

BRUCE LITCHFIELD

Une Vie Extraordinair — August 1, 1940 - April 12, 2024
Beloved friend, gone but not forgotten

How many Marine Reserves Tank Commanders do you know whose favorite word is “fun”? Well, we have a fellow in Woodchips who fits that moniker. This gentleman has mapped his life with the focus on, “Is it fun?” His life’s career was established because he found the work fun to do. Yes, the hero of our story made a very good living at work, but made sure he was having fun while providing for family. Having fun has always been an important part of his life.

In addition to a full-time business, he wanted a hobby that was also fun. The first woodworking project was a checkerboard table for his son, and that was followed by a desk. Undaunted in taking on a major challenge, the garage became home to a two-month project building a kayak from a kit, and he became a kayak guide with that very boat. While working on the boat, he met a member of Woodchips. Heading to the shop for a look around, he got a detailed tour and was hooked.

The first shop project was four bar stools. Two other woodworkers shifted his focus to the discipline of wood turning. The mathematical challenges and disciplined thinking required in wood turning are a favorite part of the skill for this renaissance man. He likes to say he has been influenced by inspirational people at Woodchips. Wood carving entered the skill set also. There is some crossover between the Arts and Crafts group carvers and Woodchips, but this bloke is self-taught. All this time, the woodshop in his garage expanded, tool by tool for ongoing projects.

An early resident of Sun City Anthem, our protagonist landscaped the first house built here, and went on to design over 500 more. He has served on the SCA Facilities and Landscape Committee, and as Vice Chair and Chairman over a three-year period; he’s also on the Anthem Council Volunteer Landscaping Advisory Committee. In Woodchips he became a Monitor early on, a Monitor supervisor, then a Foreman, and joined the Projects team. He acted as Monitor and Foreman scheduler, and is currently recruiting and training Monitors. Always engaged and giving back, our story’s hero served two years as Vice President on the Woodchips Board of Directors.

Consistently having enjoyed building things — working with his hands, and with a love of doing artistic woodworking for family and friends — one can see in the work a progression from adequate craftsman, to good results, and eventually to what



one must call “fine” workmanship. The photos barely cover his range of works. If you haven’t already guessed, his name is Bruce Litchfield. Now in his 80’s, Bruce no longer drives a tank, but still has a lot of fun.

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