

BENCHTALK

Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

Volume 44: Issue # 8, August 2026



August 19th Program: Members Show & Tell and Annual Show Planning

The August 2026 meeting will have two focuses: First, NEWWG President Greg Levenhagen will moderate a Members Show and Tell/Open Discussion time. Bring in a creation that you are proud of and tell us about your process in creating it. Or... highlight a glitch you encountered that resulted in your project not turning out as you had envisioned. Do you have a question/problem that you would like advice on? If so, help Greg prepare for this discussion by emailing your question, problem, or creation you would like to Show and Tell to the general email address on the Guild's website: info@newwg.org . Greg will go through these emails in advance to help organize the discussion.

The second focus of the August meeting will be an update from Jim Michiels and Randy Hendricks on planning and prep for the annual show coming up on November 7-8. Remember the old proverb, "Many hands make light work," meaning a large task becomes much easier, is finished faster, and is less burdensome when people cooperate and share the workload. Please volunteer for some of the tasks that need to be done to have a successful show. The annual show is our one fundraiser for the year- a successful show keeps our club dues low, allows us to bring in professionals to present at our monthly meetings, and allows us to give back to our communities through charitable donations.

Update on Bravery Beads Boxes

Remember our May 20th meeting when Shannon Kaufmann from HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital gave us a presentation on their Bravery Beads program? Near the end of her presentation Shannon mentioned St. Vincent had also started making garden stones with molds of the hands of their end-of-life patients as a keepsake for the family, and if they standardized on the size of these garden stones, they would provide us what the dimensions of boxes to contain these hand mold garden stones would need to be.

Recently Randy Hendricks visited Ashley Thompson, Child Life Supervisor at St. Vincent Children's Hospital. Following that visit, Ashley sent the email below to Randy, which includes desired dimensions for boxes they need for the handprint garden stones (12" W x 12" L x 4" H), as well as their preferred size for Bravery Beads boxes (6" W x 5" L x 5" H).

Please consider making a box(es) for either the garden stones or Bravery Beads. Randy Hendricks can answer questions and coordinate delivery of the boxes (randall02463@gmail.com).

Following is the email correspondence between Ashley and Randy:

Hi Ashley,

Thank you for the quick response and for clarifying the needs and dimensions for the boxes. I will share this information and follow up with our Guild members.

I will also try to fasten the ceramic beads to the boxes to see if that works.

We appreciate all that you do.

Best regards,

Randy Hendricks

Hello Randall,

Thank you for the visit! I sent this email after the meeting to a John Victor. I am sending it to you now. He wanted to know more about the program in order to better educate others. Here is the info on the handprint boxes below.

Regarding the stickers, I actually had ceramic beads that you guys could have for any future boxes. I am not sure you could even use these, but it may be better than the sticker. I will send you a bag and if they work, great. If they don't, you can bring them back at the next delivery. We are so grateful for you all!

Handprint boxes info:

What is a child life specialist: A Child Life Specialist is a trained healthcare professional who helps children and families cope with illness, injury, hospitalization, and medical procedures by providing emotional support, education, and therapeutic play. We also help families through death and loss by providing age-appropriate advice to caregivers on how to help children and implement legacy crafts with children throughout the death process (while in the hospital).

Where do we work: We work at St. Vincent Hospital in Green Bay Wisconsin. We have a team of 5 child life specialists and work throughout the hospital in our pediatric intensive care unit, pediatric oncology, Emergency Department, surgery, adult critical care and other misc. department throughout the hospital.

Budget: As a program, we fully rely on donations from the community. We are so grateful for the community in that they are so gracious in their donations to us as a program.

Biggest Need:

What: Memory boxes for garden stones

Use: When we have a parent or child in that is at the end of life, we create garden stones of their handprints. We use these memory garden stones as a means for a loved one to leave their legacy for their family members after they pass. We would like a box to put the garden stone in.



Size of box preferred: 12 inches wide X 12 inches long X 4 inches deep (height lid included)

Additional details: You are welcome to etch anything nature on the top (hummingbird, leaves etc).

Quantity needed: We only need 20 boxes maximum

Second Need:

What: "Bravery Bead" boxes

Use: We use these boxes for our pediatric cancer patients that have bravery bead necklaces. For each treatment, the patient gets a special bead to put on their necklace. They will use the box to store/display their necklace.



Size of box preferred: 5 inches height (lid included) X 6 inches wide X 5 inches long

Additional details: You are welcome to etch "Bravery Beads" on the outside.

Quantity needed: 5-10

Membership Report August 2026

Currently we have 190 members.

- Typically summer is a slow time for new memberships. As fall weather begins and people trade lawn mowers for woodworking tools, we usually see new members joining us.

Picnic Update:

- The August 1st picnic was a fun event with over 40 people attending. **Thanks** to the Guild members who volunteered to help including Barry Bender, Ellen Bender, Ben Abadeer and Pete Schuh (and others).
- **Save the date!** Next summer's picnic will be **July 24, 2027** at the Pavilion at Green Isle Park in Allouez. Plan on attending with your family and friends.

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. Stop in and check out the new store!
- 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.

Eric Hansen - Phone: 952-567-4625

Email: ericjonhansen@gmail.com

W6994 Angel Hill Drive, Greenville, WI 54942

Audit Committee

Thank you to Joshua Jones for volunteering to be part of an Audit Committee the Guild needs to conduct an audit of our financial records. We still need two more members, who are not members of the Board, to fill out this committee. Please consider volunteering and joining with Joshua to conduct this audit to ensure our financial records are complete and accurate.

Door Prize Coordinator

The Guild is looking for a member (or two) to coordinate our door prize giveaway. This would be a great opportunity for one or two new members to collaborate on.

If you volunteer for this position, you will have a \$100 per month budget from the Guild to purchase items to be used as door prizes at each meeting. If you are willing to help, please talk to any Board member or call or email Eric Hansen at 952-567-4625 or ericjonhansen@gmail.com . Thanks!

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of 07/31/2026- \$29,014.92

Financial Activity (thru 07/31/2026)

Income:

· \$8.62- Interest

Total \$8.62

Expenses:	Check #	Description
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\$0.00

Total \$0.00

Respectfully Submitted,

Craig Effertz – Treasurer

NEWWG Board Meeting Minutes June 29, 2026 - 7:00 pm - via Teams

NEWWG Board Meeting Minutes

June 29, 2026 - 7:04 pm - via Teams

Present: Greg Levenhagen, President; Gerald Jensen, Secretary; Roger McCambridge, Newsletter; Matt Hamblin, Web Site

Absent: Eric Hansen, Membership; Tom Smith, Vice President; Dave Kaus, Library; Craig Effertz, Treasurer

Roger and Greg have Eric's report and newsletter articles. Eric's headlines:

- Woodcraft Family Day was a success. Ten guild members volunteered for all or part of the day to help out! One new member joined on the spot!
- Barry Bender will be working on the picnic at Green Isle Park in Allouez on August 1st. Barry will collaborate with Pete Schuh who has led the picnic event in the past
- We're still looking for a volunteer or two to coordinate door prizes for our meetings.

The door prize coordinator has a budget of \$100 per month to acquire prizes.

There will be no regular meeting in July, due to the picnic August 1st this year. Regular meetings will resume in August.

Treasurer Craig Effertz was able to join briefly (by phone). Current balance is approximately \$28K. One member has volunteered to serve on the audit committee, two more are required.

Board reviewed list of charities to receive funds from this year's show and sale at Denmark High School. Board selected Paul's Pantry, an organization that serves in excess of 4-thousand families annually and receives no government funds. Motion by Gerry, 2nd by Matt, approved unanimous.

Website: Matt is working with show coordinators to update website for upcoming show & sale.

Programs: Greg contacting prospective speakers for future programs.

Adjourned 7:20pm

Recycling Event to Benefit Communities Devastated by Recent Tornado

Rick Brunner, NEWWG member and President of Rick's Toybox, is holding a recycling event in Menasha on August 29th to benefit the communities devastated by the July 27th tornado. Please see the flyer on the last page of this newsletter for details.

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.



ELECTRONICS RECYCLING



Saturday Aug 29TH. 8:00 AM-NOON

Location
Christ The Rock
Community Church
W6254 US-10 #114
Menasha , WI 54952

Not affiliated with this event

All proceeds will
help fund the "Shop
with a Cop" program
in areas devastated
by the tornado.

RAIN or SHINE!



RECYCLE ANYTHING WITH A PLUG!

All information on Hard Drives, Sim Cards, Flash Drives, etc. will be erased/destroyed

Apple products should have iCloud account removed prior to drop off

FREE TO RECYCLE:

Anything Metal
 Appliances
 Batteries
 Metal Bed Frames
 Bikes
 Cables
 Calculators
 Car Parts
 Cell Phones
 Chain Saws
 Chairs (metal)
 Coffee Machines
 Computers
 Cordless phones
 Credit Card Machines
 Curling

Dryers
 Electric Motors
 Elliptical Machines
 Equipment
 Exercise Equipment
 Flag Poles
 Garbage disposals
 Hair Dryer
 Hand Tools
 Ironing Board
 Irons
 Keyboards

Plugs
 Pots and Pans
 Power cords
 Printers
 Saw blades
 Scooters
 Screen Doors
 Shelves
 Snow Blower
 Speakers
 Staplers
 Stereos
 Stoves

Table Saw
 Tillers
 Tools
 Trailers
 Treadmills
 Tricycle
 Wash Machines
 Water Heater
 Weight Benches
 Weight Sets
 Wire
AND
MORE!

CRT Monitors
 LCD Monitors
 TV Under 30"
 TV Over 30"
 Console TV
 Projection TV
 Bare Tubes
 Refrigerators
 Freezers
 Dehumidifiers
 A/C Units

NOW ACCEPTING:

CDs
 DVDs
 VHS
 VIDEO GAMES
 VINYL

We Do **NOT** Accept: Lightbulbs, Alkaline Batteries, Trash, PCB Material, Liquids



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B3 Recycling

920.246.7143 ecyclenow.com



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Green Bay WI 54304

When life gives us trash, we make toys.