



## From President Paul Winistorfer

### To WoodLINKS USA Supporters and Friends,

We have much Inside WoodLINKS USA news to report to you this month. Many of you are not aware that our

National Program Director Wilf Torunski has been hospitalized in Vancouver, BC since Christmas. Wilf collapsed at home, was transported to the hospital, and diagnosed with numerous severe infections. He had an infection around his spinal column, which has rendered him paralyzed from the waist down. His condition was very severe and we nearly lost him. He is now making progress, with feeling in his legs, feet and toes and we expect recovery. Certainly this has been a trying time for Wilf and Donna and WoodLINKS USA. Wilf remains hospitalized but his bright spirit and fountain of energy are leading him to recovery. We all have been sending our thoughts and prayers to Wilf and Donna for his recovery. At times like this it is important to remember that all of our endeavors are about people.

- Many have kept WoodLINKS information flowing and I thank you for helping out. Wilf's condition these past two months absolutely reconfirms to me our mission and the role of the National Program Director in sustaining WoodLINKS and moving us forward. I have underestimated the power and impact of one person and my guess is you have as well. It is critical for us to move forward and sustain WoodLINKS programming. To that end I would like to report on the following:
- We are finalizing the position description to begin the search for a new National Program Director. Larry Hilchie, Duane Griffiths, John Schultz, John Zinn, Steve Ehle and I will oversee this process.
- WoodLINKS will be represented at the NAM Fly-In in Washington DC the week of February 12th. Steve Ehle, Larry Hilchie, John Schultz and myself will represent WoodLINKS at various meetings.
- WoodLINKS will be present at the Carolinas Expo in Greensboro NC February 15-16. Tricia Eidson and the TSI

folks again support us at this show and we are appreciative of their support. Steve Ehle and John Zinn will be at our booth during the show.

- WoodLINKS will be present at the Stiles Executive Briefing Conference in Dallas Texas in March. I will attend the Conference and represent WoodLINKS with the generous support of Duane Griffiths and Stiles Machinery.
- WoodLINKS will be present via a presentation at a Wood Industry Summit to be held in Buckhannon, West Virginia May 7, 8 and 9, 2007.
- WoodLINKS will be represented in a presentation to the Engineered Wood Technology Association in Atlanta June 21.
- WoodLINKS will be present at the AWFS Show in July and we will orchestrate teachers and students attending the show via in-service training opportunities.
- WoodLINKS will be represented via a presentation at the AWI Top Executive Conference in Louisville, KY next October 5th.

As you can see, there is strong and growing interest across the sector in WoodLINKS, our past accomplishments and vision for future impacts. Every meeting listed above is an invited presentation or participation invitation for WoodLINKS.

We are clearly in transition until we name a new National Program Director. We appreciate your past support and hope that you will continue to support us as we move forward. I am convinced more today of our mission and impacts than ever before and know that we could not deliver programming without your generous support and engagement with us.

On behalf of the students, teachers, and the WoodLINKS USA Board of Directors we thank you for your support of WoodLINKS.

Warmest regards,



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# Inside WoodLINKS USA News

News for Our Supporters and Friends

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## WoodLINKS Casts Wide Net

By John Zinn

If you ask any woodworking manufacturer what their biggest challenge will be in the coming

year, almost all will tell you that it will be finding qualified workers. That's why it is so important for the entire woodworking industry to support the WoodLINKS USA movement.

In the past this program has been supported by several of the woodworking shows, individual companies, and a few industry associations. However, as WoodLINKS USA continues to enlist more schools that use this successful training and certification curriculum, it will require more funding for future growth.

Therefore WoodLINKS is launching a nationwide fund raising effort. We will continue to work with past supporting organizations and companies, but will focus on working with industry associations whose memberships will derive the greatest benefit by hiring the WoodLinks trained and certified students as employees. It's these end user companies which should have the greatest interest in supporting this growing program.

So, when you are approached by mail or personal contact, we hope you'll evaluate how this will directly benefit you and the woodworking industry and make your tax deductible contribution.

If your business is a one man operation, your contribution may be as little as \$25.00. If you're 10 or more employees you may consider \$100.00, \$300.00 or \$500.00. If you're 50 or more employees you may want to consider \$1000.00 or more. Our hope is that by getting many organizations and companies to contribute an amount within their means, we won't have to rely on just a few big companies or organizations to shoulder the entire industries responsibility.

You may direct any contributions to WoodLINKS USA, P.O. Box 1153 Point Roberts, WA, 98281.



## WoodLINKS Wisconsin Partners with State DPI

By Steve Ehle

In move of pure synergy, WoodLINKS Wisconsin and the State Department of Public Instruction are partnering with this spring's SkillsUSA competition in Madison.

Late last year I met with Brent Kindred, Technology and Engineering Consultant/SkillsUSA State Director/PLTW State Leader with the Wisconsin DPI. Brent and I have been communicating for the past few months, searching for common focuses and possible projects we could work on jointly.

My goal was to get the DPI's official endorsement of the WoodLINKS program in the state. That probably won't come to pass, at least in any official capacity because the DPI's hands are tied when it comes to advocating any one curriculum or program; however, unofficially, the DPI (Brent) can steer any inquiries from



WoodLINKS USA National Program Director, Wilf Torunski, left, and WoodLINKS Wisconsin Coordinator Steve Ehle, right, met recently with Forest Products Society Executive Vice President Carol Lewis, center, to discuss how the FPS can assist WoodLINKS USA's national effort

wood tech teachers or school administrators to WoodLINKS (me) when they inquire about establishing or enhancing their programs.

Brent, a former wood tech instructor, wants to make wood tech programs at the high school level "more robust." He sees WoodLINKS as a logical way to enhance wood tech program and establish links with private industry within the

community. I couldn't agree more. So we'll be working together to make that happen.

As SkillsUSA State Director, Brent came up with the idea of having WoodLINKS Wisconsin co-sponsor a student woodworking project design competition. Because most students will have completed projects by early spring, it was a no-brainer that we provide an opportunity for students to see how their projects stack up with other students.

We'll break down the entry categories based on the cost of raw materials. I've formed a committee that will establish other ground rules and who will act as judges. The students will be asked to bring their entries to the SkillsUSA Wisconsin competition April 24-26 in Madison. Brent has already alerted all state schools and has set a deadline for entries.

A long range goal would be WoodLINKS USA co-sponsoring a national woodworking project design content in conjunction with SkillsUSA national.

In other WoodLINKS Wisconsin news:

- I'm in the process of applying for 501©3 non-profit status for WoodLINKS in the state. This will allow us to more readily apply for grants to support the program on an ongoing basis. I've formed a board of directors made up of educators and manufacturers. We hope to have our application reviewed and, hopefully, approved by this summer. A major goal is to have the Wisconsin non-profit status effort be a model for other states.
- WoodLINKS USA and the Forest Products Society, headquartered in

Madison, have entered into a partnership where the FPS would support and endorse WoodLINKS. The FPS would also provide a number of services to teachers and students on a national basis. Carol Lewis, Executive Vice President of the FPS, was instrumental in getting this relationship established.



Milwaukee Hamilton High School was the recent recipient of a used Biesse Rover CNC machining center. The unit was donated by Corsi Cabinets of Indianapolis.

- Little Chute High School has joined the ranks of WoodLINKS schools. A number of other prospective schools have also shown interest. Our plan is to have at least 30 Wisconsin schools offering the program by July 1.
- Milwaukee Hamilton High School was the recent recipient of a used Biesse Rover machining center, thanks to Corsi Cabinets of Indianapolis. Late last year, Corsi made it known to WoodLINKS schools that it wanted to donate the machine ASAP. Hamilton vice principal John Roch raised his hand immediately and the router is now being installed at the school. Many thanks to Corsi and woodworking software supplier Microvellum for making this happen.



## AWI Awards Scholarships for WoodLINKS Students

The Architectural Woodwork Institute recently provided funding for student scholarships awarded to WoodLINKS students around the country. Thanks to Greg Heuer, Director of Training and Member Services for AWI for providing funds and working with WoodLINKS to identify worthy student recipients. THANKS AWI for your generous support! The following students were awarded AWI Scholarships.

### Daniel Roethle

Dept. Wood Science - Virginia Tech  
Blacksburg, VA

### Jessica Gibson

North Salem High School  
Salem, OR

### Mary Van Dempsey

Cedar Ridge High School  
Hillsborough, NC

### Bryan Cook

Mesa High School  
Mesa, AZ

### Alejandro Castanada

Mesa High School  
Mesa, AZ

## Harper Creek Appealing for Your Help!

Ralph Hermanson teaches an effective WoodLINKS program at Harper Creek in Battle Creek Michigan.

In order to teach modern manufacturing, he uses an older version CNC machine that was donated by Lam-Fab to his program many years ago. His WoodLINKS students are highly acclaimed and many are employed with local manufacturers including Duncan Aviation.

But he ran into serious problems recently. His 1980's DOS - based controller broke down and his machine now sits idle in the middle of student projects. Ralph estimates that it will cost \$15,000 to repair and he has appealed to industry support to get the machine going again.

A Harper Creek newsletter was distributed appealing for \$500 - \$1000 donations. Almost immediately, a number of companies responded with donations. They include: Great Lake Woods, Kreg, Onsrud Cutters, Planit Solutions, Quality Hardwoods.

My sincerest thanks are extended to those companies for responding so quickly. Hermanson has collected approximately \$2500 to date - about 25% of the way there.

Ralph's program is too valuable to have this equipment remain idle for too much longer.

I strongly urge you to consider financially helping Ralph with any amount that you can.

Please send your donations to;

Ralph Hermanson  
Harper Creek High School  
7290 B Drive N.  
Battle Creek, MI 49014  
Tel: 269-979-1121 # 8435 or contact him at  
[rb\\_herm@comcast.net](mailto:rb_herm@comcast.net)



Ralph Hermanson's WoodLINKS program is too valuable to have this equipment remain idle for too much longer.



## Big Christmas Present at David Douglas High – Portland, Oregon

It was a wonderful Christmas event and present for Doug Ivey, WoodLINKS USA teacher at David Douglas High in Portland, Oregon. Doug's program is an award winner, especially at the AWFS Design Competitions.

On the last day of school before the Christmas break, he and his industry supporters met at Boden Store Fixtures in Portland.

Doug was told that his program was now an officially paid up member of WoodLINKS USA and was also asked to open a separate bank account to cover miscellaneous expenses.

He received \$6000 from Barbo Machinery, Boden and Emerson Hardwood Company. Five thousand dollars was committed to the WoodLINKS license and one thousand was to be used for special occasions for his program under a joint signature basis with his industry supporters.

A big thank you goes to Rand Robinson and Frank Kaltenbach of Barbo Machinery for having organized this contribution, for being such strong supporters of WoodLINKS USA and for assisting in leading the program in that State.



Doug Ivey and his students at David Douglas High in Portland, Oregon.

## Contacting WoodLINKS USA Leadership

Make sure you have our correct contact information on file.

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