

General Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson Prayer Tree

Project Guidelines



Thank you for participating in this project to preserve the historical significance of the Stonewall Jackson Prayer Tree for future generations. General Stonewall Jackson stopped to pray under this massive white oak tree following the end of his Shenandoah Valley Campaign, in May and June of 1862, during the civil war.....Thus the tree became known as the Stonewall Jackson Prayer Tree. Between June 12-17, General Jackson and some 15,000 men encamped between Middle and South Rivers, where they also gathered for prayer under this tree.

The estimated 350 year old tree stood proudly at the edge of a farm field near Mt. Meridian in Augusta County, Grottoes, Virginia, owned by Warren E. (deceased) and Catherine M. Wilkerson now descended to Donna (Wilkerson) Miller and her husband Kenny. The disease weakened historical oak was brought down by high winds on May 27, 2011. The wood was donated by the family to preserve the historical significance of the tree.

The intent of this project is to preserve the memory of the tree by creating hand crafted turnings that can be sold, donated or gifted to various Civil War historical venues (museums, gift shops, etc.) and in support of organizations such as the Wounded Warriors. Details to facilitate these opportunities are being worked by members of the Woodturners of the Virginias (WoVA) and the Central Valley Woodturners (CVW).

In order to preserve the authenticity of the objects made from this wood and to help everyone work with this wood, the officers of WoVA and CVW created the following guidelines:

- Turners will sign and number each piece using their personal best method for signing their work with the addition of a designation that this wood came from the Jackson Prayer Tree. Standardization is hard because of the variety of object sizes (pens, bowls, etc.) but each should have one of the following designations, where practical: Stonewall Jackson Prayer Tree - White Oak, 2011; Jackson Prayer, 2011; or SJPT-2011.
- WoVA will maintain a database of all pieces to address questions about the authenticity of any of the pieces made from this wood. A form will be available for turners to document information about each turning to include name, object description, date and

other 'to be determined' information.

- Turners can either provide a picture of their turning or bring the item to a WoVA or CVW meeting so we can take a picture for the database.
- Members of WoVA and CVW may sign sales agreements with the various venues that will be selling their items, eg; Oasis, New Market Battlefield museum, Monticello among others. WoVA and CVW will help facilitate the agreements with various locations that will accept our turnings. We will provide the venues with lists of our memberships so they will know who will be contacting them to place their pieces in the vendor's location.

We are already in communication with the Virginia Historical Society Museum - Richmond and the Jackson House museum; however, we have yet to finalize agreements with them. When we do get them finalized, then more information will be provided in this guidelines document.

Turners may also sell their work to venues they currently deal with or to individuals but should still fill out an information form for the database.

- WoVA and CVW will establish procedures to jury the turned pieces to ensure the highest quality of work for pieces going to venues for sale. These procedures will be announced within each club and organized within each club.
- WoVA will produce an 'information card' to go along with each turning. These cards will be available at WoVA and CVW club meetings. Donations will be accepted to defer the cost of printing these cards.
- Turners, on a voluntary basis, should also turn one or more pieces as a donation to be auctioned to raise money for organizations like the Wounded Warriors. Each club will collect these donated pieces for a future auction.