

OCT. 2024

STWG

SUSQUEHANNA TRAIL WOODWORKERS GUILD

President's letter

I spoke last year about how between the 2nd and 3rd week of October is when the "fall" weather sets in here in PA. This year was strange. Sure enough - like clockwork - the 2nd weekend felt like fall. But now that we are into the 4th week the temperature has rebounded to unseasonably warm temps. It used to be the norm for there to be one or two days of 70 temps in the fall and winter. But, 80s were nearly unheard of. I am not sure if that bodes well or ill for the winter to come.

Even though the weather isn't cooperating at least the foliage is changing as it should. If you are a woodworker that does green woodworking then now is just about the best time to cut limbs for spoons or carving. While pruning is done right after a leaf cluster as that will become new growth in the spring, if you are cutting entire branches (for carving) then do so about 1/3 the diameter of the branch away from the branch point. This will allow the tree to seal the wound.

If you don't have time to carve the limbs now and you have a pond or stream available then fully submerge them until the spring. Or cut them into workable lengths, put them in a freezer bag (or wrapped in plastic wrap) and throw them in the bottom of the freezer. When you are ready to work let the wood warm up overnight before carving.

John



Tracy's Halloween decoration.



Brian's (in-progress) Guitar seat.



Drew's bench table.





Eric's Wine bottle stoppers.



The bottle stopper chuck.



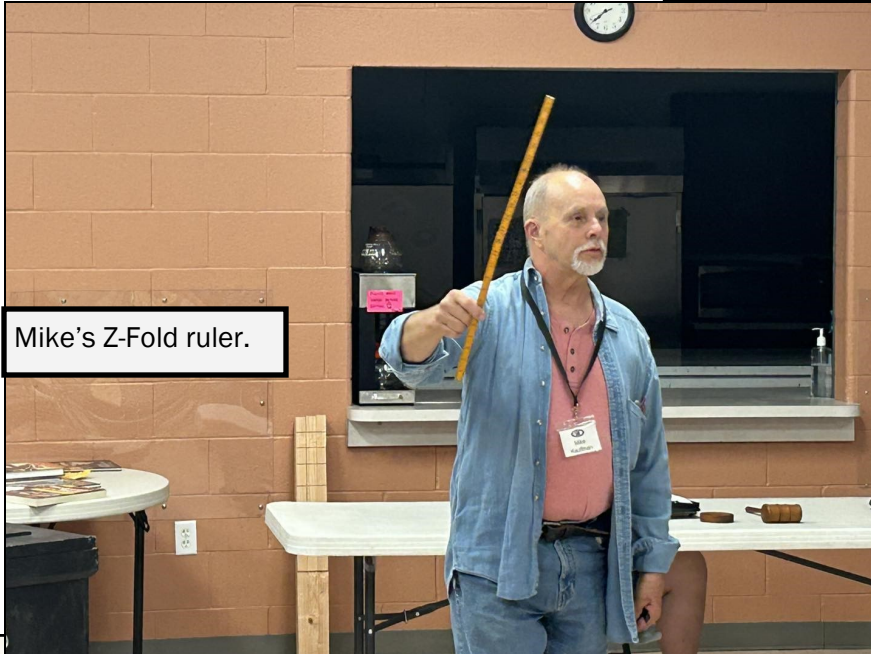
The next meeting will be October 24th, at 7 pm.
The usual location at the church. Our guest will be
Eric Alvarez, who will discuss wood bending, and
fishing net creation.

One day, this will be a birds head.



A burnisher, from
back in the day.

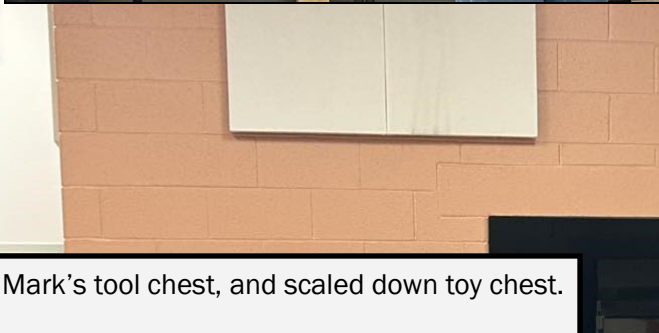




Mike's Z-Fold ruler.

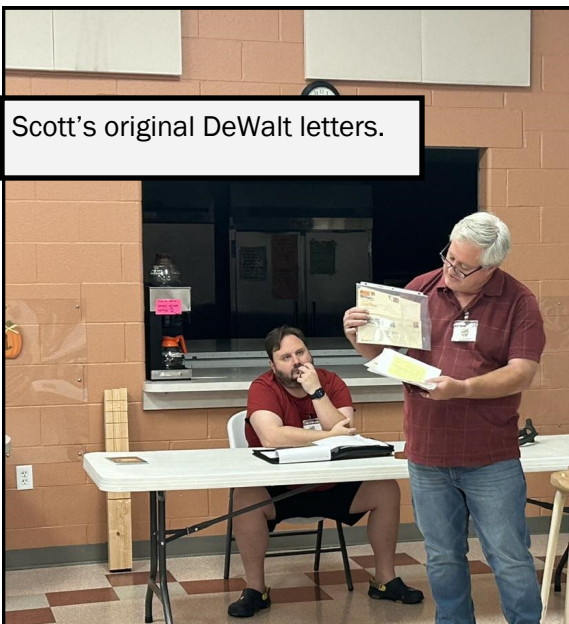


One leg of John's (in-progress) Moravian workbench.



Mark's tool chest, and scaled down toy chest.





Scott's original DeWalt letters.



Drew's bench.





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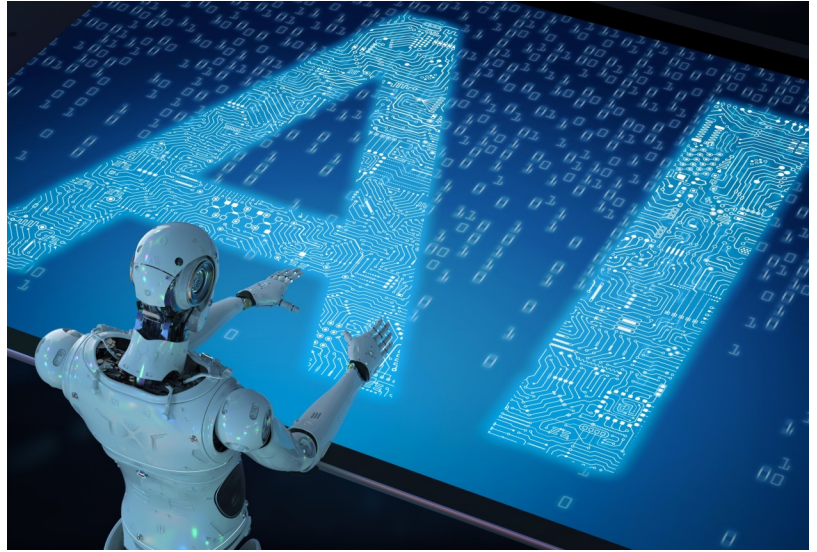


Craig's train set.

Editor's Note:

Out of editorial curiosity, I decided to spend some time playing with AI (Artificial Intelligence) and see what it could generate giving the topic of 'Woodworking'. There are quite a few platforms to choose from, and the results were..... OK. Nothing great, but serviceable.

The following article was created in seconds.

**Crafting Magic: The Joy of Woodworking**

Woodworking is not just a hobby; it's an adventure filled with creativity and craftsmanship. Whether you're making a small birdhouse or a grand dining table, there's something special about transforming raw wood into beautiful, useful items. Let's explore the world of woodworking and why it's an exciting path to follow.

Why Woodworking? The Allure of Creating

Ever thought about how satisfying it is to make something with your own hands? Woodworking lets you unleash your creativity. You can start with a simple block of wood and end up with a masterpiece. It's like cooking where you mix different ingredients to create a delicious dish, but here, your ingredients are various types of wood.

Choosing the Right Tools for Your Craft

Before you start carving your vision into wood, you need the right tools. Think of tools as the magic wands of woodworking. Each one serves a unique purpose, making your craft easier and more efficient. You won't need a huge workshop to get going. A saw, a hammer, and some sandpaper can help you create lovely pieces.

Saws: For cutting wood into the shapes you want.

Hammers: Perfect for joining pieces together.

Sandpaper: Gives your project that smooth touch, making it nice to hold.

Having these tools means you can turn that vision in your head into reality.

Choosing Your Wood: The Foundation of Your Project

Not all wood is created equal. Different types of wood have different textures, colors, and strengths. It's like choosing the right fabric for a dress. Pine is soft and easy to work with, making it great for beginners. Oak, on the other hand, is sturdy and can hold up to wear and tear, perfect for furniture. Choosing the right wood sets the stage for a successful project.

Basic Techniques: Getting Hands-On:

Continued on next page

Once you've picked your tools and wood, it's time to get hands-on. Here are a few basic techniques to help you get started:

Cutting: Measure twice, cut once. This old saying helps avoid mistakes. Use a straightedge to guide your cuts.

Joining: There are many ways to put pieces together, like using nails, screws, or wood glue. Each choice affects the strength and look of your project.

Finishing: This step brings your project to life. Stains, paints, and sealants can enhance the wood's beauty and protect it for years to come.

Practicing these techniques will boost your confidence and skill.

Projects to Ignite Your Passion

Wondering what to create? Start small! Here are a few project ideas to spark your inspiration:

Birdhouse: A fun project that helps the local wildlife, and looks lovely in your garden.

Shelves: Simple to make, they provide storage and display space at home.

Picture Frame: A great way to showcase your favorite memories with a personal touch.

These projects are not just tasks; they're opportunities to express yourself and hone your skills.

The Community of Woodworkers: Join the Fun

One of the best parts about woodworking is the community. You're never alone in this craft. From online forums to local workshops, there are endless resources and supportive people eager to share their knowledge. Why not share your creations or seek advice? It's like being part of a big family, all working with wood.

Conclusion: Start Your Woodworking Journey Today

Woodworking offers not just the joy of making but also the satisfaction of learning and growing. Each cut, each join, and each finish brings you closer to mastering this art. So grab your tools, choose your wood, and let the magic of woodworking begin. Whether you're building a birdhouse or a table, you're crafting memories and skills that will last a lifetime. What are you waiting for? Your woodworking adventure awaits!

This image was created by AI, and does not exist in reality.

