

## Department Reports for January 2023

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**Ed Eich, Manager**



**Karin Williams, Assistant Mgr.**

### **Stained Glass**

No Report this month.



### **Website**

**Hans Zassenhaus, Manager**

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](mailto:woodshop@thevwc.org).

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### **Administration – Front Office**

**Kathy Villani, Manager**

The last day to pay dues for 2023 and remain a VWC member is Tuesday, January 31, 2023. Any members who remain unpaid after 4 pm on January 31 will be removed from our member roster.

All of our monitor shifts at Brownwood are filled for 2023 so anyone who has not yet signed up for their monitor duty will be asked to take shifts at Rolling Acres where we still have many open shifts. New members will also be assigned shifts at Rolling Acres.

Thank you to the Front Desk Staff members who helped with cleaning the Rolling Acres shop on Saturday, December 17, 2022. Cindy Bloecher, Nancy King, and Elena Prince did an outstanding job cleaning the rest rooms and kitchen – please thank them when you see them because those areas have not looked so good in many, many years. We also had a great team cleaning the shop – Brian Becker, Bob Behrens, Mark Corner, Steve Eikenberry, Sandy Fuller, Scott Herlick, Richard Masterson, Will Muhleman, Mike Niesen, Mike Ptaszynski, Jim Ritter, Tom Skahill, Pat Toomey, Mark Volpe. Many thanks to all of them and my apologies if I missed anyone.

We need additional volunteers to work at the front desks of both shops but especially at Rolling Acres. If you are interested in working at the Front Desk, please stop by the desk at either shop and let the staff member on duty know of your interest. If you prefer, you can call Kathy Villani on 352-750-1095 or email her at [kathleen.villani@gmail.com](mailto:kathleen.villani@gmail.com). You are welcome to spend a little time at either front desk to see what we do and to ask any questions you may have. We will be conducting training for the front desk soon so if you would like to join us, please let us know

### **Membership Status:**

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# members who paid 2023 dues thru 1/10/23 – 1331

# members who have not paid 2023 dues yet – 189 (down from 286 on 1/1/23)  
These members are being called by front desk staff to determine if they will renew their membership or not.

# of members who became inactive during 2022 – 75

Resigned – 55

Moved – 13

Deceased – 7

Wait List – 380 currently on list

There are 2110 Villagers who have been on the wait list at some point since it began in 2018:

Attended Certification – 1107\*

No Longer Interested - 623

Emails have been sent to 410 out of the 603 on the list before we began the new process of notification and certification (began on 11/10/22).

One month after being sent an invitation to join, if the Villager has not joined or advised us that they are no longer interested, they are marked as no longer interested.

Number added to wait list since we began the new process – 105

\* This number looks high in comparison to our current membership but we get between 100 and 150 members who leave the club each year so the actual growth during the past 4 years is approximately 600.



**Steve Eikenberry**

### Member Merchandise

No report this month

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Steve Eikenberry  
Merchandise Manager

Mike Gilman  
Asst Manager (Brownwood)



## Education

**Deb Larouere**

We're all really busy, so here are the highlights – at BOTH Shops:

- **Sign-ups continue.** Some classes are full, but many still have openings. Check Course Catalog.
- **Classes added** as Instructor become available. Help us find them! Updated online daily!
- **Education opportunities make the Shops safer and more fun** for Members and machines
- **Mentors, Instructors, and skill/equipment demonstrators** needed ASAP!
  - Set your own pace and schedule to make it fun for yourself
  - Assistants/Helpers also needed – everywhere. Great way to review classes you've taken, but not mastered.
- **Also needed for support** in many areas – beginners welcome!
  - Bulletin Board updaters for both Shops
  - Power Point specialist
  - Communication liaisons for each zone (Turning, Carving, New members, etc.) to take the load off Instructors, giving them more time to teach.
  - Project/Event managers, helpers, host/hostesses

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### **IT (Information Technology)**

**Brian Landis**

Dick Hartley is now focused on developing an Online Monitor Substitution application to facilitate members needing to swap monitor duties. Rolling Acres electronic door locks have been cleaned.



### **Lumber**

**Stephen Yovan, Manager**

Santa Claus delivered gifts to the VWC membership via the Lumber Department.

The lumber department recently acquired over 650 board feet of Santos Mahogany at a ridiculously low price. It was delivered on Wednesday December 27 at 1 PM by one of Santa's Elves driving an 18-wheeler Hood Distribution green sleigh and split between the Rolling Acres and Brownwood locations.

The mahogany lumber was 6" to 12" wide, 8 to 10 feet long and 1 1/2 " thick. The SELLING price was \$2.00 a board foot, YES, I said \$2.00 a board foot. Over 400 board feet were sold at Brownwood in less than three hours.

Who says " There is no Santa Claus? "

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With mixed emotions; I am sad to report that we are sold out of Santos Mahogany in both locations.



### **Toys**

**Conway Williams, Manager**

The Elves and Painters have completed another successful, but every challenging year. In addition to getting toys out the door, we faced challenges that we have not faced before, serious health and sickness issues, the need to take a well-deserved break from toy building to reconnect to family and friends, and numerous supply chain issues.

On the shipping side for the year 2022, we made shipments of 10,703 toys with a donation value of \$76,433, to 25 different clients.

We have now made shipments of wooden toys to the needy children in the tri county area amounting to 115,699 since we started in 2001 with 142 toys that first year! The donation value of those toys from 2013 (when we first started to track value) to 2022 is \$618,572.

The Elves and Painter are not resting on their laurels, we have already two shipments of toys containing 538 toys with a donation value of \$2,731, so far in 2023.

Our Toys on the Square Project, which restarted in the in the 4th quarter of 2022 has undergone some changes the most visible one was the addition of a canopy, which was allowed by the new 2023 rules for charity spaces at market nights.



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We were very glad to have it for our January 4th session at Lake Sumter Landing.

Toys on the Square will be moving to Spanish Springs for the next three months, starting on Tuesday February 7th 2023 at 5pm. Please come out and support the Toy Team.

The Toy Team is also looking for woodworkers who are interested in mentoring new Elves as they learn to make toys.

Please contact Conway Williams at [cswillijr@cvn.net](mailto:cswillijr@cvn.net) or leave a message on 717-319 6952.



John Herega

### Turners

**THE TURNERS MEETINGS FOR JANUARY WAS CANCELLED.**  
**The next turners meeting will be held on February 21, 2023 at Brownwood in the meeting room.**

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**No other report this month.**

### **APPAREL**

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



**Steve Eikenberry**

### **Safety**

The VWC Safety Department wishes to remind members of the following personal safety measures we all need to practice:

1. With cooler weather, long sleeves are more popular. Long sleeves are discouraged because they can become entangled in machinery, causing severe injuries. If you choose to wear long sleeves, they must be tight fitting and be above the wrist...never below the wrist.
2. Jewelry is discouraged, and if worn must not be loose or dangle.
3. Long hair can also become entangled in machinery...long hair must be contained in a tight pony tail or worn above the shoulders.
4. Face shields are available throughout both shops...not just at the lathes. If you are performing a task that has the possibility of debris hitting your face or you feel uncomfortable with your face exposed, seek out a face shield. Also, a reminder **face shields are highly recommended; but not mandatory**, for lathe turning using any type of



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gouge...this goes for pens also. Sanding at low speeds and drilling at low speeds may be done without a face shield if desired.

We are always looking for interested members who wish to help keep out shops safe. You do not need a background in safety...we will train you. Safety members work 4-hour shifts, and can attain exemption from monitor duty if enough shifts are worked. Interested? Contact Steve Eikenberry at 260.437.9560 (voice or text) or John Herega [732.546.6946](tel:732.546.6946) (voice or text).

We meet monthly on the second Monday of each month at 1 PM in the Brownwood classroom. Please join us!



### Carvers

**Bill McGinnis**

Carving has been picking up steam at Brownwood. Some days as many as 12 people.

Rolling Acres is not as busy. We need more new and older carvers to join us on Monday and Wednesday. We can train new members just stop in and talk to us if interested in learning carving, wood burning or power carving at either location.

Look for class information offerings from the Education Department.

More information coming in February.

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**Dick Besler**

### **Certification & Monitor Training**

Any questions contact Dick Besler 352-751-4745



**Alvin Corenblum**



**Scott Herlick**

### **Urn Project**

Nothing new to report this month.



**Bill Pappas**

### **Vice President**

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## 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**

### OVERVIEW

Both shops are in full operation. On any given day maintenance personnel are busy helping members, recalibrating equipment and keeping an eye on the facility for signs of wear and tear. If at any time help is needed don't hesitate to ask for help BEFORE proceeding. The time it takes to ask and find help in many cases is the shorter of two routes – asking and getting help or the time it takes to repair, recalibrate, sharpen a blade or bit or the worse yet, having to order a new or replacement part. Keep in mind in addition to maintenance personnel many members are able and willing to help. Just ask.

### FIRE ALARMS

The safety of our members is one of, if not the most important objectives of club. Recently, the fire/smoke alarm activated at the Brownwood shop. Remember if you hear the alarm

### **VACATE THE BUILDING - NO EXCEPTIONS**

Some members were hesitant or reluctant to leave and that is unacceptable. Failure to follow fire or safety procedures can result in needless harm to another member and/or possible suspension if the rules are not followed. It seems a bit ridiculous to have to

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remind a member that hearing an alarm is not something to debate or decide not to pay attention to. Go Figure!

## **IF THERE IS SMOKE THERE IS FIRE**

The fire alarm igoing off at Brownwood was caused by someone misusing a bit and burning the wood being cut to a point of activating the fire alarm system. Bottom line,

**IF SOMETHING STARTS TO SMOKE STOP WHAT YOU ARE DOING.  
AGAIN IF SOMETHING STARTS TO SMOKE STOP!!!!**

The same thing happened several months ago on one of the large bandsaws. If you look at the bearings hanging on the side of the bandsaw you can plainly see the blade was being forced against the bearing because the person was applying to much pressure. LET THE BLADE OR BIT DO THE WORK. If a tool has to be forced to cut, sand, drill, or level something to much force is being applied.

## **ROLLING ACRES**

### **LIGHTING**

'Rolling Acres is the place to be' or something like the old song starting with Green Acres....

It's the place to be to 'see' the new lighting that's been installed by the Villages. All the florescent tubes have been replaced with LED lights. Who said there isn't a 'bright' idea anymore.

### **PLANER**

A new planer motor has been installed. The old one failed again and since it's been repaired before and if it could be repaired again it would take several weeks a decision was made to purchase a new motor and warranty. The planer is one of the most important tools in the shop and without one the small backup planer would be overworked and undersized to do many of the projects undertaken in the shop.

### **AWNINGS**

Village representatives recently met with VWC leadership to discuss adding canopies over the doors. Although some type of structure over doors has been discussed and asked for in the past, Village management changes or other priorities resulted in no action by the Villages. Now there will be a budget line for awnings over all three walkout doors in the shop! Progress moves slowly when it comes to spending Village money.

### **MAKEOVER**

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Termites have eaten large portions of the front office cadenza – NOT! Bob Behrens is busy replacing and refurbishing the front office reception furniture. He is repurposing the old panels and adding new sections to accommodate technology and administrative changes. If you want a challenge build a multi-faced, angular cabinet system like Bob's. The pictures below tell the story from design to the almost finished product. Go Bob!



### **STICKY SITUATION**

A team has been formed to develop epoxy handling procedures for the club. Procedures will not only specify all the steps required to use epoxy but also, address class instruction. Dedicated tools, handling equipment and instructional aids are to be developed. Having uniform instruction, preparation and application procedures will ensure using epoxy in either shop will be done in a consistent, safe and user friendly way. The primary team members are Dan Bernier, Tom Zedick, Jamie Fowler and Kathy Hanson. The club thanks them for taking on what can be a sticky situation!

### **PALM READING?**

No the club is not starting palm reading but Houston we have a palm sander problem! Members are using too much pressure using the palm sanders and wearing out the sandpaper pads, causing the motor to overheat and shutdown or burn-up. The weight of sander, grit of the sandpaper and enough hand pressure to hold the sander in place or from running off the object being sanded is ALL IT TAKES. NO MORE PRESSURE IS REQUIRED!!!

### **JUST PLY-YOURSELF**

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If you think you can't do anything creative with plywood look at what Dave Adamovich created! It's made of Birch plywood and walnut. Next time you walking by the maintenance shop at Rolling Acres take a look at Dave's handiwork. It's mighty fine work!



**Voytek Kulesza**

### Special Projects

Happy New Year to all!

As a Special Projects Manager I would like to thank all volunteers in our department and outside of the department for the time and effort they donated to make our work a success.

Special thanks to Jim Monahan and his wingman Larry Litowich whose team fabricated around 2300 Samba card holders of which 2115 were purchased by Villagers. If you bump into these two club members make sure to thank them for their hard work!

Also, big thanks to our biggest star John Scott. John donated most voluntary time in the department but also donated time in other departments, shop and education. One could think that the Club is Johns' home and his life style is helping others.



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We have completed 39 projects in December and received donation of \$1,033.07

31 Slant Wedges was sold for \$465.00 and

232 Samba Card Holders for a donation of \$2,320.00

Total donation for December closed at \$3,818.07

YTD :

239 Slant Wedges for \$3,585.00

2115 Samba Boards for \$21,150.00

604 projects for \$21,021.28

To date total Special Projects donation \$45,791.28

Thanks for your support



**Lowell Sundermann**

### **Woodworking Technology**

Things remain busy. Classes for both the CNC and Laser remain in demand. We are trying to offer as much training as is reasonable for the people power required and that is available. Remember beyond the class itself, there is a prerequisite class to handle the fundamentals, and certification after the class. Student's knowledge of Lasers and CNC's remains high and new member computer skills are no longer an issue.

The big news lies within the Laser Group. We always realize that someone will walk in the door with skills and experience that exceed ours, and we welcome that when it happens. I do not want to take away Dave Makarewicz's thunder, but such a person has joined us with an amazing history of Laser technology. We are hoping to introduce the new member at an upcoming membership meeting. Stay tuned for the announcement,

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you won't want to miss it. I wish to also thank Debbie for flagging this individual during orientation. That is all I wish to say about this for now. Stay tuned.

Thanks to all that make our department succeed.



### **President**

**John K. Scott**

#### State of the Club

I am happy to report that our Club has finished 2022 in great shape. Both shops remained open the entire year.

At Rolling acres, we moved the shop maintenance area to the old special projects room giving maintenance better organization etc. We also replaced 2 of the 3 table saws and moved the radial arm saw to a better location to facilitate the flow of lumber as it comes into the shop.

Our Brownwood shop with the new classrooms had become the location for new member certification/safety training. Due to our large wait list of Village Residents wishing to join our club we increased the amount of training from once a month to once a week. Other adjustments have been made to the training process which allows us to train more folks each day of training.

We changed the wait list signup process in order to insure only residents who are serious about joining get on the wait list. This change requires the interested resident to pay their dues and initiation fee when they sign up to join. They then are assigned a classroom training period in preparation for

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the actual shop floor training. And then, once they get the shop floor training, they are qualified to use the shop. It is with these changes now our waiting list is down to 380 from 600+ and we expect it to be zero by the end of March. All of these changes I have mentioned have required a lot of work from our website team and the Training folks making this all go smoothly. Many thanks.

I don't want to get into a lot of detail here concerning our membership numbers but as of January 10th we appear to be in good shape towards achieving the 1700 paid members for 2023. The 2023 budget was built based on having 1700 members.

Opening of the Brownwood shop and bringing on many new members did put a strain on our staff. Especially in the Training area. Many new members have little experience in woodworking and yes we get them trained initially in safety precautions etc. but the day to day projects require more knowledge. The demand for more instructors became readily apparent and I am happy to say as the year moved on more and more members stepped up and help carry the load. We still could use more help, but it is getting better. Many thanks to the Training Dept.

Our maintenance area also experienced strain but now as the new members join and gain experience they are stepping up to the task as well.

Our Toys, Lumber, Pens for Troops, Urns, IT, Safety and Special Projects areas have worked hard and accomplished a lot. Please see each Dept for their individual report.

Last but not least our Front Desk personnel do a tremendous job in keeping the day-to-day routine running and in good order.

I thank all of our volunteers for the time and effort they give to our Club. We wouldn't have a Club if it wasn't for them.