

Department Reports for September 2022



Stained Glass

Ed Eich, Manager

Karin Williams, Assistant Mgr.

September is here – and so is our new season for Stained Glass Classes!

Both shops are open for classes – Brownwood on Monday mornings from 9 – 11 a.m., and Rolling Acres on Friday mornings from 9 – 11 a.m.

Courses are scheduled so you can work at your own pace and level of skill. If you sign up for Studio P-900, you may use the equipment at either shop at your convenience, except when the Carvers are meeting. Material and supplies are your responsibility.

Please remember that the supplies at the shops are for class use only, but some may be purchased with permission of the instructor.

We are very fortunate to continue to receive donations of glass and supplies. They will be shared with both locations for the use of all students.

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! Ed and I will look forward to seeing you!

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Website

Hans Zassenhaus, Manager

We are working on a new capability to support New Member Training sessions, which will be entirely managed by the web application. Look for additional details in a future communication.

Each month we send out many email notices to our members. Over the past month over 15000 emails have been originated from the website. Currently our rejection rate is under 1%. Email providers are constantly changing the "rules" regarding how they identify and handle "junk" emails. Thus, there are times when our emails get caught up on this dragnet. We attempt to ensure secure delivery of emails to each of our members.

One of the underused capabilities of our website is the search function. This is available in the upper right-hand section of each page, identified with the magnifying glass icon. Type in a single word or word combinations and give it a try.

I encourage each member to "click around" our website as it is not possible to describe all of the features currently available. As with anything on the website, please send any suggestions for new features and/or improvements to the website to the webmaster as woodshop@thevwc.org.

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Administration – Front Office

Kathy Villani, Manager

Four new Front Desk staff are in training and will be at the desk in the next couple of weeks. At Rolling Acres, Jim Bossman is joining the staff. At Brownwood, Leslie Bellini, Anne Diamond, and Tom McOlvin are joining the staff. Welcome to all 4 of you and thank you for volunteering to help at the Front Desk.

Our new course term opened on September 7 and many members came to the shops to sign up for classes. Thank you to Virg Murphy, Valerie Pfundstein, and Tony Villani along with Ted Abelson, Star Ciccio, and Debbie Larouere from Education for making the first morning of enrollments a smooth and quick process for members. There are still many open seats in classes so please check out the available classes on the website and come in to sign up for those classes that interest you.

Processing of 2023 dues will be coming up soon. A formal announcement with all the details will be sent out next week to the membership and signs will be posted in both shops. Please remember, when you come in to pay your dues, bring your 2023 calendar so you can select monitor dates that you will not have to swap later. Once you have selected your monitor dates, it is your responsibility to swap any that you later find you cannot work.

Our front desk area at Rolling Acres is getting a facelift. Thanks to Bob Behrens, portions of the desk are being revamped to provide us with more storage space and to allow us to make better use of our space. This is a tricky process since we are still open for business while this transition is being made. We are all doing our best to minimize disruptions and delays that may be caused by the work in progress.

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Keep an eye out for the announcement for our Woodshop Christmas Party. It will be coming soon. The party will be held at the Savannah Center on Saturday, December 10, at 5 pm. The announcement will be emailed to all members and posted in the shops.



Member Merchandise

Steve Eikenberry

No Report this month



Education

Deb Larouere

**Education Team hopes you all had a great summer.
We've been busy getting ready. We really need some help!**

Let's help our Members to - Work toward their woodworking goals in both safe and enjoyable ways.

- Acclimate our new and returning woodworkers to safely use our equipment. (Be kind to your machine and colleagues!)
- Give all our colleagues and beginners safe ways to learn new skills through classes, clinics and guided practice projects
- Help skilled members to advance to new heights and projects

Please consider how you can 'give back' or 'pay it forward' by:

- **Teaching or assisting with a class** – existing ones need back-ups and we have gaps to fill (Scrollsaw anyone?!)

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- **Mentoring one on one** or small groups– you pick the skill, project, equipment, time . . .
- **Being the “Mentor on duty”** by hanging at the Shop for a few hours to assist and encourage colleagues as they work on projects
- Planning, demonstrating or teaching through any **Make it & Take it short projects or Skill Clinics**
- **Hosting, assisting or helping with logistics or clerical needs** for any of the above
- **Have an idea? We have an ear and an open mind . . .**

There are still open classes, and more spots are added weekly. Get in before the super busy season!

Use the Website, especially the videos and Class Info. There is SOOOOO much there!!



IT (Information Technology)

Bill Pappas

The Woodworking Machine Certification management application is nearing completion. New hardware is being installed to provide better reliability of the system. Once it is complete it will be turned over to shop management to implement/train the club members on its use. This application will facilitate a process to manage who has access to select machines that have been deemed as needing special training/certification before a member is allowed to use them.

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Lumber

Stephen Yovan, Manager

Thanks to Scott Herlick's creativity and leadership, the Lumber Department has implemented a short/cutoff storage bin at both the Rolling Acres and Brownwood location.

As you know, most of our lumber comes in 8 foot lengths plus and purchasing an exotic species of lumber can be rather expensive. And we have been getting frequent requests to purchase lumber in shorter lengths.

Therefore, the Lumber Department has implemented a procedure that will allow us to have short boards of some species stored in this new short/cutoff storage bin. Upon request (for exotic species) we will sell lumber in four foot lengths.

We recently acquired 600 board feet of cherry shorts (S3S 13/16" 5"-12" wide and 6'-7' long) which are selling for about \$3.75 a board foot or roughly 1/2 of the cost per board foot of the standard rough 4/4 8 foot board. (This is cheaper than poplar which is selling for \$4 bd ft)

We have also purchased 250 board feet of hard maple shorts (S3S 15/16" 5"-9" wide and 6'-7' long) that are selling for \$4.75 a board foot roughly 20% cheaper than the standard rough 4/4 8 foot board.

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Toys

Conway Williams, Manager

Since our last report, the Elves and Painters continue to work hard to produce the toys to support our client's 2022 requirements.

On the shipping side, in August we made four shipments of 771 toys with a donation value of \$4,659. Thus far in September we have already made one shipment of 400 toys with a donation value of \$1,200. This brings our 2022 shipping totals to 6,152 toys with a donation value of \$38,159. We are working on five more shipments for September which will have another 992 toys and an additional donation value of \$10,100!

As we look at the production side of the ledger, we were able to produce 1053 toys for August, bringing our total produced so far this year to 7,224 toys.

The summer is quickly passing and it's time to remind everyone that we will be starting back to Toys on the Square on Thursday September 8th weather permitting! Unfortunately, it did not! All the Squares were shut down for weather. We will try again on Thursday October 6th at Brownwood.

Looking ahead to next year we have already submitted our thoughts for 2023 Toys on the Square and should have an answer back from the Villages by next months' update.

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Safety, Turners

The Turners meetings will resume Tuesday September 20 2022 at 7:00PM sharp in the meeting/training room in Brownwood, second floor.

Please bring a show and tell item. All members, non-members and their guests are invited

Tool sharpening:

The two 180 grit CBN grinding wheels, one on each grinder have been badly damaged and must be replaced. The 180-grit wheel on the bowl gouge grinder for has been replaced, unfortunately the delivery of the second wheel for the spindle gouge grinder is being delayed 8 weeks. Use caution when sharpening any turning tools. ALSO – do not use any foreign material ie. a piece of wood to stop the grinder wheels, allow them to stop without any assistance, the wheels are balanced and do take some time to come to a stop. By using a piece of wood to stop them the fibers become imbedded in the grit causing poor performance of the wheel.

Recently several gouges have been ground improperly and while applying too much pressure on the gouge against the wheel turning the gouge blue doesn't damage the gouge, it does however cause undo wear to the wheel, **DO NOT EXERT ANY PRESSURE AGAINST THE GRINDING WHEEL THE PRESSURE**

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OF THE TOOL RESTING AGAINST THE WHEEL IS SUFFICIENT.

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO SHARPEN ANY TOOLS UNLESS YOU HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED IN THE CORRECT METHOD(S)! SEEK AN INSTRUCTOR TO LEARN THE PROPER METHODS FOR SHARPENING EACH OF THE TURNING TOOLS.

When gouges are ground improperly and have to be re-ground, often a year or more of use is lost.

If it has been a while since last sharpening a tool please view the sharpening video available on the VWC web site.

MISUSE AND/OR LACK OF KNOWLEDGE:



This picture is of the silencer (filter) located at the exit of the vacuum generator. Next to it is some of the sawdust/debris that passed through the unit causing the vacuum to be reduced from 25 inches to 20 inches.

PLEASE KEEP ALL VACUUM COMPONENTS CLEAN AND AS FREE OF SAWDUST AS POSSIBLE.

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COLES JAWS USED FOR GLUEING UP'S Showing improperly or neglected to be cleaned Glue build on the jaws and on the rubber jaws causing them to become hard which can result in marring or otherwise damaging the surface of a bowl when used properly to finish the bottom of a bowl (which is the intended use of the Coles chuck), rested screws make it difficult to remove them and can cause the stripping of the screw head and/or the allen wrench.

PLEASE DO NOT USE THE COLES JAWS AS A GLUING CLAMP OR PRESS.

Use the Formica faced wooden glue chucks USE HOT GLUE TO TEMPORARLY HOLD YOUR WORKPIECE IN PLACE.

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SHOW AND TELL



NORFOLK ISLAND PINE VESSEL

To share pictures of your woodworking projects submit them to the newsletter or send them to woodshop@thevwc.org for posting to the website.

APPARELL

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

FINISHING TIPS

OIL FINISHES. Continued

SAFETY AND OIL FINISHES

There are two areas of safety to consider when using oil finishes:

- **Safety to you while applying the finish**
- **Safety of the finished object, particularly if it might come in contact with food or someone's mouth.**

SAFETY DURING APPLICATION

Any finish that contains a solvent or oil is a fire hazard. There are two rules you should always follow when working with oil finishes:

- Never heat the finish over an open flame or electric burner. If you want to warm the finish, always do so by putting the finish container in a pot of hot water and placing the pot over a fire or burner
- Never leave oily rags bunched together in piles. The absorption of oxygen, which brings about curing, generates heat as a by-product. When oil-or varnish-soaked rags are piled up, enough heat can be generated to cause spontaneous combustion. Always dispose of your used rags by placing them in an approved oily-waste container. Or hang them over a branch or fence so they are totally exposed to air and can dissipate the heat. It's a good habit to hang oily rags over the edge of a workbench if you don't have time to take them outdoors immediately. That way, you are safe from the threat of fire if you should happen to forget. Once the finish has cured on the rags. (They will become stiff), you can safely toss them in the trash.

SAFETY FOR FOOD OR MOUTH CONTACT

The safety of “oil” finishes for food or mouth contact is unclear. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) lists all the common oils, resins, and driers used in these finishes as safe if the finishes are properly formulated. Proper formulation is necessary to ensure that potentially harmful ingredients won’t leach out once the finish has cured. Some manufactures market their finishes as food-safe, calling them “salad bowl finishes.” Other don’t. Yet within each of the four types of “oil” the ingredients used in the formulation methods employed are almost identical.

It’s most likely that all commonly available oil finishes are safe to eat off of, or to bring in contact with your mouth, once the solvents have evaporated and the finish has cured. (You can tell that the solvents have evaporated when the smell is gone.) Neither the chemistry nor long experience using these finishes suggests a problem. Nevertheless, if you are concerned stick with one of the brands that claim to be safer for food contact. That way, you have the assurance that the manufacturer stands legally behind the product’s safety.

Alternatively, you can use walnut oil or mineral oil, which is edible. Note, however, that walnut oil cures very slowly and mineral oil doesn’t cure at all. (Don’t use vegetable oils; they often turn rancid.) Both of these oils will leave wood with a very low sheen. After a couple of washings, as might occur on wooden bowls and utensils, the oil will be gone. But you can reapply more oil whenever the wood is dried out. As long as there is oil in the pores of the wood, the wood will have a richer color and water penetration will be slowed.

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POLIMERIZED OIL

Any curing or semi-curing oil can be heated in an oxygen-free environment to around 500 degrees Fahrenheit to increase it's gloss and hardness and reduce its curing time. Oil processed in this manner is called polymerized or heat bodied oil. Polymerized oil is commonly used in ink and outdoor paint.

NEXT MONTH – USING A WAX FINISH AND MORE.



Carvers

Bill McGinnis

Since the last report we have been very active and have many new carvers at BW.

During the last couple of months, we have averaged a new carver each week. We now greet the people going through orientation each week to introduce them to the opportunity to carve.

Steve Mendelsohn did a video of a presentation of "knife sharpening". It is available on the web site. It shows the proper way and how to be safe. Sharp carving tools are very important and need to be done on our equipment.

Ron Gaudette is back for a couple of months to assist and train. Dennis Drazkowski will return in early October and ready with a new class. The classes are available with all other woodworking classes.

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We welcome experienced as well as new carvers at both shops. The usual carving day at RA is Monday and Wednesday. BW is Tuesday and Thursday.

If you are interested, we can use help mentoring new carvers. See Steve, Dennis, Ron or Bill McGinnis for information.

We have a good library for ideas and "how to" information in both locations. There are 16 work stations at each location.

If you would like to try wood burning or power carving see us.

Stained glass has classes on Monday at BW and Friday at RA so the room is not available for carving at that time.

Come and visit us and observe carving in action. Talk to us anytime. We can be interrupted while we carve so do not hesitate to get acquainted with us.



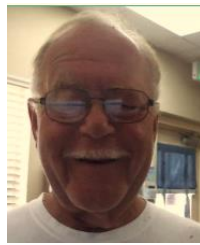
Dick Besler

Certification & Monitor Training

Also, a reminder to the members that will usually use Brownwood as their shop but have Monitor duty at Rolling Acres in order to work at Rolling Acres you must go through the Thursday authorization which will allow you to do your Monitor duty and be able to use the shop for projects. You must also go through the Monitor training at Rolling Acres on either the first or third Wednesday of the month so you are familiar with the Rolling acres procedures as the procedures are tailored to each shop.

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If you have any questions regarding this you can contact me at 352-751-4745.



Urn Project

Alvin Corenblum

Scott Herlick

It has been a busy summer for the Urn Department. All of the 6 National Cemeteries that we supply with urns have returned to full operation. We have a full inventory at all of the sites (usually 10 urns) as of this writing. We have also supplied the MIA (Missing in America) Project with 50 urns for their needs. The MIA Project searches for completely forgotten cremains and have located over 5000 vets that “fell thru the cracks” nationwide.

The Sons of the American Legion have always been very supportive of the Urn Department and this year has been no exception. Not only have they donated hard cash for supplies but more importantly, they have agreed to deliver the urns to the various Cemeteries. Doug White is a member of both clubs and has done a great job coordinating those deliveries.

Tom Soeder, also a member of both clubs, has used his contacts at the Legion to promote the project to the general membership. The Legion has agreed to place brochures and promote our for-sale urns as a way to further fund the Urn Department. We are looking forward to a good number of sales from the Legion.

Finally, I would like to remind the membership that we have smaller pet sized urns for sale. Just check with the front desk for details.

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Vice President

Rik Peirce

Rolling Acres Building Design Committee

No update

Procurement

No Update

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

MORE "I CAN'T BELIEVE IT" & PICTURES TO PROVE IT!

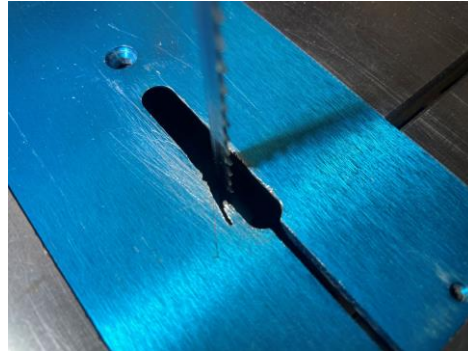
There is more to woodworking than cutting wood or gluing a couple of boards together. ALL aspects involved in what you are doing must be checked or thought about before an action is taken. Consider where or what saw blades will cut, is there anything in the way of what you are trying to do, what will or can happen that is not part of what you are trying to do – glue drips on clamps, inaccurate blade or wood placement, pushing a bandsaw blade instead of letting it do the work, moving things out the way or looking

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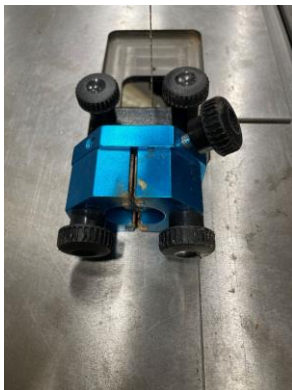
around to make sure everything is correct and finally, changing or adjusting something that is the responsibility of the Maintenance Department.



CLAMP HOLDING MEMBERS
PROJECT WAS IN THE WAY
AND WAS CUT THROUGH
ON MITER SAW



THROAT PLATE WAS CUT
BECAUSE THE USER BACKED
OUT THE WOOD WITH BLADE
RUNNING. SHUT IT OFF BEFORE
BACKING OUT OR MAKE
RELIEF CUTS



GUIDE BLOCK REMOVED
BY A MEMBER

**“MAINTENANCE IS THE
ONLY DEPARTMENT
AUTHORIZED TO
REMOVE, ADJUST OR
MODIFY EQUIPMENT”**



THE MONITOR WAS
TOLD THE BLADE JUST
BROKE AND THE
PERSON LEFT FOR THE
DAY.

THE PIECE OF WOOD IN
THE PICTURE WAS
FOUND JAMMED
AGAINST THE LOWER
GUIDE WHERE THE
BLADE BROKE. IT'S THE
SAME WOOD THE
PERSON WAS CUTTING!

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ROLLING ACRES DEPARTMENT MOVE

The picture on the right shows Walt Chekay attaching a plywood backer board to one of walls in the NEW maintenance room. Yes, maintenance is moving to the old Special Projects area next to Toys. The move is one of the recommendations made by the Building Design Committee. Dave Adamovich, head of RA maintenance, has the lead for the transition, designing and building cabinetry and deciding what will be moved, recycled or offered to the membership. Electrical changes, modifications will be done by Dave Makarewicz. Yellow Blue Badge members will support when and where needed.



Moving maintenance will free up assembly space, provide room for the “new” CNC and Urns. The pipes overhead in the old maintenance space will be kept for current and future pipe storage.

ANOTHER VWC CAPABILITY

Glenn Croteau and Pei Ma are setting up the new leveling jig recently purchased for evaluation and use in either shop. The jig was bought for leveling live edged slabs, epoxy tables, large cutting and decorative board and other woodworking projects. Pei used it to level a bottom section of a slice of a tree that will be a small table when finished. A dedicated router, flattening bits, adjustment tools and vacuum attachments are included in a checkout box. The jig can accommodate a four foot+ piece of any length. It can adjust to fit almost any rectangular table. Since it's not setup for a specific table or space it is portable. Members with 1-1/2 to 3hp router experience should be able to use the jig. Setup instruction would be the only thing required. The jig will be a maintenance checkout item. Maintenance



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can assist in setting up the jig and help those individuals who have a onetime or limited need for the jig.

MONITORING, IT'S MORE THAN A CLUB REQUIREMENT

A recent medical incident at Brownwood highlighted the fact that monitors need to routinely walk the equipment and assembly areas of either shop when performing monitor duties. Sitting on a stool for a brief period to rest is acceptable but sitting and observing an area or engaging lengthily conversation or any other thing that prevents a member on monitor duty from walking the spaces in not acceptable. Ensuring members are operating equipment safely is one task but, keeping an eye on open and being able to assist if someone is having a medical issue is another and, in most cases, a more important task. If you are not capable of routinely walking around equipment and assembly areas Crib monitor duty should be selected.

BW LASER BEING INSTALLED

The laser donated by Jill Bulmash who many have talked to or had work done by her on the Rolling Acres laser will soon be located in the Brownwood assembly room near the maintenance shop. Voytek Kulesza, Chief Special Projects, built the cabinet with Paul Porter's assistance. Paul and Dave Makarewicz will finish the installation in the next week or two. There will be a laser in each shop for people to use or take certified training to use either laser.



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BW MULT-PURPOSE ROOM SINK READY FOR INSTALLATION

The long-awaited sink for glass and carver use arrived and has been placed in the multipurpose room. Installation is supposed to begin in or around the 16th of August. Three days have been scheduled and during that time Special Projects will be closed for water and drain connections to the sink.



Voytek Kulesza

Special Projects

I would like to inform all members that Special projects department is Operating thanks to efforts of 8 very active club members. Three of them are dedicating their time to fabricate our Slant Wedges and Samba Card holders. Five of our members are working on received projects and fabricating furnishing projects needed by both Rolling Acres and Brownwood shops. We are very busy working most days of the week. Please thank John Scott for donating over 400 labor hours this year just to help us completing projects brought here by the Villagers. Also special thanks to Larry Litowich and James Monahan for spending many hours to produce our best sellers The Samba Card Holders, of which this year we have sold (whooping) 1363 sets.

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Woodworking Technology

Lowell Sundermann

Things are ramping up for the Fall-Winter Education season. Best that you watch for and follow Debbie's emails and instructions.

Concerning Corel and Inkscape. First let me make it clear, the deal we had with Corel for the last four or so years no longer exists. Corel offers education versions of their software to students with the idea they are likely to purchase the latest version when they leave school. Guess what, that model does not fit the sales to our club, and they seem not to be willing to offer it to retirees from the goodness of their heart. If you want to use CorelDraw, help yourself to what you can find on the internet.

Our plan is to continue to use CorelDraw to interface to the laser. It is pretty clear to me that Corel and Epilog have worked together to have a very robust interface. Some day that may change to other options.

In the meantime, we want to offer our membership training on a graphics design package that is similar to Corel, has the features needed to do laser engraving/cutting type designs, and is economical. At this time Inkscape appears to be the clear choice.

The laser class E601, will be offered using CorelDraw 2018. Those that do not have 2018 can loan a copy of our 2018 license at the time of signing up for E601 to complete the training and obtain certification on the lasers.

We had hoped to have a class at the start of this fall season for Inkscape but our lead instructor, Pamela McKee, is needing to stay up north to care for her sister. We may take a run at a class or two just to see how it is accepted. The software is free, it just requires some of your time to learn the very basics to the drawing tools and importing of bitmap images. More on that later.

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Concerning the CNCs, E511 is the class you need to take. Before our new Shark CNC at RA, E511 included a demo of the previous RA CNC and certification on that machine was required before seeking certification on the BW CNC. That will change. More class time will be spent on understanding the features and checklists of both machines so you can then contact the instructor for each machine immediately after completing E511 for certification. This will be explained during E511.

Hope you enjoy this year's classes and the equipment it will allow you to operate.



President

John K. Scott

Here is an update of how many new members we have gained so far this year. As of 9/6/2022, we have 1455 paid members of which 39 are marked inactive. Of that number, 288 have joined since 1/1/2022 and we still have almost 4 months to go. This is an increase over 2021's new members which was 284 new members total. Our waiting list still is officially in excess of 500. Just how many of the 500 are actually going to join given the chance remains a question. But in any case, we fully expect to have by Jan 2023 1600 members and surely to gain another 100 through the rest of the winter. Therefore, we based next year's budget on 1700 members.

Our Sept meeting was the first meeting at the Eisenhower Rec. Ctr. location, we introduced many new members and we had a great "Show and Tell." For our next meeting in October, the 11th, we are planning to have some cake to mark the 1st year anniversary of the Brownwood shop opening. So, bring your items for the Show and Tell and enjoy some cake

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with the coffee. Speaking of anniversaries, I am trying to determine the date this Club officially started so we can celebrate that anniversary as well. If anyone knows the exact date, please let me know.

Speaking of Show and Tell Valerie Pfundstein has offered to setup a Facebook site for our club. This site will be limited to Club members only and the idea is members can post pictures etc. of their projects. A better way to get pictures of more projects out to members of the club. This project is in the planning stages and more info will be released in the near future.

Also, at the Sept meeting I showed how we arrived at the budget for next year. We used the philosophy that our annual dues should pay the day-to-day operating expenses and the new member initiation fee is used for buying new equipment. So, when taking the day-to-day expenses offset by the income the Club receives from donations, which is substantial and a great deal of thanks goes to our members who contribute their time, our annual dues can remain as they are. This will work for next year but there are no guarantees for the following years.

Our Christmas Dinner is set for Dec 10th, 2nd Saturday of the month at Savannah. Tickets go on sale 1 Oct and as we have in the past, we are asking for project donations for the silent auction. Many thanks to Patty Cooke for coordinating this and she will send out more information soon.

Our Club is a great Club with a lot of great hard-working folks. Remember all the functions performed to make our Club successful is done with our members volunteering their time. With the additional members and new shop, we need more volunteers for all of our functions. So whatever skill you have we can probably put it to good use.

Many Thanks,

John Scott
President, The Villages Woodworkers Club