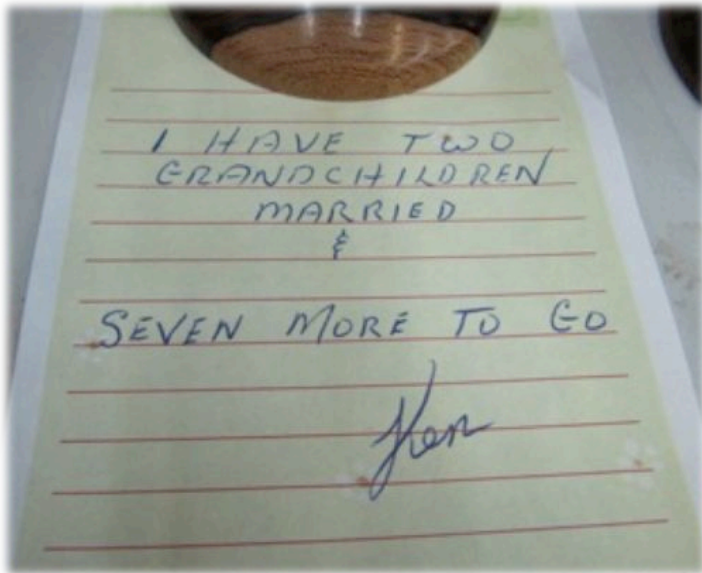




CALGARY WOODTURNERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

February 4th Meeting

"Instant Gallery" pictures of the month



Traditional wedding goblets by Ken Miller

Issue 38, February 2014



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From the Editor...

The monthly meetings and demos are always interesting to me. I always seem to learn something new that can be applied to either the kind of work that I most often do, a new twist on that work or even to challenge me to do something completely different. Ron Falconer's demo this month was no exception.

Safety is a prime concern for all of us. As a follow-up to the discussion at the last meeting, Wilf Talbot has written an excellent and informative article on the hazards of chemicals in the workshop. Thanks to Wilf for his efforts on putting this information together.

From the Instant Gallery



February 4th Meeting

Minutes of meeting



President Norm Olsen called the meeting to order at 7PM and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Visitors this month were Chris and Neil who found us on Google!

Ken made a motion to put together a fund to get Kevin Welch to do a demo in April. Ken made a motion for the amount of \$150. To defray part of Kevin's expenses which was passed. We look forward to seeing Kevin again!

Wilf asked if anyone had lost some gloves at the SAWS event in December. Ken Kindjerski claimed these. He also asked if anyone was going to the AAW convention in Phoenix, AZ this summer.

Ken Rude is looking for donations for the Indus hockey event and if so, he would like them for the next CWG meeting.

Albert Daniels mentioned the sawdust session would be held February 15th at the Calgary Drop in Center. (Please see page 6 in this newsletter for the location).

Greg said the books on 2013 are closed. The balance is \$4914.18, the 50/50 account is \$2847.50, and the general account is @2566.68. There is an outstanding cheque of \$78.25 from the Spruce Meadows event. He also mentioned that we sponsored 4 turning classes in 2013. The financial report was unanimously accepted.

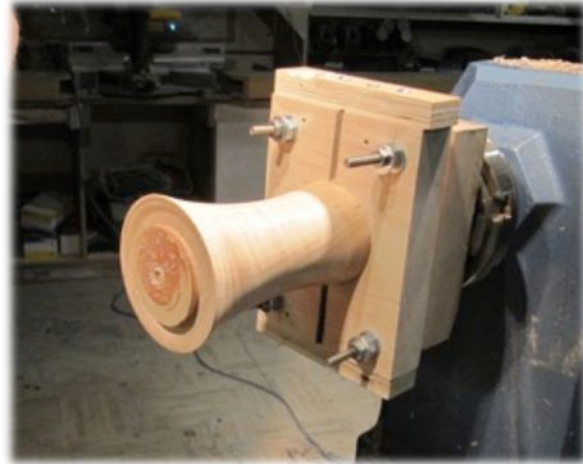
Guild sponsored training: following some discussion regarding who is qualified to take (one of the allotted four annual) woodturning essentials training courses, and to clarify the policy regarding these courses, Ken Miller made a motion to allow Diana to take a course and to have it funded by the guild. The motion was seconded. For all subsequent future courses, the guild policy outlined in the minutes of last month's newsletter will apply.

Dave Beeman came across a method of using methanol to rapidly dry green wood. He offered to get the chemical to do this in bulk for a cost of \$30 for 20 liters. Terry Golbeck cited some safety issues of using this and recommended against it. Terry said it has been banned in Australia. Charlie Willetts uses this method and can have green wood ready to turn in 6 weeks.

Ron Falconer, who will show members how to make a hollow turning, began the demo portion of the evening. He started by hollowing a 3X3X6 inch piece of Maple. Ron first rough turned the outside shape and then made a tenon on one end. The piece was reversed on the lathe and partially hollowed out. Then he mounted the partially hollowed out form in a jig to allow access to the bottom. The jig is difficult to describe, but there is a picture on the following page.

A small hole was drilled to give an idea of the bottom thickness, and then he commenced to hollow it out.

An example of the finished result is seen in the picture below.



Jig secures work to allow hollowing out bottom

Many thanks to Ron Falconer for a very interesting and detailed presentation!

Terry Golbeck passed around samples of some stabilized wood. This is a new product he is carrying and is the best he has seen. The pieces he has in stock are ideal for pen turning, being about 6 inches long and 15/16" thick.

Following the break, Don James did the critique portion of the meeting.

The Dave Beeman draw resulted in some wood being carried off to new homes.

The 50/50 draw of \$63.50 was won this month by Ron Gilbert.



Final result

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM. Please join us for the next meeting on Tuesday, March 4th.

A discussion on the use of alcohol **for wood drying and related dangers.**

By Wilf Talbot

At the Feb 2014 meeting of the Calgary Woodturners Guild, the merits of using alcohol to dry green bowl blanks yielded several points of view. The method involves rough turning to 1/2" thick, and submersing the blank for 24 hours, wrapping them in brown paper to let dry for up to four months. Great success has been obtained with bowl blanks that have not cracked or warped.

This method generated a discussion on the use and safety surrounding the use of "alcohol" in the shop. Terry Golbeck, of Black Forest Wood Company, relayed the events of one of his former customers. Apparently the customer was applying shellac as a finish without using any precautions by hand. The methanol was absorbed through his skin leading to his death due to methanol poisoning.

This article is intended to help clarify the consequences and safe use of different types of alcohol for woodworkers. Just because you can buy things at a store does not mean they are safe to use without precautions. If nothing else please read the following conclusions. After that are more details on the chemistry and uses of the different alcohols.

Conclusions:

There are numerous alcohols but the three most common that are easily obtained are methanol, ethanol and isopropanol. Each has several common names but ALL are TOXIC.

All chemicals are described with Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS). You are encouraged as the user of a product to read and understand the entire MSDS, and follow the precautions specified unless the conditions of use necessitate particular procedures or methods. These sheets include information on the hazards, composition, first aid, fire fighting methods, handling and storage, exposure controls/personal protection, physical properties, stability and reactivity, toxicological information, ecological information, disposal considerations, transport information, regulatory information and other information.

These sheets are readily available from the dealer selling the chemical or from a web search. A link is given for each of the alcohols at the end of this article.

Methanol (C₂H₅O, Methyl Hydrate, Wood Alcohol, Wood Spirit or Methyl Hydroxide) is the most toxic. The MSDS sheet states:

" May be harmful if inhaled, absorbed through the skin or swallowed. Mild central nervous system depressant. May cause headache, nausea, dizziness, drowsiness, and incoordination. Severe vision effects, including increased sensitivity to light, blurred vision, and blindness may develop following an 8-24 hour symptom-free period. Coma and death, usually due to respiratory failure, may occur if medical treatment is not received."

Ethanol (C₂H₆O, Ethyl Alcohol, Grain Alcohol or drinking alcohol). Ethanol is a psychoactive drug and is one of the oldest recreational drugs still used by humans. Best known as the type of alcohol found in alcoholic beverages, it is also used in thermometers, as a solvent, and as a fuel. In common usage, it is often referred to simply as alcohol or spirits. Based on its abilities to change the human consciousness, ethanol is considered a psychoactive drug. Death from ethanol consumption is possible when blood alcohol level reaches 0.4%. A blood level of 0.5% or more is commonly fatal. The table below shows the effect at different blood levels. Remembering that the legal impaired driving limit is 0.08%

BAC (g/L)	BAC (% v/v)	Symptoms
0.5	0.05%	Euphoria, talkativeness, relaxation
1	0.1 %	Central nervous system depression, nausea, possible vomiting, impaired motor and sensory function, impaired cognition
>1.4	>0.14%	Decreased blood flow to brain
3	0.3%	Stupefaction, possible unconsciousness
4	0.4%	Possible death
>5.5	>0.55%	Death

Isopropanol (C₃H₈O, Isopropyl alcohol, secondary alcohol or Rubbing alcohol). The substance may be toxic to kidneys, liver, skin, central nervous system. Repeated or prolonged exposure to the substance can produce target organs damage. Isopropyl alcohol and its metabolite, acetone, act as central nervous system depressants. Symptoms of isopropyl alcohol poisoning include flushing, headache, dizziness, depression, nausea, vomiting, anesthesia, and coma. Poisoning can occur from ingestion, inhalation, or absorption; therefore, well-ventilated areas and protective gloves are recommended. Around 15 g of isopropyl alcohol can have a toxic effect on a 70 kg human if left untreated. However, it is not nearly as toxic as methanol or ethylene glycol (anti-freeze). Overdoses may cause a fruity odor on the breath as a result of its metabolism to acetone, by alcohol dehydrogenase in the liver.

Safety considerations:

Alcohols may be used safely but proper handling and storage are required.

Personal Protection for use with Methanol

Eye/face Protection: Chemical safety goggles. A face shield may also be necessary.

Skin Protection: Chemical protective gloves, coveralls, boots, and/or other chemical protective clothing. Safety shower/eye-wash fountain should be readily available in the immediate work area.

Hand protection: Butyl or Viton ®. Since methanol is recognized as a skin absorption hazard, check with glove manufacturers for appropriate glove material, thickness and resistance to breakthrough.

Respiratory Protection: Respiratory protection should be worn when there is a potential to exceed the exposure limit requirements or guidelines. Use an approved positive-pressure full-face self-contained breathing apparatus or a full-face supplied air respirator.

Storage: Store this material in a cool, dry, well-ventilated area away from oxidizing materials and corrosive atmospheres, in a fireproof area. Keep amount in storage to a minimum. Storage area should be clearly identified and clear of obstruction. Do not store below ground level, or in confined spaces. Have appropriate fire extinguishers and spill cleanup equipment in or near storage area. Store away from strong oxidizers, mineral acids and metals.

Discussion:

The properties associated with Alcohols are:

Ethanol, n-butanol, isopropanol and methanol, belong to the group of alcohol-based solvents. A colourless liquid, with a mild, characteristic alcohol odour when pure. Readily absorbs moisture. Burns with a clean, clear flame, which is almost invisible in daylight, or a light blue flame.

Alcohols that are under consideration include, Ethanol, Isopropanol and Methanol. Because you can drink Ethanol, the government wants its taxes, so it is expensive. Isopropyl alcohol evaporates quickly and is relatively non-toxic, compared to alternative solvents. Thus it is used widely as a solvent and as a cleaning fluid, especially for dissolving oils.

Which leaves us with Methanol. Methanol has a high toxicity in humans. If as little as 10 mL of pure methanol is ingested, for example, it can break down into formic acid, which can cause permanent blindness by destruction of the optic nerve, and 30 mL is potentially fatal. It is used to denature Ethanol to prevent human consumption. However it is widely used in common things such as windshield washer fluid, gasoline de-icer, camp fuel (gelled and brand named as Sterno). The largest use of methanol by far is in making other chemicals. About 40% of methanol is converted to formaldehyde, and from there into products as diverse as plastics, plywood, paints, explosives, and permanent press textiles.

Links to:

MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets and Other information sources:

Methanol

<http://www.methanex.com/environment/documents/MethanolMethanexNorthAmMSDSEng.pdf>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Methanol>

Ethanol:

<https://www.sciencelab.com/msds.php?msdsId=9923955>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethanol>

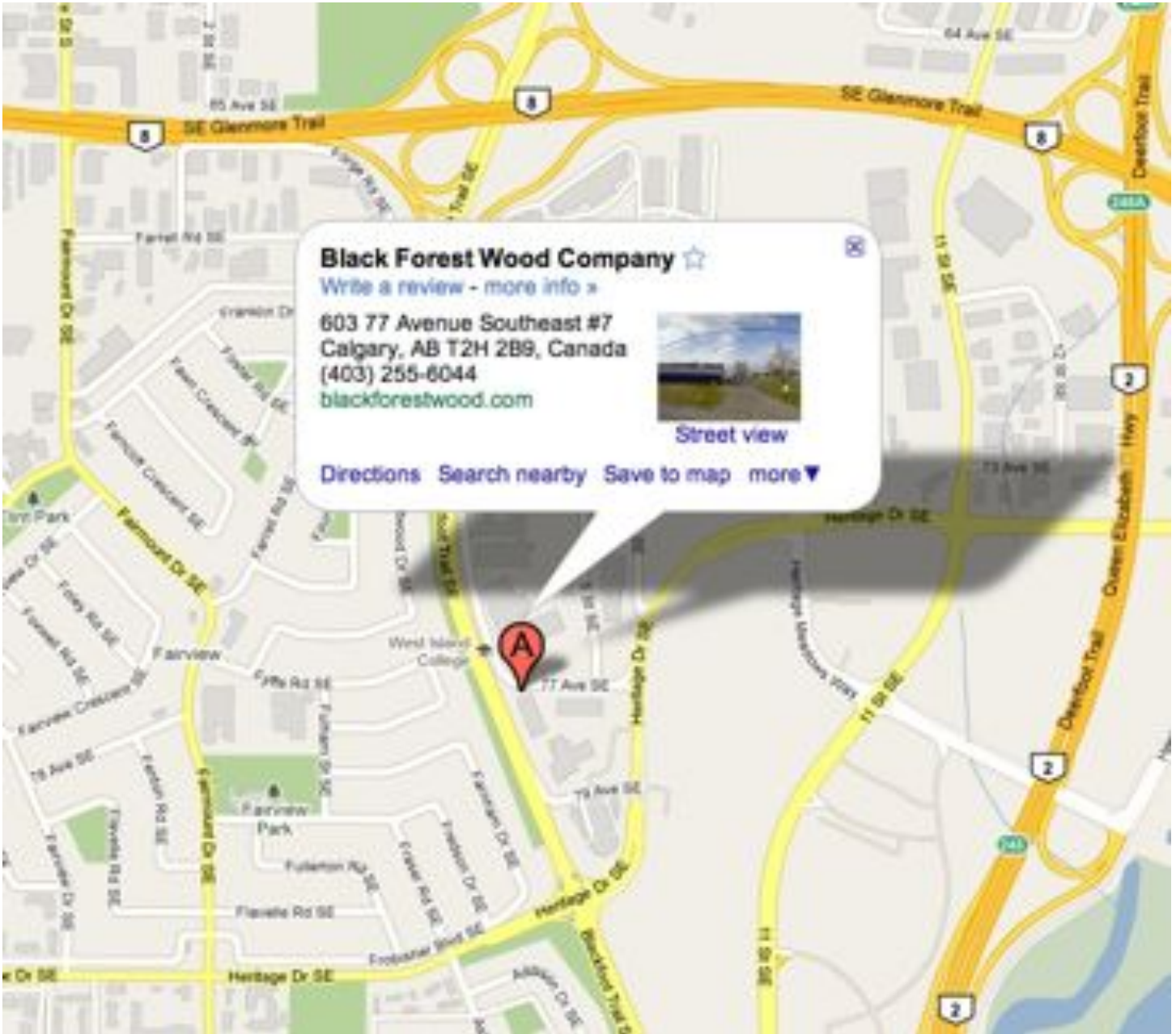
Isopropanol:

<http://www.sciencelab.com/msds.php?msdsId=9924412>

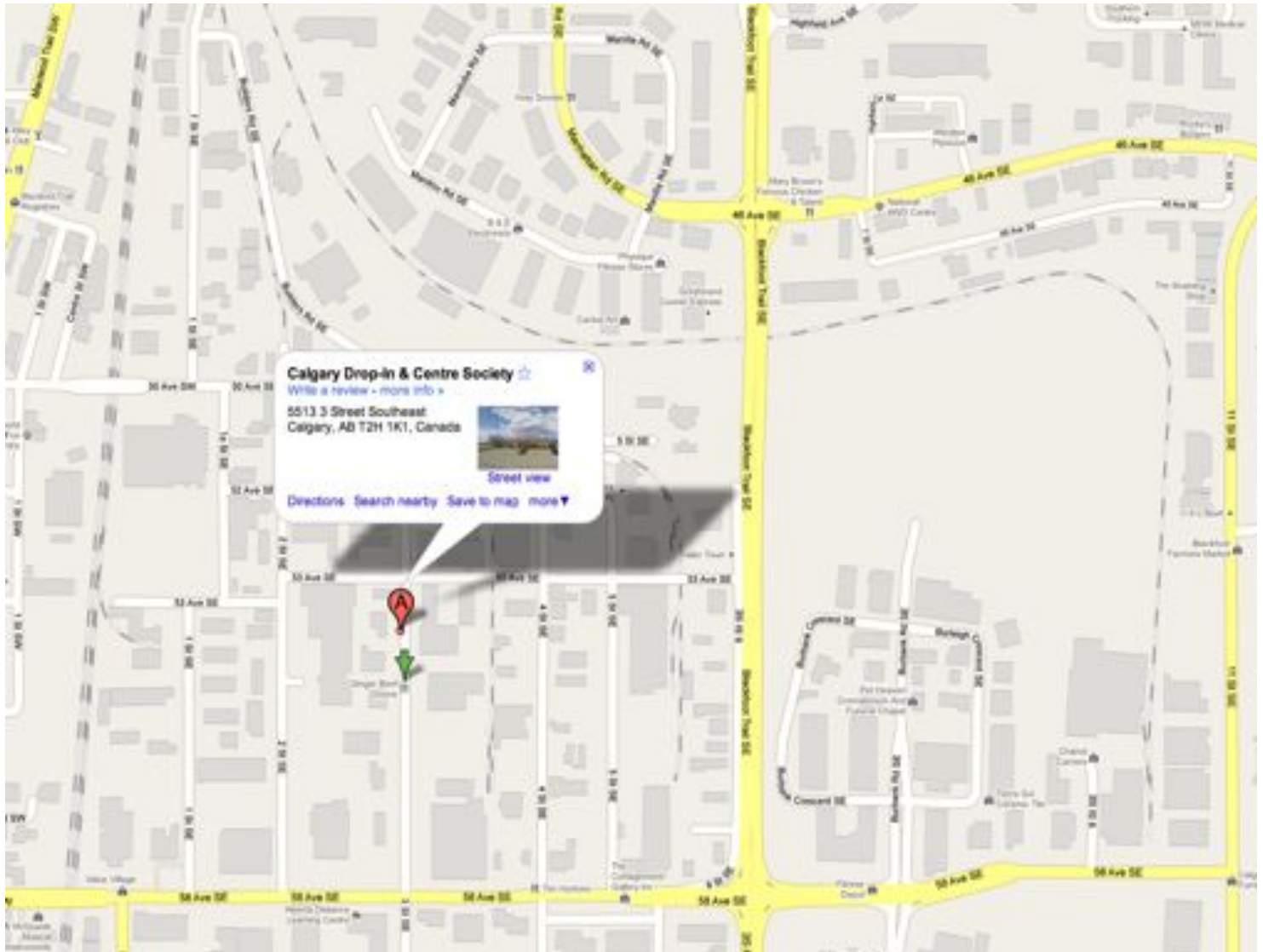
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isopropyl_alcohol

Club Meetings

The Calgary Woodturners Guild meets at Black Forest Wood the first Tuesday of each month at 7PM. Visitors are welcome.



By request - for upcoming sawdust sessions, here is the location of the Calgary Drop In Center:



Interesting Websites



Please remember that Black Forest is now on Facebook. I'm unable to add a link since you need to be logged in to Facebook first. But if you log in to Facebook and do a search for "**Black Forest Calgary**" it will come up first. Then click on it and the page will appear. Have a visit to see what's new and "like" them while you are there. You may want to bookmark the page to be kept up to date on any updates. Events such as the annual BF Wood Expo are posted there.

Events

A Sawdust Session will be held Saturday February 15th at the Calgary Drop-in Center. Please see page 6 for the location.

The date for the Okotoks event is March 22nd. There will be 3 demos with 4 rotations and the equipment available includes three Vicmarcs, and a General 260. The event costs \$10, which includes a great lunch.

Time	Lathe 1	Lathe 2	Lathe 3
10 - 11 AM	Jim and Don - the 'Thin Thing'	Jim Jones - Wide Rimmed Bowls	Mike Swendsen - Small Hollow Vessels
11 - 12	Don James - Something Weird	Joe van Keulen - Pyrography on Jones's Bowl	Ken Miller - a Square Bowl
Lunch 12 - 1			
1 - 2 PM	Jim Osenton - Wedding Goblets	Jim Jones - Piercing and Texturing on Thin Bowls	Mike Swendsen - ?
2 - 3 PM	Joe van Keulen Air-brushing one of his Leaves	Jim Jones and Mike Swendsen - Turning A Burl	Ken Miller Using the Center Saver

Jim Jones is looking for some assistance with the rotations as well as any other ideas for the topics and collaborative suggestions. Please contact Jim Jones if you are planning to come and if you are able to assist him. His email address is: burlwood@platinum.ca

For Sale

About the guild...

GUILD PURPOSE

TO PROMOTE THE ART AND CRAFT OF WOODTURNING IN A WAY THAT EXPANDS THE KNOWLEDGE, SAFE PRACTICE, AND ENJOYMENT OF WOODTURNING THEREBY BENEFITING BOTH MEMBERS AND ALSO THE COMMUNITY.

FOR THE MEMBERS:

- TO PROVIDE ALL MEMBERS WITH A METHOD OF REGULARLY EXCHANGING IDEAS AND EXPERIENCE IN WOODTURNING
- TO PROMOTE SAFETY IN WOODTURNING
- TO BENEFIT FROM GROUP SIZE IN ACQUIRING PUBLISHED RESOURCES & MATERIALS

FOR THE COMMUNITY:

- TO BRING AN AWARENESS OF WOODTURNING TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC
- TO PROVIDE CHARITABLE BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

MEETINGS

The Guild meets on the first Tuesday, each month (except July and August) at 7:00 PM at Black Forest Wood Co., Bay 7, 603 – 77th Avenue SE, Calgary. Visitors are welcome.

MEMBERSHIP/DUES Annual Dues - \$30.00 with E-Mail, otherwise \$35.00 on a calendar year basis.

WEBSITE <http://www.calgarywoodturners.com>

MAILING ADDRESS

Calgary Woodturners Guild
c/o Black Forest Wood Company
Bay 7, 603 - 77th Avenue SE
Calgary, AB, CANADA
T2H 2B9

CLUB OFFICERS

President and Director	Norm Olsen
Vice President and Director	Ken Miller
Director - Treasurer	Greg Dahl
Director - Secretary/Newsletter	Jim Leslie
Director – Technology/Website Administrator	Sherry Willetts
Director - Program Manager	Terry Golbeck
Director - Program Manager	Ken Miller
Director - Sawdust Session coordinator & MAL	Ken Kindjerski
Director - Sawdust Session coordinator & MAL	Albert Daniels
Director – MAL	Vern Steinbrecker

(MAL=Member at Large)

COMMITTEES

AUDITORS: Henri Lefebvre, CGA, and Lyle Cuthbert
BAR-B-QUE (ANNUAL): Ron Falconer
CHARITABLE CO-ORDINATOR: Dwayne Sims and Andy Lockhart
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
LIBRARIAN: Carl Smith
MARKETING: Dennis Milbrandt, Vern Steinbrecker
MEMBERSHIP RECORDS: Carl Smith
NEWSLETTER: Jim Leslie
PHOTOGRAPHER
PROGRAMS:
PUBLIC DISPLAYS: Joe Van Keulen
RAFFLES : Dave Beeman
SCHOOL LIASON: Jim Jones
SPRUCE MEADOWS SALE: Neil Proctor, Dwayne Sims, John Simard, Dave Beeman, Jim Edwards.
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR/WEBSITE: Sherry Willetts
TOOL SWAPS: Jim Edwards
WOODWORKING SHOW: Dennis Milbrandt
MEMBERS AT LARGE: Vern Steinbrecker, Glenn Summers, Dave Beeman, Ron Gilbert, and Ken Kindjerski, Don James, Albert Daniels