

SEPT. 2023

STWG

# SUSQUEHANNA TRAIL WOODWORKERS GUILD

## FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

Why do you woodwork?

We will come back to that question in a minute, but first: This month the guild visited a local woodworking instructor and owner of the Olde Mill Cabinet Shoppe (<https://www.oldemill.com>) Olde Mill Cabinet Shoppe specializes in hard to find woodfinishing supplies, seminars/classes in period furniture and historic paint finishes and shellac techniques. We sell a selection of Measured Drawings and Plans of Period Furniture. We also present for sale a limited line of exceptional handcrafted museum quality reproduction Period American Furniture, concentrating in Queen Anne, Chippendale, and Pennsylvania German Furniture. ([www.oldemill.com](http://www.oldemill.com)), Bess. She has run the shoppe and school for over 40 years. What an incredible visit. Bess is a wealth of information, and a commanding presence.

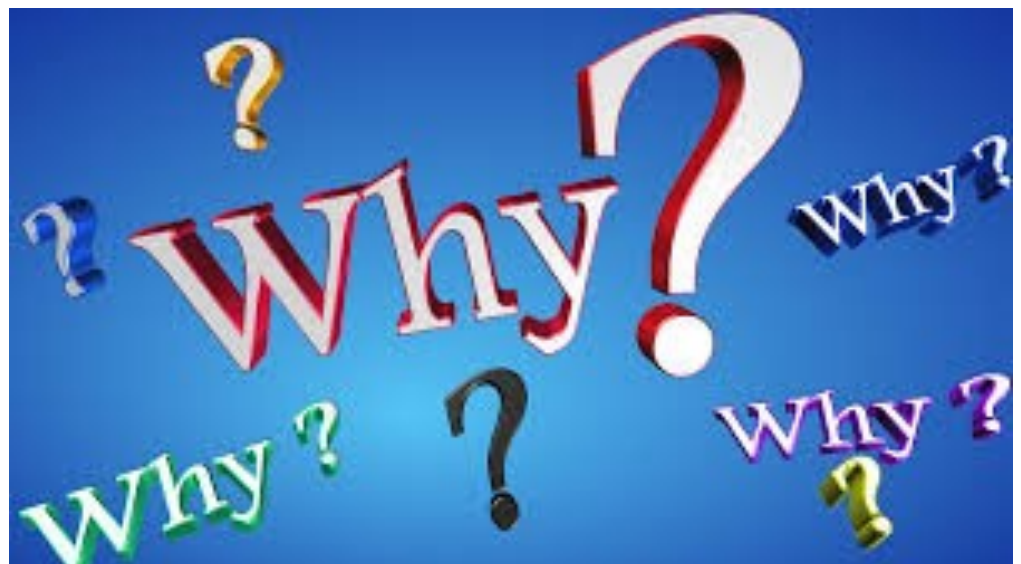
She started with an introduction, and what I was struck with was her reason for doing it. She does it because it is her sanctuary. Her escape. Not her hobby. Don't you dare call this a hobby for her! This is not what she does for fun. It is who she is.

While I cannot state for certain "why" she does it, I can say why I do it. I do it because it is rewarding, cathartic,... even meditative. I love problem solving, and the sense of accomplishment. The stresses of life have no purchase in my shop. I can go there to avoid and ignore those issues. The focus I get there then helps me process those issues later with a sense of clarity. The things I produce have use, and that provides me joy.

So why do you woodwork?

John

*(Editors note: Pictures from the Olde Mill cabinet shoppe will be featured in next month's issue)*



PICTURES FROM THE AUGUST MEETING

Tracy's charcuterie board.



John's spoon.





The "Unpluggger".



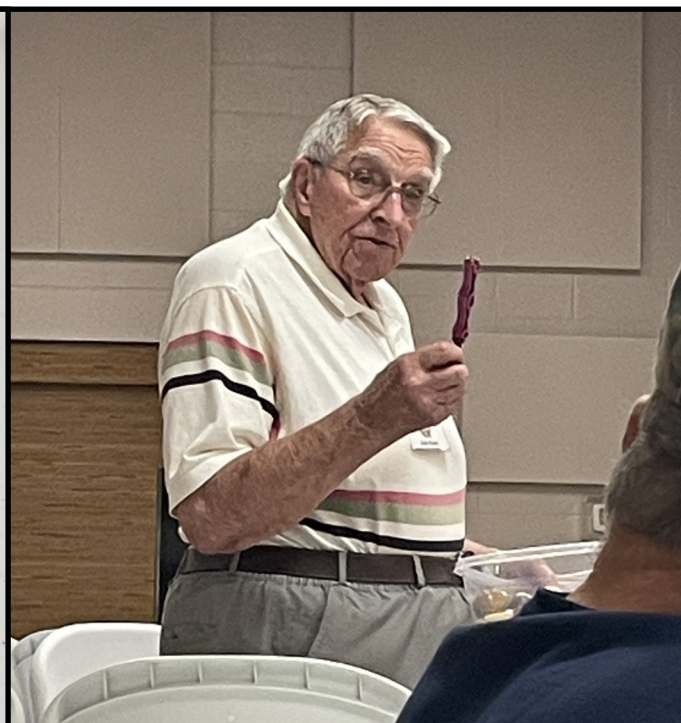
Eric's cutting board







Eric's crab mallet. (almost finished)



Jack's seamripper, mouse, and awl.







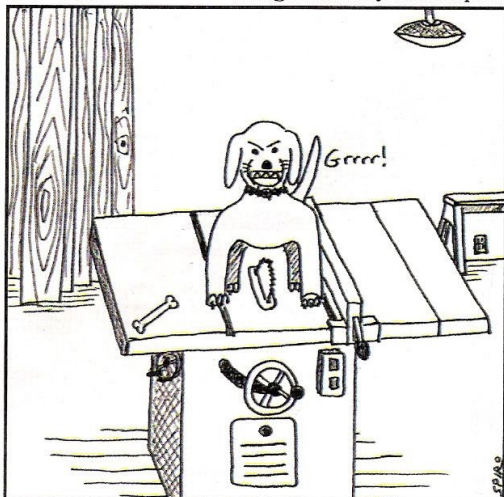
STWG1@OUTLOOK.COM





60 Grit

Rough humor by Steve Spiro



The table saw guard was more trouble than it was worth.



Eric's inlay box.



## NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be this upcoming Thursday, (9/28) at 7 pm. In the usual location at the church. Jack Kapp will be our guest, discussing turning, and various other things.

Please remember that you can always find out about upcoming meetings, and other planned activities, by going to the 'events' tab on the webpage. [stwg.org](http://stwg.org).



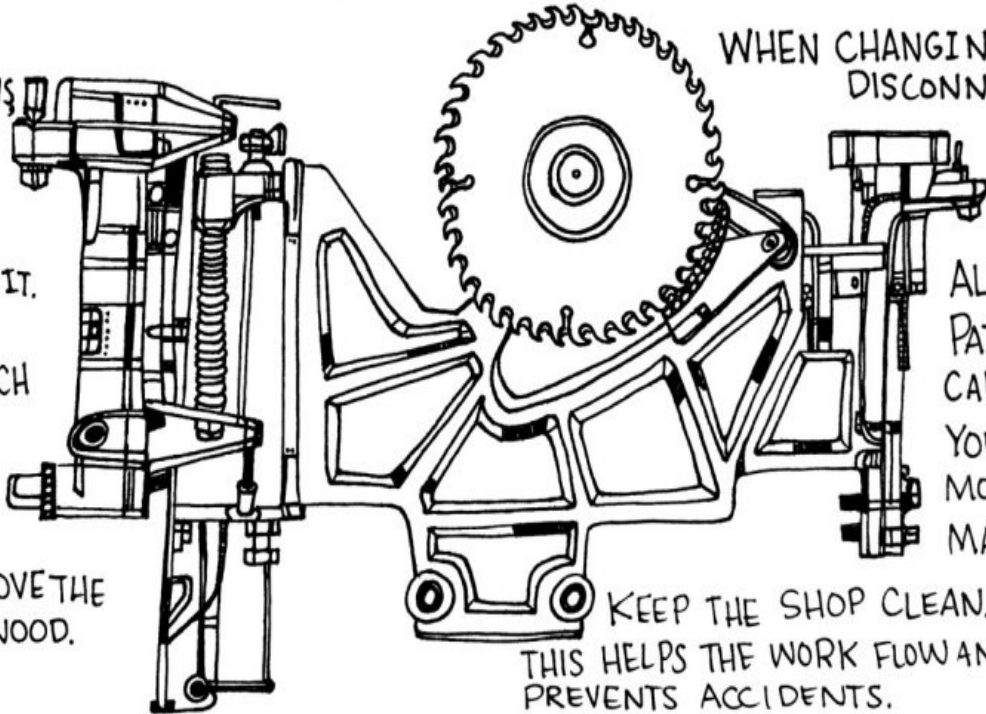
# WOODSHOP SAFETY

WEAR THE APPROPRIATE WORKWEAR.  
NO LOOSE OR DANGLING CLOTHING OR JEWELRY.

ALWAYS USE SHARP BLADES AND TIPS.  
DULL BLADES CAN BE VERY DANGEROUS.

CHECK FOR  
NAILS, SCREWS,  
AND METAL  
IN WOOD  
BEFORE YOU  
WORK WITH IT.

NEVER REACH  
OVER THE  
BLADES.  
USE A PUSH  
STICK TO MOVE THE  
CUT OFF WOOD.



WHEN CHANGING BLADES,  
DISCONNECT THE  
POWER  
SOURCE.

ALWAYS BE  
PATIENT AND  
CAREFUL. WHEN  
YOU RUSH, YOU'RE  
MORE LIKELY TO  
MAKE MISTAKES.

KEEP THE SHOP CLEAN.  
THIS HELPS THE WORK FLOW AND  
PREVENTS ACCIDENTS.

There are over 65,000 different tree species. (more are being added all the time.) All of these fall into one of four categories: deciduous, evergreen, angiosperms, and gymnosperms.





## ARCHAEOLOGISTS UNCOVER NOTCHED LOGS THAT MAY BE THE OLDEST KNOWN WOODEN STRUCTURE

Archaeologists have uncovered evidence of the oldest wooden structure on record: a pair of interlocking logs connected by a notch that date to 476,000 years ago.

Discovered along the Kalambo River in Zambia, the simple construction predates the first appearance of *Homo sapiens* in Africa. The discovery, detailed in a new paper published Wednesday in *Nature*, suggests human ancestors built structures made of wood and may have been more complex than previously thought.

This is a disruptive discovery,” Larry Barham, a co-author of the new study and an archaeologist at the University of Liverpool in England, tells *Scientific American’s* Tom Metcalfe. “I never would have thought that pre-*Homo sapiens* would have had the capacity to plan something like this.”

*The interlocking pieces, found near a waterfall in Zambia, date to 476,000 years ago—before *Homo sapiens* evolved.*





“It’s an important window into what these humans were capable of,” Annemieke Milks, an archaeologist at the University of Reading in England who did not contribute to the research, tells Maddie Burakoff of the Associated Press (AP).

Wooden artifacts typically don’t survive for millennia because they break down, disappearing from the historical record if they’re not well-preserved. But in this case, the researchers think that water may have protected the wood, which was discovered near a waterfall, per the Agence France-Presse (AFP).

“I think most early human groups would have been using wood in some form,” Milks tells the New York Times’ Carl Zimmer. “We just don’t see it.”

If prehistoric wood was preserved as well as stone and bone, “we would probably use the term ‘wood age’ rather than Stone Age,” Barham tells Nature News’ Ewen Callaway.

Scientists have previously discovered less complex uses of wood from this time period. The earliest known wooden artifact, a piece of a polished plank found in Israel, dates to more than 780,000 years ago, per the new paper. And archaeologists have dug up 400,000-year-old wooden tools for foraging and hunting from around the world.

But before this new find, the oldest known structure made of wood was only 9,000 years old, Barham tells the AFP.

In the 1950s and 1960s, researchers recovered ancient wood that may have been intentionally modified at Kalambo Falls, the site of the new study, but they were unable to precisely date the artifacts.

Excavations for the new study took place in 2019. In the sediment near the Kalambo River, the team found five wooden objects with signs of modification. They uncovered a sharpened tip that fit on the end of a stick discovered nearby, writes the New York Times. Some of the other objects could have been used for digging or as a wedge, per Nature News.

To date these objects, the researchers analyzed minerals in the sand that surrounded them through a technique called luminescence dating, Geoff Duller, a co-author of the study and dating expert at Aberystwyth University in Wales, tells the AP. The smaller wooden objects were buried around 390,000 and 324,000 years ago.

But the biggest finding was the pair of logs, which had been shaped so they could fit together like Lincoln Logs, the children’s building toys. Barham theorizes the wood could have been part of a platform for fishing or some other raised surface above the muddy ground, according to Nature News.

“It took me a while before I appreciated what we were looking at,” Barham tells the AP. “It didn’t look very nice, to be honest. But it is much more complex than I thought.”



Biancamaria Aranguren, an archaeologist who wasn't involved in the research, tells Scientific American that researchers should study waterlogged sites more, since this finding shows these areas could preserve evidence of woodworking.

"It's areas could preserve evidence of woodworking.

"Our knowledge about the use and the processing of wood in the most ancient periods of prehistory is comparable to the tip of an iceberg," Aranguren tells the publication.

By Will Sullivan, Smithsonian Magazine

