

**JUNE 2013**

**NEWSLETTER**

**Meeting Date: June 27, 2013**

**Place: Agricultural & Industrial Museum**

**217 W Princess St., York, PA**

**Time: 7:00 PM**

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

I got my brain engaged the other day wondering how difficult it must have been for the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century cabinet makers to ply their trade. They had no electricity, so, of course, no power equipment or good lighting, no Lowe's or Home Depot to get supplies, and no place to get planed boards. Wow! How spoiled we are! I can't imagine how hard they must have worked to hand plane rough cut lumber to make furniture, let alone making all of their trim mouldings and joints. Then a trip to the blacksmith to order the hardware plus hand mixing the stains and making the hide glue. We complain way too much about the few

inconveniences we encounter. Just imagine living without A/C in our homes, businesses and cars or without cell phones, big screen TVs and computers. Of course, now we have to deal with traffic problems and IRS and national security issues. Hmm – maybe the old days were better after all!

Palmer

## **THIS MONTH'S MEETING**

This month, our own Mark Bortner will dazzle us with his knowledge of table saws – or at least try to baffle us with BS! Thanks, Mark.

## LAST MONTH'S MEETING



Last month we were fortunate to have Joel Persing, of Mastercraft Specialties located in Red Lion as our speaker. Joe shared the history of this local company from it's earliest day to the present. Mastercraft has adapted and grown through the years to the successful company that

it is today. The company started was under the name of Ebert's Furniture in 1917. The workers from the cigar factories provided the labor during the winter months. In 1965 Joel's father incorporated the company. When Palmer Burke operated his music store, he had pianos made by Mastercraft. The company also subcontact for Thonet and The Block House. Joel shared the "how do they do it" with the group, from the equipment used to the steps to their finished products. Today much of their focus is on making furniture for college dorms and nursing homes. There were lots of questions from the group and we **thank** Joel for sharing the story of Mastercraft with us.



## MARCH SHOW & TELL



Palmer Burke carved this tree and bird for his granddaughter's bed. He has 10 hours in it so far. It was carved from basswood.

Mark Bortner had brochures from the Hermance Machine Co, Helix Head (cutter heads), and a Kreg wheel chart.





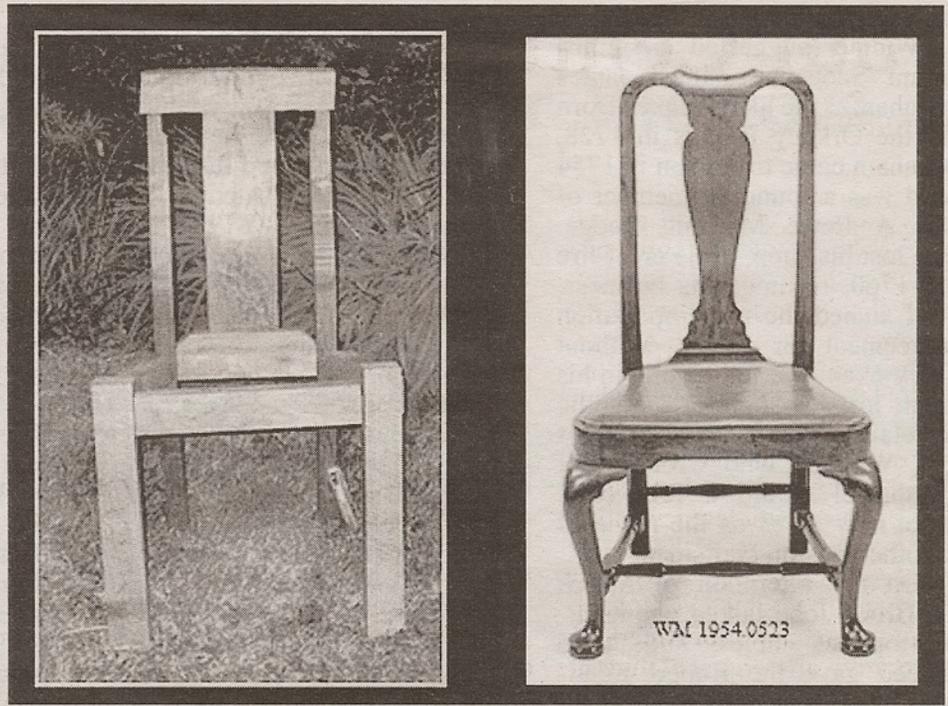
Stan Myers brought the two tables that he has been working on to the meeting. The birdseye maple desk (shown above) has two 2 drawers. He did not use glue. This can be taken apart for repairs if ever needed. The finish is natural. The drawers are wrapped in birdseye maple trim.

The computer desk (shown below) was made of tiger maple with a Brazillian pock cherry wood on the top. He used a dovetail system in the construction of this table.

Stan has a showroom in Dover, PA that used to be Stan's Frame Shop. He recommends that if you cut dovetails and are not going to assemble your project immediately, you should, at least dry fit it to keep the pieces from changing due to humidity.



These images were found in article in the May 2013 issue of the Maine Antique Digest. Greg Landrey is the director for library, collections management and academic programs at Winterthur. He was discussing the classic Boston compass-seat crooked back chair and demonstrated the construction. He indicated the chair was an engineering wonder. He shows hows the stretchers were made from the waste of the cut out splat and the legs were carved after the chair was joined. "This chair is a functional , sculptural, comfortable and fashionable as it was in the 18th century."



In 2011 Greg Landrey made a classic crook-back compass-seat Boston side chair to demonstrate that the chair was joined from stock and then carved. It was a revelation to many attending the furniture forum. Landrey said that when he carved the legs and shaped the seat, he had to be very careful not to cut deep and reveal the joints. Photo courtesy Greg Landrey.



Did you know the name of this tool featured in last month's newsletter?

If you said "**poot a tuck**", you right!



You will have to do your own research to learn what this is used for!



The finish on that table is as smooth as glass!

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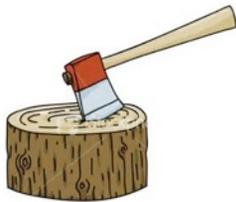
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