

# SUSQUEHANNA TRAIL WOODWORKERS GUILD

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

If you don't think wood doesn't play an important part in your life, read this:

I was reading the other day in Wood magazine about the cable cars out in San Francisco. Believe it or not the brake shoes or pads on the cars that go up and down those steep hills that you see on TV & the movies all use, you guessed it - wood! Yes, they do have to change the brakes every so many days due to friction wear. You would think in this day and age of new composite material they would use that, but they choose wood - go figure.

Have a great rest of the Summer and keep the sawdust flying.— Scott

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Wooden brake shoes. I'd never even thought about it. I had to learn more. It turns out that what seems to be an insanely dangerous practice, has many benefits. In addition to San Francisco, The Montreal subway system has been using wooden brake shoes since they opened in 1966. For the rider, one of the main benefits is a much quieter ride. The screeching noise usually associated with braking is gone. The smell is said to be similar to a barbeque, or roasting peanuts.

For the subway system owners, there is a massive cost savings when using wooden brake shoes. The average life of a rail car is about 40 years. With traditional carbon-fiber brakes, the steel train wheels would have to be replaced on a regular basis. Using wooden brakes, the wheels will last the life of the train, and will never need replacement.



The brakes shoes are made of birch, which is then soaked, under pressure, in hot peanut oil. After a good soaking, the shoes are removed, and left to dry for about a month. Another soak in salt-water, and they're good to go. While they have to be replaced on a regular basis, it's much more cost effective than traditional man-made materials. A win-win, for both the owner, and the commuters. Wood: An amazing material.

Wooden brake shoes ready to go on a cable car in San Francisco.

THE JUNE MEETING



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80% of harvested hickory is turned into tool handles.

Wood is carbon neutral due to the tree's absorption of carbon dioxide, which in turn produces the oxygen that we breathe.

**JOIN US!**

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 25, at 7 pm at the usual location:

York Town Craft Guild

Friendship Fire Co #8

639 N Franklin Street

York, PA 17403

Amazing marquetry from the late 1800's.





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