



CALGARY WOODTURNERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

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Issue 56, December 2016

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The Cricut, Sandblasting, and Fractal Burning



From the Editor

December was an interesting meeting, with lots of new stuff to watch, think about, absorb, and figure out. Some presentations had a lot of success, some ran into some glitches, and some, well, while entertaining, may not have ended up with the desired

result. Still, many thanks go out to our presenters, for entertaining us if not educating us with the expected results. Overall, another fun evening exploring this great world of woodturning. Once again, proving how much new stuff there is to learn, try, and explore.

Doug Drury



At precisely 7:00 PM CWT time Norm called the meeting to order.

First order of business was of course to welcome our guests, Mark, Dan, Nathan, Mark (2) Don O'Neil and Bob Beckwith. While Bob has been to our meetings before, Don and Bob informed the guild that they were starting a turning guild in Red Deer. We hope that the Red Deer guild has as much success as the Calgary WoodTurning Guild, and wish them every success in their new venture.

John Penner gave his report on the Spruce Meadows sale. Sales were down, not just for us but for every vendor that John talked to at the show. This year CWT sold \$6,800 of product (as compared to \$10,000 last year) 21 different members participated, with prices

from \$10 to \$2,000. 18 of the 21 members sold products. We also sold \$3,863 in tops which will be donated to the Calgary Food Bank.

It was announced that the December meeting of Saws would be their Christmas Social. As in previous years members of Calgary WoodTurning guild are invited to attend. Their guest speaker this year is Dale Lowe, a turner from Regina that took First Place, Best Finish, and Best First Time Entry in the SAWS 2015 Fine Works in Wood Exhibition and Sale. The meeting is at 7:00 PM at the Scarboto Community Hall, 1727 - 14 Avenue SW.

The Cricut Machine!

Mike Swendsen gave a demonstration using the Cricut Stencil Cutting Machine. The Cricut is a specialized printer that can make a stencil, cut vinyl, acetate,

thin cardboard, paper, or numerous other products.

The Cricut can be hooked up to your laptop, computer, or even your iPhone via blue tooth. The machine comes with software so you can either use their existing portfolio of images, or make your own by downloading your own pictures, download from web, draw your own, or can and import any type of line art.

The software is web based, so it is compatible with both PC and Mac based machines, or pretty well anything with a blue tooth or USB connection that can access the web.



Mike uses the Cricut to cut sticky vinyl stencils. Some of the stencils he uses are once that came with the machine, others he has made. He uses Vinyl that is used for car signs, or he uses vinyl with transfer tape that he gets from Walmart for about \$10 a roll.

Once Mike has his stencil cut, he sticks either the positive or the negative on his turned and pre-finished piece. Then he uses a variety of techniques to make the pattern part of his piece.

Mike demonstrated how he cuts the stencil, and then transfers it onto his turned piece. This being a demo, of course things were rushed and his stencil did not go on straight. It was however a terrific demo of just how sticky the stencil was and how it adhered to the piece.

The mounting of some maple leaves on a turned box went much better. Mike then used a mini air brush like sandblaster to "etch" around the maple leaves. The end result was the maple leaves remaining glossy smooth, while the rest of the box ended up with an etched finish. A very nice effect.



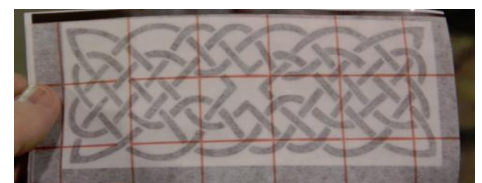
Other ways that Mike uses his stencils include using his air brush to paint around a stencil, using either the positive or reverse, and tracing the pattern of the stencil onto his piece and then wood burning the pattern onto the piece.



Deer cut in Vinyl



A row of maple leaves



Celtic pattern with
transfer tape on top

Fractal Burning Demo

Joe Van Keulen did a demonstration on Fractal Burning, on Lichtenberg Figures. Joe had a transformer that came out of a microwave oven. One side of the transformer was connected to a switch, and then standard 110 Volt plug in. The other side had two insulated wires with alligator clips on the ends. The input of the transformer was therefore 110V, the output was 2,000 volts!



Joe had a mixture of 2 tablespoons of baking soda in about a cup of water. He brushed the water/baking soda mixture on the inside of a bowl, but the alligator clips into the bowl, and hit the switch.

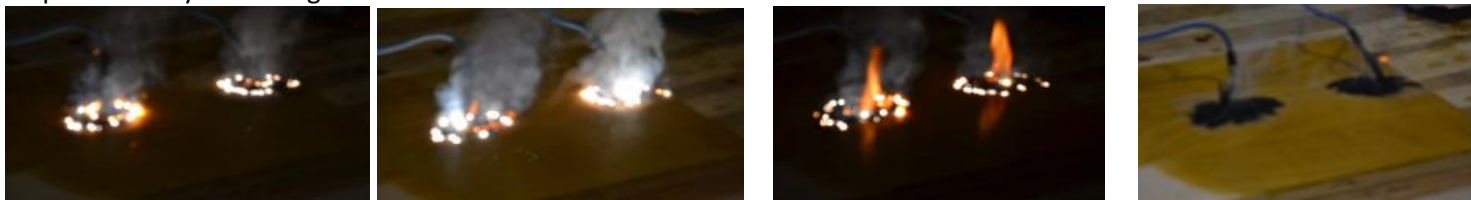


We had Smoke! We had some crackling! We had some bright light like welding. What we didn't get however were good Lichtenberg Figures. Not to be deterred, Joe tried again. Unfortunately all Joe really got was some good burn marks.

Joe then started setting up to try again with a board that he had previously coated with the baking soda/water solution, so it was quite wet. While Joe was doing so, one of our members, an electrician, gave a little talk about how dangerous this was. The leads coming off the transformer looked pretty robust, but with 2,000 volts the electricity could jump right through the insulation on the leads. He warned that you should be as far from the leads as possible, and take proper caution when working with voltages this large. 2,000 volts can kill you, so be careful if thinking of trying this at home.



Joe then hooked up the board (while standing further back). More smoke and bright spots, but mostly just an impressive way of making burn marks on a board.



Let's try one more time, with more of the baking soda/water mixture:



Unfortunately still not a great success, but that is sometimes the way that demo's go. Below are some fractal burning pieces that Joe had done previously and had brought to show at the November meeting.



Those interested in learning more about this technique are encouraged to talk to Joe or other guild members who have successfully done this technique, check the internet, or check out the YouTube video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BuG1oNRQnyI>

Remember: This is extremely, extremely dangerous. -- If you touch ANYTHING (wires, transformer, wood... anything!) while its plugged in you will be ELECTROCUTED and DIE -- PEOPLE HAVE DIED from microwave transformers -- all it takes is one mistake -- YOU DON'T GET A SECOND CHANCE...

Critique Session

Doug Drury's pieces, Critique by the Guild

Doug produced three small poplar vases that he turned a year ago after Snowtember had littered his yard with large poplar branches that had broken down during the 2014 September snow storm. Doug wasn't sure if all the broken branches should just become firewood or saved, so he took some branches that had been in the firewood pile for a number of years, and turned the following three vases.

No real thought was put into the turning of the vases, Doug just wanted to see what the wood was like. He liked the spalting, and quite liked the way the wood changed color and the spalting effect with the CA (cyanacrylate) glue finish.



Similar to the November critique session, a lively discussion of the pieces ensued. What I learned was that the general consensus was the

finish was great, but the pieces could be improved if the base and top were different sizes, and the sides were more gentle flowing curves. Also remember the 1/3rd, 1/3rd, 1/3rd proportions in adding features like coves and beads. Some really liked the suggestion "remember that nature likes flowing curves, like the shape of a woman". A sexist comment perhaps, but the idea has some merit.

The End of the Meeting

Ron Falcner brought to the guild's attention the Woodworking Enthusiasts Community on facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/wonderfulwoodworking>

Dave Beeman did his raffle and numerous pieces of wood went with excited members to their new home.

The 50/50 draw was won by Jim Osenton. Congratulations Jim on winning \$94.00.

INSTANT GALLERY

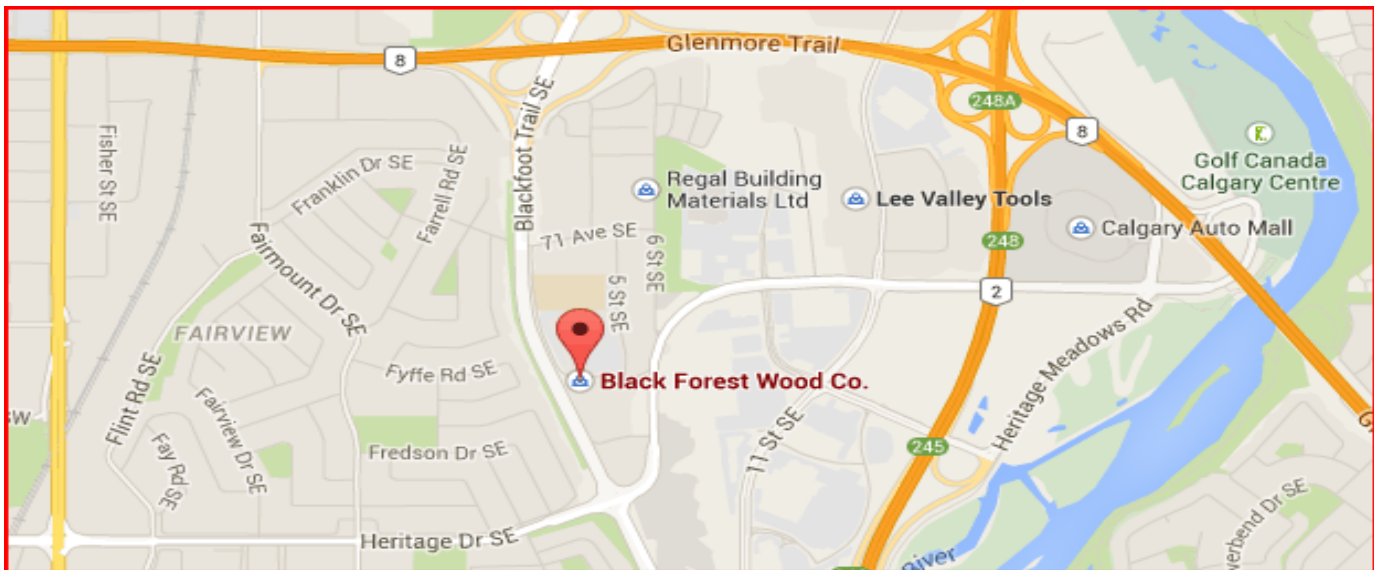






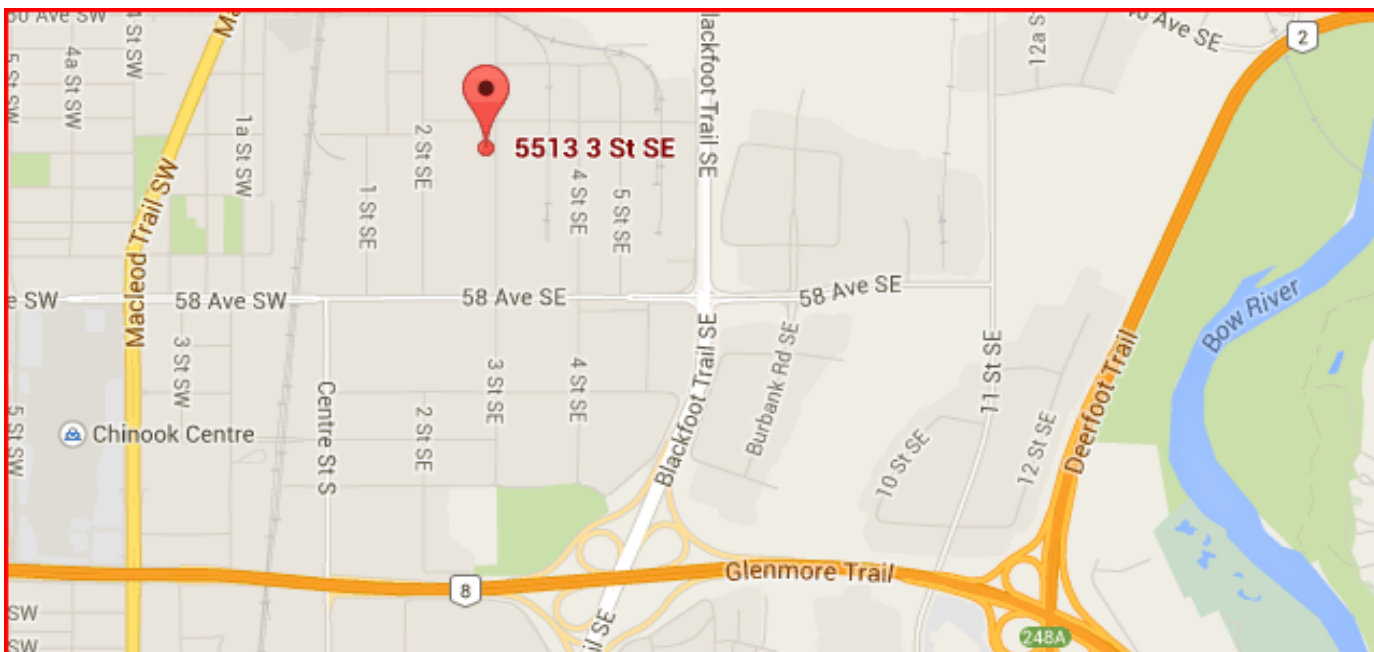
Guild Meetings

The Calgary Woodturners Guild meets at Black Forest Wood Company (603, 77 Ave SE, Calgary) the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM except for July and August. Visitors are always welcome.



Sawdust Sessions

Sawdust sessions are held at the Calgary Drop-In Woodwork Shop (5513 3 Street SE). Come turn and talk wood with your fellow guild members, learn or try something new. There are always people available to answer questions and give help, and lathes to turn projects on. Visitors are always welcome, and lunch is available for \$5.00 for those who work up an appetite and want to stay.



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 benefitting both members and also the community

FOR THE MEMBERS:

- To provide all emembers 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 - 77 Avenue SE, Calgary, AB. Visitors are welcome

MAILING ADDRESS

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

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual Dues - \$30.00 with Email, otherwise \$35.00
Dues paid on a calendar year basis

WEBSITE www.calgarywoodturners.com

CLUB OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President:	Norm Olsen
Vice President:	Garry Goddard
Treasurer:	Greg Dahl
Secretary:	Doug Drury
Director - Website Administrator:	Sherry Willetts
Director - Program Manager:	Terry Gobeck
Director - Sawdust Session coordinator:	Ken Kindjerski
Director - Sawdust Session coordinator:	Albert Daniels
Auditors:	
Bar-B-Que (Annual):	Albert Daniels
Charitable Co-ordinator	Dwayne Sims
Librarian:	Carl Smith
Membership Records:	Carl Smith
Newsletter	Doug Drury
Photographer:	Vacant
Programs:	Terry Gobeck
Public Displays:	Joe Van Keulen
Raffles:	Dave Beeman
School Liason:	Jim Jones
Spruce Meadows Sale:	John Penner
Webmaster:	Sherry Willetts
Members at Large:	Jim Leslie, Vern Steinbrecker