

Jeffrey Cooper

Art furnishings for artful living

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Art Furnishings for Artful Living Newsletter

Finishing the table and starting the benches September, 2014

Dear Friend,

My gosh, it's been six weeks since my last newsletter. Fun in the summertime, I guess. I've been to Katahdin and Mount Washington on hiking trips, so I guess it's OK. That's my excuse.

Please keep in mind **October 12, the [Furniture Masters Gala](#) at the Portsmouth Sheraton Harborside**. Sixteen Masters are exhibiting, including myself. The usual reception with the silent auction is from 4 to 7 PM. That's a fundraiser and a ticketed event. New this year, though, is open to the public from noon to 3:30 PM, and after the reception will be "Dinner with the Masters", a buffet for more relaxed social time.

More information or to purchase your tickets [click here](#) I do hope many of you will come. I'll be bringing my Ants Totem, and Fragrant Flow Bench, plus some smaller items.

Now turning to recent work

I'm almost ready to deliver Tony and Judy's table. Next newsletter I'll have photos of it set up on site. Here's one in the shop with the finish on the base. Quite a leap from the cardboard mock up a few newsletters ago.



Starting work on the benches for Nancy and Kauno

A fellow member of the Furniture Masters suggested black locust as a locally harvested wood that is extremely resistant to the deleterious effects of weather, thus a good choice for my outdoor furniture. So I found a source

in western Mass and took a trip to the lumber yard there, where they mill, air dry and sell on site. Here are some photos from [A Black Locust Connection](#), in Colrain, Mass.



Here I have cut out the parts for the seat benches.

The left photo shows the parts cut out for one of the two bench seats forming a frame into which the stone will set. The right photo shows the corresponding section of the model.



Seat joinery

To join the sections of the bench seats I will use joinery called "loose tenon." I use my router to make matching slots in the end grain of each section, then I will make a spline bridge these two slots when assembled.

This photo shows the jig



I use to guide my router. It is adjustable to set the thickness of the shoulder.

"Oh the cleverness of me!"

I'm quoting from Peter Pan, because here I've invented a new technique. In the past I have custom fit the wood to the underside of the stone. This time I have used my bench grinder with a stone



cutting disc to create a narrow, flat area around the edge of the underside of the stone. To do that I have built a rolling cart for the bench grinder that holds the cutter parallel to the table. Now the flat surface I have made will fit a flat surface on the wood for a nice clean fit that won't be seen so easily because it will be horizontal.

That's it for now.

And I can't emphasize enough - I'd love to see you October 12.

Best

Jeffrey

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