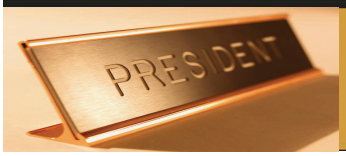
Woodturners Guild of Ontario

Woodturner n. A person who enjoys the art and process of shaping wood into various forms

"ask not what your guild can do for you; ask what you can do for your guild— you get back what you put in"

LOCAL AAW CHAPTER

SEPTEMBER 2007 VOLUME 3 ISSUE 4



Message from Richard Pikul, President

We start another year for our guild. It's time to get together again and find out what everyone has been turning this summer. For those (like me) who did not have the time or opportunity to do much turning over the summer, September brings promise of more time, well spent in the workshop.

Our executive has been recharged with several new members, just what we need right now to keep fresh ideas flowing into our organization. I am a firm believer in changing executive members on a regular basis to keep stagnation at bay. With fresh minds, from different backgrounds we have al-ready begun to invigo-rate our program and have the guild 'jobs' divided into more manageable pieces.

Our finances are in very good shape to fund an ever-expanding program. We have already invested in a professional quality, wireless microphone system. Today our guild has the equipment in place to provide good quality video and audio, a requirement that seems to keep on growing with our mem-bership. In the near future we hope to find suitable gear to aid those with hearing problems so that they can fully benefit from our general meetings and demonstration nights. As we already own four mini lathes, we feel this number is adequate for our purposes – don't forget that you can take one out on loan, the same way as a book or video from our library.

This, and future issues of the WGO newsletter will be edited by Peter Kaiser, who has taken over from Michael Finkelstein. The newsletter will, from this issue onwards, be published quarterly. Many thanks to Michael, who initiated this newsletter with the idea of featuring technical articles, re-lated to turning as the major part of the content. There are excellent ways of providing announce-ments, notices, and news to our members via email and on the web site. This reduces the need for a regular 'news' letter to our mem-bership. Michael's idea for a publication that bridges the gap be-tween a 'normal' newsletter and a full magazine has been timely and well received. This brings up another point; should we rename our publica-tion? I would like to solicit ideas from members for a name. [Continued on page 12]

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IT's YOUR GUILD - BE INVOLVED !

Share your talent and learn from others at the same time.

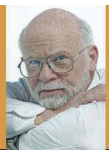
Do you have ideas for us ?

Please tell us how you can help - e-mail the editor at:

WGOeditor@gmail.com

Latest in the WGO programs for the year 2007-2008

Jack Wallace, Vice President and Program Manager



Well we have turned the corner into another season at the WGO and I am pleased to report that a program has been established for the full year now. The details are posted on the website www.wgo.ca . There has been established, a small committee to plan the schedule, and we can report that we have tried to put something in for all levels of skill from beginner to expert and I am sure that we will all benefit. At this time we have two visitors during the year. Our first visitor is Kurt Hertzog in September who will go through techniques of tool sharpening as this was a big question from many of the new members. Kurt, you will remember, was here last year with an excellent show on chucking and holding materials.

Our second visitor at the end of February will be Lyle Jamison from Michigan. Lyle will be here over a weekend. On Saturday he will do an intensive demo of all his techniques including from chainsaw to turning and carving. The second day will be reserved for up to 5 beginners for a hands on session with him. The third day will be reserved for up to 5 experienced turners to explore the more advanced techniques he is noted for. He will also be available for more days if demand warrants it, both one on one and up to one on five. The prerequisite for the hands on work will be attendance at the Saturday demo.

As we expect that the hands on will be very popular. It is highly recommended that you reserve your spot now. The price has been set at $40 for Saturday only and $140 for the two day session—So reserve early. Contact Jack Wallace at jack@jkwallace.ca for your reservation.

A tentative schedule for the following year is also in the works but it is still too early to lay out the details. The committee hopes to have this available in the spring. There is a long lead time to plan for the experts to visit but we are hopeful to have several in the 2008-2009 timeframe.

Good turning to all.

Editors Note: Go to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YpqEHUbBg_E for an interesting video advertisement for the AAW. On this same webpage you will find several other woodturning videos.

Woodturners Guild of Ontario Newsletter is published quarterly.

Everything you wanted to know about Maple Trees Part 1 of 4
Richard Pikul

ACERACEAE (Maples) (Sapindaceae - Soapberry Family) **Part 1 of 4**

This is the first of a four part article on Maples commonly found in North America. The species described are of particular interest to woodturners in Canada and the north-eastern United States.

This article is in four parts, describing the characteristics of the following species:

Part 1.
Sugar Maple (Acer saccharum Marshall)
Part 2.
Black Maple (Acer nigrum)
Red Maple (Acer rubrum)
Part 3.
Silver Maple (Acer saccharinum)
Bigleaf maple (Acer macrophyllum)
Part 4.
Box Elder maple (Acer negundo L.)
Norway maple (Acer platanoides L.)

The Aceraceae (Maple family) includes two genera comprising 111 species of trees and shrubs that are found in northern temperate regions and on mountains in tropical regions (Mabberley 1987). Maples of the World, by D.M. van Gelderen, P.C. de Jong and H.J. Oterdoom, Timber Press, Portland Or, 1994. ISBN 0-88192-000-2 is an excellent source for the Maple family.
Most of the members of the Aceraceae (Maple) family are used in woodturning. Suitability of the various members of the family for woodturning varies. Some are superb, with just the right combination of beauty, density and machinability. Others can be plain, a bit on the soft side and grain easily torn.
Many members of this family, particularly Red Maple and Japanese Maple are often planted as ornamentals. Japanese Maple is also popular as subjects for bonsai, a natural art form produced by artificially stunting the growth of the specimen.
Sugar Maple and Black Maple yield good timber for a wide variety of uses. Sugar Maple, Red Maple and Black Maple also produce sap that is collected to produce maple syrup. Sugar Maple occasionally yields timber with “Birdseye”, “Tiger” or “Curly” patterns, prized for its appearance.
Working with different species in this family can result in some health problems, so do take precautions when working with the wood and also when in contact with the trees during flowering. The pollens of some species are minor causes of pollinosis, a seasonal inflammation of the nasal mucous membranes resulting from an allergic reaction to pollen. Inhalation of fungal particles from maple bark can cause maple bark disease, a form of allergic alveolitis (inflammation of the alveoli in the lungs). With repeated exposure the conditions listed may become chronic. (Seaton & Morgan 1984). Contact with the wood and also the pollen of some species can result in dermatitis. Acer negundo L (Box Elder / Manitoba Maple) pollen can produce airborne contact dermatitis (Lovell et al. (1955)). Acer platanoides L. (Norway maple, Schwedler maple, Crimson King Maple) wood was listed as irritant by (Hanslian & Kadlec 1966), probably from (Weber 1953). Acer saccharum Marshall (Sugar maple, rock maple, hard maple) has been found to contain 2,6-dimethoxy-1,4-benzoquinone which is a known contact allergen (Hausen 1978).

SUGAR MAPLE Acer saccharum Marshall Aceraceae (Maple Family)

The wood from this member of the Maple family is the most widely used for woodturning, furniture, musical instruments, architectural applications, veneer and sporting equipment.
The grain can vary from quite plain to dramatic Birdseye, Tiger and Curly forms. The wood is generally of quite even density and can be machined easily to a smooth surface. Burls are also easily worked, showing dramatic, wild grain. Dry Sugar Maple wood contains very little oil, sap or other 'undesirable' content, making it simple to seal and finish using water, solvent or oil based dyes, stains, oils or surface coating finishes.
Sugar Maple is one of my favourite woods, both for turning and for cabinetry. Vessels with very thin walls and spindle turnings with extremely fine details can be made quite easily. Boards or vessels can be shaped without splitting, using steam or hot water. Microwave drying must be done with care as Sugar Maple will quickly overheat and develop a 'toasted' appearance. Microwave drying of green hollow turnings may seriously distort the vessel, particularly if the wood has wild or curly grain. In summary, an excellent choice for turning!
Common Names: Sugar maple; Also known as rock maple, hard maple; Fr: érable à sucre; Ojibway (Anishinabe): ninaatik, aninaatigoog, ishigamizige, shenamesh, aninaatig
General A medium-sized to large hardwood tree, up to 35 m tall, branches spreading; twigs reddish brown to green, bark grey and smooth in young trees, darker, scaly, and deeply furrowed in older trees.
Habitat
Sugar maple is typically found on hillsides and hilltop situations where soils are well drained and reasonably fertile. It often grows in mixture with beech and yellow birch. As it is very shade tolerant, it may be found in the under storey as well as the over storey.
Sugar maple can grow up to 35 m in height, with stem diameters up to 70 cm. The crowns of older trees are generally rounded in outline and occupy 30–40% of the tree height in a stand. In open situations, the broadly oval crowns may reach nearly to the ground.

Leaf: Sugar Maple is best identified by the smooth edged, five-lobed leaf. Leaves are opposite, simple, usually 5 lobed, upper surface dark green, lower leaf surface pale.
The leaves are deciduous, simple, and borne in pairs. Each is 10–25 cm long. The sinuses between the lobes are rounded and the lobe margins are smooth. The outer three lobes tend to have parallel sides below their two round-pointed side teeth.
Leaves turn yellow to orange or deep red in the fall and generally drop just after seeds have fallen. At the southern edge of the species' range, dead brown leaves can remain on the trees through winter.

<<<Norway Maple leaves are very similar to Sugar Maple. Here they are together for comparison. The Sugar Maple leaf is on the bottom. Note that the Norway Maple leaf has more points. The quick and easy way to tell them apart is that Norway Maple has milky sap. This is easily seen by breaking a leaf stalk.

Flower:

<<< Cluster of flowers, showing leaves beginning to expand
Flowers have both stamens and pistils but only one sex will be functional. The greenish-yellow flowers are each carried in hanging clusters on a long, limp stalk, emerging just before the leaves expand. Male and female flowers are separate in each cluster. The male flowers fall after shedding their pollen; while the female ones go on to form the fruits.
Sugar maple trees seldom flower until they are at least 22 years old. Flowering is heavier as the tree ages.

Twig: Twig showing the pointed terminal and lateral paired buds. When the leaves fall, a V-shaped leaf scar is left below each lateral bud.

Fruit:
The fruit, a double samara, ripens in about 16 weeks. Each double samara has two almost round seed pockets; the coverings extend into flattened wings carried almost parallel to each other. Samaras from trees having the Birdseye wood grain characteristic show a consistency of overlapping of the wings, strong union between samaras, and lighter coloured wings after drying. Note that this has not been 100% confirmed as being an attribute associated with bird's-eye.

Bark: The bark is smooth and grey on young trees. Later, it becomes deeply furrowed with scaly brownish-grey ridges.

Conical protuberances or elata found on the inner surface of the outer bark of a sugar maple is often useful in the field identification of Birdseye in sugar maple. For more than you ever wanted to know about Birdseye figured sugar maple read the article by Don C. Bragg located at: http://pubs.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/rp/rppdf/x99-155.pdf

Form:

<<<Forest-grown sugar maple tree, adjacent trees cut

<<< Sugar Maple tree, over 100 years old, growing in an open field.

Similar Species
Acer rubrum (red maple) can be distinguished by its serrated leaf margins; the leaves turn scarlet, often mottled with yellow, in the autumn.
Acer saccharinum (silver maple) has more deeply lobed leaves with coarsely serrate margins and a more strongly whitened lower surface; the leaves turn yellow in autumn.
Acer nigrum (black maple) has opposite, simple, toothed, droopy leaves.

Range
Sugar maple occurs on rich, moist, well-drained soils in deciduous forests. It is native to eastern North America, ranging from Nova Scotia to eastern Manitoba and upland regions of the south-eastern U.S.A. Sugar maple is the dominant tree throughout much of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence forest region.
Climatic and Soil Requirements
Sugar Maple prefers rich, moist, well-drained soils along river valleys and upland forests. Moisture requirements are moderate. It's salt tolerance and pollution tolerance is low. Hardiness; Zone 4.
Reproduction
Reproduction is primarily by seed. Sugar maple can reproduce by stump sprouts and will occasionally layer. Root suckering is rare. Seedlings broken during logging readily sprout from dormant buds on the lower bole and quickly regain the height of undamaged seedlings. Initial deformities, primarily crook, and stem losses from deer browsing are rapidly overgrown and corrected without development of internal rot. The reliability of cuttings to propagate trees with figured wood, such as curly grain and bird's-eye, has not been verified. Sugar maple trees with desirable genetic characteristics can be reproduced using grafting techniques although success with this method can be highly variable. Air layering is another method that has been successfully used. Most of the genetic work in sugar maple is currently confined to improving maple syrup and developing ornamental trees.
Growth and Yield
Early growth of sugar maple is slow, partly because it regenerates under heavy shade. In natural stands, the younger seedlings are sensitive to surface moisture conditions because they have a shallow, fibrous root system that lies between the litter-mineral soil interface of typical soils in coniferous or boreal forests. With a gradual increase in light, the root systems penetrate deeper into the mineral soil and height growth rate increases.
Mature Height: 16-35m **Life Expectancy:** 150-250 yrs
Shade Tolerance: Very high **Fall Colours:** Brilliant yellow, through orange to red.
Foliage: The beautifully formed leaf is Canada's national symbol.
Form: Large tree with broad symmetrical crown and solid trunk.
Planting Benefits
Sugar Maple is moderate to fast growing and is suited to sheltered or open plantings. It makes a beautiful landscape tree. It can be planted in light shade to full sun locations in natural areas, parks, wood lots and makes a good foundation tree for windbreaks. Sugar Maple produces the most well known and most consumed syrup.
Wildlife
Sugar Maple seeds are eaten by small mammals and birds. Large, old trees provide nest cavities.
Wood Products Value
This strong hardwood is well recognized for its straight grain, "Birdseye", "Tiger" or "Curly" patterns. Sugar maple wood is tough, durable, hard, heavy, and strong. It is commonly used to make furniture, panelling, flooring, and veneer. It is also used for gunstocks, tool handles, plywood dies, cutting blocks, woodenware, sporting goods (baseball bats etc), bowling pins, and musical instruments.

Maple syrup has been made for thousands of years by the eastern woodland indigenous peoples. The same basic boiling and freezing techniques they used are still employed today, although with modern equipment. The maple syrup industry is important throughout much of eastern North America and accounts for more than 100 million dollars in trade annually. Sugar maple sap is 2 - 6 % sugar, taking 40 litres of sap to make one litre of syrup. Sap is harvested only for 6 to 20 days during the initial flow in early spring.

References:

http://BoDD.cf.ac.uk/BotDermFolder/BotDermA/ACER.html
http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/subsite/maritimetrees/tableofcontents
http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/general/misc
http://ontariotrees.com/main/book.php?type=F
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sapindaceae
http://www.digitalnaturalhistory.com/flora_sapindaceae_index.htm#acerrubrum
http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/library/documents/treebook/bigleafmaple.htm
http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/silvics_manual/volume_2/acer/saccharum.htm
http://www.bcadventure.com/adventure/wilderness/forest/bigleaf.htm
http://www.rainyside.com/features/plant_gallery/nativeplants/
http://www.cwnp.org/photopgs/adoc/acmacrophyllum.html
- Ronald P. Overton Tree Improvement Specialist, Hardwood Tree Improvement & Regeneration Centre West Lafayette, IN
- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- USDA Silvics of North America - USDA Plants Database

For more detailed information regarding this article, log on to the web sites noted above.

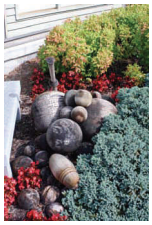
YOU'RE INVITED! UPCOMING TURNING PARTIES IN 2007-2008

Penny McCahill and Nancy Hopper

As you have no doubt heard, Turning Parties are both educational and entertaining! Come and learn and laugh and cry with your fellow members! Learning of this sort involves trying something new with the support of others. Remember, space at each TP is limited and paid-up members are guar-anteed attendance on a first-come first-served basis.

At this point in time, we have the following Turing Parties scheduled:

Wednesday, September 26, 2007 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Host: Rolly Anderson. Focus: Turning balls! Location: Rolly's shop in Scarborough.



Turned balls in the garden in front of the wood shop at Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts.

Sunday, September 30, 2007 – 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Host: Victor Dewaepenaere. Focus: Turning wine bottle stoppers! Location: Kimberley Jackson's in The Danforth.

Wednesday, October 17, 2007 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Host: Jack Wallace. Focus: Turning thin lamp shades. Location: Penny McCahill's shop in Richmond Hill.

Thursday, November 1, 2007 – 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. – Host: Penny McCahill. Follow-up to Bob Rollings' 2006-2007 two Turning Parties on segmentation and staves! WGO members who previ-ously attended Bob's TPs are encouraged to attend.

Sunday, December 9, 2007 – 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. – Host: Vince Lebert. Focus: Turning tops for the Children's Hospital! Location: Penny McCahill's shop in Richmond Hill. Participants may choose from three 1.5-hour timeslots where they may turn tops with their colleagues and enjoy the refresh-ments, or they may turn a top or two at home and donate it to the collection that Vince will deliver to the hospital. Turning timeslots are

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

10:30 – 12:00 noon

12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m. You may request a double timeslot if you wish!

Sunday, February 3, 2008 – 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Host: Victor Dewaepenaere. Focus: Wine bottle stoppers! Location: To be announced.

November 13, 2007 - All day- Host: Richard Pikul. Focus: Lidded Boxes. This TP was postponed from last year. Members who signed up last year have positions reserved. If you can not make it on November 13, please tell Penny or Nancy so other members can sign up. Location: Richard's shop in Scarborough.

To register for any of these TPs, contact Penny McCahill or Nancy Hooper. (Contact information below.)

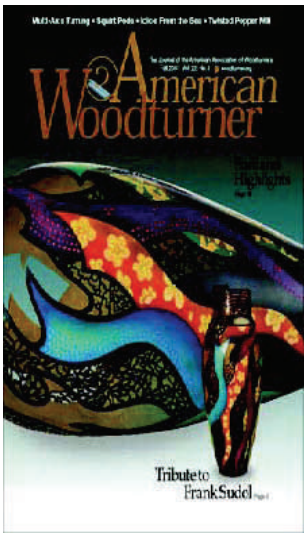
This schedule gets this turning year off to a great start! We are grateful to the hosts who have volunteered to support fellow members in a variety of turning endeavours! Thank you!

We are also anxious to line up additional Turning Parties for the Winter and Spring of 2008. If you are inclined to host a TP, please contact

Penny McCahill (penny@technolinks.com or 905-508-2969) or Nancy Hooper nhooper@sigmacomponent.com or 905-665-3815),

or speak to Penny or Nancy at one of the upcoming guild meetings. If you are willing to host but do not have the shop space, we will find a shop for you! Please, do not hesitate to step forward!

Breaking News



WGO member, Fred Klap has an interesting and informative article published in the Fall 2007 Issue of AMERICAN WOOD-TURNER

"Nontraditional Finial Box -**Canadian member Fred Klap** offers an unconventional approach to a lidded box and finial."

quoted from http://www.woodturner.org/products/aw/

Congratulations Fred

How I Achieve An Effective Varnish Finish
Mark Salusbury

Varnish (includes urethane) is my choice of finish. It is easy to apply, durable, chemical resistant, may be applied in a variety of ways to suit the user, may be modified with mineral spirits, naphtha and or boiled linseed oil to achieve differing working properties and in most cases is non-toxic (food safe) once dried.

Recommendation: choose a brand of varnish that works well for you, is cost effective and readily available and use it as your 'finish of choice'; experiment with that one finish and modify it to your satisfaction. Avoid working with several kinds of finishes or you'll never get to know how to apply any of them well. For example, I use General Finishes 'Salad Bowl Finish' as my primary varnish and base for most of my modified solutions. As a secondary product I use General Finishes 'Arm-R-Seal', a urethane from the same source where I need a thicker product for greater durability. Both can be used interchangeably and modified in the same ways.

Sanding method discussed is power sanding by lathe/drill followed by hand sanding.

1. To begin a good finish use keen tools and cut the wood cleanly, smoothly and effectively.

2. Dress your grind stone; make sure it is clean, flat and 'open' to put a keen edge on your tools.

3. Use the correct turning speed to get an effective cut; neither too slow nor too fast.

4. Use a steady, controlled approach, action and follow through when cutting and/or sheer- scraping.

5. Sheer-scrape to refine shapes and remove any imperfect prior tool work.

6. Use fresh, sharp sanding abrasives; worn abrasives are wasteful and destructive.

7. Use an effective sanding speed, generally slower than your turning speed. Don't skip grits (80, 120, 180, 240, 320, 400 is my suggestion)

Optional but suggested:

1. Use a lubricant that works with your final finish to soften the wood fibres for a more effective cut during sheer/scraping and sanding and promote longer tool/abrasive life. Experiment with a light application of WD-40, boiled linseed oil thinned with mineral spirits, light mineral oil or water at 80 thru 180 grits.

2. Reverse grain rotation between grits to cut the fibres cleanly from both sides.

3. Reduce lathe speed as you increase grit number (i.e. slower rpm for 180 grit than 120 and slower again for 240 grit) for a more effective cutting action and to change the swirl pattern.

4. Increase lathe speed for the final pass of the final grit to 'buff' or turn lathe off and disengage drive belt and power sand using the drill to drive the process then hand sand over all with finest grit.

Varnish...Really Filling The Holes

Make sure you have good ventilation and/or a carbon filter mask and vinyl gloves …2

Varnish and urethane are both durable finishes that build well on the surface of your work piece. They do not 'weep' like tung oil finishes and are easy to modify with thinners and/or oils to tailor its working properties to suit your needs. Choose a product whose manufacturers claims and methods of application suit your circumstances and needs. Use the product straight from the can following the manufacturers directions then try modifying to see how the product works altered.

1. Apply the first coat of varnish uncut (no thinning) liberally with a brush or disposable brush made from folded paper towel (fold into quarters then fold the quarter into thirds).

2. Let sit to absorb for about 5 minutes then wipe overall with paper towel and put aside to dry. If you wipe it 'dry' you can probably recoat in the same way in two hours. If you leave a visible film on the surface you'll want to let it dry for 4-6 hours before recoating.

3. Repeat steps 1 and 2. Let dry thoroughly.

4. Repeat steps 1 and 2. Let dry thoroughly.

5. Rub piece down with 0000 oil-less steel wool (wash regular steel wool with lacquer thinner to remove manufacturing oils) then blow (compressed air) or vacuum the piece using a clean brush to agitate the surface to remove all traces of steel wool fibres

6. Repeat steps 1 and 2 wiping piece 'dry' (no film left visibly anywhere on the surface). Let dry over night.

You should now have a finished piece that is smooth and nub-free. If it still looks 'dry' and/or showing sanding marks etc, repeat steps 5 and 6.

Now you can apply wax to further refine and protect if appropriate. Wax may be applied with 0000 steel wool or a paper towel depending on whether you want a 'soft' or 'hard' gloss surface. A carnauba/beeswax blend is my best suggestion or a liquid satin wax is less durable but produces a soft natural sheen 'out of the bottle' (or you can get a satin finish by wiping carnauba/beeswax, once set, with 0000 steel wool).

Recommended finishing products:

1.General 'Salad Bowl Finish', General 'Armour-R-Seal' (Woodchuckers Supply (800) 551-0192), Zinsser 'Quick-15 (for its clarity and rapid setup time) (paint specialty shops

2. Oil-free 0000 steel wool (Lee Valley (53Z08.05)

3. 'Bounty' brand paper towels (absorbent, lint free, excellent applicator and wiper, follows contours and gets into details well to remove excess finish effectively)

4. Vinyl gloves (Lee Valley)

Modification Suggestions:

1. Mineral spirits cuts varnish and extends working time. Cut no more than 10-20%

2 Naphtha cuts varnish and shortens drying time. Cut no more than 10%

3. For an oil type wiping varnish: 1/3rd boiled linseed oil, 1/3rd varnish, 1/3rd mineral spirits or for less oil 4 oz. boiled linseed oil, 8 oz. varnish, 5 oz. mineral spirits. (Fine Woodworking issue 144, pp. 106-108)

Other recommended reading re: suggestions for food safe finishes are discussed in Fine Woodworking issue 129, pp. 66-69.

This article is also available at http://www.woodchuckers.com/mark.htm

Message From the President [Continued From Page 1]

As you are reading this, you must have logged on to our new web site redesigned by David Rive. I expect that you have found that it loads very quickly and is easier to navigate.

The home page will include timely news and announcements – check in regularly to see what's happening. -The galleries are arranged with thumbnail pictures for fast loading, but each will expand to full size with a mouse click. -FAQ (frequently asked questions) section has been added with a few questions about our guild al-ready posted.