BENCHTALK

Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

Volume 44: Issue # 10, October 2026

October Program:

Our October 21st program will feature Beth Kowalski, Executive Director of the Hamilton Wood Type and Printing Museum in Two Rivers. Ms. Kowalski will share the history of Hamilton Manufacturing Company of Two Rivers, Wisconsin, and its evolution from a small woodworking operation into the nation's largest and longest-operating manufacturer of wood type. Founded in 1880, Hamilton built its reputation on skilled craftsmanship, innovation, and precision manufacturing. Beth's presentation will explore the company's woodworking heritage, specialized tools and machinery, and expansion into furniture, cabinetry, and other manufactured products. The presentation will also highlight the Museum's ongoing efforts to preserve historic woodworking equipment, interpret traditional manufacturing processes, and connect Hamilton's heritage with today's craftspeople.

Review of September 16th Program

Our September 16th meeting program featured local entrepreneur Amir Nouri, founder of SchienTek here in Green Bay. Drawing on his formal education and experience in architecture and fueled by a life-long interest in design and technology, Mr. Nouri recently turned his talents into creating a product for the woodworking community. The result was SchienTek One and SchienTek One Pro, two versions of an adjustable pocket hole jig. 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 reduce the need for measuring; you simply select the thickness of the wood you are drilling into on the scale on the jig, align and clamp the jig where you want the hole to be, set the collar for the depth mark that matches the board thickness, and drill.

Designed and modeled using Fusion 360 (now known as Autodesk Fusion) software, Amir showed us various prototypes he had created as his design evolved from first being a housing that another pocket hole jig slid into, to its final version of a fully self-contained jig. He has applied for Design and Utility patents and is trademarking the SchienTek name. Amir presently is producing his jigs himself using a 3D printer; the complexity of the design requires 16 to 17 hours to print. He investigated having a commercial firm 3D print the jigs for him, but their charge to do so was going to be greater than his current selling price. He also investigated having the jig injection molded, but that also proved unfeasible as they would have to mold the jig in three separate pieces, then assemble the pieces using adhesive or screws, which would detract from the aesthetics and integrity of the product. So, for now Amir continues to create the jigs using his own 3D printer.

You can learn more about Amir's story and purchase his pocket hole jigs on his web site at https://schientek.com . The SchienTek One is currently selling for $42.99, while the SchienTek One Pro, which adds spring-loaded positioning pins, sells for $52.99. Both versions include a SchienTek Wall Dock for keeping the jigs close at hand near your workbench.

Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild Charitable Activities

In our September Newsletter, we announced that the NEWWG had made a $5,000 donation to the Tornado Relief Support fund to help support families impacted by the July 27th tornado that ripped through Menasha. This financial donation was made possible by the recent financial success of our Annual Show, and is the latest example of the Guild's history of supporting worthy causes. Barry Bender wanted fellow Guild members to be aware of other charitable activities our Guild has supported in recent years, as described below.

In November of 2024, the CP Center contacted the Northeast Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild about updating their garden planters. They wanted the planters to be wheelchair accessible and more user-friendly.

The current garden planters were evaluated in the Spring of 2025. Randy Hendricks and Jim Michiels built two of the seated planters and they were installed in the Summer of 2025. Two other wheelchair accessible planters were assembled by Russ and Marsha Oberstadt. They were also delivered and installed in the Summer of 2025.

The project was not completed until early April of 2026. Three more wheelchair accessible garden planters were assembled by Russ and Marsha. They were delivered by Barry Bender. Once they were there, Randy Hendricks, Chris Shoemaker, and Barry transferred the soil from the old planters into the new ones provided by the Guild.

The CP Center is grateful to the Guild. The NEWWG has a long history with the CP Center. It is a great example of our non-profit organization making a positive impact in the Green Bay area. Following are a few photos of the planters constructed and CP Center clients enjoying them:















Another example is the signs that Maureen Birk and Barry Bender did for the Point Beach Nature Center just north of Two Rivers. Maureen's neighbor, John Wryostsek, approached her in August and asked about re-working an existing sign and creating an additional sign. Maureen collaborated with Barry Bender, with Barry routing the letters on the additional sign, and Maureen painting the letters and planing, patching, and refinishing the existing sign. The results of Maureen's and Barry's work are in the photos below, with lettering on the new "NATURE CENTER" sign matching well with the re-worked "FRIENDS OF POINT BEACH" sign.





Final result after planing and patching, routing and painting letters, Danish oil, three coats of poly, and hanging hardware installed.

These are but two examples of numerous projects done by the Guild in past years which mean a lot to the organization requesting the assistance. Many of these requests come to the Guild through our web site, and we will continue to share these opportunities with our membership as they come in. A big Thank You to all members who have volunteered for these projects.

Annual Show Update

The Annual Show will soon be upon us on November 14-15. Jim and Randy have important updates below and will discuss final planning at our October 21 meeting.

Show Updates:
* Last chance to get your yard signs, banners, stakes, posters, and replacement stickers you need for this year's show. Items will be available at the Oct. 21 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 meeting as well so we can catalog those and get the donors recognized on our website.
* Continue handing out the "Save the Date" postcards. These are our last few weeks to have an impact on our attendance.
* You can still register for the show, however we need to hear from you very soon.
* A list of volunteering slots for the show will be available at the meeting as well. There are still slots that need to be filled. Please check your calendars before the meeting to see if you can support the show. Thanks.

Membership Report October 2026

Currently we have 191 members

- Please welcome our newest member Bruce Carlson of Denmark.
- I talked with several new member prospects at the Woodcraft membership event this past Friday and Saturday. They plan to attend as guests and sign up at a future meeting. Ten or more members stopped in to say hi and buy supplies using the guild's discount.

Membership Dues

- Speaking of memberships, **your membership renewal is due.** All memberships expire October 1st. Renewal for individual members costs $15, family membership renewals are $20. You can renew by cash or check at any meeting or by check mailed to my home or by using PayPal. PayPal is the easiest. Send your PayPal transfer to the guild at "treasurer@newwg.org"

- Thanks in advance for renewing soon! If you don't plan on renewing, let me know and I won't pester you for your renewal 🙂.

Service Opportunity & A Chance to make some Buck$

- The Guild may be your connection to share some of your woodworking knowledge and get paid for your time! Woodcraft of Appleton is looking for members to share their knowledge using their new fully equipped classroom. If you would like to teach a small group of 6 or 8 woodworkers about a topic of your choosing, you'd be paid nicely for your time and efforts. If you are interested, please contact either guild members Eric Hansen (952-567-4625) or Ernesto Brauer (414-902-0044) or Klay Heise at Woodcraft for more information. See the announcement elsewhere in this newsletter.

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!

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Email: ericjonhansen@gmail.com
W6994 Angel Hill Drive, Greenville, WI 54942

Treasurer's Report- September 30, 2026

Balance as of 09/30/2026: $25,739.93

Financial Activity (thru 09/30/26)
Income:

- $25.00 – refund from 2025 raffle license
- $1,225.00 – show registration and donation
- $7.23- Interest

Total $1,257.23

Expenses:	**Check #**	**Description**
$11.95	1361	Printing expenses
$53.07	1362	Randy Hendricks - bag raffle
$27.72	1363	Pat Willems-guild show mailings
$1,065.00	1364	Image advantage- yard signs

Total $1,157.74

Respectfully Submitted,
Craig Effertz – Treasurer

NEWWG Board Meeting Minutes August 31, 2026 - 7:00 pm - via Teams

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

Greg reported getting good response to the "Woodworkers Forum" at the August regular meeting.

Finance: A check in the amount of $5,000 has been sent to Fox Cares for Menasha tornado relief. Fox Cares has no administrative costs so 100% of donations go to storm victims. Our contribution qualified for matching funds from Fox Cities Credit Union.

Library: Reviewing checkout cards for overdue books and DVDs. A dozen or more were checked out by people who are no longer members. Dave is attempting to contact them to recover books/DVDs. Consensus was that we should write-off materials that are more than 5 years overdue.

Membership: Eric reported membership stands at 190. Eric suggested a large check be prepared representing the $5k donation to Fox Cares, and photographed at a forthcoming meeting. This photo will be used in literature, emphasizing commitment to supporting charities. Gerry moved we adopt Eric's suggestion, seconded by Tom, vote unanimous. Literature needs to be updated to reflect a contact for membership, Matt to create membership@newwg.org email address.

Newsletter: Deadline for submissions: September 7, 2026. Minutes for the August 3 board meeting approved for inclusion in the September newsletter.

Programs: Greg has prepared a database of prospective speakers for upcoming presentations. Discussions are underway with area Woodcraft franchises to bring in the editor of a major woodworking magazine.

Other: Tom reported that the Viking Shield student help organization at Denmark High School will have a table at our November show and sale, where they will be selling craft items. Discussion of the guild matching funds they collect at the show. Tom moved that we match up to $750, second by Gerry, vote unanimous.

Other: Randy Hendricks asked Roger to bring before the Board a request to send a special recognition letter from the Guild to the top donor(s) that have been particularly generous in their financial donations to our annual show the past four years. Tom to look into appropriate ways to thank donors for their support.

Upcoming Programs

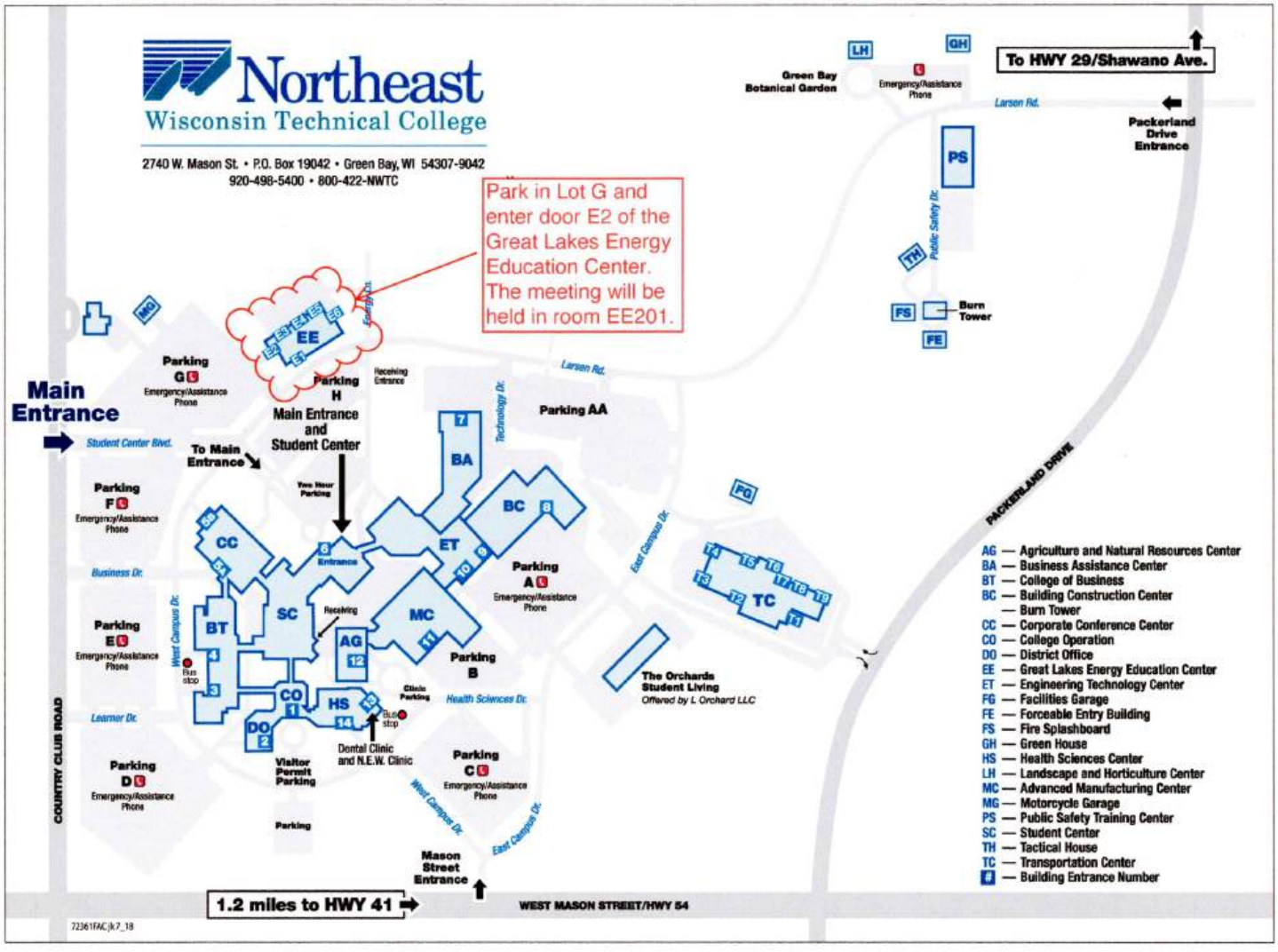
Future Programs: Meetings at NWTC, in Room EE201, Great Lakes Energy Ed. Center. Use parking lot G, entrance door E2. See map included with this newsletter.

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.

NORTHEASTERN 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



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WOODCRAFT

Teach, Create & Inspire in Our New Classroom

We're excited to launch woodworking classes in our brand-new Fox Cities classroom, and **we're looking for instructors!**

Do you have woodworking knowledge, skills, or techniques you'd love to share with others? **We're looking for passionate makers interested in teaching classes** on topics like:

- Woodturning
- Finishing
- Hand Tools
- Furniture Building
- Beginner Woodworking
- Specialty Projects

For all inquiries, please contact Klay Heise at klay.woodcraft@gmail.com

