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## PRESS RELEASE

### Judges Confirmed for 2012 National Fine Wood Crafted Competition

The New Forest Trust will be holding their annual national Fine-Crafted Wood Competition at The New Forest & Hampshire County Show – this is the seventh year of this growing successful competition. The Trust has just confirmed the judges for 2012. They are delighted to announce that Richard Williams has agreed to join the team, and they welcome back Martin Grierson and James Ryan. Three more prestigious professional furniture makers, all coming from diverse backgrounds, you would be hard put to find.

Richard Williams opened his first workshop in 1990 and now has a team of exceptional craftsmen working with him in their new premises in Beaconsfield. Richard designs all the furniture that the workshop produces and continues to design and make his own pieces on a freelance basis whenever time allows.

The workshop has won many awards and accolades for work, including 8 'Guildmark' awards from the Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers and most notably the Claxton-Stevens Prize in 1995. In 2000 Richard was awarded an honorary Masters degree by Buckingham Chilterns University College for exceptional achievements in furniture design and cabinet making. His clients a local, national and international and Richard and his team are equally as happy to make a small keepsake as they are to furnish a whole house!

The thinking behind holding these highly regarded furniture making competitions and having some of the top professionals as judges, was to encourage the use of New Forest timber for commercial, hobby or educational use. The Trust facilitated this Exhibition both for trainees entering the competition and professionals, because it believes that conservation of the New Forest requires a viable economy for those who maintain the livestock, woods and wildlife. Using trees available for harvest as a means of stimulating the local economy and encouraging wood related arts and crafts provides a sustainable economic stream of income.

All competitors will use primarily timber that has either come directly from the New Forest or sourced locally in the UK. For all the information you need to enter the competition please go on to the web site of the New Forest Trust and follow the links – [www.newforesttrust.org.uk](http://www.newforesttrust.org.uk) .

The New Forest & Hampshire County Show will be held from Tuesday 24th to Thursday 26th July at New Park, Brockenhurst. Log on to [www.newforestshow.co.uk](http://www.newforestshow.co.uk)

### Further Information

**Martin Grierson** studied design and cabinet making at London's Central School of Arts & Crafts (now Central St.Martins) and then spent 5 years as an assistant to

leading architects and designers. He started the workshop after 15 years practicing as a free-lance designer to the furniture industry, and set out to make proper pieces of furniture that exploit traditional forms of construction but are, never the less, expressions of today.

He has an enviable client list that includes The House of Lords, Palace of Westminster, Jesus and Christ Colleges in Cambridge, the Bank of England, the National Gallery (Sainsbury Wing) and St. Brides Church in Fleet Street just to name a few!

**James Ryan** is the designer-manager at the Edward Barnsley Workshop and he designs all the furniture made there. He has received six Guildmark awards from the Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers for pieces he has designed and his work has been selected for Design Nation. James also works as a free-lance and has designed three ranges of furniture for Ercol. He is a liveryman of The Worshipful Co. and serves on its Guildmark Award Committee. In 2008 and 2009 he organized the annual gathering of the DesignerMakers.org.uk forum members, which were each attended by more than a hundred furniture makers from around the country