

Introducing Master Horner Tim Sanner

Have you ever read a ‘*how-to-make-a-horn-accouterment*’ article and thought to yourself, if this guy can do horn work half as good as he describes in this article, he must be able to produce some *quality work!*



This was the impression I got when I read Tim’s article *A Tale of Two Combs* (*The Horn Book*, Winter 2011, pg 6), as I was not familiar with his work. It began with:

“In the beginning, there was a Cow, whose horns were begging to be used, and man saw these horns and it was good.”

The article was extremely well written, gave a brief history of combs and explained the specifics on how to make two different horn combs. If you haven’t read the article, put this one on your list, you won’t be disappointed.

Thus it came as no surprise when I learned Saturday afternoon at the 2018 Horn Fair that Journeyman Tim Sanner, was now Master Tim Sanner. A well-earned, well-deserved achievement.

Tim was born in Somerset County, Pennsylvania and currently lives in the hills just outside of Rockwood in the same county. His career began as a truck driver, transitioned to construction, logging and sawmill work during which time he began designing and building custom cabinetry in his own shop. For the past 17 years he has been employed as a maintenance supervisor for Allegany College of Maryland and has recently transferred to the main campus in Cumberland, Maryland.

It is always interesting to learn how and when an individual’s interests turned to muzzleloading. For Tim it wasn’t until 1994 when his wife Diana bought him a Thompson Center Pennsylvania Hunter for a Christmas present. Then a co-worker gave him a small horn and told him that now he needed to make himself a powder horn.

These two events caused Tim to drift away from wood working, to the point of converting his wood working shop into a horn shop. Tim said, “That’s how all this horn stuff began. I really got interested in horn work and it just snowballed from there.”

This is where the magic happens, in his ‘transformed cabinet shop’ which he describes as “one hell of a mess!” Personally, I think it’s a thing of beauty.

One learns quickly that Tim really doesn’t have any one particular style of powder horn as a favorite. He pretty much likes any kind of horn style and enjoys making them all “at one time or another.” His interests in the different styles vary and when he sees something that appeals to him, that’s what “tells me to work on next.”

When it comes to horn work, his primary interest is in making screw tip horns, especially in the turning and making of horn bands and of course, the engraving that follows. His talents however, extend to all kinds of horn work and seeing what can be done next.

Perhaps the horn collection that he has visited and found most interesting happened while doing a show at the Fort Pitt Museum. He received a personalized tour of the powder horn collection prior to opening and stated it was “an amazing collection of horns which I wished there had been more time to study.”

Tim’s interest in horn work eventually led him to the Honourable Company of Horners in the late 1990’s, and then in 2003 rejoined the Guild and has been a member ever since. Three years later in 2006 he passed all requirements for advancement to Journeyman and continued to hone his skills.

His work has been in several magazines over the years to include *Muzzleloader*

on his work will be featured in an article in an upcoming issue of *Muzzleloader Magazine*. For the past ten years he has been one of the artists selected to have his work featured in the annual *History Meets the Arts* show and sale sponsored by Lord Nelson’s Art Gallery in Gettysburg Pennsylvania.

In addition to being an HCH member, Tim is also a member of the Contemporary Longrifle Association (CLA) and the sole host of “The Laurel Highlands Mountain Men.” The club meets once a month for a primitive woods-walk shoot. He built and maintains three



woods-walk ranges with 12 novelty target stations each on his property where they meet, shoot, throw hawk/knives and do a timed fire making with flint and steel.

When asked about other

humble work. It’s nice when folks come to a show to tell me that they bought a horn from me a couple years ago and they still love the horn and they wanted me to know how happy they are with it. That’s more of an accomplishment to me, to know that someone is that happy with what you have

done. Knowing that some folks look at my items with such pride to display them in their home and even more to take them out and really use them is a super good feeling. Like I tell everyone: I’m just a dumb ol’ hillbilly scratching on cow horns.”

As always, congratulations to Tim Sanner for achieving the well earned title of Master!

To see more of Tim’s work, go to his website at: timsannerpowderhorns.com or contact him by phone (814) 926-2678 or email him at: griz5045@verizon.net. - wec



Magazine, Pennsylvania Magazine, Lord Nelson’s newsletters and *The Horn Book*. Expect to hear even more about Tim as he was recently selected to be in the directory of *Early American Life Magazine*’s “Best of the Best” list of historical artists. In addition, an article

information he would like included in the article, he said: “This horn experience has been made easier for me to do what I do with the support of my wife Diana. I just really like making horn items and the joy I get when a customer likes and purchases some of my