

Department Reports During the COVID Closure



Stained Glass

Ed Eich, Manager Outgoing Assistant Mgr. Incoming Assistant Mgr.

Since I have stepped into Anne Bell's Front Office Manager "big shoes", this will be my last report for Stained Glass. I hope that all of the club members who have taken stained glass classes will continue on to improve their skills and take more classes when they are offered again. We also welcome and encourage more members to sign up for the classes which will be offered at both shops. I think you will find stained glass to be a satisfying artistic endeavor that can be combined with woodworking for a unique, creative project.

Going forward, Karin Williams will be taking over as Stained Glass Assistant Manager (Ed Eich will continue as Manager). I know Karin will do as fine a job as Assistant Manager as she has as an instructor. She is a talented stained glass artist and an organized administrator so the Stained Glass department will be in good hands.

Karin and Ed recently made a purchase of gently-used tools and equipment and of various types of glass to begin to outfit the new shop at a very good price. Thanks to both of them and to Gary Wright for their contributions to the art and management of stained glass at the VWC.

Come and join us to learn the art of stained glass – you'll be glad you did!



Special Projects, Website

Hans Zassenhaus, Manager

Special Projects:

We are always in need of VWC Members to assist in working on Special Projects. 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.

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Not much happening in Special Projects as the shop is closed. However, a few members are using this time to construct prototype urns for pets. This is a new pre-made item that will be offered in addition to urns for vets and urns for purchase, in the early 2021.

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

Website:

New Feature:

On our home page we are showing photographs of the construction progress on our new shop thanks to the efforts of Rik Pierce.

Logon Procedure:

Starting on March 15, all user name logins must be in all lower-case. User names are case sensitive.

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

As you may or may not know, our outstanding Front Office Manager, Anne Bell, stepped down from that position a couple of months ago. Anne has done a marvelous job for the VWC over the past 14 years and we all owe her debt of gratitude. Thank you, Anne, for the high standards you set, the knowledge you brought to the job, and your willingness to help solve problems and get the job done on time every time. Your leadership will be greatly missed and I'm sure I speak for everyone in the club that we appreciate all you have given to the VWC. Thank you, also, for the coaching and assistance you are providing as I try to step into those big shoes you left behind 😊

During the shop re-opening in June and early July, the Front Desk staff handled our new procedures to keep the shop safe with typical professionalism. Thanks to the entire staff for learning the new procedures so quickly and executing them to make sure that we kept the shop safe and clean for all of our members. Great job! We are all looking forward to having the shop open again.

We continue to work with the IT team as they re-write our computer application to run for both shops. Thanks to the entire IT team for their hard work and contributions to providing a computer system that makes our job at the front desk a lot easier.

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Unfortunately, we have lost a few of our Front Desk staff so we are in need of members to fill those vacancies. If you are interested in working at the front desk at either shop, please let me know. I'll arrange for you to sit with one of the staff for an hour so you can see what we actually do at the desk. After that, you will be scheduled for training and then will work with an experienced staff member for several shifts until you are comfortable working on your own. Typically, staff members work 2 or 3 4-hours shifts per month. Working at the front desk is a great way to learn a lot about the club and meet most of the club members as well as contribute to the betterment of the club so please give it some serious consideration. You can reach me on 352-430-1040 or email me at kathleen.villani@gmail.com.



Member Merchandise

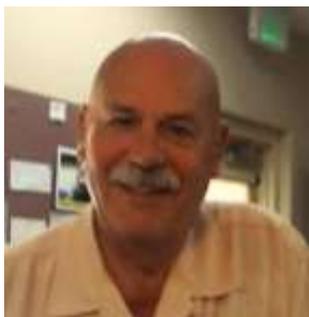
Steve Eikenberry

Merchandise sales have been mostly nonexistent since the Woodshop shut down in March. There were some brisk sales during the short opening period in June.

During the down time, instructors that use epoxy and I agreed to move general use epoxy under merchandise. This was done to better control product use. General use epoxy is sold at the rate of \$1.50 per pump. A couple pumps provide enough product to cast a bottle stopper blank, for example. Filling voids in turned bowls may only require one pump. Any woodshop member wishing to purchase general use epoxy may do so by seeking one of the merchandise sellers...whose names are posted on the shop entrance doors. Members may also ask the front desk of a merchandise seller is in the shop, and have them paged.

Plans are in place for merchandise cabinet space at the Brownwood shop. All merchandise a woodworker would need on short notice will be available at the Brownwood shop. Some items purchased infrequently will be kept only at the Rolling Acres shop. One infrequently purchased example would be lathe turning gouges. Assistant Merchandise Manager Mike Gilman will monitor merchandise at the Brownwood location.

Stay safe, everyone.



Library

Mark Corner

No report.

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Education

Deb Larouere

Greetings from the Education Department!

Hope that you are well and busy doing some good thing. This Spring, there were 71 class sessions that had to be canceled due to the closures. Twenty five of these were made up during the limited Shop opening in May. Instructors of the remaining **make-up classes** will contact their students with options when the time is right. With our backlog of make-up classes, limited number of volunteer Instructors and an unknown number of future open evening time slots, it was decided not to run a regular class schedule. After all, there is nothing regular about this year. When the shop returns to full swing and there are available Instructors and interested students, **classes may be added on an individual basis** throughout the Fall and Winter. Check your email. Any info will be there.

The Education classes have been on hiatus but the Education Department has not. We are working with other departments on both new and alternative instruction ideas and getting things ready for the new shop opening. Of course, we are always looking for skilled wood workers that have a few hours to mentor our new and less experienced wood workers. Let me know if you could be available to coach this Fall or Winter. This **intermittent, one-on-one mentoring** may become our new pattern. Check out the P-Zero Course Description.

There are many ways that you can **learn some new techniques or skills** during your down time. Randomly scrolling the Internet can be dangerous! However, <http://thevwc.org/> website has great videos, information and links to good sources. You might want to get a favorite beverage in one hand and your mouse in the other and check out some of the new things on the website. There is a constant effort at updating and improving the site for members. Have you seen the website lately? Login to see it all. Here are just a few great pages to check out.

Access info for these first 3 are on the [Home or Members' Lounge page](#) of our website

The Fine Woodworking Library

Refreshers for equipment – All of the Safety Certification how-to videos

Progress photos of the Brownwood Shop

[Our Shop page](#) has a huge treasure trove of information and videos about the Shop and the equipment – Including the Certification videos

[Carvers Page](#) under 'Groups' has links to equipment and ideas

[Turners' Page](#) under 'Groups' has some favorite videos from the meeting demonstrations

The [Media Gallery](#) has Member project photos and a collection of turning videos

The [Education](#) page has a large variety of videos and video links as well as past course descriptions.

This has been a tough time for many of us. I hope that you've taken time to refresh and renew too. Can't wait to trade stories with you! 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.

Some front desk applications like the financial module of the front desk will be replaced by commercial packages such as Quickbooks POS. To implement Quickbooks POS we could use a project manager to take the lead on this effort, if you know of someone please Contact Mike Borfitz, Rik Peirce or Bill Pappas.

Planning for IT requirements for the second shop continues!

The Share Point project has moved along, and we now have sites created for each department. Permissions testing is underway, sites will be loaded with information that managers provided to Cindy Verdick, she will email each manager with access instructions and next steps.

Shop PCs are still being updated even though the shop is closed to ensure they remain virus free (no pun intended!) during this COVID shutdown of the shop. Managers can access the files we moved to Microsoft OneDrive for their departments via Office.com from home with a browser and internet access. If you need help accessing them John Scott or John Sullivan will help.



Lumber

Stephen Yovan, Manager and Chairman of the Board

The lumber department has replenished the hardwoods, exotic woods and plywood supply in anticipation of the woodshop being opened in the near future.



Conway Williams, Manager

Toys

We made a significant dent in our backlog during the month of June. We produced 1,777 toys for the month, which reduced our production short fall to 1,700 toys when compared to last year.

However, July was a different story. We had produced only 74 toys before our second shutdown. The elves and painters resumed their work at home efforts and managed to produce a total of 687 toys for the month. This gives us a year to date production of only 4,880 toys which will put us 2,140 toys behind where we were at the end of July last year.

We will need to produce a minimum of 640 toys in August not to lose more ground to last years' performance.

On the shipping side, in June we made four deliveries to clients which contained 991 toys and had a donation value of \$ 5,083. In July before the shutdown, we made one delivery which contained 200 toys and had a donation value of \$2,317 bringing our year to date total deliveries to 2,600 toys and a donation value of only \$15,541.

We are continuing to talk with many of our clients, who like us, are facing significant uncertainty about what the rest of this year will bring. Most have indicated that they still wish to receive their toys in a similar volume as last year which will become a growing challenge for us.

We are currently actively working with 6 clients who should be able to take delivery over the next 30 days. These clients would take 1,525 toys with a donation value of an additional \$12,500. The good news is that the vast majority of these items are either in stock or in the final stages of paint or assembly at this point.



Safety and Turners

John Herega, Manager of Safety and Turners

WHATS NEW?



Low stand to accommodate those who cannot stand for long periods
Pull up a stool or chair!

APPARELL

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

SAFETY

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:

This series will resume when we resume meetings at Laurel Manor

UNDERSTANDING ENGINEERS:

An engineer was crossing a road one day, when a frog called out to him and said, “If you kiss me I’ll turn into a beautiful princess.

He bent over, picked up the frog, and put it in his pocket.

The frog spoke up again and said, “If you kiss me I’ll turn back into a beautiful princess and stay with you for one week.”

The engineer took the frog out of his pocket, looked at it and put it back into his pocket.

The frog then cried out, “If you kiss me and turn me back into a princess, I’ll stay with you for a week and do anything that you want.”

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Again the engineer took the frog out of his pocket, smiled at it and put it back into his pocket. Finally, the frog asked, “What’s the matter? I’ve told you I’m a beautiful princess and I’ll stay with you for one week and do anything you want. Why won’t you kiss me?” The engineer said, “Look, I’m an engineer. I don’t have time for a girlfriend, but talking to a frog, now that’s cool.”

SERIOUS REQUEST:

Although a great deal of this year has passed with our doors being closed, the time is coming when we need to identify those folks who are interested in running for a place on the Board of Directors or for an officer position. If you have any interest or suggestions please contact me (John Herega) at herega@hughes.net or 732-546-6946 or Steve Eikenberry (sdeikenberry@gmail.com or 260-437-9560) or Brad Primeau (bjprime@48@gmail.com or 301-775-8132). Remember we will need to elect four directors this year as we look to increase the representation on the Board of Directors with two sites up and running. Thank you for your consideration.



Carvers

Pete Bankowski

No report.



Certification & Monitor Training

Dick Besler

An abbreviated certification program for certifying new members who have a significant amount of woodworking experience is being explored to make some progress against the waiting list.

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Alvin Corenblum



Scott Herlick

Urn Project

During the “down time” time has been spent on creating prototypes for pet urns – something we thought might be popular in The Villages. Depending on the desires of the customer, an urn can be personalized up to and including a picture etched with the laser. Stay tuned for further information!



Rik Peirce

Vice President

New Building Construction Progress: The building is dried-in, the roof membrane is in place and most of the doors and windows are also installed (at least temporarily). The exterior of the building is in the process of painting now. Interior construction is proceeding with stud walls going in and the acoustic roof treatment in being installed in the woodshop areas. The interior side of the exterior walls has been painted with the prime coat of paint and the roof deck and bar joist has also been painted.

Purchasing for Brownwood: Several meetings have been held discussing the early purchase of equipment that can be negotiated with cost savings over the budgeted cost. Those items may be purchased now to save money but delivered after the first of 2021 when we can start installation and warranties will begin. The budget for all costs related to the startup of the shop before opening have been approved by the BOD and subject to the Treasurers approval when purchasing. A list of the budget items, and the cost accounts they will be tracked with has been prepared and distributed. A Purchase Request form has been prepared with instructions for its use was included with the PR form. Purchases of over \$500.00 will require the use of this form to be submitted to the Treasurer and the President for approval before the purchase can be completed. This is an Excel form and can be emailed to both approving parties concurrently. Once they approve the purchase they will transmit the forms to the Vice President, who will in turn notify the requesting person of the approval with instruction as to whether it is charged to the credit card or a check will be sent to the vendor.

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Brad Primeau



Dave Adamovich

Shop Administration/Maintenance

Maintenance Blue Badge Instruction Program. Richard Masterson sent out an e-mail to those who expressed interest in joining the Blue Badge Maintenance Team Instruction Program. The email listed several dates and each person was asked to select two. Richard will send out an email with instruction dates in the near future.

Brownwood Woodshop Equipment Installation. Dave Adamovich, Richard Peirce, John Bellucci and Brad Primeau met to review the latest information regarding shop construction, building specifications and equipment ordering and delivery. Information provided by each participant will be used as part of the maintenance plan for outfitting and insuring the new shop is ready and safe for the members.

Brownwood Woodshop Outfitting. Bob Behrens assisted by Bill Love and Paul Porter continue to build cabinetry for tools, mounting equipment and storing member merchandise and lumber in the new shop. Bob is also working to step-up the overall look and feel of what is being built for the new shop as well as the current facility. Although what's built may not appear in 'Fine Woodworking Magazine', it's a challenge to design something that not only looks good and functional but is also built at a reasonable cost.

VWS-Oak Street Facility Support. Wayne Coe, the shops Village Property Management facility contact, arranged for a follow-on United Refrigeration (UR) visit to determine if a return HVAC vent could be installed in the utility/IT room. The UR rep came by on August 7 and evaluated air flow in the room and calculated duct distances from main office feed and return vents. He will give his recommendations to Mr. Coe for evaluation. After the companies first visit, the room has been cooler.

Maintenance Team COVID Response. The maintenance team continues to try and follow COVID-19 safety procedures. Signing in-and- out – most of the time – continues to be followed so individuals can be notified if they have come in contact with someone who tests positive. Two UV sterilization wands have been procured by the maintenance shop. One will be given to the front office and the second will be a backup for the tool crib, front office and maintenance.



Woodworking Technology

Lowell Sundermann

For the last four months or so we have not been doing CNC work as we expected yet we have done CNC work. We have added features to the existing CNC to make it more compatible to our future Brownwood CNC. Such as adding both hard and soft limits - its purpose is to prevent us from driving the spindle into the X,Y, or Z frame. Part of that process requires implementing a referencing sequence on start-up. And we have added and activated a touch off puck to accurately zero Z. A stand alone dust collector has also been added. The checklist has grown from two pages to four. During her attempts at certification, Mary (Becky) Carlson shared with me that she, as a novice woodworker, was having trouble understanding the short instructions of the checklist. I saw her notes, concluded she not only could comprehend what was being taught, but could also do a good job at "publishing" her notes. Together, we now have a checklist that lists the required steps all operators must follow, but includes indented notes that add details to help someone uncertain of the instruction.

So there have been changes, I believe for the better, and I encourage all certified operators to come up to speed on these changes. Paul Porter or I will gladly demonstrate the changes with you one on one, or hopefully we can cover them when we can have a user group meeting.

On May 28th the Board of Directors approved the purchase of the Brownwood CNC. As requested, they approved the Legacy Maverick 3X5, three station, 5 axis CNC. Learn more about the machine at: <https://lwmcnc.com/cnc-mills/maverick/>. It offers not only traditional 3 axis milling/carving as we do today, but includes a 10"dia x 60" long turning center allowing us to turn and carve all types of spindles and true 3 dimensional objects. The third station is a vertical vise that allows us to do simple and complex mortise and tenons (like the pantorouter), and joinery (like the Leigh jigs) but all at the repeatability and accuracy of a CNC mill. This machine is a true learning investment for the club.

Paul Porter, Dave Makarewicz and I have had the privilege to run a Maverick, which is owned by a Legacy Associate in Winter Haven, FL. We hope to make several more trips before our machine arrives in mid to late December. Once again we have put Becky to work reviewing videos and converting them to written instructions and checklists.

I encourage all CNC users, current and future, to brush up on your skills. Review the PowerPoint from the E511 classes, review the Vcarve Pro classes offered by Legacy

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at: <https://lwmcnc.com/training/video-library/> - click on Vectric CAD/CAM Basics. And all the training at: <https://www.vectric.com/support/tutorials/vcarve-pro?> There is enough training material here to last at least one pandemic. Feel free to send me any project Vcarve Pro files you would like to have reviewed. Paul would be willing to do the same.)

Certification for running the Maverick will follow these general steps. 1.) Completion of E511 2.) Certification on the China 6040 3.) Successful completion of several projects on the China 6040 4.) Certification to run the 3 axis station of the Maverick 5.) Successful completion of several projects on the Maverick 6.) Certification on the Maverick turning center 7.) Assistance in using the vise. One of the instructors will want to be with you until you demonstrate your comfort level on all Maverick features.

Concerning the Laser. Our instructors have spent some time sharpening their skills to provide excellent training. The Laser maintenance program has been beefed up. The toy department has been permitted to run some puzzles and toys for their mission. I have not spoken with our Laser Wizard - Jill Bulmash, but the word on the street is she has spent time (remember she has her own machine at her home) expanding her wealth of knowledge, and has assisted the Urn project with some prototype work. Paul Porter, Dave Makarewicz, and Jill will welcome you back to help you with your Laser projects.

I consider the shop to be one of the safest COVID-19 environments and we should try to be ready to fire up the equipment once we get the green light.

Looking forward, not backward, to the rest of 2020 and 2021.



President

Mike Borfitz

As you will note, as the months have passed in this unique year of 2020 and the doors of the shop have been closed nearly as much as they've been open, progress has still been made in a number of areas and changes have occurred. We are "over-achievers" in our use of Zoom meetings and actually have probably had more communication as a management team than we have had in the past. The EOC (executive operating committee) which is a fancy name for a meeting of the officers and the department managers now meets twice a month for about two hours each time, rather than the hour we used to try to squeeze into the time prior to the general

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membership meetings. Given the Zoom application, we can all see each other AND we can more clearly hear each other! So, that's a plus that has come from this year's challenges!

In this year we have had some "retirements" and new appointments. As you will have noted in Kathy Villani's report, we reluctantly accepted Anne Bell's resignation. She is probably the best known lady in the shop and she has put in a life-time of effort on the club's behalf. We can't thank her enough for all she's done for us. Even in preparation for retirement she "did it right" by training her replacement for months ahead of time – so that as she passed her baton to Kathy Villani, hardly a ripple disturbed proceedings! Thank you, Anne Bell and welcome to Kathy as the new Office Manager!

At about the same time as Anne's resignation, Glenn Croteau decided he need a break from the Maintenance and Administration role. Glenn set up the Blue Badge team and made Maintenance an ever-present resource in the shop and an instructing group for helping members be safe. We are grateful for all his work. He too had people within the group who agreed to divvy up responsibilities, keep the good work going forward and train more members of that team to be able to actually repair and replace parts as needed. We are very lucky to have Brad Primeau assume the administration role with help from Richard Masterson in coordinating Blue Badge assignments and Dave Adamovich largely responsible for purchasing equipment and training others to maintain the equipment with him.

Lastly, lest we wear Kathy Villani out, she is stepping down from her Assistant Manager position in Glass and handing that role to Karin Williams. Welcome to the team, Karin.

Now for a WANT AD: As we move forward with both sites, we will need additional finance folks – if you have a background in this area, perhaps some accountant, purchasing or CPA experience and would like to devote time to "the best club in The Villages" please contact me at hborfitz@comcast.net, Doug Parks at Dougandkarenparks@gmail.com or Rik Peirce at rikvwc@outlook.com. Thanks for your consideration!

MASKS: Next – in this time of masks Patty Porter has contacted me with the following information. The lady listed below has made masks with a woodworking theme (see picture)



Marylou, sells a variety of masks, wood working, military, sports, etc., for \$5.00, and donates money to the Charter School. If interested in a "themed" mask please contact her at the following:

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Marylou Horanzy
Marylou's Sweat Shop!
3318 Richmond Drive
Village of Belle Aire
Cell: 508-717-2226

Future: Lastly, when will things be “back to normal”? Probably not for a long time! But we will pursue as best we can smart ways to get things back on track and keep safe. Thank you all for hanging in there!