

BenchTalk



Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

Volume 43: Issue # 10, October 2025

General Meeting, Wednesday, October 18, 2025 7pm

Michael Doerr, woodworker and furniture maker

Michael Doerr is a woodworking artist who is from Sturgeon Bay. Michael has made furniture of various designs of his own, for people all over the country. He has also displayed his work at many shows. If you would like to view more about Michael Doerr and his work, visit his website at www.MichaelDoerr.com.

Here is his statement: Artist Statement – March 2nd, 2023

What we perceive and do with our hands will echo in time. As one studies craft and design turning their ideas into finished products; they start to reach through history to commune with craftspeople that have gone before.

My introduction to woodworking began at master wooden-boat shipwright Ferdinand (Red) Nimphius' shipyard in 1977. During the four years I worked for Nimphius, he not only taught me the foundation of craftsmanship, but also the value of passing on information to the next generation; those who will work and become part of the craft tradition. Not only are we expressing ourselves through craft, but the artifacts we leave for others to study and understand is our legacy for the future, as well as our connection to the past.

Every cutting of new wood is dynamic, because the unique experiences of a tree's life is captured in the grain. The challenge is to combine the best flow of grain with the design, while honoring the beauty and life of the tree. The patron and the artisan then become partners in this unique and timeless relationship simply called craft.

Michael A. Doerr



Annual Artistry in Wood Show less than 1 month away! Nov 8 & 9, 2025

Update from Show Committee

If you haven't been to our Guild's "Artistry in Wood" show in recent years, come see what it's all about. This is the pinnacle of our Guild each year and the best chance to see what our Guild is all about! Talk to Guild members about their craft, pick up some tips or ideas that could help you in your shop, check out the gently used tools in the tool crib, and maybe even find that special gift you have been looking for! Nov 8th and 9th at Denmark High School.

Some volunteers are still needed to help during the show, Call Randy at 920-676-6466 or Jim at 920-863-8658 if you can help. Thanks

If you picked up any donations either cash, certificates or bucket raffle items, please bring them to the October meeting so we can get these all in order before the show starts. The more we can get done before Friday night's setup the smoother everything goes. Thanks

Future Programs: Meetings at NWTC, in Room EE201, Great Lakes Energy Ed. Center. Use parking lot G, entrance door E2. See map included with newsletter.

November 8th & 9th - Annual Show at Denmark High School

Dec 6th? - Guild Christmas party

January 21st, 2026 - Barry Bender - Working with Exotic Woods

Schedule is subject to change. As always, I am open to suggestions and referrals. About 75% of the presenters we have gotten were from referrals or suggestions from guild members. Thank you for your help! Barry Bender

Possible On-Site Meeting

Back in May, I visited the the Spanbauer Center in Oshkosh. It is home to Fox Valley Technical College's Woodworking Technology Program. Mark Lorge, who was an instructor there, gave me a tour of their facility.

The program is designed for the woodworking industry relating to cabinet and furniture design plus a few other related offshoots. This is the only post-high school program that I know of in this area having this type of program. Our June presenter, Pacey Berken, was a graduate of this program.

I was awed by the machinery in the shop. The first piece of machinery Mark showed me was a table / panel saw. It was a huge piece that would fit nicely in your 2-car garage. It featured technology that would photograph your hand and store that information in the computer control. Like the Saw Stop table saw, the machine senses when your hand gets too close to the blade. Instantly, the blade retracts below the surface of the table. Unlike the Saw Stop table saw, there is no crash. There is no damage to the blade or arbor of the saw. No need for a repair kit. This saw was made in Germany, and the cost was around \$100,000.

There are several other impressive pieces of machinery that I could talk about as well. After Mark showed me the shop, I asked him if it was possible if they could give a tour to the woodworker's guild. He said it would be possible.

Since last May, Mark has retired. I am working with his fellow instructor, Glenn Koerner to set up a tour. We are looking at a date in February or March. It would be in the early afternoon after the final classes of that day. My visit was on a Friday and I was there at 11 AM. Classes in the shop were done at that time.

I realize this is a bit of a drive for some members. This is why I am taking a poll of members who would be willing to do this on-site meeting. I would like to get an accurate count on how many would attend. I know we do not have an exact time and date yet. First things first. I need to know how many would be willing to attend. The drive time would be during the day, so that is a big plus. I will have a map to the Spanbauer Center in the monthly newsletter if enough people are willing to attend.

Let me know if you are willing to attend. You can contact me at the October meeting or email me at 2barryand2ellen@gmail.com.

Barry Bender - Programs Coordinator - Northeast Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

Interest Survey

Before continuing to plan this event, we'd like to know your interest. The meeting would likely be on a Friday afternoon in Spring and directions would be provided. Please watch for a future email with a survey to indicate your possible interest in attending this event. Thank you!

Membership Update

As of October 6, we have 163 active members. No new members joined us this month.

The Guild will have a Membership Event on October 18 at Woodcraft in Appleton. Woodcraft has special demos and deals planned for this day and will be promoting the guild's presence to sign up new members. All members are invited to stop by between 10 and 2 and say hi. You can also take advantage of special discounts Woodcraft will be offering on the 18th only. These include 20% Off Carter Bandsaw Blades, 15% Off Whiteside Router Bits and 15% Off Starbond Z9 Performance Abrasive Discs.

Please remember one of the benefits to your membership is a 10% discount on most items at the Woodcraft store in Appleton. You must show your NEWWG name tag as proof of your membership. Woodcraft moved to their new HUGE store location at 1810 North Casaloma Drive in Appleton. The new location is about one mile north of their old location. Please stop by and check out their new digs.

Speaking of memberships, your membership renewal is due October 1. All memberships expire October 1st. Renewal for individual members costs \$15, family membership renewals are \$20. You can renew by cash or check at any meeting or by check mailed to my home or by using PayPal. Send your PayPal transfer to the guild at treasurer@newwg.org

Thanks in advance for renewing soon! If you don't plan on renewing, let me know and I won't pester you for your renewal 😊.

Eric Hansen - Phone: 952-567-4625

Email: ericjonhansen@gmail.com

W6994 Angel Hill Drive, Greenville, WI 54942

NEWWG Board Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2025 - 7:00 pm Online meeting on Microsoft Teams

Participants: President - Greg Levenhagen, VP & Membership - Eric Hansen, Secretary - Gerald Jensen, Treasurer - Chuck Druckrey, Programs - Barry Bender, Newsletter - Maureen Birk, Website - Matt Hamblin, Show Committee Leader - Randy Hendricks

Approved September meeting minutes

Treasurer's Report - Chuck Druckrey – Current balance \$29,333.77 – details to follow in October newsletter.

Chuck is working on raffle licenses and looking for credit card payment system for use at the show.

Membership - Eric Hansen - Current Membership Count: 165

Membership Renewals due - 52 received already

October 18 Membership Event at Woodcraft in Appleton

Woodcraft has agreed to post show sign at entrance to their parking lot in Appleton.

Eric has been invited to make presentation to residents of Lotus Garden in November.

Programs - Barry Bender

Oct 15th - Michael Doerr - Making Contemporary Furniture

November 8th & 9th - Annual Show at Denmark High School

Dec 6th? - Guild Christmas party

January 21st, 2026 - Barry Bender - Working with Exotic Woods

Scheduling Gerald Jensen to do segmented woodturning presentation in February or March.

Looking into a tour of the Spanbauer Aviation & Industrial Center in Oshkosh.

Has been in communication with new CP Center director. They need 3 additional wheel-chair accessible planters @\$200.

Library – Greg is returning camera purchased to record guild meetings, and looking at other camera equipment.

Web Site - Matt Hamblin – Working on Face Book posts to promote November show.

Elections: Eric working to identify and recruit candidates for board seats. Efforts to include letter to encourage members to volunteer for board elections.

Artistry In Wood Show Call to Action - Randy Hendricks – 44 exhibitor registrations received compared to 46 last year. Volunteers still needed, including people to staff 50/50 drawings and bucket raffle.

Next Board meeting - November 3, 2025 at 7:00 pm

Treasurers Report September 29, 2025

Balance as of 09/29/25 - \$29,333.77

Financial Activity (August 4, 2025 – September 29, 2025)

Income:	Expenses:	Check #	Description
• \$310.00 – Show registrations • \$57.42 - Paypal deposit • \$10.83 – Interest • \$114.34 – Paypal deposit • \$105.00 – Membership dues • \$172.26 – Paypal deposit • \$442.00 – Membership dues • \$465.00 – registrations (\$165.00), Donations (\$300.00)	• \$108.02 • \$28.00	1315 1317	Picnic Food Insurance rider for school
Total \$1,676.85	Total (\$136.02)		

Woodworking Vise For Sale!

We've been told a woodworking vise is available for sale. If you would like to add or upgrade a vise in your shop, you may want to check this out by contacting Mike at 920-810-7362. (Mike is in Appleton)

It's a vintage APEX 180 MM WOOD VICE specifically designed for woodworking.

As far as the mechanics go it's an excellent condition' just needs a little loving tender care

I guess just make me an offer, Not trying to get rich.

I just want it to go to the right home.

I would probably accept like \$120



September Show & Tell items



Black Walnut Ted Siedl



Turned Maple bowl
Kevin Carpenter



Marquetry boxes, Bob Kurit



Carved and wood burned on maple Paul Murphy



More Show and Tell



Birds Painted on Maple, Pat Williams



Bruce Kornely storage cabinet

Bench Talk is the newsletter of the Northeast Wisconsin Wood Workers Guild, published prior to regularly scheduled monthly meetings. **For more information on activities, meetings ?members, check out the Guild website at: newwg.org**

NORTHEAST WISCONSIN WOODWORKING GUILD

MEETINGS (Guests and prospective members welcome)

3rd Wednesday of each month, Time: 7:00 p.m. Visit our web site at: www.newwg.org

How to Get Involved: For inquiries regarding joining The NEWisc. Woodworkers Guild, contact: Eric J. Hansen ericjonhansen@gmail.com 952-567-4625 Or any other Board or committee member.

Re: newsletter, Maureen Birk: birkmr2@gmail.com

Re: web site: Matt Hamblin: froggy6703@gmail.com 920-419-3910

Officers:

President - Greg Levenhagen

VP & Membership - Eric Hansen

Secretary - Gerald Jensen

Treasurer - Chuck Druckrey

Board Members:

Barry Bender - Programs

Maureen Birk - Newsletter

Chuck Leonard -/Ben Abadeer Library

Matt Hamblin - Website

Other committees:

Annual Show: Randy Hendricks, Jim Michiels

Event Facilitator: open



NORTHEAST

WI Technical College

Park in Lot G and enter door E2 of the Great Lakes Energy Education Center. The meeting will be held in room EE201.



