

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

T U R N I N G 2 0 1 3

2013 2nd Turning

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Artisans has been showing a lot of turning in our past few newsletters. It's been an experiment, and somewhat of a distraction from our normal array of projects, but has also been an experiment that we are preparing to implement as an ongoing line of ready to sell one-of-a-kind pieces. We'll show off turnings in this and upcoming issues. Keep tabs on our new Etsy store to find turnings offered for sale!

We are taking possession of some storm salvaged wood slabs. A 2011 scavenged walnut log is the first thick cut material in hand, we'll be taking in more as it comes through the drying process which averages about a year.

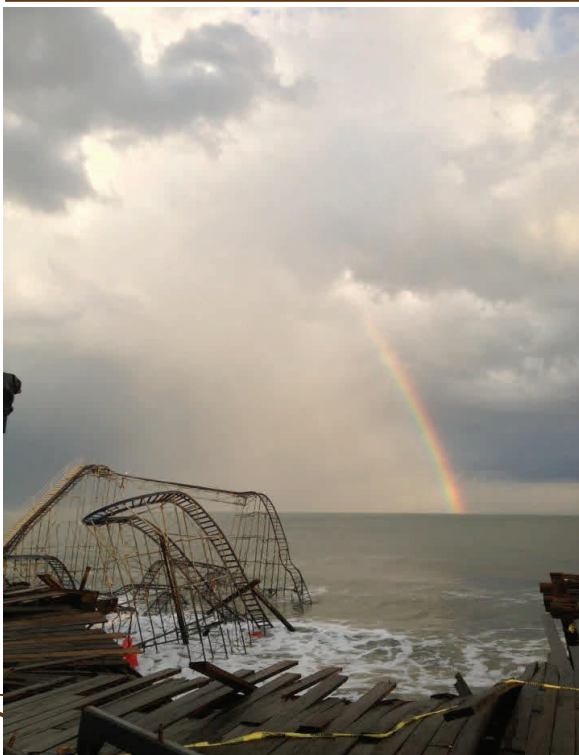
We'll soon be featuring storm salvaged locust which we're planning to use to initiate a unique line of outdoor furniture. Locust is not commonly milled, but is very viable for long lasting outdoor furniture.

Concrete; we keep talking about concrete! Spring has arrived and we are ready to start casting benches with our first custom made metal mold. This issue we'll feature the initial casting process and next quarter we'll show you the finished benches.

Storm restorations continue to dominate our attention. We have been onsite helping to Restore the Shore and have several more trips planned. Check out our trip to Key West and a feature photo at Margaritaville making our rounds to help promote this cause.

R E S T O R E T H E S H O R E !

The NY/NJ coast took a hell of a hit from Hurricane Sandy. The more we are working with families impacted the more apparent it is that this was a truly catastrophic event. Please take a moment and visit Blue Wave Printing, and select from their line of products dedicated to raising funds for the "Restore the Shore" project at: <http://www.bluewaveshirts.com/community.html>



BURL CAP BOWLS

When you're seeking something that is absolutely one-of-a-kind, a natural burl cap bowl definitely meets that requirement. Every single one is different, and no matter how you may try it is impossible to keep the outside surface natural and have any two anywhere in the world the same!

This example is a maple burl cap, other unique materials are available such as manzanita, buckeye, walnut, or cherry. Contact us for a list of bowls in inventory or to commission a custom piece.

**RING BOWLS**

Ring bowls are the perfect gift for a woman who takes off her rings and earrings before bed or before a hot bath. A single simple, turned compartment provides an effective and cool looking addition to your vanity or night stand.

The curved interior is easily sloped to allow quick finger access to scoop up the rings. The flat bottom secures the bowl in position on an angle to see clearly inside.

Shown here in dogwood, we can turn ring bowls in just about any material. This is also one of those special small items that can be made from a family tree.



MANZANITA MADNESS

Yes, we have gone mad for manzanita. How could we not? This is a really unique and interesting material to work with! Our goal is to have an inventory of unique bowls, plates, and vessels, available for sale the next time we get to do an art show. Manzanita will be one of our feature mediums.

Those who know Eric are familiar with how to inspire him; tell him he can't or shouldn't do something. What is taboo is the most tempting, what is touted as out of his league or outside convention sets the bar. By engaging in this mananita adventure we've ignored common wisdom which states very simply; "If you are thinking of trying to turn manzanita ... don't."

Manzanita is one of the most challenging materials. As we familiarize ourselves with this natural anomaly, we understand why people may feel this way. This substance isn't a square block or a prerounded blank. This desert root ball prone to explode when spinning. Its randomly rotten, includes cracks, rocks, dirt, and other random stuff. It turns beautifully when its wet, and it's hard as a rock and dulls a tool in an instant when it's dry. Turning wet gives you a bath; manzanita grows in a harsh environment and stores an amazing amount of water that is apparently held onto rather tightly. We have burl balls that have sat for months that are still dripping wet when we cut into them.



Manzanita Burl is native to the California Desert. Adverse conditions for this scrub tree produce a hard, wet, unique material. Totally random, totally cool!

TURNING COLORS

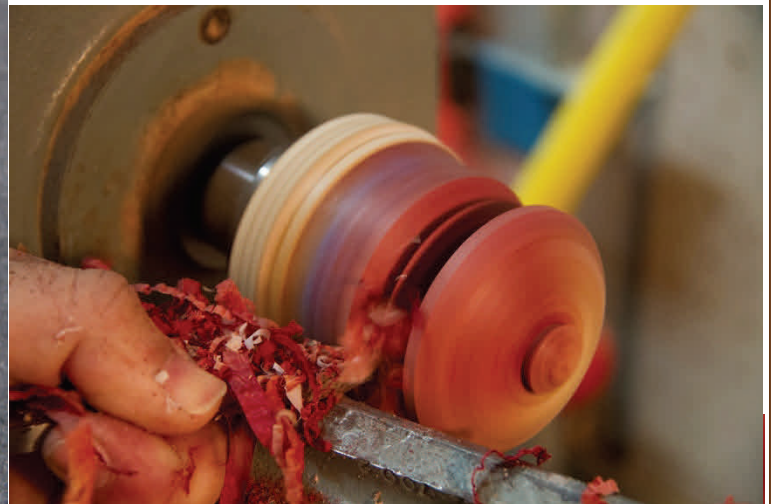
And then there was color; if manzanita wasn't complex enough we decided to take it a step further. We're not the first to impart colorful fillers into turning projects, but this is our first presentation of the modern twist on wood turning. We are using an epoxy mixed with various metallic and pigment powders to produce amazing patterns and contrast. Since every fill is unique, it's much like the grain in the wood itself.

Epoxy is one of the commonly employed components used to stabilize wood for turning. As it cures into a solid form bonded permanently to the surrounding material it can fill voids, reattach broken sections, stop cracks, and patch holes. Natural epoxy is clear and looks much like plastic. When additives are mixed in, the possibilities for colors and patterns are endless.

We can use dust from other woods, from stone, metals, glass, or use pigments or dyes. This provides options for texture as well as pattern. In open-pored wood a contrasting epoxy can be used to create a pickling effect. The solution also stabilizes rotten or "punky" materials. We, like many wood turners, decided to take it a step further than just using epoxy as a glue.



Cured epoxy shaves like plastic when turned, notice the strands of white ribbon peeling away from the manzanita burl wine stopper in progress.



FINISHED MANZANITA TURNINGS

Once we overcame the fractures and inclusions of these unbalanced balls, each one of the roots revealed to us its desired form. Turning natural materials and keeping the nature of the material intact is not about forcing a shape; we instead allow each piece to guide our hand and our tools as we spin it.

The net result isn't cookie cutter, no two pieces are ever the same. Color, the outside form, the inside flow, the grain, the bark, how the piece cracks, the rippling and uneven waves that form as the variances in density dry. How it polishes, how it takes the finish. Everything about each individual chunk of this funky scrub tree ensures that it is as individual as a snowflake.



FINISHED MANZANITA TURNINGS



TAKING BACK OUR SLABS

We have six walnut slabs cut to 16/4, two shown (below left) at 66" long by between twenty and forty inches wide. We can setup to do coffee tables, benches, or join two of them together (we have a mirrored set) into a larger kitchen or dining table. Another great possibility is a desk! Use your imagination so we don't have to keep these great walnut slabs in inventory for very long.



Second to the right above is a mulberry slab from our 2011 salvage campaign. We figure it would make a unique flat back clock. We're searching for the perfect clock face with a working set of weights that configure to display the entire mechanism in the open. Traversing further right is a solid cherry 8/4 slab that would make a unique bar or credenza. This would be a great platform to feature an interesting array of butterflies.

BELLOWS BLOWS AGAIN

Periodically we get a commission for a fireplace bellows or a restoration project to bring one back to breathing again. These functional and ornamental simple machines are a mainstay of any properly equipped hearth.

This project was simply removing the old deteriorated leather and replacing it with new pig skin. The flap inside, and forward wrappers were also replaced along with the brass tacks. If you have an heirloom bellows, or if you would like a new one get in touch with us!



BEECH BOWL PROJECTS PROGRESS

This is the second bowl completed with material from Mildred & Sam Saperstein's estate. A spalted copper beech tree that fell during Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

This bowl is turned from a section that was almost rotten past usability. Fortunately, we have our tricks and methods of handling such materials. Once reinforced, we were able to spin it down to 3/8" thickness in some wall sections and curve it nicely to maintain the live rim.

The center section was hollowing and rotten when we started the turning process. It didn't take long at all to bore out the center. When we reached about 1" the walls started to fail. We added an epoxy solution inside and outside and it soaked in and cured, allowing the turning process to continue. We added more coats of epoxy developing 100% penetration.

The final finish is Waterlox tung oil varnish, allowing a water-tight, food safe surface if we so desire to ever use this vessel. This is an original memorial, and it will be maintained in our family collection.

Turnings are a perfect way to use material from your properties and create a unique memory by creating a functional and artistic vessel.



BEECH BOWL II IN PROGRESS



Spalted Copper Beech salvaged from a family estate property. This wood has an amazing array of coloration and detail caused by deterioration.

HEIRLOOM FRANZ LANGER CLOCK RESTORATION



The pictured Franz Langer Clock, an heirloom of the Stiles family, arrived missing the gilded hand carved eagles and harpie. This rare 1830's clock is a prized family possession, once the issue was discovered they were determined to have the carving duplicated. Samantha Stiles sought out carvers for months, each artist promptly rejected the project saying that they could not duplicate carvings from a picture, additionally two exact mirrored eagles would be difficult to produce. Relentless in searching, she discovered the National Wood Carvers Association; the NWCA referred the project to Artisans of the Valley.

Stan Saperstein, founder of Artisans of the Valley, received the call. This is just the type of project we enjoy. Stan explained to Samantha the process of pattern making and how a pantograph system created duplicate carvings. The trick is to carve one eagle as exact to the picture as the artist can interpret as the model for the CNC robotic carver, today's modern pantograph machine.

In this manner you get two exact carvings roughed out. Then the hand carved skills are applied to detail the pieces to be as close as possible. Today's modern sign makers use this technology, so we called in Dana Osterman aka The Sign Smith. Dana scanned Stan's first carving and produced the rough outs in pine samples and then the rough outs in basswood for the final carvings.

You can see the final result in the pictures and on the clock below, more details about the process are featured on the next page. The reproduction of the carving restored the clock to its original glory, making the stiles family very happy. Everyone always asks about how a

restoration like this impacts value. Simply put, the value was lost when the carvings were lost, our job is to not only restore the physical piece but regain as much of the original value as possible. The clock works, metal, and original body being intact, we would estimate this clock to now be at least 80-90% of its original value.



HEIRLOOM FRANZ LANGER CLOCK RESTORATION

The pieces were carved in basswood, primed with a bole, and then the 24k gold leaf applied by hand using traditional methods. Once again sign shops are the most common venues for an age old skill, gilding. Dana handled the gilding application. Sheets of gold as thin as a hair are applied to the prepared surface and burnished into an adhesive pre-applied to the target. The net result is an everlasting finish.

You can see the process in the captioned pictures, the carving on the far right is the model. Once scanned, the CNC system cut the rough blanks in two stages. The first shows the main levels and removes the bulk of the material. The second stage imparts some level of detail, but not enough to be considered completed. It still requires a hand touch; no matter how much computer controlled cutters advance they will never match the dexterity of the human hand.

Restorations like this are not very common; Artisans is one of the last studios that maintains the skills and resources to complete such projects. Our client's family are the proprietors of Fortuna Fine Arts, LTD - New York, NY. Keep a watch for more projects in partnership with Fortuna.



Gold Leaf (Gilding) provided by Dana Osterman
aka The Sign Smith of Washington Crossing, PA.

THE GILDING IN PROGRESS

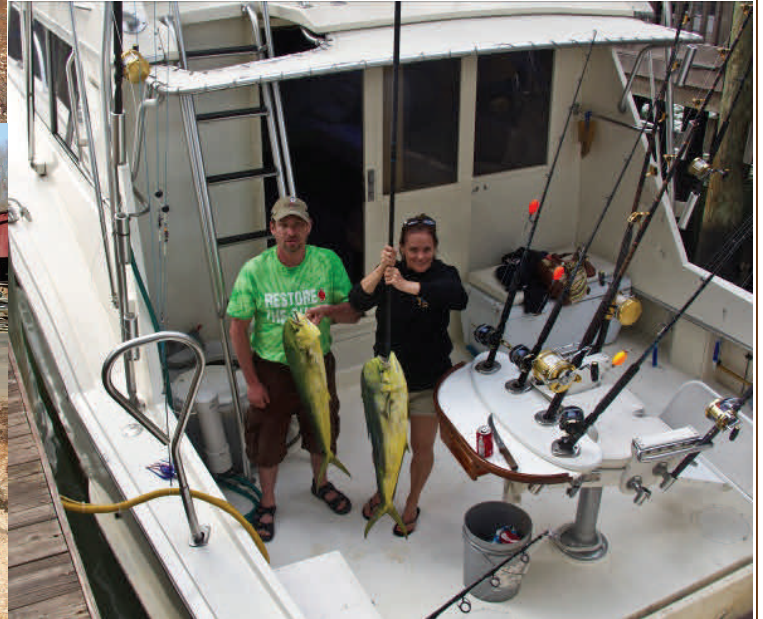


SALVAGE OPERATIONS IN FULL SWING



This load brings us up to let's see ... forty-seven logs in various states of air drying, milling, kiln drying, surfacing, and in storage. We have a lot of wood, much of which came from Sandy. We keep pitching this because we're extremely expressive about the need to utilize local natural resources.

We're still making arrangements to pull out more trees from last years falls, and we're expecting to continue right into summer as the thunder storms blow in. If you find you've lost a hardwood tree, let us know!



HOOKED UP II

A quick extract from Eric & Sherri's trip to Fort Lauderdale, the pair decided to charter the Hooked Up II piloted by Captain Taco with 1st Mate Willbilly. The excursion ventured off the Florida coast, yielding a set of very nice dolphin fish (mahi mahi) one of which made its way to the evenings dinner table for six courses and the other is currently out for mounting.

Captain Taco has been fishing the intercostal waters in South Florida for snook and tarpon since the mid 70's. As time progressed his fishing techniques improved and he began to travel offshore hitting St. Thomas, Turk and Cacaos, Mexico, Venezuela and all through the Bahamas. His resume now includes the world's prized game fish and the occasional great white.

Now captaining 400-500 trips a year, he operates one of the busiest boats in the region. <http://www.tacohookedup.com> for more information if you're in the area!



PointPleasantPatch

PATCHING THROUGH

This April we had a feature article in The Point Pleasant Patch, an online newspaper and community forum/

bulletin board. The patch provides comprehensive local coverage of Point Pleasant, N.J. featuring local news and events, business listings, blogs, discussions, announcements, photos and videos. Artisans has been working with locals and insurance providers to do our part to "Restore the Shore." That part of course being furniture restoration.

http://pointpleasant.patch.com/blog_posts/learn-more-about-artisans-of-the-valley

FORGING HISTORY

Dana Osterman forged himself into a character of many stories and many timelines; you last saw him in the role of his CNC operations. Meanwhile, he plays the role of a blacksmith in the days of the revolution.

Operating the forges of Washington Crossing Park, Dana provides a window into living history. A town couldn't survive without a blacksmith, who handled everything including tools, horse shoes, weapons, wagons, and other equipment. A forge was absolutely essential.

Blacksmiths of the day were not only stationary, some maintained mobile operations with completely portable self sufficient forges that operated from horse drawn wagons. Following armies, wagon trains, and cattle drives these smiths ensured that travel didn't prevent maintenance. Roving smiths also allowed small towns without their own home based smith the chance to receive much needed services.

For more info visit:

<http://washingtongcrossingpark.org/>



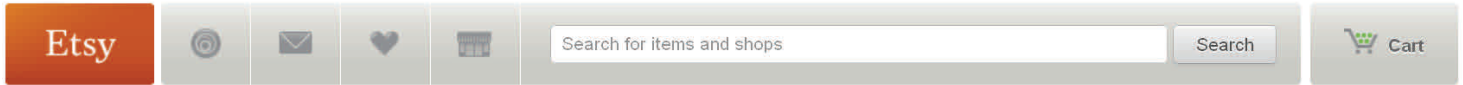
INTRODUCING ARTISANS' ETSY STORE

We've been pitching that we will be opening up a small inventory of unique original pieces ready for sale. As we have now created an assortment of bowls and other spec pieces, it was time to launch an easy way to promote these pieces for a quick sale. Take a moment and walk through our shop, we'll keep posting new items as they become available so it will always be changing.

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/ArtisansoftheValley>

Sell Registry Community Blogs Mobile Gift Cards

Hi, Eric. Your Shop: ArtisansoftheValley Your Account Help




Home › ArtisansoftheValley

Shop Tools Stats Edit about page

Shop Sections

- Shop home 8 items
- Bowls and Vessels 4
- Tables 2
- Sushi - Maki Boards 2

Shop Owner


Eric Saperstein
 Pennington, NJ,
 United States



ArtisansoftheValley
 Museum Quality Woodworking & Antique Restoration

Get social  

Artisans is launching new lines of original design marbled concrete furniture, an array of gaming tables, slab furniture, and an eclectic assortment of unique turnings and artistic creations. Keep tabs on our sites for more information and ready for sale items!

 This shop accepts Etsy Gift Cards.

Search in this shop

Search

Sort by: **Most Recent**

FEATURED ITEMS FROM ARTISANSOFTHEVALLEY



THE FACEBOOK 500

We reached 500 likes on our Facebook page this Quarter. We think that's an achievement worth announcing. We post the latest and greatest updates on our Facebook page so please take a few minutes to stop by and like us!

<https://www.facebook.com/ArtisansOfTheValleyLlc>



ART ALL NIGHT TRENTON JUNE 15TH & 16TH

This year's Art All Night sponsored by Artworks of Trenton, will be held June 15th & 16th - 3pm to 3pm, 24 hours straight of art, music, food, films, and festival. A gallery, a wine night, a club, a rave, and back to a Sunday morning art outing all within 24 hours. Last year we've heard stats ranging up to 18,000 people in attendance for the extravaganza. All artists are welcome to submit one piece free of charge!

So what are we bringing?

We have no idea!!! Whatever we have ready to go on Friday evening when we load in.

<http://www.artworkstrenton.org/artallnight/>



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 250 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

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



3 D CNC ; PLAYING WITH NEW SOFTWARE

Our sign smith has updated his software, now including the capabilities to produce 3D renderings and carvings. We can then parlay these vector files into a variety of mediums and formats.

We have partnered with Dana Osterman for local sign projects and small production runs. We have Gene Batten of Batten Products available for volume production and large spindle/column carvings,

We've partnered with Aztec Graphics for banners, merchandise, and embroidery. We have Trenton Sheet Metal aligned to provide flowjet cutting services and and we're in discussion with options to provide 3D printing and modeling.

The 21st Century is here, and we're embracing it; it doesn't stop 18th century craftsman, it empowers us!



2013 FOLLOW UP TO Q2

Maybe we finish that redwood burl table? Maybe?

FINALLY we get that Adams bench done.

A call to arms; the latest patriotic projects including an amazing new eagle.

The next batch of slabs return from the mill.

A completed travel trunk with fresh new cedar lining.

Art All Night 2013

Raising funds; we have a few projects pending let's see if they launch!

Entering the Modern 3D World.



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

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