

# Hamilton Woodturners Club

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## TUTOR'S COMMENT

Well, we got through the first week of mask wearing and social distancing at each of the sessions. Yes, having a mask on for long periods of time is a bit bothersome. However, the government protocols need to be adhered to. When an easement of mandated requirements is announced we too will follow suit.

Our **Colin McKenzie** has brought in a trailer load of ready-to-use blocks of wood so there's plenty for all and lots of varieties from which to make a choice.

The induction programme for the team of newbie turners is underway where all our learner turners are demonstrating fine potential.

**CONTINUITY:** There are times when you know that you will not be able to attend your usual weekly session. If you wish to maintain continuity with your projects then have a chat with me about attending one of the other sessions for that week. If at all possible then I will fit you in. That approach should enable a sense of continuity and encourage completion of projects within expected timeframes.

Cheers

**CLIVE**

Bowl (upper-left) : **DENIS** has excelled with a quality finish to his well-made medium-sized bowl.

Block of Australian ironwood (left) **BILL** brought this sample of an unusually barked tree. Be careful those solid points are needle-point sharp.



**ALAN** made a nifty sycamore pot .

Special features are the black fungus streaks (spalting).

Great lid fit too!



**CHERRY WOOD VASE**

**BILL**, one of our newbie turners, shows us how quick he is to pick up and apply the basic turning skills.

It's just the third session next week and into project No 3 we go.

**WOW!**



**A natural edge burl platter**

(above) Here's our **TONY SMITH**, a newbie to the Thursday session, proudly displaying an excellent first effort.

Tony took to his first turning project like a duck does to water.

Welcome to the club Tony. You are now ready for a learning journey of fun



**ROSS SMITH** fashioned an exciting platter from a block of cedar wood. A special feature of this project is the symmetry in the prominent lines of grain.

# Burls - Burrs

A burl (American English) or Burr (British English) is a tree growth in which the grain has grown in a deformed manner. Burls/Burrs are commonly found in the form of a rounded outgrowth on a tree trunk or branch.

Burls are generally considered to be large woody swellings that are basically hemispherical in shape. They often bear many buds and sometimes sprouts.

Burls are highly prized by wood workers due to the wild amazing grain figuring often present. BUT.... burls are also prone to flying apart on a lathe due to decay, voids, and strange growth patterns.

I have always found that the heavier the lump of burl wood is (via high density), then the safer it is to turn on a lathe. Very light burl blocks are likely to be hiding decay and voids. BE CAREFUL !



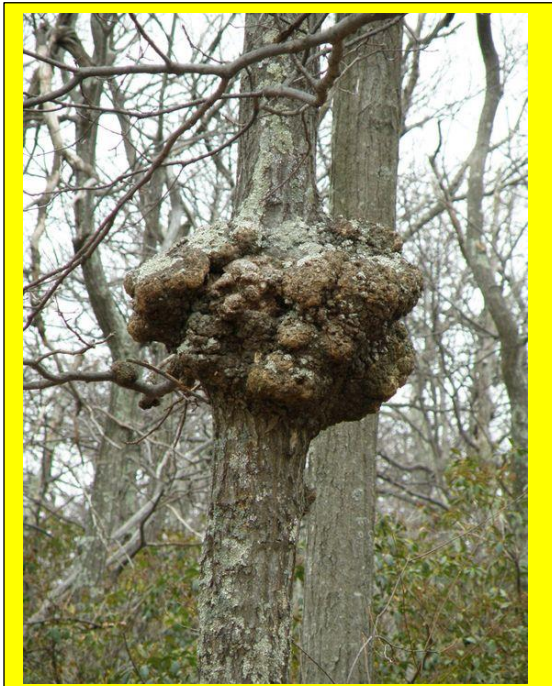
The mind-boggling swirls, irregular patterns and crazy grain formations can be truly amazing when turned, sanded, finish applied and polished.

Burls / burrs are highly sought after by woodturners. Go find some!



Burrs can grow to a very large size on almost any species of tree.

Note: Even common old pine trees can grow a burl or two.



A very complex and confused burr growth will excite any woodworker. Might be better for several small projects eh. How about choice pieces for a chess set?



An intriguing "snake-like" burr growth will keep you guessing about the best way to cut this one up for turning on a lathe.

How would you approach the cutting job for this one?

## So what causes a burr to grow on a tree?

BURLS are caused by an irritation in the growing tree from an insect, stress, fungus, virus etc.

The tree tries to isolate the irritation by surrounding it with rapid wild growth, just like a pearl growing in an oyster.

Burls are highly prized by wood workers due to the wild amazing grain figuring often present.

Obtaining a solid burl is a challenge. An Australian mate of mine regularly rounds up a few coppers, loads up the 4WD ute and heads off into the wild blue yonder on a burl hunt. The trailer load of burls they bring back scores some serious pocket money. Bowls made from burls are usually priced a lot higher than bowls made from regular native timbers.

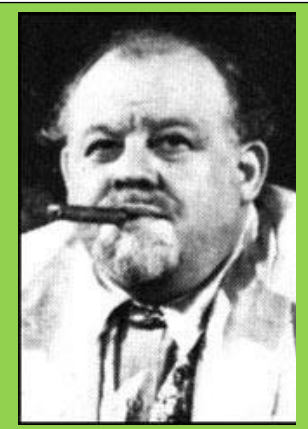
BURL WOOD --unique, intriguing, beautiful and very desirable.



Here's a fine example of superb crafting by some el supremo furniture makers.

Furniture made from burr wood would cost more than the house it will live in.

(Excuse the hyperbole)



Another Burl  
BURL IVES

Holey Moley guess who's back? It's our GARY who has filled his time in the off season tinkering away with smaller turning projects. Goodonya Gary.



SPENCER used plum wood to make a natty mushroom featuring a special finish.



**MUNNIK**, one of our Thursday newbies, made a super-smart Knockout bar.

Another newbie who has been quick to apply early turning skills with great results.

Mastery of the roughing gouge, 10mm bowl gouge, parting tool and drilling techniques.

WOW !

## Saturday mornings: Members' free turning sessions

Saturday morning sessions for members to enjoy catching up on project works are still in the planning stages. The committee has yet to meet and draw up a Saturday roster of officers to oversee the workshop happenings.

In addition, after the two new DVR lathes have been installed a training programme for inexperienced DVR users needs to be undertaken prior to use .

Watch this space for information about 2022's first Saturday morning opening.

## WHOLE-CLUB CHALLENGE

MAKE A BASKET (i.e. basically a wooden bowl with a handle).

### The Challenge rules

- Your basket must be made from wood. (the bowl, the handle, and any fitting methods - all wood! Wood, the whole wood and nothing but the wood.
- The project can be decorated, enhanced, pierced, burned, scorched, coloured, surface carved, tall, short etc
- Your basket can have one handle or two - your choice.
- The handle can be fixed or swinging off an attachment to the bowl
- Any method to shape the handle is OK (try steam bending!!!!)
- There are two entry categories CAT 1. Open to all CAT 2. Beginners only i.e. members who have been less than 12 months turning experience.
- Five weeks are allocated to this initiative - closes: THURSDAY 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022
- ANY SIZE basket is permitted. Super big will not necessarily have advantage over anything small.
- Put your creative thinking to the test. Be unique, express yourself through your hands and great ideas.

**COLIN**, the challenge promoter, has donated some super-special prizes for the more successful entries.

**NOTE:** Judges one-eye patches will be removed, they must remain totally impartial and forbidden to take bribes.

C'mon....give it a go.....it's a fun way to kick off the new turning year.