

Several years ago the Coffee County Fair Board requested support from the Tennessee Valley Woodworkers Club to bolster their craft demonstration area in the Morton Children's Village area of the fair. Since then, the club presence at the fair and the cooperation between the Fair Board and the Club has grown.

Earlier this year the Board invited the Club to construct a building, for the club's demonstrations, in the Morton Village. The Fair Board provided the materials, and the club designed and built the 16 by 20 foot building to fit into the basic architecture of the village and to provide shelter for the club members and their projects as well as for visiting fair guests. Judging from the traffic in Morton Village this year, the project was a success. The well-lighted display area drew many visitors and added to the enjoyment of the club's membership.

The Club held its annual "Turning Bee" at the village this year to increase activity in the Village. At any given time during peak hours, there were up to five wood lathes running. Visitors were treated to lots of machine tricks and gimmicks while children, lucky enough to be nearby when one was completed, walked away with a spinning top to show to their friends. Baby rattles, bowls, spindles, and tops were the primary products of the 'just for fun' woodturning. Of course, a few children collected some of the abundant wood chips as well.

As Saturday evening grew on and the mule races started, the tired club members started cleaning up and talking about next year at the fair. The major topic of discussion was: "How do we top this?"

The Tennessee Valley Woodworkers Club has over 130 members from the middle Tennessee and north Alabama area. The club holds regular meetings at 7 PM on the third Tuesday of every month at the Duck River Electric building in Decherd TN. For further information, please see their web site at <http://www.tnvalleywoodclub.org/> or call the club's publicity chairman, Loyd Ackerman at 931-728-9952.