



From The Shop



The newsletter of the Lehigh Valley Woodworker's Guild

UPCOMING MEETING INFORMATION..... 1
HELEN PATTERSON – OUR FRIEND..... 1
OLD BUSINESS.....2
FEATURED SPEAKER: BRUCE GREGORY2
DRAG AND BRAG.....6
AND THE WINNER IS:7
UPCOMING PRESENTATION PREVIEW.....7
ATTENTION – GOODS TO SELL AT MEETINGS? ..8
OCTOBER CONTEST MEETING!!8
NEWSLETTER CHANGES!!8
HOME SHOP VIRTUAL TOURS!.....8
STEERING COMMITTEE OPENING!.....8
WOOD SPECIALS9
STEERING COMMITTEE NOTES – INFO9
L.V.W.G. CONTACTS.....9
MEMBER’S MART – FOR SALE9
2006 MEETING CALENDAR:..... 10

Upcoming Meeting Information

Next Meeting: July 18th, 2006 (3rd Tuesday!)

Location: Lehigh Co. Senior Center
1633 Elm Street
Allentown, PA

Speaker: Craig Bentzley:
Topic: Craig Does Queen Anne!

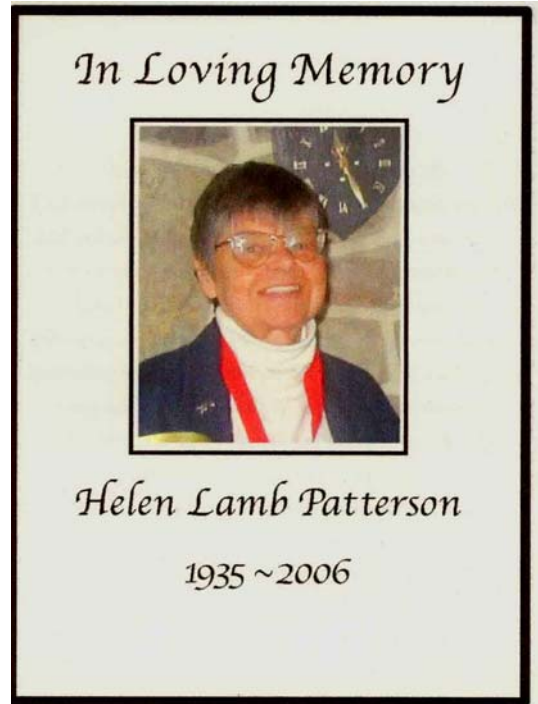
See Next Speaker section!!

Helen Patterson – Our friend

As most of you know now, Helen Patterson passed away on Sunday, July 2nd. Helen was fun and feisty, and also caring, talented, and a true gem as a person. She fought hard but bravely faced what she apparently knew was the outcome. She was a person who was so full of life, it is difficult to write about her in the past tense. For those who knew her well, we know that she is not gone, but exists in another place as vibrantly as she inhabited this place. Some lights never really go out.

I learned a lot about the many things that Helen was about during the wake and funeral. She was very active in a number of community programs and was well recognized by the members of those groups as a person who gets involved. As with the guild, she was not content to sit on the sidelines. With Quentin, she became involved with the steering committee and was, as far back as when I was there, a voice of reason and

logic. She could also kick you in the pants when needed!



The following excerpt from the obituary from the Express Times not only provides information about Helen's family, but it shows that Helen gave back to the community:

Helen and Quentin were married 46 years in September 2005. She served as the board secretary for the Boys' and Girls' Club of Easton, and was a founding member of ProJeCt of Easton, where she started their adult literacy program. She was a member of St. Bernard's Catholic Church, Easton. She was also a member of the Lehigh Valley Woodworkers Guild. Survivors: in addition to her husband, she is survived by two sons, James F. Patterson, of Plainfield Township, Pa., and Q. Scott Patterson, of Kent, Wash.; a daughter, Christine P. Buttillo, of Bethlehem; four sisters, Ann-Marie Holland, of Casselberry, Fla., Josephine Krossa, of Los Altos, Calif., Gusti Buhrman, of Plymouth, N.H., and Patricia Glenn McCoy, of Winter Park, Fla., and two grandchildren, Ryan and Ally. Memorials: Contributions may be made to the Boys' and Girls' Club of Easton, 508 Charles St., or to ProJeCt of Easton, 330 Ferry St., both in Easton, PA 18042.

Cards or other expressions of your feelings may be sent to:

Quentin Patterson
2731 Bushkill Dr
EASTON, PA 18040

Old Business

Allen Powell gave an update on the block project and the Hurricane Katrina furniture projects he is championing. Allen reported he is out of wood, and a run to Bally block will be made soon to pick some up. Folks, let's get behind these efforts and, as I stated in my last edition, if you cannot make something, go out and buy a piece from Unclaimed freight that needs assembly and give the box to Allen. His team will arrange shipment and I am sure someone receiving it would be happy to put it together.

Gerry Chuisano briefed us on the Taunton Book offers. Twice a year they offer half price and free shipping. Jerry has been in touch with Taunton and he will have a list of books ahead of time. Again, cash in advance.

Featured Speaker: Bruce Gregory



Bruce Gregory – master of the laminate – speaking to our guild at the June 20th meeting.

Well, I was a little worried. Bruce was not able to send me a biography on himself and I had not spoken to him to add any meeting info – he is a pretty busy guy. But – Lou Supina got him for us as a speaker, and Lou is a pretty reliable guy, so I knew Bruce would show up. So – June 20th – Who is there nice and early but Bruce. Nice fellow. Had an assortment of laminates for us to browse. Then he tells me he never made a presentation before and he is nervous as hell. And he sounded a little shaky when he told me that. OH CRAP! Crash and Burn time!!

Nope! Bruce did a very good job as a speaker. He was easily heard, had good information, framed it well, and interjected proper detail and a little humor here and there. The presentation was not so much of a “how to”, as Bruce basically seemed to indicate that the “how to” of laminate is less complicated than knowing what CAN BE DONE with the material. And Bruce has created a lot of really “wild and crazy” stuff – to use some of the words he used.

We are in the Lehigh Valley. Land of Amish and Shaker influence, and oak, cherry, and maple furniture. Materials indigenous to our area. Many of Bruce's creations were done when he was Florida based. Not a lot of Shaker or Amish influence to be had there. A lot of modern influence. Bruce does do some laminate furniture here, but there, there is likely more of a demand. So – much of the items that Bruce had to show us was based on that influence. And I guess doing the traditional laminate countertops gets a little boring for someone who can make a wide variety of shapes and sizes of laminate work.

Bruce has been in this business for 25 years. He grew up in Pennsylvania, but migrated to Clearwater, Florida where he started his business. Bruce remarked that the term laminate and Formica are used interchangeably. Formica is simply a brand of laminate, and there are many brands. In general, there are 2 grades – the standard grade which is thickest and would be used on surfaces that need to take a beating like countertops, and the thinner grade that is used for vertical surfaces and to form curves. The sizes available are from 3'x6 to 5'x12. There are a wide variety of surfaces available, with some of the most expensive ones being metal. Bruce pointed out that, regardless of the surface, most all laminates are worked the same. Prices can range from \$30 for a sheet of white thin stuff to \$580 for a sheet of metalized stock. Hmm. \$580 – do not screw up!

Laminate is simple – you have a substrate and a cement – contact cement. Most members are familiar with contact cement – coat both surfaces, let dry, stick together – FOREVER!. Bottom line on this is that once the pieces are coated, most amateurs use a couple of dowels to hold the laminate off the substrate till perfectly positioned and then remove the dowels to stick it on. Pros do not usually need to do that, but it is a good idea, as contact cement is not real forgiving. Yes, you can heat it and remove it, clean off the cement, and do it again, but anyone who has worked with laminate (yeah, even I have) knows this is NOT fun.

To secure the laminate to the substrate once the pieces are stuck together, most people use a J-roller. You know – you have one somewhere. But Bruce prefers to use a wood block padded with a rag. You may want to try this next time you do laminate. Of course, the good old laminate trimmer (he had a Porter

Cable with him) finishes the edge. Bruce uses strictly spray on cement made by Wilsonart as opposed to brush on products. He advised that 3M makes a pretty good spray on product in a can for light use.

Lou Supina got a lot of visuals from Bruce and created a slide show. Luckily, my old PC projector still worked, and off we went. Lou also put these images on a CD for me, so my job as photographer was easy – thanks to Lou for the extra effort. In his very quiet way, Lou does a lot of work for us.

I took a lot of notes on the pieces that Bruce described in his presentation. Members asked questions here and there on the “how did you do this or that”, and Bruce readily had the answers. One of my questions was – I often see laminate countertops with a little 45 degree edge that is also laminated. How do you do that? I could never do that. Well, the response was reassuring – you order the pieces that way! Mystery solved. I am going to provide running commentary in the way of photos of slides and captions.



Bruce’s first slide was of a pretty modern platform bed and bedroom suite done entirely of laminate. The pink neon in sort of a flamingo pink does remind one of Florida. The lady who ordered it sort of had Bruce customize it.



This is the entertainment unit that matched the platform bed in the above photo.



Another platform bed. The goods used on this cost about \$200 per sheet. This radius is a 6” radius, and Bruce advised that you can heat the laminate to bend it, you can sand the back as well to make it thinner, or you can order it pre-formed.



A matching room divider. TV rises up on motorized platform and enclosure is brass. The end unit has a 3’ radius, and any laminate will easily make that curve.



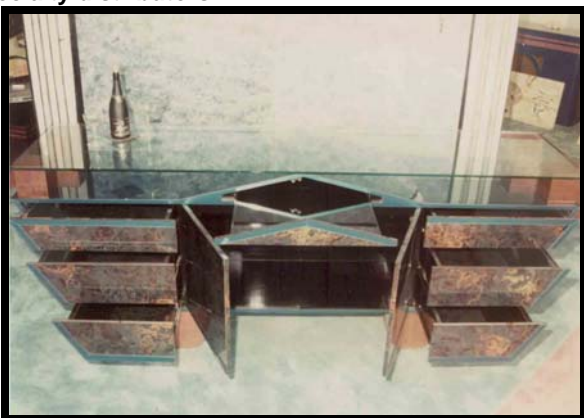
Another look. This was built in sections and assembled on site. In Florida, there are many high rise buildings and it would be pretty interesting to bring this up to the 15th floor in one piece.



This is very cool. This is a curved bar made with a metal finish laminate. Bruce advised that doing a perfect seam match on metals will not work – you will always see the seam – so he segmented the front which not only eliminates the need to seam, but adds interesting detail. Substrate for this is 3/8 bendable birch. The top is copper laminate, and since this will scratch, there is a glass top on it that was sealed with silicone to the surface. I think he said it was 12' long with a matching wet bar (pattern reversed!) in the back.



The footrail was crafted from 1 1/2" bendable copper tubing, polished and clearcoated. It was held onto the bar with standard bar footrail brackets available from specialty distributors.



This credenza was crafted for a laminate competition and is made from a variety of materials, imported from places like Germany and France. Some of these use precious metals and are hand made. I believe the Bruce said that this piece won the contest where it was entered.



Front view of the credenza / copper chest. This is a really interesting piece and I'd hate to think of the cost of materials.

Bruce designs his own work and is a self confessed wild and crazy design person. If the look sells, make it! Again, some markets call for modern and wild design, while others are more conventional. Bruce can swim in the waters of both markets.



This is a coffee table he made that fits together like a giant jigsaw puzzle. He advised that when the parting got hearty, guests enjoyed taking the puzzle apart and putting it back together. The core is made of 3/4" birch plywood and the curves are made of 1/8" bendable birch. You could also use a Masonite substrate on the curves.



This desk was designed for a client who had deep pockets. There are 5 different types of materials used on this desk. The top is 1/2" thick glass with polished edges.



This entertainment unit – unusual indeed! – is made from a stone finished laminate.



What kid would not like a tree house bed? All laminate. Cannot imagine the work that went into this. A really fun bed for a child.



This was on display in Bruce's shop and wound up in a client's home. Pyramid theme. Item in foreground is actually an end table. Other item is a breakfront!



The pyramids utilize a poured paint look using a laminate where the color goes all the way through the stock. There is an example.



This all "Bruce" wall accents a fireplace. The deco artwork was designed by Bruce who said the buyer told him to do his own thing. The white laminate has a pinstripe pattern – hard to see in this photo – and the rest is a metal finish laminate.



The long white bar! Really long bar! I hope that they get a lot of company!

Bruce advised that cement can be cleaned off of laminate with thinner and then cement can be re-applied. If a corner or edge lifts up on an installed piece, Bruce uses Crazy Glue to re attach it. Bruce was asked if he does a lot of inlay work with laminate and he said he does some but not a lot with random patterns.

Bruce trims his work with a bearingless bit. He uses Crisco to lubricate the work and it keeps the edges from burning. A question was if a table saw is effective for cutting laminate and Bruce advised it is fine, but an observation was made that you need to make provisions to avoid the laminate from sliding under the table saw fence. Also, kickback is a real danger when dealing with large thin flat pieces, and laminate can be VERY sharp. Worst kickback I ever got was from a piece of 1/4" plywood.

So, you may never get anywhere near the technical difficulty level that we saw at the meeting, but it was pretty impressive what can be done with laminate. There are many projects where laminate is the best material to use. I have used laminates in some kitchen work and on a couple of fish tank stands I made. I also use it on a lot of shop furniture. It certainly does take a beating and lasts a long time. To take it further is a matter of application and personal taste, but Bruce gave us some real life examples of the versatility of the material and some real life hints and tips on how to work with it. An evening well spent.

**GREGORY'S
WOODWORKING**
"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others." 1 PETER 4:10
CUSTOM FURNITURE • ENTERTAINMENT CENTERS
EUROPEAN STYLE FURNITURE • BEDROOM SETS • KITCHENS • BATHS
SOLID WOODS • VENEERS • MICAS • SOLID SURFACE TOPS
Bruce Gregory
(610) 845-7504

Drag and Brag



Jim Frankenfield brought in a nice selection of pens. Made of Oak, Holly, Bolivian Cherry, African Snakewood, Bolivian Rosewood, Lacewood. I thought I saw one in there made of pressure treated Southern Yellow Pine, but he said no.

He also had some made of man made materials that looked pretty interesting.



A closer look at these nicely done pens. 10 coats of Waterlox on each one!



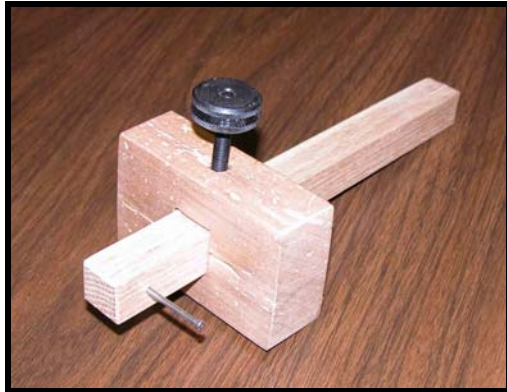
Tom Biello brought in this really nice chest made of walnut. This is as nice a piece of quality work as you will see. Looks like a nice jewelry chest.



A closer look at this very nice piece.



Some scrap wood and a need for a marking gauge inspired Harry Keller to make this very functional version. All items except the threaded insert were lying around the shop.



Here it is again.



Will Schmidt must be a busy guy! He brought in several unusual pieces. Here is a very rustic looking piece made out of wood he could not identify but selected due to its unique character and shape. He displays it here as a candle stand, but it also can stand on end!

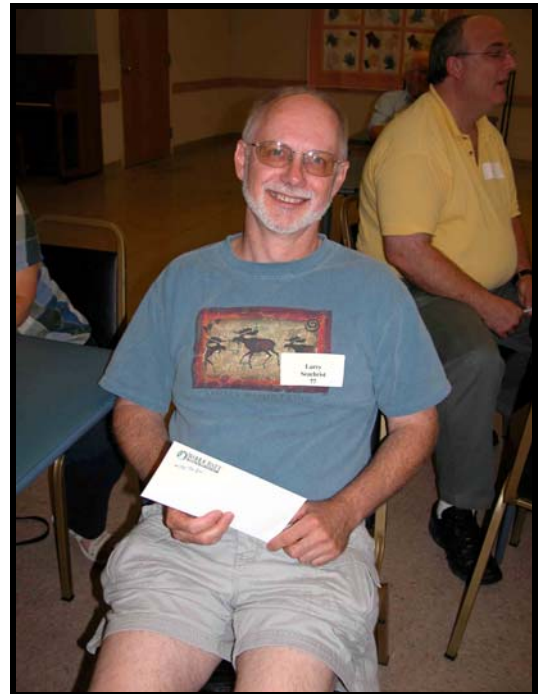


In this way, it could be used as a clock! There was a photo of some matching candlesticks that did not come out good enough for print here. Sorry!



A couple of candle holders - the turned one of Oak and the other simply made of holly.

And the winner is:



Larry Seachrist won the Woodcraft Gift Certificate. He looks pleased. Life is good.

Upcoming Presentation Preview

Craig Bentzley – Craig does Queen Anne.

Craig Bentzley says he “can’t remember a time when he wasn’t building something.” In the early 1970’s he worked as a designer for a company that made components for contemporary furniture, and his initial work reflects that influence. His first career renaissance started when he was exposed to antique furniture a few years later. He immediately became hooked as he developed a fascination with the

methods of workmanship and the tools used by earlier craftsman. Craig's primary area of interest is the reproduction and conservation of American period furniture, particularly pieces from his native southeastern Pennsylvania. A woodworker, writer and instructor, he derives his greatest enjoyment from sharing what he has learned with other people.

Attention – Goods to sell at meetings?

Bill Hylton had some books for sale – the new edition of Woodworking with the Router. Bill says it includes a lot of new stuff as well as some updates to the old stuff, but the same old Bill. This is a first edition book, so if you get Bill to sign it, you can sell it on EBAY! Actually, There is a short update on folks bringing in stuff to sell later in this issue. Bill – I want one! His books are always a hit (much as I hate to admit it, having had death threats from him – I think I have every book he ever plagiarized – er – wrote. Come on, Bill, nobody can be the prolific. I think I saw a whole section lifted from one of my old newsletters! I can see Bill bouncing off the walls as he reads this!)

On the topic of books and other goods for sale at meetings, I suggested to Bill, and I suggest to ANY others bringing in books or merchandize to offer at meetings, that you e-mail or call me advising what you are bringing and how much it is. In our debit card world, a lot of us carry little cash and no longer even carry checkbooks. So – when we have an opportunity to buy something, we are not prepared to pay for it. And, even though folks will say “send a check”, we often pass up the opportunity to folks who have cash of checks on hand. So – I hope to have advance information in the newsletter about anything for sale at meetings so you can bring some pictures of dead presidents with you.

October Contest Meeting!!

In an attempt to plan the October LVWG woodworker's contest, we need to have a show of hands as to who is actually going to bring things to judge. When we proposed this, we got a show of 14 hands of people who were interested in participating. Well, time to get REAL numbers so we do not start the meeting in October and have two participants actually being items. So – at the next meeting, we will be collecting names of people who WILL bring items. If you will NOT be at the next meeting to let us know you will participate, PLEASE call or e-mail Gerry Chiusano and he will make a note of your commitment. Your help is appreciated.

NEWSLETTER CHANGES!!

Folks, this is serious business so please heed this note. If we continue to print 130 copies of this newsletter, we will go broke. We are not interested in raising dues to cover a newsletter when, with your cooperation, we can just reduce the cost of running the

guild. We discussed this at the steering committee meeting and here is the result.

The facts: Postage for 130 newsletters is over \$50 a month. Cost of printing the newsletter is between \$40 and \$50 a month as a discount rate we currently get. It was \$80 without it. So – Printing and mailing this publication costs the guild, minimally, \$1200 a year. That is a LOT of money. How much? Well, that amount to dues paid by 33 members. If we had them fold it and seal it, that would cost another 10 members dues a year (so I do it – yeah, 130 of them!) A LOT of money. We need to provide a quality program to you folks and speakers do not just come over and spend 90 minutes talking to get paid. There is preparation time, travel time, etc. So measures are needed.

This is the LAST mailed newsletter you will get. Having said that, you DO need to know when meetings occur, and what the calendar of events looks like. SO – a postcard reminder will be printed and mailed a post card to you (except if you are getting e-mailed newsletters) with upcoming meeting information. When you get to the meeting, there will be a limited supply of newsletters printed and available for you. This eliminates the folding, addressing, sealing, etc.

This also implies another thing: If you have not given us your e-mail ID, you need to seriously consider doing that so we can e-mail you a COLOR copy. If you do not want to do that, but have a computer, go to our WEB SITE and look at it / get it / from there. If you do not have a computer, the alternative is to raise dues or selectively charge more dues for members who must have a mailed newsletter. Think about the costs we have outlined to you, and we feel you will agree we must contain these costs or pass them along.

Home shop virtual tours!

This is a chance to show off your shop, or just to show off some of the more interesting things about your shop. I no longer have a shop, as my former garage shop had been overtaken by “stuff”. But most of you are normal. So – if you have a digital camera and would like to show off your shop, or just perhaps a couple of items in your shop that represent effective shop solutions, we will provide a computer and a projector. You can say a few words about your shop as you scan through the slides. If you do not have a digital camera, we can send a roving reporter to your home to take a few shots – or get a friend to take the photos. Think about this – the steering committee discussed it and we think it would be interesting. This is NOT aimed at the professional's in our guild – we are interested in the approach the average member takes to shops and shop solutions.

Steering committee opening!

The steering committee is looking for a member to join us to head up the seeking out , following up, and acquisition of guest speakers. If you are interested in

becoming a member of this elite group to help with the talent acquisition, please step up! (we have no food at steering committee meetings, but Ron Wiley did toss out a box of mostly eaten cookies at the last steering committee. There was maybe one per person, and they were real small cookies too)

Wood Specials

SHADY LANE TREE FARM

Louise & Mike Peters
5220 Shimerville Road
Emmaus, PA
610 965-5612 Please call

FLEETWOOD LUMBER & FLOORING

BILL BURKERT
27 Rapp Rd.
Fleetwood, PA
610 944-8364 Please call

Member discount 5%

Bailey Wood Products, Inc.

441 Mountain Rd.
RD#2 Box 38
Kempton, PA
610 756-6827

Woodcraft

Pkwy Shopping Ctr.
1534 Lehigh St.
Allentown, Pa., 18103

Steering Committee Notes – Info

Items not covered elsewhere in this issue:

- Treasurers report by Andy read and accepted.
- Ron Wiley will speak to TITEBOND rep about a presentation on adhesives. We were glued to his conversation.
- We will be doing presentations from the back wall (now the front wall) and this way people getting refreshments will not disturb speakers. We can also use the wall for projections.
- Allen Powell is in touch with a company that imports African hardwoods. He is going to find out more about these folks and pass the info along to members. He can even get the sought after boobala-lugosi lacewood trueheart ebony de menthe.
- Web site: Lou said that “Members’ Mart”, “Wood Deals”, “Contact Us”, and “Coming Events” have been added to the menu. Coming events has not been populated but will be in the next week. Helen Patterson will be joining Angleo Triandafilou on our banner page.
- Vendors (such as Titebond, Festool, etc) will not be compensated for speaking at the guild.
- We will try to set speakers up much farther in advance than we have been, if possible filling a year.

- Guild members (even the pros among us) will not be asked to speak more frequently than once every 18 months.

L.V.W.G. Contacts

Founded in 1995 by:	Dave Dreher
Steering Committee Chairman: Ron Wiley	610-682-0525
Newsletter Team: Dan Manturi	484-894-7116
Helen Patterson	610-253-1402
Gary Hunchar, Photography	610-559-9973
Distribution / Mail list: Quentin Patterson	610-253-1402
Special Projects Manager Allen Powell	610-258-5546
Web Site Administrator : Lou Supina	215-679-4234
Treasurer: Harold Andy Anderson	610-965-4828
Book / Purchase Coordinator Gerry Chiusano	610-730-3958
Guild Contact Person – E-mail Russ Reinhard	

Member’s Mart – For Sale

A gentleman named Del from the hardwood company Allen Powell mentioned at the steering committee meeting will be at the next meeting with a truckload of exotic woods. Prices between \$2 and \$10 per block. Pen sized pieces – 50 cents each. Mini lathe people – stock up!

I have not heard from anyone bringing good for sale. I do know that Bill Hylton had some books last month and said he would bring more, so you may want to toss a few bucks in your pocket if you are interested.



From The Shop



The newsletter of the Lehigh Valley Woodworker's Guild
2006 Meeting Calendar:

Month	Topic	Speaker
May 16th	Table Saw Made projects	Ken Burton
June 20th	Laminate Techniques	Bruce Gregory
July 18th	Queen Anne Table	Craig Bentzley
August 15th		
September 19th		
October 17th	Woodworking contest	
November 21st		
December 19th	Holiday Party	

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, July 18th, Starting at 7:30, sharp. Allow time to arrive and be seated before start time.

Location: Lehigh Co. Senior Center

Topic – Craig Bentzley – Queen Anne table construction

Lehigh Valley Woodworkers' Guild
C/O Dan Manturi
3801 Spear St
Bethlehem, PA 18020