

# BENCHTALK

Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

Volume 44: Issue # 6, June 2026



## June 17<sup>th</sup> Program: Woodworking Discussion

Our June program isn't finalized as of this newsletter publishing date but may involve a general woodworking discussion/Q&A. Part of our May 20th program featured NEWWG President Greg Levenhagen discussing how technology can be used to enhance our lives and our woodworking. Unfortunately, Greg did not have his laptop with him which had all the slides he had planned to speak from. But Greg was still able to lead an interesting discussion on the increasing use of AI and technology in our everyday lives as well as in our woodworking pursuits. Greg's explanations of how AI works and what it can and cannot do helped make AI less scary, but long-term there will be impacts on jobs. Perhaps we can prevail upon Greg to continue this discussion.

## Review of May Program

The first half of our May 20<sup>th</sup> program was a presentation by Shannon Kaufmann (and her support dog, Munchkin) on the Bravery Beads program at HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital. This presentation was covered in detail in the May 2026 *Special Edition* Newsletter. Please refer to that *Special Edition* for details, and please consider making a special box to donate to this program.

The second half of our May 20<sup>th</sup> program was NEWWG President Greg Levenhagen's discussion of AI and technology in the world around us, as noted above.

## Membership Report June 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. Six more 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. Guild volunteers will help hand out the kid's activity kits to build a small wood planter box. 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 June 17 meeting or call, text or email me (see below). Thanks in advance for volunteering!

## 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

## **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 well 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 4-6 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](mailto:ericjonhansen@gmail.com). Or let's talk at a meeting soon!

## **Audit Committee**

The Guild needs three members, who are not members of the Board, to conduct an audit of our financial records. Please consider volunteering to conduct this audit to ensure our financial records are complete and accurate.



**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!



**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](mailto:ericjonhansen@gmail.com) .

## **Treasurer's Report**

**Balance as of 5/31/26 - \$29,558.53**

Financial Activity (thru May 31-2026)

### **Income:**

· \$8.39- Interest

Total \$8.39

### **Expenses:**

#### **Reimbursements**

Total \$1,127.30

Respectfully Submitted,

Craig Effertz – Treasurer

## **TrueTrac Introduction and Discount Opportunity**

TrueTrac is a family-owned precision woodworking tool manufacturing company in Ohio, with all tools proudly made in the USA. Jacob Rhodes, ([jacob.r@truetrac.com](mailto:jacob.r@truetrac.com) ) owner and Chief Engineer of TrueTrac, is offering NEWWG Guild members a 10% discount by entering the code WWGuild10 at checkout. See TrueTrac's current tool offerings at <https://truetrac.com>.

## **CP Center Opportunity**

Katie Tilleman works at the CP Center in Adult Day Services. Katie is looking for someone to come into one of her Friday afternoon life skills classes and talk to them about wood, tools, woodworking, etc., or perhaps lead a small project the class could work on together. It's a very inquisitive group of people that enjoy learning and hands on opportunities. If you could help, please contact Katie at the CP Center 920-337-1122.

## **Wood and Tools For Sale**

Guild member Curt Andersen is shutting down his shop, following an accident that left him unable to do his old work. Curt has about 400 bd ft of kiln-dried lumber, including maple, curly maple, spalted maple, white oak, red oak, a small amount of ash, walnut, cherry, and some pine. Some is 4/4, some 5/4, and some 8/4; there are a few pieces even larger. As can be seen in the photo below, Curt's wood is stored on carts which are also for sale "for a song"; both have 6" caster wheels on them.

Also for sale are a double roller Performax sander, an in-line drill (240V/3 phase) and some electric or battery powered hand tools. Call Curt at 920-434-1288 for an appointment to view everything.



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

As noted in the May Newsletter, a decision was made at the May 4 NEWWG Board meeting to move the publication of minutes by one month to allow board members time to review the minutes prior to publication in the newsletter. Therefore, this month we are including the minutes from the May Board meeting.

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

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

A quorum existed to transact business. Meeting called to order 7:04pm

Approve minutes of March 30, 2026 meeting. Motion to approve by Gerry; second by Eric, vote unanimous. Eric offered motion to move publication of minutes by one month to allow board members to review minutes prior to publication in newsletter. Second by Gerry, vote unanimous.

Treasurer: Transfer of bank accounts to current president and treasurer complete. No outstanding items, current balance in excess of \$30K. Report to appear in upcoming newsletter.

Membership: Currently 189 members, no new and no cancellations. Woodcraft/Appleton relationship is going well. They are interested in hiring members to teach classes, Eric to provide info for upcoming newsletter . Annual picnic is scheduled for August 1<sup>st</sup> at Green Isle Park in Allouez. Eric has made reservation and security deposit of \$250, which he will submit for reimbursement. Need volunteers for setup and spearheading picnic. Picnic will take place of regular July membership meeting. Regular membership meeting August 19 will focus on annual show & sale at Denmark High School.

Programs: Sleep In Heavenly Peace unable to commit to being our Show Charity or presenting at our May meeting. Motion to approve striking them from schedule by Gerry, second by Roger, vote unanimous. May program to include Shannon Kaufmann, HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital Child Life Specialist who will discuss their Beads of Bravery program, and Greg will discuss Woodworking and Technology.

Library: Working on meeting recording with new camera gear. Need protective case for camera and related equipment. Eric offered motion to authorize purchase, second by Roger, vote unanimous. Discussion of uploading recordings to YouTube and making them accessible to the public unless presenter objects. YouTube recordings will include only the program, not business portion of guild meetings. Reviewing past-due checkout cards for media and publications.

Website: Discussion of moving social media to Club Express. Greg offered numerous screen-shares of Club Express features and benefits, and urged board members to review for further discussion at future board meeting.

Audit: Need 3 guild members who are not on the board of directors to conduct financial audit.

Door Prizes: Need volunteer to take over securing door prizes and handle drawings at future meetings. Door prize budget has been set at \$75 per meeting with a \$25 Woodcraft gift card. Greg offered motion to increase budget to \$100 per meeting, second by Eric, vote unanimous.

Adjourned 8:10pm

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

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

**Newsletter:** Roger McCambridge  
[roger@mccambridge.org](mailto:roger@mccambridge.org) 920-660-4462

**Web Site:** Matt Hamblin  
[mhamblin6703@gmail.com](mailto: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

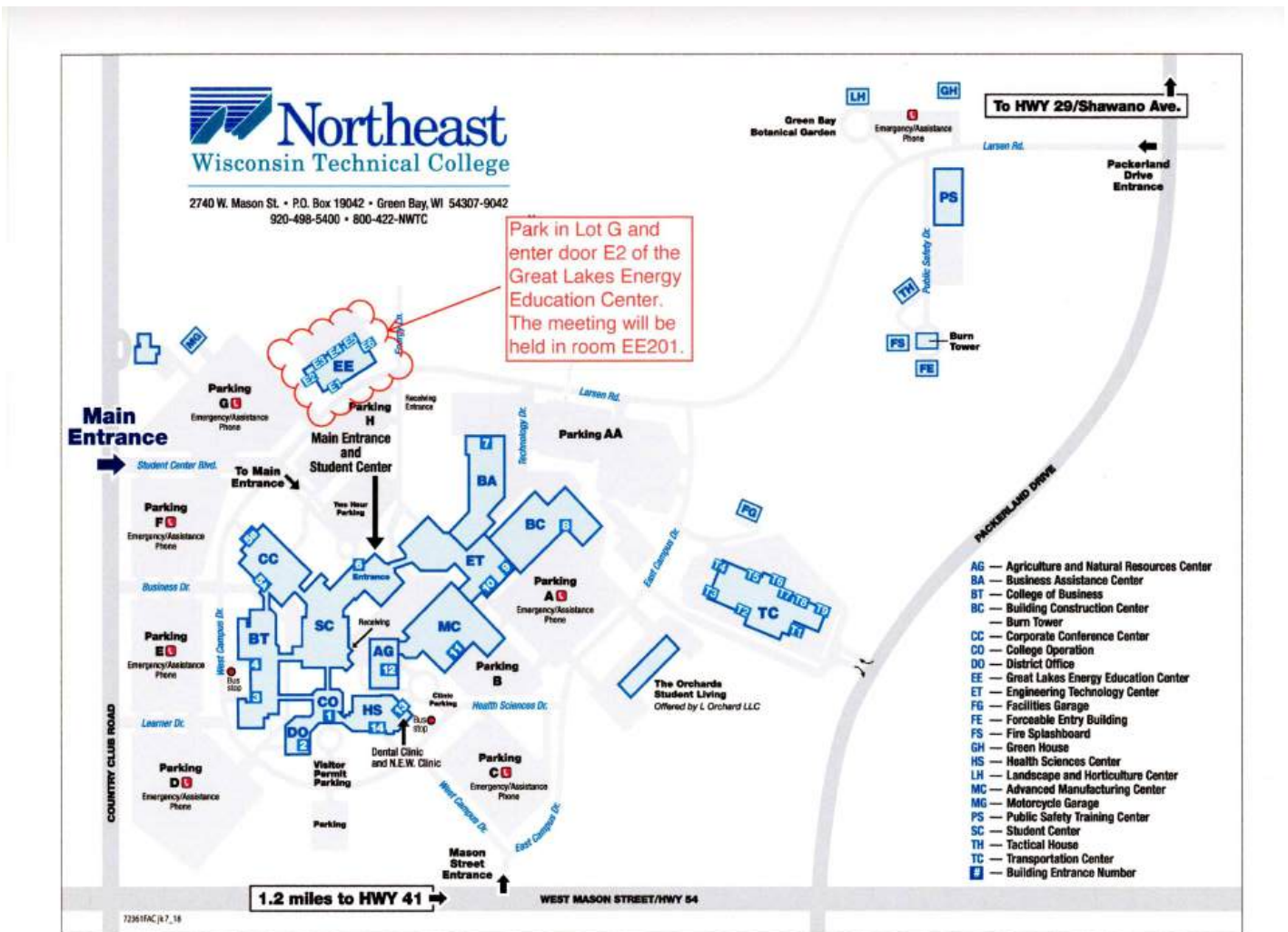
**Library** -Dave Kaus

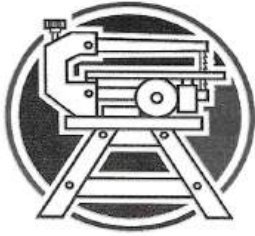
**Website**- Matt Hamblin

**Other committees:**

**Annual Show:** Randy Hendricks, Jim Michiels

**Event Facilitator:** open





# 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.