

AUGUST 2007



NEWSLETTER

MEETING DATE: AUGUST 23, 2007

**PLACE: Agricultural & Industrial Museum
217 W Princess St., York PA 17404**

TIME: 7:00 PM

PROGRAM: Exploring the use of various Jigs

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This month we are going to try something new. We will have a silent tool auction. You need to bring along a tool that is useful but is no longer needed in your workshop. All of the items for sale will be on display in the back of the room along with a bidding list. You'll be able to place your bid for a new addition to your workshop. At the end of the meeting, the successful bidders for each item will be announced. Payment will be collected for the items you won. This is a great chance to pass on a tool or tools that you no longer need but could be very useful to another woodworker.

I attended the meeting for the groups in Harrisburg, PA and Columbia, MD last month.

In Columbia, unfortunately they had a speaker who did not show up. It was a short meeting with about 50 members attending.

Ray Parsons

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

At this month's meeting we will be exploring the usage of jigs. You need to bring your favorite jig to the meeting. We will be look at each in terms of how it is used, how you learned about it, did you make it, purchase it, etc. This meeting will be very informative. You'll not only share your knowledge about what has worked for you but you will learn about the successes that others have had. We hope to see you on the 23rd with your jig in hand

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

Ralph Dermota was the speaker at last month's meeting. He spoke about using the correct proportions when designing furniture. Decorative lines need to have movement, the elements of a design must be in proportion to each other and the overall façade of the piece needs to have balance or symmetry. He explained the 3 to 2 rule to help you find the correct proportions. Ralph said that the wing chair (shown in the photos) has perfect proportions.



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WOODWORKER HELP STILL NEEDED

The Guild is still collecting toys that you've made to donate to York Hospital. You can help to bring a smile to the face of a child that is facing an illness by making and donating a toy or toys to this worthy project.



Guild's Fourth TOOL AUCTION

Woodworking Tools & Related Materials
NEW, USED & ANTIQUE

September 29, 10AM -- 3PM

Florence Bain Senior Center

(5470 Ruth Keeton Way in Columbia)

Items can be dropped off at the Center on

Fri. Sept. 28 1:30PM -- 4PM

Sat. Sept. 29 7AM -- 9:30AM



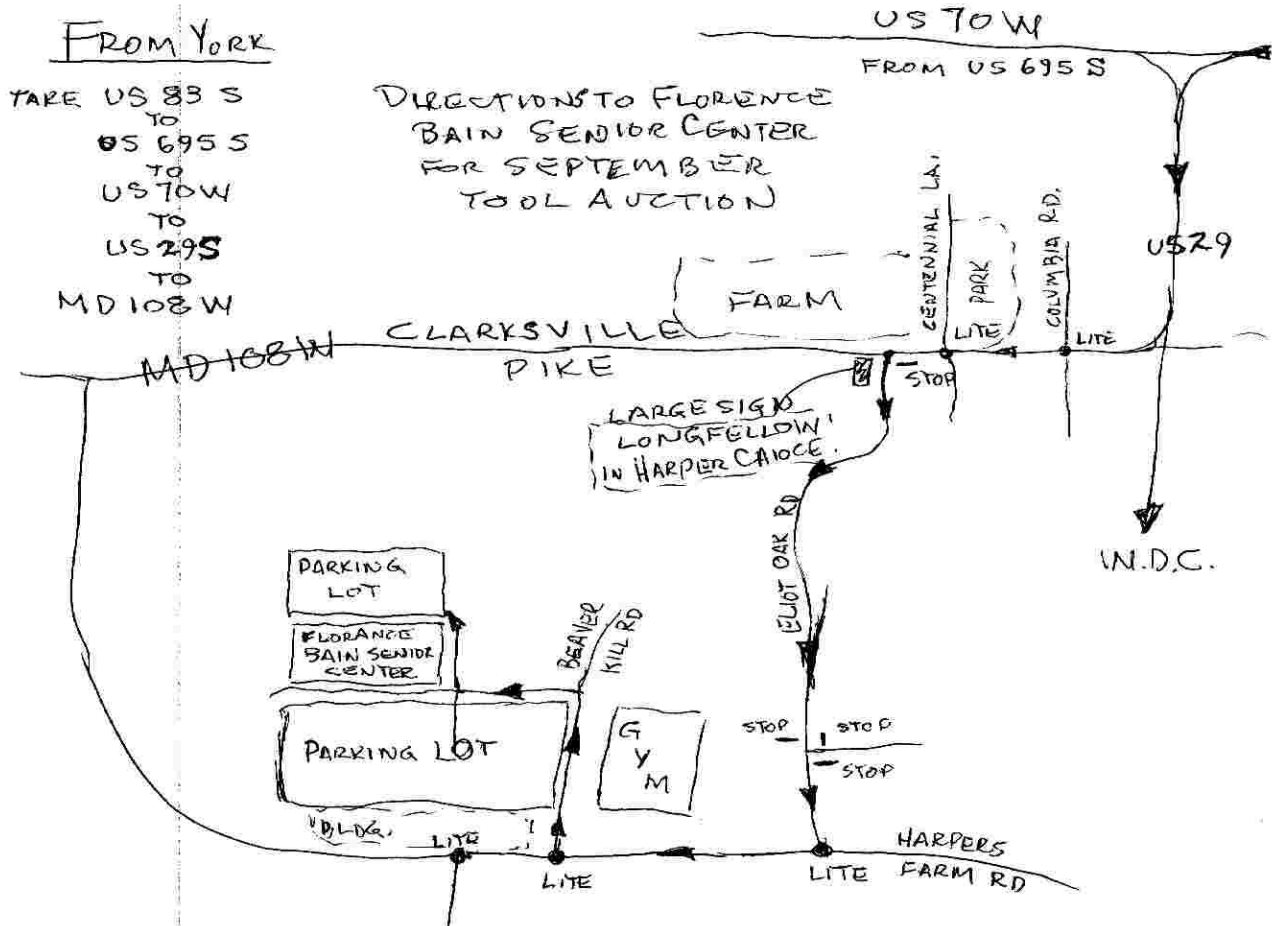
Open to all

**** A 10% Sellers Fee will be charged ****

It will be used to cover Auction Cost & Donation to the Florence Bain Wood Shop.

****All Items are sold AS IS ****

Sponsored by The Howard County Woodworkers Guild
For Info. Call Larry Barrett 301 253-1884 or Bud Nuesle 410 465-6210



THEY'RE STILL OUT THERE by STEVE SCRUGGS

The following article appeared in Tool Talk, the newsletter for Past, (Preserving Arts and Skills of the Trade). It is a story of a collector out on the prowl who made a lucky find. How many of us have followed in the author's footsteps while looking for the Holy Grail? Few of us every 'strike it rich', but we have all tried - Ed.

It was late on a Wednesday morning in August 1996. I had finished my business in Denver earlier than I had expected and stopped for a late breakfast before heading home to Longmont. I looked over the classified ads while eating and noticed an ad for an estate sale that had been going on since the previous Friday. It wasn't too far out of the way, so I thought I might as well stop by and take a look.

The garage and driveway were full of tables and shelves loaded with a wide variety of accumulated odds and ends, from used sprinkler heads to the ever-present Tupperware (You've been there; you know what I'm talking about). I had scanned all the tables for signs of old tools and had just about decided I wasn't going to find anything worth while. That's when I saw it.

I spied the back half of a molding plane sticking out of a pile of junk on a shelf about 10 feet away. Even from a distance I could make out the characteristic flat chamfers and roundish wedge finial of an 18th-century molding plane. I asked the man what he wanted for the plane over there, and he said, "I was asking fifteen for it at the flea market, but I'll take ten. Figuring any 18th-century plane was worth ten bucks, I pulled a ten from my wallet and handed it to him as I walked over to the plane. I retrieved it from the pile and did what most of us do when we first examine a wooden molder—I tilted the toe up toward the light of the open garage door to look at the maker's mark

The next few moments were like the climatic scene from an old Cecil B. DeMille movie. On what had, until that very moment been a cloudy day, the clouds parted, the sun broke through, and it's rays hit the toe of that plane like a Hollywood spotlight: **CE:CHELOR LIVING IN WRENTHAM.** I don't know! I swear that angels started singing, too. My heart pounded furiously, the hair on the back of my neck stood up, and I broke out in a cold sweat, all at the same time. You see, in Colorado, where most of the old tools you'll find are post-Civil War, finding an 18th century plane is almost unheard of, and never something you'd expect to happen.

I quickly tried to compose myself before asking, "Do you have any more of these?" He replied, "Yeah, there's another one around there somewhere." I dove into the pile with what I hoped was constrained enthusiasm and found another plane—the matching round to the hollow plane I was already holding.

"You want ten bucks for this one, too?" It was all I could think of to say.
"Yep"

After carefully searching the pile for anything of similar vintage, which gave me time to calm down a bit, I nonchalantly asked where he had gotten the planes. He told me they were in a box of tools his father-in-law had given to him back in the 1930s. His father-in-law had been a carpenter who had come directly to Denver from Italy, with no stopover on the east coast, so the man must have picked up the planes somewhere in the Denver area. I can only dream about the trek they obviously made to get from Massachusetts to Colorado

It took me a week of phone calls to get the man to dig the tool box out from the shed where it was stored. Alas, there were no more Chelor planes. But I learned one very important fact from this adventure: There are still some good tools to be found out there "in the wild". Sometimes you just have to be in the right place at the right time, even if you don't know exactly what you're looking for.

Planes bearing the mark of Cesar Chelor are some of the most sought-after in American wooden plane collecting. Only a hundred

or so examples of his work are known to have survived the two and a quarter centuries since they were crafted.

Cesar Chelor was the black slave of Francis Nicholson, who worked in Wrentham, Massachusetts from 1788 to 1753, and who is considered by most to be America's first commercial planemaker. Nicholson is assumed to have taught Chelor the art of planemaking, and it's probably that many of these planes bearing Nicholson's mark were actually made by Chelor. When Nicholson died in 1753, his will granted Cesar Chelor his freedom and "—his Bench and common Bench-Tools, a Sett of Chizells, one Goug, one Vice, one Syth & tackling, & ten Acres of Land, — & one-third part of my Timber." Chelor continued making planes under his own name until his death in 1784".

Chelor's planemaking years
1753 - 1784



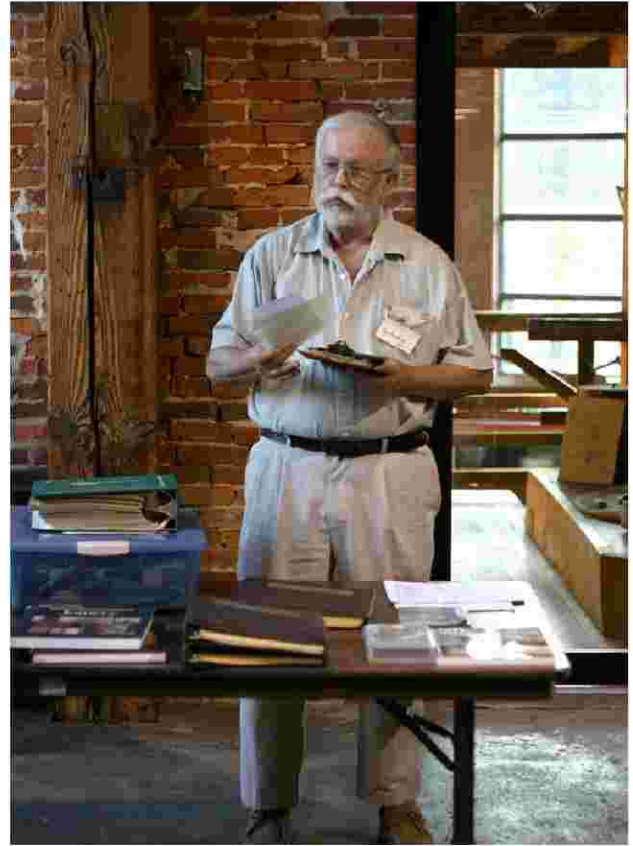
Matched pair of hollow and round by Cesar Chelor

Article reprinted from the Potomac
Antique Tools and Industries
Association, Inc's *Patinagram*
Volume 30, Number 4, dated July
2007

SHOW AND TELL



Dean Swagert turned this piece of burl from Tasmania on multiple centers to create this unique sculpture.



Ray Parson is discussing the new additions to the Guild library.



Dennis Kunkle brought two stools to show examples of good and bad proportions.



Ralph Dermota's candlesticks are examples of great proportions.

SUPPLIERS

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SUSQUEHANNA TRAIL WOODWORKERS GUILD AUGUST 2007 Newsletter

The Susquehanna Trail Wood Guild owes a BIG **THANK YOU** to Bob Aspey and Dan Kim for their photographic skills. Bob has been documenting the activities of the club since its early days. Dan Kim has recently picked up his camera as Bob has had other commitments to attend to. As your newsletter editor, I want to let both Bob and Dan know how much I appreciate their efforts. Having a selection of photos to choose from makes putting this newsletter together a lot more fun! The next time you see Bob and Kim, let them know that you appreciate their efforts.

Julie Kemper-Kunkle