

Turning in the Age of Corona...Episode #27

Santa Cruz Woodturners

March 7, 2021

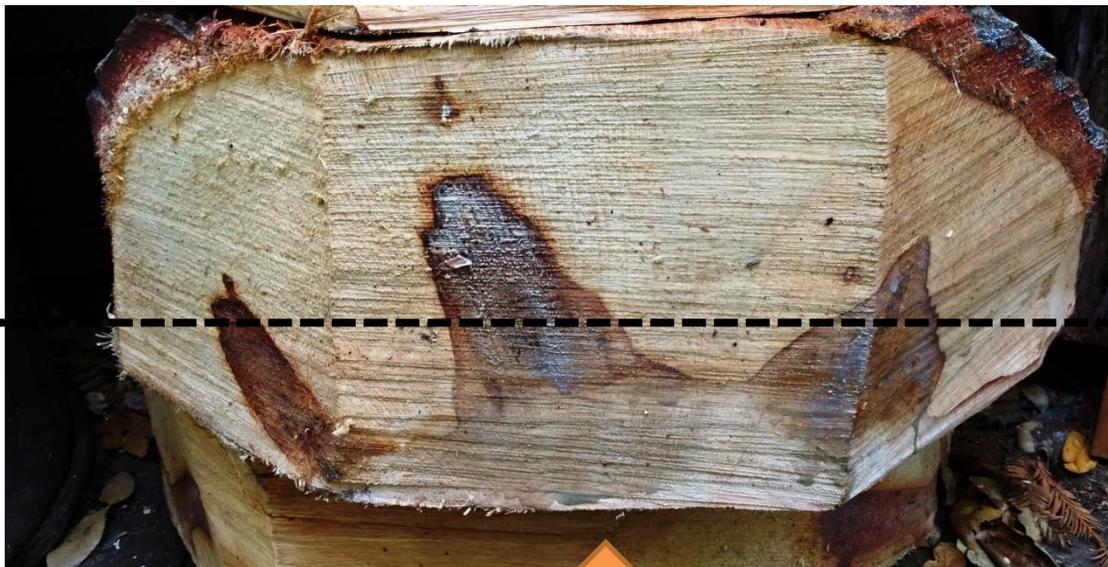
Shooting Blanks and Hitting Targets

Spring is near, and the sap is running! Requiring slightly less fortitude than forging into pelting rain and stinging sleet in this pleasant weather, a number of our members have been wrestling rounds and slicing slabs.

Roy Holmberg felled a 100' tan oak tree at his digs in Bonny Doon. That tree was 3' wide at the base. I had the pleasure of scoring 5 rounds, each about 24" diameter and 24" long, each weighing about 400 pounds, from which 10 half-moon bowl blanks and another 10 platter blanks emerged.

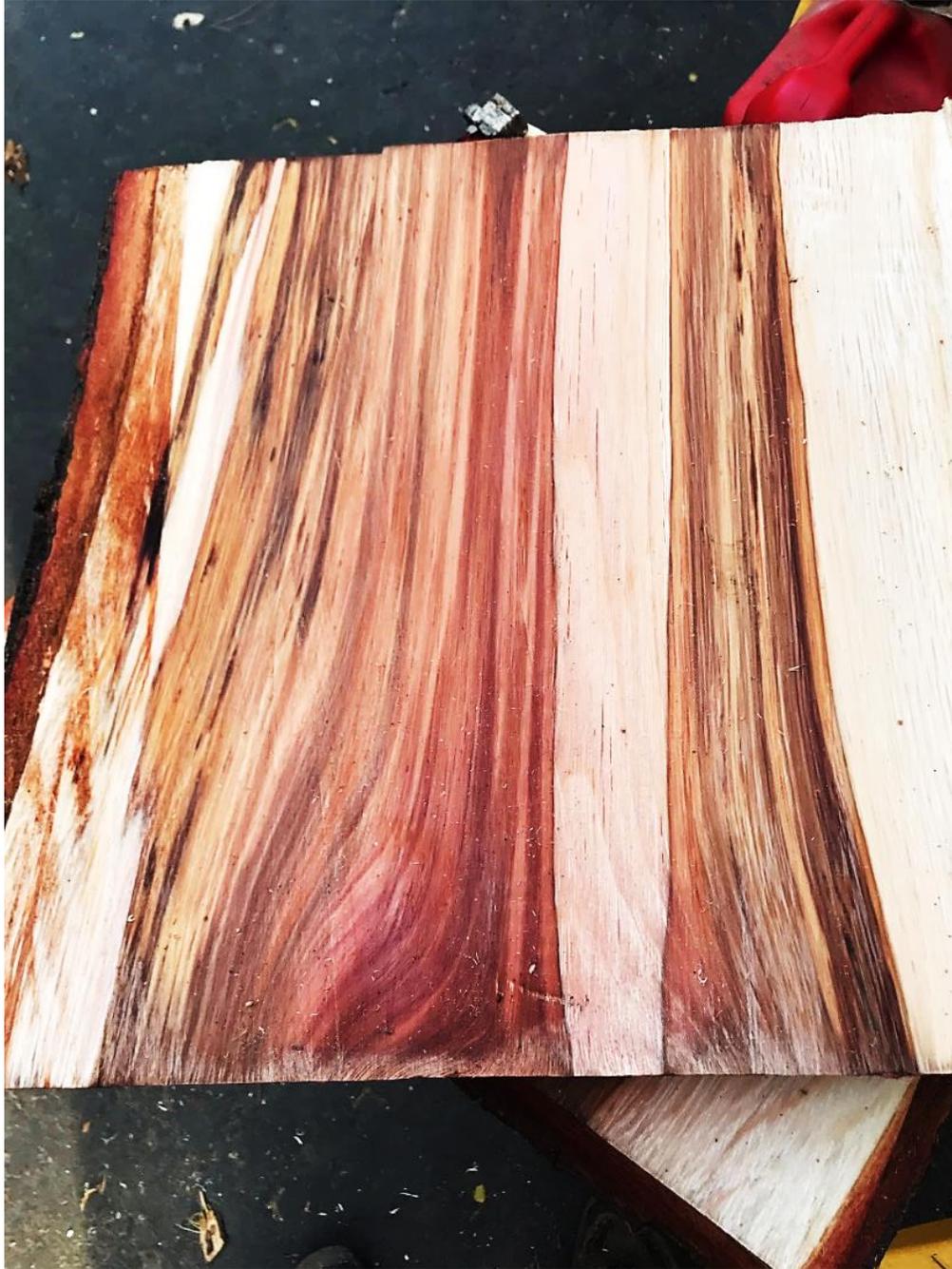
A mature tan oak has a reddish brown central wood surrounded by cream colored younger wood. Instead of a simple concentric distribution of color, as you would find with the segregation of heartwood and sapwood for black walnut, cherry, black acacia, or Doug fir, the central colors of a the tan oak have a stellate configuration that ranges over growth rings from multiple years. When viewed as a crosscut , they reminded me of a maple leaf or maybe solar flares or possibly the bonnet of the Statue of Liberty.

The black line in this half round shows how those alternating dark and light stripes appeared in the longitudinal section next page. (The color derives from accumulated minerals made by a living tree, not spalting. Hoadley¹ calls those colors "extractives.")



¹ R. Bruce Hoadley, *Understanding Wood*. This definitive text on wood science really needs to be on your "I read it" list for 2021. If you read it before, it's time to read it again.

Cut longitudinally for a platter blank, the saw intersects alternating dark and light wood, resulting in dramatic stripes. Check out this blank that **Dan Aldridge** cut from one of those rounds (24" across).



Thank you also, Dan, for procuring and sharing wood by the pickup load for our members—walnut, birch, ash, oak, Monterey Cypress, and box elder, for starters. Your endeavors, coupled with **John Wells'** sharing of madrone, tan oak, and fir, have kept our members' mulch piles brimming with shavings! **Larry Dubia** seems to have his antennae tuned to wood on the ground, too...*thank you for putting out the word!*

Bill Hopkins, who has been turning for, oh, a solid 4 months now, is seeing some projects through to the finish. Here's a Bay Laurel shallow bowl we saw "raw" as he was using a bone curette to scoop out frass left behind by an impolite boring insect. Those burrows are now filled with turquoise inlay. In honor of his wife, I'd call that hue "Robin's Egg Blue."



Not to be limited to simple round forms, here's his recently carved oak spoon (John Wells has been one busy teacher!) and a fine acacia plate...and perfect photo, too.





Add a natural edge bowl of stunning intrigue! Bill, you're definitely on a roll.

Speaking of on a roll... **René de la Fuente** upgraded to a Laguna 1216 lathe a year ago, but he struggled with some adjustments. SCW's immediate past Secretary, **Tim Johnson**, and your current president went on a trouble shooting mission to Prunedale, and the problem is solved. Time now to catch up on fundamentals and practice!

Here's René's first bowl in the late Fall of 2019.

We expect to see more of these—both the bowls and the grins!



Now, just to keep your feet on the ground, remember that the **President's Challenge for March is "Mutt and Jeff,"** essentially something tall and something short...or large and small...from the same wood.

Our Vice President, **Morgan Taylor**, is the judge of this contest (all those years of public legal service will get you some credentials), but we can't really expect him to get the prize. So I'm sharing his entry to give you some inspiration. These boxes are Honduran Rosewood (not your everyday firewood) with threaded lids of Leopard wood.



To parrot an old phrase...*"That's the news for today. If you don't like it, go out and make some of your own."* Well, that's more accurately "turning a phrase."

Cheers,

Wells Shoemaker

President,
Santa Cruz Woodturners 2020-21

Keep your feet in the shavings and your eyes on the prize.

