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PRESENTATIONS / SEMINARS BY JONATHAN BENSON

“Fusion of the Mind and Hands”, Furniture Society Annual Conference, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, June 2010. The furniture makers role in American society and industry were explored.

“Veneering Workshop with Jonathan Benson”, Marc Adams School of Woodworking, Franklin, IN 2010 and 2008. This one week course in veneering began with the basic book match and go through four-, eight- and twelve-way matches. Hammer veneering and working with curves also were introduced.

“Wood Veneering Workshops”, Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton, VA. These weekend workshops cover the basics of working with fine wood veneers. 2009

“Veneering and Wood Bending Seminars”, (ongoing) At regional Woodcraft stores. Introductory lectures, classes and seminars covering veneering, wood bending and related topics 2008 to present

“Veneering Seminar”, Prairie Rose Studio, Indianola, IA, April 2007 and October 2007. In this two-day seminar, participants with no previous experience were able complete a basic book-match, a four-way match, an eight way match and an inlay.

“Bending Wood”, Des Moines Woodworkers Club, Des Moines, IA, April, 2007. This demonstration presented wood bending techniques including steam bending, bent lamination and forming plywood using vacuum press.

“Marketing for Woodworking”, Iowa State University, Ames, IA, 2007. This seminar for I.S.U. career days gave students tools for learning about the woodworking market and marketing their work.

“Veneering With a Master Craftsman”, The Woodsmith Store, Urbandale, IA, 2006 and 2007. These seminars sought to take the mystery out of veneering by showing audience members who possess a few basic tools how to get started with veneering by making a basic project. More complex processes where also presented to illustrate the many possibilities of veneering.

- “Artist Presentation”** Furniture Society Annual Conference, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA, July 2005. This presentation included a demonstration of the hammer veneering process, veneer inlay and a slide presentation of my work.
- “Marketing for Furniture Makers”**, Delivered at the Furniture Society Annual Conference, Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, GA, June, 2004. This was a hands-on workshop for makers who wished to get the word out about their work. Topics covered included press releases, press kits, mailing lists, advertising and how to get free publicity.
- “Developing a Portfolio”**, Delivered at the Furniture Society Annual Conference, Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, GA, June, 2004. This workshop covered several different types of portfolios and what materials each should contain. Topics covered included types of portfolios, resumes, cover letters, images, and how to find and approach galleries, stores and potential clients.
- “How Studio Furniture Pushes the Envelope Between Function and Art”**, Delivered at the “Small Wood 2002; Community & Economic Development Opportunities in Small Tree Utilization” conference. This conference was sponsored by the USDA Forest Service and took place in Albuquerque, NM in 2002. This presentation began with a brief history of hand-made furniture in the United States and continued with an examination various recent trends in furniture design, then concluded with an introduction of the work of many studio furniture makers that were working currently at that time.
- “ Guest Artist/Critic”**, The University of Miami, Ohio, 2002. Presentations included history of furniture design, my work over 25 years and concluded with a critique of student work.