



VERMONT WOOD PRODUCTS DESIGN COMPETITION
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March 31, 2009

Dear Vermont high school students and teachers,

The Vermont Wood Manufacturers Association announces their Annual Vermont Wood Products Student Design Competition, which will be held September 26 & 27 at our 6th Annual Fine Furniture & Woodworking Festival, Union Arena, Woodstock, VT. Every year we have had such great entries from our Vermont students and we would like to invite you to participate in our 6th Design Competition.

At our weekend Festival, we will have a booth set up for display of student entries. Students are invited to bring their work to the Festival and exhibit it in our Design Competition booth. We also invite students to participate in the Festival, helping to staff the student booth. During Festival weekend, there will be much opportunity to network and discuss entry(s) with many professional woodworkers who are exhibiting and with the general public in attendance. There were over 50 professional VT woodworking companies at last year's Festival and we anticipate as many, or more, for 2009. We also had more than 2500 visitors from 30 states and two foreign countries.

A team of judges comprised of professional woodworkers will evaluate the work on display and provide feedback to the students. The public will also be invited to cast a vote for Best in Show from among the student entries. A \$500 grand prize will be awarded to the student whose work is selected as Best in Show by the woodworkers and the public. The \$500 prize is being generously sponsored by Spooner Specialties in Montpelier, VT. David Spooner stated, "I have been working with the schools for 28 years taking care of their needs with woodworking machinery and supplies. Servicing the needs of the school shops has been a privilege and it makes us happy at Spooner's to see this level of competition for the students. I hope all of the programs in the state are able to attend."

All students who enter will also be given the opportunity to shadow a professional woodworker in his or her workshop for a full day. In the past, we have found this to be a very rewarding experience, particularly for students wishing to pursue woodworking as a career.

Last year, Will Barstow, student at U-32 High School and winner of first place in the student category, had a blog written by Mark Schofield, *Fine Woodworking Magazine* editor and 2008 Design Competition judge. Schofield said, "*In my eight years as a Fine Woodworking editor I've visited a lot of woodworkers, amateur and professional, the majority of whom do very nice work. But it is still rare to find someone with as much natural talent as Will Barstow. Barstow spent two years making a copy of the Federal Card Table by Steve Latta. Making all the inlay himself, including the paterae at the top of each leg, Barstow's inlay was as crisp and flawless as Latta's.*"

Please note, the students do NOT need to be enrolled in a high school woodworking program so if your institution does not offer a program such as this they are still eligible to enter. We ask that you please distribute this to your students. Eligibility requirements are listed on the entry form enclosed and also available for download from www.vermontwooddesigns.org. Forms must be postmarked by September 1, 2009 and the piece must be present at the student booth on September 26-27, 2009. If you have any questions regarding this competition please don't hesitate to contact the VWMA office at 802-747-7900. We look forward to viewing the talent that our students bring to the state of Vermont!

Sincerely,

Kathleen Wanner, Executive Director