

Doing Good With Wood

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Building Boxes

"Doing Good with Wood" is an educational, non-profit corporation that brings people together to learn design, woodworking and "making." Volunteers work together to understand and develop skills and knowledge, and share what they know by producing products for other nonprofit organizations, by hosting classes and events, and by helping people learn woodworking by producing products of their choosing. "Doing good" takes many forms, including helping others acquire the "healthy hobby" of woodworking, creating woodworking products for other nonprofit organizations, helping fellow woodworkers with projects, or hosting fun woodworking activities that help people have fun and build confidence.

Building Mason Bee Houses

Mother nature has blessed us with many species of bees, but the Mason bee is quite unique. Unlike other bees, Mason bees are solitary, non-aggressive native pollinators. The female



Mason Bee House

Mason bees build their nest and raise their own young. Supported by *Doing Good with Wood* mentors, 15 students from Friends School fulfilled part of their community service commitment by building Mason bee houses for the Friends Meeting House.

Mason bees build their nests in preexisting wood cavities or rock crevices, lay their eggs and then pack them with mud. Therefore, Mason bee houses, sometimes referred to as “bee hotels,” contain dozens of nesting tunnels or cylindrical tubes, lined with rolled up paper.

During our Bee House Build activity, the students worked in small groups to assemble the floor, side walls, and roof, using battery operated drills, handheld screw-drivers, and screws.

Because the assembly was somewhat complicated we created a square four-sided

jig they could use to stabilize the structure while building. They placed the sides around the jig and held them together with rubber bands while they marked and drilled the holes and inserted the inner shelf at the appropriate level.



Assembling the Mason Bee Houses

Once completely assembled, they had to attach a mounting bracket and fill the house with nesting tunnels. Three of the bee houses were mounted on posts placed in gardens around the Friends Meeting House, while the two remaining houses were designed to be mounted on nearby trees.

To avoid spreading disease, the nesting tunnels must be removed and cleaned annually. After the Mason bees lay their eggs, the adults die, leaving a new generation to fill the bee house next year.



Friends School Budding Builders

Engagement Station at J.A.M Fest 2026

The Doing Good with Wood (DGWW) mentors were busy at the [J.A.M Fest 2026](#) in downtown State College helping young and old visitors construct wooden kazoos. Approximately 100 kazoos were made by visitors to the DGWW engagement station. While DGWW provided the materials and tools, the process of building a kazoo is more complex than one might think. The first step is to glue up the pre-cut top (which has a hole in it), the bottom and the sides.



Gluing the Kazoo

Once held together with small claps, visitors are encouraged to visit other engagement stations while the glue dries (about 15 mins). Then the sanding begins: the more you sand the main body of the kazoo the more professional it looks.

Then a cover is placed over the top hole and marked in order to drill two holes. A thin piece of plastic, such as a grocery bag, which acts as the vibrating membrane, is marked and cut out to fit under the cover. Once assembled, screws are used to hold the cover in place. Excess plastic is trimmed off, and kazoo builders are ready to hum their favorite tune.

DGWW is no stranger to the J.A.M Fest as this was their seventh year hosting an engagement station. The J.A.M FEST is sponsored by the [Jana Marie Foundation](#) which celebrates and



Working with Tools

supports mental health awareness. This year's community-wide mental wellness day was supported by 23 engagement stations which ranged from making custom slime to leaving positive messages in bottles. Other activities included creative expression activities, artwork,

yoga, live music, and information about community resources that seek to increase well-being, open minds and save lives. The DGWW engagement station introduces woodworking as a “healthy hobby” that builds self-esteem and confidence, while also making instant musical artists.



Humming a Tune

Little Friendly Library: Take a Book, Share a Book

You see them everywhere; in community parks, tucked in neighborhoods, next to schools, in public gathering spaces – Little Free Libraries. They are intended to build community, inspire readers and expand access to books for all. [The Friends Meeting House](#) Education Committee recently



Little Friendly Library

contacted Doing Good with Wood (DGWW) to design and assist the children of members of the Friends Meeting House to build a Little Friendly Library. DGWW mentors worked with the committee to design a space for books as well as pamphlets from [Pendle Hill](#), an independent Quaker publisher with the mission of expanding an understanding of Quaker life and witness.

Using fencing boards donated by a Friends Meeting House member, the children assembled the shell of the library, DGWW mentors installed the roof and window, and then the children painted it light blue. They also assisted in digging a hole, installing a post, and mounting the library. Then it was their job to fill it with books and pamphlets. Aligned with DGWW's mission of hosting woodworking activities that help people have fun and build confidence, DGWW hopes this Little Friendly Library will create opportunities for all community members to discover books to read that are not limited by time, space or privilege.



Friends Meeting House
Children

Want more information about DGWW or to volunteer with us?

Make an appointment to stop in and meet us at DGWW Headquarters.

Doing Good with Wood

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