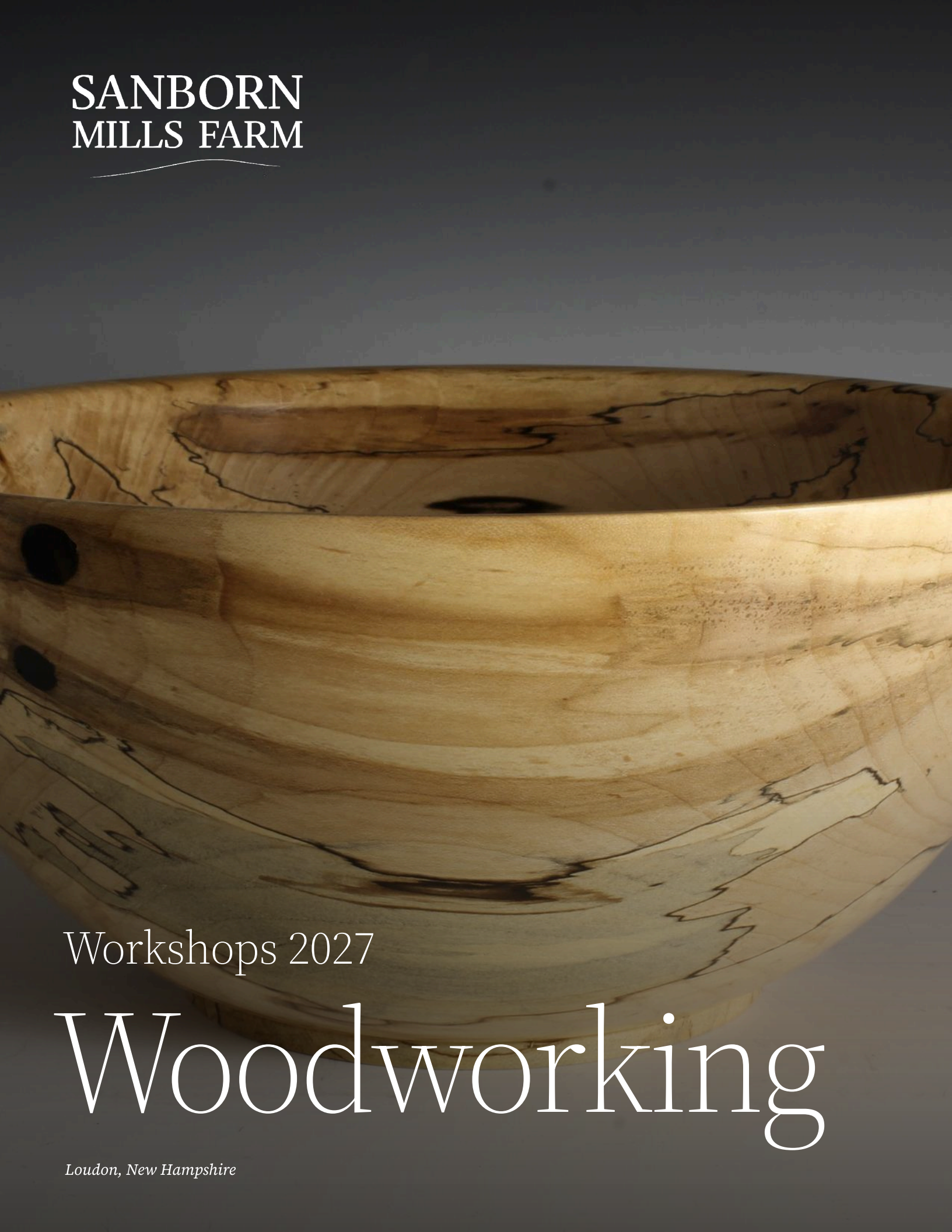
SANBORN
MILLS FARM



Workshops 2027

Woodworking

Loudon, New Hampshire



Workshops 2027

The work is the archive

Sanborn Mills Farm is a nonprofit working farm and craft school in Loudon, New Hampshire. The campus sits around two mill dams at the outlet of Sanborn Pond. The sawmill was built in 1829 and the grist mill in 1830, and water still turns the saw and the stones. The blacksmith shop dates from the 1830s, and the timber-framed barns are still in use.

We teach traditional crafts and farming methods by practicing them. Materials are grown, harvested, milled, and made into objects here. Dye plants and willow grow in the gardens, corn and wheat in the fields, and oxen do their share of the work.

This catalog gathers the 25 Woodworking workshops we will teach in 2027, with 12 instructors. Some are for people picking up a tool for the first time, and some are for makers who have spent years at the bench. Each page gives you the shape of a class: the work, the person who teaches it, and the season. Dates, tuition, and registration live on our website.

We are not a museum. We are a place where work is the archive and use is preservation.



Woodworking

25 workshops

The farm's sawmill was built in 1829 and still runs on water, sawing timber from the farm's own woodlot. Woodworking workshops pick up the material from there.

Students carve bowls and spoons from green wood, turn on the lathe and the pole lathe, build chairs, boxes, and shave horses, and learn to sharpen and tune the hand tools that make the rest possible. A first-time carver with a knife has a place here, and so does the furniture maker who wants a Windsor chair. Every class ends with something made of wood that you can use.

Sharpening Hand Tools	8
Build a Timber Frame Sawhorse	4
Bowl Turning Basics	5
Fundamental Carpentry Skills: The Tool Shed	8
Shaker Style Oval Jewelry Box	6
Spoon Carving	8
Windsor Fan Back Chair	8
Build a Knockdown Shave Horse	12
Greenwood Firewood Carrier	12
Decorative Box Making	10
Greenwood Bowl Turning	9
Turn a Pepper Mill	12
Learn to Turn	13
Hand Carved Wooden Bowls	13
Bowl Turning Alumni Day	13
Introduction to Woodworking	13
Bowl Turning on a Pole Lathe	14
Sculptural Mirrors	14
Build a Witchy Apothecary Cabinet	14
Embellishment with Steel Stamps	15
Make a Krenov Style Hand Plane	15
Introduction to Segmented Construction in Wood Turning	15
A Women's+ Introduction to Workshop Tools: The Custom Toolbox	16
Turning Snowmen and Trees for the Holidays	16
Carving Stories in Wood: Chip Carving and Kolrosing Traditions	16



Build a Timber Frame Sawhorse

Dan Boyle

April
Three days

Dan Boyle of Preservation Timber Framing gives you three days of hands-on timber framing: laying out, cutting and assembling mortise and tenon joinery with hand and power tools. You leave with a pair of sawhorses, along with a grounding in historical timber framing, layout methods and frame design.



Bowl Turning Basics

Claude Dupuis

April and August
Three days

Students learn to harvest and process wood blanks for turning, then spend the first day on tool sharpening and lathe mechanics and safety. They rough-turn a bowl and process it to minimize checking, then learn to finish-turn a once-turned bowl with minimal tear-out. Sanding, finishing, and care are covered. The foundation is for beginners; intermediate turners may work at their own pace.



Shaker Style Oval Jewelry Box

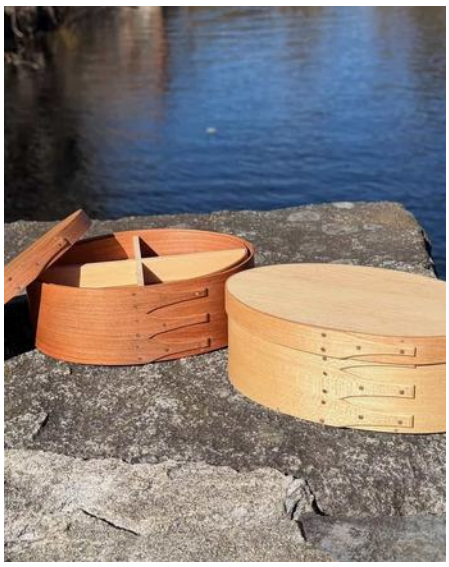
Kolin Schmidt

May
Two days

Students make two Shaker style oval boxes, one housing a removable tray for jewelry or small keepsakes. They hand-shape band details, heat and bend bands into the traditional oval form, tack them, fit bottoms and lids, and clean the boxes for finish. The workshop also covers finishing options and the history of these objects. No special tools required.

About Kolin Schmidt

Kolin is most excited by work that was made out of necessity rather than desire. Strong lines, perfect functionality, and objects that will last generations are the traits he works to put into every piece.





Sharpening Hand Tools

Owain Harris
April
One day

Grind, hone, and tune dull chisels, planes, and scrapers so they cut cleanly in one day.



Fundamental Carpentry Skills: The Tool Shed

Sarah Highland
April
Four days

Build a small tool shed while learning framing, enclosure, roofing, and basic carpentry principles with Sarah Highland.



Spoon Carving

Eric Goodson
May
Two days

Carve one or more spoons in greenwood and Slöjd technique, from ax to knife grips and finishing, in two days.



Windsor Fan Back Chair

Andrew Jack
June
Six days

Split, shave, steam-bend, and carve a complete Windsor fan-back chair from green wood in six intensive days.



Greenwood Bowl Turning

Eric Goodson

July
Five days

Students explore the pleasures of green woodturning with freshly cut wood that produces long ribbons and minimal dust. The five-day workshop covers processing blanks from a recently felled tree, grain orientations, clean efficient cuts, slow drying to minimize cracking, reverse turning, and interrupted turning. Those seeking a challenge can make a skruvask, a locking-lidded box. Suitable for beginners and more experienced turners.



Decorative Box Making

Owain Harris

June
Two days

Students design and build a small box while exploring how material, proportion, color, and decorative detail create a refined piece. The workshop covers material selection, accurate joinery, glue-up strategies for small work, and decorative techniques for visual interest. Finishing options are discussed. Students leave with a completed or nearly completed box and methods they can apply to future projects. Basic woodworking experience is recommended.

“Through demonstrations and hands-on practice, we will explore techniques for laying out and incorporating decorative details into small projects, along with finishing options that bring the overall design together.”





Build a Knockdown Shave Horse

Gabe Strand
June
Three days

Build a hardwood knockdown shave horse with mortise-and-tenon joinery for greenwood work in three days.



Greenwood Firewood Carrier

Gabe Strand
June
Two days

Shape and steambend green hardwood into a New England firewood carrier in two days.



Turn a Pepper Mill

Claude Dupuis
July
One day

Turn a pepper mill in one day with step-by-step demos, from lathe safety to assembly and finishing.



Learn to Turn

Beth Ireland
July
Five days

Build your own turning tools and learn spindle and end-grain techniques on the lathe in five days.



Hand Carved Wooden Bowls

Will Nissen
July and August
Two days, two weeks apart

Carve a small wooden bowl by hand with axes, gouges, and adzes, and take it home ready to use every day.



Bowl Turning Alumni Day

Claude Dupuis
September
One day

This one-day workshop is for students who have taken Claude Dupuis's Bowl Turning Basics and have a once-turned bowl that is now dry and ready for its second and final turning.



Introduction to Woodworking

Owain Harris
September
Five days

Build a contemporary side table while learning safe machine setup, milling, handplanes, and basic finishing in five days.



Bowl Turning on a Pole Lathe

Eric Goodson
September
Two days

Prepare a blank with an ax and turn a wooden bowl on a foot-powered pole lathe in two days.



Sculptural Mirrors

Lacey Carnahan
October
Five days

Design and build a sculptural mirror frame using bricklay lamination, carving, and oil finishing in five days.



Build a Witchy Apothecary Cabinet

Lacey Carnahan
October
Five days

Build a simple medicine cabinet and chip-carve a unique door design in the Swedish Slöjd tradition over five days.



Embellishment with Steel Stamps

Tim Coleman
October
Two days

Reshape letter and number stamps, strike patterns into wood, and add color and borders in two days.



Make a Krenov Style Hand Plane

Tim Coleman
October
Two days

Build a wooden smoothing plane in the style of James Krenov, shaped and adjusted for your hands, in two days.



Introduction to Segmented Construction in Wood Turning

Claude Dupuis
October
Four days

Design, cut, glue, and turn an 8-inch segmented bowl from mixed woods and veneers in four days.



A Women's+ Introduction to Workshop Tools: The Custom Toolbox

Sarah Highland
November
Three days

Design and build a customized toolbox while learning safe power-tool and hand-tool skills in three days.



Turning Snowmen and Trees for the Holidays

Claude Dupuis
November
One day

Turn a snowman and a Christmas tree in one day, with samples, drawings, and decorating options included.



Carving Stories in Wood: Chip Carving and Kolrosing Traditions

Eric Goodson
November
One day

Carve holiday ornaments with chip carving and create a primstav calendar board with kolrosing in one day.

The instructors

Dan Boyle
Build a Timber Frame Sawhorse 4

Lacey Carnahan
Sculptural Mirrors 14
Build a Witchy Apothecary Cabinet 14

Tim Coleman
Embellishment with Steel Stamps 15
Make a Krenov Style Hand Plane 15

Claude Dupuis
Bowl Turning Basics 5
Turn a Pepper Mill 12
Bowl Turning Alumni Day 13
Introduction to Segmented Construction in Wood Turning 15
Turning Snowmen and Trees for the Holidays 16

Eric Goodson
Spoon Carving 8
Greenwood Bowl Turning 9
Bowl Turning on a Pole Lathe 14
Carving Stories in Wood: Chip Carving and Kolrosing Traditions 16

Owain Harris
Sharpening Hand Tools 8
Decorative Box Making 10
Introduction to Woodworking 13

Sarah Highland
Fundamental Carpentry Skills: The Tool Shed 8
A Women's+ Introduction to Workshop Tools: The Custom Toolbox 16

Beth Ireland
Learn to Turn 13

Andrew Jack
Windsor Fan Back Chair 8

Will Nissen
Hand Carved Wooden Bowls 13

Kolin Schmidt
Shaker Style Oval Jewelry Box 6

Gabe Strand
Build a Knockdown Shave Horse 12
Greenwood Firewood Carrier 12



Meals and staying here

At the table

Chef Kelly Fahey cooks for students in the dining hall, with produce from the farm's gardens and fields whenever the season allows. Lunch is served at the long tables on every workshop day, and it is often where a class gets to know one another.

You choose your meals when you register, in a regular or a vegetarian and vegan version. Students who need to avoid particular foods bring their own lunch and are not charged for it. Rooms on the campus are offered with most multi-day workshops, and the details are on each workshop's page.

A workshop day

Before 7 a.m.	Coffee
7:30 and 8 a.m.	Breakfast
9 a.m.	Class begins
Noon	Lunch
5 p.m.	Class ends
6 p.m.	Dinner
7 to 9 p.m.	Open studio, when offered



Support the farm

Keep the work going

Colin and Paula Cabot bought the farm from the Sanborn family in 1996, restored the mills and barns, and later gave the farm to a nonprofit. They remain its founders. Today Sanborn Mills Farm is moving from founder support to community support.

Workshops are at the heart of the farm and help fund it. Gifts carry the rest of what makes the place work: the mills and the dams, the land and the animals, the gardens and the woodlot, the teaching, and, when funds allow, scholarships for students with financial need and a commitment to the work.

A gift of any size keeps the stones turning and the forge lit for the next student. Give online at sanbornmills.org/donate.

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Sanborn Mills, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Gifts are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

SANBORN MILLS FARM

sanbornmills.org/workshops

Registration opens Monday, November 30, 2026.
sanbornmills.org

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