

Department Reports During the COVID Closure



Ed Eich, Manager



Assistant Mgr.

Stained Glass

The Stained Glass group kicked off their fall round of classes on October 2, 2020 with five people in attendance. The group enjoyed a morning of socializing, learning and productivity. Ed Eich reviewed the Morton Cutting system, and the Oct 9th session will review foiling accessories. The shop setup and social distancing is working quite well for our group.

We recently acquired a sizable donation for the new shop at Brownwood. The donation included almost everything needed to set up a new glass shop, and has made a huge dent in the list of equipment necessary for us to provide classes when we open that facility. Preliminary plans are to offer classes on Monday mornings, so we expect that the additional day of coursework may attract new students that could not attend on Friday mornings.

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



Special Projects, Website

Hans Zassenhaus, Manager

Nothing new to report.



Administration – Front Office

Kathy Villani, Manager

We will begin taking 2021 dues and sign-ups for 2021 monitor duty on Monday, October 12. Please note the following:

- Dues for 2021 are \$75. We take cash or checks, no credit cards.
- Members will sign up for 4 monitor shifts for 2021 so we can staff both shops full-time during our start-up year.

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- If you wish to monitor at Brownwood, monitor shifts are available beginning on March 1, 2021.
- Certification and monitor training for Brownwood are under development and those who wish to work and/or monitor at Brownwood will be notified of training dates as soon as plans are finalized.
- If you would like to schedule monitor duty at both shops, you may do so. Just let the front desk staff know when you sign up.

We would like to have a padded (upholstered) church pew similar to the one at Rolling Acres for the front office area at Brownwood. Bob Behrens has built some much-needed storage space for us under the pew (thank you, Bob) and we could use the same space at Brownwood. If your church has an unused pew that they would be willing to donate to the Brownwood shop, please let me or Bob Behrens know. The extra seating/storage space would be most welcome.

Thank you to the members who have expressed interest in working at the front desk. There are 4 of you so far but at least 6 more volunteers are needed and 10 more would be even better. We have to staff both shops beginning next March. Working at the front desk is a great way to learn more about the club and to meet more of our terrific members. If you think you might be interested, please call me on 352-430-1040 or email me at kathleen.villani@gmail.com.



Member Merchandise

Steve Eikenberry

Member merchandise has experienced a slow year with minimal sales, attributed to reduced shop hours and lower than normal shop population. Plans are underway for stocking the Brownwood shop with mostly the same items as available at the Rolling Acres facility. We are currently in the process of taking merchandise inventory as part of our move into the new Lightspeed computer program that will track inventory, sales, and purchases for the entire shop at both locations.

As we approach the holiday season, remember we carry hardware for gift items popular with family and friends. Items such as wine bottle stopper kits, salt and pepper grinder kits, pen kits, and marble discs for cheese trays or chip and dip bowls. We also have lathe gouges, CA glue, sandpaper discs for inertia sanders, sanding pads, and inertia sanders. And if you're interested in epoxy, we sell that too. See one of our sales people for a look at our offerings.

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Library

Mark Corner

No report.



Education

Deb Larouere

Education Department Report - October 2020

What's up with the classes? While there will not be a full slate of class offerings for a time yet, there are still Education opportunities available that feature safer options until we can get back in the swing. Classes will eventually be offered at the Brownwood Shop too. Instructors will choose the Shop location for each section. **More Instructors and Mentors are needed** for sure. Please help us to find them! Current Instructors, using all of our Shop's safety precautions, are returning slowly as they are ready. Many are still away for the season yet. Notice of any additional or new classes with open seats will show up in your email from the VWC, so make sure that your address is one you check. Seats are limited and, as always, first come at the Front Desk. Here's what going on now:

Make up classes from last term – As Instructors are ready and available, they are contacting students whose classes were put on hold earlier to discuss plans to complete class sessions and projects. Some of these are one on one. This process may take time as some of the Instructors are not yet available. If students are not yet ready, they will be offered 'first dibs' on the same class for future sections.

Certification Training for new Members – More Instructors are needed to allow one on one work with students. Contact John Herega if you have skills and sometime during hours when the Shop is closed anyway. He'll get you started at your pace. No long term commitment necessary.

Mentoring and project help - Sign-up sheets to request help are on the bulletin board in the Lunchroom if you need help on a project or to get started. You can also look around for members with the blue Maintenance or "Ask Me" badges. Got skills? If you're in the Shop and have an hour or more to share, check the board too. There is a spot for Mentors to offer help. No schedule to keep. Drop in and look around. You'll probably find a way to help. Every smile helps!

Beginner Skill Builders (P Zero) Mentoring - Sign up for this starter course for beginners (P Zero) at the Front Desk. This is a one on one, individualized, skill-based overview that follows Certification with opportunities to

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practice and acquire basic woodworking skills. Mentors and students set their own hours/days as they choose. Mentors are needed to guide students as they complete the provided skill checklist. What Mentors get in return is the chance to share the fun and satisfaction of making sawdust with a motivated new woodworker. And we're ALL safer.

Carvers – Open invitation to watch and learn Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:30 to 11:00. See something different every time. Or give it a try yourself as the Carvers have starter kits available for guided use then. See Steve Mendelsohn for more info. You're likely to get a laugh before you leave.

Stained Glass – Classes are on-going on Fridays from 9 to 11, so stop by to peek at what they're working on. Come early if you're looking to see if there's an open seat in a class.

Sofa Classes – No, not upholstery, but web-based learning from your couch. Check out the VWC website for a REALLY HUGE list of links to videos that you can access anytime. ***Want a refresher before you put your hands to a machine you haven't used for awhile?*** This is it!

Have skills but no "Ask Me!" badge? Unless you're that one cranky guy, it's time. You're really needed! No commitment required. Just wear your button when you wish and take it off if you're too busy (or cranky – LOL!) Need one? Ask me! I'll help you to get it!

Spread Joy, not germs!



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! 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!!

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Lumber

Stephen Yovan, Manager and Chairman of the Board

Your lumber department has been searching the globe for new and exotic wood species for its members. In the past it is located: sapele (a variety of mahogany from Australia) , yellow heart (from South America), and zebrawood (from west Africa).

A leading wood supplier has recently reported that a new species of lumber called Ostrich has been discovered and will be available in the near future. It will be our species of the month.

Characteristics.... Color: A pale pinkish color but darkens with time.

Ostrich as a softwood will have no rivals, easy to work, smooth feathery grain, straight water repellent texture and a strong regal smell.

Origin.... Central Australia

Common uses.... that special project that says “here’s looking at you kid! “

Availability... None at this time, but we have our best buyers negotiating for two board feet. Price has yet to be determined, suspect it will be sold by the pound. See example below:



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Conway Williams, Manager

Toys

Since our last report on August 8th we see the impact of our second shut down in early July and phased reopening in September. Fortunately many of the Elves and Painters were working from home and even continued these efforts when we reopened in September to a M-W-F schedule.

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 gave us a year to date production of only 4,880 toys which put us 2,140 toys behind where we were at the end of July last year.

August showed us able to produce only 426 toys. In September we produce 869 toys. At the end of September we had produced 6,175 toys putting us 1,854 behind last years' pace. Thus far in October we have produced 608 toys.

On the shipping side, in August we made six deliveries to clients which contained 1,481 toys and had a donation value of \$ 10,858. In September, we made five deliveries which contained 1,146 toys and had a donation value of \$8,604 bringing our year to date deliveries to 5,235 and a donation value of \$35,803 at the end of September. So far in October we have made two deliveries containing 718 toys with a donation vale of \$6,564. We see eight more client shipments for the rest of October containing 970 toys and a donation value of \$9,869. This will put us in the area of 6,700 toys and \$50,000 in donation value

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.

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 awaiting discussions with the Villages. Further we will also be participating in Hoedown Days which has been rescheduled from January 2021 to May 2021. We are already working on preparing the toys to be assembled by the children at that event.

Lastly, and most importantly, I want to thank all of the Elves and Painters of the TOY Team for their 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

TURNERS GROUP

WHATS NEW?



NEW KEYED JACOBS CHUCKS and SOME OF THE DRILL ACCESSORIES HAVE BEEN RELOCATED

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THE CHUCK KEYS ARE ATTACHED TO RETRACTABLE CABLES WITH TWO LOCATIONS ALONG THE WALL AND ONE LOCATED AT THE BACK TO BACK MIDI LATHES. THEY ARE CAPABLE OF REACHING EVERY LATHE.

BROWNWOOD SHOP.

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At the Brownwood site 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

We are looking for additional safety committee members especially those who will be spending more time at the Brownwood shop. Anyone interested in joining this committee please contact John Herega.

FINISHING:

This series will resume when we resume meetings at Laurel Manor

NOMINATIONS

December draws near as does the election of officers and Board members. **PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE** contact me if you are interested in running for any of the positions. We are especially in need of a member willing to serve as **TREASURER**. Doug Parks has served in this position for about nine years and has decided to step down from that office in 2021. **(HE WILL STILL BE A MEMBER AND AVAILABLE TO HELP TRAIN THE NEXT TREASURER.)** He is very willing to train the new person. If you have “CPA-like”/accountant experience, please consider running for this position. The responsibilities include (with input from all departments) drafting the budget each year; monitoring the spending through monthly updates; paying the bills on a regular basis; and monitoring cash flow and investments. (The new application that we have invested in for running the two locations under one club will make the bookkeeping effort much easier than it has been in the past.) The position also requires filing yearly tax statements, as well as monthly payments to Florida for the state tax collected in the shop. Additionally, the treasurer assures that our non-profit 501C-3 status remains in effect through renewal every five years. **We know that we must have a few members who have prior experience in these areas! Please consider helping the Club in this position and contact John Herega at herega@hughes.net or (732)-546-6946.**

UNDERSTANDING ENGINEERS #2:

Two engineering students were biking across a university campus when one said, “Where did you get such a great bike?”

The second engineer replied, Well, I was walking along yesterday, minding my own business, when a beautiful woman rode up on this bike, threw it to the ground, took off all her clothes and said, “Take what you want.”

The first engineer nodded approvingly and said, “Good choice; the clothes probably wouldn’t have fit you anyway.”



Carvers

Pete Bankowski

No report.



Certification & Monitor Training

Dick Besler

Certifying four new members on both Tuesdays and Thursdays is allowing us to move a minimum of thirty-two names per month off the waiting list and providing more one-on-one training for these new members. The training has been filled for the rest of October and efforts are on-going to fill the November slots. Special thanks to John Herega, Steve Yovan, John Scott and Steve Eikenberry for devoting Tuesdays and Thursdays to this effort.



Urn Project

Alvin Corenblum

Scott Herlick

Nothing new to report.

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Vice President

Rik Peirce

Building Design Committee

Building is well ahead of schedule. The anticipated turnover of the building is the 30th of November and the contractor will get a temporary occupancy permit for installation of the equipment. New photos are on the website every week.

Procurement

Jim Spallone has stepped forward to volunteer for the Purchasing Manager position and has already assumed the role. He is in advanced training on the POS purchasing system.

POS 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 that we can begin using the POS system January 4th. 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 experienced some savings from some budgeted items. The Maintenance Department has submitted the list of items to be purchased for the shop and Tool Crib. Purchase orders have been prepared for all those requested items. I encourage other departments to do the same.



Brad Primeau



Dave Adamovich

Shop Administration/Maintenance

MAINTENANCE SHOP ADMINISTRATION

Maintenance Blue Badge Instruction Program. The Blue Badge program continues and those who expressed interest are either assigned in the morning or afternoon. In some cases they work with one of the fulltime maintenance people. Participants are also encouraged to join any morning or afternoon period to gain additional experience.

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Sunday Filter Cleaning. John Scott has been training maintenance volunteers to clean the outside dust control system filters. It's normally done on Sunday when the shop is closed so the system can be shut down for several hours. Dust and sawdust are blown out of each filter and as you can imagine it's a dirty and dusty process. At some point the filter cleaning will be added to the maintenance schedule that Richard Masterson issues at the end of each month.

Brownwood Woodshop Outfitting. As reported last month, Bob Behrens assisted by Bill Love and Paul Porter continue to build cabinetry for tools, mounting equipment, storing member merchandise, stained glass, CNC computer equipment and housing lumber in the new and old shop. We have the talent, tools, and access to supplies at VWC and because Bob has taken numerous onsite measurements at Brownwood we can get ahead of the game by prebuilding those things we know will be needed.

The contractor continues to make significant progress. As mentioned in the last Department Maintenance Report Dave Adamovich led an effort for marking out machine locations, as well as locations where dust collection and power were needed. Several of the machine hookups have already been built and installed.

Donations for the Brownwood Shop. If you would like to donate a tool chest similar to the red one we have next to the wall near the small clamp bin contact Bob Behrens. It will be used for the same purpose at the new facility. It can be new or like-new. If you have one you will no longer be using, we would sure appreciate the donation. There is also a need for church pews. They will be used like the one we have in the front office. It was also donated and we modified it to provide underneath storage for front office files.

Shop Modifications. Parts have been ordered to build another reel hose vacuum station like the one that is next to the horizontal oscillating belt sander by the shop exit door. Steve Eikenberry suggested the idea to centrally locate one in the middle of the shop to minimize having to find and use one of the role-around vacuums. It should be installed and functioning in the next couple of weeks.



Woodworking Technology

Lowell Sundermann

We have used the time made available by COVID-19 to do some upgrades to our current CNC machine. The cooling fluid has been changed. Limit switches on all three axes have been added. The **Ref All Home** has been enhanced to simplify the referencing process and to put DRO's and Buttons into their proper state. The **Auto Tool Zero** button has been activated. The Diagnostics Digitize status LED has been copied to the front Program Run screen. This allows checking the status of the **Auto Tool Zero** button without leaving the front screen. The checklist has been enhanced to provide minimum required steps for all operators to follow plus adding additional details to help guide less experienced operators.

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We will consider a Zoom User Group meeting soon. Stay tuned. We will use that meeting to help refresh CNC operations. I highly recommend any returning CNC operator to seek a review of the current checklist with myself or Paul Porter. Two other instructors will be available shortly as well.

All the upgrades are to make the existing CNC operate more like the next CNC at Brownwood. Additionally for the Brownwood machine, we (Becky Carlson) have written hard copy instructions from videos for such things as Controlled Stops and Emergency Stops. Instructors have been attending weekly on-line training webinars on a wide range of topics related to our new CNC. We remain connected to a Legacy Associate in Winter Haven to learn on his machine. We are working with Rik, Brad and Bob Behrens to confirm the details of the layout for the CNC and will be making storage cabinets for CNC equipment and machine beds. The production of our CNC in Springville, UT is in the production schedule for arrival at The Villages December 15th. We are trying to do all we can to be ready to rock and roll in 2021.

The Laser has been in service primarily for the Toy Department. Others are welcome. We are asking all Laser operators to record your time of actual Laser usage for developing optimum maintenance schedules. A usage log is available at the machine.

We are getting close to restarting classes shutdown last March, and we are ready to work with the Education Department to schedule new classes. If you have completed E511 and are ready for certification see me (Lowell).

Woodworking Technology Leadership Team

Lowell Sundermann, Manager

Paul Porter, Assist. Manager

Dave Makarewicz, Instructor

Bob Thomas, Instructor



President

Mike Borfitz

Safety” has always been our prime focus but it has taken on a whole new definition this year! Winding our way through the pandemic has been a bit of a challenge but we have found new ways to accomplish things and maintained progress towards having two fully-functional sites for our Club. Rik Peirce has done a yeoman’s job of working with the construction folks and keeping the club informed of the progress of our Brownwood shop. There have been very few hiccups along the way and we are now confident that we will be able to begin our work on equipping and furnishing the building towards the end of November which translates into a full opening in the March-April 2021 timeframe.

To accommodate two sites under the auspices of one Club, the IT department has worked to reprogram our front desk application such that Brownwood and Rolling Acres are connected in real time. We have also invested in an application with which we can conduct our sales and our purchasing, maintain our inventories and electronically connect with QuickBooks (our financial program). With the retirement of Ed Ott and the advent of this new application, we created a newly-defined purchasing agent position that centralizes the purchasing effort and provides a go-to person in this area. As Rik Peirce points out in his report, Jim Spallone

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has agreed to fill this position. It's a perfect fit because Jim brings experience on all levels (past president, front desk worker, past director on the Board, past treasurer's right-hand helper, and woodworker).

Using the above as a segue; PLEASE note the plea in John Herega's report for one or more members with financial background to step forward to run for the office of treasurer. We owe tons of thanks to Doug Parks for filling this position for the past nine years but understand that he is ready to step down. If you, yourself do not fit the request, please think about whether you know someone who might and at least forward that suggestion to us. Thanks you in advance.