

**3rd Annual
NEW ENGLAND
WOODWORKING COMPETITION**

**November 9 , 2025
3PM – 8 PM**



Granite State Room

**Memorial Union Building
University of New Hampshire
83 Main St. Durham, NH 03824
(603) 862-2600**



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Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers

Founded in 1990, the Guild of New Hampshire is dedicated to furthering woodworking through shared knowledge and experience among its 760+ members and the public.

This association of professionals and amateurs offers regular meetings, lectures, demonstrations (archived in a video library), publications like the "Journal," and 12 active Sub-Groups covering diverse interests from fundamentals to boat building.

The Guild also provides educational grants, actively supports schools, participates in the League of NH Craftsmen's Fair, and runs a Mentoring Program.

Following successful exhibits and symposia, this catalog represents our third Woodworking Competition.



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NEW HAMPSHIRE WOODWORKERS

Professionals & Amateurs
TOGETHER

WE TEACH, WE MAKE, WE SERVE



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Welcome

Welcome to the 3rd Annual New England Woodworking Competition, a collaborative effort of the Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers, the New Hampshire Furniture Masters, and the University of New Hampshire.

Following two successful years that drew over 300 attendees and over 140 entries, this event continues to highlight the exceptional woodworking talent of our region, rooted in a rich 18th-century tradition.

We are fortunate to have outstanding makers and educational resources here in New England. This competition provides a space for woodworkers to exhibit their skills and for the community to admire high-quality woodworking. Reflecting the Guild's commitment to education, many pieces showcase techniques learned through our programs. We encourage interested woodworkers to attend a meeting and consider membership.

Our partnership with the esteemed New Hampshire Furniture Masters underscores our dedication to preserving fine furniture traditions. Hosting the event at the University of New Hampshire's Granite State Room allows us to connect with student makers, expanding on last year's strong high school, middle school and elementary participation.

We hope you enjoy the exhibition!

Elliot Savitzky

Elliot Savitzky

President

Guild of New Hampshire Board of Directors



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New England Woodworking Competition

Committee Members

The New England Woodworking Competition Committee is composed of several guild members who volunteer their time, energy and expertise to organize this show. They each receive an assignment or two to make the show a success. This year's committee members are:

Committee	
Elliot Savitzky	Chairman, Judges, Speakers, PR
Michael DiMaggio	Awards and Speakers
Steve Costain	Catering, Logistics, Sponsors
Gary Canning	Logistics, Video
Claude Dupuis	Awards, Brochure and Catalog, Photography
Robert Wyatt	Promo and Merchandise
John Dube	Admissions and Event Coordination, Catalog and Brochure
David Picard	Photography
Earle Rich	Photographer
Phil Carle	Student Program
Jim Wood	Logistics
Laurie Farrell	Logistics
Joe Sarna	Logistics
Bill Emerson	Logistics
Don Lowe	Logistics



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Agenda

3 PM	Welcome and browsing the competition
4:00 – 5:00 PM	Meet with Sponsors and observe Demonstrations
5:00 – 7:30	Awards Show
7:30 – 8:00	Wrap Up and Continued browsing

There will be complimentary hors 'd'oeuvres and a cash bar for those 21+.



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Award Categories

Awards will be given in each category as follows: First and Second Place for both the Master/Expert and Emerging Maker levels. The Student category will have separate judging with First and Second Place awarded at each level. Best in Show and three Judges' Choice awards will be given in addition to these category awards.

Best in Show:

The winning piece should exhibit the best qualities of most of the following categories.

Judges Awards (3):

Each of the three judges will pick, entirely at their own discretion, a piece that they think is deserving of an award but did not seem to fit into other categories.

Best Original Design:

Original designs are new and unique and are not derived from previous art or style.

Best Traditional Piece:

Pieces in this category may be reproductions, interpretations, or representations of any historic style.

Best Contemporary Piece:

Awarded to the piece that best reflects our times and challenges tradition in a style that is innovative and current.

Best Carving:

This includes all relief carving applied to the surface of the piece and carving in the round - sculptural pieces and work that is designed to be viewed from all directions

Best Turning:

Pieces in this category include vessels, sculptural pieces and turnings that generally have the grain perpendicular to the lathe bed and furniture parts, sculpture and spindles that have the grain parallel to the axis

Best Decorative/Technical Detail:

Awarded to the piece that displays the best application of surface decoration or design elements such as carving, veneering, inlaying, laminating, burning, painting, etc.

Best Student Awards:

These awards will be made to the "best" piece submitted by a elementary, middle school, high school and to college or technical school level students separately. The pieces will be judged on overall craftsmanship. Areas to be considered will be selection of materials appropriate for the piece, execution of joinery, and quality of finish and its appropriateness for the piece. Complexity of the piece will be considered. Extra consideration will be given to pieces of original design.

Please Note: The Judges are solely responsible for deciding which pieces will receive awards. Their decisions are final.



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Judges Biographies

Owain Harris



Owain Harris is a self-taught woodworker who operates a furniture studio in Gonic, NH, where he designs and builds custom furnishings for galleries and residential clients. He began his career in wood as a framing carpenter in 1997 and worked as both a finish carpenter and remodeler before moving into the shop full-time in 2008. Owain is a juried member of the League of NH Craftsmen and the New Hampshire Furniture Masters Association. His work has received multiple awards, including a Pinnacle Award from the International Society of Furniture Designers and a Veneertech Craftsman Challenge Award. Owain has been featured in numerous publications, including Fine Woodworking and NH Home Magazine. Owain shares his passion for furniture making and design through teaching at various craft schools and institutions including The Center for Furniture Craftsmanship, Marc Adams School of Woodworking and the University of New Hampshire. His work may be seen at owainharris.com



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Judges Biographies

Greg Brown



Greg is a custom woodworking tradesman and artist whose career began with a comprehensive fellowship in 2005 at M.J. Martin Woodworking and The Connecticut Valley School of Woodworking. This provided him with expertise in both modern production methods and period furniture techniques, making him an asset to numerous New England shops. He furthered his training at North Bennet Street School in Boston and in several independent Boston-area workshops. Since opening his own New Hampshire sole proprietorship in 2010, Greg has focused on creating custom woodwork, working at Lindsay Workshop's in Deerfield (2010-2018), facilities in Hooksett (2018-2022) and Pittsfield (2022-2024), and now in his studio at the Salmon Falls Upper Mill in Rollinsford, NH. A prominent figure in the woodworking community, Greg is a juried member of the NH Furniture Masters Association and the League of NH Craftsmen.



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Judges Biographies

Donna Banfield



Since 2001, Donna Zils Banfield has been crafting exquisite wood art from her studio in Derry, NH. Renowned for her innovative surface embellishment techniques, she is a sought-after instructor, sharing her skills through frequent national travel and presentations at numerous symposia for more than a decade, both domestically and internationally. Donna has shared her knowledge at esteemed craft schools including Arrowmont, Marc Adams, and Snow Farm. Her artistic contributions are recognized through inclusion in the permanent collections of the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, MA, and the League of NH Craftsmen, as well as in private collections across the globe, from Australia and India to England, Ireland, Southeast Asia, and throughout the U.S.A.



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Master of Ceremonies

Tom McLaughlin



Tom has been making and designing commissioned custom furniture since 1990. After years of higher education, in his twenties he decided to pursue his love for fine furniture making full-time. His training launched forward when he entered a rare apprenticeship with master craftsman P.A. "Pug" Moore in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. Tom remained close to Pug, even after branching out on his own, which included returning to his native New England roots where he's been making furniture since 1997.

*Since joining the Furniture Masters twenty-five years ago, Tom's work has become recognizable for its dramatic use of figured wood, creating a sense of movement in each piece. An enthusiasm for sharing the craft led Tom to begin teaching in between commissions, regularly hosting classes in his Canterbury, NH workshop. Teaching opportunities recently grew exponentially as he was invited to host the national public television show, *Rough Cut* and then *Classic Woodworking with Fine Woodworking* in 2017. Tom is the host of his own weekly show, *Shop Night Live*, which can be seen every Thursday evening on YouTube. Tom also teaches projects online, which are archived on his website, www.epicwoodworking.com*



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Keynote Speaker

Jeffrey Cooper



With over 40 years in woodworking, Jeffrey Cooper's journey began in a 1970s Oregon commune before formal studies at the League of NH Craftsmen and Peters Valley Craft Center. A largely self-taught artist known for his carved furniture, he honed his skills with Chris Pye and was accepted into the esteemed NH Furniture Masters Association. Today, Jeffrey focuses on creating meaningful pieces that enhance life, as seen in his client-focused furniture like the Spider Bedroom set. His artistic exploration extends to fine arts as a member of New England Sculpture Associates, creating "Art/Craft Fusion" works. Notable public art includes 'Carstuff' at Lakes Region Community College and installations at hospitals, the League of NH Craftsmen, and the Bridges House, all driven by his mission to reflect the commissioner's values in his art.



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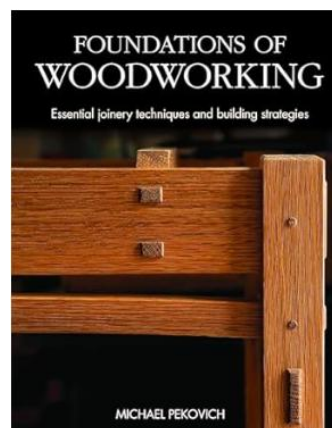
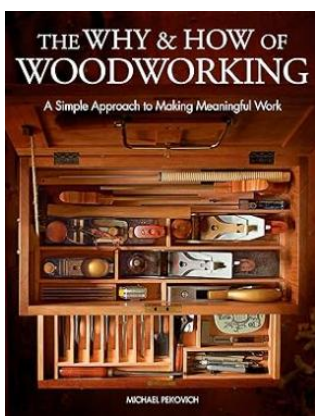


Keynote Speaker

Mike Pekovich



As Editor and Creative Director at Fine Woodworking and the accomplished author of *The Why and How of Woodworking* and *Foundations of Woodworking*, Mike Pekovich has spent most of his career crafting furniture and empowering others to learn woodworking. For 25 years at the magazine, Mike has focused on making the craft more accessible to everyday woodworkers. While recognizing the value of books and magazines, Mike is particularly passionate about the direct connection of teaching. In his own words, "Some things just don't make sense until I can get a tool in your hand and show you the right way to go about a task. That's where the most important teaching gets done."



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