

Carmel Green Award

And The Winner Is.....

Citizens For Greenspace!

The first recipient has been announced of the Carmel Chamber of Commerce Green Award. Sponsored by Vine & Branch, Inc. this award recognizes a Carmel organization, company, or association who is solving environmental challenges by using innovative and environmentally green practices or by setting up creative partnerships to enhance the environment.



The very deserving group **Citizens for Greenspace** was selected to receive this years award and traveling trophy, the handsome hand turned bowl shown below.

About the Winner

For twenty years members of Citizens for Greenspace have volunteered their time to help better our community. They have worked to conserve and rebuild Central Indiana's canopy cover by partnering with local schools, the DNR, local parks, city organizations, boy scout troops and developers and have worked to educate the public on the importance of trees and greenspace to the community.

In September 2008 Mayor Brainard recognized The Citizens for Greenspace for their contribution to The City of Carmel being selected as runner up in the U.S. Conference of Mayor's Award of Excellence with Community Trees and presented them with the \$25,000 grant from the Home Depot Foundation.

Citizens for Greenspace members have volunteered numerous hours to the *Woodland Garden at Central Park* project which involved designing a trail system, clearing garden space and removing non-native, invasive trees and weeds to make the area more accessible to the public.

They also help to coordinate the annual Arbor Day celebration and volunteer for tree planting activities throughout the year. To contact Citizens for Greenspace send email to citizensforgreenspace@hotmail.com.

About the Trophy Bowl and Artist - Precarious Balance

Jennifer Shirley lives in Indianapolis and has been turning wood since 1999. She gathers and uses mostly indigenous Indiana hardwood for her pieces, trying to find unusual grains. Although primarily self taught, in 2002 she attended the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts and has had the opportunity to study under some of the industries finest mentors. She shares her passion and skill with others as a regular instructor at Woodcraft Woodworking in Indianapolis, and is often working as the studio assistant at Marc Adams School of Woodworking in Franklin, IN. When she is not turning wood Jennifer is directing the evening newscasts at a network affiliate television station, here in Indianapolis.

Jennifer named the individual bowl "Precarious Balance" which comes from Jennifer's knowledge of how people and the environment co-exist today. Being conscious about our impact on this planet is a growing topic for us all and by living a 'green' existence, as Jennifer does, we can help to sustain our resources for future generations.



"The intertwining elements of our environment have a self regulating set of checks and balances. It is when we as human beings press our will upon our environment that things can get precariously out of balance. With the forethought and dedication of individuals, businesses and communities to understand and help preserve our environmental balance we can void the notion of being at a Precarious Balance." Jennifer Shirley

This traveling trophy bowl (which was recycled from a cherry tree that had been growing in Carmel) was presented to Citizens for Greenspace at the Carmel Chamber of Commerce Images of Excellence Awards ceremony on December 10th. It will remain in their possession until it is passed on at next years event.

Take the time to visit Jennifer's website, she is very talented and has some amazing wood pieces on display there www.jennifer-shirley.com