

BENCHTALK

Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

Volume 44: Issue # 4, April 2026

April 15th Program: Bob Behnke – All About Glue



Bob Behnke is Franklin International's Technical Service Manager for the Construction Division handling all technical aspects of the Titebond Branded product line of wood glues, construction adhesives, wood flooring adhesives and sealants. At Franklin Bob manages a group tasked with handling all calls to the company's 800 number along with technicians tasked with testing of competitive products and new substrates. Bob has worked for over 30 years in the adhesives and sealants industry with experience in the development of emulsion polymers, scale up from bench to production of a range of adhesive technologies and development of breathable technology for organic and inorganic fabrics.



The class will cover the five steps for successful gluing. From dry assembly to waiting for the glue to dry. Wood glues can affect the wood as it is being assembled and being prepared in advance will eliminate costly joint failures and frustrating disassembly. The discussion will focus on the steps needed to use wood glues with ease, what to watch out for when the glue hits the wood and why failures occur. We will also cover some frequently asked questions and why there are so many different wood glues. Bring your gluing questions as this is a discussion, not just a presentation.

Bob will be making his presentation at the start of our meeting at 7:00 pm. We will conduct our Guild business meeting, including the door prize drawing, after Bob's presentation. We also have a copy of Bob's presentation (22 pages), which will be emailed to Guild members with this Newsletter.

Review of March Program

On March 20th thirty-five Guild members traveled to Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) in Oshkosh to learn about their Woodworking Technology Program from instructor Glenn Koerner. First established in 1982 by Jerry Finch as a half woodworking/half construction program, the program split into two tracks in 1993, with one track focused on construction while the other track focused on woodworking. Mark Lorge joined as an instructor in 1995, and when Jerry Finch retired in 2006, Glenn Koerner, a 1987 graduate of the program, replaced Finch as an instructor. Mark Lorge recently retired, leaving Koerner as the sole instructor currently.

FVTC's Woodworking Technology Program is an immersive one-year, full time program, with 37 credits spread over two semesters plus a summer term. Students learn everything from AutoCAD drafting to how to operate and maintain machinery to conflict resolution and working as a team. The program is designed to mimic what it is like to work in a cabinet shop so students get a feel for the pace of work and types of roadblocks they may encounter. Safety is a core component, with students taught where the dangers are with each machine, so they won't put themselves in harm's way.

Following his presentation, Glenn challenged us to identify ten wood samples he had arranged on a workbench. Most of us were stumped as the samples were woods not typically found in northeast Wisconsin. Glenn then toured us through FVTC's workshop, a woodworker's dream with some of the finest woodworking equipment available. On display were a variety of projects students construct during the year, from lamps to cabinets to workbenches. To learn the importance of accuracy, students are expected to construct their projects to a tolerance of +/- 0.015 inches! Skills taught change as the needs of area employers change; for example, wood turning is no longer taught, while veneering is expanding in importance.

Woodworking Technology typically teaches 15 students per year. A high school degree is required to enroll. Tuition, fees, and textbooks run about \$7,000, and students will spend about another \$3,000 on materials and supplies. For their roughly \$10,000 investment, students graduate with a Technical Diploma and the prospect of 100% placement in jobs that will pay them \$20-\$25/hr to start. Besides cabinet shops, graduates find work as diverse as building interiors for private jets and luxury yachts. Some graduates have started their own companies and hired other graduates. The future is promising for FVTC's Woodworking Technology Program, as work in the trades such as woodworking is expected to be relatively "AI-proof."



Sample Student Projects



Glenn Koerner Explaining FVTC's Program



Glenn's "Name That Wood" Challenge



Presentation Was Held in FVTC's Wood Lab

NEWWG Board Meeting Minutes March 30 , 2026 - 7:00 pm - via Teams

Present: Greg Levenhagen, President; Tom Smith, Vice President; Gerald Jensen, Secretary; Eric Hansen, Membership; Roger McCambridge, Newsletter; Dave Kaus, Library; Craig Effertz, Treasurer; Matt Hamblin, Web Site.

Minutes (Gerald Jensen): Move to approve: Greg, Second: Eric. Vote unanimous.

Treasury (Craig Effertz): Transitioning account management. Greg to meet with Craig and Nicolet Bank. Cut check in amount of \$3000 for Paul's Pantry (previously approved by board). Reimburse Barry Bender in amount of \$100 for expenses related to Oshkosh field trip. Eric has expenses resulting from WoodCraft promotion, Maureen Birk and Roger McCambridge have expenses from newsletter prep and mailings.

Membership (Eric Hansen): Currently at 189, with 9 new members signed up at WoodCraft event. Eric is exploring opportunity to work with Brown County 4H, information forthcoming in newsletter.

Programs (Greg Levenhagen & Tom Smith): April 15th Barry Bender has scheduled Titebond glue representative for April. Considering "Sleep In Heavenly Peace" and "Beads of Bravery" for May, Greg to follow up. Need to secure a park reservation for July picnic.

Library (Dave Kaus): On-going digitalization effort (Matt & Greg). Discussed long-term preservation of VHS and DVD assets, access control (public, private, etc.). Motion by Greg to create YouTube channel, second by Gerry, vote unanimous.

Website (Matt Hamblin): Remove Chuck D from PayPal account, add Craig E. Matt and Greg work on setting up Youtube channel.

Newsletter (Roger McCambridge): Deadline for next edition April 6th.

Other (Greg Levenhagen): Continue evaluation of Club Express.

Other (Eric Hansen): Audit Committee. Need 3 members who are not members of the board of directors to audit books. Request for volunteers to be forthcoming in the newsletter.

Next Guild meeting: April 15 at 7pm

Next board meeting: May 4 at 7pm (online via Teams)

Membership Report April 2026

Currently we have 189 active members

Please welcome our newest members:

Dan Hochleutner of Freedom	John Schroeder of De Pere
Joe Kronschnabel of Omro	Dave Strachan of Neenah
Max McGuire of Kaukauna	Gary Topinka of Appleton
Tom Rossmeißl of Ashwaubenon	Tom VanDenEng of Freedom
Charlie Scarborough of Neenah	

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

W6994 Angel Hill Drive, Greenville, WI 54942

4H Volunteer Opportunity

The guild has been asked to provide a woodworking learning experience for small groups of Brown County 4H members.

We have a very flexible opportunity to introduce kids to woodworking using the UW-GB STEM lab. All supplies and materials will be paid. We can choose what age group we would work with as 4H spans 3rd grade through high school. Ideas might be building bird houses, picture frames, simple boxes, etc.

If you might be interesting in helping with this project, please contact Eric Hansen at 952-567-4625 or ericjonhansen@gmail.com

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 this newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of 3/31/26 = \$33,634.86

Financial Activity (thru March 31st)

Income:

- \$125.00 - Membership dues
- \$55.00 – registration guild show
- \$13.72- Interest

Total \$193.72

Expenses:

Total \$0.00

Respectfully Submitted,

Craig Effertz – Treasurer

Audit Committee

The Guild needs three members, who are not members of the Board, to conduct an audit of our financial records. We will discuss this at our April 15th club meeting.

News from Other Woodworking Clubs

Be sure to check out the flyers at the end of this newsletter for news on upcoming shows for other area woodworking clubs.

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: www.newwg.org**

NORTHEAST WISCONSIN WOODWORKERS GUILD

MEETINGS: (Guests and prospective members always 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 NE Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild, Contact: Eric J. Hansen

ericjonhansen@gmail.com 952-567-4625 or any other Board or committee member.

Newsletter: Roger McCambridge

roger@mccambridge.org 920-660-4462

Web Site: Matt Hamblin

mhamblin6703@gmail.com 920-419-3910

Officers:

President - Greg Levenhagen

Vice Pres - Tom Smith

Secretary - Gerald Jensen

Treasurer - Craig Effertz

Other Board Members:

Membership -Eric Hansen

Programs—Tom Smith & Greg Levenhagen (temp)

Newsletter— Roger McCambridge

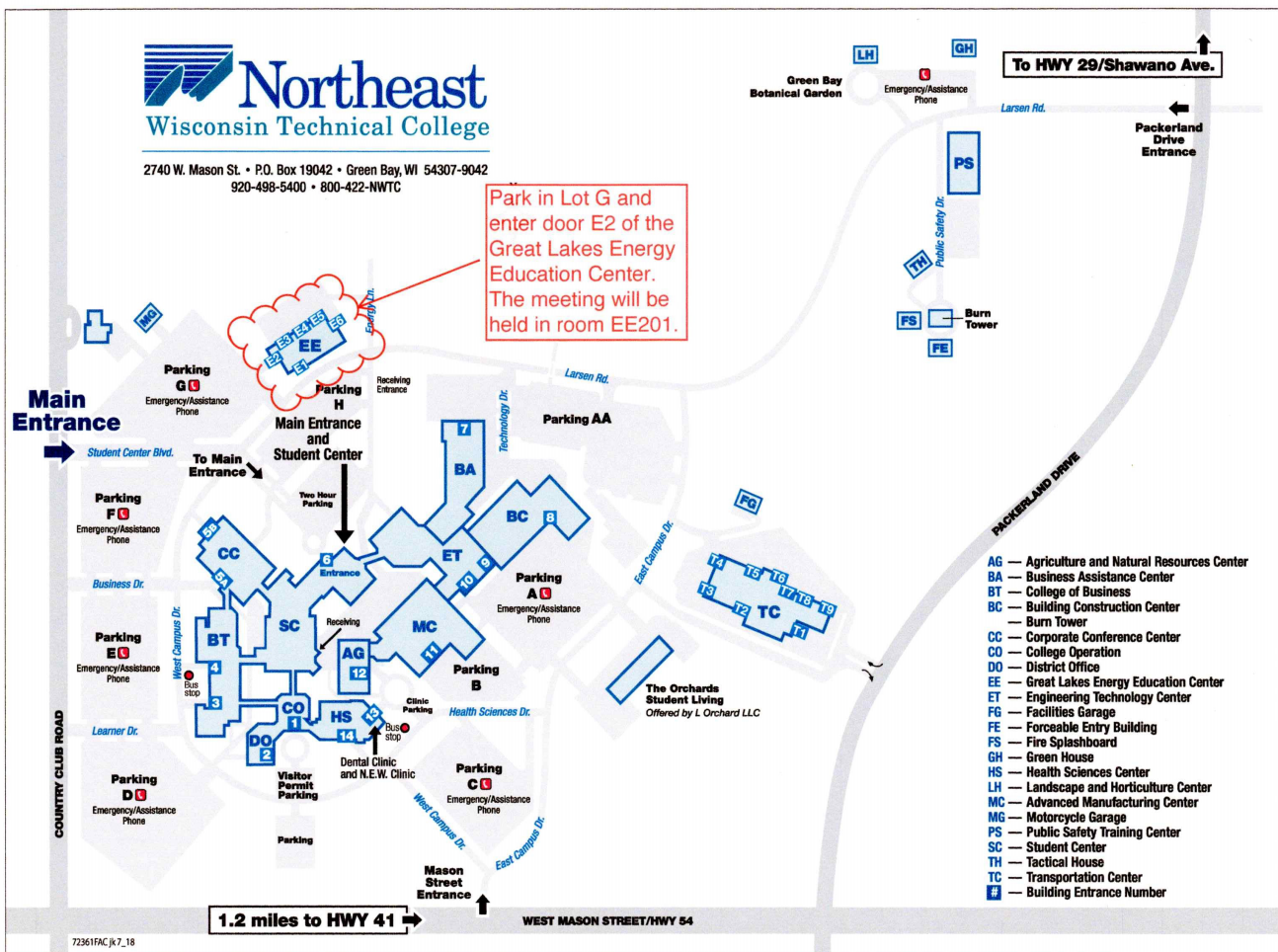
Library -Dave Kaus

Website- Matt Hamblin

Other committees:

Annual Show: Randy Hendricks, Jim Michiels

Event Facilitator: open

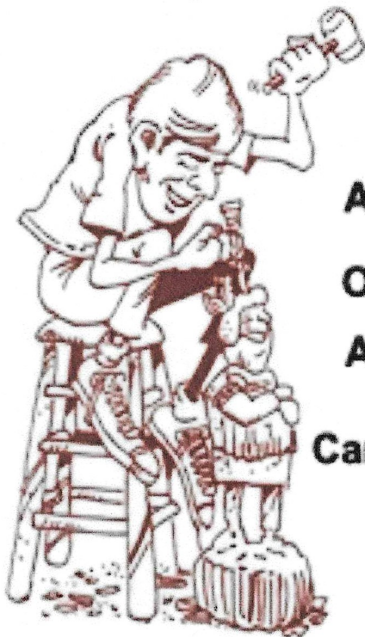


MID-WIS. CHIPPERS Show, Competition & Sale



Artistry In Wood

**50th Annual Show!!!
Live Birds of Prey
Presentation by Aves Wildlife**



**Bird, Fish, Bark, Relief Carvings,
Animal Carvings, Caricatures & More!**

**Over 60 Woodcarvers & Pyrographers
All skill levels from Novice to Masters**

Carved Art, Wood, Tools, Books for Sale!

**Sunday, May 3, 2026
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Food Concession! Bucket Raffle! Free Parking!

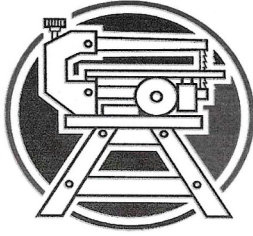
Admission: \$5 (Ages 12 & Under free)

Everything you need to get started in Woodcarving!

The Oshkosh Convention Center

2 North Main Street, Oshkosh, WI

Show info: www.midwisconsinchippers.weebly.com



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 dirkdiraws2@gmail.com or call 608-348-8332.