

ART, FAMILY AND PUNCHING TREES

Story by Gary Reddin | Photos courtesy of Anthony Foreman



Art is all about family for Anthony Foreman.

Foreman's paternal great-grandfather was a carpenter, his paternal grandmother was a painter.

His uncle works with glass. His father studied stagecraft at the University of Oklahoma and his mother is a talented crafter.

Foreman, a Cameron University alumnus, runs Punchin' Trees Woodshop alongside his wife, Bonnie. The name comes from the video game "Minecraft," according to Foreman, where one of the first things a player does is "punch" a tree to collect wood for crafting.

"I think I've been interested in woodworking since I was very young, it just wasn't something I could do on my own until I was much older," Foreman said. "I dabbled with the artform much of my adolescence doing all kinds of projects. My dad and I did a lot of projects together, from skateboard ramps to Halloween decorations to props and sets for Duncan Little Theatre and the Trail Dance Film Festival.

In his woodshop, Foreman creates intricately crafted artworks through Computer Numerical Controlled (CNC) woodworking. With CNC, he can carve very precise designs into wood, acrylic and other mediums. It's a technology that has allowed him to create some elaborate designs. Foreman owned a successful graphic design company in Duncan, Oklahoma until 2010, when he transitioned into a career in information technology. That passion for software and design, mixed with his interest in woodworking and familial artistic talents, led him to CNC.

"I enjoy making something tangible," he said. "A lot of times, the art I create stays within the computer screen so being able to hold something and

see it from every angle is very exciting.

"Woodwork is often a solo activity, so it gives me an outlet to unwind and relieve stress. I love the challenge of making things and solving the problems along the way. Woodworking has all kinds of benefits for entertainment as well as being practical. It is exciting, dangerous, challenging and ultimately rewarding."

Before he founded Punchin' Trees, Foreman already was combining his love of woodworking and graphic design.

"I built a jukebox for the Stephens County Historical Museum," he said. "It was a very large project for me that included woodworking, graphics, lights and interactive elements. It's still one of my favorites to this day."

In October 2020, Foreman and his wife began selling their work at the Edmond Farmers Market. Bonnie, herself an artist, creates and sells wreaths, door hangers and bows. It's just another way that Foreman combines art with family.

"Woodworking and wreath making were our hobbies during the pandemic and initial lockdowns," he said. "Bonnie was also looking for a way to supplement our income after moving. Bonnie's first deco-mesh wreath was a Christmas wreath that she sold to a customer in New York. I am extremely proud of what we have accomplished in a short period of time and look forward to seeing what's to come."

Foreman also had some inspirational words for anyone thinking about trying their own hand at woodworking.

"I urge anyone that is interested in woodwork to try it," he said. "It's truly amazing what you can accomplish with not many tools and a little creativity."

Anyone interested in checking out more of Foreman's work can visit Punchin' Trees on Facebook. ♦