Doing Good With Wood

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11th Annual Ice Cream Fest

What's more refreshing than a scoop of delicious ice cream on a Saturday in late July?



The State College Downtown Rotary Club hosted the 11th annual Ice Cream Fest; a fund-raising event held yearly to offer ongoing support to local nonprofits and community charities, such as *Habitat for Humanity* and the *State College Food Bank*. One dollar per ticket gave local families and friends 34 different activities and venders to engage with; from pony rides, bouncy houses, face painting and, for the third year, making kazoos with the fun folks at Doing Good with Wood (DGWW).

Of course there was plenty of ice cream to go around. Local and regional ice cream vendors, including Cold Stone Creamery, Ritchey's Dairy, Meyer Dairy Farms, and Nittany Vally Creamery offered scoops of Moose Tracks, Raspberry Swirl, and the standards, Vanilla and Chocolate.



Under the DGWW tent, young and old hands glued, sanded, drilled and assembled wooden kazoos then wander off to other fun activities humming their favorite tune.

Even *Ike the Spike* stopped by only to be entertained by the DGWW mentors to a kazoo rendition of *Take Me Out to the Ball Game*.



Since its founding in 2018, DGWW has served 41 nonprofit organizations, donating woodworking projects for local auctions and fundraising events, woodworking activities such as building bat houses, cedar planter boxes, and "Sandwich Board" style sign structures, and of course, kazoo building activities. Besides building projects and woodworking activities, DGWW supports community members who need help or mentoring with woodworking projects or who need access to tools they don't have. We encourage community members to contact DGWW with ideas and/or events. DGWW is always looking for mentors – no experience/expertise needed!



Maker Faire 2026

Over a cool Fall weekend in Bellefonte, the Maker Faire: Happy Valley, hosted by Axemann Brewery and Titan Hollow, opened its doors to creators, innovators, and “do-it-yourself” enthusiasts to showcase their projects, share ideas, and inspire others. This family-friendly event highlights STEM by emphasizing the power of both innovation and play. This year’s event included approximately 40 makers, everything from how to vacuum roast coffee, robotic competitions, an enormous chaos machine, and a mini model of NASA’s Mars Rover. And of course, Doing Good with Wood was there. This year they featured three hands on activities: assembling wooden kazoos, creating key chains on small lathes and a shaving horse station for making tool handles, walking sticks and rustic furniture. The Bellefonte Historical Railroad Society provided tours of passenger rail cars as well as rides in speeder cars throughout the weekend.



It takes a lot of concentration to turn wood on a lathe. And sometimes it takes four hands! But holding a piece of wood in place and moving it along the fast-turning lathe smooths out the wood which can be turned into any woodworker's design.

Getting back to basics, wood shaving is somewhat of a lost art. Sitting on the "shave horse" becomes a giant vice that holds the piece of wood the operator is carving in place. It also acts as a workbench that allows the operator to use their legs and upper body weight as 'power' to shave green wood with a drawknife or spokeshave. Besides making tool handles and rustic furniture, it creates piles of wood shaving that can be used as bedding for horse stalls or garden mulch.



Then there is the always popular wooden kazoo making where Doing Good with Wood mentors help kids construct, sand, assemble, and put the final touches on their kazoos.



Maker Faire is a tributary of the maker movement, inspiring creativity, collaboration, and innovation. It's a place where people come together to share their knowledge and passions, learn new skills, and celebrate the joy of making.

Meet Our Doing Good with Wood Mentors



David DeCapria is the newest member of the Board of Directors for the Doing Good with Wood. He has been a mentor working with DGWW soon after its inception. David discovered DGWW through his relationship with the Greenwood Furnace, PA Bat House Building Project. David is a “doer”. Originally, he was interested in finding others to help him build bat houses so he could increase the number of bat houses that the Greenwood Furnace was able to provide. Mission accomplished! Now DGWW helps with bat house building annually. AND, David has become a DGWW mentor and Board Member.

He first came to develop his wood working skills through his high school experience in New York state through BOCES carpentry and appliance repair programs. This is where he learned a variety of more specific skills including, pheumatics, hydrylics, home construction, and framing. David’s time in the Air Force also served as a learning and practice ground for his vast and ever increasing array of skills.

David refers to himself a “jack of all trades and master of none”. Often the other DGWW mentors will call on David to problem-solve an equipment challenge. David is always the first one to volunteer the assortment of tools stored in the back of his truck when they are in the field and need to quickly repair a broken band, blade, or drill. His traveling tool chest can also handle random “fixes” that may be needed for a project to be completed when in the field teaching DGWW workshops.



David's enthusiasm carries him to many interesting organizations and projects as he offers a helping hand to make the world a bit more comfortable place for nature and humans. By joining DGWW as a mentor and newest Board Member, he is now active in teaching and leading workshops engaging children and adults in projects that help to develop individual woodworking skills, and build projects requested by local non-profit organizations.

Next time you see David you may want to offer him a high five for becoming a DGWW Board Member.

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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