

## Student of the Month



**NAME:** Daniel Roethle

**SCHOOL:** Virginia Tech

**MAJOR/PROGRAM:** Wood Science & Forest Products

**AGE:** 19

### How did you become interested in working with wood?

As a child I was always interested in making things. After graduating from Legos, wood seemed like the perfect material to work with. When I was in elementary school, my dad helped me carve out a small toy canoe, and while in middle school my neighbor, Ron Wiskerchen, got me started in wood turning.

### How would you describe your style?

With my early wood turning projects, I learned that often the idea in mind is not always the appearance that is produced. This phenomenon still applies to my style today. I will always be making adjustments as the project progresses, some major and some minor. Overall, I try not to stick to one "style," but rather incorporate what works in any given situation.

### What kind of woodworking experience do you have?

The majority of my woodworking experience was gained in my high school woodshop at Hartford Union High School in Hartford, Wis. My teacher, Jason Kraus, would make it a point to arrive at school an hour early to allow students extra time to work on their projects, and I took advantage. Nearly every morning of my junior and senior year was spent in that shop as well as many of my study halls and sometimes after school. My senior year I worked at a local cabinet shop, J&V Lakewood Cabinets, through a co-op program. That experience really opened my eyes to the cabinet industry as well as the workings of solid surface countertops. During all this time, I began putting together a small basement woodshop.

### What was your latest project?

My latest project was a rocking chair. After two years of design and construction, and many complications along the way, I created what is my most intricate project to date. While the finished product is far from perfect, the design is, to my knowledge, completely original. The entire frame of the chair is one laminated piece of wood in a figure eight that bends at the intersection to form both the seat and back of the chair. I intend to cane the seat and back, but college has taken me far away from home, the chair and the shops I worked in.

