



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Woodmeister is 2009 Top Small Workplaces Finalist

(Holden, Mass.) Woodmeister Master Builders has been selected as one of 35 finalists for *The Wall Street Journal* and Winning Workplaces 2009 Top Small Workplaces. The Holden-based leader in the luxury home market was considered from a pool of 329 applicants from across North America. In choosing the finalists, judges considered such workplace characteristics as availability of Open Book Management, corporate culture, opportunities for personal and professional development, leadership and training programs, number of employees, and employee growth and turnover.

Woodmeister's selection distinguishes it as a leader in understanding and employing innovative workplace practices as a driver of its business success. Founded in 1980 by then-teenager Theodore Goodnow, Woodmeister has grown from a two-man woodworking shop to a world-class manufacturing firm with 180 employees and sales of \$55 million.

Woodmeister is currently in the due diligence portion of the competition, during which employees, customers, and business advisors are interviewed privately by judges. The top fifteen winners will be announced in the September 28 edition of *The Wall Street Journal's Report on Small Business*, dedicated to the 2009 Top Small Workplaces. They will also be honored at the Winning Workplaces Conference to be held October 1 & 2 in Chicago.

"We are proud to be named one of the finalists for *The Wall Street Journal* and Winning Workplaces. We work hard to attract the best and the brightest by offering job security and satisfaction, a share in the outcome through Open Book Management, and opportunities to grow and succeed in their careers," said Woodmeister founder and CEO Ted Goodnow.

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About The Wall Street Journal

The Wall Street Journal is a leading global business newspaper with print circulation of 1.66 million, and is part of Dow Jones & Company, a global business and information services provider. For the past three years, the WSJ and Winning Workplaces have collaborated to bring you the Top Small Workplaces, a national recognition project honoring exemplary small and midsize firms.

The Monday edition of *The Wall Street Journal* commonly includes a Journal Report, a fourth section of the paper dedicated to a timely topic of interest. Four times a year the Journal Report focuses on small business. The September 28, 2009 Journal Report on Small Business will feature the 2009 Top Small Workplaces.

About Winning Workplaces

Winning Workplaces' mission is to help small and midsize organizations build great workplaces. In addition to the Top Small Workplaces recognition project, Winning Workplaces provides other services designed to maximize the performance of small businesses, including: an online clearinghouse featuring the latest research, articles, and a free monthly newsletter; practical and affordable consulting and training solutions; and monthly webinars featuring business leaders discussing their strategies for creating productive and collaborative work cultures.

About Woodmeister Master Builders

Woodmeister Master Builders was founded by Theodore B. Goodnow in 1980 as a custom cabinetry and millwork shop. Since then Woodmeister has evolved into a nationally renowned, company and a leader in the residential construction market. Today, with over 180 employees, Woodmeister is a *Master Builder* company, encompassing the entire scope of luxury custom home construction and renovation projects, custom cabinetry and interiors, and Lifestyle Management Services. Woodmeister has offices located in Holden, Nantucket and Newport, Rhode Island.

Woodmeister Master Builders has received numerous awards over the years. In 2008, the company was named one of *The Globe 100's Top Places to Work* and in 2007 was named Corporate Citizen of the Year by the *Worcester Business Journal*. In 2005, Woodmeister was named one of the top 50 best builders to work for by *Professional Builder Magazine*.

Additional awards include Gold P.R.I.S.M. Awards for "Best Bathroom Remodel" and for "Best Remodel/Restoration (over \$500,000) in 2007, and a Silver P.R.I.S.M. Award for "Best Single Family Home (3-4,000 sq ft) in 2007. Woodmeister has been featured twice on the PBS series *This Old House* in 1998 and 2002, and was spotlighted as a kitchen and bath specialist on *HGTV* in 2001. In 1996 the firm was named "Residential Cabinetmaker of the Year" in 1996 by *Cabinetmaker Magazine*.

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