



**For Immediate Release**

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## **AWFS® Announces 2019 Fresh Wood Panel of Judges Vancouver Furniture Designer Judson Beaumont Creates Trophy**

ANAHEIM, CA – June 10, 2019 – Association of Wood Working & Furnishings Suppliers® (AWFS®) is honored to announce the judging panel for the 2019 Fresh Wood competition. This year 188 entries were received by Fresh Wood from high school and post-secondary students throughout the US and Canada. Forty-two projects were selected for the final round of judging which will take place at the AWFS®Fair in Las Vegas. The students and their instructors whose projects advanced to the final round are invited to attend the AWFS®Fair in person, with a majority of the travel costs covered by AWFS®.

### **Judging Panel Spans Woodworking Industry**

The Fresh Wood Judges panel is made up of distinguished woodworking professionals from different sectors of the industry:

- **Bob Barone**, a woodworker and guitar maker who is currently the Vice President at Precision Drive Systems in Charlotte, NC.
- **Judson Beaumont**, owner of Straight Line Design Inc. in Vancouver, BC, Canada. Judson's furniture is recognized for its unique creative, and sculptural style. He has had worldwide recognition and donates many pieces to raise money at charity events.
- **Scott Grove**, owner of Imagine Grove in Canandaigua, NY. Scott is a recognized artist, sculptor, and furniture maker who is known for his advanced woodworking techniques.
- **Wendy Maruyama**, a renowned furniture maker and artist from San Diego, CA. Wendy also led the Furniture and Woodworking program at San Diego State University from 1989-2014. Her work often carries a social message which can be seen in her series the *wildLIFE* Project which was "inspired and informed by the issues and problems of poaching and its impact on wildlife".
- **Jim Wellever**, Department Head of the Cabinetmaking/Millwork Training program and Director of the Midwest Advanced Woodworking Technology Center at Michigan Career & Technical Institute.

### **Furniture Designer Judson Beaumont to Create 2019 Best of Show Trophy**

Fresh Wood judge Judson Beaumont will also create the 2019 Fresh Wood Best of Show Trophy. "We asked Judson to design a trophy that embodied his own design language," says AWFS® Education Manager Adam Kessler. "We are thrilled with what he came up with, and we can't wait to find out which student wins the prize."

From 1999 to 2013, the original Fresh Wood Best of Show Trophy was made by Sam Maloof and after his passing, Sam Maloof Woodworker Inc. In 2015, AWFS invited master craftsman and marquetry expert, Paul Schürch, to design a trophy, which beautifully represented his trademark inlaid veneer style of work. In 2017, AWFS gave Garry Knox Bennett free reign to create something symbolic of his impressive body of work.

The trophy will be unveiled and presented to the Best of Show winner by Judson Beaumont at the **Student Awards Ceremony, 4:00 p.m. on Friday, July 19 at the AWFS®Fair in room N-109/N-110**. All registered Fair attendees are invited to attend the student awards ceremony, where winners of the Fresh Wood student competition and the American Association of Woodturners, Turning to the Future student woodturning competition, will be announced. No registration is required but seating is limited.

#### **Fresh Wood Categories Sponsored by AWFS®Fair Exhibitors**

In the preliminary round, students submit photos and answer questions about their piece for the judges to review. There are six different categories; Case Goods, Seating, Tables, Design for Production, Open, and the 2019 Special Theme: Sports and Games. The judging panel scored the projects in areas such as Design Innovation on original pieces, Quality of Execution on reproduction pieces, Craftsmanship, Functionality, Construction, and Aesthetics. During the final round of judging at the AWFS Fair, Fresh Wood Judges inspect and interact with the furniture to decide a winner in each category. Student information remains anonymous throughout the judging process.

Prizes are awarded in each category and at each school level for First Place (\$1,000), Second Place (\$500), and at the judges' discretion an Honorable Mention (\$250). This year several new category sponsorships were introduced. Sponsoring the Seating category is LIGNIA Wood Company Limited. Next Wave Automation sponsored the Design for Production category, and Northwest Hardwoods is the Table category sponsor. PantoRouter will present a special Bravo to Teachers award and will donate a PantoRouter to the instructor of a Fresh Wood Finalist for use in the classroom. The grand prize at the Fresh Wood competition is the Best of Show Award, sponsored by KCD Software, which comes with an additional \$1,000 and the trophy made by Judson Beaumont. A People's Choice Award, sponsored by Wagner Meters, is also presented to a Fresh Wood finalist whose project is selected by AWFS Fair attendees using a mobile device and includes a cash prize of \$750.

Fresh Wood and the AAW Turning to the Future student woodturning competition, are both free to enter. The objective of the contests is to encourage students to pursue further education and careers in woodworking, woodturning and manufacturing as the industry faces shortages of skilled workers.

#### **About AWFS®:**

The full-scale international [AWFS®Fair](#), scheduled for Wednesday - Saturday, July 17-20, 2019 in Las Vegas, has become a critical hub for international commerce in the woodworking industry. The AWFS®Fair brings together the entire home and commercial furnishings industry, including manufacturers and distributors of machinery, hardware, plastics, lumber, construction materials and other suppliers to the furniture, cabinet manufacturers and custom woodworkers.

For more information on the AWFS®Fair, please visit: [AWFSFair.org](#).