

VILLAGE THE WOODWORKER



Volume 29 No. 11

November 2025

President – Steve Bolton Vice President – Randy Neuhaus
VP Wood Operations – Vince Evans
Secretary – Mary Hoffmann Treasurer – Christa Greenlee

"Remembering Charlie Anderson, our first and longtime Newsletter editor."

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Dec 9	Toys for Tots	TV Community Church	7:00 PM	Presentation
Dec 27	Business Meeting	Little Italy	8:15 AM	All Members welcome
Jan 6	General Meeting	Yacht Club	7:00 PM	Sam Maloof Rocking Chair
				Presented by David Peterson

December meeting will be at the Tellico Village community church hall on December 9 at 7pm. (5:00 pm set-up)

We will be presenting the handmade wooden toys created by the teams, as well as the TV Village donated toys, to the Loudon County Sheriff department. The Madisonville Boys and Girls club will be in attendance to sing some Christmas carols as well as an opportunity to meet their new leader, Sarah Fischer.

We are reintroducing a feature from the past. Let's call it "show, no tell." Members are encouraged to bring woodworking items from their past/present to share with those at the meeting.

There will be many spouses in attendance and I'm sure they, as well as our members, will be interested in the work and artistry you have produced. I can imagine a few saying "honey, why can't you make that for me"! We will have tables set up to show your talent, so don't be shy. We will have cookies, coffee and water available, as well as bags to take some cookies home.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the December 9th Meeting / Presentation.

November 22nd Business Meeting summary

Treasurer (Christa Greenlee) Current club balance is \$24,855

Community Service (Randy Neuhaus)

Ned Miller's small group working on Dunbar display & bookcase.

Two new requests starting early 2026.

President Report (Steve Bolton)

Thank you to the Meeting Set-up and AV Team.

Discussion about and action items on Web site security concerns.

Toys For Tots/ Fantasy of Trees/Madisonville B&G Club (Richard Ganch,

Richard passed around pictures of items donated to Fantasy of Trees. Some great items were donated.



T4T's Presentation will be Tuesday December 9 at the Community Church of Tellico Village. 5:00 pm set-up. 7: 00 pm start time.

Members, Spouses, Friends & Neighbors are welcome. Each T4T Team will have a table to demonstrate some of their toys. In addition, a special table will be set up to share club member projects similar to a "Show & Tell". **Display case at Yacht Club** is currently displaying some of the toys and has a continuous loop of pictures running.

Toys are also being collected at various locations around the village for T4T. The Santa Claus Open will provide a number of toys, as well.

Club Members acknowledged and thanked Richard for his tremendous work on the T4T, Fantasy of Trees and the Boys & Girls Club.

Arrowmont Weekend Opportunity

Ron Comtois presented a potential opportunity for WWC members. The opportunity would be to partner with Smoky Mountain Woodturners to rent the Arrowmont Woodworking pavilion March 20 to March 22, 2026. The WWC would have the opportunity to rent the Flat Work side of the pavilion. Pricing is \$3,200 for the whole pavilion so \$1,600 per club. Five meals including breakfast, lunch and dinner would be \$113 per person. Members would be responsible for contacting Arrowmont for the room and paying that directly.

After some discussion it was decided that a planning team including: Ned Miller (lead), George Michaels, John Miranda and Randy Neuhaus would meet to discuss and better outline the opportunity and bring their findings and recommendations to the December Business Meeting.



November Program

- Online Aids in Designing Woodworking Projects

Did you know that there is an online “Sagulator” that can help you determine how much a shelf will sag over a given span? There are also online tools to help you determine angles, the best woods to use in a project, create cut lists and much more! Dick Hoffman knew about and has been using these tools. He put his favorites into a presentation and shared it with us at the meeting so we can use them too! Additionally, he included a list of Nancy Kessler’s favorite online how to videos.

Dick’s presentation with links to the tools and online training resources is available [here](#). The video of his presentation is available in the Past Programs section of our website or at this [link](#).



[Website link to Video presentation](#)

[Website link to Powerpoint presentation](#)

Ramp Team...Job Well Done!

Vince Evans, Scott Rotunda and the Ramp Team; Thank you!

The Ramp Team receives accolades from all corners of Tellico Village and as Rex points out “ these guys show up, go to work ... never asking for a thanks, just another job.”

Rex Marsee posted the following message on Next Door on Friday 11-28-2025: “I see friends shaking hands saying, How do you do? They're really saying, I love you! Sound familiar? We really need to stop and think of all the kindness and love that exists in this wonderful community we call Tellico Village. Everyday people are doing favors, acts of kindness for those around them. The Tellico Village WoodWorkers are just one example. My friend Richard Bradford broke a leg a few months ago and he could not get in or out of his home without help. Along comes the woodworkers and builds him not one but two ramps and now he is free to come and go as he pleases. I had a series of issues and after being released from the hospital I cannot get in or out of my home without help. One call to the WoodWorkers and three guys led by Vincent Evans install a ramp in less than a week after my request. Like Elves these guys show up go to work and in two hours they are gone, never asking for a thanks, just another job. I give them THANKS and I give them love as the wonderful neighbors they are. "I see the colors of the rainbow so pretty in the sky." Love Tellico Village people! Rex Marsee

Fantasy of Trees - Richard Ganch

Was held at the Knoxville Convention Center **November 26-30**

All proceeds from the Fantasy of Trees event are donated to the East TN Children's Hospital. Last year, \$1.9 Million were raised. Our Members have donated many different types of items including cutting boards, charcuterie boards, boxes, bowls, wooden rocking doll cradles, etc.



Madisonville Boys and Girls Club - Richard Ganch

If you are interested in learning more on the Boys and Girls Club and/or possibly considering an individual donation, please view their website at ["bgcocoee.org"](http://bgcocoee.org)

Christmas project

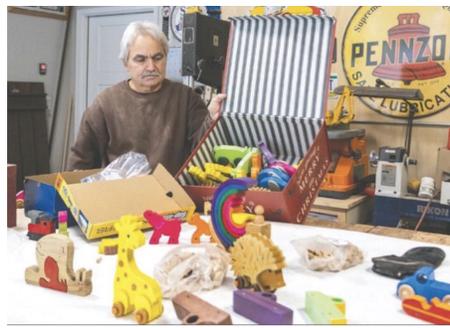
John Johnson cut out over 200 blanks that can be shaped into either a Snowman or a Christmas Tree. We are looking for volunteers to get into the Christmas spirit on either their band or scroll saws. When shaped, we will donate these to the Madisonville Boys and Girls Club for their Christmas arts project. It will give them something to bring home to celebrate the season. If you would like to take some of these and shape them, please contact John Johnson at 865 657 5182. Ideally, we would like to have these available to present to the B&G club at our Dec 9th meeting. Any questions, you can also call Richard Ganch at 219 688 2588. Let the holiday season begin!!



NEWS-HERALD

Wednesday, 11/24/2025

Woodworkers whittle away at 'Toys for Tots'



Toys vary in size, shape and target audience — with the club adding more gender specific items to the catalog in recent years.

Club uses hobby for gift giving during holidays

ADAM DELAHOUSSAYE

adam.delahoussaye@news-herald.net

TELLICO VILLAGE, Tenn.

— While most of the area may be putting off Christmas shopping until Black Friday or beyond, a particular club in Tellico Village is checking boxes off of wish lists early this holiday season. As a part of a program that's now been running since 1998, The Tellico Village Woodworkers Club molds their own stocking stuffers as well as helps support donations community-wide that eventually get gifted to children in need throughout Loudon and Monroe counties.

TIS THE SEASON

The main focus for the woodworkers is on toys for children aged five and under, who are still primed with imagination and less reliant on the increasingly absorbent world of technology-driven entertainment. The members of the Club seem enthusiastic about a project that directly impacts young lives, giving them a glimpse of the holiday spirit through handmade tokens of care. "Last year, I made a wooden truck that I gave to my grand nephew," said Richard Ganch, a coordinator of the Toys for Tots program. "And I got back videos of him playing with it, and ultimately got a picture of him in bed with it. I think these kids enjoy it, and they sense that there's something different about it." That's just one example of the many that showcase the joy these toys will help facilitate in the coming weeks and months, with the Woodworkers roughly estimating around 300 wooden toys to be made and even more store bought items expected to be donated. Staples like cars, trucks and trains are some favorites of the craftspeople, but recently they've expanded their breadth into more gender-specific items like cradles and rocking horses. Whatever the final product may be, it's a nice break of pace and a gratifying challenge for the workers who typically spend their time on much bigger, more practical projects.

STARTING EARLY

Development begins a few months out from the Christmas season, when coordinators begin putting ideas in members' brains as to what kinds of activities they'd wish to pursue throughout the program. While inspiration is fairly freeform, most woodworkers tend to saw and sand in small groups, where parameters are set and work is done. The only requirements they need to meet are typically in regards to safety and durability, making sure that their toys don't have sharp edges or pieces that could easily break off as a means of "child-proofing" the finished product. Then the toys are painted before putting a final finish on the object before they're eventually gathered alongside the donations that have been collected from amenity buildings across Tellico Village like the Yacht Club and the Library. On Dec. 9 at the Community Church at Tellico Village, all the items will be presented to Loudon County Sheriff Jimmy Davis as a gift to LCSO from the Woodworkers Club. The LCSO uses the items to focus on about:blank 1/2 11/26/25, 5:47 AM A: Main children in need or with little means for a full spread of gifts under the Christmas tree. Families can even put in applications for these gifts, which are then distributed by LCSO to the community as is deemed appropriate. Some officers even keep a few of the toys in their car, on hold for a moment of needed comfort if they're dispatched to a place where domestic disputes or child endangerment requires a quick remedy to those anxious feelings. Whatever the use, the sentiment remains the same.

'MAKING SOMETHING SPECIAL'

"There's something different every year," said Chris Silvestri, a member of the Woodworkers Club. "We try to do one or two things differently, whether it's more cars or making a train set. We like the details of it, and making something special for a kid. These kids, whether they're in need or low income or whatever they are, they need something to cheer them up. And a little toy makes a big difference ... whatever it is, they're happy to get it." According to the Tellico Village Woodworkers Club website, the group has donated more than 9,000 wooden toys since the program first started. Aside from donation boxes at various amenity buildings, they also plan to sponsor the Tellico Village Golf Association's "Santa Claus Open" on Dec. 9, in which the price to play is at least one toy. To learn more about the Club and this specific program, you can visit tvwoodworkers.com.



The group primarily focuses on toys for children aged five and under.



Experience in the Woodworking Club can range from pure hobbyists to experts in carpentry.



Steady hands put the finishing touches on a wooden truck.



Toys are tested for child safety and durability before they're eventually donated.



A woodworker gets started on the base of a rocking horse.



More girl-gear items have been added to the collection.

TOYS FOR TOTS

We are in the home stretch for the 2025 Toys for Tots program as we head to the presentation on December 9th to the Loudon County Sheriff's Department. John Johnson and I (with photographer Ben LaPointe) stopped by their offices and shared a preview of what was coming. Even grown men (and woman) love playing with wooden toys!

Thanks to all the shop leaders and their members for the time you have dedicated to make this happen. Also, thanks to those who have volunteered to empty the donation boxes when full. Below is a flyer that will be running the next four weeks in the POA Tell-Events. Please share it with your friends and neighbors and encourage them to make a donation. Toys for Tots will also be featured in an upcoming issue of "The Connection."

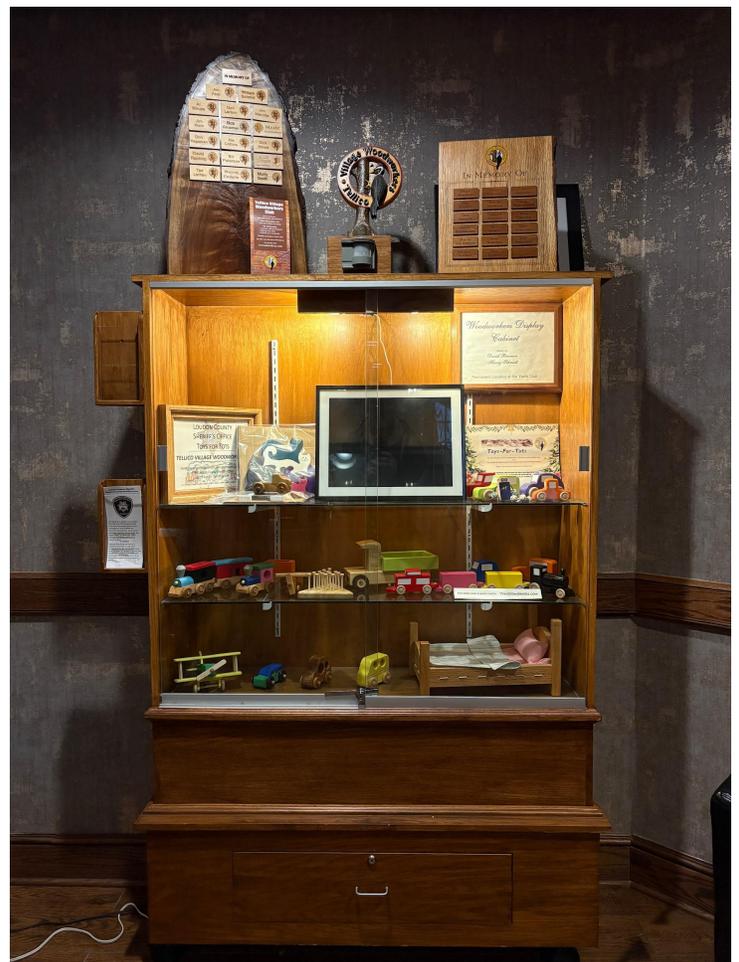


The Woodworkers' display case at the yacht club has been updated with some of the wooden toys. Take a look at what our members have been working on.



For over 20 years, the TV Woodworker's Club has made wooden toys and has sought donated toys for the Loudon Sheriff Department

We seeking donations of new unwrapped toys for this year's Toys For Tots Drive.
 Donation boxes are located in all TV amenity buildings.
 This years drive runs through December 8th
 Any questions contact
 Richard Ganch
 219-688-2588



Toy makers in progress

Teams

John Johnson. Toqua Toymakers

Randy Neuhaus. Gepetto

Dave Brunson. Carpenter Ants

Gene Yeager. Woodchucks

Jack Ernst. Bench Dogs

Thomas Westcott. Wise Men Bearing Gifts

Bob Brown. Knotty by Nature

Mark Reeser. MWR Woodcrafts

And others working solo



Toy makers in progress



November Show and tell

[Link to Show and Tell video](#)

Jerry Striph - Láser Marquetry Charcuterie Board and Cribbage Boxes

Jerry made this charcuterie board from Walnut and Padauk. He cut the designs using a laser. He finished the board with 2 coats of table top epoxy.



Jerry used AI to create the designs on the cribbage box. He used the prompt “a cribbage motif in the style of Salvador Dali for one side. The other side is an ace of spades in the style of Dali. He then engraved the designs using his laser. He said it took longer to glue the boxes together than to engrave the design.



Brian Grantham – End Grain Cutting Boards

Brian made four end grain cutting boards as Christmas presents for his sisters in law. They are made of soft Maple in a frame of Bloodwood sandwiched between Black Walnut. The varied end grain colors are from 2 different Maple boards. The cutting boards were finished with beeswax and mineral oil.



Steve Bolton – Live Edge Oak Bench

Steve said “I’ve always had this spot on the back wall of the house that just screamed for a bench” so he made one from one of the live edge Oak slabs that he bought at our recent sale. Steve said that he spent more than 300 hours on this project. It was finished with 2 coats of exterior epoxy and 2 coats of varnish.

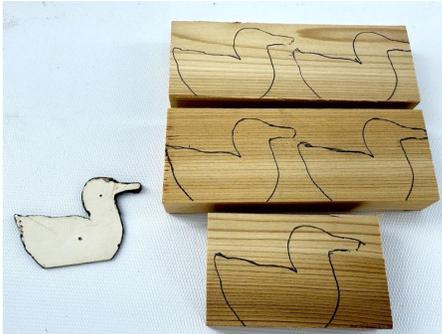


November Show and tell [Link to Show and Tell video](#)

Glenn Nief - Duck & Horse Carvings

Small wooden Ducks and Horses made with hand tools.

Trace



Cut



Carve



Woodburn



Mentoring Classes - Nancy Kessler

Nancy has sent out several emails regarding mentoring, and it will begin again in January.

Completed To date:

- Three laser marquetry sessions by **Striph** and **Kessler**
- A number of sessions on the joiner by **Barbre**
- Two sessions on the planer by **Brown**
- **Garner** and **Kessler** each have helped a member with the bandsaw setup.
- **Ken Rose** has overseen the Small Group Initiative, which has contributed greatly to the club's mission statement regarding mentorship.

Any person who has interests in being a Mentor or Mentee let Nancy know. This program will continue into first quarter of 2026.

Looking forward to your responses,

Nancy
865-988-3838 landline or email me at
smallpaws2008@gmail.com

Wood Cutting Oct 21



Photographer Ben LaPoint
Getting dusted off

Wood Sale November 1

Sale was a success. 147 boards sold for \$760.



[Current Kiln and Barn
wood Lumber Status](#)

Woodcutting Nov 18

There were 13 White Oak logs and 1 Red Oak log cut into 5/4 boards on Nov 18. The kiln was started with 129 boards of White Oak yielding 1045 BF. The one red oak log yielded 15 boards with 131 BF. The kiln wood should be ready for selling around Christmas time. Due to the holidays the sale might get postponed until 2026. In the meantime the barn has both Red and White Oak boards that you can buy. Check the club's website under "WOOD Operation Events" and then drill down to "Current Kiln and Barn Wood Status" to find out what is in the barn.

There were 3 donor's cut at the last cutting, donating 5 logs. The donors are Benken, Cortis and Van Allen. They will get 25% of the wood from their logs. If you want to get more wood then donate some logs.

The Wood Ops team took the opportunity to clear out some logs that were no longer suitable for cutting into boards. This resulted in a much better organized log yard.

Our next cutting will most likely be Hickory and the one cherry log in our inventory. If anyone knows how we can get more Walnut, Cherry, Hackberry, beech or maple logs please contact Vince Evans, the Wood Ops Vice President.

Volunteering has many benefits, including:

Skill Development – Learn new woodworking techniques, refine your craft, and gain hands-on experience from seasoned woodworkers.

[Link to Technique & Skill assistance](#)

Community Engagement – Meet like-minded people, make new friends, and build a sense of camaraderie within your local woodworking community.

[Link to Helping our Community](#)

Mentorship Opportunities – Share your knowledge with beginners and learn from more experienced members, creating a supportive learning environment.

[Link to Mentoring program](#)

Access to Tools and Equipment – Our club has specialized tools that members can use, saving you money and space.

[Link to Tools available to members](#)

Project Collaboration – Work on community projects, charity builds, or group commissions that enhance your skills and contribute to good causes.

[LINK TO Contract Service Requests](#)

Personal Fulfillment – Giving back to the community and helping others learn a valuable skill can be incredibly rewarding.

[Link to Beads of Courage donations](#)

Discounts and Perks – Our club has discounts with local suppliers. One major benefit to Club members is that the club produces low cost lumber for sale to its members. The lumber is priced at a fraction of the price charged by lumber yards.

[Link to Current Kiln & Barn wood lumber status](#) [Link to Wood operations](#)

Volunteers needed

Wood Cutting & Sales: Token and special sale policies under review; “Barn Sales” proposed for inventory and access.. **Contact Mark Laven lavenmark@gmail.com**

[Link to Log Cutting and registration](#)

Historic TVWC documents/items request: The club is revising the role and activities of the club historian, and is looking for volunteers to assist in converting archived print materials to digital media. If you have access to a scanner and are available to help us digitize our historical records, **Contact Ben La Pointe, benclapointe@gmail.com**

Meeting Programs: Requests for future program ideas - *Neil Wilson*

At every meeting we try and have a guest speaker, or member participation event. If anyone has a program idea, or wants to provide a certain woodworking experience you have, **Contact Neil Wilson crawil@charter.net**

Meeting Programs: Ned Miller is looking to add another member to the Program committee, especially someone who has contacts in the community.

Contact Ned Miller tenned@gmail.com

Writer: needed to reintroduce TVWC, highlight volunteer work, promote the website, and encourage log donations.

New Villagers Rep: More volunteers needed for future meetings.

Community Service - TV Library

Another collaborative effort from woodworker members.

Dick Hoffmann drew up the plans for the bookcases **Bruce Barbre** provided color matched dye (Stain) **Lloyd Donnelly** provided and helped glue oak veneer to an outside plywood panel **Mike Gregory, Nancy Kessler, Barry Brandt, and Bob Fagerlin** helped with the construction. As always, a fun project.



Randy, Steve: on behalf of the TV Library, I want to thank the TV Woodworkers Club for the many contributions the library received this year.

1. Bookshelves. Dick Hoffman made the plans, Aaron Cox and Bob Fagerlin did the build. A whole crew came out to deliver and install them!

2. Little Libraries. Ned Miller and Ben LaPointe fixed our broken little libraries, including a fresh paint job!

3. Raffle and auction items. Many, many items were contributed, which we used for fundraising at several events. The high quality and diversity always makes these items prized acquisitions!

While we have thanked everyone individually, I wanted to also thank the club itself for their overall support of the Tellico Village library. Since we don't get any tax support from the county or support from the POA, we are entirely dependent on fundraising and donations to keep the doors open and the mortgage paid. The Woodworkers Club made a significant difference in helping us reach our fundraising goals in 2025. We really appreciate all you have done for us.

Thanks,

Mark Pantley

President, Friends of the Tellico Village Library

Wood Stored in Barn:

Rough cut dried Boards in the barn are for sale to the club members. The plywood and dimensional lumber (2X4, 2X6 etc...) in the back bay are NOT for sale. This wood is used for building ramps.



[Current Kiln and Barn wood Lumber Status](#)

Prices are marked on the wood. Select the wood you would like to purchase. Record the species, number of boards and the board feet or price for each species on the paper hanging on the center post in the barn. Pay the club treasurer, their name and address is posted above the clipboard.

We try to keep an updated barn inventory as shown below however boards can be sold at anytime. The club counts on you, the members, to record the boards removed so an accurate inventory can be maintained.

Looking to add a woodworking tool or woodworking supplies to your collection?

Protected: Sale on Woodworking Supplies – Don't Miss Out!
Looking for woodworking supplies or have extras collecting dust!

[Link to woodworking tools or supply sales](#)

Give them a second life with a fellow club member! Click the button above to explore unique finds and share your own treasures with our creative woodworking community.

LINK to November Meeting on Google Drive [Club Meeting 20251104](#)

Anyone with the link can access the contents as a viewer

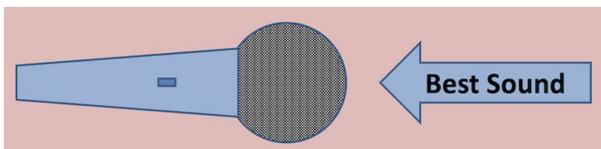
Caution some users non-gmail accounts may require a secondary authorization by me which I will do as soon as possible. Ben LaPointe benclapointe@gmail.com

Contents

New Member Introductions, TVWC Board Reports, Toys for Tots, Nov Program, Show & Tell

Microphone training - Ron Cirincione

Ron instructed the club on the best way to hold and use the microphone.



[How to Drink a Microphone presentation link](#)

