

# T U R N I N G

Threads

June 2025



Bob Eberhardt demonstrated end grain turning by making a pen pot using the techniques that he showed the attendees using some special turning tools.

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**Tom Leonard**

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**Dan Brandner**

We had a great turnout for our June meeting.

It was good to see a couple older members that have been away for a while and were able to attend.

We talked about the upcoming event in Menomonie ( Lets Paint the Town ) and how we could use the event to raise money for the club. We asked everyone, that is able, to donate an item for sale with proceeds going to the club.



With the new camera system installed we gave it our first trial run and for the most part it worked great. I was doing the demo so I was unable to assess the system from a viewers perspective. The responses I heard after the meeting were positive. As with every new system the person in front of the camera can do things to help the camera man in the whole process. An example would be (don't wander around). We had a focusing issue with one of the cameras but that has been resolved. The more we use it the better we will be. Anyone interested in learning how to run the system, we will be happy to teach you how to do it.

The Demo on End Grain Hollowing went well. I was able to demonstrate how to get some unwanted catches. Some of them were really nice catches. I was even able to walk away, without a trip to the Emergency Room. I completed the hollowing on the projects I started during the demo at home. The box elder blanks I was turning seemed to work better with a dull scraper versus a sharp one.

Next months Prez Challenge is a pencil pot.

The Saturday open house only had a couple of people attending.

The AAW symposium is Fathers Day weekend so those attending please drive safe. See you in July. **Bob**

**Monthly Meetings**

First Wednesday  
of the month

Board Meeting at  
6:00 pm

Social Hour at 6:00 pm

Meeting and  
Demonstration

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

**Open House**

Second Saturday  
of the month

8:00 am to 12:00 pm

**Members and interested persons may contact the Chippewa Valley Woodturners Guild by email at: [woodturnercvwg@gmail.com](mailto:woodturnercvwg@gmail.com)**

## Hiatus

I will be taking a hiatus from this column and from the pen wood of the month and pen kit of the month. That is, unless something comes up that I can't keep quiet about.

Health conditions will not allow me to work in my shop. I am having many lab tests and Radiological exams to determine if there is something that responds to medication better than the ones I am now taking.

I will still be doing the newsletter and I will try to be at the meetings to record the demonstrations. I hope in the meantime that some members will take the time to write up their experiences in their shops as a way to fill in the newsletter and keep it current to our group.

**Tom Leonard**



## THIS MONTH IN 2016



**Rick Bauer demonstrates how to turn a piece from wet wood, dry the piece and then put on a finish in a short amount of time**

To the CVWG Membership: Dan Brandner and I worked toward sending the AAW our newsletter and web site awards. The winner was the First State Woodturners website and newsletter. I went on their web site and viewed our competition. Apparently, I and Dan had different ideas from the AAW about what a newsletter and a web site should be about. My impression was that the First State Woodturners had more activities outside the actual meetings of the group. The newsletter was just that, a newsletter about activities, the number of which I had a hard time imagining how they kept up with them all. Regardless, I feel that our newsletter (really a monthly publication) is more appropriate for our group. Perhaps some of the corporate speak of the criteria can be clearly interpreted by someone in our group and we can be put on the right road to a successful newsletter and website as defined by AAW.

**Tom Leonard.**

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From: "Alexa Calliguri" <[Alexa@woodturner.org](mailto:Alexa@woodturner.org)>

Date: May 8, 2025

Subject: Thank You for Your 2025 AAW Communications Excellence Submission

Dear Chapter Leaders,

Thank you for submitting your chapter's entry for the 2025 AAW Communications Excellence Award. The judging panel had a very difficult task, as many submissions demonstrated a wide range of platforms and styles to educate, engage, and grow their communities. Although your chapter was not selected as the award recipient this year, your efforts did not go unnoticed.

The winning chapter, First State Woodturners, stood out through a cohesive, multi-platform approach that demonstrated both quality and consistency. Their submission included:

A well-designed, informative website featuring a growing archive of meeting handouts and educational resources.

- An active YouTube channel with fresh video content that helps members and the broader public learn more about woodturning.
- A Facebook page that provides relevant updates.

We encourage you to continue developing your chapter's communication efforts and consider applying again next year.

Thank you again for your continued support of the woodturning community.

Alexa Manning

Communications and Digital Engagement Specialist

AAW

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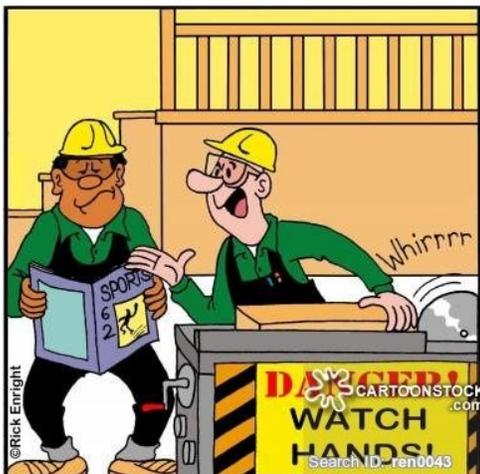
651-484-9094

**It's easier to ask  
a dumb question**



**than it is to fix  
a dumb mistake.**

**SAFETY FIRST...**  
Because  
**HOSPITAL  
FOOD is  
TERRIBLE!**



"Of course they lost! The idiots weren't paying attention to what they were doing!"

## FUTURE DEMONSTRATIONS

Meetings are the first Wednesday of the month at 7 pm.  
Open house is the second Saturday of the month from  
8 am to 12 pm

### Meeting Dates and Demonstrations

July 2—Dan Brandner—Honey Dipper In a Jar

August 6—Ron Bartz—Chatter Tools

September 3 —Mark Palma —What I Wish I Would Have  
Known About Turning 20 Years Ago

October 1—Not Yet Determined

November 5— Bob Eberhardt—Make that Snowman

December 3—Dan Brandner—Learning the Skew

### May Open House Date

July 12 from 8:00 am to 12:00pm. If coming after 10:00,  
please inform us through the web site the night before  
at: [woodturnercvvg@gmail.com](mailto:woodturnercvvg@gmail.com). Meetings and Open  
House are held in the Eau Claire Insulation building at  
1125 Starr Ave on the northeast side of Eau Claire, WI.  
Look for the meeting sign. No sign—No meeting.

## Next Month Dan Brandner Honey Dipper In A Jar



# NEW ADDITION TO CVWG



Our new video system has been installed. According to Bob Eberhardt that as far as he knew, it was working well. He was doing the demonstration at it's first showing. More information in coming newsletters.

Many, many thanks to Bob Eberhardt, Dick Purvis and Dan Brandner for the enormous amount of work needed to put in this system.



Unusual Woodturning Devices

An Unusual Woodturning Project





[Facts on JuJube](#)  
[JuJube Video](#)



## End Grain Hollowing

### Bob Eberhardt

End grain hollowing is unique because you are removing the grain at the end of what is essentially a spindle blank. This is common in lidded boxes, pencil holders or vases. That means a lot of the grain needs to be cut off cleanly. There are methods to minimize the problems in doing this, by using techniques with a gouge at an angle that slices the grains off as they are peeled away. Special techniques are required as the end grain hollowing gets deeper. Bob Eberhardt demonstrated several of them in June's demo. Deeper hollowing, where you can't even see inside of items, known as hollow forms, is another technique entirely and requires different tools and techniques.



First off, you can drill out the bulk of the material as Dan Wold did in the April '25 meeting demo. Since that was covered, Bob focused on other approaches. All of them end with using a scraper to finalize the surface inside the hollow and especially the bottom. There are some scrapers specially designed for scraping inside an end grain hollow or box. Following scraping, the inside of the hollow can be sanded and finished. Bob was using some dry Box Elder blanks for his demo and found them to be too dry for turning without some tear out inside. He finished the piece at home and found that a scraper without a burr (dull scraper?) produced a better finish inside on this wood that was ready for sanding.

Conventional end grain hollowing goes something like this. With the blank mounted on one end in a chuck, start in the middle, removing some material from the center, then continuing to enlarge and deepen the hole using a gouge to slice off the end grain and removing the material. This can be done either pushing into the center or pulling with a draw cut from the center, much like in hollowing a bowl.

Once the bulk of the interior is removed, transition to a scraper to clean up the inside and bottom of the end grain box. There are scrapers made especially for the bottom of the box, if you want a flat bottom, and for the sides to keep the lower edge of the scraper away from interfering with the scraping edge. Other scrapers are shaped if you want a sharp square box corner or a radiused corner at the bottom.



This box scraper from Carter & Sons has a slightly curved tip and two scraping edges at 90°.

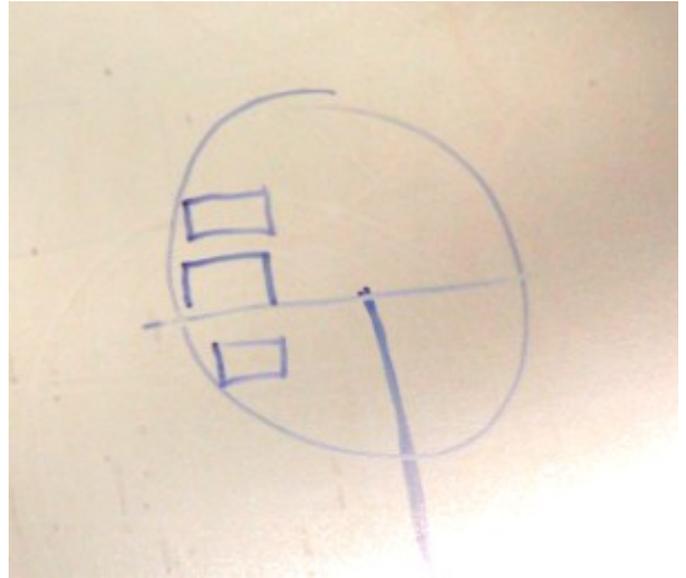
# JUNE DEMONSTRATION

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Depending on depth, there are also special tool rests that let you scrape deeper into your hollow without a large overhang and corresponding chatter.



This tool rest from Robust has a pin on the end one can use for leverage.



This illustration shows proper scraper placement inside a box.

Bob illustrated proper scraper placement inside a box. The scraper has to be above the center of the box (top rectangle) to prevent the lower edge of the scraper from holding the scraping edge away from the surface. Some box scrapers have that lower left edge ground back to aid the scraping capability. As always though, the burr of the scraper needs to be at an angle less than  $90^\circ$  to the surface.

A more advanced, but quicker technique is Richard Raffan's back-hollowing technique. This technique is limited to a depth of about 3" and about that in diameter too. It takes quite a bit of practice to master but can speed up your throughput if you are doing a lot of them. (BE CAREFUL, catches can be catastrophic. Bob was gracious enough to demonstrate that as well.) The technique starts in the middle with a spindle gouge then peels off the inside of the hollow by leveraging the gouge on the toolrest, using the inner rim of the hollow as a guide and angling the tool upward as you quickly peel away the material. It works much better in green wood, but then you have to deal with mis-shapement as it dries.

A YouTube video of the technique is here: [Richard Raffan on back-hollowing into endgrain](#) (14:20)

Here is another video by Richard Raffan: [Richard Raffan turns a pencil pot](#) (27:23).

**Demonstration write-up contributed by Dan Brandner**



Bob demonstrates Richard Raffan's back hollowing technique.



The first of Bob's hollow form demonstrations. It shows the ragged surface from this particularly dry box elder blank and also has bird-peck revealed inside.

Bob's demo of turning a pencil pot started with these spindle turning steps:

- Select a straight grained wood that scrapes well.
- Mount the blank between centers on the lathe with the grain parallel to the bed of the lathe.
- Make into a cylinder and square up the ends for mounting in a chuck.
- Turn and sand the outside to your desired shape.
- Then, mount into a chuck
- Make a pilot hole to the depth you want inside the pot to use as a guide.

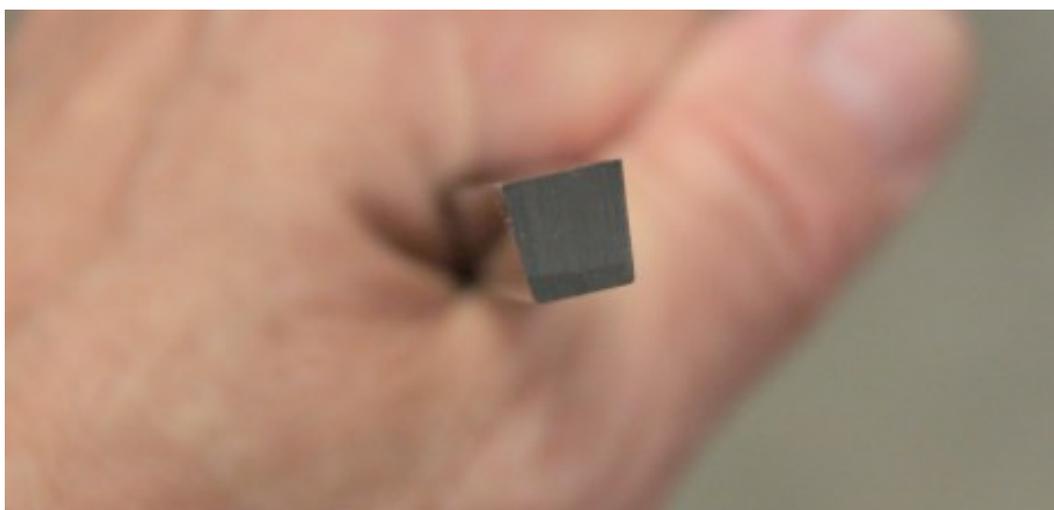
## JUNE DEMONSTRATION

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After turning and shaping the outside, he chucked the blank and drilled a pilot hole to the desired depth with his hand guided drill tool. Starting with a small divot in the center of the end, the drill self-centers and can be pushed into the desired depth. He had his 1/4" drill marked in 1" increments and with a glued on wooden handle. Any drill bit larger than a quarter inch produces more torque against the hand and is therefore less comfortable.



From there he hollowed what he could using a gouge then continued with various scrapers working out from the pilot hole down the center. A sharp scraper works really well against this end grain. Some heavy built scrapers are designed for this, as well as using a tool rest specifically designed to support the scraper deeper in the vessel.



This bedan is shaped as a stout scraper for in a box.

# JUNE DEMONSTRATION

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Here he is using a scraper to hollow out the box.



Deeper hollowing with a different scraper here.

Bob hollowed out what he could in the demo, but there was tearout inside that needed extra work. He took the piece home and finished it finding that a scraper with no burr produced a nicer finish ready for sanding. Bob sanded the inside with some homemade sanding sticks with a slot in them that looked like this.



# JUNE DEMONSTRATION

Here is a picture of his finished Pencil Pot, and two other end grain pots that he had started at the clubhouse. Here is the pot view, its inside and bottom too.



The two other pots Bob started in the demo, including the one with the bird peck in it. Side view, Angled views and the Bottom view of the pots.



Search YouTube for other end grain hollowing videos such as this one where Tomislav Tomasic shows [How to hollow end grain and make an awesome box.](#)

## John Layde



Above: The finished round segmented picture frame from May's demonstration.

Below: A basket illusion bowl



## John Mueller



John made a bowl from beech wood.



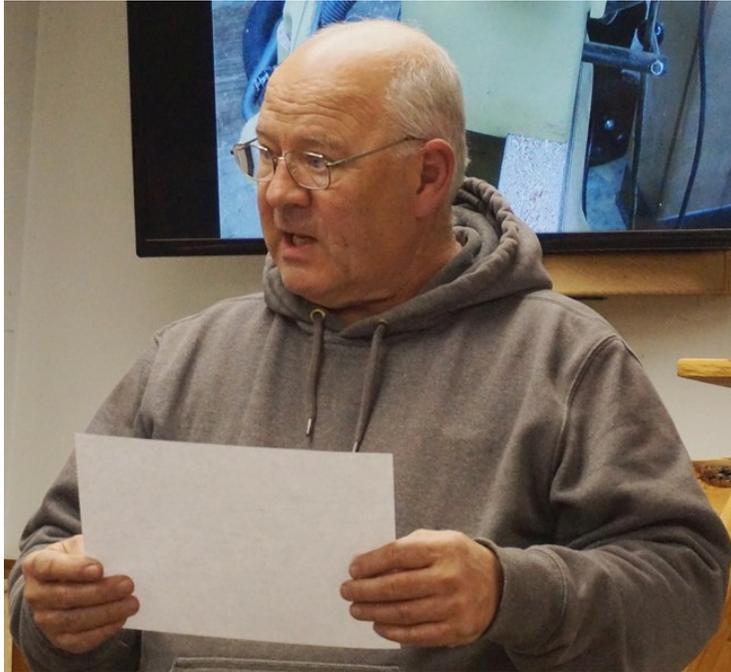
## Tom Spielmann



Tom Spielmann made a couple of threaded boxes. Tom gave a demonstration titled “Chasing Threads” in April 2024.



## Bob Eberhardt



Bob Eberhardt made a pen holder hollowing out an end grain blank.



**Photos for Show and Tell and Gallery provided by  
Dan Brandner and Tom Leonard**

## AAW Symposium Recap

by Dan Brandner

At least three members of our CVWG club made it to the 2025 AAW Symposium in St. Paul MN. These were Dan Brandner, Bob Wilcox and Joe Nycz, although we did run into Mark Palma at the trade show.

Bob had these comments about the Symposium, “I found the overall conference to be quite organized and well attended. Each space for the demonstrations was well laid out with videographers assisting the demonstrators with camera angles projected to monitors so it was easy to see the tools and techniques being used.

AAW's selection of demonstration topics was well thought out and provided many opportunities to learn new, and reinforce existing skills. Having demonstrators from many different areas of the world also added to the variety of opportunities to learn from others. While some demonstrators seemed to "pitch" their products during the demo, you still learned techniques and picked up tips from them.

Attendees I encountered were all very friendly and enthusiastic about being at the conference. Many of them were novice hobbyists who really were impressed with the many offerings. They were eager to discuss all topics of woodturning and happy to share experiences. They were also very interested in learning from other attendees about their experiences. I had the opportunity to meet turners from Canada, Utah, along with many from Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin.

The vendor area had a diverse selection of businesses to visit with. Bargains, discounts, and deals were available based on what you were looking for. It was enjoyable to talk with a variety of vendors to learn what's new and to also re-supply some trusted products. Vendors who didn't have what I wanted still gave me the conference discount and provided free shipping.



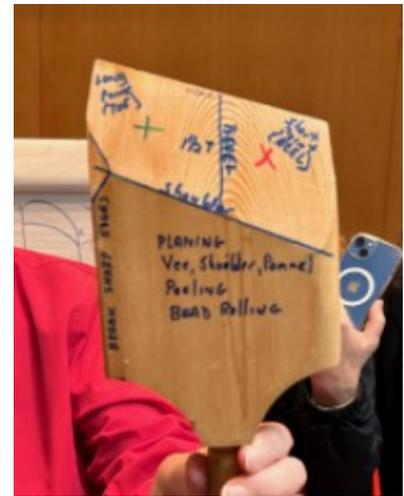
I (Dan) was really interested in meeting some of the international turners and seeing their techniques. The presenters that the AAW selected had fun and entertaining presentation skills which made for fun demonstrations. Emma Cook from England, with her Yorkshire accent, was a hoot! Known as the “Tiny Turner”, her shoulder was at about the height of the spindle on the lathe she was demonstrating on. I enjoyed her presentation of the embellishments on her “Hand Carved Color Banded Bowl” and “Lighted Hanging Ornament”. I’m going to try to make that bowl.



Stuart Batty did several presentations, and the ones I attended were his presentation on Spindle Turning Fundamentals and Bowl Turning Fundamentals. A wealth of knowledge, he really explained his approaches, why he settled on the 40/40 grind, and how better ergonomics directed his choices. Stuart also had a lathe set-up in the Trade Show area and he and Emma did additional demos there during the day. Stuart has a goal of capturing the knowledge and skills of production turners and master turners before those skills are lost. To that end, he plans to re-record, in Super Hi Def video, those skills and techniques, I think as a legacy for his father and grandfather who were all skilled production turners. He said he planned to give them away, and make them freely available. His website [www.stuartbattytools.com](http://www.stuartbattytools.com) already has a wealth of knowledge in both video and pdf formats available for free.



The other demonstrations I was specifically interested in were the skew demonstrations. Jim Echter did an excellent presentation with his demo “The Sensational Skew”, how to learn it and use it properly, and specifically how to make each cut. I especially liked his prop and plan to make something like it so I can do a similar demonstration at our meeting in December. Mark your calendar for my December '25 demo, “Learning the Skew”.



Another Skew demonstrator was Richard Findley from Leicestershire England with his “Skew Masterclass”. He used an entirely different kind of skew and was a master with it. It had a square shaft, but with no skew angle at all, just straight across like a beading and parting tool. He also demonstrated hand cutting screw threads.



Dennis Fuge, from Erwinna, PA, demonstrated how to hollow a deep form with a super tiny neck, but from the bottom, and where the opening in the bottom is hidden and practically undetectable. He specialized in deep hollow vessels, platters and artistic pieces. He also showed how to make a deep hollowing tool for around \$15 that he liked to use. The vase pictured is the candle flame vase, and see if you can see how he hid the opening in the bottom where he hollowed it from.



Nick Cook, another production turner from Marietta Georgia, demonstrated turned lidded boxes emphasizing end grain hollowing, chucking techniques along with finishing. A second demonstration he did was on “Great Gifts for All Occasions” such as spurtles, baby rattles, garden dibbles, honey dippers, coffee scoops and tree ornaments.

Although I didn't attend many of the demos, there was one on German Ring Turning and another demonstrator who was a blind turner from Chatham Illinois. I can't even imagine how that would work.

Best quote I heard at the symposium...

“People will pay more for something they can't use.” – Ashley Harwood

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The 2026 AAW Symposium will be in Raleigh NC, June 4-7, 2026.

# SYMPOSIUM RECAP

Below are some additional pictures from Stuart Batty's demo area in the Trade Show room. Emma was demonstrating at that time. Below that are the top and bottom of Stuart's Volcano bowl.



## David Ellsworth Legacy Project

The David Ellsworth Legacy Project is designed to document and celebrate David's many contributions to woodturning over more than 50 years. In addition to helping found AAW and serving as the first president from 1986–1991, David has been an inspiring and tireless teacher and demonstrator, author, innovator, spokesperson, and advocate for woodturning worldwide.



He has also been a personal friend to countless individuals, providing inspiration, encouragement, instruction, advice, and mentorship. A key Project goal is to assess David's legacy by gathering tributes from the worldwide woodworking community. The Project will also produce a book entitled *David Ellsworth: The Spirit of Woodturning*. It will include the story of David's life and career; an essay by distinguished author and craft historian **Glenn Adamson**; and a gallery showcasing David's stunning creations.

Just after this year's symposium, David Ellsworth passed away on June 16th at the age of 80.

David was a great leader, representative, and articulate spokesperson for our field and a tireless advocate and ambassador for woodturning worldwide.

Born in 1944, David Ellsworth has a long and multifaceted career as a studio woodturner, teacher, demonstrator, tool maker, speaker, fine craft advocate, and leader in the field.

- He played central roles in the founding and development of the American Association of Woodturners and served as the organization's first president from 1986–1991.
- He had been an inspiring and dedicated teacher at major craft schools such as Arrowmont and Anderson Ranch and founded his own school of woodturning more than 40 years ago.
- David developed new tools and techniques and started his own tool company to enable woodturners worldwide to create previously unattainable thin-walled hollow forms.
- He pioneered thin-walled hollowform turning and has creations in wood in more than 40 museums worldwide. He is Fellow of the American Craft Council and in 2021 was named a "Visionary" craftsman by the Smithsonian Institution.





**Rocky Mountain  
Woodturning  
Symposium**  
September 19-21, 2025  
Loveland, CO



**Segmented Woodturning  
Symposium**  
September 26-28, 2025  
Crowne Plaza Hotel  
Northbrook, IL

**Mid-Atlantic Woodturning  
Symposium**

September 19-21, 2025  
Lancaster, PA

**Ohio Valley Woodturners  
Guild Symposium**

October 10-12, 2025  
West Harrison, IN