

Northwest Arkansas Handweavers Guild

October 2010

Meets Second Saturday of the month, 10:00 a.m., at the Arts Center of the Ozarks, Springdale, Arkansas, unless otherwise announced. Dues June 1-May 31: \$20; Newsletter by mail surcharge: \$8.

Officers 2010-2012: President: Beverly Maloney; Vice Presidents: Flo Schumacher & Laura Redford;
Secretary: Monica Milam; Treasurer: Florence Johnson

October Meeting:

As the weather cools, it's easy to begin thinking about weaving something. Our October program is titled **Inspiration and Resources**. Monica and Beverly have put together a slide presentation of the best of the exhibits and fashions from the 2008 Tampa Convergence, which will be just the thing to spark some creative ideas. Then, Roberta will take us all to the library to review some of the great resources there. First you get some ideas; then you find some help in executing those ideas. There should be lots of good discussions about "how did they do that?" and "is that really 'art'?" (Remember that Convergence pieces are often "pretty far out there.") Come join us for this thought and idea provoking program. *Hostesses: Harlene Henson, Sue Stewart, Marty Day.*

Study Groups:

Our four study groups have started off with a bang! What a great response with all four of the groups having several members.

The **Card Weaving Group** has already had one all-day session and plans another on October 16. At the first session, Linda introduced the subject and demonstrated threading and turning cards. By the end of the day, all were either weaving or ready to weave. The next session will introduce another method of warping and threading.

The **Warping Group** met September 26 and has additional sessions planned. Sharon went through all the steps for the students. Their first project is a bookmark. The goal is to successfully dress the loom several times within a short period so that techniques learned will be reinforced with repetition.

The **Rag Jacket Group** will have its first meeting following the October 9 Guild meeting. Flo will hand out instructions and give hints about selecting and cutting fabric.

Because several people in the towel group are also in other groups, and because Laura has not been able to get all the directions properly prepared, the **Long-Warp of Towels Group** has delayed its start. Laura hopes to have all the handouts ready soon.

Message from Beverly:

Dear Loomers: My first official meeting is done and under my belt. The Garage Sale was wonderful. So far we have made over \$500. And a great big Thank You goes to Jean Whiteman and Ken and Jan Hargis for their generous donations. There were also a lot of new wonderful books donated to the Library. The first Study Group (the Card Weavers) met Saturday the 18th of September and was a great success. Officially the Card Weavers are now 11. Wow. I think the study groups are great. And I think everyone was wanting something like this. We are off to a great year. Let's keep the momentum going. *Beverly*

September Meeting Highlights:

What a boisterous and fun meeting we had in September. As usual, the first business meeting of the year ran a little longer than "normal" but there was a lot to cover. (See the minutes elsewhere in this newsletter.) The program was Your Favorite Weaving Tool and there were some interesting items. Show and Share was pretty spectacular too. Lots of fiber, books, and tools changed hands in our garage sale with proceeds from some things going to the Guild. Great start to our Guild year!



Sheep-To-Shawl at Shiloh:

We will once again participate in the sheep-to-shawl demonstration at Shiloh Museum, Springdale, on October 7 & 8, 9a.m.-2p.m. **Monica needs more volunteers.** Please call her (479-855-2382) if you can work all or part of the day. The kids are cute and there IS a free lunch!

Fall Fiber Day at Crafty Cottage:

Crafty Cottage, 225 S. Main, Bentonville, will hold a Fall Fiber Day Saturday, October 9 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sheep shearing begins at 10 and continues through the day. All phases of fiber preparation will be shown. Guild members will demonstrate weaving. Girl Scouts have been invited to view the demos in order to fulfill badge requirements. Admission is \$10/person.

News from Other Guilds:

The 3rd annual **Ozark Folk Fiber Guild** Sheep-to-Shawl contest is Saturday, October 23, 9:30-5:00 at the spinning/weaving studio on the Ozark Folk Center grounds, Mountain View, AR. This is a "true" sheep-to-shawl contest with teams competing on speed and quality of final product. (The sheep-to-shawl we participate in at the Shiloh Museum is a demonstration rather than a contest.) Might be fun to get a car full of people to go over for the day!

From the **Tulsa Handweavers Guild** newsletter: Margaret Roach Wheeler, who has presented programs and workshops to our Guild, has been inducted into the Chickasaw National Hall of Fame in recognition of her many fiber-related awards and achievements. Seventeen of the

From Your Newsletter Editor:

Don't forget the potholder challenge. WeaveZine has a great article about potholder looms and using them to do a color study, among other things. See:

<http://www.weavezine.com/content/potholder-loom-basics-and-beyond> .

(If you don't have easy access to this article on the Internet, let me know and I'll print it for you.)

Laura

costumes she designed for Lowak Shoppala will be on exhibit in October at the newly opened Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur, OK (open Tuesday-Saturday, 10-6).

Here's a good idea:

From WeaveTech (a Yahoo Internet list): Pantone.com is listing the colors for fall 2010 and spring 2011.

Fall 2010: endive, golden glow, living coral, lipstick red, purple orchid, chocolate truffle, lagoon, woodbine, oyster gray and rose dust. Spring 2011: honey suckle, coral rose, peapod beeswax, silver peony, russet, regatta, blue curacao, lavender, silver cloud. Beverly Maloney

Equipment exchange:

8-shaft, 45" LeClerc loom with room for 4 more shafts. Includes regular beam, sectional beam, extra heddles, 3 reeds (8, 12, 15 dent), matching maple bench with storage. \$2,500.00. Flo Schumacher. cdschum@uark.edu or 479-443-6764.

Brown sheep Yarn

Tammy Sowers-White

479-271-7607

b2r Irishredhead@hotmail.com

discount 25% for guild members

I have a catalog (updated) with samples of yarn and color. Some of the yarns can be bought in 1/2 and pound cones.

Wanted to buy:

Conair hair twister. The one I have is, I fear, on its last legs and I would like a replacement.

Mine is purple with two 'prongs'. It is advertised as a hair 'braider' but I use it for twisting fringe.

Sharon Loyd . tloyd@cswnet.com. 479-229-2619

(Editor's note: At my urging, Ann has written a great piece about her early weaving experiences and meeting with E. E. Gilmore, Gilmore Looms, and Jim Ahrens of AVL fame. There's a lot more to the story than just weaving. Think about "the times"— World War II and the type of therapy that the wounded war veteran received, about occupations available for women, and the difficulty of travel across country. Part II will appear in the next newsletter.)

I Remember—My Journey into Weaving

Ann McKnight

This is my journey into weaving with a look at some very interesting people met along the way. My Mother taught me to mend holes in socks when I was 10 or so. Weaving back and forth across the hole was the usual method then, although no one does it now. I got pretty good, also bored. So I varied it with colors. Mother was not pleased. OK, so do those pretty colored bits on squares of cardboard. And I was off.

A little "help" and information from friends plus school projects using "loopers" on square looms to make pot holders got me to the next step of using colored YARN on these versatile four-sided looms. High school meant card weaving and a REAL loom with heddles and a beater. I was in Heaven! And I decided to make a career of it. The family was not at all pleased. "Weaving is a HOBBY, not a job you make a living at!" So then, a family friend found a real job—Occupational Therapy—where I could be a weaver and be working in the Health Professions. Fine, I'll do that—and my college choices were aimed in that direction.

But there was a War on, and I got patriotic and joined the Navy. I requested the Medical Corps—no problem since they were short-handed—and then Occupational Therapy technician school. I actually worked at that under a graduate therapist. Part of my job was to keep the little table looms warped and I usually had 2 to 4 every morning. Warping has never been a fearsome job since.

Home again and plans to pick up my schooling. But I wanted a real loom. Friends had ideas. One of them was the offer of a Swedish loom, which would arrive as a bundle of pre-cut and pre-drilled sticks to be assembled. For only 30 dollars! I looked at one in use. It was pretty flimsy. My Father agreed that it wouldn't hold up to my usage. He had heard of someone in Stockton a few hours away. After phone calls, we made the trip to E. E. Gilmore's studio and workshop. He was a smallish man with darkish hair wearing a shop apron. And he was so enthusiastic! I can still remember him, leaning over to point out each improvement that was his invention. We saw several looms and each one had different specialized features—which he had invented. Mr. Gilmore pretty well ignored me and spent the time discussing engineering with my Father. The three of us finally got down to details of 4 harnesses and 22-inch web width. He offered "brazed" wire heddles, at an extra price, but I was comfortable with the flat ones which I had used before so we went there. I don't really remember what it cost nor whether I paid or Daddy did but it was within our "budget." And I had a LOOM.

But the request for admission to the Occupational Therapy program in Milwaukee finally came through and I had to go half-way across the country to Wisconsin. For two years I learned more about the technique of weaving. I also learned the techniques of ceramics, metalwork, print-making and many other crafts for I would have to use all of them in Therapy. Of course, I did extra-curricular time in my special interest. Towards the end we spent time at rehab centers

observing and, occasionally, helping licensed therapists with patients. All very interesting but I realized that the emphasis had to be on the patient and not on the craft which provided the exercise. And I was very unhappy with the results of the crafts. I kept wanting to make them do better. Decision making time had come—I was old enough to say to my family that this was not good enough. I wanted to weave and create excellent fabric and Occupational Therapy was not the way to do it. So I graduated with my class but did not take the “intern” year that would make me a licensed therapist.

I found a weaving program in Milwaukee with the city’s parks program. Mrs. Kolloge was very knowledgeable, and very patient. I found a job at a local hospital that allowed me to take Wednesday and Thursday off if I worked the weekend so I wove and learned new techniques for several months. But the things I had learned from summer workshop kept coming back. The program had been for school teachers and the instructor was a hobby weaver who had gone to an accredited art school. She was very encouraging and kept telling me about her school. She was sure I would do much better with some high-level training. And while she had dropped out to be a wife and mother, some of her classmates were professionals. So why not try it.

I left Milwaukee and went back home to San Francisco, determined to really explore the working world of textiles. My family was resigned and reasonably helpful. I got an “internship” with a famous weaver/designer and worked for a short while. She wanted people to execute her designs and “stay out of her hair” while she “imagined” and interviewed people. Hired hands—and I wasn’t learning anything. So I went back to my attic studio on my own with some books.

If I was to make a living I needed a bigger loom with more harnesses in order to make yardage for drapery and clothing. Friends and friends-of-friends again came up with names. There was a man in Berkeley who made looms that were “finished furniture.” My Mother had friends who kept one of these in the living room. They were “neat”—folded up to a few inches deep and had “curly” maple or walnut cross pieces. Better yet, he made even bigger ones and would make one to order. Also, the price was reasonable.

So, I started my relationship with Jim and Dorothy Ahrens. *To be continued.*

(Another Editor’s note: Mr. Gilmore is credited with inventing the first “jack loom” which he patented in 1933. He started the Gilmore Loom Company in 1936. He began a correspondence with Mary Meigs Atwater who provided suggestions for improving his looms. Over the years, he modified his design and obtained several additional patents. One of his early designs included the X-frame folding loom that is so popular today. Gilmore Looms is still in business in Stockton, California, and still uses some of the original equipment Mr. Gilmore used.

Here’s an article about the company:

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061120/A_BIZ/611200306

The Gilmore web site is here:

<http://www.gilmorelooms.com/default.html>

And a nice article by Mr. Gilmore is in Handwoven, March/April 1986, page 18.)

(Minutes are printed in the newsletter so that they do not need to be read at the meeting. Please take a minute to read them and note any corrections.)

**MINUTES
NORTHWEST ARKANSAS HANDWEAVERS GUILD
September 11, 2010**

Beverly Maloney called the meeting to order at 10:00 a. m. She had set up a sound system which worked well.

Minutes of the previous meeting (June, 2010): Carol Alford moved that the minutes of the June meeting be accepted as published. Polly Potter seconded the motion which carried.

Treasurer's report: Beverly read the report, in the absence of the treasurer. There is currently a balance of \$3,810.

Jerri Seigler and Jill Maddox were introduced as new members. Ann introduced her granddaughter, Barbara.

Old Business: Crow Evans mentioned the Fiber Fellowship which has been set up with the Writers' Colony in Eureka Springs and asked if the guild wanted to donate money to it. (Note: Crow is not a beneficiary of this grant.) The Writers' Colony provides uninterrupted time for writers to work. Applications are judged and the amount of monies available and the need of the applicant determine the term of the grant. The Fiber Fellowship will benefit those who want to write about the fiber arts. There was a bit of discussion. The fellowship is for all the fiber arts and there would be no way to separate our donation to just benefit handweavers. Laura Redford made the motion that we contribute \$50, Sallie Simmons seconded, motion carried.

Vern Sidler and Roberta Hamilton volunteered to research new books on weaving and recommend those that should be bought for our library. Vern was not present. Roberta reported that she had not done very much research to date; however, several new books have recently been donated to the library.

Carol asked if the guild still gives awards for the Best in Weaving at the Washington and Benton County fairs. We do. Carol won at the Washington County fair and will be given a check for \$25 from the guild. Genny Olson won the best in spinning. Carol and Genny both won several ribbons. Polly won the best handwoven in the Madison County Fair with a tapestry.

New Business: Beverly reported that the executive board is responsible for developing the programs for the year and listed them.

Sept. - We have our weaving "yard sale" as well as showing and discussing our favorite weaving tool.

Oct. - We'll see a DVD of the Handweavers Guild of America Convergence for inspiration and have a tour of our library.

Nov. - Genny will give us a dyeing demonstration.

Dec. - We'll have our usual Christmas party and a design game.

Jan. - Sharon Loyd will talk to us about loom maintenance.

Feb. - Tammy White will present a program on coverlets and 18th century linens for the home.

Mar. - Carol Alford will talk to us about sewing with handwovens.

Apr. - Laura Thompson will explain how to hang our handwovens.

May - The study groups will show their work.

June - Pot luck here at the ACO with a potholder exchange.

Beverly showed printouts of our web site.

Laura was asked to discuss a possible two day workshop as well as the study groups. The two day workshop proposed is on surface weaves. This would be a repeat of one given in 1987. It would be held at the Shiloh Museum and the cost would be low, since it will be done in-house. It will be a round robin workshop. There was a show of hands for those interested so the workshop will be scheduled.

Laura explained study groups and named the four that have been set up:

1. Ritzy Rags, Flo Schumacher, moderator
2. Get Properly Warped, Sharon, moderator
3. Card Weaving, Laura and Linda Long, moderators
4. Twelve Towels, Laura, moderator

She mentioned that if two or three members are interested in pursuing study in another area, they can form another group.

Committee Reports:

- **Librarian:** Roberta sent around a list of books and asked that the members select one they would like to report on, as well as the meeting date for their report.
- **Membership:** Sallie had nothing to report. Bev mentioned that we need new name tags.
- **Publicity:** Polly said that she sends the info on our meetings everywhere. She does not get copies of the papers and asked us to let her know if we see the notices.
- **Newsletter:** Laura asked us to let her know what we would like to see in the newsletter. She is going to start a new column, "I Remember." It will start with an article by Ann McKnight about Jim Ahrens, with whom she was personally acquainted. She mentioned that the new Yearbook will be available at the October meeting.
- **Historian:** Angie Jones will continue to act as our historian.
- **Hospitality:** Monica Milam had a sign-up sheet for refreshments for our meetings. Everyone was reminded that when they bring refreshments they are to make the coffee, set up and clean up.
- **Sunshine:** Sharon asked everyone to let her know if we know of a member who needs a get well card or one of sympathy or support.
- **Demonstrations:** Monica explained the Sheep to Shawl event at the Shiloh Museum for the new members. A sign-up sheet was passed for those who are able to work the event. We have also been asked to demonstrate at the Crafty Cottage for an event on October 8. Laura will do that.
- **Loom Storage and Rentals:** Marilyn Stewart mentioned that her store room where the guild equipment is stored is currently full of furniture. She has had to move furniture while workers are repairing damage caused by water.

Flo reported that she had talked to John Jansen (a longtime member who now lives in VA.) He is doing well but has given up weaving. She also mentioned that the editor of Handwoven was helping her to locate Betty Beard with whom she wanted to talk about our upcoming workshop.

Show and Share: Louise Maringer showed us two tapestries. Helen Jeffrey had a hooked rug that she had done, as well as pin cushions she wove and put together for the students in her rug hooking class. Lisa Edmiston, showing for the first time, had two scarves that she did at seminar. Lou Ann McConnell had a lovely scarf she made from a warp she had painted at a previous guild event. Sharon wove a shawl for a friend from yarn that the friend provided. Marilyn had two weavings - one from before the water disaster at her house and another since - on a loom that was taken to her sister's house where she is staying. The "before" weaving was done in the Theo Moorman technique, and the "after" is rep weave. Mary Ann Guinn showed her sampler from seminar and her first weaving done on her own, a yoga bag for her husband. Jill had a piece done in straight and point twill. Beverly had a woven sculpture.

After refreshments, we had a show of favorite weaving tools. Those shown were: cross holders, shuttles, a warping board with removable dowels that could be easily stored, Deborah Chandler's book, Learning to Weave, and Louise showed her favorite beater for her tapestry weaving - a dinner fork.

The meeting was adjourned so all could enjoy the "yard sale," which included many items donated by Jean Whiteman and the Hargis'.

Respectfully submitted,
Monica Milam, Sec'y.