



Volume 30 No. 8

August 2026

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September 1 General Meeting Yacht Club 6:30 PM
Randy Morse – presentation of one of his refinishing projects
Richard Ganch - Update on Toys for Tots

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

Summary - August 2026 Business Meeting

Field Trip to Everhart Lumber in Tellico Plains is scheduled for Saturday, September 17.

Treasurer Balance is approximately \$29,500, 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, There is still time to register for the Annual Picnic on September 16. The cost is \$10 per person and members can contact John Miranda to register.

Membership Chris Campbell reported that we currently have 271 active members

Website Check your email, Each member has the ability to add project photos to the gallery.

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

Toys 4 Tots Richard Ganch reported that he's had a number of volunteers to build toys and has all of the volunteers assigned to small working groups using member shops that have also been donated.

Future Programs

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

Toys for Tots Kickoff - Richard Ganch

2026 Toys for Tots Campaign Officially Underway!
OUR 29th year!

Our 2026 Toys for Tots program has officially kicked off! **Richard Ganch** announced that our deadline for the final toy collection will be **December 8th**.



Special Guest

**Amy Langley – Assistant
to Loudon County Sheriff Jimmy Davis**

To give us some inspiration as we head into our workshops, we welcomed a special guest at our latest meeting: **Amy Langley, Administrative Assistant to Sheriff Davis**. Amy coordinates the toy distribution for the Sheriff's Office and shared an inside look at exactly how our hard work impacts the community.

Here are the key takeaways from her presentation:

The Scope of the Program

A Complete Christmas: The Sheriff's Office program has grown significantly, thanks to sponsors like Oak Ridge Laboratory, CNS, and Foothills Federal Credit Union. They don't just provide a single toy; they provide an entire Christmas for 70 to 80 local families (about 150 children).

The Full Package: Each child receives a personalized bag containing a coat, clothes, shoes, a backpack, hygiene items, and 5 to 7 toys.

How Our Woodworking Makes a Difference

Careful Selection: When our wooden toys arrive on December 8th, Amy and her team carefully sort through them. Each toy is specifically matched to a child based on their age, gender, and any special needs (such as autism).

Last Year's Favorites: Feedback from families has been incredibly positive. Parents specifically highlighted our wooden giraffes, autism-friendly puzzles, and the "rainbow thingy that stacks together" as massive hits on Christmas morning.

Suggestions for This Year's Builds

If you are looking for ideas on what to build this year, Amy offered a few highly requested suggestions:

Top Colors: Bright colors are always a win. Anything **pink and orange**, as well as autism awareness patterns, are incredibly popular right now.

Classic Toys: There is a high demand for old-school wooden ring stackers for the smaller children.

Amy closed by expressing her deepest gratitude on behalf of herself and Sheriff Davis. The thought, time, and craftsmanship we put into these toys do not go unnoticed.

Let's get those juices flowing and make this a fantastic year for the kids!

Toys for Tots Kickoff - Richard Ganch

Special Guest

Sierra Fischer – Manager Madisonville B&G Club



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF AMERICA**

The Madisonville Boys & Girls Club

We are officially entering our third Christmas partnering with the Madisonville Boys & Girls Club! At our latest meeting, Unit Director Sierra Fischer joined us to share exactly how our club's continuous, year-round involvement is impacting her 150 students.

Seeing our handcrafted items through the eyes of the kids is truly special. Here are just a few ways our woodworking is making a daily difference:

Providing a Safe Space: A custom wooden school desk, originally built for a student with severe autism, has become a permanent, daily safe space for any child who becomes overstimulated and needs a quiet moment to themselves.

Motivating Success: The "House Games" spinning wheels we built and dispersed across 17 sites have become a massive hit. New kids look forward to spinning the wheel after their first 10 days, and the game motivates students to earn points for academic success and good behavior.

Making Math Fun: Our wooden marble and board games are so popular they have to be kept locked in the office until playtime! They have sparked impromptu math competitions and are actively helping the kids practice quick math and counting change.

Encouraging Creativity: Unfinished flower cutouts and planter boxes have provided a wonderful creative outlet, allowing the kids to paint beautiful gifts for their parents and teachers.

Toys for Tots: We Need Shop Owners & Volunteers!

Thanks to Richard Ganch, we are organizing our Toys for Tots building teams:

Call for Volunteers: If you want to build toys, email Richard Ganch at rich0153@comcast.net ! We will match you with a shop owner in your neighborhood. Last year, we had 7 shops and over 40 volunteers working collectively. It is a fantastic way to socialize, learn new skills, and build toys for a great cause.

Call for Shop Owners: We need members willing to host toy-building sessions. You will need to reply with your name, address, neighborhood, phone number, and the maximum number of participants your shop can handle (including yourself).

If you would like to participate in
this program, I need the
following info:

Name
Phone number that receives texts
Email address
Neighborhood you live in

Richard will work to match volunteers with shop locations near you.

This is a great opportunity to interact with fellow club members and utilize or improve your woodworking skills. Any skill level is needed and appreciated. If you participated in a shop location last year, please contact that shop owner and let him know you are interested in participating again this year. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call or text Richard at [219 688 2588](tel:2196882588).

Toy for Tots presentation is Tuesday, December 8th at the Community Church.

August Presentation

Franklin McAiley

Forestry and the Perfect Baseball Bat



[Google link to Franklin McAiley Presentation](#)

We had the privilege of welcoming guest speaker Franklin a retired career forester. After spending 26 years with the State of Alabama Forestry Commission and running his own private consulting business, Franklin moved up here seven years ago to escape the Deep South heat. He brought with him a fascinating presentation—originally developed by Louisville Slugger—detailing the incredible journey of wood from the forest to the major leagues.

Here are the highlights from Franklin's presentation on wood selection and bat manufacturing:



Emerald Ash Borer

Choosing the Right Wood

White Ash: Traditionally the preferred species, known for being flexible and lightweight. However, the devastating impact of the Emerald Ash Borer is forcing manufacturers to look toward alternatives.

Hard Maple: A popular alternative that offers a harder, denser bat.

Birch: Currently being introduced into the market, favored by some players for its "trampoline" effect or "whip" when striking the ball.

(Fun Fact: When Franklin was playing high school ball, many bats were still being made out of hickory!)

Forestry & Harvesting

Straight Grain is King: For a bat to make it to the major leagues, it must be perfect. The tree must have perfectly straight grain with no knots, defects, or sweep (curvature).

Sizing & Yield: Hardwoods for bats are typically grown on a 60-year rotation and thinned around year 40. Harvested trees need a Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) of at least 14 inches. An average tree produces about 50 to 60 "billets" (the cylindrical blanks used for turning).

Directional Felling: Harvesting is delicate work. Foresters will often employ directional felling, sometimes even cutting down surrounding scrub brush to create a soft "bed" for the premium tree to land on to prevent the wood from splintering.

The Manufacturing Process

Processing: Logs are rushed to the mill to prevent checking, sawed into billets, inspected for defects, and kiln-dried to stabilize the moisture content.

Custom Lathes: Today's manufacturing relies on highly advanced, computer-controlled lathes. Every single major league player has their bats personalized to their exact specifications for weight, balance, and feel, complete with their name engraved on the barrel.

A huge thank you to Dan and Christa for connecting us with Franklin, and to Franklin for sharing his specialized expertise with the club!

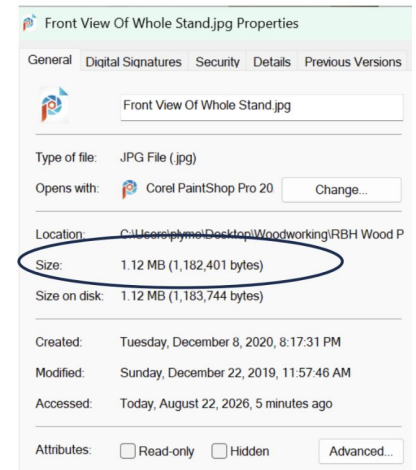
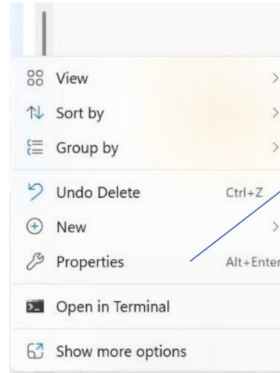


[LINK TO GOOGLE DOCS
FROM HARDWOODS TO HOMERUNS
Wood Selection and Bat Manufacturing for Forestry
Professionals](#)

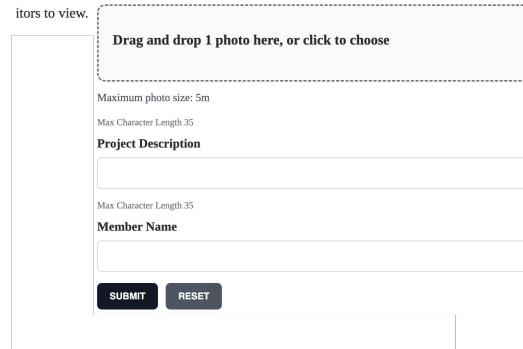
NEW Website Feature

There is a new feature on the TV Woodworker website: the ability for you to load pictures of your woodworking projects directly onto the website. To do this simply:

1. Take any project picture (make sure its smaller than 5m in size. You can check its size by right clicking on the picture which will open an option box as shown, then click properties. It will show all the properties associated with the picture including size. If it is over 5m, most photo software programs allow you to resize it.
2. Go the website and log into the Upload Member Woodworking Projects tab in the Members Only Section
3. On the Upload Page you will see the spot to drag and drop your project picture, a place to enter your name and a description of the picture.



To upload pictures to the website, drag & drop your picture here. Make sure the picture size is less than 5m. Add a description and your name and click save. The picture will be added to the website for all visitors to view.

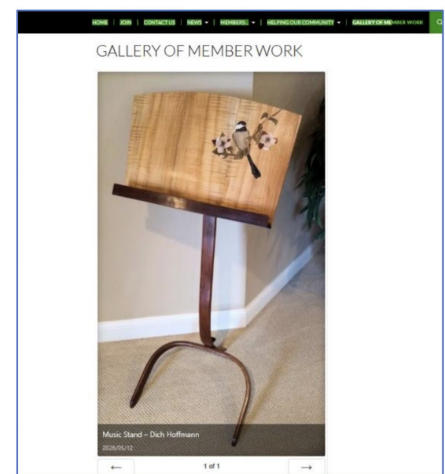
A screenshot of the website's photo upload form. It features a dashed box for dragging and dropping a photo, with the text 'Drag and drop 1 photo here, or click to choose'. Below this, there are fields for 'Maximum photo size: 5m', 'Max Character Length 35', 'Project Description', 'Member Name', and 'SUBMIT' and 'RESET' buttons.

4. Find your picture on your computer and drag it into the box and release it.
5. Enter the project description.
6. Enter Your name.
7. Double check your entry and when read, click Submit
8. If you want to enter another picture, or the picture is over 5m, click reset and a new picture or a resized picture can be entered.
9. Once enter, the picture will be displayed on the website under "Gallery of Member Work".
10. The picture stays on the website for 1 year then is automatically archived and deleted.

FROM THIS

A screenshot of the 'New Upload Project Photo' form. It has a title 'New Upload Project Photo' in yellow. Below it is a small image of the music stand with the text 'Front View Of Whole Stand.jpg' and 'Drag & Drop'. To the right is a 'PROJECT PHOTO UPLOAD' section with a login field, a message 'You are logged in. Content is now visible.', instructions on how to upload, a photo selection area showing '1 photo selected: Front View Of Whole Stand.jpg', and fields for 'Project Description', 'Member Name', and 'SUBMIT'/'RESET' buttons.

TO THIS



August Show and Tell

Jim Kurowski

Jim's presentation, bringing in two beautiful vessels designed for *Jiyuka*—a 20th-century modernization of the centuries-old Japanese flower arranging art of *Ikebana*. True to the resourceful spirit of the club, Jim crafted these pieces using poplar and red oak offcuts sourced directly from our own kiln!

His design was inspired by the legendary Edo-period Japanese artist Katsushika Hokusai, specifically his famous woodblock print series, *Thirty-Six Views of Mount Fuji*. Jim's pieces nod to the most iconic print in that series, *The Great Wave off Kanagawa*. With a bit of humor, Jim noted that while Hokusai depicted a towering wave, his own creation might be considered more of a "ripple."



Roger Mackell

Roger presented a beautifully crafted, compact serving tray born out of shop resourcefulness—its dimensions were cleverly dictated by leftover side pieces from a previous build. He used this project to experiment with a new technique: temporarily marrying two pieces of contrasting wood with two-sided tape, cutting them as one, and then gluing them together for the final assembly. The experiment certainly paid off, resulting in a fantastic finished piece!



Mark Rees

Mark presented a stunning Intarsia project this week: a beautifully detailed piece titled "Beagle in a Basket." The design is based on a pattern by Judy Gale Roberts, who is widely recognized as one of the foremost artists and pioneers in the world of Intarsia.

Mark meticulously crafted this piece using a rich variety of contrasting woods to bring the dog and basket to life. The wood species he used include: Mahogany,, Walnut, Cherr, Maple, Pine and Cedar

The project was finished with lacquer, and Mark revealed an impressive detail—he actually built it about 25 years ago! The piece has aged beautifully over the decades, though Mark pointed out that the natural white woods (like the maple and pine) have developed a slightly warmer, yellowed patina over time, as is common with aged wood and lacquer finishes.



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](#)

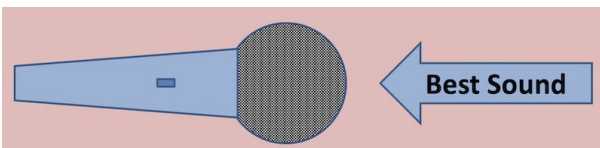
Give them a second life with a fellow club member! Click the button above to explore unique finds and share your own treasures with our creative woodworking community.

[LINK to August 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](#)

