

# Northwest Arkansas Handweavers Guild

*The Guild is a 501(c)(7) non-profit organization.*

## January 2011

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

### January – It's All About the Resolutions:

Even if you don't seriously make New Year Resolutions, you probably at least think about how to improve things or make a new start when the new year rolls around. Along with the "usual" resolutions—you know, losing weight, exercising, getting organized—should be giving your weaving equipment some attention. During Sharon Loyd's years of teaching at seminars and workshops, she has learned to diagnose and fix loom problems, most of which could be avoided with some regular maintenance. The frantic "weaving for Christmas gifts" is over (hopefully) so take a little time to give your loom some TLC with a clean up and check up and fix up. "**Loom Maintenance**" will address cleaning and tightening and adjusting your loom to ensure happy weaving for you AND your loom.

*Book review: Glenna Renner. Hostesses: Glenna, Carol Alford, Mary Ann Guinn.*

### Half Price Sale:

According to our bylaws, dues for new members joining after January 1 are only \$10! If you know of potential Guild members, encourage them to join the Guild now. (Full dues of \$20 are due for all members on June 1. Those receiving the newsletter by mail also pay a surcharge for copies and postage.)

### Weather Cancellation Policy:

If the roads are bad or if bad weather is forecast for meeting day, Beverly and the other officers will make a decision the evening before about having a meeting. A notice will be sent to all on the email list and those who do not have email will be called. If you are unsure if the meeting will be held, call Beverly or one of the officers.

### Message from Beverly:

Fellow Loomers,

New Year, New Projects. Hope all your looms are dressed and ready to go. Although our crowd was small in December, we had a great time. We laughed and laughed. The weaving game was very interesting and gave me new ideas for upcoming programs. Monica's Christmas decorations (all fiber related) were delightful. I would like to "Thank" everyone for participating in the cookie exchange and bringing munchies. The Guild has several programs for the new year and I hope you all can make each and every one. This is the perfect weather to dream, plan and weave. Don't forget **the challenge this year is a potholder** for the pot luck in June. As they say, "So much to weave and so little time." Don't forget to eat black eyed peas for New Year's.

President *Beverly*

## December Highlights



Show and share is a highlight of any meeting. Santa Cone seems happy!



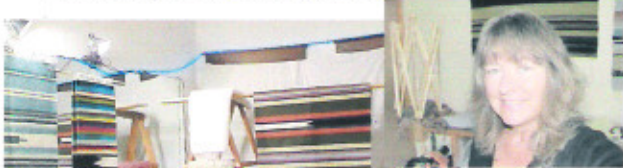
The "Design Game" made us think a little but it was lots of fun anyway!



Beverly gives us the "scoop on poop." Monica writes, "When Beverly mentioned 'poop bags' for our Christmas party, I was not very enthusiastic about the idea, but the project and little poems were really cute. I made up 'Poop Bags' for the youngest in the family and they loved them. Now I think I should have made some for the adults, too!"



*I just want to extend my thanks for the great support I received from members of the guild during the Block Street Art Sale the first weekend in December. The turnout from folks in the guild was really wonderful. I look forward to seeing all of you at the guild meeting in January. Thanks again. Debra DuBois*



## 2010 Fiber Extravaganza, Mount Magazine

Sharon demonstrated weaving.



Janelle, Crow and Juliann had vendor booths.



Uh, something seems to be missing?

### **Study Groups:**

Enough with the fun and frivolity! It's time for work, work, work! All study groups will be back in operation this month and participants should watch their email for specific information. The card group will review samples from the TWIST library; the jacket group will troubleshoot and problem solve; Sharon is working with the warping group on an individual basis; AND the towel group will finally receive their handouts.

### **Surface Weave Workshop:**

Earlier in the year, we asked how many would be interested in doing a surface weave workshop this spring. (*Surface weaves include a variety of weave structures with warp or weft floats above the basic weave. They are a great way to highlight a special thread.*) We'll ask the same question again at the January meeting to be sure we still have sufficient interest. Assuming we do, we need a few committee members to select drafts and prepare instruction sheets. Please let Beverly know if you are interested in working on this.

### **Yearbook:**

Please correct the spelling of Debra DuBois last name from Dubois to DuBois.

### **Invitation to Join in the Celebration!**

The Northwest Arkansas Fiber Seminar, commonly referred to as Summer Seminar, will celebrate 20 years of providing weaving and spinning instruction in 2011. The organizers/instructors (Marilyn, Sharon and Laura) are planning special events.

At the December meeting, Laura invited the Guild to partner with Seminar in sponsoring the events. Currently planned are an exhibit open to the public (July 6-9) with a reception and "gathering of the guilds" on Saturday, July 9 (our regular meeting day). The exhibit would be open to any past seminar student or instructor. If the Guild becomes a co-sponsor of the events, exhibitors would include any current member of the Guild. There will be some expense

associated with the events as well as a time commitment for committees to assist with hanging, publicity, demonstrations, etc.

Laura asked that the matter be brought up for a vote at the January meeting. If you have an opinion about this matter and cannot be at the January meeting, please make your opinion known to Beverly prior to the January 8 meeting.

*(A bit of background: Seminar was founded in 1992 by Marilyn, Laura, and two others, to fill the gap in weaving instruction when the War Eagle Arts and Crafts Seminar stopped offering weaving classes. At the time, the organizers asked the Guild if they wished to sponsor seminar and the Guild voted no, primarily due to the uncertainty of ongoing expenses. Consequently, while the Guild has provided moral support, and many members have assisted individually, all the administration and responsibility for "paying the bills" has rested with the organizers. Seminar and Guild are two, separate entities.)*

### **Save the Date:**

**June 23-25, 2011**, Finlandia University, Hancock (Upper Peninsula), Michigan:

**Midwest Weavers Conference** sponsored by Midwest Weavers Association. Registration opens January 27. Complete information: <http://www.midwestweavers.org/conference/index.asp>

*(Several of us have attended MWA conferences over the years and have found them interesting and inspirational.)*

**July 11-22, 2011**, The Studio in Bella Vista Northwest Arkansas Fiber Seminar, commonly referred to as **Summer Seminar**. Registration booklets will be available about March 1.

### **Here's a good idea:**

Wing nut tools are very handy things to keep by your loom to help loosen wing nuts when changing a reed or tighten wing nuts that tend to work loose due to the vibration of beating. There are "real" hardware type tools but you can

also find very pretty wooden ones. (See: <http://kbbspin.org/node/8236> . I'm sure there are other sources.) Also, these would be pretty easy to make. (*I've seen instructions in one of our weaving journals but, alas, cannot find them now. You can see mine Jan. 8.*)

And speaking of tools, go to a dollar store of some sort and purchase a screw driver(s) or other tools that exactly fit your loom. Many looms (Leclerc, for example) originally came with a set of tools but often they disappear over time.

### Denim "Yarn":

A couple of issues ago, we learned how to make "yarn" out of tee-shirts. Beverly has made a lovely rug that you will see at the January meeting. What goes better with tee-shirts than..... JEANS.

So, how do you make "yarn" out of jeans? Here are some suggestions from Hilary at Crazy as a Loom

(<http://www.crazyasaloom.com/id51.html>).

- Lay the jeans out on a flat surface.
- Cut off the tops where the legs join the body.
- Trim the seams from each edge of the legs.
- You will have two rectangles from each leg.
- Cut the rectangles in approximately 1" strips or the width appropriate for your project.
- Place a strip at a right angle to another strip with right sides together.
- Sew a diagonal seam.
- Without lifting the presser foot, do the next strip, and so on.
- Because the you did not lift the presser foot and cut threads, the strips will be connected by the sewing machine thread. Cut them apart.
- Trim the excess fabric from the diagonal seam.
- Wind into a ball or onto a swift.

Jeans material can be very difficult to cut and hard on your hands. If you are going to do very

much of it, use a rotary cutter. Hilary uses an electric rotary cutter.

Note that working with denim, or any rag material, creates a lot of dust. Consider wearing a dust mask. Fiber lint can be very damaging to your lungs.

You can make darling purses and bags from the body of jeans—the part with the pockets.

There are some lovely rugs on this web site and her blog (link on the site) includes some very nice photos of non-weaving things.

### Equipment/Fiber exchange:

FREE TO GOOD HOME: loom skeleton, probably built by weaver's husband around 1945, 36" width, counter balance, folding x-frame, 6 treadles. NO shafts, reed, or other tools. PLEASE save this from the trash heap! Located in Bella Vista. Laura Redford has pictures: 479-925-1102 or [wannaweavemore@cox.net](mailto:wannaweavemore@cox.net).

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](mailto:cdschum@uark.edu) or 479-443-6764.

Brown sheep Yarn, 25% discount for guild members. Updated catalog and samples available. Some yarns available in 1/2 pound cones. Tammy Sowers-White, 479-271-7607 or [b2r Irishredhead@hotmail.com](mailto:b2r Irishredhead@hotmail.com)

### From Your Newsletter Editor:

I know the holidays are over but this is too funny to save until next year. Lu McConnell sent the link to this video of Bonnie Tarses doing the 12 Days of Christmas as they might relate to a weaver. Go to: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JyeE\\_3k8fN8&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JyeE_3k8fN8&feature=related) .

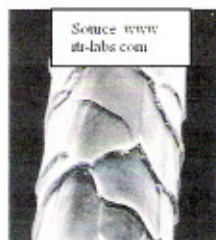
And here's a short (15 minutes) film on linen—in French but subtitled. Very interesting. Go to: <http://pulsene.ws/fgK9>

I've made many references to Internet sites in this issue. Much of the information is probably also in a book or books on my shelf but it sure is easy to "cut and paste" when doing the newsletter. Remember to keep your computer virus protection be up to date. Also, if you don't have easy access to something that you'd like to see, just let me know and I'll print it for you.

Happy New Year! *Laura*

### **For Your Information—odd stuff you might like to know about:**

Did you buy some thread at our September sale, now want to use it and don't have a clue what it is? It's the rare weaver who doesn't have at least one cone or skein of "unknown" fiber on the shelf. What difference does it make, you might ask. Not all fiber shrinks the same, or dyes the same, or has the same thermal properties. If you mix fibers, you MAY not get what you think you will get. So, here are some helpful hints for fiber identification.



Chemical, staining, and density tests can be conducted but generally require more lab equipment than most weavers have.

Optical tests: Certain fibers have particular shapes, which can be identified when viewed under a microscope. For example, wool shows characteristic "scales" in the photo left. You may be able to see this on your child's science kit microscope.

The test most often used by handweavers is the "burn test." Observing how the fiber burns, smells, and chars will determine the class to which a fiber belongs. However, you have to be careful with burn tests in order not to over-generalize. Sometimes dyes, chemicals used to clean and make the fiber burn or wrinkle resistant, or for other processing will affect the burn test results. The most important burning test pertains to flame resistance.

The chart on the next page is organized into three main groups. All threads either burn and must be put out or burn and go out on their own after a few seconds leaving remaining unburned fiber and are therefore self-extinguishing, or the thread does not burn even with a flame held directly to it.

Hold the thread in a pair of tweezers over something that won't burn or melt (an old tuna tin or glass ashtray is ideal) and with either a match or cigarette lighter put the thread directly into the flame long enough for it to catch on fire.

Watch the thread as it burns -- does it go out on its own? Then it's self-extinguishing -- go to the lavender area of the chart. Do you have to put it out or does it burn to nothing? Then it's not self-extinguishing -- go to the aqua area of the chart. Does it defy all attempts to burn it? Then it does not burn and the small yellow section of the chart is where you look.

The further breakdown of the chart helps identify the fibers by the smell of the smoke it gives off in burning, and the ash or melted bead that remains after it has burned. Remember that some threads are blends, and the blend of fibers may make the burn test an unreliable test for fiber content. Also, some threads have chemical finishes and sizings applied to them that will alter the way that they burn, making them unidentifiable by this chart.

For a portable burn test kit, put a copy of the chart on the next page, some collapsible scissors and a lighter or matches in an old candy tin.

(Information for this article came from:

[http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/80155/textile\\_fiber\\_identification.html?cat=51](http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/80155/textile_fiber_identification.html?cat=51)

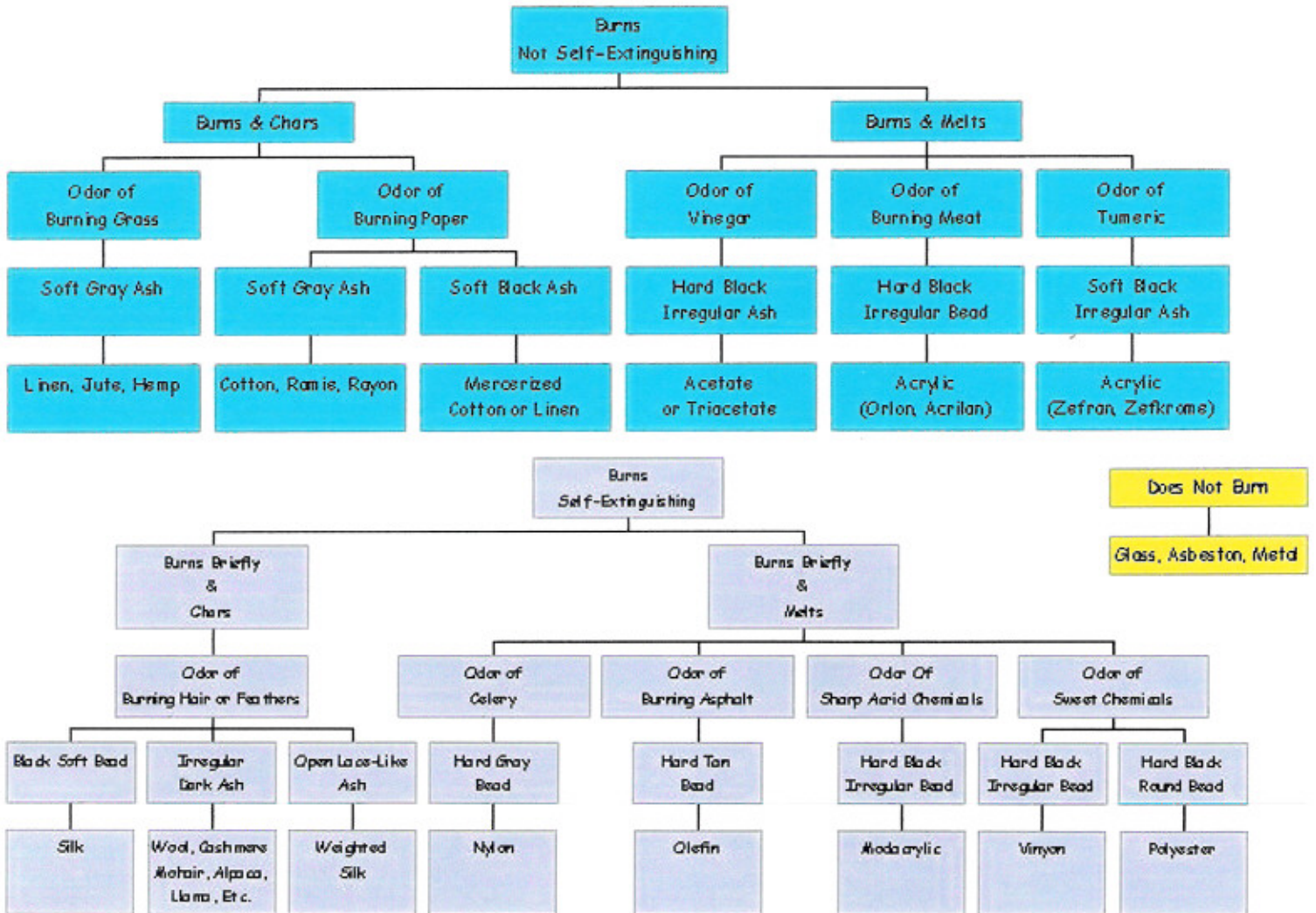
Burn test graphic: <http://www.ditzypaints.com/dpburnchart.html>

Another good table of burn test results is at:

[http://www.franklintechnology.com/training/carpetcare/fiber\\_identification.asp](http://www.franklintechnology.com/training/carpetcare/fiber_identification.asp)

Many weaving books have burn charts, especially textile textbooks.)

## FIBER BURN CHART



<http://www.ditzypaints.com/dpburnchart.html>

*(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  
December 11, 2010

The meeting was called to order by the president, Beverly Maloney. Flo Schumacher made the motion that the minutes be approved as published, Laura Redford seconded and the motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** There was a balance in our bank account of \$4769.81 on November 30, and currently a balance of \$4770.41 and all outstanding bills have been paid.

**Old Business:** For several years the guild has donated to the Heifer Project. We have in the past donated funds we received from the Christmas auction. Although we did not have a Christmas auction this year, we did make over \$500 on the sale. There were several Heifer catalogs for the members to look through. One item was listed as a Knitter's Basket, which included several different fiber animals and cost a bit less than \$500. Barbara Worth moved that we purchase that item, Lisa Edmiston seconded the motion, which carried.

**New Business:** Laura announced that the Summer Fiber Seminar is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year. Our members, who hold this seminar, Laura, Marilyn Stewart, and Sharon Loyd, plan to have a big celebration. They want to rent the studio space for additional days and have an exhibit that will be open to the public. All former students and guild members will be eligible to exhibit their weaving. In addition to the exhibit they would like to have a "Gathering of the Guilds" and invite all the weaving guilds in our area, i. e. Tulsa, Springfield, etc., to attend. They are inviting our guild to co-sponsor the exhibit and guild meeting. There will be some expense – part of the rent of the studio for the additional days, refreshments, mail, etc. Laura asked that we think about this and we can vote in January on the guild's participation.

**Announcements:** The program for our January meeting is Loom Maintenance and will be presented by Sharon Loyd. Debbie DuBois had an exhibit in Fayetteville of her hand woven rugs. The Midwest Weavers' Conference will be held in 2011 in Hancock, MI. Several of our members have health problems and Beverly had cards for us to sign for them.

**Book Report:** Ann Weymouth reported on two books that are in our library: *Elements of Weaving* by Azalea Thorpe and Jack Larson and *Designing for Weaving* by Carol S. Kurtz. Ann considers herself to be color challenged and picked the above two books for their articles on color. She found the Kurtz book to have more helpful information on using color in weaving.

**Show and Share:** *Roberta Hamilton* had some Christmas tea towels as well as kitchen towels she wove for gifts. *Barbara Worth* showed us some antique fabric stamps that she bought. *Louise Maringer*, who was dressed in a native Norwegian outfit told us about the dress itself as well as some history about the native dresses in Norway. *Genny Olsen* showed us the fiber that she dyed in her program at the November meeting. *Ann* has a tapestry in progress on a loom that her husband made for her. *Glenna Renner* wove a double weave project from *Handwoven* magazine – she has two lovely scarves. *Janice Neighbor* has a lot of cotton from U of A and will share it. *Bev* showed kitchen towels that she wove. *Bev* also brought info about crafts as well as the makings for "Poop Bags," i.e., miniature marshmallows for Snowman poop. *Laura* and *Monica Milam* talked about some of the Christmas decorations on the tables.

The meeting was adjourned for refreshments and fun. *Laura* had a design game for us. We were in tables of four. Each table got 4 cards with an element of weaving, such as, type of fiber, weaving structure, color, etc., and the group had to design a project with the supplied info. It was fun and very inspiring. It made us think "outside the box." Everyone had brought refreshments and we shared the left overs. It was a good meeting and a fun party. Thanks to the executive committee for the decorations and to *Bev* and *Laura* for the extra crafts and game.

Respectfully submitted,  
Monica Milam, Sec'y.