".
2. IHS project manager Wayne Edwards gave Goulding a 9x9x12 inch chunk of tattered, grey wood taken from a beam used in the original construction of the cabin, at least 150 years old.
3. Goulding worked the grey wood on his lathe and was delighted to find beautiful dark red cedar beneath the surface. Goulding carefully shaped the delicate brittle wood. As the piece took form, the aromatic scent of cedar filled the "hollow vessel". Life begins anew as this artistic work becomes a creative symbol of living history.



### **On-site Cabin Restoration Workers Needed**

Contact Wayne Edwards,  
[wntedwards@centurytel.net](mailto:wntedwards@centurytel.net),  
IHS project manager, for work  
days and times. Become a part  
of living history.

## 1840s Log Cabin Readied for 21st Century Restoration

**When the developers of Innsbrook purchased a 400-acre tract of land on March 25, 1977, little was known of one 40-Acre Quarter Section.** Found on this Section was an 1840 era homestead. Had it been someone's home, farmstead, or hunting lodge? We now know the answer, because in 2010 interested Innsbrook residents have formed the Innsbrook Historical Society (IHS) to uncover history in this area. As the name implies, the IHS is interested in understanding the heritage of the land and the people who once lived here and then provide opportunities to celebrate this rich past with present-day friends, neighbors, and families.

**Under the leadership of John Welter, chairman, and Wayne Edwards, project manager, the IHS volunteer committee of residents, has begun restoration of an 1840 log cabin home** located just south of Innsbrook Resort's Alpine Dam.

Historical research reveals the first known settlers of the 40-Acre Quarter Section were the Bottemuller family. Hermann Bottemuller came to Missouri from Germany with his wife and family in the 1840s and in 1843 purchased this 40-acre section from the local land office in St. Louis. A land grant was subsequently signed and issued by the General Land Office in Washington DC in 1848. Now little by little Innsbrook residents are uncovering the history of the area and have started the restoration of this 170-year-old building.

**The Innsbrook Historical Society envisions linking this 19th Century settlement to the 21st Century.**

Welter explains, "The Innsbrook Historical Society seeks to restore and preserve historic structures and adjacent properties within the Village of Innsbrook in order to educate and deepen the understanding of the legacy of the land and its inhabitants with the hope of bringing friends and neighbors together to celebrate the Innsbrook area history in a natural recreational setting." Welter continues, "While all this sounds very serious, the overall intent is to have fun: meet, work, and play with Innsbrook friends and neighbors." Currently over 40 Innsbrook residents and friends are involved in the fun. IHS committees include: land and family history; archeological investigation; local area and geographic history; building site/ interior decor restoration; fundraising; and website communication with our larger community.

**Additional information about the work of the IHS may be found on its website:** [www.innsbrookhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.innsbrookhistoricalsociety.org).

Webmaster Mike Gambill said the site is still being developed but it already provides a valuable source of information for those wishing to become involved in this fun and meaningful work. Anyone with knowledge of the history of this cabin site or wishes to help in the reconstruction is invited to utilize the IHS's website contact link: [ihs@innsbrookhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:ihs@innsbrookhistoricalsociety.org), and we will return a response. Any bit of information or help, large or small is valued. "Never be afraid to try something new. Remember, amateurs built the ark. Professionals built the Titanic."