

The Whiteboard

The Whiteboard features articles pertinent to wood technology and design education and industry-education alliances.

Winter 2011

Education Activities Abound at 2011 AWFS®Fair

The AWFS®Fair strengthens its focus on education in 2011 with the introduction of a 7,000 square foot area in the North Hall to include the Fresh Wood student woodworking competition display, The Furniture Society display and exhibit booth, the AWFS Fair bookstore and a seating lounge. Attendees can take a much needed break from the bustle of the show floor while appreciating the view of fine student and professionally-made furniture. A special attraction will be the awards ceremony for the Fresh Wood competition -- held on the show floor or the first time -- next to the Fresh Wood display and during show hours. The event will be complimentary for all exhibitors and registered attendees.

In the Central Hall will be another “roll up your sleeves” showcase featuring the SmartSHOP, the WorldSkills Cabinetmaking Qualifying Trial and the Woodwork Career Alliance Trainer Certification Center.

The SmartSHOP, introduced at the 2009 AWFS Fair, is a fully operational cabinet shop on the exhibit floor that demonstrates “Simplicity in Automation for the Small Shop.” If you’ve ever been intimidated by the vast field of woodworking machinery visible on a trade show floor, the SmartSHOP brings automation down to scale for the modest size shops.

Premiering at the AWFS Fair will be the WorldSkills Cabinetmaking Qualifying Trials. WorldSkills is an international career technical education training organization that hosts biennial skill competitions for students. Student representatives from countries around the world within each skill discipline compete for Gold Medals. The AWFS-hosted WorldSkills Cabinetmaking Qualifying Trials will determine who from the U.S. will compete in WorldSkills Germany 2013. The trial will last the duration of the AWFS Fair. You can watch the students in action, building a project to showcase their woodworking skills, so be sure to stop by. The winner will be announced at the WorldSkills booth before the end of the AWFS Fair.

The Woodwork Career Alliance (WCA), which assumed the task of developing industry-wide wood manufacturing skill standards, evaluations and credentials, will be rolling out their Woodwork Passport program at the AWFS Fair. WCA’s Woodwork Passport is a “portable, personal, permanent record of a woodworker’s level of competency in tool and machine operations.” Individuals will be able to test and certify in specific tools and the certification will be recognized by employers across the industry and nation. At the AWFS Fair, WCA will be certifying trainers, the individuals who will then test and certify industry professionals’ and wood instructors’ skills on specific tools and machines. Stop by the WCA booth to learn more.

Be sure to check out the College of Woodworking Knowledge Teacher Track seminars. One seminar, sure to attract attention, shares with woodworking instructors how to align their curriculum with the AWS millwork standards as well as the Woodworking Career Alliance standards certification process. The seminar is sponsored by AWI. Other seminars will be offered specifically for instructors under the College of Woodworking Teacher Track series. Check awfsfair.org in late March for the full roster of Teacher Track seminars, as well as the complete College of Woodworking Knowledge education program.

If you would like more information on any of these activities, visit awfsfair.org or contact AWFS Education Manager Adria Torrez (323) 215-0311 or adria@awfs.org

Comments on this or previous articles? Suggestions for future Whiteboard topics? Please e-mail to adria@awfs.org