



Volume 30 No. 7

July 2026

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August 4 General Meeting Yacht Club 6:30 PM
Franklin Mackel – his career as a forester and the making of baseball bats

- Toys 4 Tots program Official kick off with special guests.

August 25 Business Meeting Chota Rec Ctr 8:15 AM All Members welcome

Summary - July 2026 Business Meeting

New Meeting Time - Future business meetings at Chota will now start at 8:15 AM to allow time for morning socializing over coffee and donuts.

Website Revamp Thanks to Dick Hoffman and his son for their excellent work updating and automating our club's website!

Treasurer Balance is approximately \$26,000, of which, \$13,600, set aside for kiln maintenance.

Yacht Club Display Updates The display to feature Community service projects and "Show and Tell".

Annual Picnic September 16, John Miranda reported that a two-man band has been booked, and we are currently soliciting gift donations and brainstorming fun socialization games.

Community Service Our members continue to serve the community, with Vince's team building two ramps and Ned and George crafting a custom oak frame for the new Tanasi clubhouse. And a thanks to Bob Brown, who is designing custom, laser-engraved wooden labels to affix to club-built items to better highlight our community contributions.

Wood Operations Kiln drying is on track for a September sale, and volunteer cutting tokens are currently being transferred into the new website. Also, R&R Lumber in Maryville (which offers large log slabbing and drying) has 10-foot maple logs available to members as a group buy for \$150 a slab.

Future Programs - Thanks to Ned Miller

September – Randy Morse – presentation of one of his refinishing projects

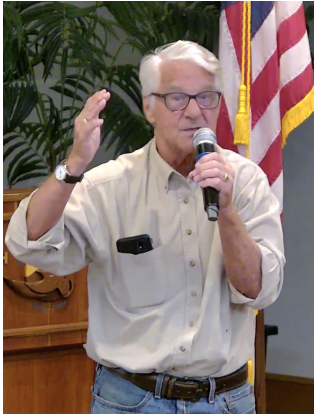
October – Smoky Mountain Vintage Lumber – an outlet for handmade wood items

November – Jim Varschaeve – relief carving in plywood

December – Toys 4 Tots presentation to community

July Presentation

Refinishing career - Randy Morse



REFURNITURE™ LLC repairs, refinishes and restores antique, vintage and fine furniture, paneling and architectural elements — specializing in the application of clear finishes such as shellac, lacquer, varnish and oil.



[Google link to Randy Morse Presentation](#)

The Art of Refinishing

We had a full house this month for Randy Morris, who shared his wealth of knowledge on repairing and refinishing antique furniture. After the economy shifted in 2008, Randy pivoted from his career as a biotech consultant to founding "Refurnish LLC" in New Hampshire. He quickly learned that the secret to the business wasn't just fixing rickety yard-sale finds—it was about restoring family treasures and pieces with deep personal history.

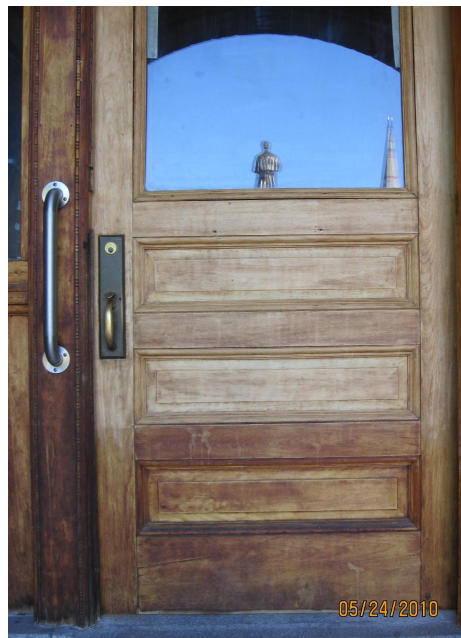
Period-Correct Finishes

Randy provided a deep dive into the historical timeline of finishes. For authentic antique restoration, he noted that **shellac** is the absolute go-to, as it was the finish of choice in the 18th and 19th centuries.

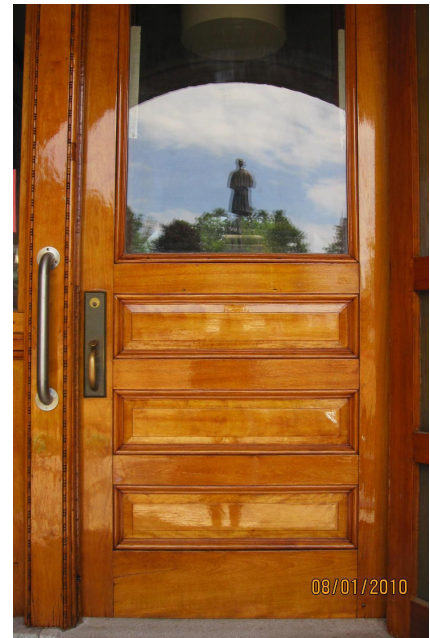
Before

After

Randy also shared his love for **Spar Varnish** (often used in marine environments). Unlike polyurethane, spar varnish remains slightly elastic, making it incredibly durable and highly resistant to UV damage and temperature changes.



Spar
varnish



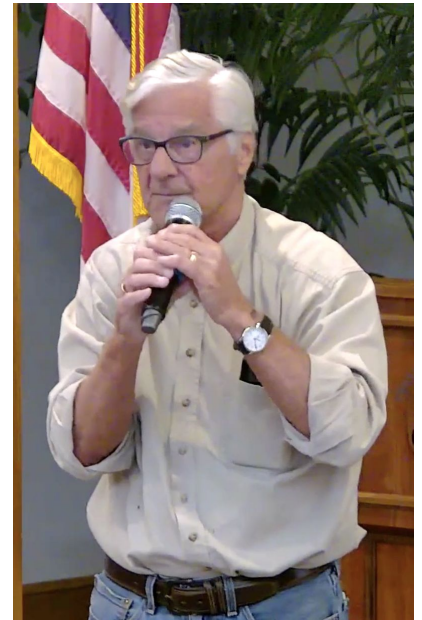
July Presentation

The Art of Refinishing - Randy Morse

Traditional Repairs

When it comes to period-correct joinery, Randy relies on traditional **hide glue**. Applied warm from a glue pot, it is water-soluble and historically accurate. However, Randy warned that it sets up quickly—you have to dry-fit your pieces and have your clamping strategy completely figured out before the brush ever hits the wood!

[Google link to Randy Morse Presentation](#)



Before



After



Resources & A Special Thanks

For members interested in learning more about traditional finishes, Randy highly recommends picking up a copy of Bob Flexner's books on the subject.

Before wrapping up, it was announced that Randy generously donated a spray finishing outfit, hand planes, and several books to the club. Thank you, Randy, for a wonderful presentation and your fantastic contributions to the club!

July Show and Tell

Chris Campbell - Piggy Bank

Chris Campbell shared a very special Show and Tell project this month: a custom wooden piggy bank built for her new great-granddaughter! The build required some on-the-fly problem-solving when hollowing out the body proved difficult. The solution? She split the bank in half, hollowed out the inside, and cleverly hid the seam with a decorative bow cut on the scroll saw. The real treasure, however, is inside. The bank holds a roll of vintage wheat pennies (1911–1958), sourced from a massive, 280-pound coin collection inherited from her father. A beautiful and sentimental family heirloom!



Bruce Barbry - Night Stand

Modern Shaker Nightstand in American Beech

Bruce brought in a rare treat for Show and Tell: one of a beautiful pair of nightstands built for a recently updated guest room. Designed with a "modern shaker" influence, the pieces are crafted from American Beech recently dried in the club's kiln. Despite rumors that beech can get fuzzy when sanded, Bruce reported that the heavy, hardwood sanded perfectly smooth up to 320 grit. Finished without stain, a clear crystalac topcoat beautifully highlighted the wood's warm caramel tones. If you want to try your hand at it, you might want to check the barn for leftover beech before it's all gone!



Lumber Operations - Larry Gardner

Our lumber team has been hard at work! They recently loaded a record-setting 1,632 board feet of White Oak and Red Oak into the kiln. Because these were cut as thick 2-inch boards, this massive load consists of just 108 individual boards.

Update on Custom Slabs

For those who requested custom slabs and put down a \$50 deposit, please see Tom Wiggins to get your refund. Jason's new saw has a 24-inch cut capacity (compared to his old 36-inch saw), which changed our milling strategy. Instead of massive slabs, the team cut the logs to maximize yield, creating a great selection of live edge boards (both one- and two-sided) alongside traditional squared boards.

A Huge Harvest from Matlock Bend

We have a massive influx of wood on the horizon! The Matlock Bend landfill on Highway 72 is expanding by 28 acres, and their board has generously allowed the club to harvest the timber. Larry, Dan, and Randy spent a few hours walking the property and have marked about 70 premium logs.

Because we have our pick of the lot, the team is being extremely particular—especially with the oak—ensuring we only bring in straight logs at least 24 inches in diameter. The estimated haul heading to Davis Ferry is staggering:

- **White Oak:** ~12,400 board feet
- **Poplar:** ~3,800 board feet
- **Elm:** ~1,300 board feet
- **Cherry:** ~830 board feet
- **Maple:** ~445 board feet

Upcoming September Wood Sale

All of this hard work will culminate in our next general wood sale! The current kiln load won't be ready until September, so we are tentatively planning an open wood sale for early September. If you had your eye on a slab or some beautiful live edge pieces, be sure to get in line early!

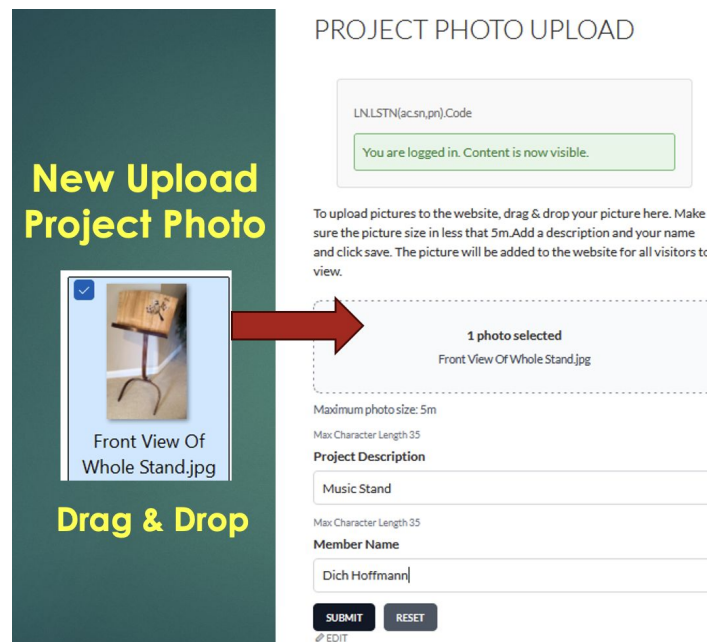
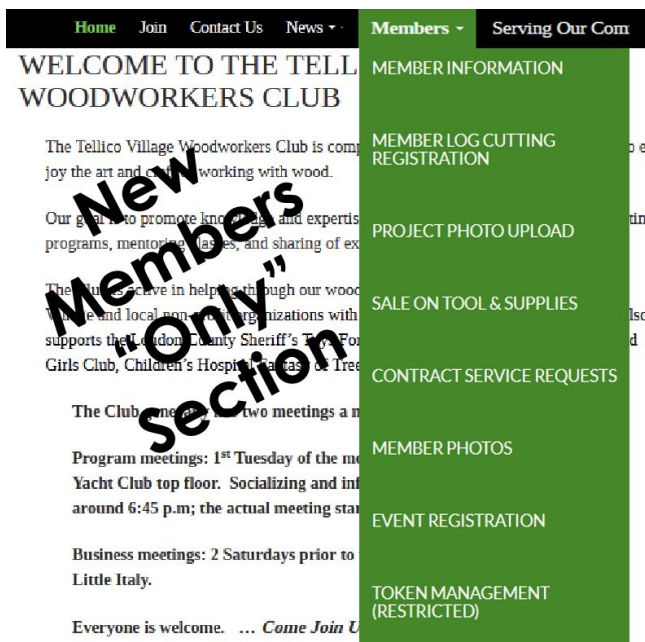
[Link to Current Kiln & Barn wood lumber status](#)

[Link to Wood operations](#)

Website updates - Dick Hoffmann

Major Changes:

- **Member only pages or tabs have been relocated to the members only section**
- **New password login:**
must be a member to view any of the member only pages
login is unique to each member
login is good as long as you stay on the site
- **Members can upload project pictures**
they will be displayed under the Gallery of Member's Work
they will be automatically archived and deleted after 12 months
- **Member list is new and searchable by last name**
- **New log cutting sign up page**



Other changes

- **Streamlined new member entry process**
Automatically sends:
new members their welcome email with membership card
an email to make them a name tag
the secretary a note to add their email to the bulk email distribution list
pay due reminder emails Dec 1st and Feb 1st
renewal email with new membership card upon payment of dues
past due reminder
deletes any membership not paid by May 1st
- **Adds site backup**
- **Adds control of log cutting tokens**
setting cutting dates
keeps track of tokens earned and unused.
validating shifts worked by members
automatically deleting unused token over a year old

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: Members interested in gaining more experience with cutting, sales, log selection, etc. **Contact Larry Gardner** fasttrain114@gmail.com

[Link to Log Cutting and registration](#)

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

Yacht Club Display Case:

If you would like to display an item please

Contact Richard Ganch rich0153@comcast.net

Community Service Projects

Loudon United Methodist Church has requested the club to make "Food Pantries". Volunteer is needed to lead the effort with more volunteers to assist

Our Place has asked for the club to build a kitchen work counter from red oak to match the existing cabinets. Someone is needed to lead the effort and volunteers are needed to assist **Contact John Miranda** jemiranda823@gmail.com

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](#)

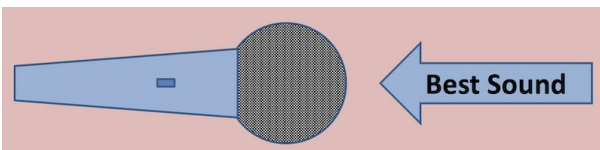
Give them a second life with a fellow club member! Click the button above to explore unique finds and share your own treasures with our creative woodworking community.

[LINK to July Meeting on Google Drive](#)

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

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](#)

