

## Mentorship Sessions

### Have Log. Want Bowl. Now What?

#### Overview

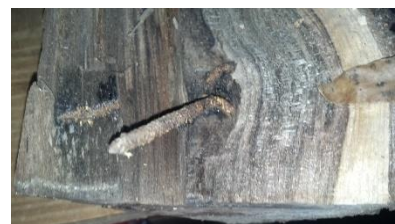
This one-hour session is one in a series of *Mentorship Sessions* dealing with essential knowledge and skills all woodturners need. These sessions are not project oriented but are less regimented with plenty of room to digress and go where participants would like. They are intended to be most valuable to those without many years of experience, but all turners may benefit. Experienced turners are encouraged to join and participate. We all learn from one another, and less experienced turners get more benefit from a diversity of viewpoints and experience.

- The Mentorship Sessions grew out of...
  - What I wish I had known when I began turning.
  - The advice I wish I had taken when I began turning.
  - The mistakes I made when I began turning.
  - The lessons I wish I had learned earlier.

#### Outline

##### Have log. Want bowl. What now?

- Chain saw safety.
  - Table with sacrificial board cradle.
- Band saw safety.
  - Support.
  - Don't push from the front when you can pull from behind.
  - How to push.
    - Push sticks.
    - Small muscles.
- There is no **dry wood** in the everyday world.
  - Living cells.
  - Moisture is always going both ways.
- Wood moves.
- Pith, bark, knots, and cracks.
  - Seem like nice features in the beginning.
  - Cracks!
  - Life's too short to turn crappy (euphemism) wood! John Jordan.
  - Wood hardener is no substitute for good wood.



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### Have Log. Want Bowl. Now What?

- Grain, figure, patterns, and punk.
  - Sap wood & heart wood.
  - Summer growth & winter growth.
  - Stress wood.
  - Kroch wood.
  - Spalted wood, punky wood, firewood.
  - Don't mess with wind checks!
- **Face**, **edge**, and **end** describe grain orientations you have to deal with.
  - Movement.
  - Strength.
  - Glue joint strength.
- Flat, quarter, and rift describe how wood is cut from a log.
- OK, you have a log or chunk of one.
  - Chunk.
    - How is it oriented relative to pith and bark.
  - Tree.
  - Limb.
    - Pith out of center.
    - Stress wood.
  - Just cut.
  - Lying around.
    - Spalted?
    - Punky?
    - Checked?
    - Cracked?
- Turn it now?
  - Cut checks.
  - Cut pith.
- Turn it later?
  - Keep it from drying.
    - Keep it wet.
    - Parafin emulsion (Anchor Seal).
    - Candle wax not so good.
    - Plastic bag -> mold.
  - Dry it?
    - Most don't.
    - Free water.



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### Have Log. Want Bowl. Now What?

- Bound water.
- Must go slowly.
- Slicing and Dicing.
  - Embedded objects.
    - Look for ebonizing.
  - Trim waste.
  - Planning for symmetry.
  - First slice of the log.
    - Where is the bowl in the log?
    - Cut the pith out of it.
    - Mouth toward the pith.
      - Biggest bowl.
      - Oval figure pattern.
    - Mouth toward the bark.
      - Natural edge.
      - X figure pattern.
      - The beveled octagon.
- Resources and References.
  - AAW Article WF1002p5-10 by **Dale Larson**, "[Bowl Blanks From a Tree](#)"
  - AAW Article WF1101p28-34B by **Don McIvor** "[Green Blank to Lathe](#)"
  - AAW Article AW0604p24-25 by **Cas Grabowski** "[Burls](#)"
  - AAW Article WF0604p8-10 by **Seri Robinson** "[Drying Wood](#)"

