

# Artisans Quarterly Review

H A N D C R A F T E D C U S T O M W O O D W O R K I N G

Q U A R T E R L Y N E W S L E T T E R S

## 2007 REVIEW

- Eric & Teri are engaged!
- "New Wave Gothic" takes hold with two more tables in 2007, and a full dining room slated for 2008.
- "Master of the Shop," printed in Princeton Magazine October 2007 featured Master Craftsman Eric M. Saperstein.
- "Whitetail Sunrize" delivered to Ted Nugent at his YO Ranch birthday celebration.
- Safari Chest Project Completed.
- "The Spirit of Timberlane" - a custom chainsaw carved wolf.
- Amazing Transitions, a highlight of 2007's restoration projects.

[Artisans of the Valley](#) is opening 2008 by publishing our first quarterly newsletter, an online publication highlighting projects of special interest, updates to our products and services, and general updates about our family. This first edition will provide a review of 2007 and bullet point the 2008 editorial calendar.

We completed hundreds of projects last year, and 2008 promises to be just as successful with a variety of interesting commissions, restorations, & travel already slated through this coming summer. We'll provide summaries within our newsletter that coordinate with more detailed features on our website.

We've had dozens of requests for a newsletter so we will post this newsletter on our website, as well as provide distribution to our active and past clients mailing list. If for any reason you wish to opt out, please feel free to let us know. We look forward to the new opportunity to interact with our clients and we're happy to accept requests for articles or to feature your project!

## N E W Y E A R S 2 0 0 7 E N G A G E M E N T

Photo by Henry Schweber



Yes, it actually happened! New Year's Eve of 2007, Artisans owner Eric Saperstein gave the offering of an engagement ring to Theresa Tonte and with her acceptance the two plan to be married in 2008. Wedding and supporting event details will be posted on our [Adventure Album](#) as available!

The couple met in June of 2005, and quickly embarked on eclectic adventures together. It wasn't more than a few weeks before Teri entered the shop and jumped right in with an enthusiastic interest. Their sarcastic interactions constantly signifying these two lovebirds are a perfect match. Their friends convey frequent reminders that nobody else would ever put up with either one of them; reinforcing an inherent destiny to spend their lives together.

Teri is now a full time member of [Artisans of the Valley](#), and has become a valuable asset not only to the business, but to our family and friends. She brings a warm and welcome balance to Eric's life at home and in the shop. Her natural ability and quick wit provide an invaluable addition. Watch for features on [Teri's Profile Page](#) of her personal projects and adventures.

## " M A S T E R O F T H E S H O P "

October of 2007 brought some fantastic publicity to Artisans through an article in [Princeton Magazine](#) entitled "[Master of the Shop.](#)" The article by Erin Murphy Sanders highlights [Artisans of the Valley](#) as the title of "Master" transitions from Stanley D. Saperstein to his son Eric M. Saperstein; a time honored and historic tradition carried out by almost every trade.



Photo by Greg Pallente ©2007 North Jersey Media Group

## NEW WAVE GOTHIC (MEDIEVAL) DINING TABLE

Eric & Teri personally delivered a custom made solid quarter sawn white oak gothic dining table to our client's in St. Paul, MN. This hand crafted original is the third table commissioned from our original "[New Wave Gothic](#)" line. The deal to personally make this delivery run was sealed with an invitation to our client's annual Halloween party and an offer for Eagles vs. Vikings tickets.

Some snooping turned up the fact that the inhabitants of St. Paul apparently take their costumes a bit more serious than those of us do on the East Coast, so Theresa & Eric set to work on their outfits and arrived as Renaissance royalty. Shown right, they pose with the completed gothic dining table and an amazing pair of wolves. Special thanks to Harry at [Swords of Honor](#) for his efforts to find us the perfect clothing and place settings on short notice!

Visit our [Road Trip 2007 Adventure Album Page](#) to see the whole photo shoot featuring this gothic project, as well as an assortment of artistic and fun images of Eric & Teri.

Not only was the Halloween party a great time, but we had an outstanding stay at the [St. Paul Hotel](#), and while wandering through MN Teri placed 19th in a poker tournament while Eric somehow managed to win \$1785; first pull on a penny slot machine. (Please don't tell the IRS!) Funny thing is, if he knew it was a \$4 pull, he'd have never bet such high stakes!

A stop in Cleveland gave us the opportunity to visit [Waterlox](#), a long time Artisans vendor and manufacturers of premium tung oil finishes. The tour was personally guided by President Jay Hawkins; offering an extensive insight into the age old techniques of hand crafting finishes. (Thank you Jay!) The dedication to quality ingrained within companies like Waterlox is critical for Artisans to create our high end commissions and properly restore valuable antiques and collectables.

The Minnesota Expedition turning towards home starting with a fantastic pheasant hunt provided by [Baird Creek Outfitters](#) in Wautoma, WI and a very successful boar hunt in Jackson, MI with Ted Nugent & the [Sunrise Safari's](#) gang. Eric & Teri each taking home a 300lb+ pig. The new year will bring many opportunities for our friends and family to share in enjoying this bounty! Feature photos from our [boar hunt](#) and a few [pig roasts](#) are available on our website.

### *"New Wave Gothic" Medieval Picnic*



Photo by Henry Schweber



Photo by Henry Schweber

### BOAR HUNT BOUNTY



Teri with a 300lb Russian boar and her titanium Remington 308 at Sunrize Acres in Jackson, MI.

Eric holding the 450 Marlin lever action that brought down this 330lb sow at Sunrize Acres in Jackson, MI.

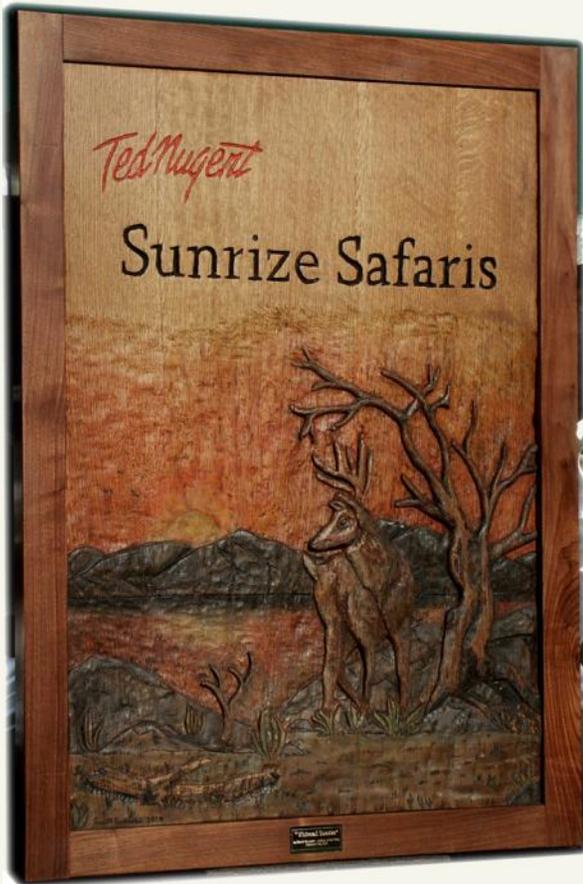


### “ WHITETAIL SUNRIZE ”

Eric’s first formally titled carving “[Whitetail Sunrize](#)” is an original carving developed from a [Laura S. Irish](#) pattern. The wildlife carving theme has been one of our favorites for many years. Check our [Wildlife Carving](#), [Chests](#), [Boxes](#), and [Custom Bars](#) for more wildlife scenes!

This solid quarter sawn oak hand carved panel is a 58th birthday gift for outdoorsman, musician, and author [Ted Nugent](#). The panel captures a moment treasured by hunters everywhere; when the perfect buck steps into view just as the sun crests the horizon.

Eric & Teri both enjoy their time in the outdoors, so when the opportunity to create this work of art would culminate as a hunting adventure with the Nuge himself (below right) ; they couldn’t pass it up! The [Texas Road Trip](#) was planned, allowing Eric & Teri to personally present Ted his gift at the [YO Ranch](#) Birthday Bash in Mountain Home, TX.



*"The future of the shooting sports in this country is in the hands of tomorrow's outdoorsmen and women. The youth of America must be educated to the wholesome and valued world of hunting and conservation. Because rock 'n roll plays such a pivotal role in a young person's life, I will share my wonderful lifestyle and experiences with them."*

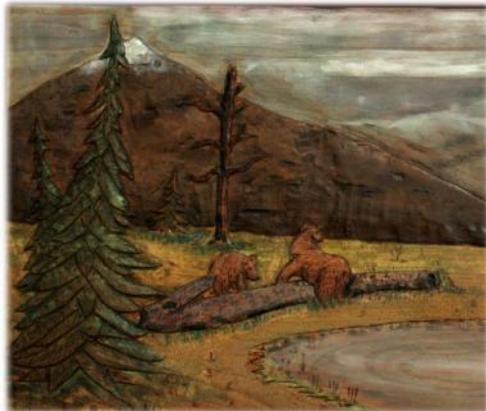
--Ted Nugent

## “ S A F A R I ” C H E S T

This [“Safari” Chest](#) is probably the best example of integrating a scene into furniture we’ve had to date. This commission, delivered in January of 2007, was a gift for an avid outdoorsman, hunter, and wildlife enthusiast.

The solid cherry chest is custom made by [Artisans of the Valley](#). The original design panoramic scenes were developed based on the three favorite themes: Deer, Elk, and Bear.

All of our scenes are hand relief carved using our collection of antique cast iron carving tools. Intricate detail such as fur, bark, grass, and shadows is burned in. Then we give the option to add acrylic wash for color to really bring life to the panels. Custom commissions are available with nautical, landscape, religious, floral, Celtic, and traditional patterns.



No room for a full scale safari chest? No problem ... Our Jewelry, Desk and Bible boxes are highly detailed. This project was completed in 2006 and holds a noteworthy place in our portfolio. Check out more details on this project in our [Period Furniture Boxes](#) section including an article documenting the conception of this piece to be presented in an elaborate Key West marriage proposal. The article, entitled [“The Box Plot.”](#) was published in [Chip Chats](#), the magazine of The National Woodcarvers Association.

## “ T H E B O X P L O T ”



## SOLID CHERRY HAMPER

Face it; its time to upgrade your boring wicker bathroom hamper to a [custom made hand carved solid wood hamper](#). This 2007 commission is the second for such a unique item, the original was in solid oak commissioned back in 2002.

This variant took the six panel chest configuration into solid cherry. Finish is marine grade tung oil varnish, adhesives are waterproof urethane.

## WALKING STICKS

Colonel Rebel; a southern gentleman and perhaps a well known mascot around the regions local to OleMiss. Artisans now has decades of history, including over twenty years since Stanley first folk art walking sticks and canes.

This character bust sits atop a custom made walking stick for a dedicated Alumni of the University of Mississippi. Check out our spin-off website [www.customwalkingsticks.com](http://www.customwalkingsticks.com) and in particular a brief article titled "[Character Staffs.](#)" Check out the [Feature Profiles](#) to find out more about the diamond willow staff to the right.



## "THE SPIRIT OF TIMBERLANE"

Summer of 2007 brought in a chainsaw carving project that combined the skills of [Master Chainsaw Carver Bob Eigenrauch](#), shown bottom left, with the hand carving, detail, and finishing skills of [Stanley Saperstein](#), shown bottom right.

This project was a life size fully detailed sculpture of howling timber wolf named "[The Spirit of Timberlane.](#)" Commissioned by retired Language Arts Teacher Michael Riley (right) to honor the students and teachers with whom he had spent and enjoyed his tenure; a gift of gratitude presented to [Timberlane Jr. High of Pennington, NJ.](#)

Eric & Mr. Riley crossed paths from Eric's entry into 7th grade, through high school, and even through college at Rider University. It just so happened, that while Eric sought his bachelors, Mike was enrolled to finish his masters degree.

The dedication of those like Mr. Riley is often left without thanks; take a moment and remember to all the teachers that can spend a career (32 years for Mr. Riley) putting up with students like Eric! The least we could do was donate some of our time and materials towards a worthwhile community project.



## AMAZING TRANSITIONS



So far we have focused our articles on our most artistic commissions from 2007. It's time to feature a few restoration projects. Artisans takes great pride in our restoration work, we enjoy the opportunity to preserve heirlooms for the enjoyment of future generations and to help ensure our nation's historic artifacts remain intact. Visit our [Conservation Services Section](#) for our full portfolio.

Artisans remains one of the most eclectic custom woodworking and restoration shops left in the US. Our portfolio has a wide range, as we're small enough to be dynamic and take on unique projects. Our restoration portfolio for 2007 included valuable antiques, mid-range collectables, and a few items we handled simply for sentimental value.

We recently added antique radio restoration to our array of services, handling the woodwork ourselves while Nick Senker, our electronics affiliate, focuses on the chassis repair and restoration. If you have an old radio sitting around in the basement, garage, or attic bring it to our shop! You'll be absolutely amazed how well these old rigs play.

Check out our [Eclectic Page 3](#) in our [Restoration Gallery](#) for more details on this unit, as well as several other antique radios.



This solid hard red meranti bench was covered in acrylic and falling apart when it was loaded into our trailer to transport to the shop. A complete restoration including some unorthodox techniques was performed on this piece. It was a lot of work, but the net result was a revitalized, refinished, and fully functional bench. The piece features hand carved dragons, piercing (fretwork), and solid marble panels. Check our [Modern Restorations](#) page for more details.



Whatever is hiding in your garage, attic, basement, or back room could potentially be a diamond in the ruff. Artisans has restored hundreds of seemingly lost pieces. Contact us to discuss any project you have in mind for restoration.

## 1904 FLAME MAHOGANY BEDROOM SET

Curious about this image? This is a dresser drawer from an amazing hand carved flame mahogany book matched bedroom set. Not only matched mahogany within one piece, but throughout the entire set. This furniture was purchased from the floor of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in 1904 after winning a grand prize in its category by our client's grandfather. It remained in their family from that day. This set was the "sample" or model set photographed by Nelson-Matter Furniture Company of Grand Rapids, MI for their 45th annual catalog published in 1905.

Check out the [Victorian](#) section of our [Restoration Gallery](#) to see this set in both its diminished state and fully restored to it's original glory, revitalized in beauty and function ready to stand for another 100 years!



## “ S M O O T H F I N I S H ” B Y A R T I S A N S O F T H E V A L L E Y



Teri's new company [“Smooth Finish” by Artisans of the Valley](#) came into existence in 2006 to provide onsite furniture repair and touch-up services, commonly known as “Nick and Bang” or “Scratch and Dent” repairs.

Teri and Eric are now both [Mohawk](#) Certified Technicians, combined with Eric's already extensive background in antique restoration the pair provide the full array of skills required to complete most basic furniture repairs in your home. Besides; we have the capacity of a fully equipped shop behind us if we do come across anything that can't be completed on-site!



Through 2007, Teri continued to practice her trade and is already averaging several calls a month plus she completed a large corporate contract to restore over 100 pieces of outdoor furniture. Teri's goal for 2008 is to sign onsite furniture maintenance contracts with hotels, corporations, adult communities, and condo associations as well as continuing to support her residential clients.

**Please contact Teri in regards to any on-site touchup requirements you may have!**



### M I L I T A R Y E Q U I P M E N T

We're thinking the easiest way to explain this photo is to direct you to our website! We now have a section featuring [Military Equipment & Artifacts](#) including sections on artillery, small arms, swords, and artifacts.

The short explanation is as follows: Stanley is an honorary member of the [NJ 112th Field Artillery](#) which maintains a museum containing all of the equipment ever utilized by the NJ National Guard.

The National Guard no longer provides services to Veterans groups or other organizations that are loaned military equipment for monument display purposes. Artisans is now offering our restoration services providing basic cosmetic maintenance of tanks, cannons, and other equipment. Please contact us to discuss an onsite restoration.

Our services include general cleaning, power washing, rust treatments, priming, and painting. We can handle single colors or provide the appropriate camo pattern for the period and particular piece. This M60-A3 received a full cleaning and paint job during the spring of 2007.

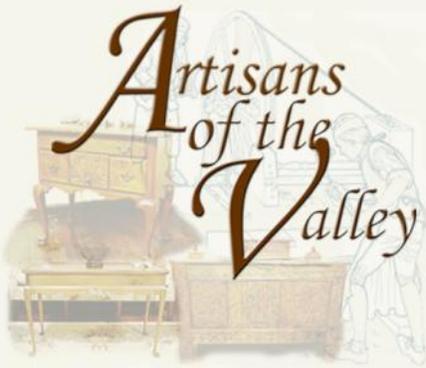
Be sure to check out our [“Famous Restorations”](#) section as well for previous military equipment and artifact restorations such as this French four-pounder restored for [Monmouth Battlefield State Park](#).



# ARTISANS OF THE VALLEY

## HAND CRAFTED CUSTOM WOODWORKING

[Artisans of the Valley](#) offers museum quality period reproductions, original designs by commission, and antique restoration/conservation services, hand carving, modern furniture refinishing, onsite furniture repair, hand made walking sticks, and educational programs. Our website is now over 225 pages, including galleries, feature articles, and educational sections, company background, and our new adventure album section. We extend an open invitation to explore our site, and contact us directly with any inquiries or questions you may have.



Eric M. Saperstein is Master of Artisans, Owner, Webmaster, Editor, Bookkeeper, Buyer, Office Manager, Legal Pit-bull, and he's in charge of vacuuming the shop: [eric@artisansofthevalley.com](mailto:eric@artisansofthevalley.com)

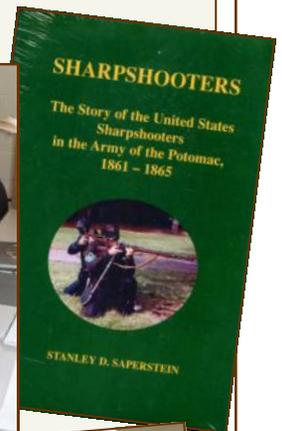
Stanley D. Saperstein, Master Craftsmen, Author, & Historian founded Artisans of the Valley in 1973. Stanley offers historic presentations, impressions, and various lecture series ranging from Civil and Revolutionary War, American Folk Art, and Interactive Role Play of Characters ... sometimes trying to reenact American Chopper episodes in the shop: [woodcarver@artisansofthevalley.com](mailto:woodcarver@artisansofthevalley.com)

Theresa Tonte is the Owner of Smooth Finish by Artisans of the Valley. Teri provides onsite touchup & repair services for residential, corporate, and institutional clients as well as serving to fill a variety of roles in the shop including referee: [terri@artisansofthevalley.com](mailto:terri@artisansofthevalley.com)

### “ SHARPSHOOTERS ”

Don't forget, [Stanley Saperstein](#) authored a novel entitled Sharpshooters, the story of the United States Sharpshooters in the Army of the Potomac, 1861-1865. This novel is a hybrid, using fictional characters to convey a factual storyline. Whether you enjoy history or not, contact Artisans to order a signed 1st edition for \$35; think of Stan's signature as a long term investment!

Review the first chapter online on our website's "[Sharpshooters](#)" page.



### COMING Q 2

- A custom made New Wave Gothic desk.
  - Restoration of a set of six original Hitchcock chairs.
  - A solid walnut four piece gothic commission ... stay tuned for this!
    - Stanley is up to another character carving.
  - Eric & Teri are heading south for a Tom & Jens's wedding; the trip will also include a turkey & boar hunt, and a wine & mine tour.
  - Lets see how this goes; Eric & Teri decided to take a caning class ...
    - Making parts; a few examples of duplicating antique parts.
  - Eric's "Illuminated Page" Journeyman Papers by [Rosemary Buczek](#)
- And ...
- Well we have no idea ?? ... What cool projects do you have for us?



Eric (left) & Stanley Saperstein  
Photo by Greg Pallente ©2007 North Jersey Media Group

*Our studio hours are by appointment. Please call ahead!*

Office Address: 60 Bakun Way Ewing, NJ 08638

Shop Address: 103 Corrine Drive Pennington, NJ 08534

Office: 609-637-0450 Shop: 609-737-7170 Fax: 609-637-0452 Cell: 609-658-2955

Email: [woodworkers@artisansofthevalley.com](mailto:woodworkers@artisansofthevalley.com)

[www.artisansofthevalley.com](http://www.artisansofthevalley.com)