

Quarterly Department Reports for July 2023



Ed Eich, Manager



Karin Williams, Assistant Mgr.

Stained Glass

The Rolling Acres instructors (Ed and Gary) are on summer break. Students may continue working on their own on Friday mornings from 9 – 11 a.m. until courses resume in the fall.

The Brownwood classes are operating on a reduced summer schedule. Instructors (Karin and Pete) will be available for classes on July 3rd, 17th, and 31st, and on August 7th, and 21st. Students may continue working on their own on Monday mornings from 9 – 11 a.m., when instructors are not available.

As promised – here are a few photos of our students' creations at the Rolling Acres shop.



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Our courses are designed so you can work at your own pace and level of skill to develop your expertise and confidence levels so you can make various types of beautiful projects. We start with sun-catchers, then a beveled Iris window panel, leaded panel, lamps, and much, much more.

There is always room for new artists to learn this craft, so stop in and see what we are making, and join us in the fun! Watch for future reports as we share the progress of our glass enthusiasts as they learn new skills.



Website

Hans Zassenhaus, Manager

Also, just a reminder that all email messages generated by and sent out from our website are in the HTML format. In some cases, when the email contains a graphic or picture, the picture will not be sized correctly if your email is not configured to receive HTML emails.

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I encourage each member to “click around” our website as it is not possible to describe all of the features currently available. As with anything on the website, please send any suggestions for new features and/or improvements to the website to the webmaster as woodshop@thevwc.org.



Administration – Front Office

Kathy Villani, Manager

FRONT OFFICE

Welcome to our new Front Desk Staff members – Denise Burdyck-McConnell, Becky Carlson, Loy Garcia, Donna Lasko, Jay Mabrey, and Debi Roseen. Thanks to all six of you for volunteering your time in support of the VWC. We are still in need of additional volunteers at the front desk, especially at Rolling Acres. If you are willing to donate some of your time to support the club, please contact Kathy Villani to volunteer. Kathy can be reached on 352-750-1095 or at kathleen.villani@gmail.com.

Thank you to Bob Behrens, Jonathan MacGowan, and Bill Pappas (if I missed anyone else, I apologize) for our new front desk at Rolling Acres. We have lots more storage space, work space, and the front desk looks great!

Jonathan, Bob, and Dick Hartley are working on placing new cameras at each front desk for member pictures. These new cameras in conjunction with better lighting and backgrounds will make for clearer and brighter pictures.

There have been several inquiries made recently about replacement name tags. When a new member completes Certification, a name tag is provided by the club. If that tag is lost or damaged, replacements can be ordered at either front desk. Replacement tags must be paid for by the member. Pin tags are \$6.50; magnetic tags are \$7.50. The replacement name tags will be ordered along with the name tags for the new members at the end of each month.

Just a reminder to all members that monitor duty is a vital function that keeps the shops open for members to enjoy. Each one of us made a commitment to the VWC when we joined to volunteer 12 hours a year (three 4-hour shifts) as a shop monitor or tool crib monitor unless volunteering for another job that requires a minimum of 36 hours per

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year or unless exempted for age (80 years old or more with at least 5 years as a club member). Monitor training is also required every third year because equipment and procedures change from time to time. If you last attended monitor training in 2020 (or earlier), you are due for training again this year (2023). Monitor training is offered on the first and third Mondays of each month at Brownwood and the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Rolling Acres. Classes run from 4 pm to 5:30 pm. You do not have to sign up in advance; just come to the shop shortly before 4 pm to sign in and get settled so class can begin promptly at 4 pm.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- you must attend monitor training at the shop where you are scheduled to monitor so those of you who monitor at both shops must be trained at both. Equipment and procedures differ at the shops, especially with the vac systems, so you must attend training at the shop where you will monitor.
- if you are unable to work a shift for which you are scheduled, please notify your Monitor Coordinator or the Front Desk as early as possible. We will ask you when you will be able to work and provide you with lists of members scheduled during that time that you can contact and arrange to swap your shift.

Thank you to all of the members who willingly donate their time and knowledge as monitors! You are critical to the success of the VWC and your service to the club is appreciated by everyone.



Steve Eikenberry

No report this month

Steve Eikenberry
Merchandise Manager

Mike Gilman
Asst Manager (Brownwood)

Member Merchandise

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Education

Deb Larouere

This summer is different! Traditionally, summer is time to kick back and maybe experiment a bit. But this summer we kicked off with some new classes and a very successful Expo at Brownwood. And of course, the **Woodworking 101 Shelf Projects** have never stopped! (We need additional summer Mentors. Easy to get started!) Here's a quick round-up of the latest.

- The new **S-Series of Skills Clinics** are designed to help any woodworker to improve skills, techniques or understand a process or machine better. Table saws & jigs, Leveling with a Plunge Router & jig, Glue-up seminars are just the first few. Got a skill to share? More Instructors will allow us to host more of these. Got an opening August 1?
- The **Better Woodworking Series** (S091 and S095) are designed to hit a wide variety of topics "Beyond Certification". These will be running most of the summer so full time Members can take advantage of these before peak season returns. New sections are open for July.
- **Intro to Glowforge** E 611 is new and has sections for July. This Laser is easier to learn as it uses skills most computer literate members already have. (No Corel required!) Get a seat now while you can.
- **RingMaster** T 611 is back! Limited seats are open now. More will be added later. (Especially if another Instructor steps up. Please . . .)
- **Our first Expo** was a success, so we're planning to do it again! We had over a dozen topics presented in May and a few hundred Members took advantage of the Meet & Greet opportunities. If you signed in at a demo, you still need to **sign up at the FRONT DESK** to actually enroll in the class!
- **Check the 'Open Classes' page on the web** as that's where the new stuff hits first. We try to keep updated info at the Front Desks too. Don't wait for an email invitation if you really want that seat! Use the online **Course Catalog** to get all the details and to see if the class is right for you.
- **Got skills? Please share! We'll help you to get started.** It's fun! And it raises the skill level of the Membership, making equipment (and Maintenance and fellow

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members), and you happier too! No time, but currently serving regular Monitor Duty? Could you be an extra person, the **Mentor on Duty**, on the floor for your shift? Let's talk! Education@thevwc.net

Spread a little joy with that sawdust!



IT (Information Technology)

Brian Landis

In addition to our monthly (or more often) updates of the computer operating systems, the team regularly troubleshoots computer and network issues and continues to update and develop Front Desk applications.

Bill Hecht, and Dick Hartley are working on improving and updating the member photographs. Many of the older ones are unusable and will be retaken later in the year.

A new Windows 11 computer was purchased to support training classes.

The IT team welcomes two new members: Joe Gomez and Ken Burstall, who have helped us choose and install additional security protections for our networks.

Thanks to the entire team!



Lumber

Stephen Yovan, Manager

The lumber department frequently gets questions regarding various species of wood and their characteristics.

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Some of the common questions are:

What is the particular hardness of a specific lumber species ?

What is the difference between hard and soft maple?

What does the grain of the wood look like and why do I care?

How does the color of the wood vary?

What kind of finish should I use on my project?

The lumber department decided to try to answer most of the frequent questions with a visual display of the various types of species of wood that we keep in stock.

We have created a display of over 26 species of lumber. Each wooden panel shows the wood in a plain state and with different finishes. Also, listed on the panel is the relative hardness of the wood using the Janka scale.

The softer wood like basswood has a low numerical value of 410 , while hard wood like bloodwood has a value of 2900 on the Janka scale.

I would like to acknowledge the ladies of the sisterhood for helping us in this project. All the laser work and finishing was performed by Valerie Pfundstein and Jill Bulmash.

The following is a photograph of the display at the Brownwood location.

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Toys

Conway Williams, Manager

Since our last report the Elves and Painters continue their hard work to meet our clients' needs. We have now seen the departure of our seasonal residents. The relocation of the

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Lasers and the CNC Machine in Rolling Acres. We also gained some much needed working space in the Toy Area from the relocation of the Library computer and printer to the front office, elimination of the of books and magazines from the library allowed for our work in process and the storage of the Urn Materials and Pre made saleable items to be moved into library, all of which created much needed equipment space on the shop floor.

On the production side we have made 5,053 Toys through the end of May.

We continue to work with Woodworking Technology on issues with Rolling Acres CNC. They have now corrected the issues that had created assembly issues for us, plus the refined process is running at much higher speeds now!

The Rolling Acres Epilog Laser is working now, but we are seeing about a 30% reduction in the cutting speeds we were seeing in March. We also continue to have difficulty getting good quality plywood at reasonable prices. We are anxious to see if the new Glowforge Laser at Rolling Acres will help us with some of our puzzle production. Mike Kwiatkowski has converted all of our current puzzles to be able to run on the Glowforge.

On the shipping side we have made shipments totaling 2,969 toys with a donation value of \$ 16,965 at the end of May. We are on target to have total shipments containing 3,760 toys with a donation value of \$26,379 by the end of June.

Our Toys on the Square Project stopped after another successful session at Brownwood on May 4th , before our summer shutdown (June, July and August). Please come out and continue to support the Toy Team when we return to Brownwood in September.

The Toy Team is looking members who are interested in getting involved in our Toy Project to:

Mentor new Elves as they learn to safely make toys.
Participate in the Toys on the Square Project.
Participate in the Lumber program with Ro-mac Lumber and Supply.
Become involved in the planning and running of the Toy Department.

if you are interested in HELPING to build the next generation of this important project, please contact Conway Williams at cswillijr@cvn.net or leave a message on my cell phone at 717-319-6952.

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John Herega

Turners

The turners group meetings are suspended for June, July and August. The next turners meeting will be held on September 19, 2023 at Brownwood in the meeting room.

No other report this month.

APPAREL

VWC apparel, (shirts and caps) are available at Custom Apparel 3451 Wedgewood Lane, Buffalo Ridge Plaza, Rt. 466.



Steve Eikenberry

Safety

We are always looking for interested members who wish to help keep out shops safe. You do not need a background in safety...we will train you. Safety members work 4-hour shifts, and can attain exemption from monitor duty if enough shifts are worked. Interested? Contact Steve Eikenberry at 260.437.9560 (voice or text) or John Herega [732.546.6946](tel:732.546.6946) (voice or text).

We meet monthly on the second Monday of each month at 1 PM in the Brownwood classroom. Please join us!

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Carvers

Bill McGinnis

We have many people exploring carving in the last 18 months. Every couple of weeks there is a new one trying. Quite a few are becoming regulars and are showing talents they did not know they had.

Learning to carve takes time and learning how to change a chunk of basswood into something that resembles an object others recognize. After a while frustration turns into fun. You can make items for grandchildren, spouse, friends or yourself. Like any other woodworking, a finished project is not as easy as running a board through a saw and pounding a nail.

To begin you learn how to use a knife safely and how to keep it sharp, visualize the object, cut off big chunks and then little pieces. The fine tuning is when you feel good about your project. It takes time to tackle big objects but in the end you have a hobby that can be used for the rest of your life.

A number of our carvers are still carving strong well into their 80's and 90's.

Come see us to learn more about what you are missing.

During the off season we have six to twelve at Brownwood and five to seven at Rolling Acres each day.

To start, sign up for a Carving class, C-051, and come and try your hand at making a comfort bird. One day is all it takes. We have a starter kit and \$15.00 is all it will cost. Following that we have a number of easy things to carve.

During the off-season Steve, Dominic and Bill are at Rolling Acres. Bill is at Brownwood until Dennis and Ron join him beginning in September,

You do not have to be creative- just have a desire to learn new ways of Wood-working.

C O M E . S E E . U S .

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Dick Besler

Certification & Monitor Training

Any questions contact Dick Besler 352-751-4745



Alvin Corenblum



Scott Herlick

Urn Project

Nothing new to report this month.

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Vice President

Bill Pappas

Pen Making

Watch the email notices for the next pen making events. Thank you, all those members, for turning at meetings and at home.

Looking for donations of spare pen parts for any style of pen are welcome.



Shop

Administration/Maintenance

Brad Primeau

Dave Adamovich

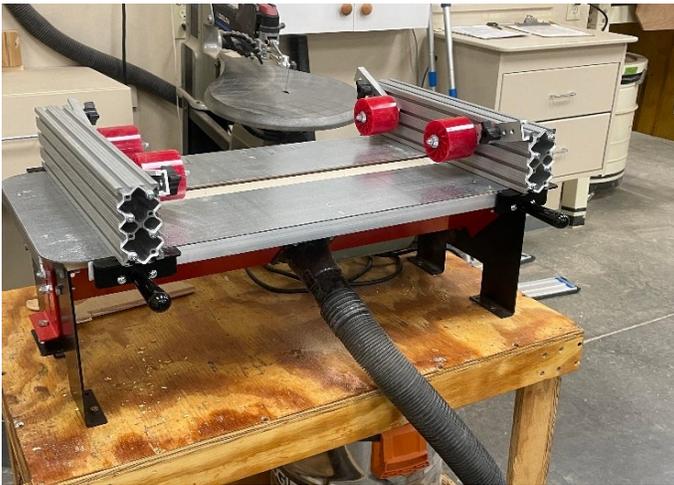
LAZY DAYS OF SUMMER – WELL, SOME OF THE TIME

Both shops continue to be utilized (hate that word) by members who haven't left the area for cooler conditions. There is an attendance difference but the continued growth of the Villages in southern area has lessened the impact of having fewer members during the hot summer months. The absence of Blue and Yellow volunteers has been noticed and some who stay have volunteered to help fill the voids that have occurred because there a fewer people to meet Blue and Yellow shift requirements. Those individuals filling in are thanked for doing so and I know Glenn and Brad are GRATEFUL for your their dedication. GO BLUES AND YELLOWS!!!

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NEW STUFF

By the time you read this the NEW osculating spindle sander will have arrived and installed at Brownwood. Members have asked when the old one will be fixed? Well, getting parts is the BIG problem and manufacturers cannot even guarantee if and when parts will be shipped. The cost of parts has also increased. The total cost of the repair parts and questionable delivery time justified purchasing a replacement machine. Replacement time took longer because anything costing more than \$1000 must be approved by the VWC Board.



The Rolling Acres maintenance team has assembled and installed a new Flat Master surface sander. Members using the Brownwood shop use the same machine and it has proven very useful. The sander has lightened the load on the 18-inch belt sander especially when repetitive sanding is needed by those who are making thin strips and smoothing cutting boards.

Bob Behrens completed modernizing the Rolling Acres front office reception desk and matching storage cabinets. The front office was built about the time the club started and hundreds maybe thousands of actions, closing cabinet doors and opening drawers and banging staple guns on the desk tops has taken its toll. Updates for computers, administrative changes and front office staff user requirements were incorporated in the new design Bob created. Overall it looks similar to the old office but, it's the details that count that makes the new office 'more better'. Bob used new materials but also

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repurposed as much of the old office he could. Thanks to Bob and Kathy Villani for making it happen.

REMINDER

If you've lost or left something behind in either shop check the lost found to see if it's there. Likewise if you find an unclaimed item put it in the lost and found so the person who lost it can get it back. Rolling Acres lost and found is located in the break room corner shelving under the TV in a blue plastic container. Brownwood lost and found is located behind the front desk in the lower wall cabinet marked 'lost and found'.



Voytek Kulesza

Special Projects

No Additional information at this time.

We are looking for a skilled individual that would be willing to help building Therapy Slant Wedges. Please step forward and see Voytek in Special Projects shop if you would like to volunteer.

Thanks for your support

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Lowell Sundermann

Woodworking Technology

It is the summer months so a number of activities are taking a well-deserved break. However our Glowforge instructor, Barb Matson, is still running full speed. Check into her summer classes.

What is a Glowforge? Check it out: www.glowforge.com. If you use a Cricut you should enjoy the Glowforge.



President

John K. Scott

June 2023 Report to the Membership

I am happy to report that the Club is doing well. The budget for this year is doing quite well thanks to the increases in revenue from lumber sales, education classes, and donations. We haven't reached our planned membership level of 1700 for this year, but we are very close. At the June membership meeting we were just over 1600 members and somewhere around 25 a month are joining. So all is well.

We are beginning the budget preparation process for next year. The BOD is planning to meet August 17th to go over and approve the budget. One item that we know will increase for next year is our share of the utility cost at Brownwood which will go from

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45% to 60%, this equates to about a \$600 monthly increase for next year. The only other expense increase that I am expecting is inflation for supplies etc. Our purchasing folks are doing a great job of shopping around and finding good deals. For instance, our maintenance folks when buying parts have found that instead of buying just the part needed they purchase 3 or these parts. The price reduction per part decreases to what we paid before inflation became a problem and we have spares on hand of the most needed items. Yes our cost is a little high initially but in the long run this works very well. I am planning on doing a detailed budget report to the membership at the Sept meeting.

I just sent out a letter to the membership earlier this month concerning projects for non-members/organizations. Please remember we are a tax-exempt organization and as such the shop and its members cannot personally profit from working in the shop etc. We must adhere to these rules or we will lose the tax-exempt status. If you have any questions concerning projects you're working on etc. please contact Bill Pappas, our vice president, or myself for clarification.

Lastly, I want to make a request to all of you to consider stepping up and taking on more responsibility in the club. We have a number of people that already put forth a lot of their free time to keep the club running and we thank them for their support and dedication. We are a completely volunteer organization and are always looking to add to the various teams that make the club successful. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact myself or Bill Pappas.

July and August membership meetings are cancelled.

Thanks

John Scott
President, The Villages Woodworkers Club