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TRADING POST DEPOT

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*Specializing in
live edge slabs
and custom live
edge pieces*



**Ed Dilello &
Johanna Gilmore**

There's something very appealing about the natural look and feel of authentic wood. Likewise, there's something very inviting, cozy, warm and attractive — about an office environment — or coffee house — or brew pub — adorned with custom-made natural wood or live edge desks, tables, counters or bar tops.

And for realtors, interior decorators, and commercial or residential builders, there's nothing like adding a few unique magical antique or rustic pieces to the décor to assure success in staging open houses and attracting prospective tenants.



Trading Post Depot, located at 16 East Bridge Street, Spring City, is open seven days-a-week: Monday - Wednesday, 12pm - 6pm; Thursday - Friday, 10am - 6pm; and Saturday - Sunday, 10am - 5pm.





PHOTO BY STYLISH IMAGES PHOTOGRAPHY

For all of these environments and professions, as well as for homeowners interested in acquiring unique farmhouse tables, custom furniture, and a vast array of antique items — either to purchase or simply to rent for special occasions — The Trading Post Depot at 16 East Bridge Street, Spring City, just across the river from Royersford in Montgomery County, magically marries old and new to make your environment uniquely amazing, combining charming rural aesthetic and classic elegance in one of a

kind furniture creations at home in the most refined spaces.

The Trading Post Depot is a veritable antique wonderland and treasure trove not to be missed, where you can browse through a fabulous selection of custom creations and eclectic home decor including architectural salvage, antiques, event rentals, live edge slabs, barn wood and magical found objects each with their own story.

Trading Post Depot's master craftsman, founder and owner Ed Dilello's

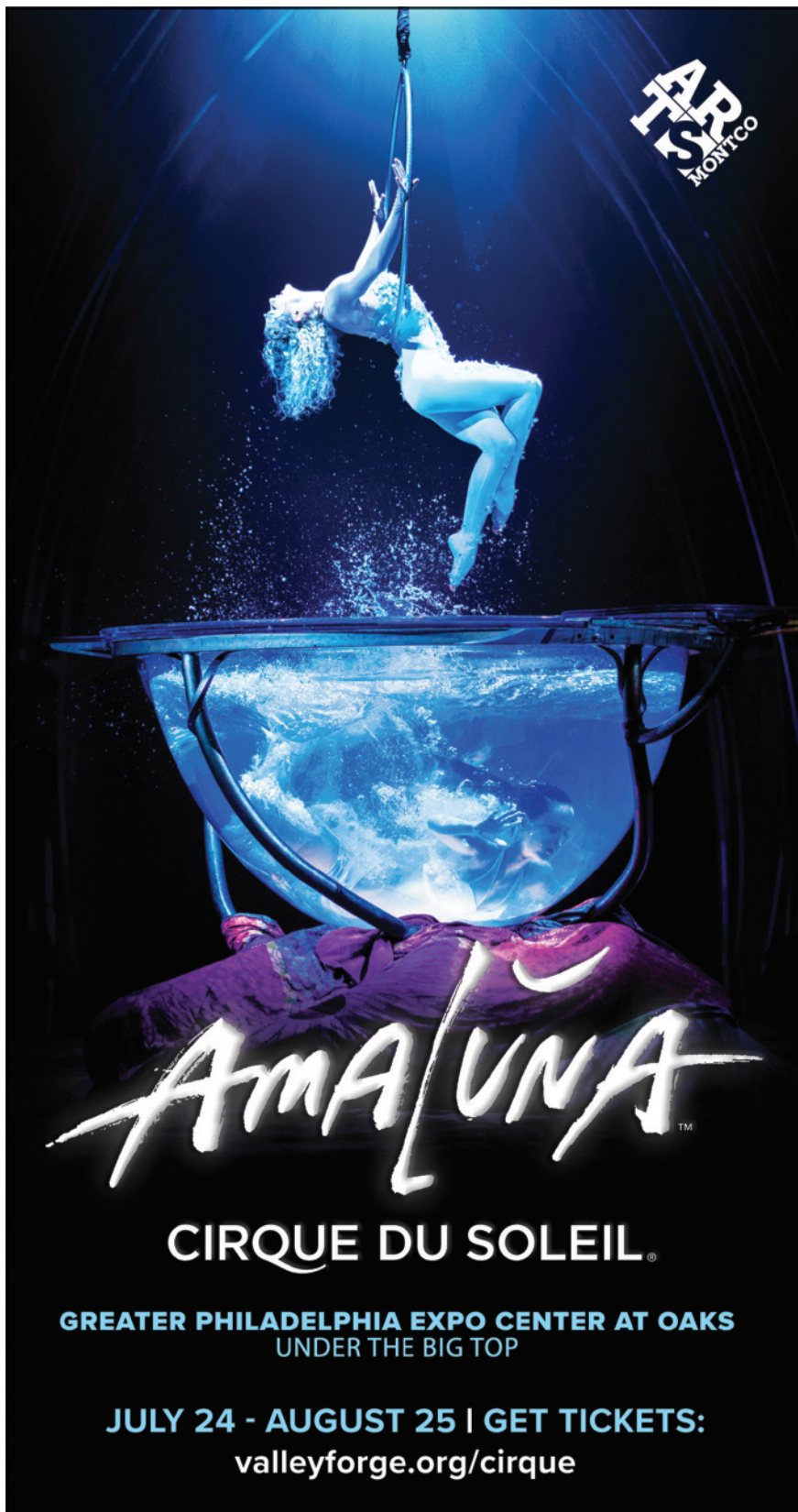
entrepreneurial success story is almost as unique as the antiques and wood craft creations he offers. Dilello took up the weekend hobby of buying and selling antiques in May 2004, and within a few months he was hooked, opening his own antiques shop in a 1,500 SF building at the former Moyer Lumber Yard in Schwenksville. "I decided to open up a shop and make a business out of it," Dilello said. "It was the right idea."

The combination of Dilello's natural skill at acquiring select antique items,

along with his outgoing friendly personality, led to rapid growth as his business expanded to eventually take over the entire 50,000 SF lumber yard building. Outgrowing that space, Dilello moved his business to its current Spring City location in 2015. "It was a good situation because at the time the building was for sale and the owners were very nice people and accommodated me with a buy/lease deal," Dilello explains.

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COVER STORY

(Continued from page 7)

"It's been very good." The business has continued to thrive and prosper at the Spring City location, and early this year, Johanna Gilmore was hired as an on-site manager to assist with providing excellent service to the increasingly steady flow of customers, as well as to handle administrative and digital marketing duties.

The antiques market has gone through a dramatic transformation since Dilello started his business in 2004. The advent of eBay and Internet sales, a spate of antiquing-related television shows, and the popularity of reproduction pieces all combined to make the industry much more competitive. "The antique market is not what it was 10-15 years ago," Dilello confirms, "but there's still a demand for the right piece for the right customer."

Dilello's keen eye for finding attractive and special pieces, his large on-site inventory, and his reputation have kept him ahead of his competition. Not one to rest on his laurels however, Dilello added woodworking to his skill set in recent years, becoming a master craftsman of unique wooden farmhouse tables, cus-

tom furniture, and live edge creations in the process!

"We started out with antiques, and along the way diversified more into woodworking," Dilello explains. "The request for farm tables and the live edge business started to increase and become more in demand, and now we are putting 80 percent of our efforts into tables and woodwork and live edge pieces, and 20 percent into antiques. But we still carry an extensive line of selective pieces of antique furniture and collectibles," he said.

Dilello's warm, friendly personality, along with the exceptional quality of his craftsmanship, has earned him a loyal following over the years, and many of his long-term customers from the Schwenksville location still stop in to browse or just visit, and send referrals, and as his reputation throughout the region continues to grow, so does his list of newer customers, many of whom have also become friends with Dilello.

"That's what makes this business we have here today unique and interesting," Dilello explains. "You develop friendships with customers and we still stay in touch. That's been important to me to do that. We're not just about the sale. We're



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about the friendship and following up with people. Customers come in as strangers and they leave as friends with smiles on their faces," he said. "That's the thing that has been so fantastic for the last 17 years — And it happens every day. I still remember people who came in to the Schwenksville shop, with babies, and now those babies have grown up and I am building tables for their weddings!"

"It's a very warm feeling when you walk in here," adds manager Johanna Gilmore. "It's a very old school feeling," she said, "and building relationships with people is very important to us. When people come in, even if they are looking for something we don't have, we'll try to direct them somewhere else where they might find it. It's nice to still see and experience that level of customer service."

LIVE EDGE CREATIONS

Dilello has developed and refined his craftsmanship over the years, and he continues to expand his capabilities. "If you can dream it, I can build it," he says. Thanks to Dilello's superb skills, the Trading Post Depot has become famous for one-of-a-kind, "live-edge" slab

creations including bars, islands, mantels, shelves and their very popular funky-farmhouse-style tables, with legs either reclaimed, repurposed or custom fabricated from wood or metal. Farmhouse tables come to life blending beautiful history with authentic functionality.

"Every piece is different from every other," Dilello explains. "It might be the table shape or legs or the set-up, or whatever the live edge might be, combining to make something different and unique every time."

To build his one-of-a-kind tables, Dilello selects from perfectly milled tops represented by a variety of beautiful species including mahogany, magnolia, maple and more, to fulfill custom orders and an inventory within the store. All wood is locally sourced from Southeastern Pennsylvania counties and acquired through a special relationship with a saw mill in Elverson, PA. The Trading Post Depot also inventories a large selection of live edge slabs for your own project. "I have a huge inventory of slab or live edge pieces," Dilello said. "All my wood is dried and cured and ready to go. It's a long process of three or four years before each piece can be available to use."

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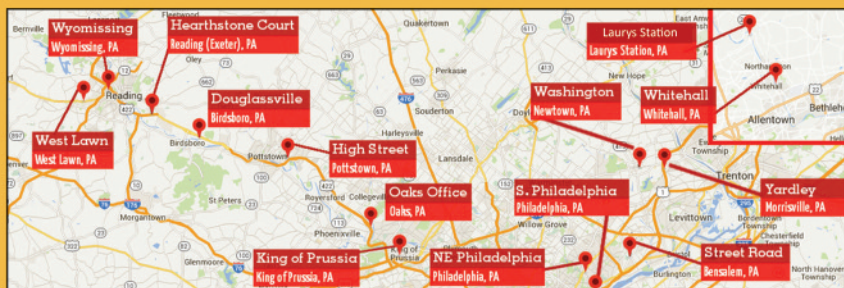
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COVER STORY

(Continued from page 9)

Dilello has built hundreds of custom furniture items combining found objects and new materials to create amazing, one-of-a-kind pieces you'll treasure. He begins each piece by getting to know the client, the client's style, and his or her objective to deliver an original creation that will become their environment's showpiece. "We go to the extreme to accommodate and to help their dream come true," he said. "We start from a raw piece of wood and we make something out of it. The creation is to convert it into the customer's idea of what they want. That's the challenge. At the end when you hear, 'This is beyond my expectations' that makes it well worth it to put the time and effort to create something," he said, adding, "That's happened many, many times."

Dilello's live edge creations are as much works of art as they are fine furniture pieces for your home, office, or place of business. Trading Post Depot is the region's premier crafter of original custom farmhouse tables, bars, mantelpieces, and more. Whether you're searching for the perfect historical-looking farmhouse table, or a conversation-starting live-edge creation, the Trading Post Depot is the last place you'll ever need to look.

HOME DECOR

The custom home features impossible to find treasures that instantly impart its unique personality while reflecting the lives of those who live there. The Trading Post Depot features the most unusual and unique finds to make your home truly special. The inventory of home decor objects at the Trading Post Depot changes frequently and they invite you to visit, to browse through their showrooms and to be inspired. They have hundreds of home decor items in stock and, if you're searching for something specific, it's likely they can help you find it!



RENTALS

Absolutely everything in the Trading Post Depot's inventory is available to rent and they have furnished objects of character and function for impressive weddings, grand openings, receptions, business meetings . . . virtually any function that requires a touch of character can be made more compelling with a visit to the Trading Post Depot.

"We rent any piece available in the shop for any event for all purposes," Dilello said, "for a weekend or a day. We've done many weddings, anniversaries, family gatherings, Mother's Day. The tables are great for Thanksgiving or Christmas dinners. They are available here for rent."

From wooden whiskey barrels, full bars to table and chairs for large groups, the options afforded by partnering with the Trading Post on your next event are almost limitless. The best way to proceed is to stop in and tell them about your event!

The Trading Post Depot, located at 16 East Bridge Street, Spring City, is open seven days-a-week: Monday - Wednesday, 12pm - 6pm; Thursday - Friday, 10am - 6pm; and Saturday - Sunday, 10am - 5pm. For additional information, please call 484.702.2460; email: tables@pennsylvania-tradingpost.com; and visit: www.PennsylvaniaTradingPost.com.

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