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Next Meeting: Tues, July 13th @7:00 p.m.

The July meeting will be held at our regular meeting place, Tri States Automotive, 745 W. Gaines Street in Tallahassee. (see map on next page)

This will be an open discussion meeting where we will have lots to talk about. Discussion items will include: re-hash of the museum tour, the IWF meeting that is coming up soon in Atlanta, and the upcoming 10,000 villages project. A friend brought Austin an old wobbly chair for repair. He would like some input on techniques for disassembly and repair of old furniture. We would also like to talk about a possible future field trip to a nearby Georgia Pacific mill. Richard Wieckowicz may have an update about a possible visit to Mark Lindquist's shop in Quincy.

Don't forget your show and tell items.

Highlights From the June Meeting



Members gather at the R. A. Gray Building

The June meeting was a field trip to the shop of the Florida State Museum.

If you've ever been to the Florida State Museum in Tallahassee, you may have noticed the display cases, refurbished parts, and reproductions among the many priceless displays.

Well, thanks to a field trip arranged by **Val Tuck**, we received a behind the scene tour of

the shop where that all happens. And, the tour was presented by the craftsmen who carry out this interesting and important work.



Chips Bloyd showing a display case component.

Our main tour guide was Charles Bloyd, aka, "Chips." He started us out in the woodworking shop which, while not extravagant, was provisioned with all the key commercial-grade woodworking machinery. The shop was designed in 1975 and includes a complete dust collection system that automatically opens the proper gates when a particular tool is turned on. The dust collection system was designed by another member of their shop, Brian Smith, and was granted an award by an industry organization.



Austin exhibits clamp envy.

One thing that became quickly apparent was the wide range of woodworking tasks this team is called upon to perform. It certainly includes a large amount of very nice display

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(Continued on page 2)



(“Meeting Summary” Continued from page 1)

cabinetry, but they’ve also been called upon to make cannon mounts, a river boat, and all manor of accurate missing parts for various state archeological treasures. Many of these items don’t come with blueprints, either. Sometimes, when items are too valuable or fragile to display, they are asked to make accurate facsimiles of artifacts. At the time of our tour, a partially completed ceremonial mask was clamped in a vice awaiting the remaining carving by our guide, Chips. All he had to work from were some detailed photographs taken of the original ancient native American masks that had been unearthed from a peat bog near Vero Beach, Florida.



A partially completed carving of an ancient mask.



Viewing an old cannon.

The shop doesn’t just work with wood, either. They’ve made a large number of Plexiglas artifact mounts and cases. They cut the Plexiglas on their table saw but use a special “plexi-blade” made for this purpose.

After the shop, we were treated to a tour of an area where undersea artifacts are treated in special chemical baths with electrodes attached to each item to slowly clean them. This room was designed especially for this purpose and the tanks were full of very old anchors, cannons, cannon balls and all manor of metal objects. Other tanks contained ancient dugout canoes going through a restorative process that in the final stage will include soaking in ethylene glycol to stabilize the wood.



A wooden Florida map made from unique wood scraps.

As if all this wasn’t enough, Chips then took us through the Florida State Museum exhibit area where he pointed out many of the unique display cases and other items their shop had produced.

Directions to the regular meeting location.

