



FOR RELEASE: July 7, 2011

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## The North Carolina Arboretum Receives Grant from American Association of Woodturners

**ASHEVILLE, NC** – The North Carolina Arboretum was recently awarded a grant by the American Association of Woodturners. The grant provided the funds necessary to develop a unique table demonstration area and greenhouse exhibit, *Into the Wood*. The exhibit is hosted in conjunction with the Arboretum's summer exhibit, *The Fine Art of Wood: An International Invitational Exhibition of Woodturning*.

*Into the Wood* explores the differences between hardwoods and softwoods, as well as the many variables that can affect the appearance and health of a tree. Seven interactive stations provide visitors a closer look at a variety of woods and the similarities and differences that exist among them. The exhibit introduces basic concepts in wood, such as figure, growth rings, and rays through hands-on components that allow visitors to see and touch actual tree cookies. Microscope tables with various tree cells on slides offer students the opportunity to view and note different structures within cells and cell wall formations. Predators of wood, including microbes, bacteria, fungi, and insects are also featured in the exhibit. Support for *Into the Wood* is also provided by Asheville Hardware, Community Partner of The North Carolina Arboretum.

*The Fine Art of Wood: An International Invitational Exhibition of Woodturning* features the work of more than 40 artists from across the country and around the world. The exhibit showcases a wide variety of style and presentation, from pedestal and tabletop pieces to wall hangings. The American Association of Woodturners, along with their local chapter, the Carolina Mountain Woodturners, helped facilitate this exhibit.

During the exhibit run, the Carolina Mountain Woodturners will host demonstrations to illustrate the basics of woodturning. The demonstrations will take place from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Friday through Sunday during the weekend of August 12. Chapter members will have work for sale during the events, and will be available to answer questions about woodturning.

*The Fine Art of Wood* is one of three shows this summer bringing the best of woodturning art and craft to the region. Blue Spiral 1, located on historic Biltmore Avenue in downtown Asheville, is hosting *Wood Moving Forward*, featuring the work of 14 premier Southern artists from July 1 through September 30. Grovewood Gallery, located near the Grove Park Inn Resort & Spa, will present *A Wood Collector's Home*, featuring work by 19 top wood artists from across North America from July 1 through October 2.

Showing concurrently with *The Fine Art of Wood*, a photography exhibit by Terry Ashley blurs the lines between science and art. *Botanical Chords* features images that are both aesthetically stunning and scientifically accurate. A former research scientist at Yale University School of Medicine, Ashley developed her technique while pursuing her hobby of photographing plant parts under the light microscope. Ashley termed her art "chords" because they connect two separate images, one traditional plant photograph and one image taken at a cellular level.

*The NC Arboretum is located next to the Blue Ridge Parkway entrance at Milepost 393. From I-26, take Exit 33 and follow Blue Ridge Parkway signs for two miles to the entrance ramp. Visit [www.ncarboretum.org/plan-a-visit](http://www.ncarboretum.org/plan-a-visit) for parking fees, property hours and building hours. For general information call (828) 665-2492 or visit [www.ncarboretum.org](http://www.ncarboretum.org).*

*Into the Wood, The Fine Art of Wood* and *Botanical Chords* will be on display at The North Carolina Arboretum through September 6. The exhibitions will be open to the public during regular Baker Exhibit Center hours: 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. daily. There is no admission fee for these exhibits.

For information, call (828) 665-2492 or visit [www.ncarboretum.org](http://www.ncarboretum.org). The central mission of The North Carolina Arboretum, an affiliate institution of the 17-campus University of North Carolina system, is to cultivate connections between people and plants.

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