

# Doing Good With Wood

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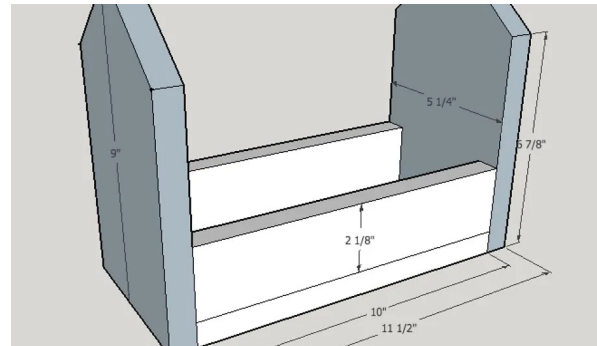


“Doing Good with Wood” (DGWW) is an educational, nonprofit corporation that brings people together to learn design, woodworking and “making.” Volunteers work together to understand and develop skills and knowledge, and share what they know by producing products for other nonprofit organizations, by hosting 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.

## From Fence Boards to Bird Feeders

On a chilly Sunday morning, while members of the [State College Friends Meeting](#) sat in silence during Meeting for Worship, the thunderous sound of pounding hammers rose up from the basement.

Led by the woodcrafters from the local non-profit [Doing Good with Wood](#), donated fencing boards were being sawed, fitted, and nailed into beautiful hanging bird feeders by six children, ages ranging from 8-12 years old. A member of the Friends Education Committee was pleasantly surprised to discover that the stack of pale blue fence boards that she had donated to DGWW were being used to build feeders.



Bird Feeder Design Features



Budding Woodworkers

By combining generosity, ingenuity, and initiative, the old can be refashioned into something completely new. The plans for the bird feeders are quite simple: Two  $2 \frac{1}{8}$  x 10-inch sides and two  $5 \frac{1}{4}$  x 9-inch ends tapered at  $6 \frac{7}{8}$  inches to shape the top. No need to build a stand; instead, drill small holes at each end, thread a sturdy rope through and tie knots. This allows the bird feeder to hang from a hook or a tree, keeping those greedy squirrels out, while inviting local birds to feed in

peace. As demonstrated by our budding woodcrafters, you can even wear them around your head or neck (no, just kidding!).

## Hope for a Hope Chest

For generations, the cedar chest has symbolized hope and prosperity for a family's future. They were used mainly used for the storage of keepsakes such as blankets, linens, and fine clothing. When passed down from family to family, they sometimes become neglected or suffer structural damage. Several woodcrafters from the local non-profit [\*Doing Good with Wood\*](#) took on the challenge of refurbishing a community member's cedar hope chest.

An heirloom today, this cedar chest was built in the 1950s by the Lane Company in Altavista, VA. Typically veneer on the outside, the inside of these chests is solid cedar.



Lane Company, Altavista, VA

Sometime in the 1960s, as was the fashion, the exterior veneer of this chest was 'antiqued' a pastel green color and eventually stored for years in an old barn where it suffered major water damage.

The first task for the woodworkers was to carefully remove the veneer and completely replace the cedar top. Some clamping and glueing had to be done to make it structurally sound. Adjustable round feet were crafted to keep it off the floor. All that was left was sanding, sanding, and more sanding until a final coat of Odie's Oil was vigorously rubbed into the entire outer surface.



Applying Odie's Oil



Passed down from her mother, now 101 years old, the owner's fondest memories as a child are carefully lifting the lid to remove mittens that were always stored in the upper shelf and sitting on it as she gazed out her mother's bedroom window.

Thanks to the woodworkers at *Doing Good with Wood* hope abounds that this cedar chest will continue to make cherished memories for generations to come. Find out how you can restore old memories through the many [events & projects](#) organized by *Doing Good with Wood*.

## Ready, Set, Build: The Pine Wood Derby

The woodcrafters from [Doing Good with Wood](#) were all in when asked to assist Pack 67 - Juniata Council, Scouting America with their Pine Wood Derby. The Pack leader, Laurie Ritzko, had ordered the official Pine



Official car kit

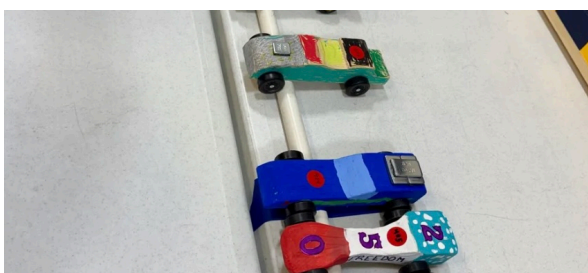
Wood Derby kits which consist of a five-ounce block of pine, four plastic wheels and four nails for axles. Some parents brought tools and other materials from home to help their scouts, but many did not. The team from *Doing Good with Wood* brought chisels, files, clamps, sandpaper, glue, hammers and much more. The

woodcrafters then spread out to assisted 50

scouts, ages 8-10, and their parents as they designed and constructed the race car of their dreams. Some scouts even learned how to use an oscillating drum sander and a drill press. Painted and decorated, most resembled cars but some took on a more whimsical shape. On the day of the race, everyone was a winner!



Using the oscillating sander



Pine Wood Derby Creations

Thanks to everyone involved with Pack 67 - Juniata Council, Scouting America and to the generous woodcrafters from *Doing Good with Wood*. Find out how you and your group can become involved with [Doing Good with Wood](#).



The Winner!

## Interview with John Seymour, Co-Founder and President of Doing Good with Wood

The DGWW Newsletter plans on interviewing individuals who are integral to the success of the organization. In this issue we chatted with John Seymour, Co-Founder and President of Doing Good with Wood (DGWW) and asked him the question; How did you become involved with Doing Good with Wood and what does this organization mean to you?



John mentoring a young woodworker.

John recalls visiting with his friend Kyle Peck early in their retirement days wondering about how to spend their time as new retirees. They both shared their love of woodworking with one another and John said that they “just cooked up Doing Good with Wood” during their conversation that afternoon.

John fondly remembered the 9<sup>th</sup> grade shop classes he was required to take in Jr. High. Twelve weeks of Wood Shop stands out as his favorite of all the shop classes offered at his school. He also fondly thinks of times spent watching his dad engaged with woodworking projects when he was growing up. He feels honored to have inherited his dad’s table saw.

After becoming a professional teacher himself, John lives by the well-known teaching premise, “as a teacher you learn it, before you teach it”. John reflects back on always feeling confident with the same woodworking skills that he learned in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. As a result, his woodworking confidence and his positive memories of watching his dad working with wood, John continued the family tradition. He recalls always building wood projects for his young family. Today he continues building wood furniture and keepsakes for his grown children and now for his grandkids.

John still loves working with kids. His favorite DGWW projects are the smaller, “quick projects “like making pens and pencils on the lathe. “Kids like to see a finished project that they can take home after a woodworking session”. He remembers one middle school student who loved using the lathe and making pens so much that they signed up for 6 class sessions in a row. Returning each week to make a new pen. John shares that “pens are a satisfying project!”. Truth be told, the student was giving them all away to friends and family members who had expressed a love for the finished product. During her sixth session, she finally got to make a pen for herself to keep.

“Participating in Doing Good with Wood is gratifying” reflects John. He jokingly states that all members of DGWW, “surprisingly get along really well”. Providing projects for the community, students, local schools, and local non-profit’s is “fulfilling” and he and the other members of the DGWW community truly feel “appreciated”. John says he enjoys “sharing the wealth” of his woodworking skills and background with anyone who is interested. DGWW is satisfying and puts a smile on his face.

***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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