

The Newsletter of the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild

V1-N10, October 2026

Editor's Note
-Ed Estlow

Happy Halloween! Although it doesn't quite feel like fall, does it? We're well into "Third Summer," as Ch. 9 chief meteorologist Ian Leonard describes it.

Also, I apologize for the lateness of this newsletter. Ultimately, we decided to delay by a week due to the hubbub of activities around our annual Expo and Gala.

This month, we've got:

- Paul Ehrlich is back with his President's Message
- Khrisslyn Goodman with an update from the Education Committee
- A note from John Madsen about opportunities with the new Guild Safety Committee
- Guild Supporters who attended the Expo this year
- And a Program Committee Report correction to last month's newsletter

President's Message
-Paul Ehrlich

We have just wrapped up a busy week at the Guild! It started with a set of classes at our new Studio with Master woodworker Garrett Hack. This included a one-day class where the students made their own "scratch stocks" to cut beads, chamfers and inlays followed by a five-day long class on table building. I had a chance to see the results from both classes and they were very impressive! As the class was ending, we started our "Expo Preview" at the Progress Building at the State Fairgrounds. This was followed by our Gala which had 100 attendees and a successful live and silent auction. The next day was all Expo with over 2,000 attendees. It was a busy and exciting set of events!



Garrett Hack with a Student



Expo Belt Sander Races



Guild Gala

Programs: We didn't have a program in October since it was the Expo. Our November program will feature Tom Caspar on "Reading Wood Grain" on Tuesday November 10, 2026 at the New Brighton Community Center. See https://members.mnwwg.org/site_event_detail.cfm?pk_association_event=38218

Board Member Changes: I am delighted to announce that John Madsen has joined our board as our Safety Director. As we build out more hands-on programs we intend to start with a foundation of safety. John has been an active part of our education committee and is working on building a safety team. See his article which follows. We also have Roger Christohperson stepping down as our secretary, and Angela Vargas continuing as our membership director but stepping down from the board. Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering including board assignments.

Capital Fund Drive: At the Gala we formally kicked off a fund drive to provide tools, supplies, facility improvements, and other items to set up a dedicated Guild facility. The goal is to raise $100,000. Five guild members have stepped forward (so far) to be lead donors and to collectively provide a 1:1 match for up to $25,000 in donations. Donations can include tools and supplies as well as cash, checks, or appreciated assets. If you are interested in donating, please contact donations@mnwwg.org.

Hall of Fame Winner: The Guild's "Hall of Fame" consists of a group of members who demonstrated both significant skill and commitment to the craft as well as exceptional commitment to helping the Guild. This year's winner is David Lane. David is a skilled craftsman and regularly has participated (and won) at Northern Woods. He is also our webmaster and has helped us share information with members and the public.

Congratulations and thanks to the existing hall of fame winners for nominating David and special thanks to Richard Tendick for hand carving the recognition plaque.

Education
-Khrisslyn Goodman

Since our last newsletter contribution in mid-September, the education committee has been very busy! A quick overview is below:

Classes that recently happened:

- Cabinet Scraper (cutting sanding time!)
- Measurement and Layout
- Intro to Woodworking 1
- Visiting Master 1-day Details class
- Visiting Master 5-day Table build

Upcoming classes (sign up via the Guild website):

- Oct 21 Box making (this multi-session course is already full, but we will offer more in the future)
- Oct 24 Mortise & Tenon
- Oct 31 Intro to Woodworking 1
- Nov 7 Intro to Woodworking 1 (this section is already full!)
- Nov 10 Veneering Basics with Tom Schrunk - a multi-session course - don't miss out on this opportunity to learn from a local legend!
- Nov 14 Hand cut dovetails - tails first method
- Nov 21/22 Intro to Woodworking 2 (this section is already full, but there will be more offerings in winter!)

Other activity of the committee:

Now that the Gala and Expo are concluded for this year, we are moving into planning upcoming social events - stay tuned for some holiday fun at the training studio!

As always, we are interested in your ideas for classes that you want to take or would like to teach! Please contact us at "education@mnwwg.org"

Help Shape Our Shop: Join the Guild Safety Committee!
-John Madsen

Hello Fellow Woodworkers,

As our Guild continues to grow and we expand our workshop spaces with new tools and machinery, keeping our community safe, welcoming, and operating smoothly is more important than ever. My name is John Madsen, and as your Director of Shop Safety & Compliance, I want to make sure every member feels confident and secure every time they step up to a workbench or turn on a machine.

To help guide our safety policies, verify tool competency protocols, and look out for one another on the shop floor, I am forming a brand-new Guild Safety Committee—and I want you to be a part of it!

Why join the Safety Committee?

Safety is a shared community responsibility, and this committee is a great way to give back to the Guild. We aren't looking for any "safety police"; we are looking for members who care about our craft and want to help foster a proactive, welcoming culture of safety. Whether you are a seasoned woodworker with decades of shop experience or a passionate maker who wants to help manage our incident tracking and support educational programs, there is a place for you here.

What will the committee do?

- Collaborate on Education: Partner with our Education Committee to ensure students and instructors have excellent, clear safety guidelines.
- Review Practices: Help establish baseline safety practices and specialized training frameworks for our machinery.
- Support the Shop: Follow up on safety-related incidents constructively to see how we can improve our protocols and prevent future accidents.

What is the time commitment?

We respect your time and want to keep this simple and accessible. The committee will gather just once a month for a single, monthly online meeting. This allows us to collaborate efficiently right from home, ensuring we keep our shop safe without eating up your open shop or project time.

If you have a few hours a month to spare and want to play a key role in ensuring our members have a world-class environment to hone their craft, we would love to have you on board.

Ready to help out?

Please reply directly to me at **jmadsen@mnwwg.org** or click the link below to join:

Safety Committee Volunteer Sign-Up Form

Let's work together to keep making beautiful things safely!

Best regards,

John Madsen
Director of Shop Safety & Compliance

Minnesota Woodworkers Guild Supporters
-George Lucas

The Minnesota Woodworkers Guild currently has more than 50 Supporters. Many of these supporters exhibited at this year's Woodworker's Expo.

Some of our supporters attending this year's expo included:

Abrasive Industrial Supplies



Forest Products Supply



K & J Lumber



RK Design



Rockler Woodworking and Hardware



Siwek Lumber and Millwork



TSO Products

Wood from the Hood

Woodcraft of Minnesota

Correction to the September Program Committee Report

David Mitchell alerted me to an error in last month's report. The future monthly program planned for December should have read:

- December – Shop Safety or How to Stop the Bleed

We'd misstated that Tony Kubalak would be leading this program.