



Ed Eich, Manager



**Kathy Villani
Assistant Manager**

Stained Glass

Stained Glass Group Update

STAINED GLASS

2019 has been a successful year for the VWC Stained Glass group. We've had 20 students take classes this year, many of them taking multiple classes to advance their skill level. Many of the beautiful stained glass creations made by our students have appeared in this newsletter throughout the year. Congratulations to all who have completed classes. We look forward to all of you continuing to take classes in 2020 and welcome any members who want to try their hand at stained glass.

Special thanks for the success of the classes goes to Ed Eich, our lead instructor. Ed has provided great leadership and creative direction for the Stained Glass group for a number of years. Thank you, Ed, for the time and effort you put in every week to teach us the techniques, tips, and pitfalls associated with glass.

Ed has also recruited 2 outstanding assistant instructors for the group – Gary Wright and Karin Williams. Gary brings attention to the precision needed in cutting, foiling, and soldering glass. He has developed and shared a number of techniques that result in a more professional-looking finished glass piece. Karin is our expert in making glass boxes – a difficult skill to master. She has shared her ideas, techniques and creativity with all types of stained glass work with us all. Both Gary and Karin are excellent coaches and are welcome additions to our instructor roster.

Our instructor team has also completed a number of stained glass repairs – from parrots to lampshades to window panels. In each case, the customers were thrilled with the results which brought in large donations to the club. Their excellent repair work can be seen in the glass panel that was donated for our Christmas party raffle – you can't tell where the repair was made! Nice job!

Last, but certainly not least, a big THANK YOU goes to Bob Behrens for building new cabinets for our glass inventory, to Doug Parks for setting up the accounting to allow us to inventory and sell glass, to Anne Bell for helping us set up our inventory and purchase process in the VWC computer system, and to Steve Yovan for his coaching in how to manage the sales process. The teamwork displayed by club members every day is what makes The VWC such a success.

From the Stained Glass group to all members of the VWC, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and Hanukkah season and a healthy, happy and successful 2020!



Special Projects and Website

Hans Zassenhaus, Manager

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!



Administration – Front Office

Anne Bell, Manager

I am overwhelmed this year as I look back at all the special folks that I have met at the shop, and especially those who have been part of the great staff at the front desk, many of who have been doing this job for 10 years or more. It's not often that so many volunteers are dedicated for so many years.

Here are the folks who have been part of this wonderful team! We have 10 new members in 2019 who are training so that we will be ready for the new shop.

2007 – Anne Bell, Harold McKinney, Heather Sawyer, and Bill Tucker

2008 – Sandy Fuller, MaryAnn Main, Bob Rosen

2009 – Mike Borfitz, Clyde Hamilton, Jim Spallone

2010 – Richard Castonguay, Bill McAlister

2011 – Al Altman

2012 – Jim Ashey, Bob Setterlund

2014 – Alice Besler

2015 – Cori Ribaud

2016 – Kathy Villani, Tony Villani

2017 – Rik Peirce

2018 – Julie Sullivan

2019 – Jim Baumgardner, Dan Bernier, Cindy Bloecher, Mike Cromwell, Chris Faulhaber, Marvin Lamb, Ruth Lamb, Chuck Murphy, Donna Rainwater, Tom Winters

I especially want to thank my irreplaceable assistants, **Alice Besler and Kathy Villani**. Their help and ideas are so valuable.

Without the IT Committee members nothing would get done at the front desk. Thanks to **Dick Hartley, John Scott, Steve Tarpley, Johnathan MacGowan, Bill Pappas, Hans Zassenhaus, John Sullivan, and Brian Landis** for all your help (especially when you drop everything and jump in to fix a problem).

Department Reports December 14, 2019

Thank you all for your dedication, patience, hard work and ongoing support. If the Bells ever win the lottery you can all get in line for your pay raise!

We all make a great team and I hope we continue on for many more years!

Happy Holidays and have a wonderful 2020.



Member Merchandise

Steve Eikenberry

As I wrap up the first year of leading Merchandise Sales, I've become more aware of the village it takes to operate our shop successfully. There are many, many volunteers that put in a large number of hours to keep our shop open. Perhaps the most visible is the Maintenance Department and the front desk. Without them, and the extra hours they give, our shop would not run day to day. Give them a hearty "thank you" next time you see them. Then consider our board, our club officers, the front desk, merchandise and lumber sales, educators/teachers, the IT department, our treasurer and his assistants, toy department, special projects, and all the members who give their required monitor/crib duty hours. There are many people who work behind the scenes that we never see. Did you know on Sunday mornings, one of our members spends several hours each week at the shop, alone, maintaining our dust collection system and other vital components? It truly does take a village. Happy Holidays to all! We have much to be thankful for. And...there's still time to purchase gift kits for Christmas gifts...wine bottle stoppers, potpourri kits, pepper and salt mill kits, cheese board domes, pen kits, back scratcher kits...the list goes on! Check them out next time you're in the shop.



Mary Ann Main



Mark Corner

Library

As announced last month, due to other obligations, MaryAnn is stepping down from the role of Library manager. Above please see the new Library Manager. (See president's comments.)



Education

Deb Larouere

Education Department Report – December 2019

There is a Mentor/Need Help pilot project underway. Check out the bulletin board in the Lunchroom near the Front Office door. The goal is to help those needing help to find those who can help. You can add your own offer/request to the board. Let's see if we can make this work to help each other out.

Plans for the Winter-Spring 2020 Course Offerings Schedule are nearly complete and should be posted on-line and at the Shop in the next few weeks. Watch your email! Sign up's open on January 6th and are in cash and at the Front Desk only. A friend can do this for you if you will be away, but please make sure they have all of your info, including dates and alternates.

And, yes, since classes are small we always need more Instructors. See Debbie Larouere or **Bob Matthews**.

Things to know about Course Sign Up's:

- The email will come first letting you know that the Schedule is available
- Nearly everything you need to know will be in there. Check it first!
- The Course Offering Schedule will be available online and at the Shop
- The Course Descriptions will be available online and at the Shop
- Sign Up's open January 6th at the Front Desk only – bring a smile with you!
- Anyone can sign up for you in your place IF they have ALL of your info.
- Cash or check to VWC only. No Credit. No refunds. Choose carefully!
- There is a 2 Course limit for the first 2 weeks to be fair to others behind you.
- You can sign up for your 3rd course this term starting on Monday, January 20th.
- **More classes will be added as Instructors become available (Please!) or add classes.**

Most common errors that cause some frustration

- Arriving cranky – LOL!!! Be patient; there may be a line
- Not allowing enough time; Arrive before 3 pm; It's not as fast as grocery check out
- Forgetting to check your 'Social Director' for travel, event, family, etc. date conflicts
- Forgetting to check to see if you have the required Prerequisites or skills needed to be successful
- Signing up for courses that are too hard for your current skill level
- Not reading Course Descriptions beforehand to make sure you're enrolling in the one you really want
- Not checking for alternates in case your initial choices are already full
- Not having your calendar in your hand when you sign up in case changes occur
- Not having cash or a blank check or your Village ID #
- Waiting too long to sign up; Classes have 'Enroll BEFORE' dates; exceptions are difficult
- Expecting the Front Desk person (or the "Computer") to make exceptions/fixes just for you



IT (Information Technology)

Bill Pappas

The Woodshop IT group would like to wish all the club members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

As the IT team leader I want to thank each of our team members for all of the hours donated to the shop each year, usually at night and on weekends, please know your efforts are greatly appreciated.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce each of the team members to the club membership. The team is comprised of the following outstanding volunteers..... Hans Zassenhaus , Jonathan MacGowan, John Scott, Dick Hartley, Steve Tarpley, John Sullivan, Brian Landis. Mike Borfitz, Anne Bell and John Herega support our group as shop business users keeping us focused on the business needs of the club.



Lumber

Stephen Yovan, Manager



It "wooden" be Christmas without a tree!



Conway Williams, Manager

Toys

The VWC Toy Department had our most successful year ever!

Since our last report we continue to have a very busy and productive year.

The elves and painters continue their hard work!

- They had produced 8,821 toys through the end of October, since that report they have added:
 - o In November another 792 Toys were made.
 - o At the end of November that gave us 9,915 toys produced, which is 1,283 Toys ahead of last years' record pace.
 - o So far in December we have added an additional 436 toys, which gives 10,351 already completed for the year.

- On the shipping side we are also making excellent progress.
 - o At the end of October we had 7,966 toys shipped, with a donation value of \$58,192.00!
 - o In November we shipped an additional 790 toys.
 - o So far in December we have shipped 1,241 toys, and an additional 155 toys already to go out by the end of next week.
 - o When those are completed we will have shipped **10,152** toys with a donation value of **\$78,467.00!**

At this time of the year I think it is appropriate to look back and see where we've come from and to thank all of those people who contributed to our success along the way. A group of woodworkers decided that there was a need for wooden toys for children in 2001. They went from garage to garage and kitchen table to kitchen table to make paint, assemble and donate 142 toys that first year. That group was instrumental in convincing the Developer to build our current shop in 2004. That group produced about 500 toys that year. Fast forward to the end of 2019 and the VWC and its' Toy Department has now produced over 85,000 wooden toys for the needy children in the Tri County area.

I would like to recognize Ron Gammon for his continued service to the Toy Department and the greater VWC organization over all these years.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all of the members of the Toy Team and the VWC and their families a Merry Christmas and healthy and a very Happy Year.



Safety and Turners

John Herega, Manager of Safety and Turners



A shipment of Duluth Bib Aprons has just arrived!
The regular price for this apron is \$44.95,
but these are on SALE for **\$34.95**
A nice gift for yourself or a friend!

**From Apparel, Safety and the Turners - a Very Merry and Blessed Christmas
and a Happy New Year!**

Regular meetings will resume in 2020.

Election of officers and directors will take place at the January 2020 general membership meeting. **IMPORTANT! PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND.**

Absentee ballots will be available at the front desk starting Monday, December 16.



Carvers

Pete Bankowski

“Carve” out some time for yourself during the holidays!



Certification & Monitor Training

Dick Besler

There will be no certification class in January. Classes for the next months are as follows: February 13th , March 12th, and April 16th.

Merry Christmas and thank you for all your help!



Vice President

Jim Spallone

Kudos to Elliot Schantz and his fellow pen turners (especially Ron Gammon). The group produced 649 pens this year for our “Pens for the Troops” project. That brings the grand total since inception of the project to 1423 pens.

Fantastic job by all!!!!



Dave Adamovich



Glen Croteau

Maintenance/Shop Administration

Happy Holidays!



Lowell Sundermann

Woodworking Technology

Merry Christmas to all our members and especially to those that help make my job easier.

I am humbled and honored to manage the Woodworking Technology Department. It is so exciting to see the number of very qualified members that are stepping up to help develop and expand our department, and the number of members that want to learn “a younger generation” technology.

Many are helping, but I so very much want to recognize our instructors Dave Makarewicz, Bob LaVarnway, Paul Porter, Rik Peirce, our Corel Draw administrator Kathy Villani, Hans Zassenhaus and Bill Pappas doing neat things supporting our IT needs. I also wish to thank all those that are offering their help to guide/suggest and share their ideas with fellow woodworkers. Thank you!!

I look forward to an exciting and expanding 2020, especially as we prepare for the Brownwood Woodworking Campus.

The fellowship of our club is amazing....



Chair, Board of Directors

Mike Cromwell

Merry Christmas to All!



President

Mike Borfitz

Wow! What a year it has been! A year full of contributions by so many and a year when the second shop became more than a dream.....an actual approved project with real dates for completion. None of the things that make our Club run "like a fine-oiled machine" could have happened without the exceptional membership we have. I am so grateful to be a part of it and to consider you all as an extended family.

Thank you so very much.

I would also like to take this space to thank MaryAnn Main for all the hard work she did to streamline the Library. It took endless hours of checking each item, determining what was pertinent, what could be covered in another way, and what could be eliminated. We all thank you for those efforts and we fully understand that as a full-time teacher you need to step away from this job!

We are fortunate to have had another member step into MaryAnn's shoes. His name is Mark Corner (see picture under the Library report). He and MaryAnn have met and will be working closely together to make a smooth transition. Mark will also be working with the IT group to find ways to augment the electronic part of our library. Please welcome Mark in his new position.

In closing out our calendar year, *I wish you all the holiest and happiest of holidays and a wonderful new year ahead!*