

Department Reports for December 2020



Ed Eich, Manager



Assistant Mgr.

Stained Glass

The Stained Glass group is growing, with several new members interested in learning this craft. We meet on Friday mornings in the Carver's room. We are working on sun-catchers, an Iris panel, and geometric leaded panels, as well as a few Christmas items.

We have a new project we will roll out in the new year –wooden bookend bases, with a selection of Stained Glass insets. It will be exciting to combine our glass efforts with learning to make a complementary wooden product!

If you haven't tried our stained glass courses yet, stop in and see what you are missing!



Hans Zassenhaus, Manager

Special Projects, Website

Special Projects:

We are always in need of VWC Members to assist in working on Special Projects, particularly when we open our new Brownwood shop in 2021. This will include a new Special Projects area.

Any member can select a Special Project from the **Green Binder** at the front Desk. Simply choose a project, ensure that you have entered your name on the sheet in the "Assigned To" space and then proceed to fulfill the requirements.

When you have finished the project, put a piece of purple tape on the project, store it in the Special Projects Area of the Shop AND notify the Front Desk that you have finished the project. Many projects will require less than one-hour to complete.

Currently we are NOT accepting new projects and are attempting to complete all projects that have been submitted.

We need more helpers to eliminate this backlog.

The following are statistics for the months of October and November, 2020:

Special Projects Accepted: 3

Special Projects completed: 5

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Total contributions to the VWC: \$ 316

Pre-Made Items sold this calendar year, managed by Bernie Harkins

Total Items over the year resulted in \$13, 832 contributions to the club.

During October & November, 2020 the following shows more detail:

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Exercise Slant Wedge | 47 |
| Hole in One Golf ball Holder | 1 |
| Samba Card Holders | 333 |
| Total Contributions: | \$ 3782 |

Thanks to all VWC members who contributed their time and talents in working on these Special Projects and Pre-Made items.

Website:

The website organization has been busy over the past few months.

- The website is your one source for the 2021 VWC Election information, see the Election Tab under Our Club
- The website contains over 130 pictures taken during the construction of the Brownwood Shop, as contributed by Rik Pierce. Just go to the website home page to view them.
- We are in the process of revamping and improving the website, under the direction of John Sullivan and Brian Landis. Note particularly the reorganization under *Education* and *Certification* where you will find several new tabs.

If you have an idea of how to improve the website please send your suggestions to woodshop@thevwc.org.



Administration – Front Office

Kathy Villani, Manager

We are still accepting 2021 dues which are to be paid by December 30. The shop is closed on December 31, so please be sure to pay your dues by December 30.

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The new front door intercom and door latch release are working well but it appears that it is difficult for members to hear when the door is unlocked. There is a buzzer available that will alert the member at the door that it is unlocked. It is on order and will be installed as soon as it arrives.

I know I sound like a broken record, but we are still in need of volunteers to work at the front desk. We need to be able to staff both shops full time and that means **we need at least another 10 members to volunteer**. Please contact me at 352-750-1095 or at kathleen.villani@gmail.com if you are interested in working at the front desk at either shop.



Member Merchandise

Steve Eikenberry

Sales have picked up with more members working in the shop and creating Christmas gifts. I have ordered more wine bottle stoppers which has been a popular item. I also ordered a new type of stopper designed to fit liquor bottles...so all you scotch, gin, and vodka members can now make a custom stopper for your favorite booze.

With the new shop opening on the horizon now, I want to remind members virtually all items stocked at Rolling Acres shop will also be stocked at the Brownwood shop. The exceptions are lathe gouges, and epoxy. If the need for epoxy arises at Brownwood, we will take another look at stocking it there also.

Any requests for items you members would like to see the shop stock, please feel free to talk to me soon. I'm always open to stocking items that will be utilized on some regular basis.



Mark Corner

Library

No news.



Education

Deb Larouere

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While the regular class schedule at the Woodshop has ground to a virtual halt, Education opportunities have not. While there will be no master class schedule coming in the next few months, there are lots of ways to add to your inspiration file, knowledge base or get in a little practice, even if it's just video. And, **if you've got skills, get a button.** Helping out less experienced Members helps us all to be safer and have more fun. (And if you're too busy or crabby that day? Just leave your 'Ask Me' button in your pocket! LOL!) We're still looking to provide additional Instructors, please, for members enrolled in the **P Zero Skill Builder classes.** Call me.

Members are encouraged to take a look at **VWC Website.** Login and grab your favorite Holiday beverage and cruise around the Member's pages. There are lots and lots of videos there. There are meeting demos under the Turners tab and more in the media gallery too. You can even review all of the Safety Certification videos if you've been away from the Shop for a while. **Pinterest** is loaded with a huge variety of links to ideas. And, yes, some are better than others! Other members may share their favorites with you and help you to evaluate internet inspirations. Ask!

Additionally, **Carvers and Stained glass are running** at the Shop. Just stop by and check them out – Monday and Wednesday mornings with the Carvers and Friday mornings for Stained Glass. See the Instructors at those times to sign up for rolling classes starting in mid-January. Adding either of these skills to your repertoire would enable to embellish your work and take it too the next level.

Other **new classes** will be added as Instructors get their details worked out. Ask them when you see them. Openings will be announced via the regular email process as in the past.

Make-ups are ongoing. Your Instructor should have contacted you. If you requested a **refund** instead, your Instructor has forwarded this to me and it's in process. Please be patient. Look for a confirmation email to arrive in the weeks after the Christmas holidays.

Wishing you and your families the very best of the Holiday Season.
Spread Joy!



IT (Information Technology)

Bill Pappas

Software Development efforts continue to take place for the systems we will need when we have a second wood shop location. Testing has started on the new environment using Microsoft Azure and SQL Server in the cloud so that the front desk applications can be accessed simultaneously from both locations.

The Rolling Acres front door intercom and electric door release have been installed, allowing front desk to open door from behind the counter and talk to person at door.

Internet and phone service has been ordered through Comcast Business and installed at Rolling Acres; Brownwood install has been scheduled for December 16. Moving to Comcast requires a change of email addresses, as of January 1,

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2021 the current @centurylink.net and @embarqmail.com domains will be deactivated. The new main email for the club is villageswoodshop@thevwc.net
Planning for IT requirements for the second shop continues, team will hold a planning session at new site on December 22.



Lumber

Stephen Yovan, Manager and Chairman of the Board

Lumber department species of the monthAfrican zebrawood

Characteristics..... Color: The sapwood is normally whitish in color, whereas the hardwood is a light golden yellow or pale brown, with narrow darker streaks or veins that range from dark brown to near black. These give the wood the zebra – stripe pattern from which it gets its name. The grain is typically interlocked or wavy, with a medium to coarse texture and a high luster. The interlock grain, which is alternatively hard and soft, can produce an attractive ribbon figure.

Properties.... Zebrawood is a hard, dense and heavy wood with high strength properties and very high stiffness. It is not suitable for steam bending. It works well with hand tools and most machining operations. Planing can be tricky, since interlocked grain can tear badly, so sanding is advised for a final finish. The wood routs, boars, moulds and mortises well and gluing is satisfactory if care is taken. Pre-boring is advised for nailing and screwing. If a clear filler is used, the wood can be brought to an excellent polished finish.

Durability..... The hardwood is not durable and is subject to insect attack; it is resistant to preservative treatment, but the sapwood is permeable.

Origin.... West Africa, particularly Cameroon, Congo and Gabon

Common uses.... The principal use of zebrawood is a decorative veneer, which is usually sliced from quarter sawn stock to minimize buckling. This is used in cabinet work as inlay, cross bandings, and paneling. The wood is also used for furniture, decorative turnery, sculpture brush backs, handles, boat building and decorative plywood.

Availability.... none in stock, it appears that zebrawood is not in “season”. When available it cost about \$10 a board foot and comes in variable widths 8 to 12 inches and 4/4 S3S

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Conway Williams, Manager

Toys

Since our last report on November 8th the Elves and Painters are still working from home while supporting our expanded schedule of M-W-F and Sat. They continued their hard work to produce a total of 843 toys for the month November. This gives us a year to date production of 8,088 toys at the end of November, which puts us 1,827 toys behind where we were at the end of November last year. Thus far in December we have produced 429 toys.

On the shipping side, in November we made five deliveries to clients which contained 499 toys bringing our year-to-date deliveries to 7,140 and a donation value of \$52,703. For December we have now identified three shipments to clients containing an additional 1,723 toys and having a donation value of an additional \$13,322.00. This will raise our anticipated at year end shipping performance to 8,823 toys with a donation value of \$66,025!

I want to continue to recognize the significant amount of time and effort that a team from the Woodworking Technology and the Toy Departments have spent on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of our Laser engraver. With all of the enhancements and refinements now in place and tested, the results are even more amazing than reported last month. The cutting speed improvement is consistently 2.3 times faster than our previous norm, and problems with rework have been reduced by 75%.

I want to thank all of the Elves and Painters of the TOY Team for their continued contributions to making this year a positive experience for our clients, the needy and disadvantaged children of the Tri-County area, in spite of the challenges of Covid-19. I would also like to recognize the Shop Administration, IT function, Maintenance function and Woodworking Technology function for all the support that they have given the Toy Team this year.

Looking ahead to a better next year, we have been asked by the Villages to participate in Toys on the Square for 2021, we have submitted a suggested calendar and are still awaiting to hear back from the Villages. Further we will also be participating in Hoedown Days, which has been rescheduled from January 2021 to May 2021. In February 2021 we will start to talk with our clients to layout our production strategy for 2021.

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Safety, Turners and Nomination Chair

John Herega, Manager of Safety and Turners

TURNERS GROUP

WHATS NEW?

OLD

Powermatic lathe #10 model # has been replaced with a Powermatic model #4224B. It is identical to the last Powermatic purchased.

The new lathe is installed and is ready to be used, **however, the internal Vacuum system is not operational as yet, the external vacuum pump system can be used until the internal system is online. Also, we are waiting for the arrival of two lamps that have not arrive with the lathe.**

Two of the three CBN grinding wheels have been damages slightly! They have been replaced during the shut-down, they should not have to be replaced within two years of use, or more. If you are not sure how to use these grinders, please seek assistance. Also, DO NOT use a piece of wood to slow or stop the wheels, let them stop without assistance, the outer edge of the wheels have a coating of CBN material, using wood to stop them clogs the CBN rendering it useless. The wheels are balanced causing them to “free wheel” and take some time to stop.

NEW

BROWNWOOD SHOP.

There will be three Jet, three Powermatic, one Robust “American Beauty” and four Jet midi lathes, one on a low stand for those who cannot stand for long periods. The lathe area will be located at the far right side of the shop along the back wall and will have a dedicated dust collection system.

APPARELL

VWC apparel, shirts and hats are available at Custom Apparel 3451 Wedgewood Lane, Buffalo Ridge Plaza, rt.466.

SAFETY

The safety committee meetings will resume January 2021 via ZOOM, time and date to be determined when John Herega is trained in the use of ZOOM meetings.

With the continued Covid concerns, all members are reminded to follow the Covid guidelines, specifically members are obliged to wear an appropriate mask with **both mouth and nose covered** at all times while in the shop.

We continue to certify new members, many are new to woodworking, please be vigilant and be ready and willing to aid the monitors in correcting any safety violations as well as offering assistance and instruction.

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We are looking for additional safety committee members especially those who will be transferring to the Brownwood shop anyone interested in joining this committee contact John Herega

FINISHING: PREPARING THE WOOD SURFACE

SCRAPERS:

The fastest, cleanest, safest and most enjoyable tool to use for removing tool marks and other defects in wood is the scraper. There are two kinds: the hand scraper, which you hold directly in your hand, and the cabinet scraper, which is held in a cast-iron body that has a flat sole and two handles. (There is also the common paint scraper; however, this tool has limited use in woodworking.) Both scrapers are misnamed because they don't scrape the wood at all but rather slice very thin shavings.

These scrapers fit a category of hand tools that almost totally disappeared from use in the United States as a result of our love affair with power machinery. Recently, scrapers have been returning favor. In the mid-seventies in Denmark every cabinet maker there had several hand scrapers in his tool kit. Hand scrapers can be used to remove cured runs and sags in finishes and to cut back and level a finish far faster than sandpaper can scratch the finish off. It doesn't gum up the way sandpaper does and is more economical. A scraper is to sandpaper what a word processor is to a typewriter

To use the hand scraper, hold it between the thumb and forefingers of both hands at an angle of about 50 to 70 degrees above the wood surface or until you feel the burr on the scraper edge catch. Then push it away from you or pull it toward you, cutting a ribbon like shaving as you go

CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

UNDERSTANDING ENGINEERS #3:

Normal people believe that if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

Engineers believe that if it ain't broke, it doesn't have enough features yet.



Carvers

Pete Bankowski

Nothing to report.

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Certification & Monitor Training

Dick Besler

Certification on Tuesdays and Thursdays has been successful in moving names off the waiting list faster than they have been going on.

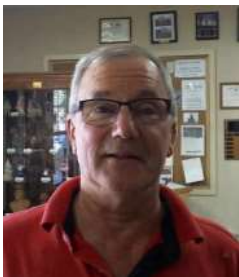


Urn Project

Alvin Corenblum

Scott Herlick

Waiting to be allowed in to launch the pet urns, waiting for the Cemeteries to reopen and waiting for the veterinary info.



Vice President

Rik Peirce

Building Design Committee

[Brownwood Building Design Committee](#)

Building is scheduled to be turned over to us for equipment installation on Dec 15th. New photos are on the website every week.

The exterior paving and landscaping work are being completed now. The dust collection system is nearing completion, startup has not begun yet.

[Procurement](#)

We have requested from the membership volunteers for receiving shipments and distributing those items to the various managers after logging them as received against the POs. Initial response has been overwhelming, more than 30 members expressed interest in helping. The final list will soon be contacted for training and orientation to the new job.

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The Brownwood budget is in good shape, all purchase orders have been issued for large equipment to take advantage of cost savings. Delivery of those items is set for after December 15th acceptance of the building.



Brad Primeau



Dave Adamovich

Shop Administration/Maintenance

MAINTENANCE SHOP ADMINISTRATION

The Brownwood workshop is no longer something in the future it is real and many in the department are working hard to bring the facility to life so members can enjoy what will be another great woodshop. By the time you read this paint supplies for plywood walls that will be used to mount cabinets, storage units, clamps, jigs, kraft paper for glue-ups and many other woodworking tools will be purchased; a rental lift truck and scissors platform for IT installation and mounting air filtration equipment are onsite; the parking lot is finished and marked, and landscaping is largely completed.

Your volunteer leads for bringing the new shop to life are David Adamovich and John Bellucci (Slick) are responsible for equipment placement and installation; Glenn Croteau shop signage, floor markings, painting and installation assistance; Bob Behrens handles cabinet and fixture builds and installs, John Herega lathe install and safety; Lowell Sundermann CNC installation and calibration and Steven Yovan assisting in lumber storage construction and assisting other installation efforts. As things progress, we have a list of individuals who have volunteered to help with the many things that need to be assembled, positioned, hung, filled with supplies and the other tasks that crop up without notice.

What's ahead? Well more of the same for the next month or two. It's not about the number of people working but about the quality of the work being done. I can assure you with what's been already been accomplished and will be done by our A&B prebuilt teams and those individuals leading the installation efforts we will have one hell of a shop when it is opened for members to use.



Woodworking Technology

Lowell Sundermann

Our shop is not only an audibly noisy environment but is also an electrically noisy environment. Large motors and high speed routers can produce spikes, harmonics and all sorts of noise on our electrical

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circuits. We believe the CNC has been a victim of this type of interference and has caused some unplanned stops of the spindle. Bob Thomas and Dave Makarewicz have recently rewired the limit switches to eliminate this problem. We will know better after we get some more run time on the machine.

At the time of this writing our new Maverick CNC for Brownwood is enroute to its new home. We will be busy over the next month or so bringing it online as required resources become available. If you are a new member or do not remember what sort of a machine we have purchased, I direct your attention to the following link: <https://lwmcnc.com/cnc-mills/maverick/> It is probably the most versatile machine in its price range.

I wish to close this last report of 2020 by recognizing the teammates that makes our department run. Paul Porter is the Assistant Manager. He is an active club member, teaches 3D carving on the CNC, and enjoys running both the CNC and the Laser. He and Bob Thomas will be the “gatekeepers” of the new CNC at Brownwood, which will include training specific to the Maverick. Bob Thomas is a rather new member to the club, but is now a full-time resident. He brings a wealth of knowledge from his career as a professor emeritus from Cornell University in electrical engineering/owner of two smaller CNCs. He will be involved in training on the Maverick and will be a backup for my E511 course. Dave Makarewicz is a critical member of the Maintenance Team due to his being a licensed electrician. That said, Dave has stepped up to teach the Review of Windows class, and the Laser Corel Draw class and Laser certification. I will continue to teach E511 and be primary on CNC certification. All members will be required to complete E511 and certification on the Rolling Acres CNC before certification on the Maverick. You will learn to fly the Piper Cub before the jet. More on this process later.

There are several members not officially on the team roster, but perform as if they were. Becky Carlson has been a great help in preparing and updating our checklists and other planned and emergency routines. Jill Bulmash stands ready to help anyone needing help with the Laser. Dennis Draskowski, a key player for Conway’s Laser work for the Toy Department, is also an eager and dependable resource for any Laser support.

I thank them all for their loyal involvement and support of our Department. I wish them, their families, and all members of the VWC a Merry Christmas and a joyful and promising new year.



President

Mike Borfitz

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2020 is coming to an end soon, but it's still providing challenges. The contractors are rushing to finish the Brownwood building, close their part of the project, and move on to their next job. Equipment has been ordered and deliveries have been scheduled with hope that the timing works out for all. Installation plans are in place as long as things go according to schedule. The urgent need for phone lines to be installed sooner rather than later has been swiftly met by the IT department. Committees are working on the steps to get programs established to introduce the new site to existing members and develop training that will certify members for both shops. Furniture is being procured or built. Club nominees for officer and director positions have been nominated in preparation for the January election and of course the means of electing the directors and officers will be new also! The check-off list goes on and on. Volunteers have been wonderful but managing it all is still a substantial chore. On top of this, illness and disease has touched members or their families which MUST and SHOULD take priority. And then, despite our great record, a member has just tested positive..... COVID touched the world at the beginning of the year and it seems to be ushering the year out.

Despite all the above, we have much for which to be thankful – high on the list, our very special members. May you all experience a blessed and happy Christmas season.

