

# BenchTalk

## Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

### Volume 44: Issue # 2, February 2026



February Program Feb 18, 7 pm NWTC Room EE201

Our presenter is Gerald Jensen, NEWWG member and Segmented Turner  
**Making Segmented Bowls and other segmented turnings**

From Gerry:

“Segmented woodturning is one of those crafts that looks intimidating from the outside but becomes incredibly addictive once you understand what’s really going on. A segmented vessel is essentially a custom-made composite, where every piece of wood is chosen, oriented, and placed with intention.

Instead of starting with a single solid block, you build your own “blank” out of many individually cut pieces—segments—arranged into rings. Those rings are then stacked, glued, flattened, and finally turned on the lathe into a bowl, vase, hollow form, or whatever shape you’ve designed. If you like to make jigs and fixtures, segmented turning may be your thing!

Think of it as woodworking meets engineering meets sculpture.”



Fraternal Twins



Pet Urn



Yarn Bowl



Zig Zag



Glued & Flattened

### Board of Directors Feb 2026

THANK YOU! To newly elected and continuing members, and to “retiring” members.

Election was held at January 2026 general meeting. At the Board meeting Feb 2, members chose their preferred area of responsibility, as follows: (Some open positions remain.)

#### Officers:

President: Greg Levenhagen

Vice President: Tom Smith

Secretary: Gerald Jensen

Treasurer: Craig Effertz

#### Board Members:

Membership: Eric Hansen

Newsletter: Roger McCambridge

Programs: (open- to be appointed by board) Web Site: Matt Hamblin

Library: (open, with Chuck Leonard resignation, due to health concerns. To be appointed by board)

Until the openings can be filled, Greg Levenhagen and Tom Smith will work on programs, and Ben Abadeer will continue with the library.

#### Other committees:

Annual Show: Jim Michiels, Randy Hendricks

Event Facilitator: open

## February Membership Report

### Currently we have 183 active members

- 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!!

### Mark your calendar - March 21 stop in at Woodcraft in Appleton!

- We’ve been invited by Woodcraft to hold another membership event on the Woodcraft Treasure Chest promotion day. From March 1-21, shoppers can select a key to a treasure chest of prizes. On the 21st, everyone with a key can try their key in the lock to get a chance at a host of great prizes. I’ll be at the store 9-3 telling people about the guild and signing up new members. Demos may also be held. Stop by, say hi, and try your key in the Woodcraft Treasure Chest of prizes! Watch for details online and in the Woodcraft flier or email.

### 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 be trying different room arrangements in the next few meetings.
  - The goal of the new arrangement is to provide more seating
  - Expect to help roll tables into the hall to make space for more chairs
  - Plan moving 15 or more chairs from the classroom across the hall to fill in the open space
  - Two tables stay in the room and are put along the wall for Show & Tell items
    - Members can “show” their items and talk about them but we will not pass them around the room as in the past. This is safer for both the items and the health of the people
  - “Garage door” rolls up for better air and people movement
  - Library boxes of books and CDs move to the tables in the hall or back of the room

### 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 at 1810 Casaloma Drive.
- 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 membership 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](mailto:ericjonhansen@gmail.com) W6994 Angel Hill Drive, Greenville, WI 54942

## Upcoming Programs

**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.**

2026 Schedule

### **March 20th - Special Program and Location:**

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. **[See map and directions pg. 5]**

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

## **NEWWG Board of Directors Meeting Minutes** February 2, 2026 - 7:00 pm

NEWWG Board Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2026 - 7:00 pm - In Person Meeting at NWTC

Participants: President - Greg Levenhagen, VP & Membership - Eric Hansen, Secretary - Gerald Jensen, Treasurer - Chuck Druckrey, Programs - Barry Bender, Newsletter - Maureen Birk, Website - Matt Hamblin, Newly elected board members: Craig Effertz, Tom Smith and Roger McCambridge

Called to order at 7:04pm

Approved January meeting minutes – Motion by Chuck Druckrey, second by Eric Hansen, unanimous.

Accepted resignation from the BOD of Chuck Leonard.

Organization of 2026 Board, including roundtable of 2025 board member's duties and roles. Chuck Druckrey, Barry Bender, and Maureen Birk leaving BOD. Greg Levenhagen and Gerald Jensen to continue in 2025 roles (President and Secretary). Tom Smith to assume VP role, Roger McCambridge to assume Newsletter Editor role, Craig Effertz to assume Treasurer role, and Matt Hamblin to continue as Webmaster. Eric Hansen to continue in Membership role. In the interim, Tom Smith to assume Programs role, and Ben Abadeer to assume Librarian role. Individuals to set up separate transition meetings with people with new roles.

Treasurer's Report - Chuck Druckrey. Balance as of 2/2/26: \$33,833.58. Detailed report to be included in February newsletter.

Membership - Eric Hansen - Current Membership Count: 183. Participating in March 21, 2026 "Treasure Chest" event at WoodCraft in Appleton.

Programs - Barry Bender – Programs locked in thru April. Gerald Jensen: February 18 (Segmented Woodturning), Spanbauer Bauer Center: March 20 (field trip), Bob Behnke, Titebond rep: April 15 (All About Glue).

Web Site - Matt Hamblin – Setup Microsoft Teams for new BOD members to participate in virtual meetings.

Newsletter - Maureen Birk - Due date for next month's articles: February 9, 2026

Audit Committee: Ask for volunteers at February meeting to audit club finances. Audit committee cannot include members of the BOD.

CP Center Planter Project: Installing 3 additional handicap accessible planters this Spring to conclude 2025 project. Barry Bender coordinating.

St. Norbert Abbey carving project. Barry Bender contacting guild members who may be able to do requested carving work.

Adjourned 8:54pm  
(Gerald Jensen)

**Review of January Program**

Our presenter was NEWWG member, Barry Bender, on the topic of working with exotic woods. His woodworking experience began with furniture making and gradually expanded into other areas. He outlined reasons to use exotic woods; for color variation and highlights: for compliment, contrast and accent.

Recommendations, before starting to use: RESEARCH!!

Some woods are on Restricted or Endangered lists.

Check CITES: Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species

If species are already in local stores, they have been obtained appropriately. Examples: Rosewoods, Bubinga, Cocobolo

Check on: potential toxicity, workability, hardness, specific gravity, price, and availability.

Even some domestic woods can be harmful to some: red oak can cause nasal sensitivity. Black walnut causes allergic reactions for some. Recommends wearing N95 mask if you are unfamiliar with the wood.

Some woods are oily, and do not glue up well, or may not accept a finish well.

For Finishing, Barry recommended testing on a piece of scrap wood. Sunlight and oxidation can cause darkening in some woods. Danish Oil tends to darken over time. Min Wax poly has less of a tendency to darken.

Sources for exotic woods: Ebay is generally a good place to start search

|  |  |
|--|--|
| WoodCraft<br>Green Valley Wood products (on Ebay)<br>Kettle Moraine Hardwoods<br>Ocooch Hardwoods (thin woods for scroll saw work) | Bennet Hardwoods<br>West Penn Hardwoods<br>Bay Ridge Plywood<br>Bike Wood in Sheboygan (for musical instruments) |
|--|--|



**Treasurer's Report** February 2, 2026 Balance as of 02/02/26 - \$33,833.58

Financial Activity (January 5, 2025 to February 2, 2026)

| <b>Income:</b>                    | <b>Expenses:</b>   | <b>Check #</b> | <b>Description</b>    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| \$56.84 – PayPal, Membership dues | • \$1000.00        | 1340           | CP Center Donation    |
| \$30.00 - Membership dues         | • \$2000.00        | 1339           | Ricks Toybox Donation |
| \$140.00 - Membership dues        | • \$105.00         | 1341           | Show expenses         |
| \$14.59 - Interest                | • \$100.00         | 1343           | 2026 Show Facility    |
| Total \$241.43                    | Deposit            |                |                       |
| Respectfully Submitted,           | Total (\$2,205.00) |                |                       |
| Chuck Druckrey – Treasurer        |                    |                |                       |

**FVTC Spanbauer Center** in Oshkosh Directions.....**3601 Oregon St.**

**The meeting there is Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> starting at 10:30 AM.**

If you are driving to Oshkosh from Green Bay or the Fox Cities, take Highway 41 south to exit 113. You will be on the south side of Oshkosh about a mile plus south of the EAA grounds before you reach this exit. This is the State Highway 26 / County N exit. Go east (left) for .2 of a mile on 26 north. Continue on County Road N east for 1.7 miles. Turn left (north) onto Oregon Street. Continue 1.3 miles. The FVTC Spanbauer Center will be on your left . When you enter, the entrance will lead you to the front (main entrance) of the building. Turn left and park in the lot on the end of the building. The wood shop is on this end. Walk to the front of the building to enter through the main entrance.

If you are coming from Fond du Lac on Highway 41, take exit 113 and turn right (east) onto Highway 26 / County N. Use the same directions as in the above paragraph.

## Spanbauer Center



**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](http://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](http://www.newwg.org)

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

Re: newsletter; Roger McCambridge

Re: web site:

[MattHamblin:mhamblin6703@gmail.com](mailto:MattHamblin:mhamblin6703@gmail.com)

920-419-3910

### Officers:

President - Greg Levenhagen

V. Pres -Tom Smith

Secretary - Gerald Jensen

Treasurer – Craig Effertz

### Board Members:

Membership -Eric Hansen

Programs–Tom Smith & Greg Levenhagen (temp)

Newsletter– Roger McCambridge

Library -Ben Abadeer (temp)

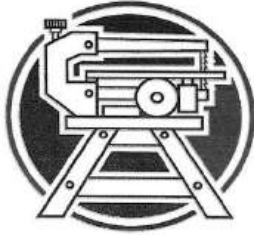
Matt Hamblin - Website

Other committees:

Annual Show: Randy Hendricks, Jim Michiels

Event Facilitator: open





# 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](http://www.midwesttradeshow.com) or on Facebook: Midwest Scroll Saw Trade Show. Questions? Email Karen at [dirkdiraws2@gmail.com](mailto:dirkdiraws2@gmail.com) or call 608-348-8332.**