



NWSeaport
Maritime Heritage Center

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Deck Corking Workshop Open to Public
Saturday, Dec 8th 10am-2pm**

SEATTLE, WA (December 6, 2012)



Shipwrights from Washington and Alaska will be teaching the public how to “cork” (caulk, or seal) the deck of a large wooden ship this **Saturday December 8th 10am-2pm** aboard Northwest Seaport’s 1889 National Historic Landmark tugboat *Arthur Foss*.

The shipwrights—Brian Johnson from Ocean Bay Marine and two brothers, Trevor and Ryan Farsovitch from Eagle Rock Boat Repair in Anacortes—will bring their years of experience repairing and rebuilding fishing boats in Kodiak and Puget Sound and teach interested volunteers the ancient art of corking (caulking, as they say on the East Coast). Visitors will have the opportunity to pick up a corking mallet and learn to hammer cotton and oakum into the seams and seal them with pitch in the traditional fashion.

Historic Ships Wharf - At Lake Union Park

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Corking instruction will be done on *Arthur Foss's* main deck, part of which has just been rebuilt. In learning to cork a seam, volunteers will be a part of the Stop the Leaks Project (rainwater leaks, that is). Northwest Seaport received a \$25,000 Landmark Challenge grant from King County 4Culture for the Stop the Leaks Project that paid for materials and shipwright Brian Johnson who has made major repairs to the deck and wheelhouse to stop rainwater intrusion. Rainwater is the biggest killer of wooden boats in the Northwest, feeding rot spores.

Teaching is central to preservation. Northwest Seaport is dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of maritime heritage in this region and strives to preserve both its historic vessels as well as the knowledge and skills to maintain them. Most restoration work at Northwest Seaport is done as a class or workshop, teaching the traditional skills of woodworking, rigging, engine repair and other maritime trades. Students young and old, in vocational training or just curious about working on boats regularly attend Northwest Seaport programs aboard its vessels.

Some of the current vocational training is done through the Boatwright in Residence Program. Christine Jacobson, arriving from the Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding in Port Hadlock, is the current hire under this program run jointly between Northwest Seaport and The Center for Wooden Boats. The program provides young professional boatwrights a 10-week position working on small craft at the Center for Wooden Boats and on Northwest Seaport's big 120ft tugboat, *Arthur Foss*. Aboard *Arthur Foss*, the Jacobson works alongside veteran shipwright Brian Johnson of Ocean Bay Marine. His 40 years as a west coast shipwright enables him to give her training and work experience not available elsewhere. For someone just starting out in the field, it is a precious opportunity to learn from an extremely experienced shipwright and to work on a vessel of unusually heavy construction.

About Northwest Seaport Maritime Heritage Center

Northwest Seaport, founded in 1964, preserves and interprets the maritime heritage of Puget Sound and the Pacific Northwest. Northwest Seaport museum ships, the tugboat *Arthur Foss* (1889) and the *Lightship No. 83 Swiftsure* (1904), provide a hands-on venue for family education and vocational training programs and are permanently docked at the Historic Ships Wharf at Lake Union Park.

Learn more at www.nwseaport.org

Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding

www.nwboatschool.org/

Eagle Rock Boat Repair

www.eaglerockboatrepair.com/

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