



And the Sam Beauford Woodworking Institute
Present an all-day Oct. 10, 2026, Seminar on
Building a Balloon-Back Windsor Chair

Luke Barnett, SBWI President, and Peter Densmore, SBWI Chief of Staff, will work through the process of building a Balloon-Back Windsor chair, starting with a log and continuing through the final finish. This will be a hands-on educational seminar. Audience participation is encouraged, as there will be opportunities to engage with the tools, techniques, materials, and problem-solving involved throughout the chairmaking process.

They will begin by riving straight-grained material from a log and preparing the chair parts using traditional hand tools. Luke will demonstrate how to sharpen and use a drawknife, along with a spokeshave and shavehorse, to shape the legs, stretchers, spindles, and other components. They will carve the seat and look at how the mortises are laid out and drilled. This will include a practical discussion of sightlines and resultant angles and how they are used to create the proper rake and splay of the chair parts. Later in the day, they will discuss steam bending and bend the chair's balloon-shaped bow live. Luke will also demonstrate how to cut and fit the scribed-shoulder joint that connects the bent bow to the seat.

They will finish with a discussion of traditional finishing techniques, with a focus on milk paint and shellac. Throughout the seminar, Luke will share the methods, tools, and practical decision-making that go into building a strong, comfortable, and well-proportioned Windsor chair.

Luke Barnett began crafting traditional American Windsor chairs in 2011. He was named "Top Craftsman in North America" from the Directory of Traditional American Crafts and Early American Life Magazine in 2015, 2016, and 2017. In 2021 he was a finalist for "Top Young Woodworking Professional in the World" through The Woodworking Network.

Peter Densmore is a multidisciplinary artist in woodworking, photography, and music. He joined SBWI in 2025 as an Artist-in-Residence, and then Chief of Staff. His creative contributions at the school strive to draw influence from the Shakers and their devotion to simplicity, integrity, and the belief that good work is a necessary form of human expression.

Date: Saturday October 10, 2026

8:30 am – 9:00 am: Sign in, coffee, snacks

9:00 am – 12:00 pm: Morning session

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm: Lunch (included)

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm: Afternoon session

Location:

Livonia Senior Wellness Center
32001 Five Mile Road
Livonia, MI 48154

Please prepay by mail to reserve your seat and lunch. Mail a check with this form to: **Jerry Romito**, 1995 Wales Drive, Rochester Hills, MI 48306. Make the check payable to **Michigan Woodworkers Guild**. (Questions call 248-891-5331). **Deadline Oct. 7, 2026**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, St, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Cost

☐ MWG Member: \$40

☐ Non-member: \$50

(includes paid \$25 MWG
membership thru 2027)

(Please print clearly)