



*The Villages Woodworkers Club
704 Oak Street
The Villages, Florida 32159
352-751-0513
February 19, 2024*

Report Contents

With this issue of the Quarterly Department Reports, we have added an interactive Table of Contents, shown below. You can select, click on, any of the department names and be shown the report as presented by that department manager.

HELP Wanted:

- Videographer to manage the video recording of demonstrations presented during the Turns Group meetings.
- Photographer to take pictures of the show and tell during the Turners Group Meeting and our Monthly Membership Meetings, as well as ad-hoc shots of members working on their projects. These pictures will be presented to members on our website.

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Stained Glass



Stained Glass

Our Stained Glass classes are in full swing!

You can find Karin Williams (Mgr/Lead Instructor) and Pete Klein (Assistant Instructor) at Brownwood on Monday mornings from 9 – 11 a.m.

Gary Wright (Assistant Mgr/Lead Instructor) and Ed Eich (Assistant Instructor) are at Rolling Acres on Friday mornings from 9 – 11 a.m.

We've had a lot of beautiful projects created in December and January!!

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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

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We have started a process to upgrade our email service in an effort to provide a more reliable delivery of emails generated from our website. You will notice that the "From" address on education and training class reminders now show VWC Woodshop. These emails are generated from our account with Microsoft Azure. In the next stage we will be upgrading this email service of other emails generated from the website; but not yet the mass mailing. The conversion of the mass mailings is scheduled for implementation within the next 6 weeks.

We continue to support multiple organizations, including Office Administration, Education and the general membership with applications specific to the website. Currently, members have access to the following support applications on the website which are refreshed with current information from the Front Desk database with an overnight update routine.

- Member Education and Monitor Schedule information
- Education Reports, including open classes
- VWC calendar that includes all courses, as well as other specific events

We attempt to maintain current information regarding club operations and activities; but could always use more help in staying current.

Members are encouraged to explore the website and become familiar with the over 700 pages of information and videos.

As always, we are looking for new features – so if you have suggestions, please forward it to woodshop@thevwc.org.

Administration – Front Office



Kathy Villani, Manager

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The last quarter of 2023 was quite busy at the front desk as we accepted 2024 dues from members and assigned their 2024 monitor shifts. Thus far, 1554 member have renewed their membership for 2024, about 100 fewer than had paid dues for 2023. The cut-off date for paying 2024 dues was extended by the Board of Directors until February 17, 2024, due to the unexpected 2-week closing of the Brownwood shop which occurred during the last week of January which was also the last week for dues to be paid. Members whose 2024 dues are not paid by 4 pm on February 17, 2024, will be removed from our membership roster.

Many thanks to the front desk staff who cleaned the front offices, admin offices, kitchens, carvers' room/studio, and classroom in the shops during January clean-up days – Dan Bernier, Cindy Bloecher, Patty Cooke, Loy Garcia, Nancy King, MaryAnn Main, Virg Murphy, Eddie Osgood, Bill Overholt, Susan Padgett, and Debi Roseen. If I've inadvertently left anyone off this list, I apologize.

We have 3 new staff members at the front desk – Beth Beaver, Susan Dunn, and Lori Suitor. You will see them primarily at the Brownwood shop where they are in the "on-the-job" training phase. Please welcome them and be patient as they learn our procedures and computer system so they can provide the assistance you have come to expect from the front desk staff.

For those members who were initially certified at Rolling Acres but did not attend any of the orientation sessions offered when Brownwood first opened, you have 4 more opportunities to get certified at Brownwood. On the second Tuesday of February, March, April and May, a 90-minute orientation session will be held at Brownwood. Attending this class will certify you for Brownwood which will enable you to enroll in classes offered at Brownwood. You may sign up for one of these orientation sessions at either front desk. The class number is S100 and it will be held on February 13, March 12, April 9, and May 14 from 9 am to 10:30 am at the Brownwood shop. The class is free. Brownwood orientations will not be offered again after May 14 so please take advantage of the last opportunities to get certified at Brownwood.

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If you are interested in working at the front desk, please send an email to Kathy Villani at kathleen.villani@gmail.com to let her know of your interest. We especially need staff members who can work at the Rolling Acres shop. Training classes will be scheduled when there are at least 3 members who are available for training.

Member Merchandise



Steve Eikenberry

We continue to stock turners gift item kits, disc sandpaper for inertia sanders, pen kits, CA glue, and lathe gouges for sale at prices generally lower than online. Another popular item is the Figure 8 velcro sandpaper holder that holds four different grades of sandpaper so you can easily sand your turning projects with using an inertia sander. Woodshop members can go to the VWC website and see our offerings online, complete with pictures of each item. Brownwood and Rolling Acres each stock slightly different items. Ask a merchandise sales person to see our inventory. You can identify a merchandise person by asking the front desk if one is in the shop when you are there.

Steve Eikenberry
Merchandise Manager

Mike Gilman
Asst Manager (Brownwood)

Safety Department



Steve Eikenberry

As we look to the New Year ahead, the Safety Department will be focusing on increased safety measures in our shops. Shop members come with a wide variety of woodworking experiences and habits. Our goal is for every member to enjoy their time in the shop, stay safe, and keep others around them safe.

As we go into 2024, our mantra is *ONE SHOP, TWO LOCATIONS*. You will see an increased presence of our Yellow Badge maintenance team at Rolling Acres similar to the team developed at Brownwood. At both shops Yellow Badge members will be helping members with shop use and monitoring shop safety. Table saws are one of the most used machines in our shop, and also one of the most dangerous to human injuries. Nearly every member who has any previous shop experience has owned a table saw and developed their own “ways of doing things.” Sometimes those historic ways we “always did it this way” aren’t the safest or compatible with established VWC methods. If you’re asked to change a method you’ve used outside our shop, please keep an open mind that our goal is to keep everyone as safe as possible. Below are VWC table saw guidelines we want every member to follow. If you have questions about any of these, please ask a safety team member for an explanation.

LET’S PREVENT TABLESAW ACCIDENTS

1. Blade Guard with anti kickback dogs and riving knife
 - a. Whenever possible, always keep the guard in place
 - b. There are very few operations that require removal of the guard

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2. Kickbacks: when a board gets pinched between the fence and the blade
 - a. At a minimum, always use a riving knife except for dado cuts
 - b. Whenever possible, use a guard with anti-kickback dogs
 - c. Never use the fence as a stop block
 - d. Always attach a board to the fence to create a stop block. This allows space for the cut off board to be free beside the blade and not get pinched, causing a kickback
3. Push sticks:
 - a. Only use ones that push down on lumber
 - b. Once a push stick is chewed or cut, throw it away
 - c. Only apply the push stick after the lumber is all the way on the saw table
 - d. Keep your push stick to the right of the fence where it's easy to grab
 - e. Only push between the blade and the rip fence
4. Feather boards:
 - a. Always use when ripping lumber
 - b. Never use your hand as a feather board
 - c. Never use a handheld stick as a feather board
5. Cutting lumber that is not jointed and planed straight
 - a. No rough sawn rough sawn lumber on table saws
 - b. Any rough sawn lumber too wide for the jointer should be cut on the band saw...not the table saw
 - c. No cupped, warped, twisted boards, period! Milled lumber only on tablesaw
 - d. Use band saw and radial arm saw for cutting rough sawn lumber
 - e. Only jointed and lumber on the table saw: one flat side and one jointed edge
6. Cutting Thin Strips
 - a. Two jigs available for cutting thin strips
 - b. Always use one of the jigs depending on the width of the strips being cut
 - c. Best Practice: use the bandsaw instead, and use thickness sander to fine tune dimensions.

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7. Cutting Freehand
 - a. Never do it...period!
 - b. Cutting freehand means not using a support for the lumber being cut
 - c. Ok to do on a bandsaw...never on a table saw
8. Blade tooth height
 - a. Just so the bottom gullet clears the wood is OK
 - b. Best practice: Just so the top of the blade is above the wood
 - c. Never have the blade high...there is no advantage and plenty of disadvantage
9. Standing in the correct position
 - a. Never stand directly behind the blade and the fence
 - b. Stand on the left side of the blade, using your right hand on the push stick. This promotes pushing wood into the fence.
10. Boards wider than they are long
 - a. Never rip boards wider than they are long...never rip the short side of a board
 - b. Use sled or miter gauge for boards wider than they are long
11. Using the fence as a stop block
 - a. Never use the fence alone as a stop block. This allows cut off wood to become pinched between the blade and the fence.
 - b. Always use a block of wood clamped on the fence as a stop block. This allows the cut off wood room to be free and not get pinched between the blade and the fence

Steve Eikenberry
Safety Department Manager

Education



Deb Larouere

Education is always busy but October to March are always the busiest months.

Here are the current highlights:

- Sign-ups in both September and January went well. **Special thanks to all volunteers and participants** who helped make the process faster.
- **Classes are frequently added** and appear on the [Open Classes](#) page online. Remember to click the refresh button for the 'freshest' news. Don't wait for the email!
- Put these on your class list next - **S091 and S095 from the Better Woodworking Series**, free and run often, are getting rave reviews both from beginners and more advanced woodworkers. This is the best way we have to get beginners off to a good start or to fill in any gaps that you might close to make your projects better, easier, faster. These are becoming common prerequisites to many other classes.
- **BW Orientation for 'RA only' members is going away.** Needed for Shop entry and all classes at Brownwood, **only 3 sessions are left** - 3/12, 4/9 and 5/14; 9-10:30. Most of the classes are at BW as that's where the Instructors are. Last warning and last chance! Check the email or letter you got for online sign-up directions.

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- **We always need qualified Instructors and Mentors** to help Members grow skills and students build their Basic Woodworking wall shelf projects. There is a student wait list at this time made worse by the BW Shop closure. If you can help, now would be a great time. If you've got an idea for a class that you'd like to teach, let's talk!
- The recent Shop closing has put the class schedule into disarray, but we have managed to work through most of those issues. All affected students have been contacted by their Instructors. If you still need more information, contact your Instructor.

Spread joy!
Debbie Larouere
Education@thevwc.net

Information Technology



Joe Gomez

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. At RA the new ra2 wireless is up and running and users of the Glowforge and laser machines report excellent result due to the mesh design of the system.

All machines at RA and BW now have the latest MS updates as well as antivirus software updates.

The IT team welcomes on New member Philip Lester who should be a great asset to the department..

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Thanks to the entire team!

Lumber



Hugh Pace, Manager

Hood distributors, where we get most of our wood no longer carries the 5x5 1/8-inch plywood for use in the lasers. Subsequently, we now have a supplier of the 8th inch 5x5 plywood. We will be getting an order in the very near future.

At this time we do not have a supplier of one quarter inch plywood that works in any of the lasers for cutting purposes. We are still working on that.

Toys



Conway Williams, Manager

Our Team of Elves and Painters worked hard to satisfy all our client needs for 2023. We were able to accomplish this by the Team working extra hours and bring in personal equipment to keep the work flow moving. The painters supported all these shifts and changes in the production schedule by working extra hours and taking work home.

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On the production side we able to make 9,342 toys for 2023.
Since 2001, when we made 142 toys, we have now made a total 124,860 toys.

On the shipping side we were able to make, 42 shipments totaling 9,323 toys with a donation value of \$ 76.696 for 2023.

Since 2013, when we first established a donation value for each toy, we have shipped toys with a donation value of \$685,268.

Our Toys on the Square Project has already started their 2024 Season.



MONTH	DATE 2024	DAY	LOCATION	REMARKS
January	3rd	Wednesday	LSL	
February	6th	Tuesday	SS	
March	5th	Tuesday	SS	
April	2nd	Tuesday	SS	

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May	9th	Thursday	BWD	OFF Jun, Jul, Aug
September	5th	Thursday	BWD	
October	3rd	Thursday	BWD	
November	6th	Wednesday	LSL	
December	4th	Wednesday	LSL	

Please come out and support the Toy Project when we are at these Market Nights.

Our recent attempts to get more members involved in the management and operation of the Toy Team are starting to bear fruit.

In addition to his current woodworking and laser operating responsibilities Mike Kwiatkowski has taken over the Donated Lumber Program with Ro-mac.

In addition to his current woodworking responsibilities Paul Carmignani is taking over responsibility of doing all the Excell spreadsheets that drive the production planning and reporting process and the client shipping and donation reporting process.

Dan Pallo has rejoined the Toy team bring back his woodworking skills and ability to mentor to the shop floor.

Dick Steele will be returning from family leave in February and will add his woodworking skills and ability to mentor to the shop floor.

Philip Lester will be joining the Toy Team in February take over the transportation of our Toys on the Square Booth.

We are still looking for additional member involvement to ensure the future success of this important Program.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Conway Willams at cswilljr@cvn.net

Turners



John Herega

The turners group will meet on **Tuesday March 12 at 7:00 PM** sharp in the Brownwood meeting room.

The turners group is in need of help to resume live demonstrations as well as live streaming demonstrations, physical set up as well as computer/IT help.

We also need video help and a photographer to photo document the turners group and on a larger scale all of the activities of the Villages Woodworkers Club.

APPAREL

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

Carvers



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Bill McGinnis

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

Learning to carve takes time of 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. Then 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 the rest of your life. A number of our carvers are still carving in their 80's and 90's.

The new carvers has picked up in the last four months. Brownwood is where the new carvers are showing up. We need more carvers at Rolling Acres.

Al Ness, Rick Gentry, and Barry McCellend have agreed to teach beginning carving.

Come and see how you could join and learn a new skill.

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

Certification & Monitor Training



Dick Besler

Any questions contact Dick Besler 352-751-4745

Urn Project



Alvin Corenblum



Scott Herlick

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

WHAT'S THE SKINNY MINNIE?

Reorg, reorg., what is going on? The Maintenance Department is changing. The challenge of trying to provide maintenance support for two shops, organize Blue and Yellow volunteers, keep supplies coming and equipment running mandated a change of how the department was organized and

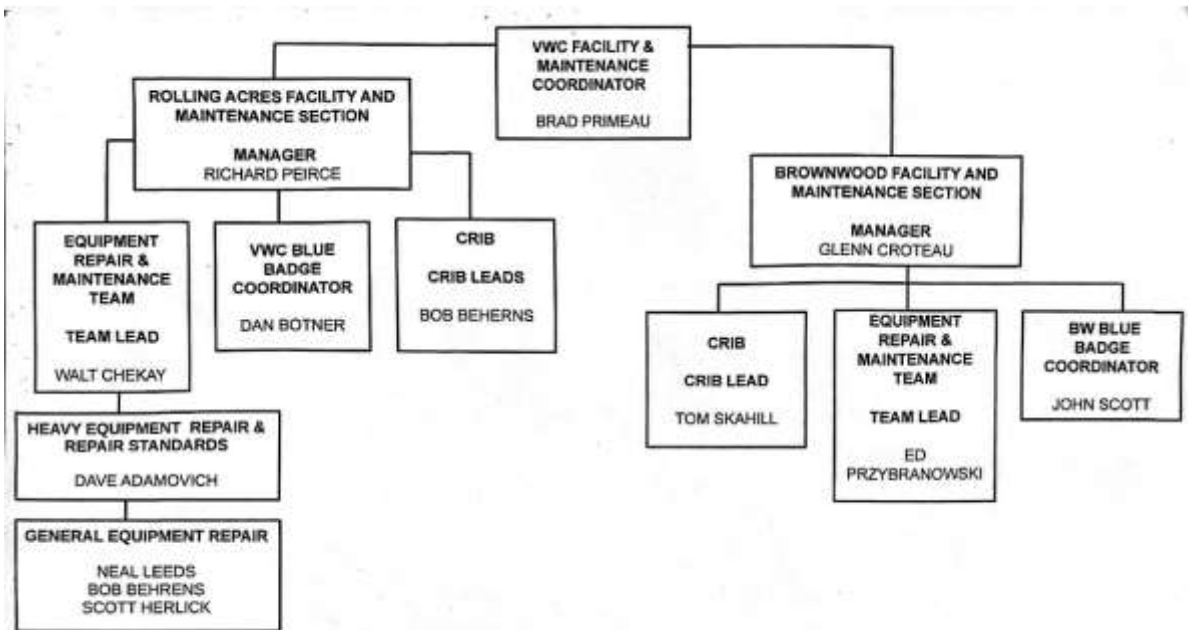
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conducted its business. Supporting two facilities requires standardizing how work is performed and organized. The least efficient approach would be to have each maintenance shop work independently but each one would still require its own budgeting, parts ordering, scheduling and record keeping and maintaining repair histories etc.

More importantly, there are only so many volunteers. The club has many functions that need volunteers but the maintenance department needs someone with mechanical ability and willingness to, as they say, 'do the time'. There are only so many that have these characteristics and who want to volunteer. Standardizing the department's functions, procedures, duties and business activities maximizes the productivity and ability of those who volunteer to 'getter done'.

The organizational chart displays how the department is going to be structured starting March 1st. You will notice Rolling Acres (RA) is broken out functionally in greater detail. That's because the Club is fortunate enough to have more individuals with in-depth experience at RA to lead these areas. As Brownwood operations continue to mature and volunteer staff increases, the same RA breakout will be establish there. Bottom line, it's a work in progress BUT the club is lucky to have the individuals designated in the org chart that want to take on the task and challenge. They stood up and said "I'll give it a try" so help them and the Club to be even more successful in the future!

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BROWNWOOD MWH SIGHTING!!!

No it wasn't a white balloon drifting over the building. It was a sighting of a **Member Who Helped** without be asked sighting! Details are: the assembly room floor was covered with fine sawdust (as usual) and someone with a wet rag dripped water all over the floor. Other individuals walked throughout the drips creating footprints on most of the floor in front of the finishing room and halfway up the center isle creating a large mess. The MWH was captured in a photographed and identified. Gary Deutsch was caught mopping the assembly room and cleaning the mop! If other sightings occur they will be posted in future department reports.



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WHAT THE @#*&!

The orange towel in the picture was sucked up the vacuum collection hopper behind the flapper/inflatable drum sander by the sanding downdraft table. How can that happen without someone noticing it or REPORTING what happened to a Monitor or a maintenance person? YCFS!



YOU CAN'T HAVE ENOUGH CLAMPS

The picture says it all! There are videos manufactures have on their web sight Bessey for example, explaining clamping pressure, pounds of pressure a clamp applies and others showing how clamping cauls can be used to eliminate using a large number of clamps. Woodworking is a craft and developing skill and knowledge about it is part of mastering the craft. It's not just cutting and gluing up a few boards and moving on to another project you've seen in a magazine. Learning and understanding the techniques you used and why you they are used is part of what woodworking is all about.



Special Projects



Voytek Kulesza

We have completed 31 projects in December and received donation of \$831.77

30 Slant Wedges was sold for \$600.00 and

55 Samba Card Holders for a donation of \$825.00

71 Large Samba Card Holders for \$1420.00

14 Domino Holders for \$140.00

Total donation for December closed at \$3678.77

Year to date: \$58692.88

Happy New Year to all club members.

We hope that the coming year will bring joy to all woodworkers and all Villagers.

Again, big thanks to members that work in all club departments volunteering their skills and many hours, making our club a place to spend free time and learn new things.

Woodworking Technology



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Lowell Sundermann

This issue is directed to ALL CNC OPERATORS/VCARVE PRO USERS:
Vectric Software has made a major change in using their free Vcarve Pro software starting with version 11.5.

The cost remains the same. Free use of the trial version “forever” and the cost of the Makerspace software remains the same. However, users need to register with the V&CO community. And use that membership to authorize use of the latest software version, via our Makerspace account. Confusing? Yes.

But we can explain and get your software up to date.

ATTEND THE NEXT USER GROUP MEETING, FEB. 21 STARTING AT 2:00PM. BW CONFERENCE ROOM.

You can go to this link and explore the details under Makerspace Users – under FAQ.

[Makerspace Support Page | Vectric](#)

I hope to have students for the E511 class on 2/15-17 upgraded by the start of the class.

We are also looking at going more paperless providing the majority of class material on a thumb drive or download from a google drive account. Resulting in a reduction in the cost of Class Supplies. Targeted for Fall 2024.

Thanks to all the team members as we move forward in 2024.

Lowell Sundermann, Manager
Woodworking Technology Dept.

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President



John K. Scott

To All Members:

Happy New Year to all Members;

Our Club's finances from last year look good and it appears this new year will be good as well. We based the budget on having a total of 1700 members and we came quite close to that. I am predicting 1800 plus members for this year as we are receiving about 20 or so new members each month. So figuring in the members who have passed away or left the club I believe 1800 will be a good number.

We are in the busy time of year and the workshops are and will be busy. Give yourself plenty of time in case you have to wait for a machine. If possible bring your golf cart to the shop so we can provide more parking spaces.

Unfortunately, our Club has experienced another incident of a member cutting his fingers while using a table saw. Safety has sent out a detailed report to all on what occurred and how to prevent this. I would like to emphasize the need for all of us to remain alert when using machinery in the shop. Rest breaks, snacks, and drinking plenty of water are important factors that help us stay alert and safe. Please use the shields etc. whenever you can. Also if it has been awhile since you have used the machine or made that particular cut don't be afraid to ask for advice. We are all here to help each other.

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Many thanks to Conway Williams who has been running our Toys for Children program for several years and is now stepping back a bit. We have made over 100K toys since we first started. Great job to Conway and all involved.

Our Pens for Troops folks have reached another great milestone of the 5000th pen. More info on an event celebrating this achievement will come soon.

I thank all of our membership for your participation and am looking forward to another great year.

Thanks

John Scott
President, The Villages Woodworkers Club