

Brian Rennekamp

Class of 1994



Owner, The Village Workshop

Education after BHS:

Associate's Degree in CAD technology, (doubled up classes and completed 2-year degree in 1 year!)



Career:

After I completed the Associate's program, I began my career and first professional job in 1995 as I had just turned 18. The position was an entry level draftsman for a manufacturing company in Indianapolis. My assignment for the first six months or so was converting old paper and pencil drawings to CAD files. From there I grew into an apprenticeship, working under lead engineers for large machinery production designs. This company was being sold and moved, which led to me seeking out a similar but smaller company in Greenwood, IN. I was hired into a design leadership role, where I was responsible for design and production management of one-off machines to perform specific operations within in existing manufacturing companies. In 1998, I was able to finally make my career move back to Batesville, leading into a production and design role with Heartwood Mfg. This

opportunity is where my love of woodworking and design really came to life. Great opportunities here led to building a small workshop at my home, which was intended to support my personal passion as a woodworking hobbyist. As stories like this go, the hobby turned into a small part-time business; I soon after built a larger workshop and things quickly evolved into a full-time job on top of a full-time job. Although I loved my daily work, I felt the tug to give The Village Workshop a go, and off we went and never looked back!

Family:

- My wife's name is Lori. Together we own and she operates Bird In a Tree Boutique in Batesville. Our girls are Isabel (16), Greta (12) and Tess (8). And our dog is named Desi.



Activities while at Batesville High School:

Most of my activities centered around my willingness to work hard. As a senior, I averaged about 40 hours per week at my ‘part time’ job. My passion for art, design, drafting and opportunities to do anything creative were really what led my interests.

Best education-related memory from BHS:

Art and drafting classes will always stand out as my favorite time at BHS. These teachers were always open to give some creative freedom to kids who were willing to take it. These opportunities were given to me, and I think of these experiences often in my day to day work, now 25 years later.

A quote about the importance of education:

As a student, I was fortunate to be rewarded with opportunities to explore my creative passion. I hope that all students can use my story as inspiration to dream big, and never be afraid of what is calling them. Although education is often defined by the parameters of school, a great student never stops learning. Find your passion, explore it, then go out and be it.