Spring 2012 Newsletter

# Center *for* Furniture Craftsmanship

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Success has many standards. At a critique we ask if an object achieves what its creator intended. On the croquet pitch we ask who won the game. At a Board meeting we ask if we balanced the budget. Bottom line, though, we measure our success as a school by asking: "Do we make it possible for our students to accomplish the goals they set for themselves in coming here?"

One student recently told me about his first visit, two years ago. "There's no way I could ever make work that good," was his thought upon seeing the gallery. As he spoke, we were contemplating two pieces he has in the current exhibition. One is a cherry cabinet with a subtle harmony of curve and line. The other is a hall table with a ribbon-like base, veneered in ebony and satinwood. Both are exquisite. Nothing more needed to be said.

That moment captures the joy of working at the school. Jerry is a fifty-year-old electronics engineer who came to the Center in search of a soul-satisfying second act. He took significant risks. What if our instructors and facilities had not lived up to his expectations? Worse, what if his inner resources had proven insufficient? In the end, Jerry achieved the transformation he sought, with all the growth in creativity, skill, and accomplishment that the journey from neophyte to confident craftsman entails. There is no telling where his path leads from here, but in Jerry's present success, and in that of so many other students, we find our own.

## COMMUNITY CLASSES SETTLE IN

In November of 2010, we launched an experimental series of short-term courses with the help of a grant from the Quimby Family Foundation. These were weekend and evening woodturning courses, and what made them different was their brevity. Our shortest course format up until then had been one-week workshops, which run Monday through Friday from 9-5. With this new program, we hoped to open the school to people from our regional community who couldn't fit full-time attendance into their schedules.

Community Classes were a success from the start. We quickly learned that most students prefer a two-day weekend course to coming one evening a week for five weeks, which is an equivalent amount of time. We also found that students were traveling from all over the state, not just from the Midcoast. A few even arrived from as far afield as New York City.

Don Gow was looking for a way to share his passion for woodturning with his adult children, Rachel and Brady. Don lives in Monroe, 35 miles north of here, and has taken several of our one-week turning workshops. For his children, however, "The weekend format was perfect, as they couldn't really afford to take a whole week off their jobs," Don commented. He added, "I'm hoping they will continue to work at it in my shop now, with me."

Community classes ran at a satisfactory 83% of capacity in 2011. Better yet, 96% of students reported that their courses met or exceeded their expectations. Topics vary from turning bowls, spindles, and ornaments, to surface decoration and the aesthetics of form. What makes these weekend courses most exceptional is the quality of the instructors, all of whom are nationally recognized woodturners who teach in our longer programs as well. They

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

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*Students in our March "Learn to Turn" Community Class, after two days at the lathe.*

## COMMUNITY CLASSES SETTLE IN (Continued from page 1)

include Stephen Gleasner, from Appleton, Maine, Beth Ireland, from Roslindale, Massachusetts, and Jacques Vesery, from Damariscotta, Maine.

So far, we have only offered community classes in the woodturning studio. Every other facility on campus already runs at 100% of capacity, year-round. Eventually, though, we hope to expand community classes to other areas of interest such as carving, hand tools, marquetry, and finishing. That will require construction of a new classroom at some future date!

*Nine-month students, Arnd Seibert, Berlin, Germany, Greg Boll, Granger, IN, and Alex Roebuck, Mississauga, ON, participating in the ice carving event at the Camden Winterfest.*

# FACULTY NEWS

In February, **Jennifer Anderson** (San Diego, CA) was a guest resident artist at the Lux Institute in Encinitas, CA. Her work was featured in the April issue of *Pacific Magazine* and will also be included in a how-to book coming out in May called *Ply Design*.

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**Elia Bizzarri**'s (Pittsboro, NC) article "End Grain: The Apprentice" was published in the November 2011 issue of *Popular Woodworking*.

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Furniture by **Ted Blachly** (Warner, NH) is represented in "Early Spring Show 2012" at Pritam & Eames, in East Hampton, NY.

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**Curtis Buchanan** (Jonesborough, TN) has made 50 YouTube videos on how to make a chair, from buying a log to putting on the finish.

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**Steve Butler** (Uxbridge, MA) recently took first prize in the furniture division at "Branching Out," an exhibition held by the Lexington Arts and Crafts Society Woodworkers Guild, in Lexington, MA.

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**Caption Contest:** *Send your caption for this image of instructor Mac Ray to Kat@woodschool.org by June 15. The winner will receive a school t-shirt!*

**Aaron Fedarko** (Camden, ME) recently taught woodworking skills in Peru to promote sustainable forest management among indigenous communities in the Amazon basin. The trip was sponsored by two nonprofit groups, GreenWood and PaTS.

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A coffee table by **Adrian Ferrazzutti** (Guelph, ON) was featured as a Design Spotlight in the April issue of *Fine Woodworking*.

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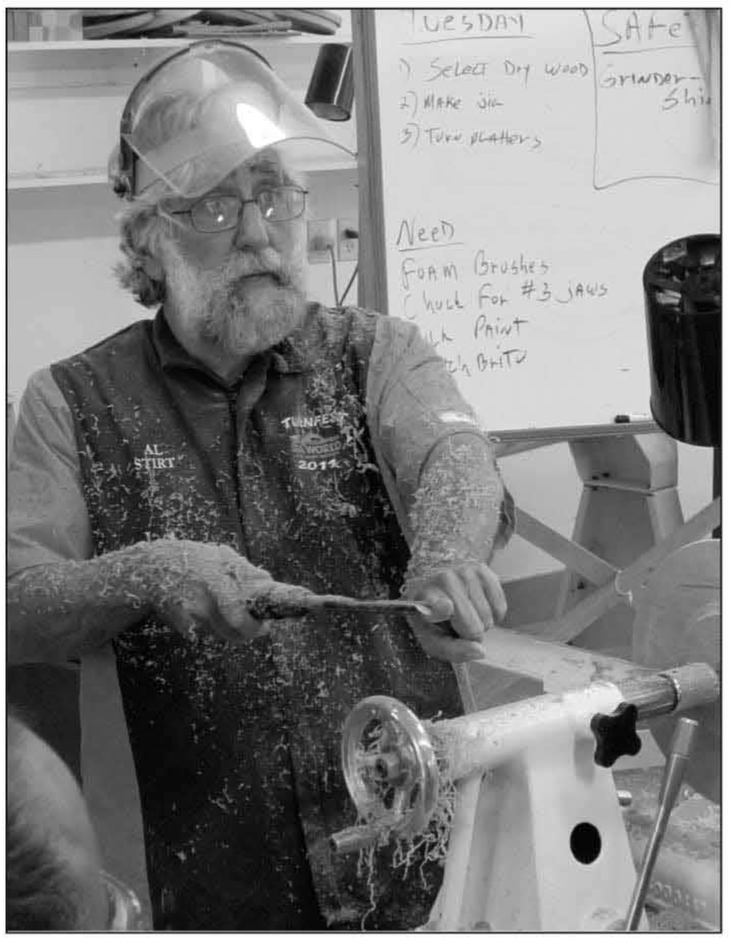


*Al Stirt teaching "Turned and Carved Bowls and Platters" in 2011.*

In April, **Reuben Foat** (San Diego, CA) held his MFA thesis exhibition, "Access: Pending," at San Diego State University.

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**Beth Ireland** (Roslindale, MA) took her "Turning Around America" project to Vera Cruz, Guatemala, where she worked on an economic development project. Beth will be the Windgate Artist in Residence at SUNY Purchase for the spring of 2013.

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**John Jordan** (Cane Ridge, TN) will be awarded the 2012 Honorary Lifetime Membership Award of the American Association of Woodturners at their June symposium in San Jose, CA.

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"Thinking with Things: Design as Discovery," an article by **Peter Korn** (Rockland, ME), appeared in the Winter 2012 issue of *Woodwork*. Other features included articles about **Stephen Gleasner** (Appleton, ME) and **Peter Turner** (South Portland, ME) by alumnus **Patrick Downes** (Portland, ME), a profile of **Todd Hoyer** (Bisbee, AZ), and photo galleries featuring work by **John Reed Fox** (Acton, MA), **Matthew Hill** (Oklahoma City, OK), **Beth Ireland**, **Brian Reid** (Rockland, ME), **Al Stirt** (Enosburg Falls, VT), and **Kimberly Winkle** (Smithfield, TN).

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**Teri Masaschi** (Tijeras, NM) has produced several YouTube videos on the "how to" of sanding for gatorfinsihing.com. Also, she wrote "Are You Sanding Right?" for the April issue of *Fine Woodworking*.

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**Austin Matheson** (Miami, FL) teaches furniture making as an adjunct professor at the University of Miami School of Architecture.

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Several of **Clifton Monteith**'s (Lake Ann, MI) felt and lacquer bowls were recently acquired by the Hong Kong Design Institute for its permanent collection. In addition, Clifton's work is represented in the exhibition "Torqued and Twisted: Bentwood Today," currently on display at the Center for Craft, Creativity & Design in Asheville, NC.

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**Michael Puryear** (Shokan, NY) is one of the makers featured in *Furniture with Soul* by David Savage (Kodansha Press, 2011). Also, Michael has been commissioned by the Wharton Esherick Museum to make a bench for their upcoming show "Poplar Culture: the Celebration of a Tree," which will be held at Historic Yellow Springs in Chester Springs, PA from May 21 – June 10.

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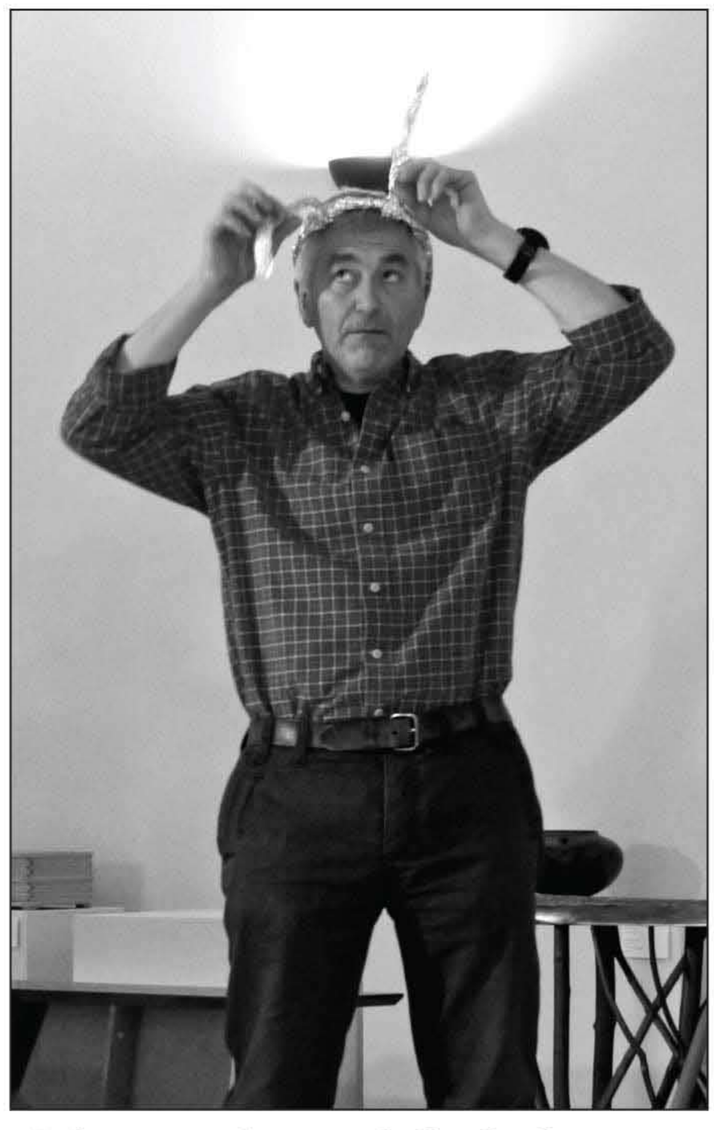

*Aled Lewis at the annual all-school Variety Show, January, 2012.*

# FACULTY NEWS

The BBC recently filmed **Chris Pye** (Hereford, UK) carving and talking about the traditional "green man" motif for a TV series that will air this fall on the history of wood in England.

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**Brian Reid** is one of three makers honored by the Society of Arts and Crafts in Boston with its 2012 Artist Award. His work is on exhibit at their Newbury St. gallery through June 30th.

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**Alf Sharp** (Woodbury, TN) will be a featured presenter at the Society of Period Furniture Makers' June conference at the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts in Winston-Salem, NC. He is represented in SAPFM's current exhibition, "A Tradition of Craft," at the Connecticut Historical Society in Hartford, through September 8.

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Earlier this spring, **Kim Winkle** had a piece in the international invitational exhibition, "From Tree to Treasure", at the Burroughs-Chapin Art Museum in Myrtle Beach, SC, as did **Christian Burchard** (Ashland, OR), **Clay Foster** (Indianapolis, IN), **Mark Gardner** (Saluda, NC), **Stephen Gleasner**, **Todd Hoyer**, **John Jordan**, **Steven Kennard** (Canning, NS), **Binh Pho** (Maple Park, IL), **Hayley Smith** (Bisbee, AZ), **Al Stirt**, and **Jacques Vesery** (Damariscotta, ME).

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# ALUMNI NEWS

**Dave Barber** (Durham, ME) has opened his own woodworking business, Forwood Thinking, LLC.

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**John Beaver** (Pacific Palisades, CA) won the 2012 Niche Award in the Turned Wood Category. Last November he exhibited at the Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show.

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A screen by **Ginny Blanchard** (Thomaston, ME) and a table by **Christopher Atwood** (Clifton, VA) were featured in the Readers Gallery of the February, 2012 issue of *Fine Woodworking*.

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**Clark Kellogg** (Houston, TX) wrote an article called "Curved Door with Flat Glass Panes" for the February, 2012 issue of *Fine Woodworking*. Also, a cabinet of Clark's was featured on the cover of the March/April issue of *Woodworker West*.

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**Reed Hansuld** (Mississauga, ON) was a finalist in the 2012 Niche Awards.

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**Steve Hammer** (Wethersfield, CT) completed a video series on dovetailing for *Fine Woodworking*'s web site.

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The Winter, 2012 issue of *Woodwork* presented a photo gallery of work from "Regeneration: Fine Woodworkers Under 30," a national exhibition which we co-sponsored with *Fine Woodworking*. The gallery included pieces by **Ginny Blanchard** and **Cale Caboth** (Mt. Pleasant, IA). Other photo galleries featured work by **Duncan Gowdy** (Worcester, MA) and **Hugh Montgomery** (Bainbridge Island, WA).

*Former fellow Peter Hedstrom, Yarmouth, ME and alumni Ginny Blanchard, Thomaston, ME, Nick Doremus, Jacobstown, NJ, and Michelle Myers, Woodland Park, NJ gather in our booth at the Architectural Digest Home Design Show, March 2012.*

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**Michael Scarborough** (Sunnyside Gardens, NY) was juried into the American Craft Council's Baltimore show, which was held in February. In addition, he recently exhibited at CraftNEWYORK, a benefit for the Craft Emergency Relief Fund.

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**Dwayne Sperber** (Delafield, WI) organized "Urban(wood)Encounter2012," an exhibition held at the Design Within Reach Milwaukee Studio in April, which featured environmentally conscious furniture made from reclaimed urban wood.

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## BRIAN REID

Between teaching the Intensive, mentoring Studio Fellows, and making furniture on commission, Brian Reid keeps a busy schedule. Recently, though, he has iced the cake by organizing two generous, community-oriented projects on his own time.

Last fall, Brian spearheaded the planting of a walnut tree on campus in memory of former Studio Fellow Joe Brewer, with financial and practical assistance from alumni Doug Johnson and Nancy Caudle-Johnson, of Johnsons Arboriculture, from alumna Kristen Terpening, and from instructors Austin Matheson, John McAlevey, and Pete Schlebecker.

Then, over the winter, Brian took on a massive extracurricular project. He persuaded the state to create a Maine Prison Outreach Program in association with the New Hampshire Institute of Furniture Making, which already conducts a similar prison program in New Hampshire. To start the program, which is independent of our school, Brian and two of our other instructors—Tim Rousseau and Aaron Fedarko—will teach fine woodworking to inmates in the Industries Program at the Warren High Security Prison in nearby Warren, Maine.

As mentioned in the faculty news above, Brian has been awarded the 2012 Artist's Award of the Society of Arts and Crafts in Boston. A well-deserved honor!

*photo: Bill Truslow*

# 2012 WORKSHOP AVAILABILITY

There's still time to sign up 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 and David Leach | June 4-15 |
| Drawing What You See | John Whalley | June 11-15 |
| Exploring Form | Stephen Gleasner and Jacques Vesery | June 11-15 |
| Creative Box Making | Doug Stowe | June 18-29 |
| Veneering | Pete Schlebecker | June 25-29 |
| Basic Woodworking | Peter Korn and Reed Hansuld | July 2-13 |
| The Art of Drawer Making | Craig Stevens | July 2-6 |
| Plane Making | Craig Stevens | July 9-13 |
| 17th-century Carved Box | Peter Follansbee | July 23-27 |
| Basic Woodworking | Peter Korn and Mark Juliana | July 30-August 10 |
| Carving the Ball & Claw | Phil Lowe | July 30-August 3 |
| Woodturning for Beginners | Nick Cook | August 6-10 |
| Turned & Sculpted Boxes | Steven Kennard | August 13-17 |
| Sculptural Turning | Keith Tompkins | August 20-24 |
| Basic Woodworking | Peter Korn and Eben Blaney | August 27-Sept. 7 |
| Finishing A-Z | Teri Masaschi | August 27-Sept. 7 |
| Hand-applied Finishes | Teri Masaschi | September 10-14 |
| Sophisticated Tables | Matthew Burt and Alf Sharp | September 10-21 |
| Incising Techniques for Turners | Harvey Fein and Beth Ireland | September 17-21 |
| Letter Carving | Chris Pye | September 17-21 |
| Carving Tutorial | Chris Pye | October 1-5 |
| Basic Woodworking | Peter Korn and Craig Satterlee | October 8-19 |
| Learn to Turn | Beth Ireland | October 8-12 |
| Next Steps in Turning | Beth Ireland | October 15-19 |
| The Unplugged Woodshop | Tom Caspar | October 15-19 |

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

# MESSLER GALLERY NEWS

## CALL FOR ENTRIES

**Museum Seating Competition**
January 18 - April 3, 2013

This design competition and exhibition is open to all artisans and artists living in Maine. The Farnsworth Museum in Rockland is soliciting designs for gallery seating. Entries are to be submitted digitally, whether they are drawings or images of models, prototypes, or finished pieces. The top 18 entrants selected by the Farnsworth will exhibit their benches at our Messler Gallery from Jan. 18 – April 3, 2013.

**Application Deadline:** August 1, 2012

**Purchase Awards:** The Farnsworth Art Museum will purchase a select number of benches from the exhibition for use in its galleries, at a maximum price of $3,300 per bench.

**Entry Information:** Details are available at woodschool.org/gallery/callforentries

*"Current Student Work" will be on display at the Messler Gallery until May 30th.*

## MESSLER GALLERY EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

***Current Student Work***
April 13 - May 30, 2012

***New Work by Faculty***
June 9 - September 14, 2012

***Setting the Table***
September 28, 2012 – January 8, 2013

CENTER *for* FURNITURE CRAFTSMANSHIP
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