Spring 2011 Newsletter

# Center *for* Furniture Craftsmanship

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

In early April, ground fog rose from patchy snow on the croquet pitch, where foraging robins promised warmer weather to come. In the school office, a swelling tide of workshop registrations heralded the same welcome news. In this, our nineteenth year, the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship navigates the seasons to its own rhythms and signs.

With the passage of time, the school has become much like a family with generations. Once-neophyte students, unpredictable as green wood, have matured into seasoned instructors. Others are making their way in the world as professional woodworkers or turning out consummate work as amateurs. At the recent Architectural Digest Home Design Show, in New York, I was proud to visit two alumni whose handsome booths more than held their own. Thumbing through Lark Books' *500 Tables* (2010) I find exceptional work by a dozen of our graduates, as well as a score of instructors.

Many students come to the Center in search of a spiritually rewarding vocation that will deeply engage their creativity. We work hard to hold up our end of the bargain, so it is gratifying to see graduates build successfully upon the foundation of skills they established here. Yet it is no secret that, for those who choose craftsmanship as a profession, the road can be difficult. This is borne out by the survey responses discussed in the adjacent article. While most of these alumni are woodworking professionally, their personal goalposts of self-employment, accomplishment, or acclaim may still be distant. Nonetheless, their letters reveal that many have found something priceless: a creative passion that shines like a pole star as they navigate their own life seasons.

## EVALUATING THE INTENSIVE

Back in January of 1994, the school's second year of operation, we offered the first-ever Twelve-week Intensive. At the time, there was no equivalent curriculum anywhere in the country. One could find two-week summer workshops or one-year certificate programs, but nothing in-between.

Peter Korn, the fledgling school's director, was asked by his father, "Who in their right mind would come to Maine for three months during the winter to study woodworking?" "Dad," Peter replied, "there are 260 million people in this country and we only need eight of them."

In the event, five people signed up that first year for an Intensive taught by John McAlevey and Peter Korn. The next year eight people signed up, and by 2001 the school was running two Intensives between November and May, with wait lists as long as a hundred people. Eventually, other institutions tested similar curricula, and now variations of the Twelve-week Intensive can be found at several schools in the U.S. and Canada.

As a compact, high-quality, professional training, the Center's Intensive has been tremendously successful when measured by enrollment demand and the evaluations that students fill out at the end of their courses. But we had never undertaken a more comprehensive investigation until just a few weeks ago, when we sent two straightforward questions to the 230 Intensive alumni for whom we have e-mail addresses. The first question was, "Are you still woodworking and, if so, in what capacity?" The second was, "In retrospect, how do you feel about having taken the Intensive?"

The 100 replies we have received to date have surpassed any expectations we may have had. We are delighted to learn that 94% of Intensive alumni are still woodworking: 46% as full-time professionals, 22% as part-time professionals, and 32% as amateurs. But even more gratifying—humbling, in fact—has been the avalanche of retrospective appreciation for the course

(Continued on page 2)

# Center *for* Furniture Craftsmanship

Center for Furniture Craftsmanship is a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization. Our mission is to provide the best possible education for people who want to design and build functional, beautiful, expressive work out of wood to the highest standard of craftsmanship.


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*The Center for Furniture Craftsmanship does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, or sexual orientation.*


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*Nine-month Comprehensive booth at CraftBoston 2011*

## EVALUATING THE INTENSIVE (Continued from page 1)

and its instructors. Comments such as that of recent graduate Tim Lovett are the norm."In retrospect," he writes, "the twelve-week program was the best education I've ever received. For the first time ever, a classroom and instructor combined to help me see what it is that I actually want to do with my life. The road is now much more clear." Furthermore, although we purposely opened the door to criticism and regret, the few negatives we heard were offered in a constructive, supportive spirit.

We have posted all of the alumni responses, positive and negative, for which we could get permission to do so on the school's web site. To read what the Intensive alumni are up to and how they feel about having taken the course, please visit: www.woodschool.org/furniture-making-courses-programs/twelve-week-intensive.

*Comprehensive students Mat Driscoll, Lance Smith, Cyril Montoya, and Michelle Myers at CraftBoston*

# FACULTY NEWS

A retrospective of **Jon Brooks'** (New Boston, NH) furniture and sculpture, *A Collaboration with Nature*, is on exhibit at the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester, NH through June 12.

**Bill Evans** (Waldoboro, ME), **Chris Becksvoort** (New Glouchester, ME), and **Kevin Rodel** (Brunswick, ME) will be joining the New Hampshire Furniture Masters Association in a show produced by The Gallery at Frenchman's Bay in Bar Harbor, Maine from July 31- August 3.

*Chris Pye*

**Peter Galbert's** (Jeffersonville, NY) article "Windsor Rocker without Special Tools, Part 1," appears in the April, 2011 issue of *Fine Woodworking.*

"Neighbors," a piece of humorous writing that **Stephen Gleasner** (Appleton, ME) first delivered at our All-school Annual Talent Show, was published in the January, 2011 issue of *Down East Magazine.*

**Garrett Hack** (Thetford Center, VT) is traveling to Germany in May to teach at the DICK tool company workshop, and to England in October to teach at West Dean College and to participate in the European Woodworking Show 2011.

**Thomas Hucker** (Jersey City, NJ) will participate in the *30th Anniversary Exhibition* at Pritam & Eames in East Hampton, NY, May 27 – August 2, as will **Jere Osgood** (Wilton, NH), **John Dunnigan** (W. Kingston, RI), **James Schriber** (New Milford, CT), **Tim Philbrick** (Narragansett, RI), and **Michael Hurwitz** (Philadelphia, PA).

*Laura Mays (County Galway, Ireland) has been named Assistant Professor in Fine Woodworking at the College of the Redwoods in Fort Bragg, CA.*

**Michael Hosaluk** (Saskatoon, Canada) is featured in the exhibition *Liberating Containment* at the Karsh-Masson Gallery in Ottawa, Ontario, through May 30.

**Beth Ireland** (Roslindale, MA) has taught over 1800 men, women and children as she continues her "Turning Around America" tour. She will be a Resident Fellow at this summer's International Turning Exchange in Philadelphia.

Taunton Press has published a new book by **Darryl Keil** (Brunswick, ME) titled V*acuum Pressing Made Simple.*

**Chris Pye** (Hereford, England) has launched a new instructional woodcarving website: www.woodcarvingworkshops.tv.

**Kevin Rodel** is the featured woodworker in the Woodworkers Journal e-Zine, issue 270. His article on building a small, square-sided table will appear in the July issue of *Fine Woodworking*.

**Tim Rousseau** (Appleton, ME) recently made a YouTube video on tips for cutting half-blind dovetails and an hour-long DVD on building a wall-hung mirror for Lie-Nielsen Toolworks.

**Brian Reid** (Rockland, ME), **Peter Shepard** (Harvard, MA), and **Peter Turner** (South Portland, ME) are participating in the exhibit *The Next Wave: A 3rd Generation of Studio Furniture Makers* at the Windsor Art Center in Windsor, CT, July 9-August 19.

**Richard Vaughan's** (Queensland, Australia) woodworking studio was flooded during the recent Australian deluge and he wishes to thank all those friends and acquaintances from the woodworking community who are helping him to recover.

**Jacques Vesery** (Damariscotta, ME) is featured in a new book by Schiffer Publishing, *100 Artists of New England*.

**Kimberly Winkle** (Smithville, TN) recently had a solo exhibition entitled *Dot to Dot* at the Appalachian Center for Craft/TTU and will be one of five resident artists at the Woodturning Center's International Turning Exchange this summer.

**Toby Winteringham** (Norfolk, England) is featured in an exhibition, *21st Century Furniture III,* at the Millinery Works in London through May 1st and received the "Best Side Table" prize in the Wallpaper* Design Awards 2011.

*Tom Hucker*

The January edition of *Luxe Interiors + Design Magazine* features the furniture of **Stewart Wurtz** (Seattle, WA) in a Bellingham, Washington home. Stewart's work will be on exhibit in May at the Northwest Fine Woodworking gallery's show, *The Second Life of Trees,* along with pieces by **Hugh Montgomery** (Bainbridge Island, WA) and alumnus **Rich Soborowicz** (Kent, WA).

# ALUMNI NEWS

*Melanie Hamilton as a student in 2006*

Work by two alumni was featured in the Readers Gallery of the April 2011 issue of *Fine Woodworking*: an ash chair by **Jamie Vander Salm** (Worcester, MA) and a correspondence box by **Clark Kellogg** (Houston, TX).

Both **Ray Finan** (Arlington, VT) and **Jordan Goodman** (Chicago, IL) had booths at the Architectural Digest Home Design Show in New York in April. Also, Jordan is a partner in the Museum Works Galleries at the Chicago Merchandise Mart, which opened in January to represent his furniture and contemporary art.

**Jordan Gehman** (Oakland, CA) has been hired as a sculpture technician at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco.

**Melanie Hamilton** (Toronto, Ont.) is participating in a three-person exhibition, *Wood,* at the Newfoundland Craft Council Gallery from May 7th to June 12th.

**Clark Kellogg** is serving a one-year artist-in-residency at the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft.

**Gregg Lipton** (Cumberland Center, ME) was one of seven furniture makers accepted into the 29th Annual Smithsonian Craft Show in Washington, DC, which took place in April. This is the sixth time that he has been accepted.

Apartmenttherapy.com featured a desk by **Cyril Montoya** (Brooklyn, NY) in an article called "Arts & Crafts: Scenes from CraftBoston."

**Andrew Pitts** (Heathsville, VA) has been selected as a finalist in the Furniture:Cabinetry category of the professional division of the NICHE Awards competition for a blanket chest entitled *From the Bay.* This is Andrew's fourth consecutive year as a NICHE finalist.

**Michael Scarborough** (Sunnyside Gardens, NY) is currently selling "artisanal pieces" through the Delaware Art Museum and the Brookfield Craft Center, as well as on his web site, michaelscarboroughdesign.com.

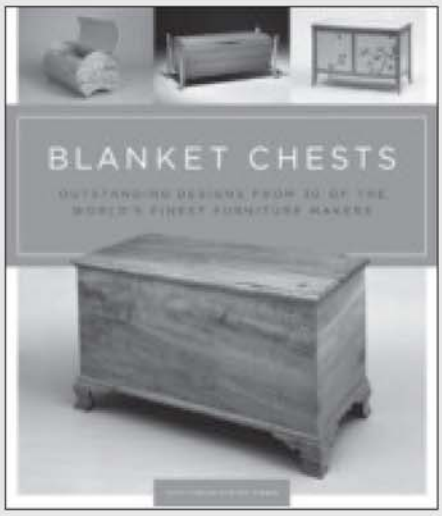
**Dwayne Sperber** (Delafield, WI) is a Board member of Town & Country Resource Conservation & Development, through which he helped to organize a mid-April exhibit at Milwaukee's Design Within Reach store that featured furniture created from urban wood by area designers.

*Stephen Hammer. Photo by Fine Woodworking*

**Stephen Hammer** (Wethersfield, CT), who took the Twelve-week Intensive in 2001, has two articles in the June 2011 issue of *Fine Woodworking.* One is *"Half-blind Dovetails in Half the Time."* The other is *"Dining Table with Two-way Drawers."*

## BLANKET CHESTS

**Peter Turner** is co-author of *Blanket Chests,* a new book from Taunton Press that features work by Center faculty **Ted Blachly** (Warner, NH), **Charlie Durfee** (Woolwich, ME), **Miguel Gomez-Ibanez** (Weston, MA), **Garrett Hack** (Thetford Center, VT), **Ejler Hjorth-Westh** (Elk, CA), **Austin Matheson** (Miami, FL), **Laura Mays** (Galway, Ireland), **John McAlevey** (Warren, ME), **Terry Moore** (Wilmot, NH), **Peter Pierobon** (Vancouver, Canada), **Brian Reid** (Rockland, ME), **Libby Schrum** (Camden, ME), **Richard Vaughan** (Queensland, Australia), and **Liza Wheeler** (Belfast, ME), as well as by former Nine-month Comprehensive student **Shona Kinniburgh** (Glasgow, Scotland), among others.



# 2011 SUMMER WORKSHOPS

There's still time to sign up for a workshop and spend a week or two in beautiful Maine this summer!

The following workshops have space available as of publication. Fully enrolled workshops are not listed.

| WORKSHOP TITLE | INSTRUCTOR | DATES |
|---|---|---|
| Basic Woodworking | Peter Korn & Tom Huang | June 6-17 |
| Drawing What You See | John Whalley | June 13-17 |
| CAD as a Design Tool | Paul Loebach | June 20-24 |
| Intermediate Furniture Making | Kevin Rodel | June 20-July 1 |
| Turned and Lidded Boxes | Matthew Hill | June 20-24 |
| Basic Woodworking | Peter Korn & Reed Hansuld | July 4-15 |
| Carving a Traditional Green Man | Chris Pye | July 4-15 |
| Elegant Windsor Rocker | Elia Bizzarri | July 18-29 |
| Inspired Casework | Craig Stevens | July 18-29 |
| Basic Woodworking | Peter Korn & Yuri Kobayashi | August 1-12 |
| Veneering | Pete Schlebecker | August 8-12 |
| Not-so-basic Woodworking | Tim Rousseau | August 15-26 |
| Learn to Turn | Beth Ireland | August 15-19 |
| Turned and Carved Bowls and Platters | Al Stirt | August 22-26 |
| Finishing A-Z | Teri Masaschi | Aug. 29-Sept. 9 |
| Basic Woodworking | Peter Korn & Mark Juliana | Aug. 29-Sept. 9 |
| Introduction to Turning | Stephen Gleasner | September 19-23 |
| Focus on Form | Ted Blachly & Adrian Ferrazzutti | Sept. 26-Oct. 7 |
| Surface Design on Thin-walled Turnings | Binh Pho | September 26-30 |
| The Art of Containment | Clay Foster & Jennifer Shirley | October 3-7 |
| Basic Woodworking | Peter Korn & Craig Satterlee | October 10-21 |
| Unplugged Woodshop | Tom Caspar | October 10-14 |
| Intaglio Carving and Pattern Design | Kristina Madsen | October 17-21 |

*Visit www.woodschool.org for details about each course.*

# MESSLER GALLERY NEWS

*Current Student Work*, on display through May 26, showcases furniture and decorative objects created by participants in our current Nine-Month Comprehensive. Lead Instructor Aled Lewis characterizes the show as "a refreshing mix of contemporary design and traditional craftsmanship." Thirteen students entered the course last September from a wide variety of life experiences. They include, among others, an NCAA swimmer, a former Buddhist monk, a retired officer from the Canadian navy, and a motivational author. What they share in common are the aspiration and drive to create exceptional work. For many, this exhibition is the first opportunity to see their pieces in a professional gallery.

"Current Student Work" exhibitors include Nicholas Doremus, Mat Driscoll, William Ellen, Dirk Giesberger, Adam Glogowski, Greg Horvitz, Kevin Hurley, Michael Little, Stephen Moles, Cyril Montoya, Michelle Myers, and Lance Smith.

*We had a great turnout for the opening reception of Current Student Work on April 15, 2011*

## MESSLER GALLERY EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

***New Work by Faculty***
June 10 – September 9, 2011

***Regeneration: Fine Woodworkers Under 30***
September 16 – November 22, 2011

***Maine Wood Biennial 2012***
December 2, 2011 – February 3, 2012

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