



# From The Shop



The newsletter of the Lehigh Valley Woodworker's Guild

Issue 09.2007

**Next Meeting: September 18th, 2007 (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday!)**

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

**Speakers and topics:**

- Carving – With Frank Rauscher!

**ATTENTION – BOOK SALE – BRING CHECKBOOK!**

## **August Meeting Highlights –False start! And Shop tour DVD of Craig Bentzley's shop!**

Well, folks, Russ thought I called the speaker and I thought Russ called the speaker and neither one of us called the speaker. Bottom line is that we did have a card up our sleeve in that we had the Craig Bentzley shop tour DVD. There were two parts to that DVD, and I must say that the shop tours were better than the "setting up shop" section of the DVD, but there was a little of value there. Let's start with Craig's shop...

Looks like Craig has a neat stand alone shop here. Garage door on the left would make it easy to move big stuff in and out. One of the more revealing things that Craig told us was that he generally does not have a lot of wood laying around. He keeps a small amount or extra pieces in an outside building, but generally buys what he needs and uses it. He also has a 10 x 18 shed used to keep his lawn tractor and more wood. I asked Craig if he ever has stock left over because we usually do buy extra in the event we make a mistake, but Craig advised that he never makes mistakes and I must be thinking of Paul Anthony. I wish I taped that for Paul....



**How cool is this? A great looking little shop in a nice setting. Look, there is a holiday wreath on the window! Christmas in August – or – a photo taken in winter? Maybe it is a talisman to ward off the Grinch!**



**Craig Bentzley gives the guild an introduction to the DVD about his shop.**

By the way, we all knew that Craig is not just another pretty face, but an accomplished and respected woodworker and craftsman. Here is his biography as printed on the web site for the Society of American Period Furniture makers. You do not just make stuff and get it printed on their web site – you need to have passion and skill.

### **Craig Bentzley**

Craig resides in southeastern Pennsylvania, where he has been a woodworker for over 35 years. 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. Around 1974 he was exposed to antique furniture and became fascinated with the methods of workmanship and the tools used by earlier craftsmen. His primary area of interest is the conservation, restoration, and reproduction of 18th century American antique furniture. He strives to use historically accurate methods in his work, which has developed into a love affair with hand tools and period woodworking technology.

Craig has appeared in and authored numerous articles for Rodale's *American Woodworker*, *Popular Woodworking*, and *Wood* magazines. His biography was featured in Bucks County Town and Country Living magazine, and he has also been a contributor to

many woodworking books published by Rodale and Taunton Press. His shop was featured in *Woodworking at Home DVD magazine*. Over the years he has worked in three furniture restoration shops, an architectural restoration shop and a high-end production cabinet shop. He currently does furniture restoration and builds reproductions in his own shop. Craig remains active in the woodworking community, giving demonstrations and seminars for local guilds and stores. An avid antique tool collector, he is also a member of several collecting organizations.



**A nice looking set of shelves for storage and a small drawer unit. Note that these shelves have a face frame, wainscot back, and a nice ceiling molding at the top. Craig has a fire extinguisher and also a phone – note that it is a dial phone. It is probably a 50 year old Western Electric phone that works as good as the day it was made. Craig has a collection of marking gauges in these shelves. He also collects old phones and bowling balls. He does not collect fire extinguishers.**

Craig has an appreciation for hand tools and is quite the authority on American period furniture. We learned that Walt Segl is as well, but we will save that for later. Some old furniture was quite crude, as you will recall from Joe Deevy's presentation about Colonial Williamsburg. Having said that, there are also very fine pieces of furniture made in the past, and Craig's presentation on turning a Queen Anne table leg and the process of making that piece shows the excellence he strives for and the care he takes to keep his work as authentic as possible.



**Here is another cabinet that contains Craig's collection of planes. He uses many of these in his work. Note again, he did not just slap up some shelves – these have face frames, wainscot backs, nice crown molding top accent.**

Even Craig's shop cabinets are nice. Well made, nicely finished.



**Craig's lathe has an 8 foot bed. His turning tools are all neatly arranged in yet another very nice cabinet, again nicely finished! Craig must turn those lances that you use in jousting on this thing. I would think one would get very tired running from end to end. Tucked in the far corner is a grinder on wheels used to touch up the tools as needed while working at the lathe.**

Craig is a much more accomplished woodworker than most of us, yet his shop, which turns out excellent work, is a mix of tools that many of us would want to replace (like the old drill press and the old band saw) and tools that many of us would love to have (like an 8 foot long General lathe, table saw, and a big Powermatic planer.) Yet he values and cares for each tool, and in his hands they do what he wants them to. Bottom line is that it is the craftsman and not the tool.

We toss away tools that were built to last because they are old and replace them with new crap built in China. Craig's new tools are not cheapies – He has an eye for quality.



This is the sharpening center. Note that the grinder on the left can be pulled out from the cabinet. This has a regular grinder and a buffing wheel polisher. Note the fan. He bought this the same day he got the dial phone. One thing to note about his shop is that there are gooseneck lamps all over the place. More light, see better, more accuracy. They do not have to be expensive light, just lights. Note that there is a plastic bucket on the floor. The bucket is filled with water used to flatten his water stones, as the debris from this can harden like cement.



This is his metal working bench. Nice cabinet above. Sturdy bench. Craig does some metal work in the course of his need for special metal parts.



This is his drill press. This is a REALLY OLD drill press. I have one almost like it I inherited from my grandfather. Actually, they were going to throw it out and I took it. I was going to replace it with a new one till I saw this photo. I have seen enough of his work to know that if this oldie works for him, mine will work for me. Having said that, he has retrofitted it with a new table from an old American Woodworker article. Note that the area behind the drill press contains all his bits and drill related items. Craig advised this is an old Walker Turner press circa 1930. These folks made some of the best bullet proof utility grade tools in Plainfield, NJ.



Yet another old tool in regular use, the band saw. Craig advised he does a lot of his band saw work on this tool. General cabinet saw and a Powermatic jointer (looks like). Workhorses. Note that Craig has a small roll around dust collector. His shop is spotless.



The cabinet to the rear has books above and speakers to the right. His Barry Manilow and Wayne Newton collection of CDs is there somewhere I am sure (He denies it...). The doors on that unit flip down and his collection of hand power tools (routers, sanders, saws, etc) are in there, nicely stored. One cool thing is that he has all the original instruction manuals attached to the flip down doors in plastic folders. The doors do not drop down, but are suspended as shelves. Very neat. Also, he has an assortment of tools on rolling carts, some sanding machines on the left cart, a 12" disk and a spindle sander/ Some smaller tool storage underneath. The hotplate on the lower right is to heat a boiling tray for making shaker oval boxes and he also uses it for heating sand to shade edges of marquetry work. I have one in my garage I use for the occasional egg sandwich.



This is a woodworking bench. Note some chisels and carving tools to the rear. Books above on a shelf. Tail vise on the right side. Craig advised he has an incredible collection of books on woodworking, antique furniture, antique tools, etc.



The new – High quality General 14" band saw.



Here is another shot of that old band saw. He bought it used over 30 years ago. An old Delta Homecraft unit. He also has a 14" General, but loves this saw and is loyal to its good service. The small room is a storage room for hardware, nails, screws. You know – the stuff you and I have all over the place.

Craig has a single large window air conditioner that takes care of cooling the whole place, and heats with electric baseboard. It is expensive to operate, but cost effective to install and safe around solvents and combustibles.



**This is the heart of the shop – his island assembly bench. This is scheduled to be replaced with an “adjust-a-bench”.**

In the DVD, we got a look at Craig’s finishing room and he keeps a computer in there as well. An area he can close off to keep dust down. Speaking of dust, as noted, he uses a roll around dust collector and his shop looks absolutely spotless. He has an overhead air cleaner as well, and spoke to the importance of that device.



**You saw that Craig’s shop building had a second floor – and he has two drafting tables up there. This us one of them...**

Craig has a great looking shop and he does great work in it. He has an appreciation for the old and the new. The simple and the elaborate, both in tools and in the work he does. Craig’s shop looks like a work space that is used by a person who takes their time with their work. Does their setups. Has patience. Knows what needs to be moved and where it needs to be put if more room is needed. Handles with care. The shop tour was entertaining and revealing and we thank Craig for sharing it. I personally would like to thank him for sending photos for the article, adding some corrections, suggesting I use spell check, and denying any connection between Barry Manilow and Wayne Newton and him.

## **The Society of American Period Furniture Makers**

As noted, Craig Bentzley has a love for American period furniture. And in our midst, we have Walt Segl, who happens to be the current president of the Society of American Period Furniture Makers. I got a pamphlet on this from Walt, and he spok at our guild meeting about this group, so I visited their web site (<http://www.sapfm.org>) to read more and also to fork lift some data (verbatim) for our newsletter so that interested readers (members and non) may know more about this society. Seems that with Pennsylvania being a great source of our colonial roots and craftsmanship, as well as resources, our state is the perfect location for a large part of this society.

\*\*\*\*\* From their web site \*\*\*

Their goals:

- Create a forum for the understanding, education and appreciation of American period furniture.
- To provide a venue for communications using newsletters, conferences, and other forms of print and electronic media.
- Assist members with the identification and location of resources including people or organizations having specialized expertise.
- Develop and encourage the use of standards and ethical practices in the reproduction and conservation of period furniture.
- Conduct public exhibitions for the recognition of member's work.
- Offer membership to all with an interest in period furniture.

The SAPFM was organized in 1999 as a forum for anyone with a passion for reproducing furniture masterpieces from America’s past. The reproduction of a fine example of period furniture calls for more than the mechanical ability of a copyist. It requires a talented craftsman that has the ability to interpret design and express the character and finesse of the original. Our mission is to support this point of view and promote education and appreciation for those interested in making, restoring or conserving American period furniture.

Today, SAPFM membership consists of hundreds of amateur and professional woodworkers, educators, collectors, curators, and conservators. Their web site is supported by the members of the society and is a great resource for you to interact with others with a similar passion for reproducing American period furniture. Take a few moments to browse the site and learn more about who and what we are. Visit the gallery and be impressed with our member’s work, ask your period furniture questions on the forum, or keep abreast of the

many workshops and conferences related to period furniture making.

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Obviously, the standards of excellence for this society is mind boggling to many of us, but many of the people considered craftsmen to this society may have been just average woodworkers like us until they were inspired.

I would STRONGLY suggest that you visit the web site and learn more. If nothing else, look at some of the amazing works displayed on their web site. Membership is only \$35 a year. There is a forum for online discussion and other interesting information. Let me tell you that the E-interviews on their web site are truly wonderful. Visit this site. Walt or Craig can also tell you all about this group.

### The shop setup portion of the meeting DVD>>>>

Actually, you should have gotten a couple of things out of this worth thinking about.

Have lights on a separate circuit. Have at least 2 lights going, each on different circuits. If one goes out, you will still be able to see what you are doing. This is pretty important especially to folks who have these big 220V saws and jointers. The light circuit goes out and the big thing with the big motor and sharp spinning blades keeps going... And winter is coming so window light will be at a premium in late afternoons....

Also, I have a pretty big dust collector and the vacuum relief system that they had (the little wooden box with the spring loaded door on it) is a pretty good thing to have to prevent overload if you have a big collector hooked up to only one tool or if you close all the blast gates in error...

The rest of the Shop setup portion of the DVD is great if you were really tired and could not get to sleep. The personal shop tours were better.

### BOOK SALE THIS MEETING!!!

If you read this far.....

You'll know that I contacted Taunton Press and the free shipping deal is on till Oct 15<sup>th</sup>. I will be bringing forms and catalogs to the next meeting. Bring your checkbook and be prepared to order and pay. I know a few members was to order. You can also visit [www.taunton.com](http://www.taunton.com)

### At the meeting..



Andy Anderson holds a Montana boot saver. Ask him all about it. By the way, Andy has another bout of skin Cancer and had some surgery. The good news is that this was not the "serious kind" (is there a non-serious kind?) and he has a clean bill of health. Great news, my friend. Guess he has more to smile about than just the boot saver!!



Russ Reinhard give some useful info to guild members while the Pattersons listen intently – I think!

### Drag and Brag

Nothing this month!

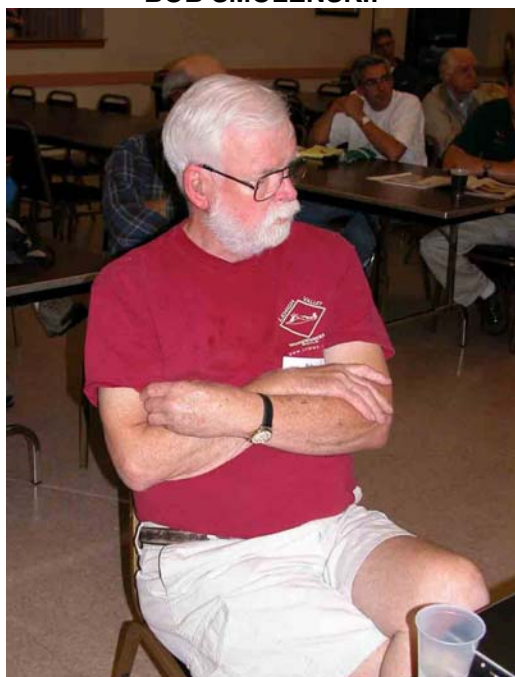
### And the Woodcraft winner is...

OK – in July it was Bill Grumbine. I had a photo, but I burned it.

In August.. It was...



**BOB SMOLENSKI!**



By the way, Bob Tinsman is moving to Colorado. I know he has children who live there and it will be nice for him and his wife to be closer to them. They are looking forward to the life change. They are having a home built out there and I hear a shop also. Bob is an original December 1995 member of the guild at the kickoff meeting. He hosted Guild Council meetings in his huge dining room for many years and always had the coffee ready and the table cleared off. We do not know when he will be leaving, but it will be soon. Bob, we wish you well and I thank you for your contributions to this guild. Letting us rowdy folks into your home every month for many years, putting together the volunteers for the old American Woodworker shows, sticking stamps on all those newsletters and getting them in the mail for so long.. Thanks. I hope you both enjoy this next chapter in your life in good health and for many years to come.

## Woodworking Contest at October Meeting!

We want to get an idea of how many folks will be entering and you should know by now, so be prepared to let us know at the next meeting.

### Sources!! Dust collection bags.

I was rummaging around on the internet and stumbled on Process Systems and Components Corp in Mt Holly. These folks apparently are into dust collection big time. I ordered, by size, a 1 micron bag for my Grizzley 1029 collector. You better know the dimensions as they make them to order. I found them via a message group. They have canister filters too. I got my bag shipped to my door in 2 business days. The workmanship is perfect. Higher quality than some of the discount places we all know and love. Since I intend to use the plastic bags on the bottom, I had them make the top bag in a bell shape so there is more filter area. You can visit them at [www.processsys.com](http://www.processsys.com). I may try to get them to suitcase a presentation. They do mostly commercial, but obviously service the little people pretty fast too.

### Steering Committee Meeting Notes

- Blocks. We asked for a show of hands on if we should be doing community projects and majority agreed. We asked if blocks were appropriate and easy, and everyone agreed. We provided instructions. Now – Allen Powell will be asking on how we are doing, so if you are making them or need material to make them, sing out at the meeting.
- We are looking for folks who can donate some prizes. If you know anyone, send them our way.
- Party donations – you want a decent buffet or a trough of oatmeal and a bunch of spoons?
- Talking at meetings – we have ONE meeting. If you want to have a side conversation and it happens to need to take place between 7:30 and 9:30 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, take it outside or into the hallway.
- Katrina – Allen Powell has 3 tables committed for Katrina. Anything else you'd care to build would be appreciated. The healing there is ongoing.

**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

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**2007- 2008 Meeting Calendar:**

Month	Topic	Speaker
<b>October 16th</b>	Annual Woodworking contest	Anyone and everyone
<b>November 20<sup>th</sup></b>	Scott Shimandle from OSHA and Dr. Basil Dolphin.from LVH Healthworks. Scott will speak about machine safety and Dr. Dolphin will speak about the negative effects of wood dust and vapor from finishing chemicals.	
<b>December 18th</b>	Annual Holiday Party	Members and families
<b>January 2008</b>	Tentative – chair caning / shaker tape	
<b>February 2008</b>	Jesada Cabinet Tempate routing	Ken / Judy Muth
<b>March</b>	Tentative – furniture construction	
<b>Aril</b>	Tentative – Home and Shop electicity	
<b>May</b>	Tentative – Dust collection bags and canisters – Vendor	

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

**Location: Lehigh Co. Senior Center**

**Topics:**

- **CARVING – Frank Rauscher**
- **TAUNTON BOOK ORDER TIME – Bring checkbooks!!!!**