



# Tutor's Tidings

# TT

No 33 - Friday 25th September

## Tuesday's Gallery



***DAVID M** continues to churn out these excellent pepper mills. The finish David achieves is quite outstanding.*



*Onward and upward. **HEATHER** built on the skills learned last week and turned this bud vase. Already Heather has plans to enhance the design for her next lot of bud vases.*

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At the club's Tuesday session we welcomed the return of **RON PEDDER** to the team. Ron launched straightaway into deep mid-size bowl using magnolia wood. The design and finish to his project shows that his woodturning skills are as sharp as ever.

The club raffle was drawn (Two draws) and the winners were:

First draw - **ROBERT WISELEY**

Second draw: **SPENCER HEALD**

## **TUESDAY HAPPENINGS**

**DAVID R:** worked on a piece of elm wood turning a small round edged bowl.

**DAVID M:** continued with his pepper mills project. Ten down and eight to go!

**HEATHER:** completed her 2nd project of the induction programme – a bud vase.

**JAN:** decided to turn another bowl using her liquid amber wood.

**GARTH:** persevered with his rather special burr bowl and sanded the inside area.

**CHRIS:** joined the clock makers' team and fashioned a clock using magnolia wood.

**DES:** toiled away at his snazzy blackwood cake stand.

**RICHARD:** began his clock project using an solid piece of kauri wood.

**RON:** patiently removed the inside of his superb magnolia bowl.



**Some  
of  
our  
Tuesday  
team  
members  
busy  
with  
their  
turning  
projects.**



# Is it a burl?..... or is it a burr?

A **burl** (American English) or **bur** or **burr** (used in all non-US English speaking countries) is a tree growth in which the grain has grown in a deformed manner. It is commonly found in the **form of a rounded outgrowth** on a tree trunk or branch that is filled with small knots from dormant buds.

A burl results from a tree undergoing some form of stress. It may be caused by an injury, virus or fungus. **Most burls grow beneath the ground, attached to the roots as a type of malignancy** that is generally not discovered until the tree dies or falls over. Such burls sometimes appear as groups of bulbous protrusions connected by a system of rope-like roots. Almost all burl wood is covered by bark, even if it is underground. Insect infestation and certain types of mold infestation are the most common causes of this condition.

In some tree species, burls can grow to great size. **The largest, at 26 ft (7.9 m), occur in coast redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) and can encircle the entire trunk; when moisture is present, these burls can grow new redwood trees. The world's second-largest burls can be found in Port McNeill, British Columbia.**

**One of the largest burls known was found around 1984 in the small town of Tamworth, New South Wales. It stands 6.4 ft (2.0 m) tall,** with an odd shape resembling a trombone. In January 2009, this burl was controversially removed from its original location, and relocated to a public school in the central New South Wales city of Dubbo.

## Uses

- **Burls yield a very peculiar and highly figured wood, prized for its beauty and rarity.**
- It is sought after by furniture makers, artists, and wood sculptors.
- There are a number of well-known types of burls (each from a particular species); these are highly valued and sliced into veneers for furniture, inlay in doors, picture frames, household objects, automobile interior paneling and trim, and woodturning.
- Burl wood is very hard to work with hand tools or on a lathe because its grain is twisted and interlocked, causing it to chip and shatter unpredictably.
- This "wild grain" makes burl wood extremely dense and resistant to splitting, which made it valued for bowls.

## Poaching BURRS or BURLS in the USA

Because of the value of burls, ancient redwoods in National Parks in Western United States have recently been poached by thieves for their burls, including at Redwood National and State Parks. Poachers often cut off the burls from the sides of the trunks using chainsaws, which exposes the tree to infection and disease, or fell the entire tree to steal burls higher up. Because of risk of poaching, supervisors of state parks encourage those buying burl to enquire where it came from and to ensure it was obtained legally. Legal acquisition methods for burl include trees from private land cleared for new development and from lumber companies with salvage permits.

## THURSDAY'S SESSION

The session started with the presentation of the club's STAGE ONE award to DYLAN RANSTEAD who in a very short time completed the qualifying projects with skill and enthusiasm.

The clock making project got under way with a team of six keen participants, each of whom brought along their own choice of wood for the job. The club supported this initiative with the purchase of a set of plug cutters. Many thanks to our committee for this consideration..



*The above picture shows **COLIN MCKENZIE's** quite outstanding project made with **yellow-heart kahikatea** wood.*

*This was Colin's first foray into serious spindle turning.*

*CONGRATULATIONS Colin, this one is up there among your finest works.*



*MUHANNAD's clock the first to roll off the assembly line*



*Another completed project by **DOMINIC** - a neatly crafted natural-edge bowl.*

***Have a great weekend. See you all next week.***  
***CLIVE***