



*The Villages Woodworkers Club
704 Oak Street
The Villages, Florida 32159
352-751-0513
April 17, 2024*

Report Contents

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

HELP Wanted:

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

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Stained Glass



Our Stained Glass classes are still going strong!

Gary Wright (Assistant Mgr/Lead Instructor) and Ed Eich (Assistant Instructor) are at Rolling Acres on Friday mornings from 9 – 11 a.m. Their classes will end for the summer after May 3rd, but students can continue to work on their own during the summer break.

Karin Williams (Mgr/Lead Instructor) and Pete Klein (Assistant Instructor) at Brownwood on Monday mornings from 9 – 11 a.m. Rolling Acres students are welcome to join our group. A reduced summer schedule will be announced next month.

We've had a lot of beautiful projects created in February through April!

The Rolling Acres group has several projects in process: a Potted plant with flowers and strings of leaves and a Mickey Mouse,

Some finished projects from Brownwood students:

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And another beautiful butterfly by Mike Dufano, who helps us with instruction as well.

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Our courses are designed so you can work at your own pace and level of skill to develop your expertise and confidence levels so you can make various types of beautiful projects. We start with sun-catchers, then a beveled Iris window panel, leaded panel, lamps, and much, much more.

There is always room for new artists to learn this craft, so stop in and see what we are making, and join us in the fun! Watch for future reports as we share the progress of our glass enthusiasts as they learn new skills.

Website



Hans Zassenhaus, Manager

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We have upgraded our email service in an effort to provide a more reliable delivery of emails generated from our website. We are currently in a final testing stage where some of the emails will use this new service. This change, hopefully, will include several new features to include a searchable index of all emails sent to members available on our website..

You will notice that the “From” address on education and training class reminders now show The Villages Woodworkers Club <website@thevwc.net>. These emails are generated from our account with Microsoft Azure.

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

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

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

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

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

Administration – Front Office



Kathy Villani, Manager

This month, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the volunteers who work the Front Desk every day to ensure that the shops can be open as scheduled. I am very proud of the Front Desk Staff who have devoted many hours to learning the job and then donate far more hours each year working at the desk. Those of us on the staff enjoy the work and the interaction with other members as well as the opportunity to learn more about the club and its members. Many of the staff work at both shops for double the fun! So when the opportunity arises, please let members working at the Front Desk know that you appreciate their help and service to the club. Our Front Desk Staff consists of:

Al Altman	Lynne Barta	Jim Baumgardner	Beth Beaver
Anne Bell	Leslie Bellini	Dan Bernier	Alice Besler
Cindy Bloecher	Mike Borfitz	Denise Burdyck-McConnell	Becky Carlson
Richard Castonguay	Patty Cooke	Mike Cromwell	Anne Diamond
Susan Dunn	Susana Esposito	Chris Faulhaber	Loy Garcia
Jeff Johnston	Nancy King	Ruth Lamb	Donna Lasko
Jay Mabrey	MaryAnn Main	Tom McOlvin	Virg Murphy
Bill Overholt	Susan Padgett	Rik Peirce	Valerie Pfundstein
Bill Pittenger	Elena Prince	Debi Roseen	Bob Rosen
John Scott	Jim Spallone	Julie Sullivan	Cindy Verdick
Tony Villani			

Thank you all for the work you do in support of the VWC!

If you are interested in working at the Front Desk, especially at Rolling Acres, please send an email to kathleen.villani@gmail.com to let me know of your interest.

A reminder to all members that we now have a monitor training program that is the same for both shops. Therefore, it is no longer necessary to attend monitor training at both shops if you are scheduled to monitor at both. Members who attend monitor

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training at Brownwood from March 4, 2024, and beyond are credited with monitor training at both Brownwood and Rolling Acres. Members who attend monitor training at Rolling Acres from March 20, 2024, and beyond are credited with monitor training at both Rolling Acres and Brownwood. We hope having choices of where and when to attend monitor training will make it easier and more convenient for our members to obtain the required training.

Please note that when you are scheduled for monitor duty, you will receive 3 email reminders of your upcoming duty. If you require training before your first shift for the year, your name will be listed in the email message along with the dates available for you to attend monitor training. This list includes both Brownwood and Rolling Acres training dates. This section of the email is highlighted in yellow to make it easy to find and see if your name is on the Training Required list.

Monitor (re)training is required for ALL MEMBERS (even those exempt from monitor duty due to their other work for the club) every 3rd year. Those who were last trained in 2021 are due for training prior to their first shift in 2024. Those who were trained in 2022, 2023 or 2024 have valid training for 2024. Should you have any questions about your training or need to swap a monitor shift, please contact the monitor coordinator whose name, phone number, and email address are at the top of the email message you received. If you cannot reach your coordinator or if you don't know who the coordinator is, please call the Front Desk for assistance during normal shop hours. The phone number is 352-751-0513, option 1 for Rolling Acres, option 2 for Brownwood.

Member Merchandise



Steve Eikenberry

We continue to have items for turner's projects, and pen kits, peppermill kits, and bottle stoppers are the most popular. We also stock cheese board hardware for those who aren't turners but want a kitchen project to try. And did you know...we stock turners gouges at Rolling Acres! Come check them out!

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Steve Eikenberry
Merchandise Manager

Mike Gilman
Asst Manager (Brownwood)

Safety Department



Steve Eikenberry

Safety has had a busy winter. We've created a safe use document for table saws...more on that below, and we are completing the first aid station project of restocking and reorganizing...making it easier to find what you need in a hurry. And...although we hope we never need it...Dan Bernier and his wife organized a blood containment kit in response to the two partial amputations members experienced this past year.

Most members are aware two major accidents occurred within the last nine months, both on the table saws, with one at Brownwood and one at Rolling Acres. Both accidents resulted in partial amputations of fingers, and both members involved were experienced woodworkers. This all goes to tell us we cannot be careful enough around machinery that can maim and/or kill us.

Your safety department, along with other key shop leaders, developed a detailed Table Saw Standard Operating Procedure document that we rolled out very recently. That document details the SAFEST way to use our table saws. Over the next months and year, you'll be encouraged to adopt and use these safest methods as the preferred way in our shops. You may be asked to change how you are using a table saw in favor of a safer method. Please comply with that request, knowing you are being asked because we care about the safety of everyone in the shop. One thing we sometimes don't realize is our actions can affect others in a big way. If we have a table saw accident, for example, lumber may go flying across the room, missing us but injuring an innocent member. We are all responsible for each others and our own safety!

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As we go forward, you'll be hearing more and more about the safest ways to use our table saws. Small group classes will be held for those who wish a more visual explanation of the safest table saw methods. The document will be available at the front desk of each shop so you can have your personal copy (as well as on our website). Soon we'll have a video of the safest table saw methods...mirroring the document information...on our website. And of course, you can always ask a Yellow Badge Maintenance member for help understanding the correct table saw methods...or the correct use of any of our machines and tools.

Steve Eikenberry
Safety Manager

Education



Deb Larouere

Here are a few current highlights:

- **Super thanks to all volunteer Instructors and Assistants** who share from the wealth of their skills. A healthy round of applause goes out from their many students, and all nearby fellow Woodworkers and machines too! It's a bonus ripple effect.
- **Classes are frequently added** and appear without other notice on the Open Classes page online. Remember to click the refresh button for the 'freshest' news. Don't wait for the email!
- **Put Skill Clinics on your class list next** – Look for these in the Better Woodworking Series. Free and run often, most are short, tidy reviews for safety and better project results. Rotating at random, they'll show up on the Open Classes page in the "S" series. S091 and S095 are super-detailed, but getting rave reviews both from more advanced

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woodworkers and beginners who are ready to learn more. These are becoming common prerequisites to many other classes.

- Class spots are fewer over the summer, limited by the number of Instructors who are away or vacationing.

We always need qualified Instructors and Mentors to help Members grow skills and students build their safer Basic Woodworking wall shelf projects. If you can help, now would be a great time. If you've got an idea for a class that you'd like to teach, let's talk!

- **Last call! - BW Orientation** for 'RA only' members is going away. Needed for Shop entry and all classes at Brownwood, only 1 session left - 5/14; 9-10:30. Most of the classes are at BW as that's where many Instructors are. Last warning and last chance! Check the email or letter you got for online sign-up directions.

Spread joy!
Debbie Larouere
Education@thevwc.net

Information Technology



Joe Gomez

Our team regularly troubleshoots computer and network issues and continues to update and develop Front Desk applications. We handle all continuing IT issues and assist with implementing new technologies,

We have made improvements "lock out" system at both our locations where users can meet up with instructors and managers of the machines that are normally locked.

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We have further updated the wifi system at Rolling Acres to work seamlessly with the existing wired network. This allows for better wifi coverage throughout the workspace as may be required

Further we are continuously repairing and replacing old components as required.

Thanks to the entire team for their work and dedication!

Lumber



Hugh Pace, Manager

No new report for this period.

Toys



Conway Williams, Manager

Our Team of Elves and Painters continue to work hard to satisfy all our client needs for 2024.

On the production side we were able to make 2,189 toys through the end of March 2024.

This allowed us to pass the significant Milestone of 125,000 toys made!

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Since 2001, when we made 142 toys, we have now made a total 127,049 toys at the end of March.

On the shipping side we were able to make, 7 shipments totaling 691 toys with a donation value of \$ 6,533 through the end of March.

Since 2013, when we first established a donation value for each toy, we have shipped toys with a donation value of \$691,801 at the end of March. This means we will also break another Milestone of \$700,000 of value, for toys donated later this year.

We have seen some significant and positive changes in our equipment. We have replaced our Delta Band Saw with a Grizzly Band Saw from the shop floor. We have rebuilt our horizontal Sander and that is back in service. We are also seeing a significant improvement in the air flow in the vacuum system. Our thanks to the Maintenance Department for their ongoing support in all the activities.

Our Toys on the Square Project is well underway for the 2024 Season. Our next session will be at Brownwood Paddock Square on Thursday May 9th. After this we will take off for the summer months of June, July, August then returning to Brownwood in September.

MONTH	DATE 2024	DAY	LOCATION	REMARKS
May	9th	Thursday	BWD	OFF Jun, Jul, Aug
September	5th	Thursday	BWD	

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

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

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

Specifically,

We need additional support in the transportation of Toys on the Square materials. We are looking for someone with Production Planning experience and Excel experience to take over the day-to-day planning process.

If you are interested in participating, please contact

Conway Willams at cswilljr@cvn.net and or John Scott at president@thevwc.net

Turners



John Herega

The turners group will meet on **Tuesday May 15 at 7:00 PM** sharp in the Brownwood meeting room.

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

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

APPAREL

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

Carvers



Bill McGinnis

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

Learning to carve takes time of how to change a chunk of basswood into something that resembles an object others recognize. After a while frustration turns into fun. You can make items for grandchildren, spouse, friends or yourself. Like any other woodworking a finished project is not as easy as running a board through a saw and pounding a nail.

To begin you learn how to use a knife safely and how to keep it sharp. Then visualize the object, cut off big chunks and then little pieces. The fine tuning is when you feel good about your project. It takes time to tackle big objects but in the end you have a hobby that can be used the rest of your life. A number of our carvers are still carving in their 80's and 90's.

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

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

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

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

Certification & Monitor Training



Dick Besler

Any questions contact Dick Besler 352-751-4745

Urn Project



Scott Herlick

Nothing new to report this period.

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

YOUR MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT – UNSUNG HEROES

It just doesn't happen! It takes a cadre of volunteers to keep equipment and buildings operational so the membership can enjoy a club providing almost a half-million dollars worth of equipment in each shop which is unmatched on the East coast.

If it weren't for the departments dedicated volunteers and more importantly, the expertise they provide, the club could not, change that, would not operate. Blue and Yellow members are not only there to help members throughout the day but also, perform functions behind the scenes to ensure both shops including the buildings are open.

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AFTER HOURS WORK

Members of the maintenance team work on Sundays and sometimes early Monday morning before either shop opens. So what do they do? At Rolling Acres the dust collection filters need to be cleaned once a week. The team arrives sometime at 6am Sunday and following a rotational cleaning schedule blow the sawdust out of the filters using compressed air. If you think its fun or anything to do with woodworking VOLUNTEER for the filter cleaning team. They always need help!

At Brownwood usually on Sunday as well, a team performs preventative maintenance on the equipment so its available during regular operating hours. Again, if you thing that's fun or has anything to do with woodworking VOLUNTEER. You can help clean a planer cutting assembly, rotating and cleaning over 500 half-inch extremely sharp individual cutters and do it in a way that ensures everything is precisely placed and calibrated. Oh, protective gloves will be needed!

EXPERTISE

Many of the members who volunteer bring a level of technical expertise that would be cost prohibitive if the club had to pay for the services they willingly provide. Maintenance has members with electrical, mechanical, fabrication, electronic, heating and air conditioning, plumbing, painting, construction, and many other skills. Many retired from these trades and thankfully use them to keep the club operational. The department and club are lucky they want to do it.

A comment was made "why can't the club just hire someone to fix this or that?" The first problem would be finding someone who knows how to fix woodworking equipment. Yes, electric drills, sanders, skill or jig saws and small electic tools or lights can be repaired but, other equipment on the floor is specialized and finding someone to repair the equipment is next to impossible.

More often than not the manufacture only provides technical support over the phone. The days of onsite technical support are gone. Even online technical support is limited. As one vendor said when the team was repairing the Brownwood planer "I haven't seen one of these (our planer). I'll go to the warehouse to see if I can find one." It may take the team longer but with ALL the combined know how they "getter done."

VOLUNTEER HOURS

So, what's it take to keep the shops running? Let's look at the number of hours that has been logged in by the team as Repair when they check in. Last year over 13,670 Repair hours were worked. So far this year almost 5000 hours have been worked! Imagine at \$20 an hour what the cost would be. It can also be assumed that many forget to log in under the Repair category so its reasonable to add another 10% to these hours.

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There are many days members are there to work on their own project but choose to wear their badges. It's not an understatement to say the amount of time they spend on their project is minimal because of their willingness to help members while they are there.

MEET YOU MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT BLUE AND YELLOW VOLUNTEERS !!

Tom Ader	Ray Fallen	Dave Makarewicz	Frank Quigley
Nicole Amspacher	Rick Fiersten	David Martin	James Ritter
Gary Baldauf	John Foster	Richard Masterson	Paul Schwedfeger,
Mark Balzer	Jamie Fowler	Dan Mayer	Charlie Scott
Dan Beetcher	David Frey	Jim McGraw	John Scott
Bob Behrens	Michael Gabryszyk	Neal (Cornelius) Moriarty	Tom Skahill
Tony Bendoraitis	Rafe Garcia	Bob Moro	Charlie Taylor
Rich Boornazian	Mike Gilman	Will Muhleman	Pat Toomey,
Jim Bossman	John Green	Gary Musch	Tony Torra
Dan Botner	Julie Grice	Paul Nesbitt	Roger Vautour
Roy Boudreau	Don Hainlen	Mike Niesen	Marty Verdick
Lewis Cantrell	Joe Harrington	Greg Nilsen	Debra Volpe
Steve Casey	Jake Harris	Bill Norton	Mark Volpe
Steve Casey	George Heck	Bill Pappas	Mike Votolato
Frank Cherill	Scott Herlick	John Payne	Frank Warren,
Glenn Croteau	Lyle Irwin	David Perkins	Richard Watson
Joe Cunningham	Voytec Kulesza	James Porter	Jim Whitmer
Gene Dakin	Robert Lebkuether	Paul Porter	Mark Winka
Craig Delbeck	Brian Leininger	Richard Prairie,	Tom Zedick
Tom DiVenere	Bill Love	Brad Primeau	
Mark Dobies	Wendy Lupo	Ed Przybranowski	
Steve Eikenberry	Larry Lythe	Mike Ptaszynski	

WHAT A TEAM MAINTENANCE !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

WE NEED YOU



TO JOIN THE BLUE BADGE/YELLOW BADGE TEAMS AT ROLLING ACRES

CONTACT BRAD PRIMEAU AT bjprime48@gmail.com OR GLENN CROTEAU
AT cas-llc@mail.com OR LEAVE YOUR NAME AT THE FRONT DESK

Special Projects



Voytek Kulesza

1st qtr

First quarter of this year was busy.

We completed:

- 120 Slant Wedges was sold for \$2400.00
- 297 Samba Card Holders for a donation of \$4455.00
- 247 Large Samba Card Holders for \$4940.00
- 49 Domino Holders for \$490.00
- 4 Exercise rockers for \$80.00
- 160 Special Projects for \$4383.42
- Year to date: \$11808.42

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Big thanks for continuous support of department members participating in repairs and fabrication.

Special thanks to Jim Monahan and Larry Litowich for mass producing card and domino holders.

Also thanks to John Scott, Paul Pfundstein, Scott Miller, Steve Casey, Marty Verdick and Ken Dillon for making all they could to support our club.

Voytek Kulesza

Woodworking Technology



Lowell Sundermann

Announcement!!

Zoom evening learning sessions to review/retrain on
Vectric Vcarve Pro

Wednesday evenings 7:00pm Jef Geagan – instructor
It's FREE

It is intended for members that have completed the classwork for our CNCs (currently Class E511). You do not have to be a certified operator to attend. Those that qualify should have received an invitation to sign up. But in case you did not get the invitation, or if you want to reconsider joining the 20+ fellow students that attended the first learning session on 4/3/24, sign up now. Learn from the comfort of your home.

Jef has organized a detailed “start at the beginning” training process. I highly encourage you to try at least one session. Bring your questions of what you need to know to get back to designing projects for CNC engraving.

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To make sure you receive an invitation or questions contact Jef: jgintv@gmail.com

Lowell Sundermann, Manager
VWC Woodworking Technology Dept.

President



John K. Scott

To All Members:

As the snowbird season for this year winds down I am happy to report that overall, the Club is doing well. Our budget numbers look good and both shops are in great shape. Many thanks to our maintenance folks who have worked and continue to work hard keeping our machinery in good shape. In addition, I pass my thanks to our education folks as well. The Club's education effort has and continues to do a great job providing the training and education to our members so they may build their projects in an effective and safe manor. In fact, all our departments work hard and accomplish a lot, many thanks to all.

Our membership numbers have reached 1650 plus and I expect to see it come very close to the 1800 members by the end of summer on which the budget was built on.

One issue that has come to light again is the parking spaces available at each shop. We are adjusting the classroom training times so that they occur first thing or towards the end of the day when shop attendance is lighter. The BOD has formed a committee to study this situation and see what changes we can do to make it better. However, one of the best things is to come to the shop with your golf cart vice automobile. Yes, it takes longer but what's the hurry. I hope to report back later on the ideas from the Parking Committee.

Our Club is still in great need of more volunteers for our maintenance, education and a leader for our Toys efforts. As you are aware, all the things our Club accomplishes is

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done by volunteers. If interested, please talk to our leaders in these areas. We can provide training for you if needed. The success of our Club is based on our membership and volunteers.

Our April 2024 Membership Meeting was attended by John Rohan, the Executive Director of Recreation and Parks. He complimented the Club on all of its accomplishments and the great image our Club puts forward. Thanks to all our members for this.

John Scott
President, The Villages Woodworkers Club