

# SWWA'S Woodworker's Challenge

## November 2010



November to remember! In our 5<sup>th</sup> year of running a SWWA woodworking challenge, we experienced the best ever participation with 23 entries! Thank you one and all for your involvement - whether it be through entry into one of six categories, or through participating in selecting winners.

Great job by all! Awards were handed out in the form of ribbons and various gift certificates from vendors. Since awards were handed out in reverse, here's my best explanation in reverse.

Starting with the **What Not** category, we had three entries. *Phyllis Eckenrode* won 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for her Oak sailboat she recently crafted. Phyllis noted that this is not the original size of the project; she shrunk it to her liking such that the boat was 17" in length. When asked about the sails, Phyllis reminded everyone that sanding something like this produces lots of dust and requires good dust collection.

Winning 2<sup>nd</sup> prize and a \$20 gift certificate to Treeline was *Jeffrey Cheramie* with his birch articulating backhoe. Jeff worked with his grandfather to build this wonderful piece. The finish is polyurethane.

New member *Jim Butler* won 1<sup>st</sup> prize and a \$30 gift certificate to Woodline for his replica miniature steam locomotive and donkey engine. Woods used to build these two pieces include zircote, maple, walnut, mahogany, and ebony. Jim does not put on a finish on.

The **Toy** category had just one participant - *Barbara Raymond* who showed the saw-shaped xylophone constructed of spalted birch. Barbara (and Charlie) won a \$25 gift certificate to PS Wood Machines.

Five projects were entered into the **Turned** category which meant two Honorable Mention ribbons were distributed. *Bob Norton* received a ribbon for his turned choir he created of many different woods. During the project *Show & Tell*, he shared some experiences with turning the choir members. *Charlie LaPrease* also received a ribbon for his cherry salad bowl with mineral oil finish, one of several turned from pieces retrieved from a felled tree at Lou's where he works.

A walnut and purpleheart peppermill won *Rod Castle* 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the turned category. Rod noted he constructed a jig to assist with the wood lamination and used four sizes of forstner bits to drill the mill inside.

English walnut became a natural edged turned vase that won *John Meloling* 2<sup>nd</sup> prize and a \$20 gift certificate to Treeline. Unlike many of John's pieces, this vase is not for sale as his wife Louise considers it her own. John used Myland's Friction Polish to finish the vase.

*Jeffrey Cheramie* won 1st prize and a \$20 gift certificate to Packard Woodworks with his cherry and holly triple twisted stem goblet. Jeffrey noted that he hand carved the stem which has a 3/16" hole down the center where the holly is inserted. For the finish, Jeffrey used polyurethane which he learned turns holly yellow.

The **Scrolled** category had five projects also so two Honorable Mention ribbons were distributed here also. *Tony Baleno* entered his mule deer picture, cut inside a 3/4" thick piece of aspen harvested from his land in Cedarvale. Tony noted that aspen is a hard wood to work with. It also unexpectedly produced bleeding when the inner edge was sprayed with black paint; however, the bleeding enhanced the picture. A mahogany bald eagle figure was the honorable mention entry of *Ron Bacht*. The pattern, created by Canadian Jacob Fowler, includes at least 150 inside cuts which Ron chipped away at over 2 weeks. The piece has an oak base and a danish oil finish.

An Indian lady picture on Baltic birch plywood was *Phyllis Eckenrode's* 3<sup>rd</sup> place entry. Phyllis acquired the pattern from a friend after seeing it cut and displayed at NWA's Saratoga Showcase. The frame was constructed by Roland Pearson.

Walnut and maple destined for the dumpster became *Paul Granger's* Stations of the Cross 2<sup>nd</sup> prize scrolled entry. Paul's advice to everyone considering this project - get the blocks cut to size and mitered before starting then study each pattern for *problem* areas before cutting. Paul received the *Scroll Saw Portraits* pattern book from Scroller Ltd for his 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish.

Last year *Bob Henry* partnered with *Mike White* to win the 4<sup>th</sup> Woodworker's Challenge with a large scrolled clock. This year, he took 1<sup>st</sup> place and received a \$25 gift certificate to Scroller Ltd for his ash clock, a pattern from the Art Factory. Bob finished each component with an oak stain and laquer before gluing it together with Weldbond glue. He constructed the clock for his wife.

Category five was *Accessories* and it had four participants. *Rod Castle* received an Honorable Mention ribbon for the oak vanity stool he designed and built for his wife over a year ago. He turned the legs, used the Kreg jig for construction, and finished it with antique oil.

Ideas for new projects come to *Charles Trabold* at odd times of the night. His 3<sup>rd</sup> place pair of clocks project came to him after getting up to "go to the facilities" one night after purchasing the plexi piece from Art Kirsch. One clock is walnut and the other is maple. The walnut is from the tree planted in 1960 and recently cut down. The time markers in the plexi are drilled from the back.

A ½ sawn honey locust ring box (filled with rings!) won *Paul Granger* 2<sup>nd</sup> prize and a \$20 gift certificate from Lakeshore Hardwoods. The inlay is walnut, maple, and bloodwood. The rings are held in velvet ring bars which Paul purchased from Rockler.

First prize and a \$25 PS Wood Machines gift certificate was presented to *Terry Dote* for his olive ash burl veneered box which he built for his son. The black accent pieces on the outside are maple dyed with India ink whereas the inside rails are ebony. The inside tray is still under construction.

Our last category is *Furniture* and we had five entries, two receiving Honorable Mention ribbons. *Roland Pearson* an occasional table of ¼-sawn red oak. He saw an ad in the newspaper for a table like this from Stickley for a relatively large amount of money. Roland made this replica table for ¼ the price and instantly won the admiration of his granddaughter who acquired it. The table construction is pin tenon and Roland finished it with a cherry stain and water-based polyurethane. Our second Honorable Mention ribbon went to *Dick Powers* for his ash glider rocker. Dick built this after his daughter showed up with a plan for one he did not like. Dick designed this rocker using the general plans provided by his daughter combined with a similar one found in magazine. Due to body width, he increased the seat by 2". The finish is satin water based polyurethane.

A small cherry cupboard embellished with free hand carving was the 3<sup>rd</sup> place entry of *Mike Shuron*. Mike indicates that this is "another Stickley rip-off from a flyer" he received. He improved their design by using 2 doors. Mike's finish of satin polyurethane gained the attention of his wife who now wants a bedroom set of the same color.

The Mission-style cherry *cozy bench* constructed by *Jerry Sweeney* earned him 2<sup>nd</sup> prize and a \$25 gift certificate from Highland Hardware. Jerry adapted this bench from the *Wood* October 2010 issue article. It matches other Mission furniture he's built, including a chair that uses the same fabric for its cushions.

*Terry Dote* took 1<sup>st</sup> prize and a \$100 gift certificate to Lie Nielsen Tools for his Krenov cabinet of mahogany, spalted maple, walnut, birdseye maple, and stained glass. The cabinet was designed for his art student son and was designed out of proportion intentionally. It combines a mix of traditional features with odd features such as the hand carved bottom of the legs. The legs took 2 weeks to carve. The inner accessory includes a hidden compartment in the back.

Congratulations to everyone who participated! I received many compliments from attendees following the meeting. As one said "I expect many more entries next year"! Of course, many thanks to all of the vendors who provided gift certificates.

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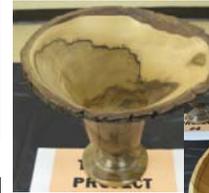


**Toys**



**Turned**

**What Not**



**Accessories**



**Scrolled**



**Furniture**



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**Participants in SWWA's 2010  
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