



*The Villages Woodworkers Club  
704 Oak Street  
The Villages, Florida 32159  
352-751-0513  
October 10, 2023*

## 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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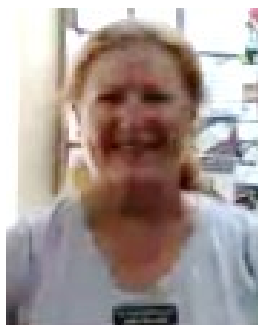
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## Stained Glass



**Ed Eich, Manager**



**Karin Williams, Assistant Mgr.**

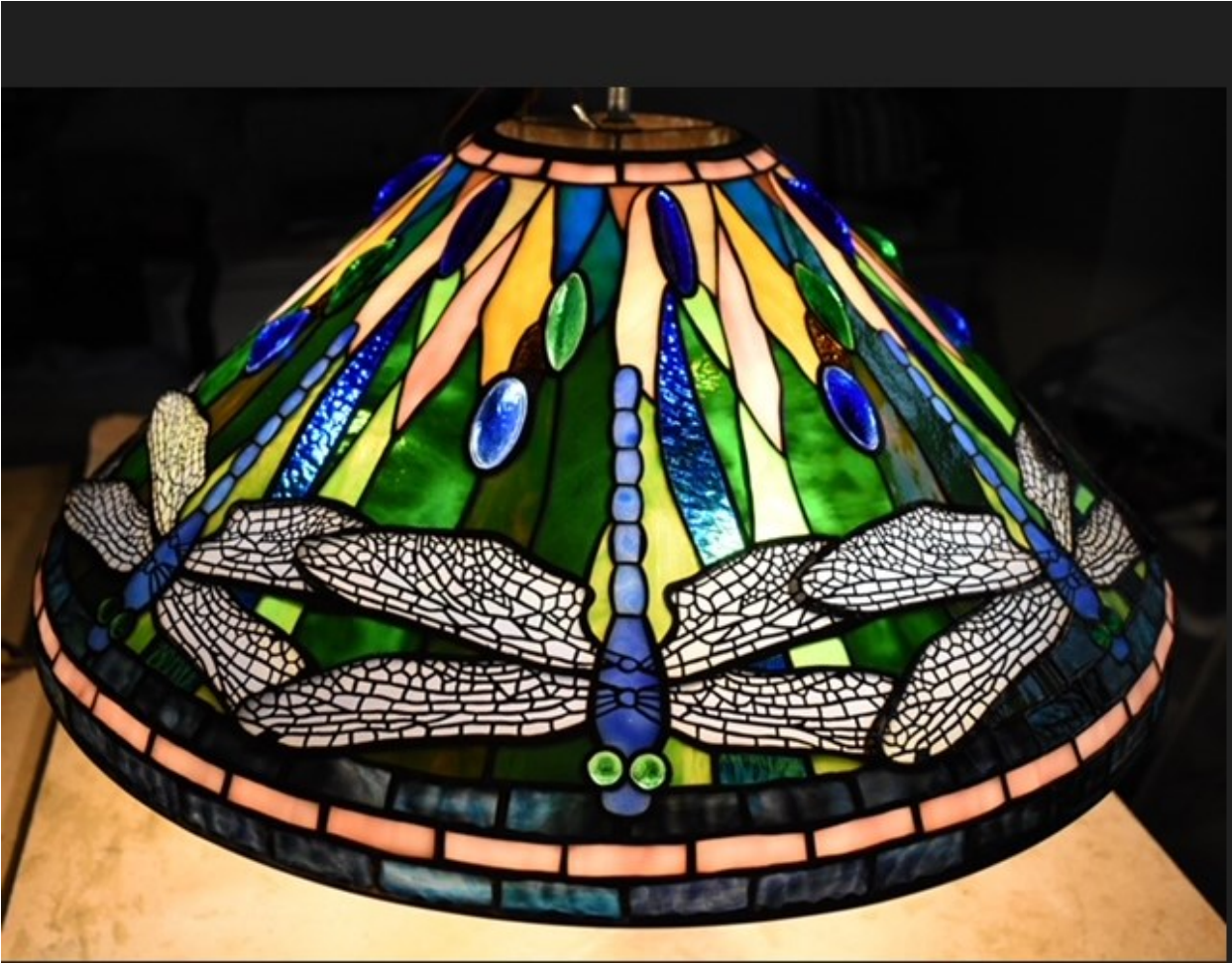
The Rolling Acres classes have resumed on Friday mornings from 9 – 11 a.m.

The Brownwood classes are on Monday mornings from 9 – 11 a.m.

Mike Dufano (Rolling Acres Assistant Instructor) has completed this beautiful dragonfly lampshade. Great work, Mike!

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## Department Reports for Third Quarter 2023

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New students at Brownwood - Holly Sutherland and Trina Warwick - have completed their first projects. Nice work! And they've already selected their next project.

It's always nice to see that you can complete a project like these while taking an introductory course – P901.

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**

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 3 months.

I want to reminder all members that the login for the website is the email address and Villages ID that you have registered with the Front Office. If your email address of Villages Id has changed, please notify the Front Desk and the website will be updated

## Department Reports for Third Quarter 2023

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within the 24 hours of your notification. The email address must be entered in lower-case letters.

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](mailto:woodshop@thevwc.org).

### Administration – Front Office



**Kathy Villani, Manager**

Time is just flying by! It's hard to believe but we will begin taking dues for 2024 on October 9. The dues for 2024 are \$90 – a bargain for access to 2 well-equipped shops. When you come to the shop to pay your dues, please BRING YOUR 2024 CALENDAR WITH YOU! You will need it to sign up for monitor duty. You don't want to schedule your shifts for a time when you won't be here and then have to swap your shifts to another time. That's a lot of work and it is each member's responsibility to swap a shift that they cannot work.

Speaking of monitor duty, the VWC does have a Monitor Policy. You can view it on our website ([www.thevwc.org](http://www.thevwc.org)) under "Our Club", "VWC By-Laws", "Monitor Policy". Please take a few minutes to read it so you understand what your responsibilities are as a club member. Every other club member depends on you to monitor when scheduled or, if you are on the Sub List, to come in to monitor when called to cover an open shift. Keep in mind that the shops cannot be open without monitors.

On October 16, we will begin selling tickets for the VWC Holiday party on December 9, 5 pm, at the Savannah Center. Tickets are \$35 per person. Each member may purchase 2 tickets and bring a guest with them. Please keep the receipt you are given when you pay for the party – that is your ticket. You may also sign up for a table when you purchase your tickets so that you are seated with friends. Instructions will be at the front desk at each shop.

Members who wish to donate items to the holiday raffle may bring them to the front desk at either shop. Ron Badami is once again coordinating the



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raffle (thank you, Ron!) and he will arrange to have donated items displayed at the shops for members and non-members to bid on. Raffle tickets will be sold at each front desk beginning on October 16. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 12 for \$10. Please be sure to write your name and phone number on the back of each ticket before you place it in the box in front of the item(s) you hope to win.

Any member wishing to donate Christmas tree ornaments for our Special Olympics Christmas tree display at the Waterfront Inn should bring them to the shop between now and November 17. Please see the membership email sent out on October 3 for details. Thank you, Dan Starling, for coordinating this wonderful project.

## 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

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Merchandise Manager

Mike Gilman  
Asst Manager (Brownwood)

## Education



**Deb Larouere**

We've been busy! More than 270 students have signed up for over 60 courses in the first few weeks of this Fall term. Many of you were at the Shops in the first few hours of sign-ups, but the rush only lasted an hour. Thanks go to both the volunteers who expedited the process and to all of you who came prepared and ready. Reading those emails really paid off for you!

We hope that you got into your first choice of class. If you didn't, keep checking the Open Classes page online as that's where the new class openings show up first. (We added about 20 spots today.) A few more Instructors would help us to add additional classes and give our regulars a break. And if you've taken a class and could be an assistant or helper, let the Instructor know. You might make the difference in adding a few extra spots.

Mentors, coaches and Instructors are also needed for short term projects too. If you have a few hours and a heart to help a new friend, we can connect you to a very appreciative member. Maybe it's also your chance to honor someone who helped you to learn too.

We'll be looking for you at Show & Tell!

Debbie Larouere  
[education@thevwc.net](mailto:education@thevwc.net)



# Information Technology



**Joe Gomez**

In addition to 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 continue working on improving and updating the member photographs.

A new Windows 11 computer was purchased to support Merchandise and was installed at RA.

Further work at RA included replacing an old network switch and most notably the installation of a mesh wifi network at Rolling Acres. This modification improved wireless access about 400% over the older wifi.

At the request of Brain Landis, I have assumed the role of IT manager and continue to work with the team to improve and upgrade the network at both Rolling Acres and Brownwood. Our next goal is to further enhance network security at both locations

Thanks to the entire team!

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### Lumber



**Stephen Yovan, Manager**

Great news from the lumber department. We have seen a significant reduction in cost on a number of the most common wood species. The price of some lumber has been reduced 40 to 50% per board foot in the last few months. For example the cost of Poplar is \$3.16, Cherry \$3.36, Hard Maple \$3.44, and Soft Maple \$3.40.

In your wildest dreams, did you ever think that the price of prime Cherry lumber would be only 20 cents higher per board foot than Poplar?

Thanks to Tony Torra's efforts, we will also be receiving several hundred board feet of natural edge cypress slab cuts in the near future at a very, very reasonable price.

Stop by the lumber department at either the Rolling Acres or Brownwood locations to take advantage of these prices for your next project.

Stephan Yovan  
Lumber Department Manager

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### Toys



**Conway Williams, Manager**

#### **The Toy Team is looking members who are interested in participating 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.
- Participate in the planning and running of the Toy Department.

if you are interested in Participating in the building of next generation of this important project, please contact Conway Williams at [cswillijr@cvn.net](mailto:cswillijr@cvn.net) or leave a message on my cell phone at 717-319-6952.

The Elves and Painters continue to work hard at satisfying our client needs for this year.

On the production side we have made 6,337 toys through the end of August. So far in September we have added another 520 toys, despite a number of equipment issues including the loss of our main compressor at RA.

Woodworking Technology has resolved the issues with the RA Epilog Laser and the CNC.

On the shipping side we have made shipments totaling 4,679 toys with a donation value of \$ 31,851 at the end of August. We have already made four additional shipments in September containing 515 toys with a donation value of \$5,902. We are working on another four shipments for this month.

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Our Toys on the Square Project is back from our summer shutdown (June, July and August). Our first outing of the fall season was on Thursday September 7th. Our schedule for the balance year is:

October	5th	Thursday	BWD
November	9th	Thursday	BWD
December	6th	Wednesday	LSL

Please come out and support the Toy Team



In addition, we have been approved by the Villages Entertainment Department for the 2024 year at Market Nights at the three main Squares;

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

We are also looking forward to giving a presentation about the Toy Department to the VWC Sisterhood at their meeting on October 12th at the Eisenhower Recreation Center.

## Turners



**John Herega**

The turners group will meet on **Tuesday October 17 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

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

### Carvers



**Bill McGinnis**

We are looking for additional experienced and new carvers in Rolling Acres and Brownwood. Come and see our facility and visit with us.

To begin you will learn how to use the knife and techniques that make it easier on your hands and body. Also, how to keep the knife sharp.

No tools are necessary. Loaners are available. Do not buy tools before the visit.

We have beginning projects to start your adventure.

Some of the classes can be found on the website under "classes available " Examples are

Softball carving by Steve

Gnome with a heart by Dennis

Egret by Ron

Comfort bird, cowboy boot, or Santa face by Bill

Wood burning by Bill

- A library is available with ideas of things to carve and instructions.
- Patterns of many things you may want to carve
- Rough-outs (partly carved items) available to purchase.
- Individual coaching when help is desired.



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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.

## Certification & Monitor Training



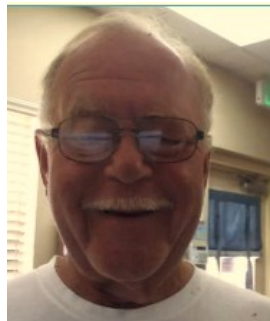
**Dick Besler**

Any questions contact Dick Besler 352-751-4745

## Urn Project



**Alvin Corenblum**



**Scott Herlick**

It has been a busy summer for the Urn Department. All of the 6 National Cemeteries that we supply with urns have returned to full operation. We have a full inventory at all of the sites (usually 10 urns) as of this writing. We have also supplied the MIA (Missing in America) Project with 50 urns for

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their needs. The MIA Project searches for completely forgotten cremains and have located over 5000 vets that “fell thru the cracks” nationwide.

The Sons of the American Legion have always been very supportive of the Urn Department and this year has been no exception. Not only have they donated hard cash for supplies but more importantly, they have agreed to deliver the urns to the various Cemeteries. Doug White is a member of both clubs and has done a great job coordinating those deliveries.

Tom Soeder, also a member of both clubs, has used his contacts at the Legion to promote the project to the general membership. The Legion has agreed to place brochures and promote our for-sale urns as a way to further fund the Urn Department. We are looking forward to a good number of sales from the Legion.

Finally, I would like to remind the membership that we have smaller pet sized urns for sale. Just check with the front desk for details. See our website at [Veterans Urns \(thevwc.org\)](http://thevwc.org) for additional information

## 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**

### **WE'RE GETTING OLDER OR AT LEAST SOME OF THE EQUIPMENT IS**

As many of you already know the RA compressor has been down for a couple of weeks. It's the second large compressor the shop has had since RA opened many years ago. A replacement compressor and air dryer has been approved by the Board of Directors (BOD). Air compressors are the 'life blood' of the dust collection systems in both shops and given the wear and tear they receive it's hard to believe they last as long as they do. Until the new compressor installation is completed RA classes requiring dust collection will use and be connected to one of the roll-around vacuum cleaners.

### **BROWNWOOD PLANER UNDERGOES MAJOR SURGERY**

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If you've been at Brownwood lately you may have seen the planer either shut down or torn apart. It's been challenging to say the least trying to calibrate the machine and diagnose why it goes out of calibration after its been supposedly calibrated. More recently, parts have been removed and new parts were bought and installed.



It all started several weeks ago when a thick piece of wood was either misread or inadvertently fed into the planer jamming the machine and causing the left side feed pressure spring to lock up fully compressed. It took a pry bar to gently loosen the spring tension. Since that time, hours have been spent in coordination with Grizzly trying to figure out why it won't stay in calibration.

Inspection of the gears that raise and lower the bed also revealed wear which may have been caused by the jamb or plain wear and tear the machine receives during hundreds if not thousands of thickness adjustments made over weeks and months. To minimize future problems the BOD approved the purchase of an additional 15 inch planer. It will not have the up and down drive motor to adjust the bed for different thicknesses. The machine will have manual adjustment capabilities. Once the new planer is put in operation the old one will be used for large projects such planing large slabs or many board feet of wood to build tables, cabinets or prepare blanks for turning classes.

### **IN WITH THE NEW OUT WITH THE OLD**

As mentioned earlier the BOD has approved several new pieces of equipment in addition to other equipment that did not require Board approval. So far this year your club dues have been used to purchase the following:

#### Rolling Acres

- Air and dust collection compressor and dryer
- Two Jessem router tables with digital readout speed adjustable routers

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- Wood leveling jig
- Reusable epoxy molds
- Lathe hollowing jig
- Leveling/flattening jig and router
- Flat Master Surface Sander
- Jet Model 1840 lathe

### Brownwood

- Grizzly oscillating spindle sander
- Flat Master Surface Sander
- Leveling/flattening jig and router
- Reusable epoxy molds

### **STORING PROJECTS IN THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS**

Members are reminded projects that are being actively worked on can be temporarily stored in the assembly room. The operative words are actively worked on. It doesn't mean working on it once a week or every other week. If the project is large such as a hutch or large cabinet, something members have to work around or it will require an entire assembly table for a period of time, authorization is required. Again, it also needs to be actively worked on.



Maintenance routinely inspects the project work slips that are required on projects. If it's filled out incorrectly, completion date past due etc., it will be marked in red. If the slip is not updated, does not mean the dates are merely changed, it will be pulled, held for a reasonable period and sold or put in the scrap box.

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Storing wood a member plans, hopes or knows they will use it sometime in the future is not permitted. Buying wood because the price is right or it's a good deal and storing it on the shelving in the assembly room is also not authorized.

Most members follow the rules but others who store scraps, cutoffs or tote bags of scrap materials are using space that other members could use. The picture shows nine incorrectly marked project storage slips that were pulled by maintenance. Some were claimed but others were never asked for and ended up in the scrap box or free pile.

Our returning Northern members will soon be with us so now is the perfect time take scraps and small projects home, check to see if project storage slips are completely filled out and keep the assembly areas looking neat and organized.

### **YOU CAN'T HAVE OR USE ENOUGH CLAMPS**

Sure, more clamps are better but what about thinking of ways to minimize the number of clamps? Using wood cauls across or down a project applies the same pressure and uses fewer clamps.



### **WE CAN'T BELIEVE IT HAPPENED OR YCFS**

Assembly table has been cut by a router bit being set to low. Protect the tables and examine your setup



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before you cut.



Someone backed over the stacked cones. It could have been someone's car or golf cart.



**UNTIL THE NEXT QUARTERLY MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT  
HAPPY WOODWORKING AND STAY SAFE AS YOU SEARCH FOR YOUR  
NEXT WOODWORKING MASTERPIECE!!**

## Special Projects



**Voytek Kulesza**

We have completed 36 projects in August and received donation of \$1440.52

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34 Slant Wedges was sold for \$680.00 and  
107 Samba Card Holders for a donation of \$1,770.00  
Also 1 exercise Rocker was sold for \$20.00  
Total donation for March closed at \$3910.52  
Year to date: \$39785.97

Thanks for your continuous support.

## Woodworking Technology



**Lowell Sundermann**

In early August we created and published a video explaining our decision to require members interested in laser technology to start by learning to use our Glowforge Pro laser machine.

We believe this to be in the best interest of the majority of our members. Instead of the cost and training required to run the Epilog Lasers, the Glowforge offers the capability for engraving and cutting names, logos, and images on personal projects and family gifts.

Glowforge offers a 30 day free trial of their Premium software giving new users a chance to understand the value of paying a monthly (or yearly) subscription for expanded design tools, free projects, and faster processing time. At the end of the 30 day trial, we believe new operators will be able to decide if they are satisfied with limiting their use to the Glowforge, if they want to subscribe to Premium status, pursue using Inkscape for designing and image editing, and/or pursue using CorelDraw and certification to use the Epilog lasers.

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Additional advance classes are being made available as well. To start this entire process I recommend you sign up for E611 [Glowforge Introduction](#) and go where your interests lead you.

Lowell Sundermann, Manager  
Woodworking Technology Dept.

To watch the introductory video:

Log into [www.thevwc.org](http://www.thevwc.org), click on Groups, Woodworking Technology, Glowforge Intro

## President



**John K. Scott**

President's September 2023 Report

To All Members:

As I am sure you all are aware that last month, September, brought us mechanical problems at both shops. RA was hit the hardest with the air compressor failing. The air compressor is needed to clean the dust collector system so as a result we curtailed 95% of the operations that produce sawdust. From placing the order for a new unit, getting it shipped to us then installed, it took almost 2 weeks. Now we are up and running with a brand-new compressor and air dryer. However, the RA planer motor failed right when we got the air compressor back into operation. The motor was brand new last January so is covered by warranty but required shipping

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back to the manufacturer for repairs. The spare planer we have is up and running just fine so all is well.

At our Brownwood location the large planer there has been having some issues and we tore it down to replace several parts. In the meantime, the backup planer there was put into use. The backup planer makes a lot of noise so we ran it outdoors and decided that we should get a better, quieter and more reliable planer and set it up so that most of the planning can be done on that unit and larger jobs can go to the large original planer when needed. All seems to be well at BW.

I guess we can say when it rains it pours. But at least this occurred in the slow season. Also, a big thanks goes to our maintenance people for the time and work they put in to get these situations fixed.

In other news the holiday season is approaching, and we are asking for donation projects for Festival of Trees, which supports the Sumter County Special Olympics, and our Club's Holiday Party raffle and auction. Donations can be left at both shops.

I thank all of our members for their donations and time they put in to make our Club a success.

Thanks  
John Scott, President  
The Villages Woodworkers Club