

CALGARY WOODTURNERS GUILD NEWSLETTER



April 2, 2019

Issue 90, April 2019

Options for Turning a Green Wood Bowl, Orientation of Bowl in a Log, Efficient Use of Green Manitoba Maple Burls, and Microwave Drying

Neither Norm Olsen nor Garry Goddard could make the meeting, so Terry Golbeck took control and called the meeting to order.

We had two guests - Gene and Dirk. Welcome.

The next sawdust session will be held on April 13th. (See the second to last page of this newsletter for further information about sawdust sessions.)

Dwayne Sims informed the guild members that for the current year to date the guild has donated \$1,826 in product to charities. Dwayne is looking for more items to be donated.

Carl Smith warned that we are now in the 4th month of the year, and those guild members that have not yet paid their dues for 2019 are in danger of being removed from the membership list. Please pay your dues promptly or you may lose your membership.

Terry Golbeck announced that he is running a Sharpening Turning Tools workshop at Black Forest Wood Company Saturday April 6th and he still has a few openings left for this workshop. Also on April 13th and 14th there will be a bowl turning workshop. Terry related a story that even though he has years of experience with people who turn for a living, he still learns new things all the time. You can only learn from where you are currently, so don't be afraid to take workshops, or even the same workshop more than once to constantly improve your skills, learn new things, and perfect your techniques.

Options for Working with Green Wood by Terry Golbeck.

All wood will shrink when it dries. The challenge is to have the wood shrink without cracking or checking.

Wood will dry/shrink from the pith (the very center of a tree). Terry showed some examples of logs that had been cut in half at the center (through the pith) and how the wood had dried and shrunk away from the pith.

Also many hard woods will have a visible sapling ring (see layout picture on next page). When a tree grows and is young, (a sapling) it will be quite bendable so it can survive in winds or tolerate being bent. As the tree matures it will naturally start to become more brittle and the wood hardens to give the tree more stability and structure. The pith of a tree and sometimes right out to the sapling ring can be punky or not solid wood and should therefore not be used as part of a bowl or vessel.

To avoid or minimize cracking of a log, the drying process needs to be slowed down so the log dries and shrinks at an even rate. This can be accomplished in a number of ways:

1. Cut the log in half through the pith and then coat the end of the log (end grain) to slow the drying process. Coating could be wax, paint, or a commercial end grain sealer. One sealer that Black Forest Wood Company sells is a water-based wax emulsion and is pictured at right.

If the log is large enough, make two cuts (one on each side of the pith out to the sapling ring). Keep the two side pieces only, the center section with the pith and sapling ring would be discarded as waste.



2. Use a two step process when turning the vessel/bowl. The two step process has the maker rough turn the vessel/bowl while the wood is still green. The sides of the vessel are left fairly thick (1/2" to 1" depending upon the size of the piece). The piece is then put aside to dry. Putting the piece in a paper bag, in a bag with the shavings from the turning, coating the entire piece with green wood sealer are all methods used to try and slow down the drying process and reduce splitting. Pentacryl is a coating that replaces the water in the wood and dries hard.

Before the piece is set aside to dry the wood is weighed, and then the weight is checked repeatedly as the piece dries. When the piece is no longer losing weight, it is now dry. At this point the piece is remounted onto the lathe, and finish turning can take place. The piece will almost always have warped, so mounting tenons/rabbets will like have to be reformed so the piece can be mounted securely.

3. Turn the piece to final thickness (normally very thin when using this process) while the wood is still green, apply a finish and then let it warp as it dries.
4. Use a kiln or drying box, or a microwave to dry the wood.

Another problem that can be encountered is that sometimes the wood is not solid, or "punky". A solution is to apply a wood hardener like Polycryl to the wood. Polycryl does not fill in the gaps like epoxy or other resins, but does soak into the fibers of the wood and makes them harder.

Orientation of a Bowl in a Log by Terry Golbeck

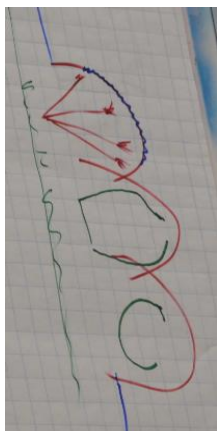
A bowl is oriented in a log either with the growth rings, or opposite the growth rings (a live edge bowl)



In the picture at left the sapling ring can be clearly seen.

Efficient Use of Green Manitoba Maple Burls by Kai Muenzer

Kai tries to get maximum use out of every burl he uses. In order to do so it is helpful to understand a burl.



Burls are growths on the side of a tree. They are often caused by branches breaking off when the tree is young. The tree will keep growing around the broken branch and will eventually seal off the wound creating the "bulbous" growth on the side of the tree.

Burls are prized due to the swirliness of the grain patterns inside the burl. If you look inside a burl, you will see points radiating out from the center of the burl. When planning your piece, these points (shown as the red lines with stars on the diagram at left) should be located on the top or shoulder of a hollow form.

Burls are often turned while the wood is green. In making the first rough turning before setting the piece aside to finish drying, make your rough turning as fine as possible, especially the inside of the piece. After the piece is dried, it is remounted and turned between centers. Because of this, you cannot get inside to do any finish turning, thus the reason to turn the inside as smooth as possible when doing the rough turning.

The bottom of burls are often cut off (due to punkiness) and the remaining turned burl is mounted onto a separate solid dried piece of wood. This is often done with the top of a piece as well.

The wood underneath the bark of the burl is often "spiky". If this is to be maintained, the bark must be carefully removed. Kai keeps the burl as wet as possible until after he removes the bark as the bark is much easier to remove while it is wet (green), but very difficult if not impossible to remove and keep the spiky bits if the burl is allowed to dry first. Kai often colors this spikiness with iridescent paints and powders.

When turning a burl, use very sharp tools that cut or shear more than tools that scrape. Scrapers will tend to grab the fibres in a burl and will lead to a lot of tear out. If a burl is very dry you may get away with using a scraper.



B R E A K

Example of how wood moves when it dries by Wilf Talbot

Wilf showed the group an example of how wood dries over time. Shown is a picture that was taken at the November 2018 guild meeting of the completed piece as well as two close up's of the crack at the top of the piece. The top close-up was taken at the November 2018 guild meeting, the bottom picture was taken at the April 2019 meeting. You can see how the crack has opened further in the 5 months between the two pictures. The piece is made out of pear and Wilf says that is the natural color of the wood.



Drying Wood with a Microwave by Greg Dahl

Drying green wood in the microwave can allow you to dry a piece in a few weeks instead of letting it air dry over a number of years. If done correctly, it will also yield you a dry piece with no cracks or checks.

Greg says that in order to successfully dry green wood with a microwave you have to first understand that when you dry wood with a microwave, it dries from the inside out. If you get the piece really hot, it will get brown and can even char in the middle, while the outside will still be wet. Because of this you have to have some patience, and many low treatments with the microwave are better than a few large ones.

Greg has a separate microwave in his shop for drying wood. He picked it up on Kijiji for around \$20. The following is the method that Greg uses to dry green turning blanks:

1. Cut a round turning blank on the band saw.
2. Take the round blank and put it in the microwave on medium heat for only 1 to 2 minutes.
3. Take the blank and put it into a plastic bag and leave overnight.
4. In the morning you will see moisture condensed on the inside of the bag. If no moisture, then the piece is dry. If there is moisture, then remove the piece from the bag, dry the inside of the bag, and repeat steps 2 and 3 above.

Raffle Draw

Dave Beeman did his raffle with help from Greg Dahl and others. Many pieces of wood found new homes and Roger Norbert won \$110 in the 50/50 draw.

Our next meeting will be at 7:00 PM Tuesday May 7th at Black Forest Wood Company.

Instant Gallery





Wilf Talbot's entry into the SAWS 2X4 competition

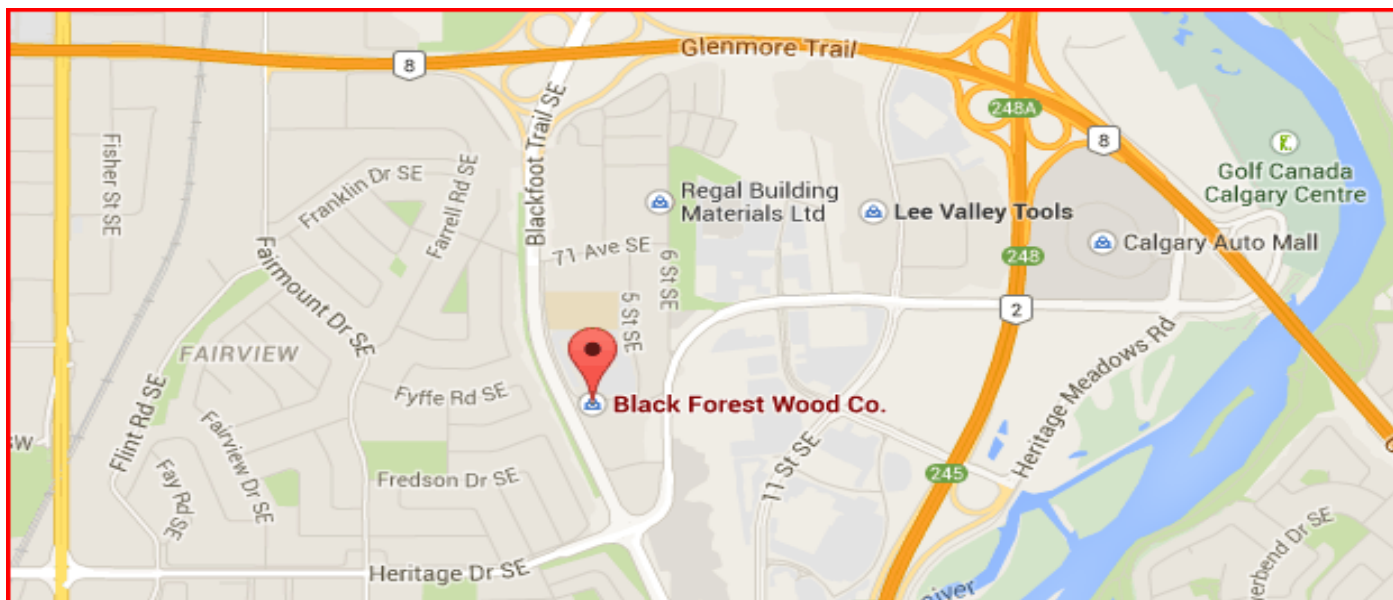






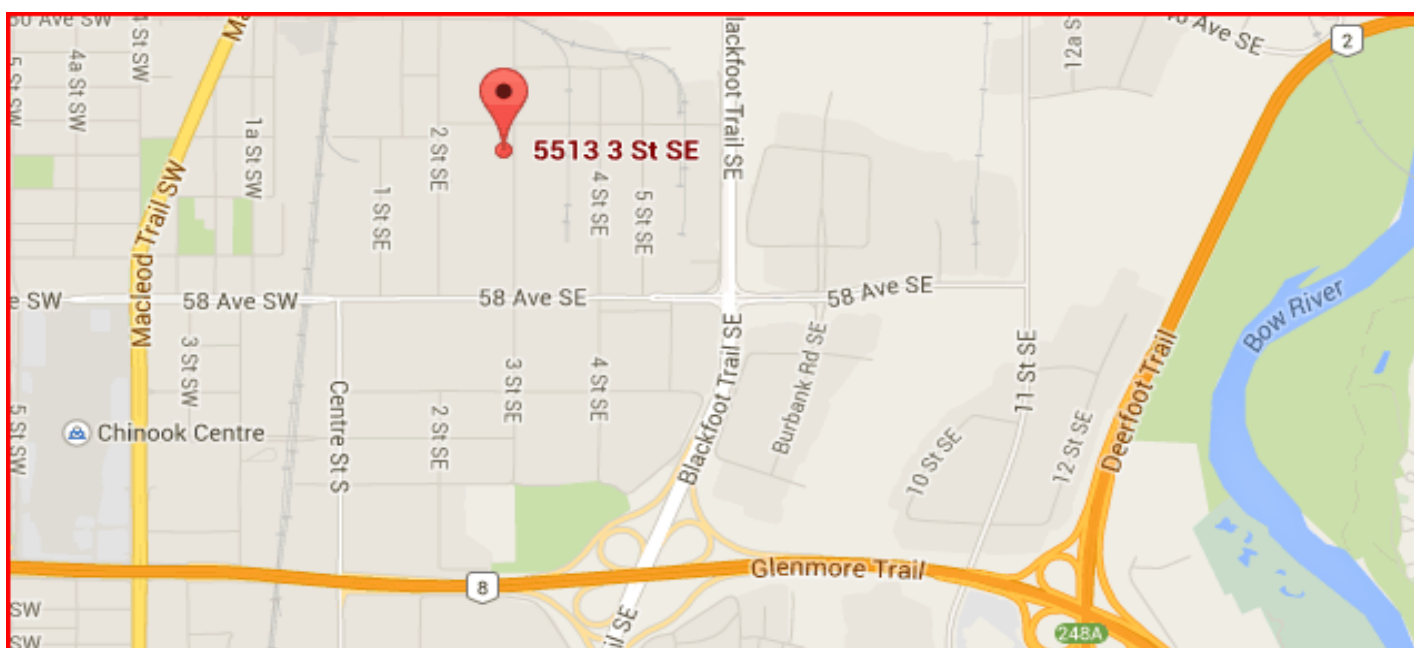
Guild Meetings

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 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 - 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:	Steve Olson
Secretary:	Doug Drury
Director - Website Administrator:	Sherry Willetts
Director - Program Manager:	Terry Golbeck
Director - Sawdust Session coordinator:	Ken Kindjerski
Director - Sawdust Session coordinator:	Albert Daniels

Auditors:	Dwayne Sims
Charitable Co-ordinator	Carl Smith
Librarian:	Carl Smith
Membership Records:	Doug Drury
Newsletter	Vacant
Photographer:	Terry Golbeck
Programs:	Graham Dolby
Public Displays:	Dave Beeman
Raffles:	Vacant
School Liaison:	Kai Muenzer
Public Sales	Sherry Willetts
Webmaster:	Jim Leslie, Vern Steinbrecker
Members at Large:	