

BENCHTALK

Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

Volume 44: Issue # 9, September 2026



Correction to Annual Show Date listed in August Newsletter

The August Newsletter incorrectly listed this year's Annual Show dates as November 7-8. The correct dates are November 14-15, with set-up on November 13. Apologies from the Editor for any confusion this error may have caused.

September 16th Program

Our September 16th meeting program will feature local entrepreneur Amir Nouri, founder of SchienTek here in Green Bay. Mr. Nouri has recently launched two patent pending adjustable pocket hole jigs called SchienTek One and SchienTek One Pro. These jigs use guided "click into place" positioning to make pocket hole setup faster, cleaner, and more repeatable. Mr. Nouri's goal in creating these jigs was to make pocket hole setup more controlled and instill confidence before drilling, reducing the need for measuring and eliminating guesswork. If you would like a preview of the SchienTek jigs before our meeting, check them out at <https://schientek.com>.

Review of August Program

During the first portion of the August 19th meeting, Jim Michiels and Randy Hendricks provided an update on the status of Annual Show planning and prep. This was followed by our annual Woodworkers Forum open discussion.

Annual Show Update- Following are highlights noted from Jim and Randy's presentation:

- Last year we had 59 Exhibitors; so far this year we have 27. Randy and Jim would like to have exhibitor sign-ups committed by September 15.
- Randy has contacted 103 businesses so far requesting donations; 40 have donated to date. Please consider contacting additional businesses for donations; Randy has available a form letter, sign-up form, and thank-you letter to use for these donation requests. He also had his list of the 103 businesses contacted so far and asked that we not duplicate contacts. You may have to make an initial contact and a follow-up contact with some businesses as they work through their donation approval process. Send any donations directly to Randy.
- Table spots will be held until September 15th. Jim noted that this year tables will be oriented North-South instead of East-West to get more attendee traffic to the tables in back. Last year table registration fees did not quite break even with the table and High School rental fees.
- There will be a new yard sign design this year- taking the NEWWG logo off to focus attention on the Show location and dates. Put yard signs and posters out 3 weeks ahead of the show.
- To encourage more NEWWG members to attend, this year if you wear your badge to the show you will get free admission for yourself and one guest.

- Pat Williams volunteered to contact other WI woodworking clubs and invite them to our show.
- Tom Smith will be running the Tool Crib this year in place of Regan Buchholz.
- We need volunteers! It typically takes 40-45 people to make the show run. Remember- "Many hands make light work!"
- Looking ahead- Jim and Randy will be stepping down after the 2027 Annual Show, so the Guild will need a replacement(s)! Jim and Randy will share their planning process and all the forms they use for organizing the show, and will work with the replacement(s) during the 2027 Annual Show process. Here's your opportunity to support the Guild in a major way, as we depend on income from the Show to sustain us financially. You can continue to follow Jim and Randy's plan or make changes. ***Please consider volunteering for this very important role.***

Additional Updates on the Annual Show- Since our August 19th meeting, Jim and Randy have the following additional show updates:

- New signs are in. Many of you have told us how many yard signs, banners, stakes and replacement stickers for dates on the old signs you need for this year. These items will be available at the Sept. 16th general meeting.
- Yard signs, banners and posters should be put out 3 weeks prior to the event (week of Oct 19-24)
- Reminder: Bring any donations you've collected to the Sept meeting as well so we can catalog those and get the donors recognized on our website.
- Remember to continue handing out the "Save the Date" postcards.
- If you still want to register for the show, please do so soon.
- A group has been lined up to haul in the tables for setting up the gym, as well as hauling them out on Sunday after the show. "Thank You" to all members who have helped do this in the past.
- A list of volunteering slots for the show will be available at the Sept meeting as well. Please check your calendars before the meeting.

Woodworkers Forum- Following are highlights from our Woodworkers Forum discussion:

- Pete Schuh noted the Fall schedule is out for NWTC's Artisan Center. Check it out for Woodturning, Pyrography (Woodburning), and other classes.
- Greg Levenhagen shared he is learning about and enjoying his new miter sled.
- Carter's Accuright Log Mill can be used on a bandsaw to cut short logs into lumber; or you can build one like Paul Murphy has done (see Paul if you would like to build one like his).
- Ben Abadeer noted his sawmill can cut odd thicknesses for woodworkers/woodcarvers other than the typical 4/4, 6/4, 8/4, etc. He also shared that an inventory of city trees in boulevards can be found on the internet. The Urban Wood Network (www.urbanwoodnetwork.org) is a collaborative network of urban wood industry professionals across the U.S.- there is a Wisconsin Chapter.
- Paul Murphy described his process for drying wood by laying pieces out on his (unsealed) concrete floor with the bark still attached, covering the pieces with plastic, and flipping the pieces weekly. It takes about 2 years for the wood to dry, and 97%+ won't mold or crack. He is currently using pieces with knots that he cut 36 years ago and dried with this process.
- Chris Shoemaker described how recently he needed to turn a piece of brass that was too large for his clockworking metal lathe. He solved this by purchasing a Sherline metal working chuck with 1"x 8 TPI threads to fit his wood lathe. Then, using Easy Wood carbide

tools, starting slowly and gradually increasing the lathe speed, he found the brass turned as easily as wood.

- Malcome Hathorne showed off an exquisite Campaign Box he constructed. Malcome participates in period re-enactments, so he builds everything with period-correct materials and tools, i.e. he uses hand tools only, no power tools. The only concession he makes is to use modern PVA (polyvinyl acetate) glues instead of traditional hide glue. Malcome explained that the reason Campaign furniture has so many brass corner reinforcements is because when the British expansion moved into India, the high humidity of India's monsoon season caused the hide-glued joints to fail and their furniture fell apart!
- Paul Murphy showed off a beautiful walnut tray he recently carved. Paul described his process of using a router to clean out the bulk of the wood, then switching to a fine Kutzall contour bit in a drill press and carefully following a line he scribed around the perimeter 5/8" in from the outer edge. After sanding he finished the tray by applying Briwax and buffing it out with 0000 steel wool (this is Paul's go-to finish for most of his carvings). Paul also showed a box Gerry Jensen turned for him out of a 3-1/2" diameter piece of grapevine. A question was asked of Gerry on how he dealt with the pith in the center of this turned box- Gerry said it wasn't an issue because the wood was very dry, but he did find several spider cracks under the bark.
- Chris Shoemaker discussed his experience hand-cutting dovetails. A sharp chisel and lots of patience are key. Chris' advice- if you need to cut a lot of dovetail joints, use a dovetail jig and a router!
- Ben Abadeer recommended the Wood Talk podcast, sponsored by Woodcraft, and hosted by Marc Spagnuolo (aka The Wood Whisperer), Shannon Rogers, and Matt Cremona. These three experts discuss woodworking in an entertaining fashion.
- Pat Williams advised she has found that her painted wood pieces that sell the best have "character" or irregularities in the wood- holes, bark still on, knots, wild grain, odd shapes, etc. She also volunteered that Paul loves to share his knowledge and show people how to create with wood, so come out to his shop and learn from a master!
- Greg Levenhagen asked for advice on how to make floating shelves, as he is finding the commercial hardware available is too long for his desired shelf width. Chris Shoemaker shared a method he has used is to mount a 2x4 against the wall using lag bolts into the studs, then fitting a hollow box over the 2x4 and driving screws through the top of the box into the 2x4 (don't drive the screws up from the bottom into the 2x4, that makes for a much weaker joint).
- Rick Brunner encouraged us to participate in an Electronics Recycling event Rick's Toybox is sponsoring in Menasha on August 29 to benefit the "Shop with a Cop" program in areas devastated by the recent tornado (see flyer on last page of August NEWWG Newsletter). They will accept anything with a plug for recycling for free, including large TVs, dehumidifiers, etc. that most recycling locations typically charge a fee for. Rick shared that he has been spending a lot of time in the tornado-ravaged areas, pulling kids away from their parents so the parents could concentrate on dealing with their problems caused by the tornado. Recently when he stopped by the gym of a Boys and Girls Club, the visit turned into an hour-long live radio broadcast of kids telling their personal stories of their tornado experience, followed up the next day with a newspaper story. ***Bless you Rick for all you are doing to help these kids and their families navigate through a terrible time.***

NEWWG Supports Tornado Recovery

The Northeast Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild has made a \$5,000 donation to the Tornado Relief Support fund of the Fox Cares Foundation. The NEWWG Board selected this fund because 100% of the funds raised will go to tornado relief efforts with a focus on housing stability, basic needs, and helping affected individuals and families as they rebuild. In addition, Fox Communities Credit Union is matching donations up to \$250,000, so our \$5,000 donation will effectively become \$10,000 in relief with the matching funds. The NEWWG Board plans to relook at this situation in the future to assess whether an additional donation is needed and supportable by the Guild's financial condition.

Membership Report August 2026

Currently we have 190 members.

- Typically summer is a slow time for new memberships. As fall weather begins and more woodworkers head for their workshop, we usually see new members joining us.

Door Prize Volunteer Needed

- The guild needs a new volunteer to help coordinate door prizes for our meetings. You could help with this by purchasing door prizes (reimbursed by the guild) and helping with the prize drawing at our monthly meetings. Please contact me if you are willing to help with this fun project. Thanks!

Membership Sign Up Event at Woodcraft

- **Update your calendar!** October 9 & 10 your guild will be talking with woodworkers and signing up new members at the Woodcraft Woodpecker Tools Demo Days. Stop by Friday or Saturday to see guild friends and look over the extensive line of Woodpeckers tools. If you haven't been to the new Woodcraft store in Appleton, that is worth the trip alone. See you there!

Membership benefits

- **An often overlooked 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.
- Another benefit is you 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!
- Through your membership you also receive 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!

Finally

- **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.

Eric Hansen - Phone: 952-567-4625

Email: ericjonhansen@gmail.com

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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 an 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 08/31/2026- \$24,575.44

Financial Activity (thru 08/31/2026)

Income:

- \$490.00 Donations for the show
- \$395.00 Table registration
- \$7.84 Interest

Total \$892.84

Expenses:	Check #	Description
• \$5,000.00	1358	Fox Cares Foundation – donation
• \$206.84	1359	Berry Bender – summer picnic
• \$99.48	1360	Gerald Jensen- August door prize
• \$26.00	Paypal	Raffle license

Total \$5,332.32

Respectfully Submitted,
Craig Effertz – Treasurer

NEWWG Board Meeting Minutes August 3, 2026 - 7:00 pm - via Teams

NEWWG Board Meeting Minutes – Regular Monthly Meeting
August 3, 2026 - 7:00 pm – online via Teams

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

A quorum existed to transact business. Meeting called to order 7:05pm

New Business: Discussion of July 27th tornado impacts on Appleton/Menasha communities, and how NEWWG could support recovery efforts. Motion by Eric to donate \$5,000 to the Tornado Relief Support fund of the Fox Cares Foundation and relook at the recovery situation in three months to consider an additional donation to the Fox Cares Foundation's fund or other charity supporting tornado recovery efforts. Second by Craig, vote unanimous. Greg to contact a Fox Cares Foundation Board member on August 4th to determine logistics of making our donation.

Treasurer: Current bank balance \$29,014.92. Received \$8.62 interest in July, no disbursements.

Membership: Currently 190 members, including one new member. Eric will be contacting about 35 people whose membership is expiring to determine if they wish to renew. The August 1st annual picnic at Green Isle Park in Allouez was a success; 41 people attended, Woodcraft generously donated several door prizes, and the Pavilion was a very nice facility. We will recognize several members in the August newsletter whose extra efforts contributed to the event's success. Motion made by Eric to reserve this Pavilion again for next year's picnic on July 24, 2027. Second by Tom, vote unanimous. Our picnic took the place of regular July membership meeting. Regular membership meetings will resume August 19th with a Woodworker's Forum/Open Discussion moderated by Greg, and plans and prep for annual show at Denmark High School.

Programs: Greg has received interest from some parties for presentations at the September and October meetings, but no commitments yet. Tom made preliminary contact with Woodsmith. Motion made by Tom for him to explore options for a Woodsmith presentation, possibly coordinating with Woodcraft (Appleton) or the Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild (Milwaukee) for back-to-back dates,

develop a preliminary budget, and bring a proposal to the Board for approval. Second by Greg, vote unanimous.

Library: Greg plans to work with Dave to set up future recordings of Guild meeting presentations on YouTube, and end practice of transferring recordings to DVDs.

Website: Exhibitor forms for the annual show are now available on the Guild's web site.

Audit: Greg has one volunteer; need two more guild members who are not on the board of directors to conduct financial audit.

Newsletter: Monday, August 10 deadline for articles for August newsletter.

Door Prizes: Still need a volunteer to take over securing door prizes and facilitate drawings at future meetings. Consider changing format to allow names drawn to select their prize from remaining items.

Old Business: Moving Guild onto Club Express platform- Greg is tabling this discussion for now, may reconsider this platform at future board meeting.

New Business: Tom researched ways to express Guild's appreciation to Denmark High School and the community for hosting our annual show- discovered the Viking Shield, a support group assisting Denmark School District students and families to be successful academically and engaged with the community. Motion by Tom to provide Viking Shield a free booth at our annual show for them to gain publicity and solicit donations. Second by Greg, vote unanimous.

Next Guild meeting: August 19 at 7:00 pm

Next Board meeting: August 31 at 7:00 pm (online via Teams)

Adjourned 8:28 pm

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.

