



Ottawa Valley Weavers' & Spinners' Guild

December 2010 Newsletter

Message from your President

Mandy Heggteit

The 2010 Exhibition & Sale has come and gone and I am happy to report that it was another success. I would like to thank Debra Turnbull and her team for doing a great job in preparing for and ultimately running the two and half day event. I heard many positive comments about Friday evening's musicians, the availability of the ATM and for having the demos and guild tables in the centre of the venue. Special mention should go to Judy Kavanagh for looking so well after the vendors as well as to Sue Quinn and Roberta Murrant for successfully promoting the Exhibition & Sale in the media. As you probably know, the Ottawa Citizen's Wrap printed an informative article on its first page and Sue could be heard in an excellent radio clip on CBC's In Town and Out. This attention in the local media no doubt contributed to the attendance at this year's event. Talking about the yearly Ex & Sale I want to emphasize its significance for the Guild. Although it indeed provides an excellent opportunity for members to exhibit and sell their work, it, equally importantly, continues to remain the Guild's most important means to promote its activities and reflect the excellence of its programs. With the Exhibition and Sale now behind us for another year we can turn our attention to ongoing and future programming. This year, for the first time, the Guild will make its application

to the City for a multi-year operating grant. What this means is that, should we be successful, the Guild will be assured of stable funding over a three-year period. Another benefit of this exercise is that it allows us to articulate a long-range programming plan and to define strategies on how to accomplish our goals. I will be meeting with the Executive to brainstorm the long range-plan in the evening of December 16 in the Resource Centre. If you have ideas that contribute to the planning process and want to attend that meeting you are welcome to join us.

Our proposals for the next Guild Challenge are in their final stages. The guidelines for the weaving and spinning segments of the challenge require only Executive approval and will be presented at the January meeting. To encourage less experienced weavers and spinners to participate in the challenge we are thinking of having a separate beginner's category and I encourage all of you to start thinking about contributing one or more projects. Ultimately, the purpose for the challenge is to break out of our comfort zones, which includes the overcoming of our (mostly perceived) inadequacies; the Challenge is your opportunity to shine.

Although I hope to see you at the December meeting I wish you now a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Winter Solstice or whatever seasonal celebration you cherish and the best of health, happiness and success in 2011.

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Next Meeting: Monday, Dec. 6th

Come and join us for the next Guild Meeting on Monday, December 6th at 7:30pm at Heartwood House at 153 Chapel Street in Ottawa.

Program: In December we will be having our annual Chinese Auction. Members bring their unwanted items and the Guild sheds itself of no-longer-needed things to go to the lucky bidder. In case you don't know the system, you buy an envelope of numbered tickets and place one or more in a pot by items you would like to win. For each item, a ticket is then blindly picked from the pot and that person wins the goody. The more tickets you put beside an item, the more chances you have of winning it. We do need you to bring good stuff for everyone to bid on. It's a great way to de-stash and then right away build it up again!

Our next meeting is Monday, January 10th, 2011!

Program: At the January meeting our very own Jan Scott will be talking about how to look after our bodies as we do our craft. The right ways to sit; the correct motions; how to care for our hands. There are right ways and wrong ways of doing things, particularly with the repetitiveness involved in weaving and spinning and braiding and basketry. These will be good things to learn in the middle of winter when many are at the height of production.

From Jan: I've been asked to give a talk about how to keep doing the things we enjoy doing; so, let's have a quick chat about ergonomics for the loom and wheel, stretches to help keep us going and a bit about the pathologies we're trying to avoid! if you can try to wear something comfortable, you might like to try some of the stretches (I promise not to have anyone try to put a foot where it's not supposed to go!) and if you have a long sock and a tennis ball please try to remember to bring it (I will show you something useful to do with both items!). There may also be candy... its January so I figure you might like a bit more bribe than just cool handouts!

Have a great Holiday and I hope to see you all for the January meeting.

General Announcements

WANTED: Hats, gloves, scarves, socks for the Homeless

They need to be **warm** and preferably new but they don't have to match. Please bring your surplus hats, gloves, scarves and socks to the December 6th meeting so we can give them to the homeless through the "Out of the Cold" program.

Spinners Fiber and Project Challenge Guidelines

Spinners' Fibre and Project Challenge Guidelines:

1. Each participant will receive a kit of 150g of fibre (exact type to be determined).
2. Participants may sign up individually or pair up to form a two-person team to work with the 150g of fibre.
3. Participants must spin all the given fibre and must not add any of their own fibre, and must finish a project (knitting, crocheting, weaving, etc.) using the spun yarn.
4. Dying is permitted but not required.
5. Participants can do more than one project if they desire.
6. Participants may purchase additional kits if they wish to create a project that requires more fibre.
7. Deadline is to be determined.

Please sign up at the December meeting.

Contact: aurora.richard@gmail.com.

For Basket Weavers

Check out <http://www.nadinespier.com/>

A favourite top quality basket-maker of mine, tells about another basket-maker

from California who has a very informative instructional DVD about basket-making using pine needles. The website given here gives you access to that and to her work. Those interested in such work should investigate and consider purchasing the video. It would also make a great addition to the Guild's library.

John Toft

Resource Centre: Library

Library books!

Did you see we have a couple of new books? Do come and welcome them to their new home! As always, remember to bring back your Library Books, Magazines, DVD's, and CD's. If you can't make the meeting call or email me and I will renew your books.

Phone 613-828-3256

jsrmt@hotmail.com.

If you are looking for books on a specific fiber arts topic check with me to see if we have anything in the library that would be helpful. If teachers need books pulled for their classes let me know and I will get them ready for you. If you can drop off your books before the meeting starts it allows the librarians to enjoy the break in the meeting. Please come in early and check out the library. I will be there before 5pm on the Monday of the meeting. Come pick out something to inspire you during the holidays! See you soon!

Workshops

Why not try something new and take one of the many great courses offered by your Guild:

Beginning Weaving I: Parts 1 to 4

Create a fabric! Learn the basics of setting up and weaving on a loom, including colour-blending of yarn, how to read and interpret a weaving pattern and how to plan a project. Table looms are provided, subject to a refundable deposit fee.

Instructor: Mary Morrison

Part 1: Saturday, January 15, 2011

Part 2: Saturday, January 29, 2011

Part 3: Saturday, February 12, 2011

Part 4: Saturday, February 26, 2011

Time: 10:00am - 4:00pm

Level: Beginner. No previous experience necessary.

Cost: \$180.00 members, \$220.00 non-members

Materials fee: \$15

Introduction to Rigid Heddle Weaving

Learn the basics of weaving on the Rigid Heddle Loom while weaving a scarf in plain weave.

Date: Saturday December 11, 2010

Time: 10am to 3pm

Level: Beginner

Instructor: Elizabeth Watt

Cost: \$40 members, \$50 non-members

Materials fee: \$20

Intermediate Inkle Weaving

Bored with plain bands? Try picot, fringes, weaving with wire, and more on the inkle loom. Try out some two harness technique that you may not

usually associated with Inkle weaving. remember anything you can do on one 2 harness loom you may be able to do on another two harness loom.

Date: Sunday February 27, 2011

Time: 10am-3pm

Level: Must be able to warp and weave a plain band on an inkle loom.

Instructor: Jan Scott

Cost: \$40 members, \$50 non-members

Materials fee: \$10

Bringing Overshot into the 21st Century

This workshop will lead weavers through the mysteries of weaving 4 blocks on 4 shafts known as Overshot, and modern interpretations by rearranging the blocks, using unorthodox treadlings, changing materials, use of colour & weave effects and more. Participants will have to bring a dressed loom. Drafts will be sent out in advance. This will NOT be a Round Robin Workshop. Once you get the hang of how overshot works, see what fun you can have in breaking the rules and creating beautifully unique fabrics for clothing, linens, upholstery, draperies, etc..

Date: Sunday February 20, 2011

Time: 9am-4pm

Level: Able to warp a loom and read a weaving draft.

Instructor: Shirley Browsey

Cost: \$60 members, \$70 non-members

Materials fee: \$5. Students must bring a loom dressed according to instructions supplied before the class.

Wet Felted Slippers

Come make your own custom fitted felt slippers from loose wool no knitting or crocheting in your choice of colours. You will go home with a pair of slippers a custom pattern and written instructions. This is a wet felting class using an ancient method updated for today. In this class we make a pair of slippers using the seamless resist method. Everyone will make a pattern so their slippers fit. Slippers are made with wool in your choice of colour. There will be other colours and silk available for embellishment to make your slippers a personal creation. Using water, soap and agitation you turn loose wool into felt and slippers at the same time. Everyone leaves with finished slippers, written instructions, slipper pattern and bubble wrap.

Date: Sunday Jan 23, 2011

Time: 10am-4pm

Level: All

Instructor: Ann McElroy

Cost: \$50 members, \$60 non-members

Materials fee: \$20

Gaining Control

You have learned to spin and ply on the wheel, now take control and learn to make the yarns you want. Techniques to control twist from kinky to soft and diameter from lace to rugs. Drafting techniques to control a variety of fibres..

Date: Saturday Feb 5, 2011

Time: 10am – 4pm

Level: Must be able to spin a yarn on a

wheel.

Instructor: Elizabeth Watt

Cost: \$50 members, \$60 non-members

Materials fee: \$10

Yarn Design - How to Dazzle Yourself

This workshop will take the participant through various spinning and plying techniques to create unique and beautiful novelty yarns for knitting, crocheting and weaving. Some yarns covered could be marl, slub, boucle, core-spun, wrapped singles, knops, crepes, spirals, gimps, snarl, navajo, the use of colour and fibre to enhance the different techniques.

Date: Sunday December 5, 2010

Time: 9am to 4pm

Level: Must be able to spin fine to thick yarns evenly.

Instructor: Shirley Browsey

Cost: \$60 members, \$70 non-members

Materials fee: \$10

Introduction to Kumihimo - Japanese Braiding

Start with a 16 strand spiral braid, a braid of strawberries and move to a square braid, flat braid and more decorative types. Traditional and modern methods, equipment, uses and finishing techniques.

Date: Sunday February 6, 2011

Time: 11am-4pm

Level: Beginner

Instructor: Laurie Harkin-Chiasson

Cost: \$40 members, \$50 non-members

Materials fee: \$10

Wet Felted Hat

Learn to wet felt with wool and silk while making a hat in your choice of style and colour.

Date: Sunday December 12, 2010

Time: 10am-4pm

Level: All

Instructor: Ann McElroy

Cost: \$50 members, \$60 non-members

Materials fee: \$20-30 depending on style of hat

Colour Theory and its Application to Woven Textiles Part 2

By weaving 10 exercises in a variety of colour harmonies and contrasts students become familiar with how colours interact in woven textiles.

Date: Sunday Jan 30 and Feb 13, 2011

Time: 9am-4pm

Level: Must have a basic knowledge of weaving and be able to warp a loom independently.

Instructor: Mandy Heggveit

Cost: \$120 members, \$140 non-members

Materials fee: Materials to be provided by students.

Spinning Rainbows and Other Games People Play

A workshop dealing with colour mixing by carding and blending - ortho and homogeneous. We will be working with dyed fleece and exploring colour theory, colour blending and ways to spin colour and specialty carding techniques.

Date: Sunday January 9, 2011

Time: 9am-4pm

Level: All

Instructor: Shirley Browsky

Cost: \$60 members, \$70 non-members

Materials fee: \$10

Introduction to Spinning

Beginners will learn to spin and ply wool fibre on a handspindle.

Saturday, February 19, 2011

Time: 10:30am-3:30pm

Level: Beginner

Instructor: Elizabeth Watt

Cost: \$40 members, \$50 non-members

Materials fee: \$12 (includes fibre, spindle and instruction booklet).

Wheel Spinning

Move from the spindle to the wheel.

Wheels provided or bring your own.

Date: Saturday January 8, 2011

Time: 10am-3pm

Level: Must be able to spin and ply on a spindle.

Instructor: Elizabeth Watt

Cost: \$40 members, \$50 non-members

Materials fee: \$10

Signups have been a bit slow this year. I would welcome input as to why. There is room in every class at the moment. I will be starting on the Spring Schedule shortly. If you have a class you would like to teach and/or take please let me know by Dec 20th.

Elizabeth

workshops@ovwsg.com,

elizabeth@wattfamily.ca

613 692-6115

Upcoming Events

A Tribute to Canada's Military - Textiles and Artifacts from members of the Ottawa Valley Guild of Stitchery

The Mississippi Valley Textile Museum invites you to an exhibit that will be a tribute to the men and women of the Canadian military in war and peace, with the focus on remembrance of the two world wars. The textiles include the sampler on loan from the Embroiderers' Association of Canada Heritage Collection, samplers and other stitching with a patriotic theme from members of the Ottawa Valley Guild of Stitchery, and other textiles, such as cigarette silks and other printed textiles included in tobacco products a time, all owned by the Ottawa Valley Guild of Stitchery members.

To provide context, there are also a number of other items owned by Guild members and their families such as artwork, military helmets, china, books, commemorative plates, photographs and much more.

This exhibit will demonstrate how textiles played an important role at times of crises and should prove to be an excellent reminder of sacrifices men and women made for Canada during the world wars.

Exhibit on display at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum from
Saturday November 6 - December 18th,
2010, Tuesdays through Saturday 10:00
am to 4:00 pm.
3, Rosamond St. E., Almonte, Ontario
613-256-3754

Admission \$5.00. Children under 12 are always free and museum members are admitted without charge.

www.mvtm.ca

Guild Meeting Minutes

(Written and Recorded, by Marilyn Mulligan)

Monthly Meeting, November 1, 2010

Gallery, Heartwood House,

Meeting brought to order at 7:30 by

Mandy Heggteit

Announcements:

Ann Sunahara received an award of recognition from the Japanese community. Ann Sunahara and Mandy helped at the OC Transpo Sale on Saturday. Display equipment for the X and Sale has been purchased, 6 grids, a rectangular and 3 triangular selves.

Guild Challenge – Spinners will receive a minimum of 500 grams and may pair up. Program for December will be the Chinese Auction. Survey-replies are requested. Signup sheets are available for the volunteers to sign up the X and Sale.

Program:

John Toft gave an excellent explanation on selling on Etsy. His method of delivering the explanation on how to manoeuvre through the site and what to expect from the site was very simple and easy to understand. There are many ways to work through Etsy.

8:15 Break

8:30 resumed.

Debra Turnbull- Need people for X and Sale to set up and take down. Sheets are available for sign up. Jan needs

demonstration volunteers for the X and Sale and the Spencerville Craft Sale. Elizabeth Watt completed her master spinners after 16 years and gave her depth studies binder to Laurie H-C to hold in the library OHS Collection. Shirley Browsey has more tickets to sell for the raffle.

Show and Tell:

Ann McElroy – Spun yarn and Mary Bowring Knitted it into a shawl (green). Jan Scott – found gadgets – a small led lamp for inkle weaving, mirror on a long handle. She had some plastic yarn (plarn), a cut up plastic bag and showed 3 methods of plarning. Judy Kavanagh had some hand spun spider silk. Mary Bowring – had some cards for the X and Sale. Showed us some webbing that she knitted and crocheted. Jean Sharp-hand spun yarn woven shawl. Alison James had made a hat with the yarn spun in her first spinning class.

The Anne Boleyn Line of Supplies

At the most recent Ottawa Valley Weavers and Spinners Guild's Exhibition and Sale, I was challenged on the Friday night by Guild members to make wicker heads on which to display hats. On the Saturday, I made and sold the first of these heads. On the Sunday, I made and sold another and received an order for a third. Later that week, I had enquiries about the possibility of making a display stand of head and shoulders on which to display scarves or necklaces. I have made such torsos since, and have the free standing heads and the headless torso for sale in my Etsy store and in my studio in Kanata. Given the make up of these supply items, describing them as "The Anne Boleyn line" seems appropriate. Check out my Etsy store to see examples at

<http://JohnToftBasketry.etsy.com>.

These items can be picked up for the Etsy prices (in Canadian dollars) at my home with no shipping charges, or, if pre-ordered, at Guild meetings.

Marketplace

Members can now advertise for free!

The Marketplace portion of the OVWSG Newsletter is used to promote and assist its members. Current members of the OVWSG can advertise at no charge. Some restrictions may apply as to space availability and file restrictions. Contact: Melanie Overduin: melanie_overduin45@hotmail.com

FOR SALE

Wooden spool rack; can hold up to 40 bobbins, \$80.00.

Also:

Five stacking wire baskets, ideal for storing yarns. 24" wide, 17" deep, and 11" high. \$5.00 each.

Contact Francesca at foverend@rogers.com