



## 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, his wife 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 at the WIC meeting in St. Petersburg, Florida in April.
- 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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## 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 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 programs 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 student woodworking design project contest in conjunction with the SkillsUSA national event held each year in Kansas City.

In other WoodLINKS Wisconsin news:

- WoodLINKS USA and the Forest Products Society, headquartered in Madison, have entered into a partnership



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

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.

- 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.
- 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 ma-

chine 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.



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.

### **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

## 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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