

# Period Furniture

Newsletter of the Society of American Period Furniture Makers

Spring 2013



*Will Neptune with those who nominated him, from left: Bob Van Dyke, Freddy Roman, Will Neptune, and John Rexroad. Photo courtesy of Asa Christiana.*

## Will Neptune Announced as 2013 Cartouche Award Winner by John Rexroad

When the Period Furniture Newsletter said “Nominate Your Mentor for the Cartouche Award,” I realized **mentor** is a perfect word to describe Will Neptune—“a trusted counselor or guide.” Passing on his experience without any expectations or self promotion, Will freely nurtures anyone that shares in his passion for furniture, especially of the generations that preceded ours. This sharing of knowledge assures that future generations will continue in the tradition of “apprenticing” under an excellent master carpenter.

The diversity of Will’s experience and abilities are impressive. Equally capable of producing millwork, case goods, and fine furnishings, he is also a master carver, and possesses an understanding of balance of

design, form, function, and statement the furniture is making. Will is able to interpret and convey the relationship of negative space with the flow and dimensions of the piece.

I have had many stimulating and educating discussions with Will regarding furniture finishing, from use of modern finishes to what our forefathers used. One thing is clear - when it comes to producing a fine piece of furniture, the finish and method is as important as the construction.

With a lifetime of accomplishments, including contributions in the areas of development, research, and exploration of period furniture, Will Neptune is considered more than deserving of the Cartouche Award for 2013.

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## SAPFM Welcomes its Youngest Member, Pere Howlett by Ken Johnson

During the 2013 Colonial Williamsburg Working Wood in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century conference “*Small Things Considered*,” Pere Howlett made a presentation in front of over 200 people about a miniature table he had constructed. Pere, a nine-year-old fourth grader, is the son of a Colonial Williamsburg tradesman and enjoys being with his dad and being a part of the Colonial Williamsburg “family.”

At the conclusion of Pere’s talk, SAPFM members suggested he be made a member. Ken Johnson made a presentation of a one-year membership to Pere at the conference. Pere was especially enthusiastic about the “shell” sticker he was given to put on his identification card.

Pere is always working on something. His dad, “Corky,” says he has to make sure he has projects on hand to keep Pere occupied. Pere’s first project was a ramp for his toy cars at the age of three. Next, he saw a rubber band gun and then found some wood, a nail and a hammer and made one himself.

In addition to Colonial Williamsburg and woodworking, his interests include being a drummer,

riding his mini-bike, school (where he excels at math and science), and running in 5K road races.

Pere knows all the tradesmen at Colonial Williamsburg, and when the blacksmiths found out he joined SAPFM, they made him a custom scribing knife.

Pere’s next woodworking project will be a small box with dovetail joints and wooden hinges. Not bad for nine years old! We are grateful to have Pere as our youngest member.



*Pere Howlett with his miniature table. Photo by Freddy Roman.*

## 2013 Executive Council Election

First, we want to say a fond farewell from the SAPFM and the EC to our members leaving this year. Shortly after the 2012 Mid-Year Conference Tom Turriff resigned. He was committed to implementing the Endowment Fund before leaving. He was successful, and we all appreciate that effort. Tom has been a long time member of SAPFM and the EC. Aaron Hall was appointed to fill the remaining time of Tom's term. Brooke Smith and Derek Swarbrick both decided not to seek another term on the EC. Derek had served on the EC since 2007, and Brooke since 2010.

The 2013 EC Election results: Jim Altemus and Don Williams return for another three-year term. In addition, Freddy Roman and Bob Van Dyke were elected to a three-year term for the first time.

Bob Mustain has decided to leave the EC. Bob had served on the Board for many years, and President of the EC for the past two years. Bob's leadership of the EC was successful in many ways, but especially in implementing changes to help the SAPFM Board operate in a more organized and professional manner, with a separate Treasurer. Bob was also instrumental in establishing our Endowment Fund. We were fortunate to have Steve Latta agree to fill Bob's remaining term on the EC. Steve has been involved with SAPFM from the beginning, including hosting the first Mid-Year Conference, and being heavily involved in recruiting Cartouche Award candidates.

The SAPFM membership elects the Executive Council (EC), and the EC elects its officers. For the year 2013, Ken Johnson was elected President; Tom Sears was elected Vice President; Jim Altemus Treasurer; and Malcolm Granberry Secretary.

### SAPFM 2013 Executive Council

**Ken Johnson, President**  
kenj[at]jprconsulting.com

**Tom Sears, Vice President & Mid-Year Conference Committee**  
tsearsjr[at]mac.com

**Jim Altemus, Treasurer, Bylaws Review & Cartouche Award Selection**  
cjaltemus[at]frontiernet.net

**Mickey Callahan, Past President**  
mick[at]comcast.net

**Aaron Hall, Outreach Coordinator**  
achall73[at]msn.com

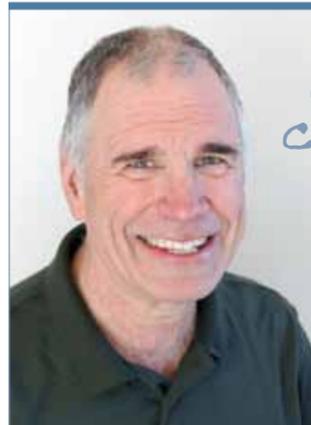
**Don Williams, Outreach Committee**  
artisan\_dcw[at]msn.com

**Malcolm Granberry, Secretary**  
wmalcolmg[at]aol.com

**Freddy Roman, Chapter Coordinator**  
periodcraftsmen[at]gmail.com

**Bob Van Dyke, Outreach Committee**  
bobvandyke[at]sbcglobal.net

**Steve Latta, Mid-Year Conference Coordinator & Outreach Committee**  
latta[at]stevenscollege.edu



## Introducing

**Carl Voss**, Editor of  
SAPFM *American Period Furniture Journal*

Carl joins SAPFM as the new Editor of the APF Journal. Carl brings over thirty years of experience in the field of journalism, publishing, and editing, with much of it related to craft-based publications.

For six years Carl was the Editor of the *American Woodturner*, a quarterly journal for the American Association of Woodturners. He worked for Meredith Corporation for twelve years, where he was Managing Editor of *WOOD*, *Weekend Woodworking Projects* and *Super Scrollsaw Patterns*. He also worked to launch prototypes of new publications

*Showcase* and *Decorative Woodcrafts*.

Carl brings a wealth of insight into publishing and copy editing. He has already offered to the Executive Council numerous ideas for expanding the Journal and the quarterly newsletter.

We invite you to contact Carl if you have any suggestions or ideas for articles or ways to improve the Journal. His email address is [carlvoss@mac.com](mailto:carlvoss@mac.com). Carl will be in Detroit for the spring event at the Detroit Institute of Art, as well as at the Mid-Year Conference in Lancaster this summer. If you attend either event, please take a moment to say hello and welcome Carl to SAPFM. *Photo courtesy of Carl Voss.*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Ken Johnson

Hello and welcome to the last printed copy of our quarterly newsletter. My name is Ken Johnson and I am the new President of the Society of American Period Furniture Makers. I have

been a longtime member of SAPFM and on the Board for the past year.

After serving many years on the Board and two years as President, Bob Mustain resigned in December. If you see Bob, you might want to thank him for his years of service.

In taking up the duties of President, I hope to shepherd in the many changes that are planned by your Executive Council. You can read more about them throughout this newsletter. Not the least of these changes is an increase in dues. It was a difficult decision but in the

end the Executive Council (EC) felt it was necessary—to maintain the quality of the Journal, and to begin making significant improvements to the website.

We are aware that your membership is optional and we must prove value to you in order for your experience to be as useful and worthwhile as possible. But to do that, we need money, your support and help. We on the EC invite your input, suggestions and comments at any time. You can reach me at [kenj@jprconsulting.com](mailto:kenj@jprconsulting.com). Contact information for the other EC members is available on the preceding page as well as on our website.

I look forward to this year of transition as we begin our electronic revamped newsletter and work with our new Journal editor. There are many challenges ahead, but your Board is ready to deal with them with your help and support. I encourage you to volunteer in any way you feel you could help. There is much work to be done, and the board cannot do this without your help.



Late January in Williamsburg. Photo by Freddy Roman.

### SAPFM Financial Result for 2012

For the calendar year 2012, SAPFM had total revenues of \$132,890.79, and total expenditures \$132,275.70. This compared to \$121,973.33 in revenues for 2011, and expenses of \$106,036.67.

The increase in revenues was in part due to the increase in the registrations for the Mid-Year at MESDA, but also due to timing of some membership and advertising income coming in 2012 vs. 2011. On the expense side, there were some additional costs associated with the 2012 Mid-Year vs. 2011. In addition, only half of the cost of publishing the journal (normally about \$13,000) was credited to 2011 due to publisher billing, so our 2012 billing was essentially for 1.5 times the annual cost of journal publishing. We also supported the 2012 exhibition at the Connecticut Historical Society at a \$6,000 level.

As of December 31, 2012, SAPFM had assets of \$29,836.33 in checking/PayPal accounts, and \$38,105.65 in savings and CD accounts, for a total of \$67,941.98.

The EC and finance committee is preparing the 2013 budget to reflect the newer expenses associated with the Journal, and new dues structure.

If you have any questions or would like to see the detailed financial statements, please call me at (585) 657-5328 or email at [cjaltemus@frontiernet.net](mailto:cjaltemus@frontiernet.net).

-Jim Altemus, SAPFM Treasurer

### SAPFM 2013 Mid-Year Conference to Feature Two Cartouche Award Winners

This year's Mid-Year Conference will feature Alf Sharp, Mickey Callahan, Will Neptune, and George Walker as a guest lecturer.

The conference will be held June 28-30, 2013 at Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology, Lancaster, PA. Hotel rooms are reserved at a variety of rates at Econo-Lodge, Hawthorne Suites, Lancaster Host, and Budget Host. An optional museum trip will be held Friday, June 28, to Winterthur, Delaware.

More detailed information on registration, program and fees will be posted on the website and in an upcoming Newsletter.

## 2013 - YEAR OF TRANSITION BY KEN JOHNSON

The EC believes this is a critical year for us. This year represents an opportunity to move SAPFM into more and exciting areas of the period furniture community. We believe our outreach to museums, restoration centers, other organizations, publications, trade schools and other woodworking venues presents us with growth potential. There is a lot to do and we have limited resources. You can help. You can offer suggestions, you can volunteer to help, you can promote SAPFM, and you can support your elected Executive Council. Please feel free to approach any member of the EC. Our email addresses are on the website and listed on page 2. We would love to hear from you on how to improve this fellowship and what you might consider as valuable changes.

### NEWSLETTER TO BE ELECTRONIC

After much consideration, it has been decided that the newsletter will be distributed electronically for all editions after this Spring 2013 edition. The printed version simply is too costly, and we feel that members will get more value from an expanded electronic version. This gives us the opportunity to make changes to the publication. Currently, the publication is just a newsletter. The EC believes with the transfer to an electronic edition, we can add more editorial content. The initial thinking is that it should include articles on techniques, skill development, and "shop hints." Bob Van Dyke has agreed to lead this effort. He could use help and if you would like to participate, contact him. We need ideas, articles, and reviewers. Ideas for a new name are in order too.

**Important reminder:** Once we go to the electronic newsletter it will be critical for you to maintain a valid email address in your user profile on the website. You can update your email address and other contact information yourself at any time by logging into the Member Area and selecting the 'Update' link.

### EDITORIAL BOARD CREATED

During the search process for a new Journal editor, the EC made the decision to establish an editorial board to work with any new editor we selected. The board will be a resource for the editor and serve to help with peer reviews, suggestions, and assistance with obtaining articles and generating ideas for articles. Mickey Callahan and Bob Van Dyke will serve as EC representatives on the editorial board. Other non-EC SAPFM members will be approached to join the board. As appropriate, the board may invite non-SAPFM contributors to help with this effort.

### WEBSITE PLANS

Aaron Hall will lead an effort to evaluate the SAPFM website from top to bottom. We anticipate a phased approach of change. For the long term, we want to make our site competitive with other sites in the woodworking area. In the short term there may be incremental changes we can implement immediately. Andy Spicer, who is a member in the Chesapeake Chapter, has agreed to provide technical support for our analysis.

### MEMBER SURVEY ON JOURNAL, NEWSLETTER AND WEB

In the next newsletter, we intend to announce an online survey of the membership about their ideas and desires for the SAPFM journal, website, newsletter and other potential benefits. More details to come.

### APF JOURNAL

After many years of incredible service to S A P F M , Mark and Margaret Arnold have decided to turn over the editorial work of the APF Journal to a new editor. There is no way we can express how valuable their effort and work has been to SAPFM. They will continue to work with us on the website support and in managing the membership activities.



A search committee was formed in the fall and a single candidate proved to be the perfect fit for SAPFM. His name is Carl Voss; you can read more about him on page 2 of this newsletter. He has experience in other woodworking publications in addition to other editorial areas. Carl will be looking for new articles, suggestions or ideas and volunteer authors. Please feel free to contact him with any suggestions.

### CHAPTER SUPPORT

Freddy Roman is the new Chapter Coordinator. Some of his plans for the near term include updating and expanding the chapter handbook, development of a chapter website template for local groups, and a Google calendar of all chapter activities to be added to the website.

### MEMBERSHIP FEES

The Executive Council decided that with all the necessary changes we believe are necessary to make SAPFM a group with ever-increasing membership, expanded available information, continued excellence in our Journal and creation of a new and expanded quarterly on-line publication, that it was necessary to increase our annual individual membership fee to \$60 and joint memberships to \$75. This was done after much thought and discussion. We felt that delivering a quality product and meaningful website were critical and deserved the commitment of our financial resources to accomplish that end. All other membership categories will remain unchanged at this time. The change in membership fees is effective February 4, 2013. PayPal payments were adjusted for implementation on February 3. We believe this is a necessary step and hope that you will recognize that the value of your membership exceeds the price you pay.

### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

It is important to occasionally remember all the benefits your membership entitles you to. There is a tremendous value in having a network of people who share the same interest and are willing to share their experience and knowledge. While our Mid-Year Conference provides some special opportunities, attendance is limited. Using that as a model, many local chapters have been created which provide regional programs that have many of the same talented presenters and tour opportunities.

#### To list a few of the more notable benefits:

- We have an annual Journal that stands with the best of publications in the period furniture area;
- An online forum that provides an effective way to network, ask questions and get advice;
- Increased access to museums such as Detroit Institute of Art, where SAPFM members will soon be leading tours as part of a new exhibit; Winterthur, where we have a special welcome on our visits; Philadelphia Museum of Art, where we have toured the restoration area; Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, various local museums and houses in Newport, RI, Connecticut Historical Society, and of course MESDA, where we literally "pull out the drawers;"
- Retailer discounts at Woodworking in the Shenandoah Valley (Jeff Headley), Connecticut Woodworking School (Bob Van Dyke), Shellac Finishes, and Rockler to name a few;
- Furniture plans in the member-only section that were created by fellow members and are available for free or very reasonable charges.
- Access to the Prices4Antiques Reference Database through the Member Area. The P4A Antiques Reference Database is a searchable database of past auction prices for antiques, collectibles, and fine art and includes full-color images and entries for thousands of pieces of furniture.

These are some of the additional values your membership makes possible and that you have the opportunity to enjoy.



The Cartouche Award winners at the Williamsburg Annual Conference in January (from left): Mack Headley (2004), Will Neptune (2013), Ben Hobbs (2011), Steve Lash (2010).



The Cabinetmaker's Shop at Colonial Williamsburg, January 2013.



Interior of the Colonial Williamsburg Cabinetmaker's Shop showing a harpsichord under construction. All photos this page courtesy of Freddy Roman.

## Regional Chapter News



Members of the **Chesapeake Chapter** have elected new officers for 2013. Contact details are:

-**President:** Andrew Spicer, [aspicer@razegroup.com](mailto:aspicer@razegroup.com), (410) 404-7447

-**Secretary/Treasurer:** Jonathan Szczepanski, [jonathan\\_szczepanski@hotmail.com](mailto:jonathan_szczepanski@hotmail.com), (301) 332-8224

The **Great Lakes Chapter** is having a two-day workshop (DIA's Artist Demonstration Program) at the Detroit Institute of Arts on different aspects of period furniture construction and related historical perspectives. It will be held Saturday, March 16, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., and Sunday, March 17, noon–4 p.m. In conjunction with the workshop, visitors will be conducted on a tour of the American Wing furniture collection. SAPFM members will be giving presentations and demonstrations, leading tours of the 18th-century American furniture as well as displaying furniture built by our members. This is an effort to educate the public in different facets of period furniture construction so as to further their appreciation of the DIA's collection and period furniture in general. We have about fifteen members from Ohio, Indiana and Michigan participating. It will be a fun weekend.

-Ed Stuckey



**Phil Lowe** demonstrating at the Iroquois Chapter, January 2013

Fourteen members of the **Iroquois Chapter** met with Phil Lowe at Jim Altemus' shop on Sunday, January

20. Phil demonstrated the laying out and cutting parts of a Federal-style shield back chair. Using a sliding dovetail and figuring out the mortise and tenon angles for joining

See the *SAPFM Forum* at [www.sapfm.org](http://www.sapfm.org) for the most current news on Chapter activities. Current members are welcome at any chapter meeting, so plan a weekend getaway!



The Iroquois Chapter, January 2013

the shield back to the upper legs, he showed the best way to maintain strength in the joints. These chairs are inherently weak and prone to breaking, and his method seemed to be the best way to minimize potential damage over the life of the chair. Phil used a combination of hand planes, table saw, router table, and mortise machine to cut and fit the joints – there seems to be no tool he cannot show how to use efficiently. Phil had also visited and done a workshop for the Rochester Woodworkers Society the same weekend. So, now to the furniture books to select the chair to get started on!

The next Iroquois Chapter meeting will be April 21, at Vince Chicone's shop in Montour Falls, NY.

-Jim Altemus

The **New England Chapter** is pleased to announce that the winter meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 2, from 10 a.m.–5 p.m. and will be hosted by the Connecticut Valley School of Woodworking in Manchester, CT. The speakers this year will be Brock Jobe, Don Williams, and Mary May.

The day after the meeting, the Connecticut Valley School of Woodworking will host classes with Mary May and with Don Williams. Mary's hands-on carving class, *Solve Your Carving Problems and Projects with Mary May* meets March 3 and 4, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. *Introduction to the Practice of Furniture Conservation with Smithsonian Institution Conservator Don Williams* meets Sunday, March 3. More information can be found at [www.sapfm.org](http://www.sapfm.org), through the school's director, Bob Van Dyke, or the school's website: [www.schoolofwoodworking.com](http://www.schoolofwoodworking.com).

The **Rock River Valley Chapter** had the SAPFM display booth set up at the Hardwood Connection, Sycamore,

Chapter News, from p. 6



John Gush talking to two woodworkers interested in his chair at the Hardwood Connection Open House, November, 2012

Illinois, Open House in November. Members Jim Vojeck, John Gush, and David Gooding answered questions and handed out the SAPFM brochure to prospective members.

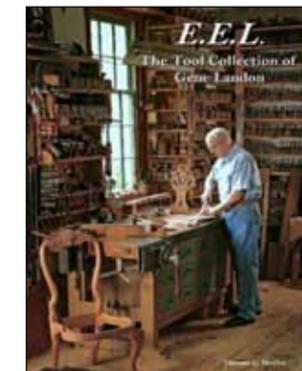
Our next meeting will be held in Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin, on April 20, at David Atwell's shop. The guest speaker will be Gene Wengert from the University of Wisconsin and Forest Products Lab. His presentation will be on drying lumber for the shop. Members have also volunteered to give presentations on various subjects that will be posted on the SAPFM forum page in March.

Our fall meeting is scheduled for September 2013 at the Art Institute of Chicago. The Assistant Curator for American Decorative Arts, Ms. Monica Obniski, will be giving a tour of the Institute's collection of period furniture. -David Gooding

On November 10, 2012, the **SF Bay Area Chapter** held its regular meeting with guest speaker Harold Patterson who is known locally for his ability to restore metal hand planes. Harold demonstrated a novel electrolysis technique to clean a heavily rusted plane. He also explained the earmarks for recognizing a coveted Stanley "Type 11" plane. Harold completed the talk by demonstrating how his restored flea market finds were capable of removing tissue thin shavings, rivaling the performance of modern premium planes.

The next meeting is planned for February 16, 2013 with bookbinding historian Tom Conroy. The presentation will be on traditional techniques for working leather with a focus on making and installing desk inserts.

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MAKE SURE WE HAVE YOUR  
**CURRENT AND CORRECT**  
**EMAIL ADDRESS**  
AT [WWW.SAPFM.ORG](http://WWW.SAPFM.ORG)  
IN THE MEMBER AREA



## E.E.L.: The Tool Collection of Gene Landon

by Thomas Meiller

Thomas Meiller has compiled a book which shows and details Gene Landon's extensive tool collection, which was sold at several auctions in 2011 & 2012. Martin

J. Donnelly supplied all of the tool pictures and write-ups.

Gene Landon was a well known and respected woodworker who used antique hand tools to create amazing reproductions of 18th century American furniture. This is a companion book to "Inspiration: Gene Landon and Seven Hearths," which has been called a "furniture biography" of Gene.

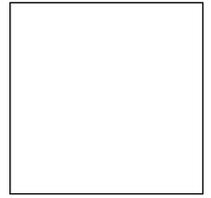
The book is available as a free .pdf download at [Lulu.com](http://Lulu.com).



**Mack Headley** (above) and **Roy Underhill** (right), two of the presenters at the Working Wood in the 18th Century SAPFM conference in Colonial Williamsburg, January 2013. Photos courtesy of Freddy Roman.



Do you have questions or comments about this newsletter? Email them to Melissa Talma at [mbtalma@yahoo.com](mailto:mbtalma@yahoo.com). Please submit news items about SAPFM members, chapter events, or opportunities of interest to our readers. Reviews of recent books, articles, or DVDs are also requested.



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## FROM THE SAPFM MEMBER GALLERY



### Philadelphia Chippendale Sofa

by Bruce Leonard, Alexandria, VA

Upholsterer: Michael Mascelli

*Dimensions: 36" H x 84" W x 34" D*

Primary: mahogany; Secondary: poplar

Finish: aniline dye, amber shellac

**Description:** This sofa, with its serpentine front seat rail, Philadelphia-style seat back, cabriole legs and ball-and-claw feet, is of my own design; a composite of many actual examples. However, skills obtained from 2011 Cartouche Award-winner Ben Hobbs' chair classes, Tony Kubalak's book *Carving 18th Century American Furniture Elements*, Norman Vandal's article, "Chippendale Sofa," in the Nov./Dec. issue of *Fine Woodworking Magazine* and Carlyle Lynch's measured drawing "Chippendale Camelback Sofa," were invaluable sources of information concerning construction techniques and joinery, and carving the ball-and-claw foot. The sofa was upholstered by fellow SAPFM member, Mike Mascelli. See Mike's article, "Affordable Upholstery for a Period Reproduction Chair," in the 2009 edition of SAPFM's *American Period Furniture*. Fabric coordinated by A. HICKMAN Design of Fredericksburg, VA.

To submit your work to the SAPFM Member Gallery, email your images to [marnold\[at\]sapfm.org](mailto:marnold[at]sapfm.org). Include the dimensions, the primary and secondary woods used, and a brief description of the piece. If the piece is reproduced from a book or magazine, include the title of the book, author, and relevant page numbers.