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The "TT" newsletter. Issue No 41
Friday 19th November 2021

Tutor's Comment

OK It's back to normal with the newsletter publishing each Friday. It took a while to figure out the new computer and its processes but I put that down to my slow learning capacity. Some of our readers may have received a jumbled gobbledygook version of the TT on Friday 5th November. That being likely I have repeated info about **spalting** in this edition.

Cheers **Clive**

Message from the Club's committee re club operations.

Hello to all our members.

The committee has decided to keep the workshop closed for wood turning for the remainder of this year, with planned opening next year being communicated after the next committee meeting this month.

Even though we will be in level 2, this 'level' will be a temporary one, before the country will go to the traffic light system soon with its own set of rules.

As we do not know which traffic light we will be in, it will be simpler for everyone not to re-open until next year, which will give the committee more time to come up with its own regulations regarding attending wood turning sessions.

Also taken into account is that (under level 2 or higher) the club will not have a tutor (Clive) present until level 1 or its equivalent, and that the attendances under the previous level 2 were low due to this absence and due to the public health rules under that level.

Kind regards

on behalf of the committee.

André Duijnmayr - Club President



Yesterday I visited the club workshop to drop off some laminate wood for members' use. The room was quiet. It was lonely.

I hope the club gets the green traffic light in the very near future.

Stay safe. Be vaccinated,.

Cheers **Clive**

SPALTED WOOD - *a repeat of info*

Incredibly beautiful whirls and stained patterns that can be found in wood are sometimes caused by the spalting process.

OK....So what is “SPALTING”?

Spalting is the growth of a *fungus* in wood that creates *dark streaks* in the grain of the wood.

Spalting can appear in varying intensities in most species of wood commonly used by *members of the Hamilton wood turners club*. In some woods the fungus has little appearance and/or effect.

In woods of the maple family spalting can be knockout brilliant, In other woods spalting might be barely noticeable. As a general rule light-coloured timbers can produce the most dramatic effects.

Wood that has been attacked by the fungus make superb bowl turnings.

Safety note: If the spalted wood is thoroughly dried, then the fungus is not harmless to turners who are exposed to the fungus dust released by turning/sanding.

If you still have doubts then wear a protective mask. Anyway switched-on turners always wear some form of respiratory protection when working with wood – spalted or not



Spalting can occur naturally or induced by adventurous wood turners.

Home Brew Your Own Spalted Wood

A) Go find yourself some light-coloured wood such as pine, ash, birch, maple, sycamore or even old poplar.

Can't find any examples of wood in that list? OK have a shot at using whatever you can find and experiment. The idea of using light-coloured woods is the blackish fungus creates a superb contrasting effect..

B) The next step for the quickest results is to wet-turn your bowl then place it in a plastic bag that has a few small holes here and there. The plastic bag should keep the wood moist and the small holes should allow the attacking fungus to breathe oxygen in order to stay alive, grow and do its spalting work. *The process could take up 2-3 months,*

C) Make periodic checks to note how well the process is working and that the wood is still sound. Yes it should remain moist and warm. (ideal conditions for the fungus) If you leave it too long the wood may start to rot.

D) Terminate the process by removing the plastic bag and placing the spalted block (or wet-turned bowl) in an airy spot to dry thoroughly. Now wait!

E) OK all done? Go turn your treasure,



Here's a fine example of a bowl turned from a block of elm wood.

The unique dark "stains" are caused by an invading fungus.

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, **Common Sense**, who has been with us for many years.

No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- Knowing when to come in out of the rain;
- Why the early bird gets the worm;
- Life isn't always fair;
- And maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place.

Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition. Oh ?

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death,
-by his parents, Truth and Trust,
-by his wife, Discretion,
-by his daughter, Responsibility,
-and by his son, Reason.

He is survived by his 5 stepchildren;

- I Know My Rights
- I Want It Now
- Someone Else Is To Blame
- I'm A Victim
- Pay me for Doing Nothing

(Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.)



RICHARD JACKSON
has sent in a couple
of humdingers for
this week.

(Top picture) macro
wood with a wide
scorched rim.

(Picture left) A pot
made from the root
stock of an olive tree.
Bark inclusions and
deep splits give this
project great
character.