

## Department Reports During the COVID Closure

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**Ed Eich, Manager**



**Assistant Mgr.**

### **Stained Glass**

The Stained Glass group has a small, but dedicated group of students attending the Friday morning sessions. We are working on sun-catchers and leaded panels and welcomed a new member this week. Ed Eich reviewed the basics of the Morton Cutting system and will present videos on angles in the weeks to come. Gary Wright has returned from the north, so our roster of instructors is now back to full strength.

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. 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 month of October 2020:

Special Projects Accepted:	2
Special Projects completed:	3
Total contributions to the VWC:	\$ 149

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

Total Items over the year resulted in \$11,948 contributions to the club.

During September 2020 the following shows more detail:

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Exercise Slant Wedge	19
Hole in One Golf ball Holder	1
Samba Card Holders	145
Total Contributions: \$ 1632	

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 now hosted within Microsoft Azure, using a special account Microsoft provides for charitable organizations, such as VWC. The address remains the same, i.e. <http://www.thevwc.org>.
- The website contains over 100 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](mailto:woodshop@thevwc.org).



## **Administration – Front Office**

### **Kathy Villani, Manager**

If you have been to the shop recently, you have no doubt noticed that things are very busy at the front desk. In October thru November 7, over 500 member have paid their 2021 dues. We have scheduled over 1600 monitor shifts for 2021, sold 118 samba card holders and 12 slant wedges, handled nearly 200 member purchases, added 100 Villagers to the Waiting List, added 52 new members to the data base – all while answering the door/taking member temperatures over 2200 times, answering hundreds of phone calls, finding for subs for open monitor shifts, keeping frequently-touched surfaces clean, and ensuring we don't exceed the maximum number of members in the shop at any one time. The Front Desk Staff has done an outstanding job in managing all of the additional responsibilities they have been assigned as well as their normal job functions. I thank everyone on the staff for their contributions to keeping the club running as smoothly as possible under difficult COVID-caused conditions.

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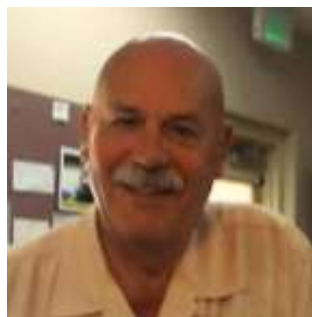
We have several new members of the Front Desk Staff who you will see soon at the desk. Welcome to Patty Cooke, Bill Overholt, Eddie Osgood, Valerie Pfundstein, and Cindy Verdick. All are in various stages of training. Several other shop members have volunteered to work at the desk and hopefully, they will be starting training soon. Although this is a wonderful response to our request for additional volunteers at the desk, we are still in need of another 8 to 10 staff members. If you think you might be interested in working at the front desk at either Rolling Acres or Brownwood, please contact me at [kathleen.villani@gmail.com](mailto:kathleen.villani@gmail.com) or you may call me on 352-750-1095.



**Steve Eikenberry**

### Member Merchandise

No new news.



**Mark Corner**

### Library

No news.



### Education

**Deb Larouere**

#### Education Department Report - October 2020

Instructors and students continue to make up classes from the previous term as both are available and comfortable with doing so. It is a continuing process.

It is not anticipated that there will be a full regular schedule of classes as is our usual practice. However, instructors may offer individual classes as they desire if there is student interest. If there are openings in these classes, they will be posted via the usual email process. Students interested in acquiring basic skills can sign up

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for the P Zero class at any time. You will be contacted by an instructor when a mentor becomes available. Students can also sign up for the first class in the Turning track as it's on video.

If you are interested in taking any class, you can leave your contact information on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the lunch room. This might help instructors to know when enough students are interested that a class might be offered.

Instructors are always needed to either mentor occasionally or to help novice wood workers to acquire basic skills through the P-zero process. You set your own schedule. Please get a message to Debbie Larouere if you are interested.



### **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 financial module of the front desk will be replaced by commercial Point of Sale system named LightSpeed! Rik Pearce is handling the implementation; Dick Hartley's team will interface Lightspeed to the front desk application.

The front door at Rolling Acres will soon have an intercom and electric door release allowing front desk to open door from behind the counter and talk to person at door.

IT Site surveys of the new shop and IT requirements have been made.

Internet and phone service has been ordered through Comcast Business.

Planning for IT requirements for the second shop continues!!



### **Lumber**

**Stephen Yovan, Manager and Chairman of the Board**

Lumber species of the month.... American Mahogany

Characteristics.... this wood can vary considerably in color. When freshly cut it may be yellowish, reddish,

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pinkish or salmon – pink. It matures to a deep rich red or brown with time. The grain ranges from straight to ropey, curly or wavy. Grain irregularities produce very attractive figures such as mottle, stripe or rope, blister and fiddleback. It has a fine or medium to coarse uniform texture and white deposits or dark gum show in the pores. American mahogany is highly lustrous and golden.

### Properties....

American mahogany has very low stiffness and resistance to shock loads, and medium crushing strength. Although it has a low bending strength, it steam-bends moderately well. Provided sharp tools are used, it works easily with both hand and machine tools. It screws, nails, glues and stains well, and can be brought to an excellent polished finish.

### Durability....

The hardwood is very durable and resistant to both white rot fungi and brown rot. The sapwood is vulnerable to attack from the powder-post and common furniture beetles. The sapwood is resistant to preservative treatments and the heartwood is highly resistant.

Origin... Central America and northern South America

### Common uses....

High quality furniture and cabinetry, reproduction furniture, boat interiors, interior joinery and paneling, musical instruments, canoes and shipbuilding. Very decorative veneers may be obtained.

### Availability...

Due to cost considerations ( > \$15 per board foot ), we don't normally stock American mahogany, however we do stock sapele which is about \$5 a board foot and with similar characteristics and is difficult to distinguish from mahogany.

We have about 40 board feet of sapele in 4/4 S3S and 6/4 rough.



**Conway Williams, Manager**

## Toys

Since our last report on October 10<sup>th</sup> we see the impact of our phased reopening in September and October. Fortunately, many of the Elves and Painters are still working from home while supporting our expanded schedule of M-W-F and Sat.

The elves and painters continued their hard work to produce a total of 1,070 toys for the month October. This gives us a year to date production of 7,245 toys at the end of October, which puts us 1,576 toys behind where we were at the end of October last year. Thus far in November we have produced 129 toys.

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On the shipping side, in October we made six deliveries to clients which contained 1,406 toys bringing our year-to-date deliveries to 6,639 and a donation value of \$46,930 at the end of October. We are continuing to talk with our clients, who like us, are facing significant uncertainty about what the rest of this year will bring. For November we have now identified six additional shipments to clients containing an additional 950 toys and having a donation value of an additional \$6,900.00. This will raise our anticipated donation value to some \$53,800!

I want 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. Major parts of the process have been completed and tested and the results are amazing, cutting speed have almost doubled and problems with reworking have been more than cut in half! There are still additional adjustments and recalibration that have been identified that should be implemented, hopefully by the end of next week, that should cause even more improvements!

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. We are already hard at working on the toys to be assembled by the children at that event.

Lastly, and most importantly, I want to again 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.



### **Safety, Turners and Nomination Chair**

**John Herega, Manager of Safety and Turners**

No report this month.



### **Carvers**

**Pete Bankowski**

No report.



**Dick Besler**

### **Certification & Monitor Training**

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



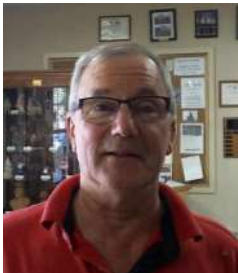
**Alvin Corenblum**



**Scott Herlick**

Nothing new to report.

### **Urn Project**



**Rik Peirce**

### **Vice President**

**Building Design Committee**

#### **Building Design Committee**

Building is well ahead of schedule. The anticipated turnover of the building is now the 15<sup>th</sup> of December when the contractor will get a temporary occupancy permit for installation of the equipment. New photos are on the website every week.

The latest delay is caused by the Fire Marshal changing the central fire alarm to include “Knox” boxes at all entrance doors.

#### **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



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overwhelming, more than 30 members expressed interest in helping. I have saved the members names for anyone interested in those members that offered to help.

Lightspeed, our POS (point of sale) software, has been configured; the Maintenance Department is using it for purchase orders now; Kathy is reviewing the system for any bugs or omissions. The plan is to begin using the POS system January – February after testing and when membership application will be complete and tested. Systems testing, training and modifications will occur in November and December.

Integration of the POS and the front desk membership data software is beginning, so that some data will be shared between the two applications.

A user manual is being prepared for the POS system, tailored to the way the POS system is used to do business the way VWC does business.

The Brownwood budget is in good shape, we have begun issuing purchase orders for large equipment to take advantage of cost savings. Delivery of those items is set for after December 15<sup>th</sup> acceptance of the building.



**Brad Primeau**



**Dave Adamovich**

### **Shop Administration/Maintenance**

#### **MAINTENANCE SHOP ADMINISTRATION**

The department is busy as many of you can tell when you walk into the Assembly area. Cabinets, shop fixtures, finishing and assembly tables are being cut and partially assembled by a volunteer team. Some have complained that too much space is being used and assembly tables should be open for member use.

Using the assembly room space now shortens the time it would take to complete the Brownwood facility.

Starting to build the things that are needed after the shop opens would only delay the time the building opens for members use. Your patience is appreciated by the following VWS members who are working hard to bring the new shop online sooner rather than later:

Tony Bendoraitis	Bill Fitzgerald	Will Muhlman	Scott Herlick	Peggy White
Marty Dee	Kay Watkins	Jim Bossman	Matt Nypaver	Pat Toomey
Rick Fiersten				

In a recent email VWS members were asked if anyone had unused space that could be used for storing the items the teams are building until the Brownwood shop is open. The following people have offered space and management thanks you:

Stephan Yovan    Jeff Caldwell    Jeff Bavro    Jack Tagye    Cindy Bloecher



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The Grizzly planner is temporarily out of order until the 15hp drive motor is repaired. The motor failed on Saturday. Thanks to Tom Melovitz, our volunteer electrician, for evaluating the problem and Glenn Croteau for taking the motor to the repair shop. Until the repairs can be made or in the event a new motor must be purchased, the small Grizzly planer has been brought in for member use.



### Woodworking Technology

**Lowell Sundermann**

We held our first Zoom User Group Meeting on October 23rd. We had a nice turn out for our first meeting. The primary topic was a review of the latest updates to the CNC. Videos were presented that walked through the latest checklist. I believe Hans intends to post the videos on the website.

The laser has received a good deal of attention the last couple weeks. After working through a number of alignment issues, Epilog determined that the CO2 cartridge needed to be replaced. It costs \$2,305. Luckily it had a two year warranty. It was installed in November of 2018. Close call. Now with a new tube and proper alignments Conway is experiencing an improvement of nearly twice the production he has ever achieved. Hopefully we can maintain this level of performance. The tube has typically a 7-8 year life.

Both machines are up to snuff, although we continue to find minor improvements. So come and enjoy the rewards of using computer technology to make your next project. E511 students needing certification can see me, or email me at [lsundermann@gmail.com](mailto:lsundermann@gmail.com) to schedule certification. Due to the length of time since the last class some time will be spent reviewing important topics related to operating the machine and using Vcarve Pro.

Legacy's training videos were "hacked" and have not been reposted. You can find videos of using Vcarve Pro at Vectric's website - <https://www.vectric.com/support/tutorials/vcarve-pro>. We, of course, are preparing for the December 15th delivery of the Legacy Maverick three station CNC.

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### **President**

#### **Mike Borfitz**

Can you believe that it's November? It has been a "terrifically long" year and yet here we are approaching the end of 2020. Despite it all, we have found new ways to handle the challenges and make improvements along the way. The response from the membership has been overwhelming and in less than six months we should be able to say officially that we have two sites! Thank you all so much for your work and your patience

I also want to make you aware of another "change" for this challenging year. After consulting with the Rec Center people and talking with the managers, we have decided to cancel this year's plan for the Christmas raffle and the Christmas party. The decision was based on the fact that both events involve personal contact of sorts. In addition, the rec center rules at this time allow a maximum of 60% occupancy in the meeting rooms (which translates into a max of 180 people – still a fairly large group to gather); there is to be no use of the kitchens; and the only catering can be "boxed lunch type" meals. With all that in mind, we thought that, COVID rules allowing, it would be better to plan a celebration closer to when the second shop opens – God willing, and the creek don't rise!! Thank you for your understanding!

I also thank you for paying close attention to the reports contained herein. We all owe a great debt of gratitude to these managers who are doing their best to contribute to an active, thriving club with ever-increasing interests and capabilities.

Happy Thanksgiving!

