

APRIL 2025

STWG

SUSQUEHANNA TRAIL WOODWORKERS GUILD

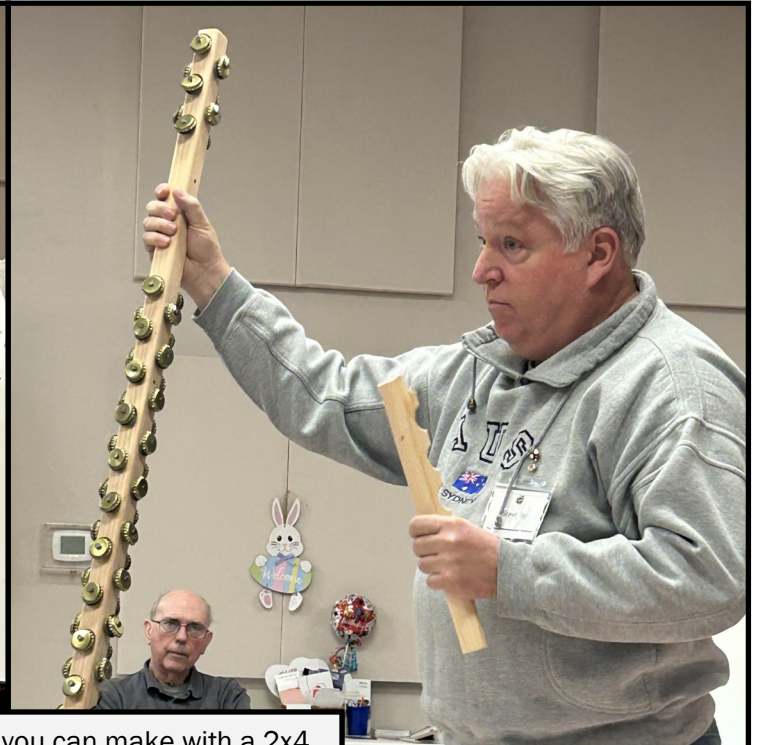
FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

Can you really get what you pay for?

Several years ago, a friend of mine was getting rid of a cherry armoire and asked me if I wanted it. She'd bought it from a name-brand furniture store many years ago but it was still in good condition. It had simply outlived its usefulness and she just wanted me to haul it away. I didn't need such a large piece of furniture but I was just getting started in woodworking and could certainly use the reclaimed lumber if I took it apart. After all, it was made of cherry, or so I thought. On a Saturday morning I very carefully began disassembling this monstrosity. I started to put the parts into two piles, real wood and manufactured wood (plywood). When I was done, the pile of real wood would fit in my hands. All I had were glue blocks and they weren't even cherry. I was amazed at how cleverly this furniture manufacturer had marketed a plywood cabinet as a cherry armoire then sold it for over \$3000. That day, I realized that the only way I could afford a decent piece of furniture was to make it myself. I was new to wood working and had a lot to learn but I was determined to learn how to make furniture. About this time, my first grandchild arrived and I had the opportunity to outfit a nursery. I made a bookcase, then a crib. Soon after came a bed and a side table, etc. As each new grandchild arrived, I had the opportunity to do it again

but a little better each time. All made from my choice of woods with time-tested joinery and practically guaranteed to outlive me. The basic skills I learned from those first pieces became the foundation for everything that followed. Making a custom piece of furniture for family was a pretty gratifying experience. You've heard the old saying, "You get what you pay for." Well, when it comes to new furniture, you can't. The only way most of us can afford to get what we pay for is to make it ourselves. So, get started. - Mark





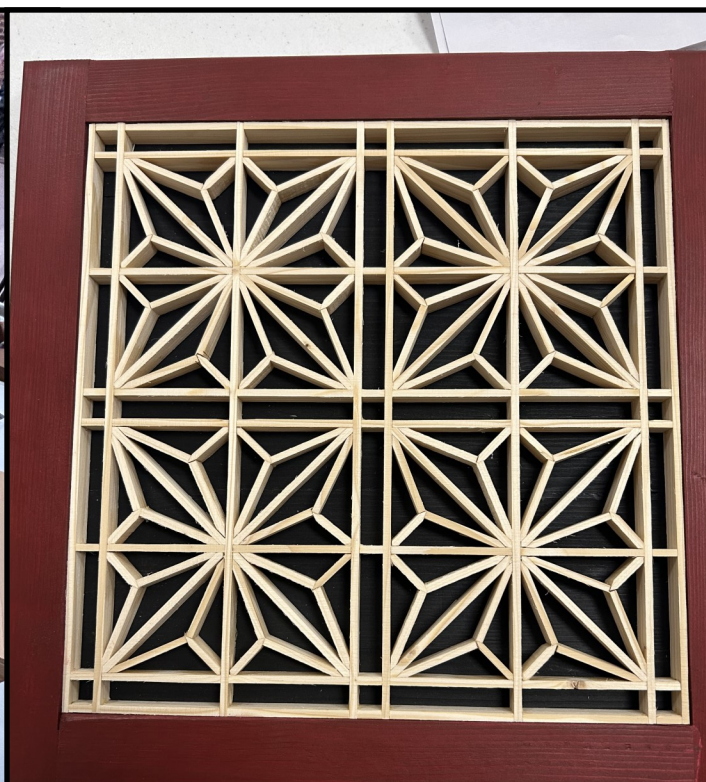
It's amazing what you can make with a 2x4.





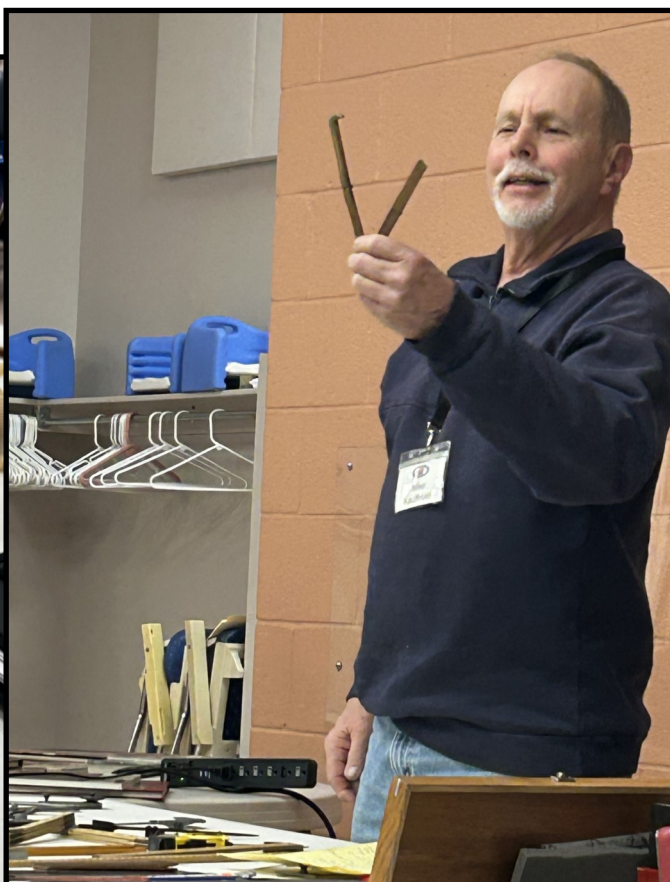
All made from a single 2x4.



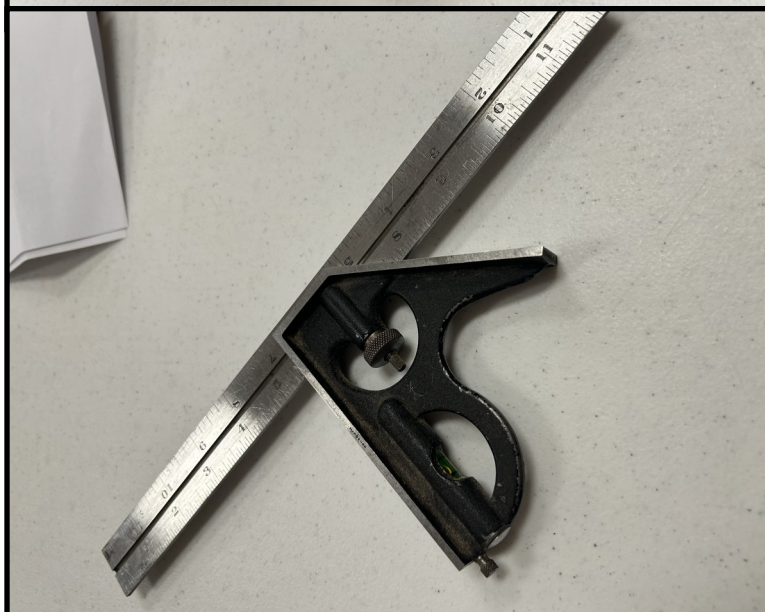


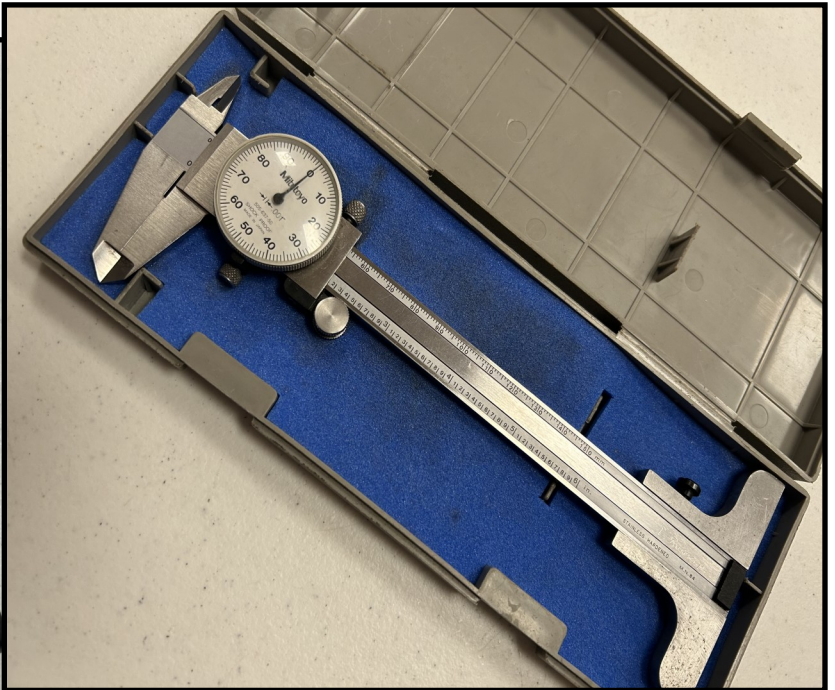
All made from a single 2x4. Including the flowers!





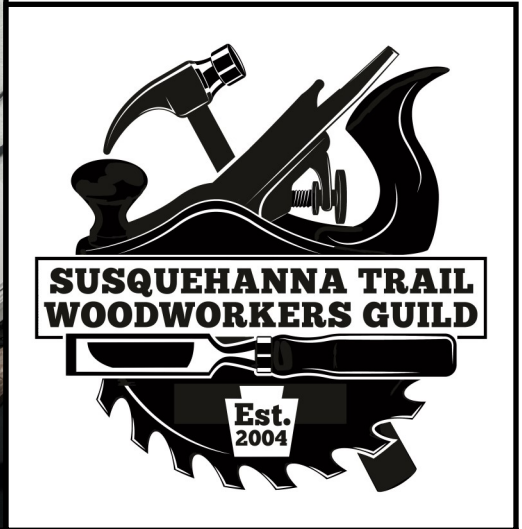
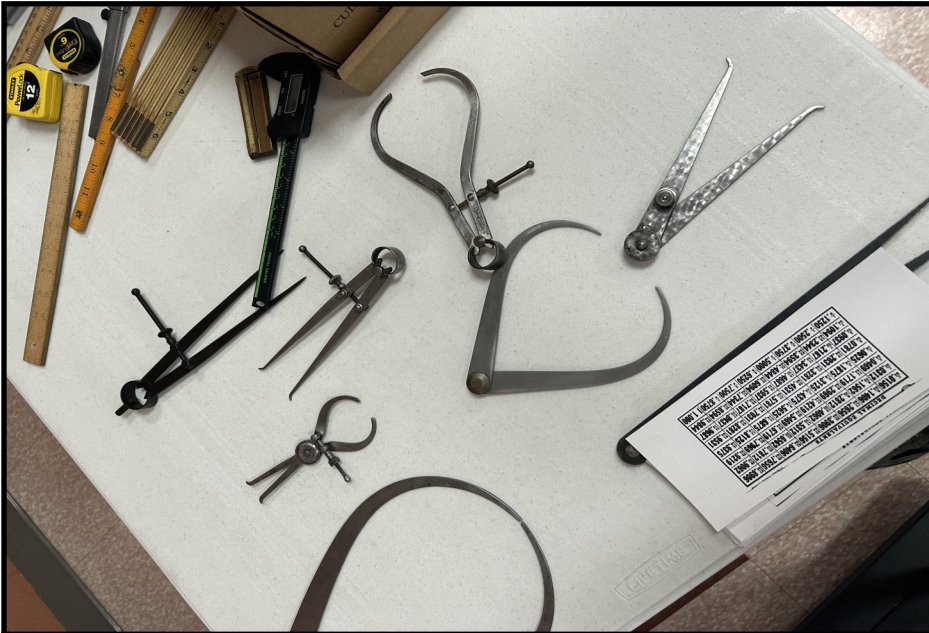
Mike: Measurements matter!





STWG1@OUTLOOK.COM





STWG GOES TO WOODCRAFT



Stone toppers for the napkin holder.

