

BENCHTALK

Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

Volume 44: Issue # 5, May 2026



May 20th Program: Beads of Bravery and Technology in Woodworking

Our May program will feature Shannon Kaufmann, HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital Child Life Specialist, who will discuss their Beads of Bravery program, and NEWWG President Greg Levenhagen will discuss how technology can be used to enhance our woodworking. Following is an overview of Greg's presentation:

Modern Tech That Actually Changes How Woodworkers Work

Modern woodworking is changing rapidly as new digital tools become more accessible, affordable, and practical for hobbyists. Today's woodworkers can use artificial intelligence, 3D room scanning, laser engravers, CNC systems, smartphone apps, online marketplaces, and digital design tools to reduce planning time, simplify project preparation, improve accuracy, customize builds, and solve workshop problems faster than ever before. This presentation explores modern technologies that genuinely improve the woodworking process while preserving the craftsmanship, creativity, and satisfaction that make woodworking rewarding.

Review of April Program

On April 15th, Bob Behnke, Technical Service Manager for Franklin International's Construction Division, gave the Guild a comprehensive presentation on wood glues. A woodworker himself, Bob has encountered many of the same gluing challenges in his shop as we have in our projects. He also shared some of the common phone calls Bob and his technicians have received from customers to Franklin's customer service number (800-347-4583). Bob generously provided many free samples of Titebond's Titebrush silicone glue brush, Titebond III wood glue (Bob's personal favorite), and Titebond Quick&Thick multi-surface glue for all Guild members present.

Prior to our meeting, Bob shared a copy of most of the slides in his PowerPoint presentation, which was sent out with the Guild's April newsletter. During his talk he also used additional slides to explain and expand on the points he was making. Bob kept the presentation interactive by fielding questions throughout his talk. Following are a few pearls of wood gluing wisdom Bob shared with the Guild:

- Traditional wisdom when edge-gluing panels was to alternate the direction of the wood grain in each board; the theory was this would produce the flattest panels. Current industry practice is to have the grain in all boards facing the same direction, on the belief it is easier to flatten a panel with a continuous gentle arc from one side to the other, than to flatten the potential "wavy" panel from alternating grain directions.

- The purpose of clamping is to move your pieces of wood into position and hold them there while the adhesive dries. Use the lowest clamping pressure needed to position pieces where you want them. Unstressed joints should be clamped for a minimum of 30 minutes to 1 hour; stressed joints should be clamped for 24 hours. There is no harm in leaving your clamps on longer, but you can encounter glue joint failures if you remove the clamps too early.
- One-sided vs two-sided gluing: Both options work, and both have pros and cons. One-sided gives thinner glue lines but shorter open times; uses less glue which allows shorter clamping times. Two-sided gives longer total assembly time but will create a thicker glue line and adds more water to the glue line, which may require more cure time before machining. For both methods, moistening the substrates prolongs open times, and humidifying the air around your assembly slows the glue joint drying process.
- Bob recommends one final pass with the glue brush to refresh the glue surface just before clamping. Glue will “putty up” as water evaporates and it reaches ~67% solids- Be sure to clamp before glue starts to “putty up”!
- While Titebond’s “official” shelf life is 2 years; Original Titebond and Quick&Thick are useable up to 10 years if stored inside; Titebond II & III up to 4-5 years. Refrigerating will extend life.
- Wood needs to be warm enough (typically 47° to 50°F) to melt/knit the glue particles together; if not you can get chalking- a whitish/powdery glue line and likely a weak, failed bond.
- Dovetail joints do not require glue on every surface of every pin and tail, only spots of glue to keep the joints from separating laterally. A dovetail joint’s mechanical strength is not enhanced by glue.
- “Chair Doctor” is a very low viscosity wood glue that can be injected with a syringe to repair loose chair rungs.
- Titebond Extend has clay in it to extend open time; must be mixed thoroughly before use.
- Wipe oily woods with acetone before applying wood glue. Epoxies are recommended over PVA glues like Titebond on oily wood glue joints.
- A 1:1:1 mix of acetone, water, and vinegar can be used to soften any water-based wood glue.
- Veneering: Veneer should be at the same moisture content as the substrate. Veneer can be ironed on by coating both the veneer and substrate with Titebond Original glue, allowing both to dry, then apply the veneer by ironing with the iron set on cotton (high heat) setting.

NEWWG Board Meeting Minutes May 4, 2026 - 7:00 pm - via Teams

A decision was made at the May 4 NEWWG Board meeting to move the publication of minutes by one month to allow board members to review the minutes prior to publication in the newsletter. Therefore, going forward the May Board meeting minutes will be included in the June newsletter, the June Board meeting minutes in the July newsletter, etc.

Recap of NEWWG Charitable Contributions

Jim Michiels and Randy Hendricks will be covering this at an upcoming NEWWG club meeting but wanted to include this summary in the May newsletter so those who don’t make the meeting will be aware of and can take pride in the extent of the Guild’s recent charitable contributions.

In the past 3 years, our Guild has donated nearly \$11,000 towards community organizations, as shown in the table below. This has been accomplished by hours of dedication our members have put into Guild efforts and our annual show. In addition, there have been many hours dedicated to putting together planters for the CP Center and making boxes for St Vincent's "Beads for Bravery" program. Anyone interested in any of these on-going efforts can help at our annual show, contact our board members or come to any of our monthly meetings. Hats off to anyone who has helped, even in the smallest of ways. Our communities are better for it!

NEWWG Charitable Contributions

Year	Charity	Show	Other	Total
2023	Ricks Toy Box	\$1,236.00		\$1,236.00
2024	St Vincent Children's Hospital	\$1,300.00	Anonymous \$500.00	\$1,800.00
2025	C P of Green Bay		Planters \$1062.00	\$1,062.00
2025	C P of Green Bay	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
2026	Ricks Toy Box		\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
2026	Paul's Pantry		\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
2026	C P of Green Bay #2 Raised planters		Planters \$818.90	<u>\$818.90</u>
			Total	\$10,916.90

Membership Report May 2026

Currently we have 189 active members

Next Event - Woodcraft Family Day:

- The Guild will be helping at Woodcraft's Annual Family Day on June 27. Eight to Ten volunteers are needed to provide help. You can volunteer for either the "first shift" from 9:30-12:30 or the "second shift" from 12:30 to 3:30, or both shifts. This year, a local Scout group will be serving a picnic lunch. Guild volunteers will help hand out the kid's activity kits to build a small wood project. Some volunteers will also distribute paint or art supplies as people complete their box. **Volunteers in past years have enjoyed helping at this free, fun family-focused event.**
- If you want to volunteer you can sign up at the May 20 meeting or call, text or email me (see below). Thanks in advance for volunteering!

New Meeting Room Arrangement!

We've experienced great attendance at our meetings this past year. Most meetings have 50-55 people attending 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

Get Paid to Share Your Experience! Lead a class at Woodcraft!

The classroom in the new Woodcraft in Appleton is open for business! Woodcraft is looking for guild members to teach small group classes on a wide variety of subjects.

You would be paid for developing the class content and leading your class. Class length is flexible but could be 3 hours per session. Some equipment is in the classroom for your use plus you can bring other items you may need. Most classes include 6-9 adults. Dates and times are available to fit your schedule.

You can choose your topic but typical topics might be:

- Hand tool woodworking
- Building small boxes
- Traditional bowl turning
- Face frame cabinet making
- Frameless European cabinetry
- Inlays - basic lines and circles
- Inlays - bands and templates
- Chip carving for beginners
- Finishing - new & restoring
- Making cribbage boards
- CNC sign making

The guild is facilitating the connections with Woodcraft. If you are interested in sharing your knowledge with others and earning some money, please contact Eric Hansen at 952-567-4625 or ericjonhansen@gmail.com. Or let's talk at a meeting soon!



This could be YOU!

You could be the guild's new Santa. Clete Selissen, our door prize coordinator, is stepping down. Thanks to Clete for bringing us fun surprises at our meetings.

If you volunteer for this position, you will have a guild budget to purchase items to be used as door prizes at each meeting. If you are willing to help please talk to any Board member. Thanks!

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 May 20th club meeting.



Guild Picnic - Save the Date!!!!!!!!!!!!

August 1, 2026

The annual Guild Picnic will be Saturday August 1 at Green Isle Park in Allouez. Mark your calendar and plan to attend! Fun for all, free lunch, fellowship and PRIZES!

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

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of 4/30/2026 - \$30,677.44

Financial Activity (thru April 30,2026)

Income:

- \$325.00- Membership dues
- \$85.00 – registration guild show
- \$9.41- Interest

Total \$419.41

Expenses:

Total \$3,376.83

Respectfully Submitted,
Craig Effertz – Treasurer

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.

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, membership, etc. 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

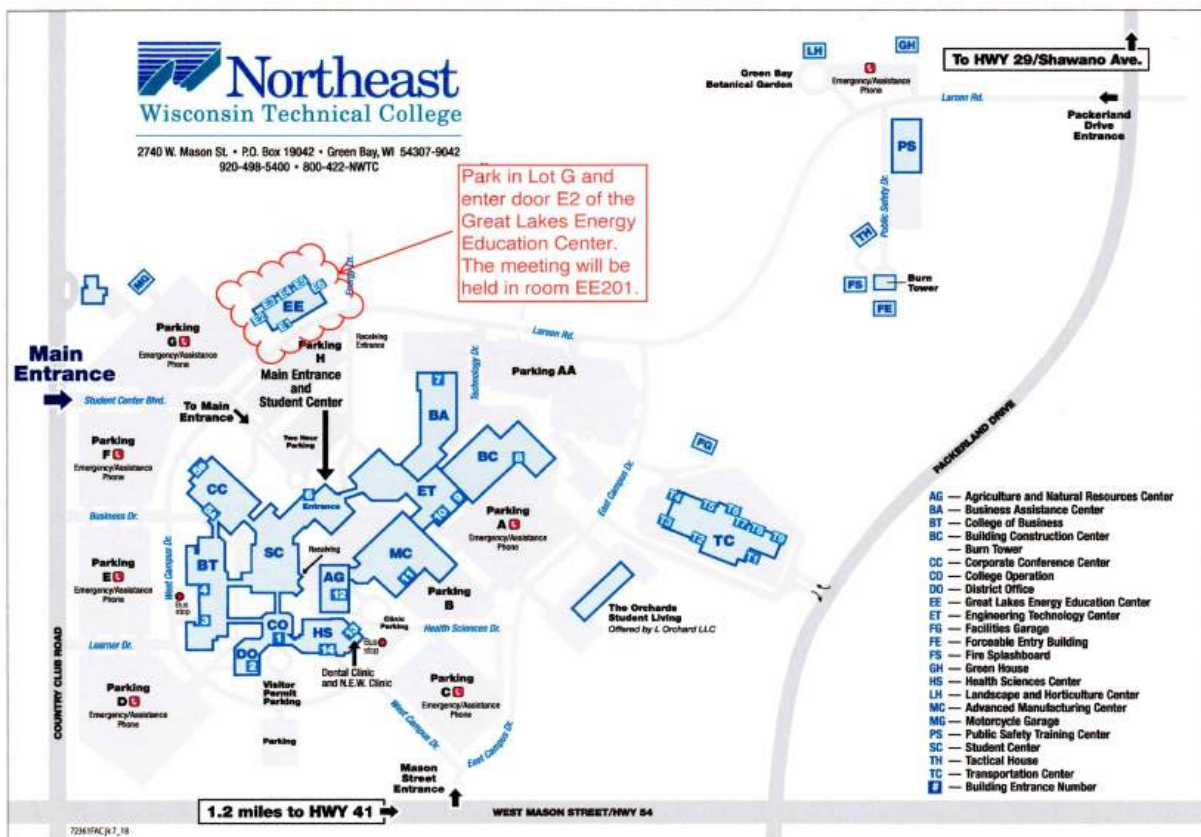
Library -Dave Kaus

Website- Matt Hamblin

Other committees:

Annual Show: Randy Hendricks, Jim Michiels

Event Facilitator: open





BAY LAKE WOOD TURNERS OPEN HOUSE

MAY 28TH 4PM - 7PM

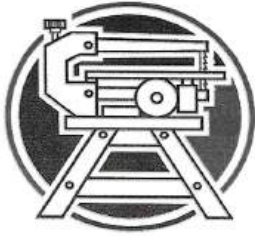
HANDS ON DECK AND THE BAY LAKE WOODTURNERS ARE ENJOYING A GROWING EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP. TOGETHER, WE WILL SHARE OUR PROGRESS AND DEMONSTRATE THE TURNING PROGRAM, INCLUDING THE PROCESS, TOOLS, AND INSTRUCTIONAL APPROACH BEHIND IT.

- TWO LATHES SPINNING W/ LIVE DEMOS•**
- DOOR PRIZES • SHOP TOURS •**
- TURNERS GALLERY**

975 Parkview Rd. Ste 15 Green Bay, WI 54304



HANDS ON DECK



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.