

MARCH 2025

STWG

SUSQUEHANNA TRAIL WOODWORKERS GUILD

FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

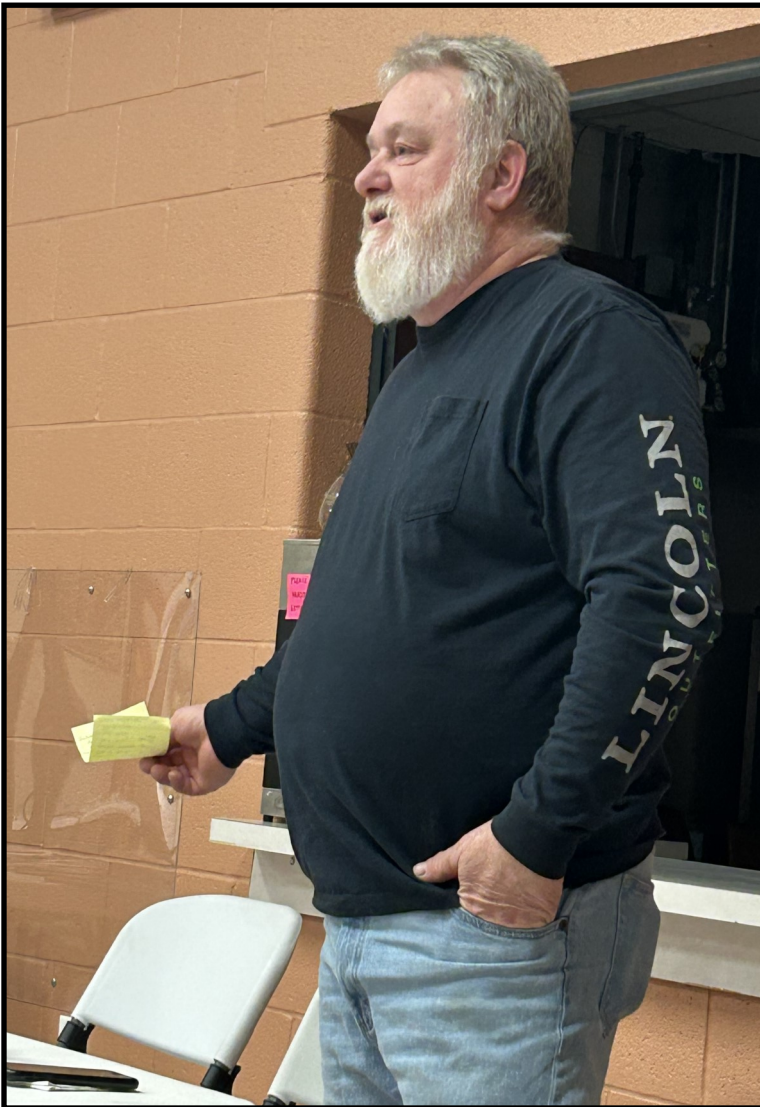
Watch, Do, Teach

- Mark Conley

Basically, there are three ways to learn a task: Passively, watch someone else do it; Actively, do it yourself; or Teach it to someone. We've all engaged in at least the first two of these at one time or another. For instance, we might watch someone on YouTube make a jig then we would go to our shop and make it ourselves.



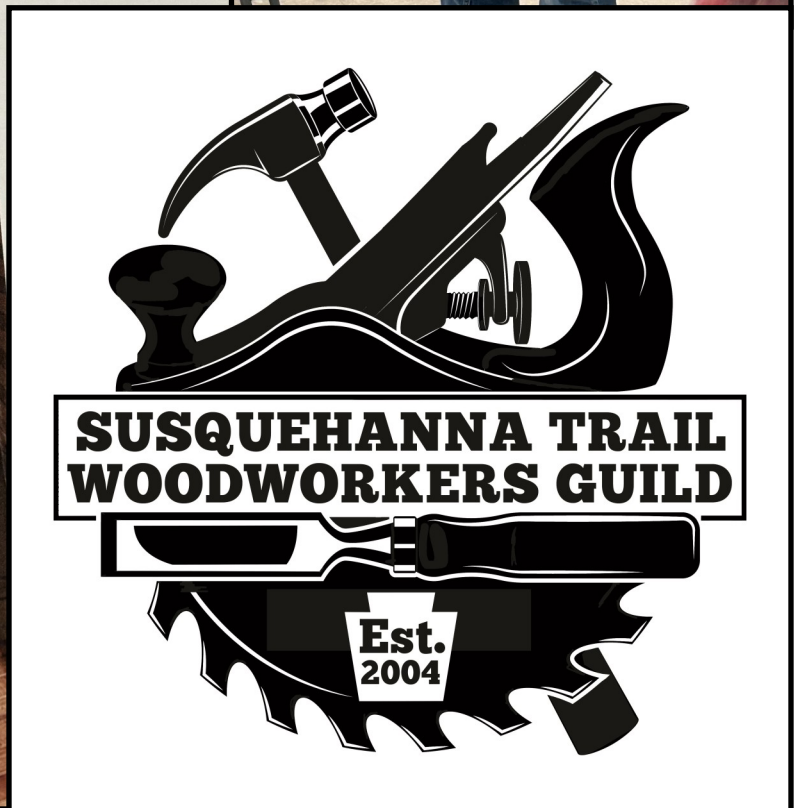
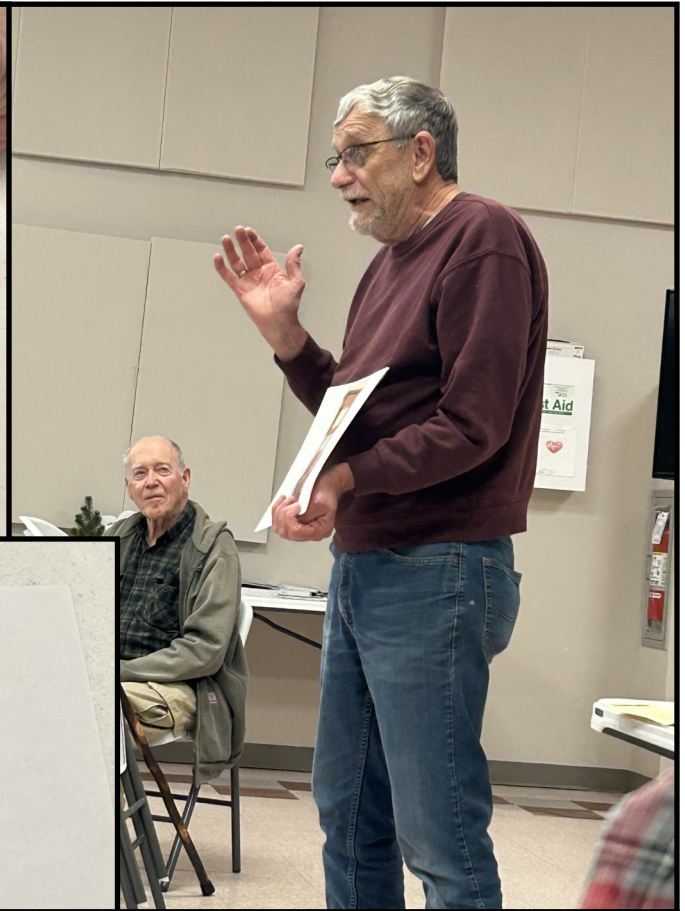
Voila, now you've imprinted that basic task onto your brain and it will be a lot easier to do it again or modify another version. However, we rarely get the opportunity to take this a step further and to teach it to someone. But, that is exactly what those YouTuber's are doing; they are learning by teaching it to you. And, they get the greater benefit, subtle as it might be, from the prep and planning that goes into making that video. One of the perks of being a member of the STWG is that we have a live audience willing to listen to practically anything we want to say. So, step out of your comfort zone and try a new finishing or construction technique on your next project. We all have a go-to finish or joint technique, etc. Try something different. Do a little research, try it a couple of times in your shop, then come to the next monthly meeting and teach it to us. Take ten minutes and teach us something new that you've discovered or learned. Even if it is just new to you, it's still a suitable topic. And, by the way, it will be new to most if not all of us too. I have always been impressed with the depth and range of abilities within our club but don't assume that "everyone else already knows this but me." I'd like to call this 10 minute session a "Ten Talk." Every month it would be great to hear a Ten Talk from a different club member or two. There is practically no limit to the mini-topics we can cover with these short sessions. Planning a presentation for 30-60 minutes requires a lot of prep and can be a little intimidating. But, this is a pretty low-key way to share new idea. The next time you try something different in your shop, take a few pics with your cell phone and bring them to the next meeting to show us and teach us. Teach us what worked well, what worked not so well or what didn't work at all. I guarantee, we will all reap a lot more than you sowed.

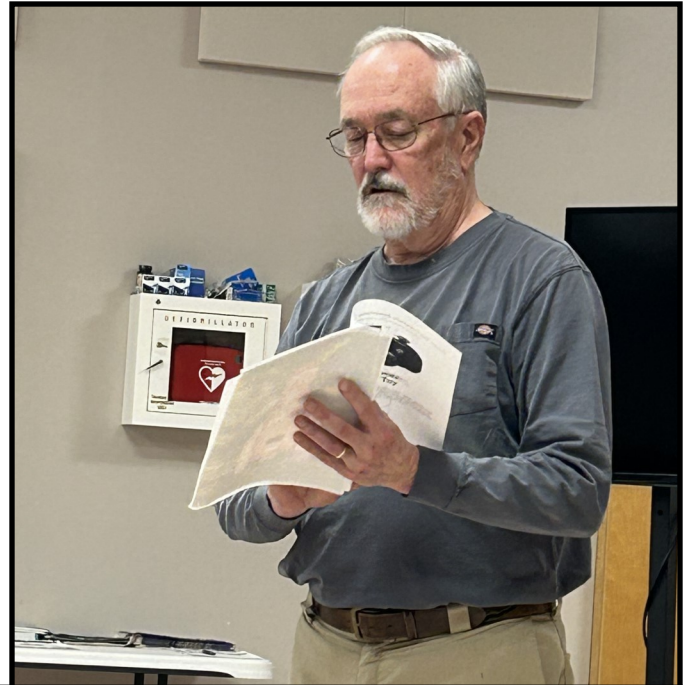


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stwg1@outlook.com







WOODEN SATELLITE LAUNCHED FROM SPACE STATION

Editors note: The following information was supplied by NASA

In December 2024, five CubeSats deployed into Earth's orbit from the International Space Station. Among them was LignoSat, a wooden satellite from JAXA (Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency) that investigates the use of wood in space. Findings could offer a more sustainable alternative to conventional satellites.

A previous experiment aboard station exposed three species of wood to the space environment to help researchers determine the best option for LignoSat. The final design used 10 cm long honoki magnolia wood panels assembled with a Japanese wood-joinery method.

Researchers will use sensors to evaluate strain on the wood and measure its responses to temperature and radiation in space. Geomagnetic levels will also be monitored to determine whether the geomagnetic field can penetrate the body of the wooden satellite and interfere with its technological capabilities. Investigating uses for wood in space could lead to innovative solutions in the future.

