



**SEPTEMBER  
2023**

# T U R N I N G Threads G

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**Ancient English Yew trees are often associated with cemeteries in England**



## PREZ SEYZ

Our meeting in September was well attended. The air conditioning was still not working so we opened the back door and drew air from below to cool the shop. They are waiting on parts for the unit so may not need it by the next meeting.



Tom Leonard put on a demo on making Tenon Pens and Buttons. It went well and Tom did a good job of explaining the difficulties of making each and the precision needed to make things work and fit.

Sue Mohr was elected Treasurer replacing Randy Patzke who did a wonderful job for the last few years. Thank you Randy!

I talked to Brad from Brads Tree Service, he has Cherry, Oak, Ash logs that he needs to saw. He can cut it on his sawmill to custom dimensions and is willing to do it for a free will donation. for more information call Brad at 715-505-2773.

We had a guest that brought in several pieces of spindle wood of various species for members to take.

We have a box of walnut pen blanks that need to be drilled and tubes installed. Any help would be great!

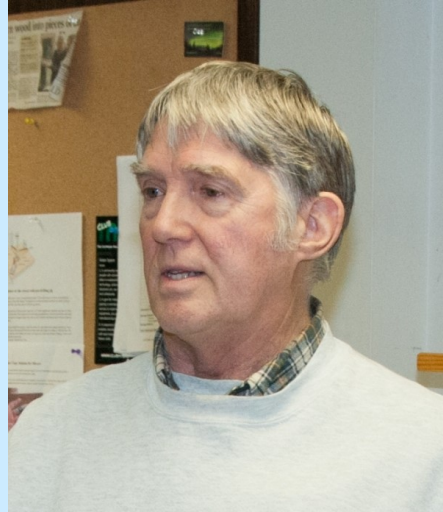
**Bob**

# Editor Musings – August 2023

## CVWG Demographics

In January of 2020 I wrote about the demographics of the group.

Going through the membership list I noted how many members were from the different towns around western Wisconsin. At the time there were 82 members whether paid dues or not. Today we have 78 paid members with 4 honor members. At one point I believe there were at least near a hundred members.



One thing that has impressed me has been the number of members or new people showing up at the meetings. On most meetings, at least around 30 members would be present. It could be lower at times depending on the weather or time of the year or even more – 40 has not been totally unusual.

In counting the location of our members in 2020, I was surprised to find the 62% were outside the Eau Claire / Altoona area and 38% in the immediate Eau Claire / Altoona area. My curiosity centered on whether the demographics had changed or stayed the same. Surprisingly, it had changed. This 2023 data is based on 78 of the 82 members because there is no information as to location of 4 members.

As of the latest membership list, 54% of our membership lives in the Eau Claire / Altoona area and 46% live outside the area.

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2020</b>
Eau Claire / Altoona	42 (38 / 4)	30 (26 / 4)

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2020</b>
Chippewa Falls	11	9
Menomonie	4	7
Elk Mound	3	8
Durand	3	5
Whitehall	2	0
Eleva	1	0
Cornell	1	0
Bloomer	1	1
Fall Creek	1	2
Greenwood	1	2
Sheldon	1	1
Haywood	1	1
Barron	1	0
River Falls	1	0
Cornell	1	1
Cameron	1	1
Hastings MN	1	1
Washington State	1	1
Colfax	0	3
Mondovi	0	3

Quite a shift.

**Tom Leonard**

## September Demonstration Pen Tenons and Buttons (Cabochons) Tom Leonard



Tom began by relating the origin of the demonstration. Last year he contacted 3 pen dealers he bought from and asked what was the worst pen kit / assembly that they experienced. The 3 replies were: 1) Too many parts: 2) Tenons; and 3) Nevus pens. All in all, the parts and

tenons had more to do with time consuming than difficulty. The Nevus pen was in a category by itself as demonstrated last year by Tom.

Tom also challenged two members to make 2 of these pens – Dan Goller and Paul Meske – and they agreed it was a very difficult pen to understand how to make but once they got the hang of it, it was easier. Both Dan and Paul agreed with Tom that it was about the ugliest pen that they had ever made.



### Pen Tenons

This year Tom decided on the tenon issue which by itself is not difficult or even that time consuming but needs precise measurement. A tenon is a narrowed projection intended to fit into a hole or mor-

tice. In the pen case the mortice is some sort of ring and allows for a larger and more decorative center ring on the pen. Tenons can be on either end of the pen as well as the middle. The most well-known of a lower blank tenon is for the placement of a “gripper collar” on a “Comfort Pen.” He also showed an example of a Sketch Pencil which had a tenon for a ring on the cap end. The instruction sheet gave an incorrect measurement that was double the size needed for the ring. A reiterated theme of the demonstration was to verify all measurements given on instruction sheets.



To begin the demonstration, Tom set up two pre prepared blanks ready to turn. There were 3 bushings – a larger one for the cap end, a smaller one for the nib end and a middle bushing reflecting the 2 sizes of the other 2 bushings. The larger end toward the cap and the smaller toward the nib. These 2 sizes would account for the proper fitting of the center ring from the upper and lower blanks.

Tom used carbide tip turning tools – a slightly radial for rough cut and a negative rake radius for smoothing and turning down the blanks to the bushing level. The instructions called for a 9/32”



width. To prove this was accurate Tom used a digital caliper “depth gauge” to measure the depth of the part of the ring that was to go

on the upper blank in the tenon. It matched the width of the tenon in the instructions. Next, the outside jaws of the locked caliper at  $9/32$ " was used to mark the upper blank by the bushing at  $9/32$ ".



Then a parting tool was used to cut out the wood to the tube. The blanks were removed and a test of the center ring fit perfectly as did the upper end of the lower blank in the opposite side of the ring. Tom then sanded and finished the blanks and assembled the pen.



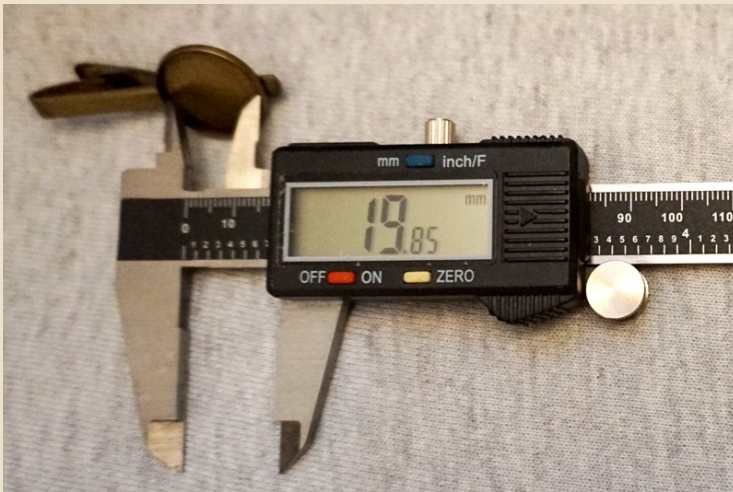
## The Buttons or Cabochons

Tom set up for the turning of what he calls "buttons" but are more formally called "cabochons" which are round conical turnings used mostly for jewelry but are also found in premium pen kits. His set up was a blank drilling chuck to hold a squared blank 4" long and secured by a 60-degree tailstock center. As with the tenon instruction sheet measurement issue, Tom had a comment about the instructions. The jewelry kits he obtained were for cabochons of 18mm, 20mm and 25mm. The instructions listed blank size to be at least



$\frac{3}{4}$ " square. It was the only size mentioned. However, he discovered that the  $\frac{3}{4}$ " was for 18mm cabochon only and he had 20mm sized jewelry. A 20mm blank should be at least  $\frac{7}{8}$ " and the 25mm should be at least 1" or more.

Before Tom began turning, he measured the circle diameter where the cabochon would go. A precise measurement must be determined because the cabochon needs to be completely turned and finished before parting off. There is no second chance. It must fit exactly or slightly smaller. Too big and the cabochon is of no use.



Tom turned down a portion of the blank by the tailstock center to just round and removed the tailstock center. The tailstock center left a hole on the end and had to be turned out before coning the

end of the blank. The hole was turned out and the cone shaping began. Occasional measuring the blank cone assuring the cabochon



would be the correct size. The cabochon should be at least  $\frac{1}{4}$ " high and the width measurement would be at the base off the height determination. After reaching the right diameter, a part line is marked and the cone shape is partially parted and the finished then completely parted off.

Here the test of a correct measurement. This demonstration cabochon was slightly smaller but usable. The problem was the part was too close to the measurement and too much wood was cut off.



One last job was to cut off a nub left by the parting so the cabochon could lay flat. This was done by holding the cabochon with a piece of cloth and rubbed on sandpaper.



**The completed tenon pen. The pen kit was a Sculptured Pen and the wood was an English Yew with small spots called “Pips” making the wood “pippy” in England.**

**The tie clip with the turned cabochon. The wood was Cocobolo and not finished because it would have to be finished with Ca glue.**

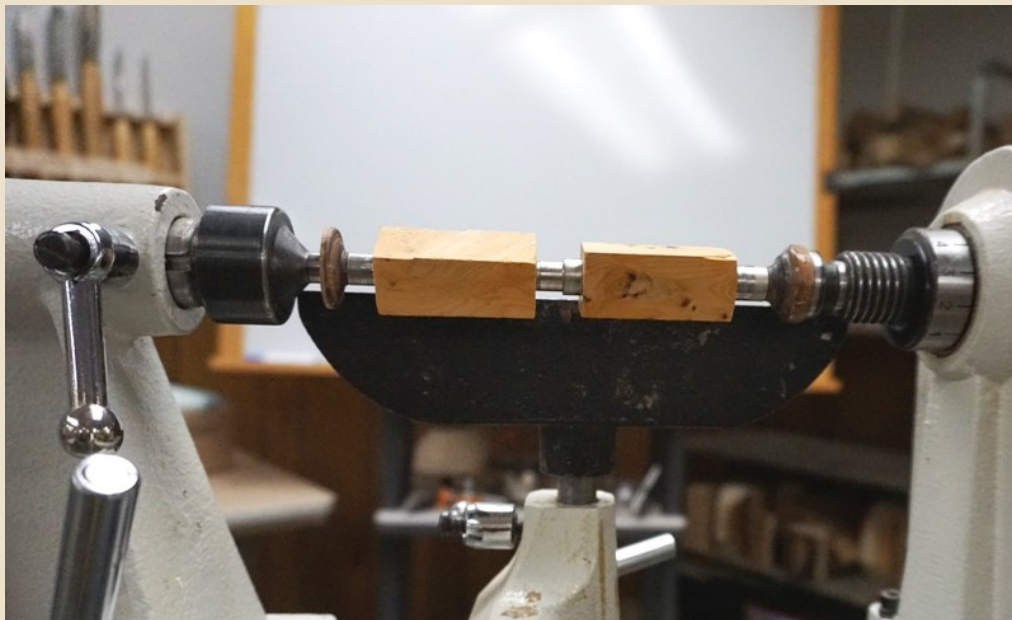




**Left: With grit determination, Tom begins turning the tenon pen.**

**(I can't help but make comments about my facial expressions.)**

**Below: Blanks ready to turn.**





**Left: Tom answers a question while putting a finish on the pen blanks.**

**Below: Tom assembles the pen.**





**Left: Tom completed assembly of pen. He noted that the finish was had some spots caused by either a bad sanding overlaid with finish.**

**Below: Tom begins turning the button or cabochon.**





**Above: First step to make Caboche is to round a blank. Tom used a chuck used to drill holes for pen tubes. Blank is also held by a 60 degree center for extra steadiness.**

**Below: The center creates a hole which must be removed before shaping.**





**Above: Center hole has been turned out.**

**Below: Cabochon is shaped and sized. The parting line should be below the actual cabochon width. After parting, a remeasure of the cabochon will determine if there needs to be a slight size correction.**





**Above: The turned and finished cabochon.**

**Below: The parted cabochon and the fitting into the tie clasp.**



## Cabochon Demonstration Addendum

After the demo I recreated the demonstration to take closer pictures of the process. I made a statement that once parted off, there was no way to redo the cabochon. That bothered me because I believe there is always a way to do something that seems not possible.

It seemed simple enough and I believe several members might have thought of it. The solution was to glue the cabochon back on the parted off blank and then re-part the cabochon after correction.

The problem of course was centering the cabochon. The best way would be to turn the blank down to the width of the cabochon and presumably it would be centered when glued. If successful, one could turn down a slightly larger cabochon to the correct size. A very light touch is needed here. The other advantage to this is that the cabochon could be finished or refinished as desired.

Unfortunately, most of the above thought was after thought. My redo was not centered and not level despite my attempts to level off both the parted blank edge and the bottom of the cabochon. When it came to parting off the re-turned and refinished cabochon, the uncentered and un-flat cabochon would be damaged.

But there is always a way. Looking at it, it seemed possible to salvage the piece by slightly undercutting it to eliminate the unevenness – but with what?

A thin spindle gouge maybe, which I had but had no experience. But I did have a carbide tool I had



purchased from Ron Bartz that had a sharp pointed bit. After turning down the blank to make room for the carbide, I was able to successfully cut out the unevenness of the cabochon and then part it off. The left over stub I removed with a small flat file instead of sand paper. **Tom Leonard**



# Show and Tell / Gallery

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Dan Brandner

**President's Challenge for handles Winner!**



**Dan Brandner showing the handles used on cobblers awls. The darker handle is 200 years old and Dan made a replica using a Sycamore root.**

# DAVID AND JAYNE KULBERG

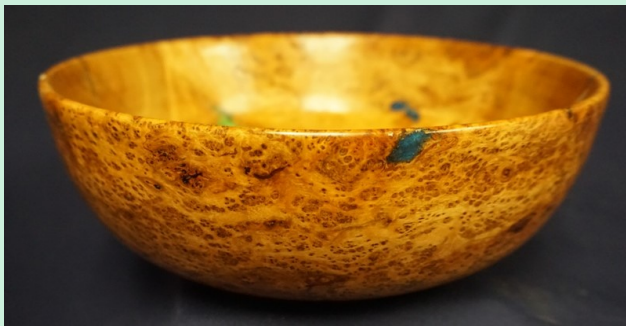
**President's Challenge to make handles winners!**



**David and Jayne Kulberg showing their handles which they made for files.**



## Dan Wold



**Dan Wold  
turned two  
Cherry Burl  
bowls—a large  
and a smaller  
from a cored  
block of**

## Tom Leonard



**Tom Leonard with more M&Ms which Exotic Blanks sends out as an advertisement for their Mix and Match (M&Ms) offerings.**



**Tom showing the Wood of the Month called Lauro Preto and the Pen Kit of the Month which was Diamond Knurl. Tom didn't think much of the Lauro Preto wood.**

## Tom Leonard



**The three Diamond Knurl pens with Lauro Preto, Cherry Surprise and Northern Lights.**



**A Sierra Virage pen with an Antler blank. Tom said this was the third blank for this pen. He didn't like the other blanks.**



**This is a SteamPunk Bolt Action pen with an Amboyna Burl blank. Tom made it for his grandson to replace a Piston pen he gave him for his H.S. graduation which he broke within 5 seconds. Poor engineering !**

# At Home Projects

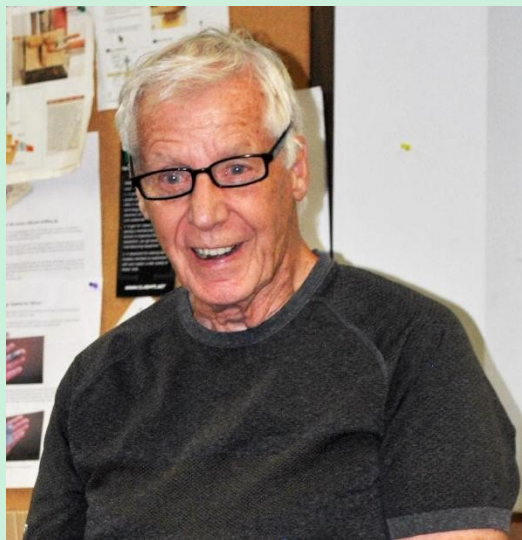
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## Richard Carlson

Richard said of this project using Cherry Burls:  
The first photo is of a end grain turning\ chip and dip bowl. The next six photos were fashioned from a shield series I saw on Facebook from a turner named Steve Doerr. The last two photos were made for the people who supplied the burls.

I liked the idea of doing The Doerr shields. His was a way to see more of the beautiful burl instead of having it end up on the floor as shavings.

**Editor's Note:** I had not heard of Doerr shields and looked it up at [The Shield Series - The Wooden Doerr](#). It has an interesting idea origin. Check it out.



# Richard Carlson



# Richard Carlson





# Richard Carlson



# Richard Carlson



# Richard Carlson



## Pen Wood of the Month

### Pippy English Yew

**Definition of Pip:** Pippy is an informal adjective used to describe fruit that contains many “pips.” The word pippy is derived from the word “pips” which refers to the small seed inside a fruit. The word “pippy” is also defined as “full of pips.”

**Source:** Type in “Define Pippy” on Goggle

**Editors Note:** Pippy in the case of a tree simply means there are small dark dots in the grain maybe somewhat similar to miniature Buckeye, burls or similar to an eye.

**This wood was obtained from a woodturner in England named Phil Scarlett in Nottingham England thru Etsy. I got 4 blanks for \$14.08. the shipping from England was \$15.37.**

#### [Phil Scarlett Arts, Crafts and Turning Supplies](#)

**I was familiar with the word “pips” through one of the original Sherlock Holmes stores titled “The Five Orange Pips.”**

#### [The Five Orange Pips - Wikipedia](#)

**English yew**, (*Taxus baccate*), also called **common yew** or **European yew**, (all three are lumber trade names), an ornamental [evergreen](#) tree or shrub of the yew family (Taxaceae), widely distributed throughout Europe and Asia as far east as the Himalayas. Some botanists consider the Himalayan form to be a separate species, called Himalayan yew (*Taxus wallichiana*). Rising to a height of 10 to 30 metres (about 35 to 100 feet), the tree has spreading branches and slightly drooping branchlets. The bark

is reddish brown and flaky, sometimes deeply fissured in very old trees. Yews are among the few conifers that produce new growth easily from behind the ends of cut branches; thus, English yew is one of the only conifers regularly trimmed into hedges. All parts of an English yew, except the fleshy aril surrounding the seed, contain alkaloids that are poisonous to humans and several other animals. After swallowing the seed whole, thrushes and other birds are known to digest the aril and pass the seed intact in their droppings.

Many horticultural varieties have been developed, some of which are small shrubs. One of the most popular is the Irish yew. It has a compact columnar form and is used in formal plantings. Several hybrids have been obtained by crossing the English yew with the Japanese yew; the most common, *Taxus × media*, has several varieties.

English yews can live a very long time. For example, the Fortingall Yew, named for the small Scottish village where it has been growing for some 2,000 to 5,000 years, is the oldest living tree in Great Britain and one of the oldest living trees in Europe.

**This article was most recently revised and updated by John P. Rafferty. <https://www.britannica.com/plant/yew>**

## Mythology and symbolism

Yew trees are associated with churchyards and there are at least 500 churchyards in England which contain yew trees older than the buildings themselves. It is not clear why, but it is thought that yew trees were planted on the graves of plague victims to protect and purify the dead, and also in churchyards to stop 'commoners' from grazing their cattle on church ground as yew is extremely poisonous to livestock.

Yew trees were used as symbols of immortality, but also seen as omens of doom. For many centuries it was the custom for yew

branches to be carried on Palm Sunday and at funerals. In Ireland it was said that yew was 'the coffin of the vine', as wine barrels were made of yew staves.

## Uses of yew

Yew timber is incredibly strong and durable. Traditionally, the wood was used in turnery and to make long bows and tool handles. One of the World's oldest surviving wooden artefacts is a yew spear head estimated to be around 450,000 years old.

Anti-cancer compounds are harvested from the foliage of *Taxus baccata* and used in modern medicine. Yew trees contain the highly poisonous taxane alkaloids that have been developed as anti-cancer drugs. Eating just a few leaves can make a small child severely ill and there have been some deaths linked to yew poisoning. All parts of the tree are poisonous.

### [Yew \(Taxus baccata\) - British Trees - Woodland Trust](#)



# Pen Kit of the Month

## Yari Click

The Yari Button Click pen kit was purchased from Berea Hardwoods. Prices ranged from \$13.16 to \$19.00. Bushings for the pen were \$4.00 and a 25/64th drill bit goes for \$6.60.

*Berea says of this pen: "The Yari pen - reimagined as a button click! The Yari Button Click pen is a sleek and aerodynamic writing instrument, with great balance and function. With its aerodynamic profile and 5-1/2 in. length, the Yari has a great feel to it. Comes with a Parker style refill and a button click mechanism for optimum writing performance."*



Pippy English Yew

Camelthorn

Antler

Northern Lights



**Above: Large old Yew tree in a cemetery.**

**Below: Yew logs.**







**English Yew  
tree flowers,  
fruit and seeds.**





**Above: Very old English Yew tree.**

**Below: Slabs of the Yew tree.**





**Above: Cups made from center of Yew tree.**

**Below: Furniture made from Pippy Yew.**





**Above: A clock made of Pippy Yew.**

**Below: A “salt pincher” made from Pippy Yew.**





**Above: A bowl turned from a Yew tree.**

**Below: Yew wood crafted into a footed cup and small footed dish.**



----- Forwarded message -----

**From: Deb Parker**  
**<[debinville@gmail.com](mailto:debinville@gmail.com)>**  
**Date: Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 1:59 PM**  
**Subject: Advertising a shop estate sale**  
**in the CVWG newsletter**  
**To: <[woodturnercvvg@gmail.com](mailto:woodturnercvvg@gmail.com)>**

Good afternoon. This email is intended for Tom Leonard, the Guild's newsletter editor.

My name is Deb Parker. My dad, Jim Parker, is a long-time member of the NE Wisconsin Woodturners out of Neenah. Dad is 88 and will be moving to a Senior Living apartment at the end of October. He has hired someone to sell his Vicmarc 300 lathe, his extensive collection of woodturning tools, and 50 years worth of other shop equipment. The sale will be held at the Appleton house on November 10 and 11.

Dad would very much like his woodturning equipment, in particular, to find new homes with Wisconsin woodturners rather than resellers. He asked me if we could announce his shop sale to the clubs in Eau Claire, Green Bay and Milwaukee in addition to his home club in Neenah.

I'm wondering if it is possible to get a short announcement of the sale in the October and November CVWG newsletters. It's a bit of a drive from Eau Claire to Appleton, but if you think your members would be interested, I can send the sale details and a contact if members have questions. If it's a go, please let me know your deadlines for October and November. imagine that info for the October newsletter might need to be submitted in September.

Thanks so much.

Deb Parker

## Next Demonstration

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### Rich Thelen

**Rich will be demonstrating how to apply carving to enhance a turning.**



# COMING EVENTS

Meetings are first Wednesday of the month at 7 pm. Open house is the second Saturday of the month from 8 am to 12 pm

## Meeting Dates and Demonstrations

October 4—Rich Thelen - Carving and Turning

November 1 - Bob Eberhardt -Christmas Ornaments

December 6—Paul Meske—Wands

January 3—Not Yet Determined

February 7—Not Yet Determined

March 6—Not Yet Determined

## Open House-Coffee and Chips Dates

**October 14 from 8:00 am to 12:00pm- Masks not required (if not turning) and Vaccinations suggested. If coming after 10:00 please inform us through the web site the night before at:**

**([www.woodturnercvwg@gmail.com](mailto:www.woodturnercvwg@gmail.com))**

Meetings and Open House are held in the Eau Claire Insulation building at 1125 Starr Ave on the northeast side of Eau Claire, Wi. Look for the meeting sign. No sign—No meeting.



## **Board of Directors for 2023**

**President /  
Membership**                      **Bob Eberhardt**

**Vice President**                *John DeRyckere*

**Treasurer**                      *Sue Mohr*

**Secretary**                      *John DeRyckere*  
**Co-Secretary**                *Tom Leonard*

**Program Director** *John Layde*

**At Large Directors** *Joe Nycz*  
*Ron Bartz*

### **Non Board Positions**

**Newsletter Editor** *Tom Leonard*

**Web Master**                      **Jerry Engedal**

**Members and interested persons may contact the Chippewa Valley Woodturners Guild by email at: [woodturnercvvg@gmail.com](mailto:woodturnercvvg@gmail.com)**

***Photos of Show and Tell / Gallery items  
provided by : Mary Weider***