

BenchTalk

Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

Volume 44: Issue # 1, January 2026



January Program Jan 21, 7 pm NWTC Room EE201

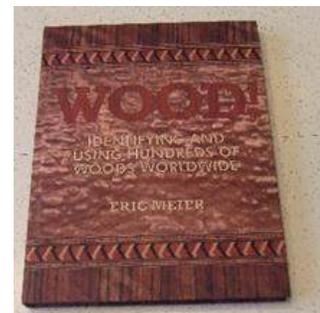
Our presenter is Barry Bender, NEWWG member and Program Chair

Many of us are aware of the domestic woods we see in furniture and woodwork in our homes and other structures. However, many of us are not aware of the wood that grows in other parts of the world.

For many years I made furniture of red oak and black walnut. I also made clocks with cherry and maple as well. Over time, I became curious of what else there is out there. I discovered there was much more. I have worked with over 100 exotic woods. I became a collector of exotic wood making mostly bowls and letter openers, but also incorporating it into other projects such as intarsia.

Working with exotic lumber requires a bit of research. You need to know the properties of the wood before you start. Can you glue it? What kind of finish works or does not work? How hard is it on your cutting tools? Most importantly, what reactions will you get from the wood, such as a severe allergic reaction.

I will cover these things, and more. I also will have on display many species of wood, some of which are restricted or extinct. I am also looking forward to learning from members attending the meeting on their experiences as well. You will be amazed at the different colors and grain structures of various types of wood.



****Please note; we will also be holding elections to the Board of Directors at the January meeting. See details in membership section of newsletter.**

Upcoming Programs

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

2026 Schedule

January 21st - Barry Bender - Working with exotic wood

February 19th - Jerry Jensen - Making Segmented Bowls and other segmented turnings

March 20th - Tour of Fox Valley Technical College woodworking program at the Spanbauer Center in Oshkosh. Tour starts at 10:30 AM. This is on a Friday.

April 15th - Bob Behnke -All about glue. Bob is a rep from Titebond Glue. He will share all his knowledge about glue.

Membership Report - Bench Talk January, 2026

Currently we have 186 active members

Four new members joined in the last month! Please welcome:

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Terry Heyroth of Manitowoc | Larry Reed of Green Bay |
| Renato Bargaehr of Wild Rose | Heidi Cain of Green Bay |

Thanks for “talking up” the guild to your woodworking friends and neighbors. Many of our new members come from your recommendations to people you know!!

New Meeting Room Arrangement!

We've experienced great attendance at our meetings this past year. Most meetings have 50-55 people attending. In the last 3 months we've added over 20 new members so we're going to try a new room arrangement beginning January 21.

---The front row table stays where it is

---“Garage door” rolls up for better air and movement

---Next four rows of tables are rolled out into the hall

---Two tables stay in the room and are put along the wall for Show & Tell items

---The chairs from those 4 rows of tables stay in that area

---Roll 15 or more chairs from the classroom across the hall fill in the open space

---Library boxes of books and CDs move to the tables in the hall

Membership benefits

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.

You also can get a 10% discount on high quality figured hardwoods at Kloes Specialty Hardwoods at E10885 Eulrich Road in Clintonville. Please call 920-883-1745 to confirm store hours and preview the wood inventory at <https://www.kloesspecialtyhardwoods.com> Thanks to Bob Kloes for this new benefit!

Another benefit is our extensive guild library of books, magazines and DVDs on a wide range of woodworking topics. Browse and borrow at one meeting and return it at a future meeting. Video recordings (DVDs) of most past meetings are available too!

Eric Hansen - Phone: 952-567-4625 Email: ericjonhansen@gmail.com
W6994 Angel Hill Drive, Greenville, WI 54942

Board of Directors Election - Bench Talk January, 2026

At our January 21, 2026, meeting we will hold the belated Board of Directors election customarily held in Fall. The Guild thanks our outgoing board members for their many years of faithful service. Thanks to Chuck Druckrey, Maureen Birk, and Barry Bender. These members have reached or exceeded the term limit per our constitution and bylaws.

Four board positions are open this year. Members willing to stand for election in 2026 for two year terms are (in alphabetical order):

Craig Effertz - member since 2017

Eric Hansen - member since 2021 - incumbent - able to serve 1 more term

David Kaus - member since 2024

Roger McCambridge - member since 2017

Tom Smith - member since 2022

After the January 21 election, the board (both new, existing and retiring members) will meet on February 2 to organize and decide who will fill which board positions for 2026.

The election is important. Please plan on attending the January 21 meeting to cast your vote!

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 12/01,25 on Line, via Teams

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

Approved last meeting minutes

Treasurer's Report: Chuck Druckrey: Current balance \$37,803.89. Detailed report to follow in the next newsletter.

Artistry In Wood Show Recap: Randy Hendricks – Paid attendance was down 100 from 2024. Looking for ways to grow the show and increase volunteer participation. Randy and Jim Michiels have agreed to manage 2026 show, but guild needs to do succession planning.

Membership: Eric Hansen - Current Membership Count: 189. WoodCraft/Appleton new facility to include a bulletin board with guild logo.

Programs: Barry Bender – Scheduled through March, 2026. “Exotic Woods” – Barry Bender (January), “Segmented Turning” – Gerald Jensen (February), Road trip to Spanbauer Center (March) Directions and schedule to follow.

Library: Ben Abadeer – Acquired new camera to record guild presentations. Chuck Leonard expected to return to board and resume Librarian duties in January, 2026.

Web Site: Matt Hamblin – Photos from the 2025 show should be emailed to webmaster@newwg.org to be posted on website. Show pages are changing to promote 2026 show.

Newsletter: Maureen Birk - Due date for next month articles 11 January 2026. Next newsletter in January

Other: Christmas Party - December 6, details in Bench Talk newsletter

Other: Elections at January 21 meeting - Eric Hansen – 6 candidates have stepped forward for election to upcoming board vacancies. Nominations to appear in January newsletter. Board organizational meeting with newly-elected members February 2, 2026

Other: Open discussion and reflections on the 2025 show and sale, and thoughts on marketing to 2026 show. No motions were offered, and not votes were taken.

Gerry Jensen, Secretary

NEWWG Board of Directors Meeting Minutes January 5, 2026 - 7:00 pm (Adjourned 8:20pm)

Online meeting via Microsoft Teams

Participants: Greg Levenhagen, Eric Hansen, Gerald Jensen, Chuck Druckrey, Barry Bender, Maureen Birk, Matt Hamblin, Jim Michiels, Randy Hendricks

Excused: Chuck Leonard

Approved December 2025 meeting minutes. Move: Barry, Second: Eric, Unanimous

Treasurer's Report - Chuck Druckrey - Current balance \$36,797.15. Detailed report and recap of typical year expenses (rough operations budget) to appear in January newsletter.

Discussion of Guild support of charities and importance of giving back to community. Jim and Randy preparing a list of charities Guild has supported in the past. Board approved donations to 2 local charities (\$2,000.00 to Rick's Toybox (move: Greg / second Barry) and \$1,000.00 to Cerebral Palsy (move: Eric / Second Gerry)).

Discussion of ways to fund scholarships. Looking for grant research, Greg to reach out to local marketing firms to investigate development of a marketing plan.

Membership - Eric Hansen - Current Membership Count: 186 (up 20 from 10/1/25). Working on renewals.

Programs - Barry Bender - Schedule firm through March, working on futures.

Library - Greg acquiring microphone adapter for camera.

Web Site - Matt Hamblin - No change

Newsletter - Maureen Birk - Due date for next month's articles: January 11 or 12

Discussion on process for election at January meeting. Eric has enlisted 5 candidates for the 4 board positions to be filled. A list of candidates will be published before the January 21st membership meeting. Election by paper ballot to occur at February 2026 membership meeting.

Discussion regarding meeting room arrangements. There will be one front row table for the presenter, followed by rows of chairs with no tables. Tables to be moved to hallway. One table will be set up on side of main room for members to place Show & Tell items.

Gerry Jensen, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

January 5, 2026 Balance as of 01/05/26 - \$36,797.15

Financial Activity (December 1, 2025 to January 4, 2026)

| | |
|---|---|
| Income: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$110.00 – Membership dues• \$25.00 - Membership dues• \$16.91 – Interest Total \$151.91 Respectfully Submitted, Chuck Druckrey – Treasurer | Expenses: Check # Description \$175.00 1332 Show advertising <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$50.00 1328 Show registration refund• \$60.26 1335 Newsletter printing• \$800.00 1334 Table rental• \$54.59 1336 Show expense – thank you cards• \$18.80 1338 Christmas party expense Total (\$1,158.65) |
|---|---|

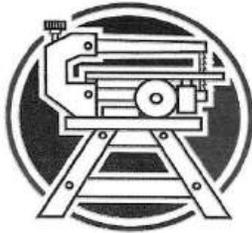
Bench Talk is the newsletter of the Northeast Wisconsin Wood Workers Guild, published prior to regularly scheduled monthly meetings. For more information on activities, meetings, members, check out the Guild website at: newwg.org

NEW Woodworkers Guild -2025 Income and expense Statement

| Income | Regular | Show |
|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Membership dues | \$1,371.00 | |
| Interest \$131.00 | \$131.00 | |
| Water sales \$40.00 | \$40.00 | |
| Donations | | \$1,030.00 |
| Show registration/table fees | | \$2,820.00 |
| Show Income | | \$10,893.00 |
| Total | \$1,542.00 | \$14,743.00 |
| Expenses | Regular | Show |
| Meeting prizes | \$792.00 | |
| Newsletter expenses | \$223.00 | |
| Speaker fees | \$600.00 | |
| Picnic | \$228.00 | |
| Christmas Party | \$641.00 | |
| Insurance | \$345.00 | |
| Web hosting | \$235.00 | |
| Office expenses/equipment | \$1,638.00 | |
| Charitable donations \$ | \$1,062.00 | |
| Table rental | | \$900.00 |
| Charitable donation | | \$1,800.00 |
| Facilities | | \$1,250.00 |
| prizes | | \$130.00 |
| Advertising | | \$420.00 |
| Other | | \$858.00 |
| Total | \$5,764.00 | \$5,358.00 |

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|---|---|
| <p>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: MattHamblin:mhamblin6703@gmail.com 920-419-3910</p> | <p>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</p> |
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Events by Other Organizations



Midwest Scroll Saw and Woodworking Trade Show 2026

Friday, August 7, 2026 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday August 8, 2026 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Dubuque County Fairgrounds

14569 Old Hwy Rd, Dubuque, Iowa, 52002

Join us for the Midwest's premier woodworking event, where enthusiasts of all skill levels come together to share ideas, learn new techniques, and celebrate the art of woodworking.

Admission: \$15 for both days, \$10 for one day (children under 18 free when accompanied by a paid adult)

Food available on-site throughout the show

Learn

Classes, Seminars and Demos: Attend free on-floor demonstrations and a full line-up of pay-as-you-go hands-on classes and seminars. Details will be posted on the website, shown below, as they are finalized.

Scroll Sawing and Pen Turning: Try your hand at scroll sawing or pen turning with guidance from Veterans Freedom Center volunteers. Take home your creations!

Connect

Contests: Enter or admire projects in contests for scroll sawing (fretwork, intarsia, and open class), wood turning, and wood carving. Ribbons and prizes awarded! Rules and information on the website, shown below.

Show and Tell Tables: Display, or be inspired by, outstanding projects from any woodworking discipline, swap ideas, share tips & techniques and visit with woodworkers. Items may be displayed for a few hours or during the entire show.

Friday Evening Dinner: Enjoy Midwest cuisine and connect with fellow show attendees. Many people make lifelong friends at this show. Registration form will be available on the website, shown below.

Discover

Vendor Marketplace and Crafts for Sale: Browse a line-up of large and small businesses generally offering tools, lumber, patterns, supplies and finished projects. Unique handmade crafts, ornaments, and specialty items from local artisans and vendors will also be available for purchase.

Veterans Freedom Center Tours: Stop by the Veterans Freedom Center Thursday, Aug. 6 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. to learn more about woodworking and other resources available for veterans in the tri-state area.

Win

Door Prizes and Grand Prizes: Submit your admission ticket to enter drawings for loads of door prizes for attendees! Grand prizes awarded at 4:30 p.m. Friday and 3:30 p.m. Saturday. **You must be present to win.**

Learn more at www.midwesttradeshow.com or on Facebook: Midwest Scroll Saw Trade Show. Questions? Email Karen at dirkdrows2@gmail.com or call 608-348-8332.