

This week's TUTOR'S TIDINGS



Week 11

Friday 15th April, 2016

BUBINGA

(*Guibourtia sp*)

BEAUTIFUL WOODS of the WORLD

(No 5 in a series of 10)

- Bubinga is a wood that has been used for years with success.
- Harder and heavier than either Brazilian or Indian Rosewood, Bubinga is sometimes known as African Rosewood, although it's not a *Dalbergia*.
- It has a medium texture with interlocking grain. Bubinga varies in colour from pinkish-mauve to golden blondes and oxidizes beautifully to rich darker tones over time.
- Because of its interlocking grain, it can be like some of the more difficult Mahogany to bend



A figured Bubinga guitar

Bubinga is big and tough



Bubinga grows sporadically through the swampy parts of **west central Africa**, and though rare, the trees can often produce a lot of wood

The bubinga tree is very large — up to 150 feet in height with long, clear trunks 3 to 6 feet in diameter. Enormous slabs of remarkably clear lumber can be had from these trees, with prices up to several thousand dollars for a single mammoth board. (There's your snazzy corporate conference table.) The sapwood is narrow and off-white in color.

Bubinga is an incredibly strong wood by any measure. It is denser than white oak, hard maple and almost all other common domestic species, on par with honey mesquite. Its surface hardness approaches double that of white oak, and even slightly exceeds persimmon, which was once used for golf club heads!

The shear strength of bubinga is particularly exceptional, exceeding nearly every other commercial species, so it is extremely resistant to splitting.

CLUB NEWS

The club operated a busy stall at the recent Waikato Show drawing many interested show goers especially while the lathe was operating.

While the attendance was reported as being better than previous years, sales of turnings proved to be just a bit slower than was expected. However, several members were able to sell a selection of their turning projects.

The greatest benefit for the club was in attracting new members.

*Last night the Thursday group welcomed a new member **SHANE FORSHAW** who made an immediate start on his introductory programme. Obviously quite a bit savvy with machinery, Shane managed to complete Stage One-Module One in just one session.*

Woo Hoo! Great to have our new man on the team.

By the 21st April the Thursday session will be operating at full capacity with 14/15 turners.

The Tuesday group is expected to grow as well because during the Waikato Show four more potential members completed pre-enrolment forms.



***JAN** has created a particularly snazzy bowl from her clean block of pin oak wood. Note the raised embellishment in the centre of the turning.*

The random “dot and burn” effect design was made using the Dremel tool and a ball-shaped tungsten cutter.



***MALCOLM** 's matai wood bowl is blemish free and features beautiful grains and irregular growth lines. Note the embellishment pattern around the outside of the bowl.*

A very special piece!

What's happening in our workshop?

As soon as one project is finished another one is put on the lathe.

***MALCOLM** has completed his bowl so launches into making a Sierra stylus pen.*





*The TUESDAY group was pleased to welcome the return of **KEN JAMIESON***

Here he is working on his beautifully grained piece of black walnut.

Good to see the safety device covering his face while he works!

***BRIAN** is learning about the essential steps in making a bowl.*

STAGE ONE: mount the block of wood on the lathe, check the balance; shape the base, create a spigot, sand to eradicate all signs of stria.

A suitable finish could be added at this stage.



***JAN** wastes no time so after finishing her pin oak bowl is back to pen making.*

A small potato was used to make a plug for the pen brass tube. This easy trick prevents the super-fast setting glue from getting inside the tubes making the components difficult/impossible to fit.

Thursday session capers



***“Have a go at this Colin”.
...and he did!***

***COLIN** loves a challenge, is always prepared to take a risk, or have a shot at a seemingly difficult task and then invariably produces the goods.*

A great thinker with the skills to boot!

***Determination, resilience and the NEAGE philosophy** underpinned this excellent result.*

***STEPHEN** had this project in the final furlong of a long straight when disaster struck. A dig-in caused the bowl to fly off the lathe, hit the concrete floor and come to rest looking rather bruised and battered. Did that stop our Stephen? Dismay perhaps! Stop? NO!*

Damage control was brought into play with immediate fixit plans.

“Doctor” Stephen applied TLC and restored his pride and joy to good health. (see picture right)



Well that's another week in our wood turning world. The days are cooler now, the sap is falling as are the leaves from the trees. Have you had your heater checked?

What about those new Health and Safety regulations?

The **CHIEFS** are still winning but I might disappear into my workshop for a couple of days as the team has a bye this weekend.

Clive