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Functional Works of Art from



By Kathy Hunt

Tired of characterless conference rooms and their cookie-cutter tables? Wish that your restaurant, bar, or coffeeshop had a more unique feel? Hiding your old dining or kitchen table under cloths, runners, and place mats? If you long to add something both practical and beautiful to your work or living space, Spring City's Trading Post Depot has a vast assortment of locally produced, live-edge wood furnishings and slabs waiting for you. Whether you're interested in pre-made furniture, or you have your own design ideas, Trading Post Depot owner Ed Delillo and team member Jon Stamato will work to ensure that your live-edge purchase is an absolute delight.

"These tables really become conversation pieces as well... They're both works of art and truly functional furniture."

Check out the Showroom and Scrapbook sections at tradingpostdepot.com or our Facebook page ([tradingpostdepot/](https://www.facebook.com/tradingpostdepot/)) to view more creations and find inspiration to customize your own.



PHOTOS BY STEVE LADNER PHOTOGRAPHY

Live-edge refers to the unfinished edge on a piece of woodwork. In use since Colonial times, the style was popularized in the 20th century by world-renowned, Bucks County-based woodworker, architect, and designer George Nakashima. Displaying the shape, grain, and often the bark of the tree, it showcases the wood's natural character and elegance. Many have likened live-edge furniture to a functional work of art — it looks stunning and serves a real purpose. It also provides an attractive alternative to the unremarkable furnishings that we so frequently see.

Along with beauty, every live-edge product has its own distinct appearance. With this design type, no two customers ever end up with the exact same piece.

"Live-edge is so customizable," Jon Stamato said. "At Trading Post Depot, we've done everything from a 55-foot bar top for the new Sedona restaurant in Newtown Square to little tables at King of Prussia's Cork and Candles and everything in between. The sky's the limit in terms of size and creativity."

Ed Delillo founded the Trading Post Depot in 2004. Eight years ago, he began the transition to focusing exclusively on creating and selling live-edge wood products. "There's cool wood everywhere and being able to create beautiful things from wood is a passion of ours," Stamato said.



Jon Stamato and Ed Delillo working on custom live-edge bar top.

Crafting unique furniture from locally sourced products

Understanding that customer interests and needs can vary widely, the Trading Post Depot specializes in a range of products and sizes, including dining, coffee, community, conference, and end tables. It also makes desktops, bars and countertops, floating shelves and shelving units, mantles, and benches. Located off the Royersford exit of

Route 422 at 16 East Bridge Street in Spring City, the Trading Post Depot has a massive inventory of live-edge tables and handcrafted seating on-site. Curious and prospective customers are encouraged to stop by and explore its offerings.

The business also possesses an expansive collection of customizable, live-edge slabs. Whether you are looking for a

handcrafted, 14-inch end table or a 16-foot conference table, the Trading Post Depot delivers, both figuratively and literally; its customers can opt to pick up or have their purchases delivered to them. Depending on the size and specifications for the furniture, it can take anywhere from a few weeks to a few months to complete a custom-made product.

"No project is too large or small," Stamato said. "We can accommodate anything and get creative with it. That's part of the fun of it."

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Come explore the expansive collection of customizable, live-edge slabs at Trading Post Depot located off the Royersford exit of Route 422 at 16 East Bridge Street in Spring City.



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One of the first steps in creating a table or other item is to select the wood. Although English walnut, cherry, and poplar rank as its most popular wood choices, the Trading Post Depot also carries slabs of hickory, oak, and maple. Whatever isn't on display can be acquired from its Lancaster-area mill. All wood is sourced in Pennsylvania and milled in Lancaster County. Stamato added that the business will work with contractors, offering them the chance to select the ideal slabs for their projects. Those interested should contact Stamato or Delillo for details.

Before being milled, the wood is kiln-dried. "This completely removes all the moisture and kills any insects that may be in the wood," Stamato said. "Kiln-drying prevents any type of warping or cracking from happening in the future. If you just milled a tree from your back yard, it could split, crack, warp, or twist."

Because Stamato and Delillo work with natural wood, knots, small fissures, and other blemishes are bound to exist. These are filled in with epoxy, which stabilizes the imperfections while allowing the unusual and breathtaking characteristics to shine through. The wood is then coated with a layer of epoxy, which supplies protection as well as a luxurious matte or glossy finish.

Stamato stressed that all Trading Post Depot products can receive a matte or satin finish.

As Stamato indicated earlier, wood slabs can be tailored to meet each customer's wishes. So, too, can the



bases for the furniture. In addition to the more conventional wood or metal supports, customers can request to have bases, pedestals, or legs constructed from enormous tree stumps, industrial cast iron cranks, and other industrial salvage or materials. Stamato said that this diversity sets the Trading Post Depot apart from the competition. Customers get to choose which high-quality materials are used.

"People really like to blend live-edge with an industrial metal leg or base, tying in both a rustic and modern feel," Stamato said. "It's a cool look."



Choosing the right piece for the office, restaurant, or home



Trading Post Depot is open from Monday through Friday from 12 to 5 PM and on Saturday and Sunday from 10 AM to 5 PM. Customers who are unable to visit during opening hours can request an appointment to tour the Spring City showroom privately.

"Part of the experience is to come in and pick out your own piece at the store," Stamato said. "It is a unique space and has more of an old-school woodshop vibe. It feels like your

grandfather's woodshop and not an assembly or production line."

Customers will attest that there is nothing quite like getting to touch, smell, and see natural wood. Experiencing the live-edge slabs and pre-made pieces in person sparks the imagination, inspiring design ideas for the home, office, and more. However, when customers lack the time to visit the Trading Post Depot, they can still view an array of items online. Go to <https://www.tradingpostdepot.com/> and click on "Live Edge Scrapbook" or "Products We Offer." There, they can get an idea of what is in stock, what has been created in the past, and what can be made for them in the future.

Customers can also call or text the store at 484.702.2460 or email through the Trading Post Depot website's "Contact Us" form and discuss pre-made or custom products. Stamato and Delillo will email images with the dimensions and design elements of wood slabs that may meet the customer's requirements.

For additional information, check out <https://www.tradingpostdepot.com/> or visit the showroom at 16 East Bridge Street in Spring City.

