



# GRISWOLD & CAST IRON QUARTERLY

Volume 27, Number 3

*July, August, September 2022*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone. As I am writing this President's message we have wrapped up our fine chapter meetings for the year. Each of our four chapters held a weekend meeting and from all accounts I have heard they were all highly successful. A special thank you goes out to all those who made these wonderful events happen! Terri and I were able to attend the Northeast and the Dixie Chapter meetings and we had a great time at each. We not only got to spend time with good friends and talk about our hobby, but would you believe some cast iron followed me home from each meeting! We would have loved to attend all four chapter meets but our schedule just wouldn't work. Maybe next year!

As a side note, hosting one of these chapter meets would be a great way to get involved in club activities and a great way to have some fun at the same time. These meetings usually draw 20 to 30 club members so it is fairly easy to find a venue for the event, usually the hotel meeting room or a local VFW or other club property. We typically use a pay as you go system for meals and take up a collection if rent is involved, so the host doesn't need to collect any money in advance.

One other important item I want to emphasize is our club membership situation. The past two years have been hard ones and our membership numbers have dropped somewhat. This would be a good time to talk to some of your collector friends who are not in our club about the benefits of membership. Our annual dues for next year need to be renewed by the end of the year so don't forget to send yours in!

In closing, I am looking forward to a quiet winter of restoring some long neglected cast iron and aluminum that seems to have taken root in my garage. I am also already looking forward to next year's national convention in Baton Rouge! Hope to see you there!

Finally stay safe and good hunting!

Art Chatfield

Email me at [artchatfield@gmail.com](mailto:artchatfield@gmail.com) or phone at 513-673-1875.

### Our New Website is Under Construction

As many of you know, we voted at the National Convention this April to hire a vendor to design and build our new club website. I am happy to report that the new and improved website is under construction and is looking very promising. I know that this is taking a little longer than we hoped, but I think the wait will be worth it.

The new website will have a public area and a private area for members only. The public area will contain information about the club and what we do and how to become a member. The private area will have a club directory, articles and pictures about club events, access to current and past newsletters and a member forum.

The working previews that I have seen are first rate and I am excited for the rollout, which I hope to be before the end of this year.

Submitted by: Art Chatfield

## **And the Countdown Continues for my Top 50ish List....**

Greetings everyone. Hope all has been going well and you have been enjoying your cooler weather and the holidays. Hopefully, you have been able to make a few shopping trips and add some cast iron to your collection, or even decide to gift iron this year and hopefully receive some iron as well. I was happy to see some rain this past weekend and some cooler weather and I am ready for some snow. With the holidays, it means the new year is fast approaching and time to think about the nation convention in Baton Rouge. If you want to have fun, buy some iron, and meet great people, then the convention is a must attend. It will not disappoint, so please make plans to attend in April.

So, in the last four or so years I have talked about my favorite piece of cast iron/aluminum and the steps and decisions that were needed to identify that all-time favorite piece; the one I must have, would grab and secure in an emergency, dream about, and of course would never part with. I have shared the first items that I have ranked in my top 50ish – I can only guess that will change over time so please do not hold that against me – plus I have found some new items at the last few conventions that will modify the list and have extended it beyond 50 items...stay tuned.

So, after much thought and sleepless nights thinking about this, I will reveal the next **4** items on my top 50ish list. Remember it is not about the retail value of an item – it is a piece that I enjoy looking at and treasure. So, some items on the top 50 will not always be high priced but they will be a treasure in my eyes.

Drum roll please for the top items as I continue down the list, and see that I have more items to share, and try and narrow the list down. How fun is tha?. So now on to the list with some of the items that have tied for the top spots, and continuing on the way to one at some point.

**#2d (tie) – Starting off the list today is the awesome #13 waffle iron. Over the years I have felt the large waffle irons have become more popular as collectors have started to realize what great pieces of iron and craftsmanship they are.**

**The #13 waffle iron is a total of 7 pieces of finely detailed and crafted cast iron. Imagine cooking with this in the morning making waffles, and then the nightmare of having to clean all the pieces. I am guessing that between the weight and the cleaning, not many of the waffle irons survived.**

**Fun fact on this #13 waffle iron – as you can see the inside of the waffle iron (cooking portion) is divided into two sections. What I have seen is that most waffle irons like this have three sections. I was lucky enough to find this this jewel on a table during the Saturday morning swap meet at the national convention. Have I ever mentioned all the great iron you will see when you attend a convention?**



**#2c (tie) – Continuing on down the list with the square Favorite Piqua Ware waffle iron. This beauty has the high base in my favorite color of blue. The porcelain base is so very cool and really makes this such an attractive piece of iron.**

**You must love that someone was thinking about how to create something different for the customers that would make their cast iron cookware stand out. Was it about adding color to the sales floor and hoping that the customer would love the color and bring it home? Once home it would have been a piece that you displayed on the counter and wanted to have everyone be able to see and admire. And how in the world of cooking did this waffle iron make it thru and have the blue porcelain still so vibrant in color?**

**I was lucky to receive this as a Christmas gift from my sister one year. We give out as many (old) gifts as we do new items.**



**#2b (tie) – And next on the list today is the larger #19 heart and star waffle iron in aluminum. You will normally see the #18 heart and star waffle many times, in both cast iron and aluminum, before you come across the #19. Being in aluminum, this is unusual in this size. Plus, as a fun fact, it has the A729 on the inside of the handle. It's definitely a cool variation of a waffle iron. And yes, I found this item at the national convention...**



**#2a (tie) – And finishing the list today is the amazing #8 Selden and Griswold waffle iron. This waffle iron is so very cool – not only for being a Selden piece, which makes it older and rarer, but also because of the cool design of the interior of the waffle iron, and the great detail and craftsmanship that went into it. These things all make this an awesome piece of iron.**

**I imagine this was one of the earlier waffle irons made by Griswold and shows how tough and durable cast iron is when maintained and loved.**

**I was able to buy this item at the national convention during the Saturday swap meet. So, let us give a little love to the waffle irons, appreciate the work that goes into making these beauties, and of course, appreciate the work that goes into cleaning and restoring them. Believe me when I say I like to buy clean iron – waffle irons will be your Everest when cleaning.**



And for **#1** – well you will have to wait just a bit longer to our next couple of newsletters to see the big reveal, and what is next in the top 50 countdown...

I also believe when you mix in some chrome, porcelain, aluminum, and nickel in the collection, it helps add a little pop to the collection and really stands out well within the black iron.

So, you start to see the dilemma on identifying that one favorite piece – is it possible, but how do you decide on that? Whatever your answer, and however you can get to one favorite piece, it really is about the journey, the stories, and the amazing times.

So please share your list, bring that favorite item to the next convention in April 2023 at Baton Rouge, LA. We would love to hear the story. Take a few minutes, write a quick story and send it to Joseph for the next newsletter.

Please feel free to contact me with your ideas, concerns, your passion to volunteer, ideas for a future article, or wanting to host a convention.

Take care & see you soon in Baton Rouge - My contact info is: Phone/text: 479-866-2421, evenings & weekends are best.

Email: [slmccarter@cox.net](mailto:slmccarter@cox.net)

Thanks Scott McCarter

## **DUES REMINDER**

Remember. Your yearly dues expire on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Membership dues are \$25 for an individual, \$30 for two at the same address, and \$10 for a student. Contact the current secretary (see officer list at the end of the newsletter) for membership forms/applications.

To renew your dues on line, use:

<http://www.paypal.me/griswoldion>

# THE TOY JONES COMBO COOKER SET

By: Joseph Zawadowski

The full-size Jones combo cooker set was made by Jones Machine and Foundry Co. of Chattanooga, TN. Pieces of this set are the most often encountered of the combo cooker set pieces. According to advertisements from the 1940s, the set was marketed directly by the maker, as well as sold through Sears, Roebuck & Co., and at least one hardware store. Most probably, there were other retail outlets. As with the full-size set, the toy pieces appear to be more common than other toy combo cooker pieces. This also reflects the broad marketing of the Jones pieces.

Like the full-size set, the toy set consists of four individual pieces. Until recently, all the pieces found were made of cast iron. New finds of an aluminum skillet/lid and chrome plated skillet/lid and deep pot prompted me to write this photo essay and update what we presently know.

The set consists of a shallow skillet/lid, a deep skillet/lid, a chicken fryer and a bottom pot.

The four pieces of the toy Jones set stacked and nested





The four pieces of the Jones toy set



Toy Jones shallow skillet/lid



Toy Jones deep skillet/lid



### Toy Jones chicken fryer



### Toy Jones bottom pot



### ALUMINUM AND CHROME PLATED TOY JONES PIECES

During the autumn of 2022 some interesting toy Jones pieces were discovered. On September 16, G&CICA member Jody Smithson posted photos of an aluminum Jones deep skillet/lid toy. At this time, it is unique as both a toy Jones piece and as the only known aluminum toy combo piece.

These photos are courtesy of Austin Smithson, Jody's son, who now has the piece in his collection.



In early October of 2022, G&CICA member Gail Knights posted photos of two chrome plated Jones toy pieces on the combo cooker FB page. Through his good graces and generosity, these pieces, a deep skillet/lid and a bottom pot, are now part of my collection. The photos compare the chrome pieces, on the bottom or left in the photos, to the iron Jones toy set pieces. The bluish tint of the plating indicates it is chrome, rather than nickel. These are the only plated combo cooker pieces, either full or toy size, that have been documented.



## **NORTHEAST CHAPTER MEETING; SEPTEMBER 9 & 10**

Folks from near and far gathered in Marysville, OH in September for the annual chapter meet. Kenny Swadley arranged a very nice hotel (Comfort Suites), with catered meals and a meeting room. Thank you Kenny.

Friday evening revolved around iron stories, a few trades and lots of food. The N.E. Chapter is always hungry.

One highlight for me, was a very ornate heater restored by Cal Smith. Cal has a real talent at restorations.

Saturday morning started with breakfast, of course. After which the business meeting began. The only real item to report is the 2023 chapter meet. It was voted on and passed. The meeting will be in or near Enola, PA next fall. Annette Long and Diane Bingaman will be our hosts. Thank you, ladies.

Brad Schwarting and Sonny McCarter led show and tell. A few very interesting items were on display. Thanks to everyone for participating. I'll let the photos tell the rest of the story.

Of course, lunch was next. Kenny made sure we all had enough food. After eating, we had a small swap meet. I am fairly sure there were a few bargains but I think Brenda Lewis beat me to all the best deals.

In closing, thanks to the twenty something attendees, Kenny Swadley for an awesome meet, those that brought a show and tell item, and Annette and Diane for taking on the 2023 festivities. I noticed we are a bit older and tad slower until, "Oh look at that piece!" is heard.

Details about next year will be published when they are complete. Everyone please have an awesome fall and a blessed holiday season. See you all in Baton Rouge.

**Iron Collector  
Sonny McCarter**

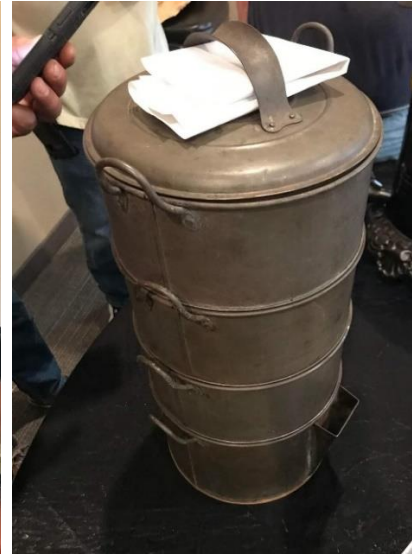
# NORTHEAST CHAPTER MEETING PHOTOS



Cal Smith and heater



Kenny Swadley checks out presses



A multi-level cooker with iron handle



Sidney Hollow ware griddle with three markings



Brad Schwarting with show and tell items



Some young men! Leonard, Cal, Ed and Kenny solve world problems



Discussion at show and tell



Art and Terry Chatfield 50 years and going strong

## WEST COAST CHAPTER MEETING; SEPTEMBER 16 & 17

The West Coast Chapter meeting took place at the home of Larry & Marg O'Neil. Friday's "Greet and Meet" was attended by 64 people who shared a meal of pulled pork, baked beans, potato, macaroni salad, and coleslaw. No one went away hungry. New friendships were formed and old ones were renewed. Friday's show and tell conducted by Russ Houser, Russ Wiemer, and Brad Schwarting was devoted primarily to small pieces of unique and rare iron from the O'Neil collection. Members had plenty of time to view and discuss the vast amounts of cast iron contained within the home. It is a very interesting selection of iron.

Saturday's event began at 9:00 am at the O'Neil Museum with coffee, cinnamon rolls, and mimosas. Nine different states were represented in the 67 members who attended the gathering. Four new members joined our organization During the business meeting. Russ Froemming was presented with a service award for all that he has done for the chapter during his time as a member. Russ H. and Russ W. did a great job with the show and tell, explaining the many interesting pieces of iron that were brought by members. A lunch of pork loin, salad, rolls and cobbler was prepared by the Dutch Oven Society. They did an outstanding job. It was an enjoyable and educational learning experience to watch as they cooked the meal in a variety of chuckwagon Dutch ovens. One of their ovens was a 22 and weighed in at 165 lbs.

We want to thank Neil Ousnamer, Gary Nelson and Chris Hoxmeier for the items they contributed to a very successful raffle. There was a large selection of iron available during tables sales. Larry also had some of his iron for sale as well. A number 13 Dutch Oven was purchased by a lucky member. Cast iron enthusiasts had ample time to view the museum and its great selection of unique iron. The O'Neil's have assembled an amazing collection.

On behalf of our members, I would like to thank the O'Neil's for hosting this year's chapter meeting. It is a great venue. I would also like to thank all those who helped in making this event happen. Your work is greatly appreciated. Next year's gathering location is yet to be determined. Until that time, may all your iron be rust free.

Rick Hoxmeier

West Coast Chapter President

## WEST COAST MEETING PHOTOS



Russ & Brad giving Friday's show & tell



Russ Froemming receives Chapter recognition award

## MORE WEST COAST PHOTOS



NW Dutch Oven Society baking rolls



NW Dutch Oven Society cooks Saturday's meal



Mitch M with his table sales



Russ & Clayton talk iron



Rich & Bill talk iron



Russ H & Russ W doing Saturday's show & tell



The O'Neil Museum



Bill L checks out the O'Neil's iron

## NOTES FROM THE DIXIE CHAPTER MEETING

The Dixie Chapter meeting took place on October 28 & 29 at Echo Mountain Inn, Hendersonville, NC. A more detailed report will hopefully appear in the October, November, December issue of the Cast Iron Quarterly.

During the meeting, new officers were elected, and that information is being updated current for the membership here.

The new Dixie officers are: President; Clayton Mitchell. Vice President; Tommy Lewis Secretary; Gail Parthree.

## OBITUARY

The recent passing of G&CICA member Jeff Nicholas saddened those who knew him over the years. For those who did not have that opportunity, his obituary, as posted by his wife Diane on the Association's FB page, makes one sad they missed that opportunity. May he travel well on his spirit journey.



## **JEFFREY HUGH NICHOLAS; December 25, 1946-October 31, 2022**

Jeffrey Hugh Nicholas, Wolastoqey. The Man, The Myth, The Smartass.

A true legend in his own mind. Diane's cast iron marshmallow. Captain Curmudgeon. Known and loved for his wit and often off-color humor. Pot stirrer extraordinaire. Passionate hunter, fisherman, outdoorsman, collector and button pusher. 75 years spent telling tales without fear. Honest to a fault. Jeff was unique and a genuine antique. He died on his daughter's favorite holiday, Halloween 2022, probably on purpose.

Born on Christmas day 1946 to Viola (Atwater) & Peter J. Nicholas Jr. in Dexter Maine. Jeff attended Dexter schools where he played in the band and on the high school football team. He graduated in 1964 and went on to work in the shoe shop, woolen mill, and was drafted into the US Army all while spending a fair amount of time in the company of many a young lady. At least that's how he told it. His prowling ways were tempered when in early 1971 the woman who would keep his heart, his laundry done, and all his affairs in order came into his world. After a whirlwind two-week romance, Diane M Perry pursued Jeff to Florida where they were married in February of 1971.



Jeff worked as a commercial fisherman, a custom Rod builder, and a lawn irrigation specialist in the early years of their marriage before settling into 25 memorable years of stress, aggravation, and pride at the Palm Beach County Sheriff's office. He dedicated a large amount of time, effort and bourbon consumption to his volunteer work for the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #50. Jeff retired from P.B.S.O. in 2004 and moved to Palmyra Maine where he and Diane purchased a small farm with a very large farmhouse that was promptly invaded by their grandchildren. Jeff and Diane ran Iron Belly Antiques for many years in Florida before moving the business to Palmyra Maine. Antiquing brought them many years of travel, adventure, and satisfaction. The antique business closed its doors in 2009 and they continued to run the farm until it was sold in 2019. They left Maine and headed to Florida to pursue the fulltime RV lifestyle. It was there Jeff spent his final years with his love Diane, and his puppies.

Jeff's interests over the years were many. He played the drums in a band formed with his high school mates. He loved to fish, hunt and just be out in nature. He found immense joy in uplifting others to their full potential, even if he was harsh in his delivery. He also had many tales of his serving as a Scoutmaster of his son's Boy Scout troop and enjoyed recalling with pride every one of them. Jeff spend 40 years researching where his Wolastoqey family came from, where they went, and desperately searched for ways back to the culture for not only himself, but for his entire extended family and all his future descendants.

Jeff will be missed by most who knew him, but certainly not all. We, his family, take comfort in knowing he has gone to his spirit journey having lived a life full of learning, laughter, shenanigans, and high blood pressure. He is survived by his wife of almost 52 years Diane, their son Jason Jeffrey Nicholas & wife Christy, a daughter c Rayne Roten & husband Michael and their children Nokomis Rayne Beck and Charity Marie Roten, a very loved great grandson Lewis James Plungy with whom Jeff spent many mornings having his coffee (black) and learning about a plethora of dinosaurs, Jeff's son Gregory Mark Nicholas & wife Rene and his two children, Tyler Mark Nicholas and Kate Lyn Weirs. Jeff is also survived by his two brothers Peter (Jim) Nicholas of Dexter, Johnathan Nicolas of Lake Worth Florida, two sisters Marsha Wyman, and Kelly Kelly both of Dexter Maine, a niece, two nephews and many cousins.

## 2023 G&CICA NATIONAL CONVENTION

The success of our 2023 convention relies on the participation of the membership. In this edition of the Cast Iron Quarterly there are inserts for registering and putting items in our auction. The auction is an important part of the convention. It is a great fundraiser for the Association and a terrific venue for both purchasing and selling collectable and usable cast iron of all types. There are always some unique pieces to be found.

Membership participation can also include setting up a table or two at the swap meet, doing some room sales, volunteering to put on a program or set up a table talk, participating in putting together a regional chapter basket for the raffle and helping with registration and hospitality. If you wish to participate in these, or other activities, feel free to contact the convention organizers. Information about the 2023 convention can be found in the preliminary announcement below. Meanwhile, start sorting through those stored pieces of iron to see what you may wish to place in the auction, put on a swap meet table or sell from your room.

### PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE G&CICA 2023 NATIONAL CONVENTION-31<sup>st</sup> ANNIVERSARY, BATON ROUGE, LA, APRIL 20-23 As handed out at the 2022 Convention.

The convention (Embassy Suites) hotel is conveniently located in the heart of Baton Rouge's corporate district and is close to the Louisiana State University Campus and downtown Baton Rouge. Other attractions include the Baton Rouge River Center, the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport, the USS KIDD Veterans Memorial and Museum and the Louisiana State Capitol Building.

Embassy Suites-Baton Rouge, 4914 Constitution Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808  
225-924-6566

Room rate is \$129 (king or double)+tax, approximately 13%. Rate will be honored for three days before and after the base convention period. Rate includes made to order breakfast served each morning in a lush open-air atrium. When making reservations, please ask for the "G&CICA Group Block". Complimentary high-speed Internet access and airport shuttle available.

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The hotel does have elevators and easy access to the convention meeting rooms, all of which are on the ground floor. If you have special needs, please mention such when making your reservation. The hotel has ample rooms and convention meeting space, complimentary internet access, on site restaurant, bar, well-equipped fitness center, and indoor pool.

## **THE CONVENTION HOTEL IS NOT PET FRIENDLY**

The two closest pet friendly hotels are the Marriot Residence Inn, 7061 Commerce Circle, Baton Rouge, 225-925-9100 and Crown Plaza, 4728 Constitution, Baton Rouge, 225-925-2244. Both are near the convention hotel.

The 31<sup>st</sup> annual convention activities are being planned. Some of the traditional activities being considered are:

- Show and Tell. Bring several of your more interesting pieces to share with others.
- Seminars, table topic displays, auction, swap meet.
- Cajun food and music at Thursday evening function.
- Hospitality Room for Friday and Saturday evening.
- For those conducting room sales; remember, no sales during scheduled convention events.

In order to make this very special event successful, volunteers will be needed at the convention.

If you are willing to assist, please contact one of the convention hosts:  
Malinda Fontenot, 225-772-0071; Brenda Lewis, 337-268-1324; Mendy Mitchell; 337-351-5849.

## **A COMMENT FROM DOUG WENZ, OUR NEW MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN**

Our Board of Directors recently decided to create a membership chair position with the goals of enhancing communications with our present members and bolstering membership recruitment. They approached Doug Wenz and his wife Kathy regarding the position. Here is their response:

Some time ago, Art Chatfield asked me about being the chairman for the membership of the GCICA, I am very interested in our Association and in bolstering the membership, but felt that being named the chairman could be stepping on the toes of the Association secretary. Kathy and I spoke with Malinda Fontenot and have put together a plan to work with her on membership. Kathy is a wizard on Excel spreadsheets and I have some ideas on membership as well. –Doug & Kathy Wenz

GRISWOLD & CAST IRON COOKWARE ASSOCIATION, FOUNDED 1992  
2022-2023 NATIONAL OFFICERS & BOARD

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