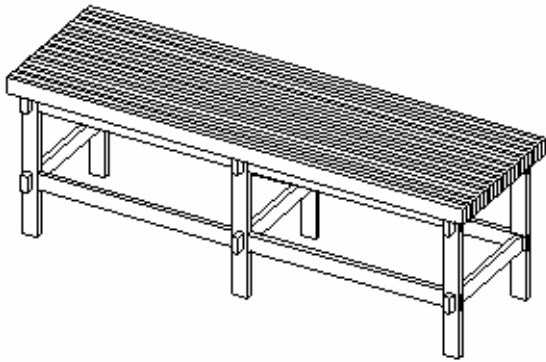


**Huntington School of Fine Woodwork**  
**November 2006 Report**  
**Josh Dygert**  
**Woodshop Instructor**

November in the Huntington School of Fine Woodwork have been a period of continued learning as well as new starts for a few new students. Continuing students have begun to expand on the skills they have developed since their introduction to the shop. New students completed shop and safety orientations and began applying the basics of joinery and woodworking skills to design and create their shop stools. Over the last month, students who were once shy newcomers have already begun to evolve into capable, sure woodworkers, capable of following instructions and, in many circumstances, also understanding wood and woodworking well enough to make decisions on their own on how a piece should be constructed.



Our adult class has spent the past months furthering their understanding of joinery and completing exercises aimed at promoting precision, resulting in the beginnings of a knowledge of woodworking. We can now begin to refer to this as a knowledge due to the students' new found ability to recognize the truths in woodworking on their own rather than needing to be told of them. The exercise of constructing a keyed mortise and tenon bookshelf gave the class an example of a fairly complex piece made with

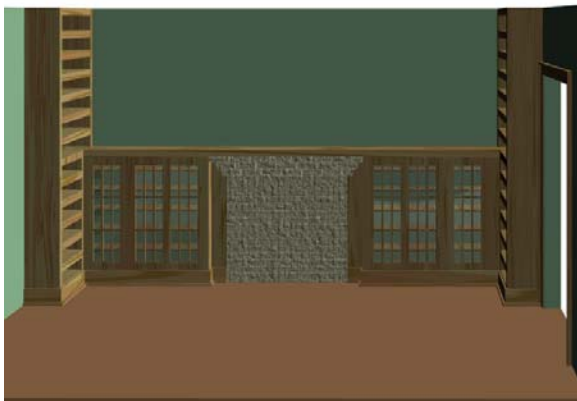
no hardware, only wood joinery. Also, we began to spend time focusing on finishing techniques, how to correctly apply polyurethane and varnish and how not to, what is right and what is wrong. By using the new learned skills along with those that the students have attained since the beginning of their woodshop training, Brian Henderson, Jason Henderson and Garry Blevins were able to construct a complete, well-made shelving project. Next, the students spent time on precision exercises. Though these seemed like simple tasks at first, we learned quickly how demanding the construction of a single mitered cube could be, when done with precision as the driving goal. As results of this study in care and exactness, students have undoubtedly learned the value of well thought out, precise construction as opposed to "good enough" work. Brian Henderson and Jason Henderson have shown superb enthusiasm as well as exceptional progress in both their understanding and capabilities in the woodshop and woodworking.



The youth class has grown considerably recently: five new students have joined our group. The new students completed shop and safety orientations and quickly caught up with the class, completing their shop stools quickly and well and moving on to new projects. Michael Wilson, Shane Robinson, Chris Pulley, Anthony Jenkins and Nick McClain have all joined the class over the last month or so and have designed and either

have completed or are in the process of completing their shop stools, each being unique to its creator. Michael Wilson has recently completed a stool constructed of walnut and ash woods, with its top resembling a floorboard pattern. Shane Robinson is in the process of completing his stool and is showing good early understanding of the basics of joinery and woodworking as well as good enthusiasm. Chris Pulley has completed his stool, which consisted of walnut and ash and showcased the practice of lamination, but with a gentle arch, rather than straight lines. Anthony Jenkins has done a good job on a very nice stool constructed out of maple and walnut with a very nice diagonal line design across its seat resulting in a very clean and nice piece. Nick McClain has completed a stool project with ash and walnut, rather than a flat seat; however, Nick utilized the practice of kerfing to produce a more ergonomic, curved seat. Jordan Williams, the first student to enrolling this session's youth woodworking class has long since completed his original checkerboard stool and has continued to create a complete set, consisting of two stools and a high full-scale checkerboard table. Since completing their stools, the youth class has begun a trinket box project, which will result in a variety of sized and designed trinket boxes. Many of these students have taken their stool designs and carried them into related projects.

The advanced class has been refining their skills and adding to them over the past months. They have focused on completing unfinished projects that had been long forgotten, utilizing the work with joinery to build new workbenches for shop use, and altering existing designs to produce new items. Cecil Rowe has taken on the task of producing new workbenches for shop use, which have replaced various folding tables throughout our space. By laminating simple pine 2x4's to create a substantial and resilient work surface and designing a strong base, Cecil has provided the shop with terrific workspaces with integrated bench vises and storage. Also, Cecil has shown continued interest in joinery and Mission-style furniture construction by studying the work of Gustav Stickley and is preparing to construct a chair inspired by his designs. Dana Nitz has continued his study of joinery and seating, continuing his study of the Adirondack chair and working on a stool project. By examining and rethinking the design of the chair that he has all but mastered, Dana has created what he has dubbed the "Kiddirondack" a half-scale, child-sized version of the classic Adirondack chair. Brandon Cooper has spent much time focusing on the methods of inlay, seating design and joinery. Brandon's most recent project, a stool with integrated storage space below its seat is nearing completion. With this piece, he has also explored the possibilities of inlay to emphasize the natural lines of the project, resulting in what is promising to be a beautiful piece. Also, Brandon has spent much time revisiting forgotten or abandoned projects around the shop, improving and completing them, showing great enthusiasm in not only his work, but also the practice of woodworking as a whole.



In November we explored some custom designs and filled a few small-scale orders, including a cherry library table and a chair repair. Future plans involve continuing exercises to promote precision, working on pieces for the Lyons Club craft show in December, and completing two large-scale bookshelf projects for outside clients.