

Department Reports for July 2021



Ed Eich, Manager

No report this month.



**Assistant Mgr.
Karin Williams**

Stained Glass



Hans Zassenhaus, Manager

Website

We have made many changes to our website over the past few months. Highlights of these changes are listed below:

- Many of us have trouble remembering the wealth of information provided during the certification sessions. Thus, we have a series of videos to provide a refresher on your certification adventures, available at the following address: [Certification Videos \(thevwc.org\)](https://thevwc.org/Certification-Videos) .
- Also, to assist in refreshing our memories, we have placed the latest refresher video and slide show for the RA Monitor training at the following address: [Shop Monitors \(thevwc.org\)](https://thevwc.org/Shop-Monitors) .
- We are in the process of setting up a Member Merchandise catalog. The latest trial of this feature is available at the following address: [Member Merchandise \(thevwc.org\)](https://thevwc.org/Member-Merchandise) .
- And finally we have a comprehensive compilation of the various training videos available at the following address: [Video Master List \(thevwc.org\)](https://thevwc.org/Video-Master-List) .
- We continue to make small improvements to our website, check back periodically.

As we are restarting our monthly meetings and soon will be opening the Brownwood shop, we are in desperate need of a photographer who can take candid pictures of our members building projects, as well as taking pictures at our monthly meetings. These pictures will be featured on our website. If you are interested, please contact Hans Zassenhaus at woodshop@thevwc.org .

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Special Projects

Voytek Kulesza, Manager

As for department report I can only cite the email I received from John Scott for he is the one that is in charge while I am absent.

Here it is:

I have almost all the paperwork from the binders in order; it was a real mess. We have about 12 projects on the books and the people know our goal is to get them completed in the next couple of months. All are happy with that.

We need to establish a log in procedure for taking in projects, timetable for their completion and is this a job we should or should not do.

I have about twenty names of people who have expressed a desire become involved with Special Projects. When we get things in order, I would like to contact these people. We might find a few who will give a day or two each week and others who would come in and do a project or two each month to help us keep up with work coming in.

Thank you!

John Scott for Voytek



Administration – Front Office

Kathy Villani, Manager

FRONT OFFICE

No report this month – just anticipating an opening in September!

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Member Merchandise and Manager of Safety Dept.

Steve Eikenberry

Member Merchandise:

My merchandise assistant, Mike Gilman, and I stocked Brownwood with merchandise anticipating the opening of the shop to all members. Virtually everything we stock at Rolling Acres will be carried at Brownwood except for lathe gouges. Anyone wishing to purchase a lathe gouge will still need to come to Rolling Acres.

Since I mentioned my merchandise assistant, I'd like to formally introduce him to you all. Mike Gilman has been a VWC member for some time and is particularly interested in turning pens. Since he lives near Brownwood, he will be the Brownwood "go-to" guy for merchandise and will assist me in keeping inventory stocked and ready for member purchase.

So where is merchandise stored at Brownwood? Mike is also the tool crib manager at Brownwood, and the merchandise cabinet is conveniently in place just outside and across from the tool crib window. Mike, and a few other Brownwood staff have keys to sell merchandise. You can ask the front desk if anyone selling merchandise is signed in, and the desk will page them for you to make your purchase.

Safety Department:

Safety has been quietly working along with the yellow jacketed monitors to ensure a safe atmosphere in our shops. The largest number of safety observations center around correct table saw use. If you are unsure or have any question on how to proceed with any piece of machinery, please seek advice from an experienced woodworker, monitor, or safety member. If who you ask does not have the answer, they will help direct you to the right person.

August saw the safety team taking advantage of a special Brownwood shop tour that was specifically geared towards safety concerns at Brownwood. We wish to thank the Brownwood maintenance staff for their excellent support during that safety orientation. Although many of our safety team is away this summer, the folks that remain have picked up much of the slack in scheduling, and with Brownwood still closed we've been able to staff Rolling Acres most days.

We still need more volunteers for safety duty. If you feel comfortable in the shop, have a leaning towards helping our shop be the best it can, and feel you understand safe techniques, please contact myself, Steve Eikenberry at sdeikenberry@gmail.com, or John Herega at heregasr@gmail.com

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Mark Corner

Library

Note from Mike Borfitz: Hooray! Mark is back and has resumed his role as the “keeper of the Library” and has recently assumed a new role leading the AV group! His report for the library follows:

We looked at the possibility of mirroring the Rolling Acres and Brownwood computers however some of the folders on the RC machine contain material that, if mirrored, could violate the **End User License Agreements (EULA)**. Because of this those folders will only be available on the computer at Rolling Acres.

Since I am back, I will again begin the pursuit of trying to get permission from the publishers of woodworking magazines to see if they will give us permission to host electronic subscriptions of their publications on our sites. If anyone has any publications that they would like to see send me the names and I will try to contact that publisher for permission.

The Library Department has taken on the responsibility of the audio-visual equipment and its use. I know many of you have had meetings and discussions regarding this. We will be tapping into that knowledge base to help formulate the processes and guides for the use of the equipment. There were several members who expressed an interest in this endeavor, and I will be reaching out to them for assistance.



Education

Deb Larouere

This has been a challenging time for the Education Department. We are hard at work putting a schedule together for you.

We have some regular favorites, new courses in development, Instructors who will be returning at various times, and too many unknowns regarding dates. Our plan is to be right, rather than fast, so that we are not canceling or rescheduling classes once they are posted. As always, classes will be added throughout the term as instructors become available. There are actually more courses in the pipeline than those you might see listed on the schedule.

The first day to sign up is scheduled for September 7th at 8:00 a.m. at Rolling Acres. There will be no early sign ups this term. But there will be a helpful Class Planner sheet that should remove confusion and make the process go much faster. Extra staff will be on hand too.

An email will go out as soon as we have a defined working schedule, likely before the end of August. It will include the Class Schedule, the Class Planner, and Instructions for sign up. We will try to get answers to all your questions between the time schedule is posted and the first day of Sign Up. We are planning a Help Session, but you could also email questions after you get the schedule. There are still a lot of questions for which we do not yet have answers. Please be patient.

If you still have a makeup class from a previous term, please contact the instructor directly.

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IT (Information Technology)

Bill Pappas

The new electronic door keypad system is installed and operational on the side doors at Rolling Acres and Brownwood. Planning continues for implementing the afterhours keypad system for the front doors. Thanks to John Sullivan for extending Wi-Fi access into the Maintenance Room at Brownwood. Many thanks to the entire IT team for the ongoing maintenance and troubleshooting of our computers, web site, telephones, and software.

Brian Landis for Bill Pappas



Lumber

Stephen Yovan, Manager and Chairman of the Board

Species of the month... Hickory

Characteristics... Color: there are four commercial species of hickory, and the wood is almost the same from all of them. The sapwood is pale and clearly demarcated from the hardwood and is sold as “white hickory “. The hardwood is brown to reddish brown and marketed as “red hickory”. Usually straight grained, It can be waxy or irregular, with a course texture, and it has a medium luster.

Properties... Hickory is very dense and has high crushing, stiffness, bending and toughness qualities. It has exceptionally good shock resistance, and good steam bending properties. The wood is quite difficult to work, especially with hand tools, and has a moderate to severe blunting effect on cutting edges. Pre-boring is required for nailing, and it is difficult to glue. Hickory sands, turns, stains and polishes well.

Seasoning... It dries fairly rapidly, and this must be managed with care. High shrinkage, twisting and warping can be a problem. Hickory shows high stability in service.

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Durability... The wood is non-durable, with little resistance to decay. It can be vulnerable to attack from the forest longhorn and buprestid beetles, and the sapwood is at risk for powder-post beetles. It is moderately responsive to impregnation with preservatives

Origin... Canada and USA

Common uses... Hickory is used for the handles of striking tools, such as axes and hammers. It is also used for furniture, ladders, vehicle parts, cutting surfaces, violin bows, piano keys, sporting goods, flooring, handles and baseball bats.

Availability... We have about four board feet in stock at the Rolling Acres location. The cost is about four dollars a board foot and it comes in 8-foot lengths by 6 inches wide and 4/4 rough.



Toys

Conway Williams, Manager

Since our last report, the Elves and Painters continue their work to produce toys to support our client demands.

On the shipping side, in July, we made only two deliveries to clients which contained 758 toys with donation value of \$4,458., which gave us a year-to-date total of 4,285 toys shipped, with a donation value of \$27,938.

Thus far in August we have made four additional shipments of 796 toys with a donation value of \$5,104. This brings our year-to-date total shipped to 5,081 toys with a donation value of \$33,042.

As we look at the production side of the ledger, we produced 1,059 toys during July. This gives us our best monthly production of the year. It also gives us a year-to-date total of 4,752 toys.

So far in August we have produced an additional 544 toys, bringing our year-to-date total to 6,355.

We have gotten a request from a Memory care facility in the Villages to provide them with something that their clients can do to provide mental and physical stimulus to their clients and be of benefit to us. We will be exploring a project in the upcoming weeks.

I have had a recent conversation with The Villages Special Events Manager about our Toys on The Square Project. We will **NOT** have our original September date because there will be no vendor night on that date.

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September	16 th	Thursday	BWD	CANCELLED
October	7 th	Thursday	BWD	
November	4 th	Thursday	BWD	
November	17 th	Wednesday	LSL	
December	8 th	Wednesday	LSL	

The other four dates are currently confirmed unless there are additional modifications required later. We will keep you advised of any changes.

I want to recognize the excellent support that Toys recently got from the Rolling Acres Maintenance Team. On Saturday 7/31 one of our key sanders stopped working. By Monday morning Walt Chekay already had the machine torn down and had determined that it was not repairable. I spoke to Dave Adamovich that morning and he said he would order a new Sander. By Friday 8/06 the new was installed and operating.

I want to also thank Cindy Verdick for lending her laser operator skills to our puzzle production, she has been a tremendous help in keeping that part of our process moving!

I am also pleased to announce that we have officially passed the 100,000 toys produced mark, since Ron Gammon and a small band of craftsmen and women produced and donated 142 toys to the Children's Home Society of Marion County back in 2001. It is also interesting to note that the 100,000th toy, a little red wagon, will be donated to The Children's Home Society of Marion, Lake and Sumter Counties later this month! I want to thank all the VWC members, both past and present, who have contributed to this historic milestone. We will have more on this milestone in the next couple of months.



Turners

John Herega, Manager of Turners TURNERS GROUP

No report this month! John is riding his motorcycle without his laptop and enjoying the scenery! (well-deserved!)

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Carvers

Pete Bankowski

We are ready to carve at Brownwood (BW) as well as Rolling Acres (RA). Brownwood is expected to open soon, and each location will have similar equipment. A carver will be at RA on Monday and Wednesday from 8-11 AM and Brownwood on Tuesday from 8-11 AM. Ask at the desk to have a carver talk to you. Both locations are available to carving all day except when stained glass is in session.

If you are wondering about carving or how to get started come in and talk to one of us. If you would like to observe us at 'work' do not hesitate to interrupt, we like to talk about carving and welcome newcomers to our craft.

What do you need to begin the adventure? First, just you. There is a loaner kit to start on day one. After starting we will discuss what you should consider buying. Please do not buy equipment before talking to us. We have some items available for purchase and many items are not needed and may waste your dollars.

Do you need to be creative? No, each shop has many aids to help you in your adventure. In the beginning you will learn techniques as we coach you, either in glass or one-on-one with a mentor. Some of the early learning will be:

- 1- How to be safe- We do not want injuries
- 2- How to care for your tools
- 3- How to sharpen your tools and keep them sharp
- 4- The wood grain and why that is important

Please, stop by to watch and learn. You do not know what you are missing if you don't. Come and meet many carvers who would like to help you.

Also, you can go to your computer and enter [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com), and in search area enter Doug Linker whom I feel is a good instructor. Go to these topics:

- 1- Basic tools to get started in woodcarving.
- 2-Strops-make one, use one
- 3-Wood selection
- 4-Using power to strop sharpen / hone your woodcarving tools
- 5-Woodcarving, cutting techniques & safety

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Certification & Monitor Training

Dick Besler

Accepted 8 new members on 8-05 and 8-12 have 8 more in the wings. Kathy has almost all of August scheduled for Certification. Monitor training went well on the 4th. Next date is 18th.

Remember that Rolling Acres is not open on Thursdays to regular members. That is the day that we certify new members!



Alvin Corenblum

Tales from the crypt:



Scott Herlick

Nothing new to report.

Urn Project



Vice President

Rik Peirce

Brownwood Building Design Committee

The opening of Brownwood shop has been delayed again, this time we only can say that when The Villages resolves their issues, we will be given a date for the opening. Dust collection issues discussed last month are partially resolved. The noise issue in the Studio room has been repaired and is now satisfactory. The main dust collectors however have not been solved and we have been informed of the proposed fix, some parts have been delivered to the site but remain uninstalled. One issue that is still in discussion is the process of emptying the dust collection barrels and the type of barrel that will be implemented. The Villages and the dust collection vendor have determined that the plastic barrels

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that we are currently are using may be unsafe in the case of an explosion occurring during the operation of the system. The club's position is that the vendor and The Villages need to provide a safe method of operations for the members of the club. This includes a method of emptying the barrels without the possibility of a member being injured during that process. We have requested a meeting to discuss the resolution of these concerns.

Rolling Acres Building Design Committee

The Design Committee will reconvene upon the opening of the new shop.

Procurement

Purchasing of the items necessary for opening Brownwood is 100% complete.

The Brownwood budget is in good shape, we are managing the purchases so that we don't exceed the budget or the financial reserves of the club. We are working on stretching out remaining procurement and payments to avoid having to borrow any money because of this project.

We continue to have Jim Spallone purchasing for Rolling Acres and I will continue at Brownwood. Any purchasing, as much as practical, should be directed through either of us. We have established discounts from many vendors and have tax exemption certificates on file with them to take advantage of the lower costs available to the club.



Brad Primeau

BEHIND THE SCENE

Shop Administration/Maintenance

In the last several department reports, Brownwood has been the topic—along with the various projects the installation team has been working on. This report highlights the “behind the scenes” work the volunteer Blue Badge (BB) and Maintenance Teams (Yellow badge) accomplishes all week and on Sundays to ensure the shop is operating and running correctly. Over 1000 other non-volunteering members enjoy the benefits of a well-equipped and well-maintained woodworking shop because of their hard work. The addition of Brownwood will add even more benefits the members of VWC to enjoy.

BB members begin each day before the shop is open following a BB Opening Checklist. They ensure air and collection systems are operating, set bandsaw tensions, inspect the other equipment for any obvious malfunction and coordinate with the morning monitors about proper blade guard installation and any problems they may have found. They also “lockout” any machines with problems and coordinate with or leave a “lockout” notification if a machine is inoperative, needs a blade replaced or is not working properly.

The afternoon BB shift generally accomplishes the same thing only in reverse order. Working with the afternoon monitors they help close the facility for the day. Recently, there were times when a BB afternoon person was not available. In those cases, the monitors follow their usual afternoon shutdown procedures and close the shop. If decision needs to be made between manning a BB morning or afternoon shift, the morning

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shift takes priority. Usually there is a morning maintenance person in addition to a BB member. This combination of expertise can handle most of the problems that may have been encountered the prior afternoon.

Sunday morning, one or two members show up at the shop to clean the dust collection filters. It's usually done in the morning before it gets too hot. System filters are cleaned to maintain operating efficiency (suction). Given the age of the system, this is done as a precautionary measure to maintain maximum operation efficiency. It is a tedious and dirty job. Many members don't realize the amount of work involved to keep the system operating. Dumping sawdust barrels is one thing but, blowing sawdust out of filters and, in some cases, being surrounded by dust as you do it--in addition to having to climb stairs up and down with filters--is not something many are willing or able to do.

These are **OUR** Blue Badge Team Members:

Joe Abromaitis	Ed Akins	Ray Fallen	Rick Fiersten
Mark Balzer	Tony Bendoraitis	Steven Fitzgerald	William Fitzgerald
John Foster	David Frey	Mike Gilman	Steve Gird
Don Hainlen	Joe Harrington	Scott Herlick	Raymond Kane
Eddie Kays	Michael Lane	Brian Leininger	Dan Mayer
Rich Boornazian	Jim Bossman	Dan Botner	Roy Boudreau
Jim Butcher	Steve Del terzo	Craig Delbeck	Mark Dobies
Ed Eich	Ron Einemann	Jim Lippe	Richard Masterson
James McGraw	Cornelius Moriarty	Will Muhleman	Greg Nilsen
Matt Nypaver	Hugh Pace	Pat Toomey	Ken Vanderloop
Mark Volpe	Mike Votolato	Frank Warren	Kay Watkins
Richard Watson	Michael Williams	Bill Love	John Scott
John Blackwell			

BROWNWOOD

The contractor has been working, although at a snail's pace. Modifications have been "mostly" completed on the dust return aka, "noise" in the multi-purpose room. Electrical work needs to be finished. This will add a switch inside to turn dust collection on-and-off in the lathe/scroll saw and CNC area.

Your installation team has not been sitting around the potbelly stove in the maintenance room telling Rolling Acres member – YCFS stories! The team is building user storage cabinets, making signs for B-Wood and Rolling Acres on the CNC. Jake Harris is refurbishing a welding unit that will give the VWC the capability of stick, MIG or TIG welding. Go Jake!

There are two individuals that have worked almost every day that need to be recognized, Glenn Croteau and Paul Porter. Without their hard work and dedication, the Brownwood "wow factor" would never have happened! TVWC thanks you.



Woodworking Technology

Lowell Sundermann

Woodworking Technology Department

We enjoyed the opportunity to share some examples and meet some of our new members at the Opportunity Fair. We had examples of the types of projects you can create on our 60-watt laser and our first CNC mill at Rolling Acres. We also had some initial examples of what can be produced on our three station CNC at Brownwood. And if you looked around the Brownwood shop you would have been able to see the many signs, fixtures, storage containers, etc. that were produced on the CNC. The hollow barley twist spindle was a popular item. The primary



turning in a project that can look like this:

We thank the 75 members that stopped by and signed our "Interested?" sheet. We look forward to seeing you in our fall classes.

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President

Mike Borfitz

All good comes to those who wait.....but it's a good thing that we haven't been holding our breath! This past Monday (August 16) was the day we planned to open the Brownwood shop. But we all know that didn't/couldn't happen. (See Rik's report on the unsolved topics in the new shop.) I can also add that The Villages voiced a strong concern that we do not open to the total membership until an "official" opening involving them take place. I can't tell you exactly what that will be, but I can tell you what I think it will entail and I can tell you what it will not be. Let's get the "what it will not be" answered right away. It will not be a Grand Opening in which the public is permitted to walk through the shop. It will likely be a special tour for the supervisors on the Sumter Landing District Development Committee (who voted to spend the money to build the building), Richard Baier, John Rohan and whomever within their hierarchy they deem important. The tour will be similar to the tours a lot of you have had as your orientation to the site. There will probably be a ribbon-cutting and some glad-handing! There will also be some more filming of the shop by the marketing group to finish the project they started as the building was being furnished and equipped. That video will likely be aired on The Villages television station, and I am guessing we will be asked to do some airtime. I will know better after my meeting with them scheduled for August 25. Put your hands together in both prayer and celebration that we really will open in September!