CROQUET, ANYONE?

A fond look back on two decades of the school sport to prime the pump for this summer's competition.

Silas Kopf, the Godfather of CFC croquet, 2015

Jesse Shaw and Austin Bradley, 2007

Charlie Durham, Kenneth Copp, and Melody the Mare, 2010 (photo by Barrie Hope)

Jason Hernandez and Kate Casey, 2015

David Haig, All-time CFC Champion, 2004

Monica Raymond and Laura Mays, 2007

Alan Pullman and Mark Juliana, 2010

Nathan Kushner and Rosalie MacNeal, 2004

Peter Korn and Victoria Allport, 2011

CENTER *for* FURNITURE CRAFTSMANSHIP
25 Mill Street, Rockport, Maine 04856

Return Service Requested

MESSLER GALLERY NEWS

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Maine Wood 2022
January 21 - April 6, 2022

We are pleased to announce the Call for Entries for our seventh "Maine Wood" biennial.The exhibition is designed to showcase the breadth, creativity, and excellence of wood craftsmanship in the state, and to help promote the artistic and economic development of Maine's growing community of fine woodworkers. The jurors for "Maine Wood 2022" are Annie Evelyn, Studio Furniture Maker and co-founder of Crafting the Future, Bakersville, NC, Reuben Foat, Department Chair, Cerritos College Woodworking, Norwalk, CA, and Gary Rogowski, Director of The Northwest Woodworking Studio, Portland, OR.

Application Deadline: August 31, 2021

Awards: 7 prizes totaling $2,100 provided by Rare Woods USA, Lie-Nielsen Toolworks, Holt & Bugbee, Rugby Architectural Building Products, Woodcraft of Portsmouth, Packard Woodworks, and Rockler Woodworking and Hardware of South Portland, ME.

Additional information and submission guidelines are available at woodschool.org/maine-wood-call-for-entries.

Co-sponsoring organizations: Maine Crafts Association, Maine Woodturners, and Maine Woodworkers Association.

"Maine Wood 2020" installation view

MESSLER GALLERY EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

New Work by Faculty
June 11 – September 8, 2021

Straight From the Heart
September 17, 2021 – January 5, 2022

Maine Wood 2022
January 21 – April 6, 2022

Current Student Work
April 22 – May 25, 2022

SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

CENTER *for* FURNITURE CRAFTSMANSHIP

FROM THE DIRECTOR

With my long-planned retirement fast approaching, I couldn't be more proud of the successful nonprofit institution we have built over the past 28 years, nor more grateful to everyone who has participated. If there is a textbook example of how a community can coalesce around a nonprofit mission to provide a significant public benefit, this is it.

CFC's mission—*to provide the best possible education for people who want to design and build functional, beautiful, and expressive work out of wood to the highest standard of craftsmanship*—embodies a practice of craft that began with the 19th-century Arts & Crafts movement, evolved through 20th-century Studio Craft, and continues to find relevance today. That mission is what draws our community together and is also what sets the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship apart from other schools. By elevating utility, beauty, and skilled craftsmanship, it offers a counterpoint to mainstream arts education. By valuing design, it distinguishes us from most other woodworking schools.

The central intuition that propelled me to start a school was that the work of transforming wood into objects with creativity and skill is also a process of self-transformation. That perception became the DNA for the Center's curricula, culture, and mission. From day one, it was my goal to create a lasting cultural institution that would advocate nationally for craft as an exploration of the human spirit. And that is precisely what we achieve every day through education and exhibitions. As we prepare the school to thrive under new leadership, I see it as a gift we are passing to future generations—a gift that continues the tradition of superb craftsmanship and design in wood that my generation inherited from my own mentors—Alan Peters, Sam Maloof, Jim Krenov, Tage Frid, and Art Carpenter—and many others who came before.

ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN COMPLETED

We are pleased to announce successful completion of the Center's $6.1 million *Education and Impact: Endowing our Future* campaign. Thanks to two major challenge grants and a generous contribution that satisfied them in April, we have, in fact, substantially surpassed the goal. In all, the campaign received gifts and pledges from 275 contributors totaling $6,601,545.

Education and Impact is the culmination of a rigorous, multi-year effort that began with a long-range planning study by the Board of Directors in 2015. Instead of making the school larger, it 1) expands the audience for our current educational programs and amplifies their impact, and 2) prepares the Center for transition to a new generation of effective leadership when founding Executive Director Peter Korn retires later this year.

Important initiatives that are sustainably funded through *Education and Impact* include

- Teaching the Teachers scholarships for instructors at schools and nonprofits that teach woodworking to economically disadvantaged communities;
- Scholarships that open our professional-track courses to the most talented candidates, regardless of means;
- Financial support for emerging and practicing makers who engage in design experimentation, technical advancement, and creative interchange through our Fellowship Program;
- A Chair for Executive Leadership that ensures the school's ability to retain future Executive Directors who will advance its program excellence and international stature; and
- An expanded national role for the Messler Gallery in promoting public appreciation for art and design in wood.

We are immensely grateful to the hundreds of alumni, friends, and foundations who so generously supported the campaign, to campaign committee members David Ingram, Rick Kellogg, Mark Tresnowski, and Dick Whittington, and to campaign volunteers Denise Gaul, John Lutz, Tom Maginnis, Drew Perkins, and Tom Tansi.

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.

25 Mill Street, Rockport, ME 04856
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www.woodschool.org

VIDEO LIBRARY PUBLICATION

The Center for Furniture Craftsmanship's free library of 50 professionally filmed instructional videos, "Welcome to Woodschool," is now available online at woodschool.org/videolibrary. The series features best-practice techniques from the Nine-month Comprehensive and Furniture Intensive curricula, presented by Lead Instructor Tim Rousseau.

Unsurprisingly, the first video in the Welcome to Woodschool series is "How to Sharpen a Chisel."

Topics range from sharpening and hand-cut dovetails, to five different ways of machine-cutting tenons, to building forms and laminating curves. The videos were filmed in 2020 while classes were suspended due to the pandemic. They were instrumental to our safe reopening in September, as they allow students to maintain social distancing while watching demonstrations that require close-up viewing.

Current Comprehensive student Jeffrey Aurand, from Pittsford, NY, says, "I find the close-up photography incredibly helpful, as is being able to revisit the demonstrations any time I need to."

As a free online library, the video series is meant to carry CFC's educational mission to the world at large, regardless of financial and cultural barriers. If it is well received by the public, we hope to expand it in future years with additional instructors and topics.

EXECUTIVE SEARCH UPDATE

The search for the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship's next Executive Director, which we announced in last fall's newsletter, was publicly launched in January and remains on track to select a candidate early this fall.

The Search Committee, chaired by Board Vice-President Mark Tresnowski, is working hand in glove with an experienced team from the international search firm Korn Ferry. Rosa Morris, from Korn Ferry, reports that interest in the position is high, with many candidates citing the Center's reputation as the reason for their interest.

At present, Korn Ferry is winnowing down a list of more than one hundred identified candidates in order to present a dozen or so for the Search Committee's consideration by early June. The Search Committee will then conduct an interview process to select two or three top candidates who will be interviewed by the full Board of Directors later this summer.

"We are pleased with the level of interest in the position and the quality of the candidates who are coming forward," says Tresnowski.

FACULTY NEWS

Reuben Foat

Nick Agar (Brooklet, GA), **Dixie Biggs** (Gainesville, FL), and **Nick Cook** (Marietta, GA) will be demonstrating at the 2021 Virtual Symposium of the American Association of Woodturners in July.

John Cameron's (Gloucester, MA) furniture will be featured at the Gallery at Somes Sound in Somesville, ME, in August.

Reuben Foat (Artesia, CA), **Christopher Poehlmann** (Philadelphia, PA), and **Michael Puryear** (Shokan, NY) have recently been Featured Members of the Furniture Society.

Mark Gardner (Saluda, NC) wrote "Artistic Cutting Boards" for the April issue of *Fine Woodworking*, which also featured **Jeff Miller** (Chicago, IL) on its back cover and contained an article on driving screws by **Mike Korsak** (Pittsburgh, PA).

A jewelry box by **David Haig** (Nelson, New Zealand) won a 2020 Maker of the Year Award from *Australian Wood Review*.

Beth Ireland (St. Petersburg, FL) wrote "Turn a Wooden Tea Strainer" for the April issue of *American Woodturner*. She also wrote "Crossbows: Straight Grain for Straight Shooting" for the June issue of *Woodcraft Magazine*.

Mike Korsak wrote an article titled "Light and Lively Side Table" for the January issue of *Fine Woodworking* and another on "Seven Tasks for a Block Plane" for the June issue. The January issue also featured an article by **Clark Kellogg** (Houston, TX) on making custom hardware.

David Haig staving off paparazzi as a Visiting Artist in 2019

Kristin LeVier (Moscow, ID) received the 2020 Bob Stocksdale International Excellence in Wood Award from The Center for Art in Wood, in Philadelphia.

Jim Macdonald (Burnham, ME) recently exhibited his art guitars at the Northeast Guitar Show, in Natick, MA.

ALUMNI NEWS

Danielle Rose Byrd (Bar Harbor, ME) has published a new book, *The Handcarved Bowl: Design & Create Custom Bowls from Scratch* (Blue Hills Press, 2021).

Kate Davidson (Milton, MA), **Aspen Golann** (Burnsville, NC), and **Duncan Gowdy** (Holden, MA) are exhibiting in the Wharton Esherick Museum's 27th Annual Juried Woodworking Exhibition, on view in Paoli, PA, through September 12. The exhibition also includes previous and current CFC instructors **Christian Burchard** (Ashland, OR) and **Annie Evelyn** (Bakersville, NC). A cabinet by Aspen took first place, while a sculpture by Christian took second place.

Dev Flaherty (East Jewitt, NY) took part in Anderson Ranch Arts Center's Artists-in-Residence program this spring, in Snowmass Village, CO.

Helen Helfand *(Portland, OR) has received a scholarship from the Oregon Guild of Woodworkers to further her formal design education and is also serving an apprenticeship in custom upholstery.*

Jamie Herman (Fairport, NY) is represented in the Peters Valley School of Craft exhibition "Making Matters: Fresh Perspectives in Fine Craft," in Layton, NJ, through August 17. The show also includes work by CFC instructor **Kimberly Winkle** (Cookeville, TN).

A table by **Jay Siegelaub** (Ossining, NY) was featured in the Gallery section of January's *Fine Woodworking*.

Jamie Herman as a CFC Fellow in 2019

ACORN SOCIETY SPOTLIGHT

We are grateful to alumnus Jack Noble, of Easton, MD, for joining the Center's Acorn Society. Since his first workshop here, in 2011, Jack has returned for six additional classes and continues to design and build prolifically in his home workshop.

Reflecting on his time at CFC, Jack writes, "At age 81, Basic Woodworking with Peter Korn was a revelation that added an extra dimension to my life. I learned that if I can draw it, I can make it! Without special places like the Center, that kind of skill and artistry will die out. I made an irrevocable bequest to the school because it's important to see it thrive."

Through the Acorn Society, CFC honors donors who ensure the Center's future success through planned gifts such as bequests and trusts. To explore the possibilities of planned giving, please contact Development Director Ellen Dyer at Ellen@woodschool.org or 207-594-5611, or visit the Donate page at woodschool.org.

Jack Noble attending the 2012 Essentials of Casework workshop, taught by Garrett Hack

2021 WORKSHOP AVAILABILITY

There's still time to sign up for a week or more in beautiful Maine this summer!
The following courses have space available as of publication. Although fully enrolled workshops are not listed, we encourage you to get on the waitlist for any course that is of interest to you.
Please call 207-594-5611 for inquiries or visit www.woodschool.org for course descriptions.

WORKSHOP TITLE	INSTRUCTOR	DATES
Metalworking for Woodworkers	Erica Moody	June 14-18
Spoons, Spoons, Spoons	Valdemar Skov and Ken Wise	July 19-23
Really Basic Woodworking	Libby Schrum	July 26-30
Ornamental Carving	Andrei Marek	August 9-13
Introduction to CNC	Mark Juliana	Aug. 30 - Sept. 3
Lighting Design	Christopher Poehlmann	September 6-10
Turning for Beginners	Rudy Lopez	September 13-17
Bowl Turning in Depth	Rudy Lopez	September 20-24
Turned and Carved Platters	Al Stirt	Sept. 27 - Oct. 1
Decorative Turned Surfaces	Dixie Biggs	October 4-8
Contemporary Upholstery	Annie Evelyn	October 11-15
The Unplugged Woodshop	John Cameron	October 18-22