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**College of the Redwoods Student Takes Top Honor
in AWFS North American Fresh Wood Competition**

Student Designs, Woodworking Skills Amaze, Excite Attendees

LAS VEGAS – July 22, 2011 – Candice Groenke, a student at College of the Redwoods, Fort Bragg, Calif., won The Best of Show Award, in the 2011 AWFS Fresh Wood Competition after judges reviewed the projects of 41 finalists from 27 different high schools and colleges in the U.S. and Canada at the AWFS®Fair in Las Vegas.

Twenty-nine students went home with monetary prizes ranging from \$250 to \$1,000 as well as Rikon Power Tools.

Groenke was awarded a coveted wood sculpture designed by the late renowned wood artist Sam Maloof, for her *Katana Bench*. She received \$1,000 and College of the Redwoods received the \$1,500 Larry Hilchie School Grant Award and a Rikon 14” Bandsaw. Groenke also received First Place in the Post Secondary Chairs category of the competition, which included another \$1,000 prize and a Certificate of Merit.

A *Bravo to Teachers* award, sponsored by Rikon Power Tools, was awarded to two teachers in the competition. Instructor Keith Yow, Cedar Ridge High School, Hillsborough, N.C., received a Rikon 16” Planer. Instructor Robert Studdard, Rolla Technical Institute, Rolla, MO, was awarded a Rikon 10” Contractors Saw.

Several teachers had multiple student finalists. Kip Christensen, Brigham Young University; Kern Maass, Appalachian State University; Sunhwa Kim, Buffalo State College; David Welter, College of Redwoods; Joe Davis, Dale Jackson Career Center; Peter Boeckh, Fletcher’s Meadow Secondary School; Jeff McCabe, Lincoln East High School; and Keith Yow, Cedar Ridge High School.

Fair attendees awarded the People's Choice Award, sponsored by CustomMade.com, and \$500 prize to Adam Kessler from Buffalo State College, Buffalo, NY, for his *Table for Dali*.

Judges ranged from representatives from the Furniture Society and the Sustainable Furnishings Council to internationally renowned furniture makers and the owner of a popular woodworking website, providing a variety of perspectives to the judging process.

First Place winners in each category and at each school level received a \$1,000 prize, Second Place winners received \$500 and Honorable Mention winners received \$250. AWFS covers shipping and the majority of travel and hotel costs to bring the students and their teachers to Las Vegas.

The biennial event, held as part of [AWFS®Fair](#), attracted 137 entries from 50 different schools in the United States and Canada in 2011.

High School Level First Place Winners

- Case Goods: Elias Schultz, Cedar Ridge High School, *Bombecious*
- Tables: Greg Moore, Appleton City High School, *Paduak and Ash Table Tennis Table with Paddles*
- Chairs: Brett Stickler, Rolla Technical Institute, *Ebony & Ivory*
- Open: Parker Brimhall, Brighton High School, *Elk Guitar*
- Reproduction: Christopher Gagnon, Sultana High School, *Love Rocker*

Post-secondary Level First Place Winners

- Case Goods: Bonner Armbruster, College of the Redwoods, *Miss Peaches*
- Tables: Lance Smith, Center for Furniture Craftsmanship, *Anne Boleyn's Writing Desk*
- Chairs: Candice Groenke, College of the Redwoods, *Katana Bench*
- Open: Joshua Carson, Miami University, *Evolving Shelf*
- Reproduction: Collin Barker, Brigham Young University, *Comb Back Windsor Chair*

- Production/Contract: Benjamin Scarborough, Danville Community College/Southern Virginia Higher Education, *Dead Ben Drums*

High School Level Second Place Winners

- Case Goods: Tyler Spierdowis, Cedar Ridge High School, *Atlantic Breakfront*
- Tables: Michael Heyen, Dale Jackson Career Center, *Cherry Extract*
- Open: Bremely Karthigesu, Fletcher's Meadow Secondary School, *Unfurling Buds*
- Reproduction: Sam Steinberger, Lincoln East High School, *Kabuto Chairs*

Post-secondary Level Second Place Winners

- Case Goods: Tim McGuire, College of the Redwoods, *The Milky Way Sideboard*
- Tables: Adam Kessler, Buffalo State College, *Table for Dali*
- Open: Robert Palmer, Burlington College, *Smokin' Sycamore & The Doom*
- Reproduction: Jacob Maxfield, Brigham Young University, *Ulm Stool Design*
- Production/Contract: David Moon Kim, Art Center College of Design, *Skue*

High School Level Honorable Mention Winners

- Chairs: Daryl Bartczak, Fletcher's Meadow Secondary School, *All Things Elegant*
- Tables
 - Chris Boylan, Dakota High School, *Lost in the Hand*
 - Cole Leesnitzer, Cedar Ridge High School, *Bent on Walnut*
- Open: Bryan Eyerly, Ontario High School, *Big B*
- Reproduction: Trevin Roberson, Lincoln Southeast High School, *Devine Recline*
- Production/Contract: Jacob McGinness, Shiloh High School, *Computer Chair*

Post-secondary Level Honorable Mention Winners

- Case Goods: Francis "Mickey" McCann, College of the Redwoods Fine Furniture Program, *Percival the Red Knightstand*
- Chairs: Austin Richards, Appalachian State University, *Eleanor*
- Reproduction: Michael Broomell, Palomar College, *Conoid Chair*