



# Ottawa Valley Weavers' & Spinners' Guild

## December 2011 Newsletter

---

### Message from your President

*Mandy Heggteit*

With the 2011 Exhibition and Sale successfully behind us and two major workshops under the belt our Guild will turn its focus on two important challenges: the move of the Resource Centre and the coordination of the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners (OHS) 2013 Conference in Cornwall, themed *Optical Illusions*.

Preparations for the move of Heartwood House and with it, most likely, of our Resource Centre are underway. Ann Sunahara is a member of the Heartwood House relocation committee and I joined the fundraising committee. Being part of committees will allow the Guild to keep fully informed, contribute to the location selection and have input in the decision making process. What the Guild must do shortly is to establish its own relocation committee and most probably subcommittees with responsibilities for the library and storage facilities. To make the move as painless as possible, insofar as moves can be, the Executive will call on all able-bodied members to help with the preparations and ultimately the move. I should add that we will be hiring a mover to relocate the entire inventory thus actual carrying of boxes is will not be required of members. The move is expected to take place sometime over the next 6 – 9 months and you will be kept fully informed.

Thankfully, the time frames for the 2013 OHS Conference and the relocation of the Resource Centre do not coincide. By the time the Guild is installed in the new facility preparations for the Conference will begin to heat up and require our full attention. Our Laurie Harkin Chiasson and Margot Dixon of the Carmen Forward Guild are the Co-Chairs for the Conference and already busy with getting things rolling. Most Guilds in Eastern Ontario accepted to take on a specific Conference responsibility: the West Carleton Guild will look after registration, Bellville after the juried exhibition, and our Guild is responsible for selecting the keynote speakers and workshop presenters. Having the task to select speakers and workshop leaders provides our Guild with the opportunity to come up with an exciting Conference program that will attract conferees from beyond Eastern Ontario. Since Cornwall is located

close to the Ontario – Quebec border we will make every effort to offer a program that will appeal to weavers and spinners in both provinces. The call for submissions for workshops will be announced in the winter issue of OHS's *Fibre Focus* and you are invited to suggest names of potential workshop leaders.

To get going on the preparations for the 2013 Conference Laurie Harkin-Chiasson is calling a meeting for 6:30 on January 9<sup>th</sup>, i.e. one hour before the January Guild meeting and I encourage everyone to attend (please see Laurie's notice further on in the Bulletin for more information).

Based on the above, 2012 promises to be anything but boring for our Guild. I don't know if I ever mentioned that our Guild is unique not only in Ontario but Canada and maybe even North America. Whereas most guilds are losing members left, right and centre due to demographics, our Guild continues to be active and grow. With the two very diverse projects ahead of us over the next 1 ½ years, we have a reputation to uphold and I am convinced that if we all work together we will not disappoint

I wish all of you a Merry Christmas, Hanukkah or whatever you celebrate at this time of the year, and a successful, happy and healthy 2012.

### Inside this Issue ...

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 | President's Message         |
| 2 | Next Meeting                |
| 2 | Ex & Sale 2011              |
| 2 | Recreation Centre - Library |
| 4 | Upcoming Events             |
| 6 | Marketplace                 |
| 7 | Guild Meeting Minutes       |

## Next Meeting: Monday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Come and join us for the next Guild Meeting on Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm at Heartwood House at 153 Chapel Street in Ottawa.

### Program:

The program for December is the Chinese Auction. Here members bring goodies to the meeting – unwanted stash, seldom used tools, interesting books and magazines, craft items, yummy eats, etc. – and we auction them through placing your number by the item you would like to try for. A winner is picked from all the numbers by an item. Bundles of numbers are sold for \$2, you can buy as many as you like. This is a fun night, you can go home with treasures while disembarassing yourself of things you no longer need, and raise money for the Guild at the same time. I came home with a loom one year and have never looked back!

### Our next meetings are:

Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The program for January is not yet organized, but don't let that put you off coming to the January meeting. You will feel like a good yarn by then!

Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012

## Ex & Sale 2011

The Guild's 31st annual Ex and Sale weekend was a success; so many volunteered and helped to make this a guild event and showcase of our skills. I hope you all had a chance to come to the Glebe and see our members' work.

I am very appreciative for all the help I received. There are many to thank, and I hope that I will not forget anyone. Thank you to Mandy Heggtveit, Judy Kavanagh, Mary-Ann Dalkowski, Jean Sharpe, Linda Tait, Francesca Overend, Ann Sunahara, Jan Scott, Janet Whittam, Ann McElroy, Merrilyn Mulligan, Elizabeth Watt, Christine Turnball, Louise

Laberge, and to everyone who listened to my rants, offered assistance and advice, and helped to make the weekend run smoothly.

Sue Quinn

## Recreation Centre - Library

Even though there will be a phenomenal Alice Cooper Concert in Kingston, I will be forgoing this cultural experience to opening the library for you at 5pm on the Monday of the meeting. If you are lucky enough to be going to the concert and cannot make the meeting, I completely understand, and if you contact the librarians we will renew your books DVD's or magazines! ([jsrmt@hotmail.com](mailto:jsrmt@hotmail.com) or 613-828-3256).

Please bring your books back before the meeting since the librarians would really like to participate in the meeting and enjoy the mid meeting brake with you.

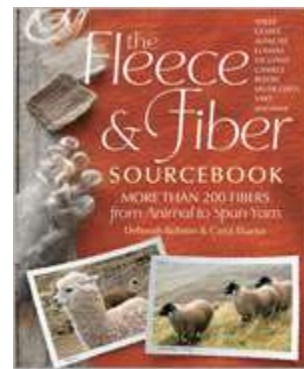
as always if you would like to request a book, are working on your master weavers/ spinners homework and need reference material, or are one of our teachers and would like books pulled and ready for your class, please contact your librarians.

We will hope to see you Monday Dec 5<sup>th</sup> (if you are not in Kingston!) If you cannot make it (and have let us know to renew your books) Have a wonderful holiday and we will see you Monday Jan 9<sup>th</sup> with the library opening at 5pm.

### New Books!!!!

We have new books and DVD's to welcome to our collection, so come in early and make them feel welcome!

### *Fleece and Fibre Sourcebook, more than 200 fibres from animal to spun yarn*



by Deborah Robson and Carol Ekarius

This is a fascinating book packed with information. The photos are excellent being clear and well chosen. the only thing I could not find in the book

when I was checking various types of fibre-bearing animals was arctic hare but there is a wonderful section on angora rabbits. if you are interested in making your own fibre binder this will be a greateplace to start.If you have found a wonderful wild new to you fibre and would like some information on it its likely in here too. This looks like it will keep us busy for a while just checking out all the pictures!

Also from interweave we have purchased DVD's for you:

### ***Hand spinning Rare Wools (DVD)***

Deborah Robson

Deborah Robson explores fibre from 38 rare and



endangered breeds of sheep from Great Britain and North America. She gives a history, characteristics of each breed and gives tips on their preparation and spinning. She has an engaging way of explaining her subject and was thoroughly enjoyable to watch. She is extremely passionate about preserving the rare

breeds as a necessity for the future health of sheep breads in general. she had an extremely intriguing idea for using a cat litter box as a fibre tool, I won't say more but you have got to check this DVD out! Some of the breeds she covers are (from interweave lists):

- Northern European short-tailed sheep (plus an intriguing mystery breed)
- Old British breeds introduced in Roman times
- Rare English long wools
- Classic English Down breeds
- Welsh and Border breeds
- American originals
- American feral and semi-ferals.

### ***Spinning for Lace (DVD), Tried and true methods for spinning fine yarns from merino and more***

From Interweaves web site:



Do you long to spin cobweb-fine threads that are both lively and durable? Meet Margaret Stove. Her methods might seem counterintuitive, but they work! A great advocate of the fine Merinos of her native New Zealand, Margaret is fearless in creating plied blends using silk, angora, qivuit, and more.

Learn how to:

- Handle a fine fleece without felting it
- Wash by the lock with shocking vigour and efficiency
- Adjust your wheel tension for exquisite delicacy
- Ply a balanced yarn, or tweak your hand positions for plying different fibres together

Plus, see how to choose and sort a fleece, separate spin-able staples, dissolve the grease, manage the staple to avoid felting and maximize durability and "bounce." Using high magnifications of the fibres and spun yarns, Margaret explains just how it all works.

I was at the Abbotsford bazaar today and as always I took a quick peek at the books for sale "just in case".... So now we have another book for the library (at 2.00 I will donate it!):

### ***Weaving on Cardboard, simple looms to make and use***



Marthann Alexander  
This sounds like an odd little book but it is quite intriguing. It will be very useful for school programs and it has some interesting idea of what to do with an excess of straws (I had no idea

straws were actually weaving implements!). it has instructions to make pouches and bags as well as a fish. How many of us actually have a woven fish? ok I do have one but really how many of the rest of the guild needs a fish? now you can make one on cardboard!

At John Toft's Church bazaar I was able to get a few more **Threads** magazines so I will get those carded in shortly.

At the last meeting I showed those of you who were able to make the cool presentation from the wool growers co op 2 new books. Since I missed getting them into the news letter I had better tell you now:

***Men Who Knit & The Dogs Who Love Them: 30 Great-Looking Designs for Man & His Best Friend***

Annie Modesitt and Drew Emborsky



Although this book is designed for men and discusses men who knit for themselves and their dogs, many of the patterns could certainly be adapted to women who knit for themselves, their men or there cats with only small adjustments to size! This really

is a cute book with some interesting ideas. Tt may get you thinking about keeping your companions with four legs warm in new fashionable ways.

We have been gifted with a beautiful new book for the library on Kumihimo from Robin and Roberta Woods. I have been watching for this book for the library. It covers the use of Japanese braid looms beyond the Moridi such as the **Ayatakedai** (Bamboo stand) and the **Takadai** (High stand). Come in and check it out!

## Upcoming Events

### Textile Temptations

The Textile Museum of Canada will be hosting a fabric sale with a fabulous selection of beads, buttons, sewing and decorator fabrics at 401 Richmond. The sale will take place on Saturday December 10, 10am - 4pm at 401 Richmond Street West in Toronto, Ontario. The sale will be located in the TMC Volunteer Workroom, Suite 1B (in the basement) and all proceeds support the Museum.

There will also be a collection of lace, wool and plenty of holiday gift ideas. Purchase a TMC membership for the textile enthusiast or a one-of-a-kind *mola* from Panama. Better yet, purchase unique fabrics to use as gift wrapping!

Be sure to drop by and check us out.

Alexandra Lopes

Communications & Marketing Coordinator

Textile Museum of Canada

t. 416-599-5321 x2239

f. 416-599-2911

e. [info@textilemuseum.ca](mailto:info@textilemuseum.ca)

w. [www.textilemuseum.ca](http://www.textilemuseum.ca)

### Always wanted to go to India?

Linda of Rose Haven Farm Store is traveling in January and February in India and would welcome a room mate for the Gujarat and Assam parts of her trip. I have already made arrangements for a textile trip in Gujarat that includes: The Calico Museum in Ahmedabad, block & screen printing in Jetpur, Watson Museum at Rajkot, Bhujodi, the home of Chamam Premji, the Indian master weaver that OHS sponsored several years ago, Kal Rashka Training School in Bhuj, Rabari & Bhungas embroidery near Mandvi, tie & dye work of Bandhani, Rabari embroideries in the Kutch, Patola silk textiles and double-ikat weaving in Patan. I will have a private car & driver so we will be very flexible. Accommodation is sometimes modest but also with a few very neat places, like a tented camp on a beach and mud huts in the Kutch, as well as Heritage Palaces. This part of my trip leaves Delhi on February 3 arriving Ahmedabad early evening by plane. The trip runs to February 14 when we fly back to Delhi. This part of the trip would cost a

roommate about \$1000 including the return flight. Many meals are not included but these are not costly. When in Delhi, the plan is to go to the Mela, on Feb. 15, its last day. This is a huge crafts fair just outside of Delhi.

Then the plan is to go on to Assam by flight on Feb. 16 and stay in a lodge to visit the Kaziranga National Park, home of the one-horned rhino and elephant riding! Following this, I intend to visit the village of Sualkuchi, very close to Guwahati, the main city in Assam. This village is renowned for silk production, mainly by hand and their specialty is Muga silk. This part of the trip ought to cost around \$500 - 600. Still working on some details. The trip ends on February 21st in Delhi, then one takes a flight home likely the next day.

I really would welcome someone who has the time to travel, has a passport, likes textiles, can get some shots - not many needed, likes adventure and is open-minded - after all this is India! The costs for these 2 segments are not high because I have already booked them as a single person and a second person makes the costs lower for both. The costs do not include airfare to India which is around \$1100 - 1200 return. I am flying out of Montreal.

If anyone getting this newsletter is at all interested, please email or call me as soon as possible. I would love a companion and this is a very cost effective opportunity, about 1/2 the cost for Russ Mason's trip. Look forward to calls and emails.

Linda Swaine  
613-476-9092  
[rosehavenfarm@sympatico.ca](mailto:rosehavenfarm@sympatico.ca)

### **OHS 2013 Conference (Ontario Handweavers and Spinners)**

May 1 to May 5, 2013: Ottawa's Commitment

The Ottawa Guild is hosting this conference. The guilds in Eastern Ontario are all assisting in the task of presenting an unforgettable conference. Many of the committees and tasks have been assigned, and work is already underway all across Eastern Ontario.

There are several tasks that the Ottawa guild has committed to working on. One pressing task being the workshops that will be presented during the conference. The call for workshop instructors has already gone out and will be appearing in several fibre publications. A committee to receive proposals and organize the workshop instructors and scheduling needs to be started right now.

Join us to find out more:

**MEETING:** to organize the Ottawa guild commitments:  
Mon. Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm in the HH Gallery  
(1 hour before the guild regular January meeting)  
Note: You do not need to be an OHS member to volunteer/assist with the guild conference commitments.



## 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](mailto:melanie_overduin45@hotmail.com)

## Rose Haven Farm Store

Just to let you know Rose Haven Farm Store now carries Fibre Fusion prefelts in a variety of colours. These needle felt merino "sheets" make creating flat felt such as for garments quick and easy. We will also shortly have a good stock of Ashland Bay merino, in solids, variegates and also their merino - silk blend in all their colours.

Further the shop will be open everyday until Christmas, Mondays 10 - 6 and then Sundays noon - 4 should you be in Picton. In the winter starting in January the shop will be open 5 days a week, running from Tuesday - Saturday 10 - 6. Look forward to your visit or call.

Linda Swaine

Rose Haven Farm Store

613-476-9092

[www.rosehavenfarm.net](http://www.rosehavenfarm.net)

## For Sale

Leclerc Nilus 60"12 Harness Loom

-sectional warping beam

-bench, bobbin rack-counter and winder

-4 reeds

\$1000

Leclerc Nilus 36"4 Harness Loom

-bench, reed, raddle

-\$500

Contact: Louise 613-838-2639

## OVWSG Looms For Sale:



### 45" Clement 4-harness loom

Very sturdy -- comes with DVD for assembling -- \$300

Matching bench - \$150

Contact Ann Sunahara 613-728-9691

[studiomanager@ovwsg.com](mailto:studiomanager@ovwsg.com)

***Happy Holidays  
and  
Best Wishes in the  
New Year  
to all!***

| <b>Minutes of General Membership Meeting</b><br><b>7 November 2011, 7:30 p.m. Heartwood House</b> |  |                                    |  |   |
|---|--|------------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Chair: Mandy Heggteit</b>  |  | <b>Present: General Membership</b> |  |   |
| ISSUE   | DISCUSSION   | DECISION                           | RESPONSIBILITY   | DEADLINE  |
| 1. Welcome  | "Welcome" to Janice McDonald who loves her drop spindle; and to Amy who registered for the upcoming beginner's weaving course at this past weekend's Exhibition & Sale.  |                                    |  |   |
| 2. Moving House   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As reported on this evening's news the Heartwood House building has been sold to developers.</li> <li>Ann Sunahara explained recent events regarding lease negotiations. Our current lease expires in Feb 2012. We expect to be informed in a few weeks when tenants have to leave.</li> <li>We are hopeful that our move will be in summer.</li> <li>All 18 Heartwood House agencies have joined together to search for one new location and Ann S. represents OVWSG on that committee. This group has hired a consultant to find a new location.</li> <li>Ann S. will be sending an email requesting input from all members for the new location. We know from survey results, and in general, that we need: min. 1000 sq ft; kitchen facilities; light; parking; downtown; close to 417; on bus routes.</li> <li>Inform Ann S. of any potential sites you may know about, for all 18 agencies or just the guild.</li> <li>OVWSG will need to form its own relocation committee.</li> <li>Ensure your personal property in the Resource Centre is marked with your name as purging will take place soon.</li> </ul> |                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ann S. to email all</li> <li>All to provide input</li> <li>Ensure belongings labelled</li> </ul>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This week</li> <li>a.s.a.p.</li> <li>a.s.a.p.</li> </ul> |
| 3. Workshop Schedule  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The new Workshop Schedule is posted on the wall outside the Resource Centre.</li> <li>Sign up a.s.a.p. as waiting lists are already forming for some classes and the schedule will be sent to other area guilds in next few days.</li> <li>Note that the schedule includes advanced and intermediate level courses requested in the recent survey and these will not be offered again for 2 years.</li> </ul>   |                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sign up a.s.a.p!</li> <li>Don't miss out on requested intermediate &amp; advanced courses!</li> </ul> |   |

| ISSUE                   | DISCUSSION   | DECISION | RESPONSIBILITY   | DEADLINE   |
|-------------------------|--|----------|--|--|
| 4. Two Guild Challenges | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A reminder that the guild's two challenges – spinning and weaving – have a deadline of Feb 2012; an extension is possible.</li> </ul>   |          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All challenge participants</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feb 2012 with possible extension</li> </ul> |
| 5. Exhibition & Sale    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Excellent" is how best to describe this year's Exhibition &amp; Sale!</li> <li>Sue Quinn did an amazing job co-ordinating the event</li> <li>Thanks to all who participated in – demonstrations, making cards, operating the guild table, selling (&amp; buying) raffle tickets, etc.</li> <li>More raffle tickets were sold this year than last year.</li> <li>Vendor gross sales reported so far for this year is approximately \$17,000. This is the first year we asked for an anonymous report of gross sales.</li> <li>The Co-op booth reports sales of \$855 and \$120 of donations.</li> <li>Attendance appeared to be down and with the slow economy, lower sales were reported.</li> </ul> |          |  |  |
| 6. Other Business       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elizabeth Williams confirmed that the <u>Christmas Sale</u> at Heartwood House is Tue 6 Dec, 11:00 to 2:00 with set-up at 10:00 and take down immediately following.</li> <li>Sale items are due on 5 Dec or sooner</li> <li>Volunteers are needed.</li> <li>Items leftover from the guild's Exhibition &amp; Sale can be submitted.</li> <li><u>North Gower Farmer's Market</u> sent the guild a thank you for the display and demonstrations.</li> <li><u>Demonstrations result in financial contributions</u> to the guild, for example, the Ministry of Agriculture sent \$1,000 and there was \$500 from the Plowing Match.</li> </ul>   |          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elizabeth Williams</li> <li>Volunteers</li> <li>All who wish to contribute items to sale</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 Dec or sooner</li> </ul>                  |
| 7. Show & Tell          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Janet K-M had several handwoven blankets in syncopated rosepath with varying weft.</li> <li>Jan shared new books.</li> <li>Kelly passed around an African basket and cards.</li> <li>Judy Kavanaugh had a lovely sweater made from Polwarth, using natural dyes; first time she had knit a sweater top-down.</li> <li>Robert took the rug weaving workshop know-how and tried it out on the rigid heddle with great success.</li> <li>Ruth Cooper had placemats of silk, wool and cotton.</li> <li>Nancy Fontaine had a scarf made of leftover needlepoint wool; a 'fluffy' scarf; and 2 bags.</li> </ul>   |          |  |  |

| ISSUE   | DISCUSSION   | DECISION | RESPONSIBILITY | DEADLINE |
|---|--|----------|----------------|----------|
| <p>8. Guest</p> <p>Wool Growers Co-operative</p> <p>Eric Bjergso, General Manager</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ History of organization began in 1918 in Toronto.</li> <li>▪ Wool was a strategic commodity in war time.</li> <li>▪ Very low numbers of sheep in 70s whereas now in growth mode.</li> <li>▪ Carleton Place site purchased in 1940 and head quarters centralized there in 1967.</li> <li>▪ The Real Wool Shop retail outlet opened in 1979. There is also additional retail to the agricultural industry in the form of various animal &amp; agricultural products.</li> <li>▪ The majority of Canadian wool is shipped to Carleton Place where it is graded, sorted and sold to woollen mills internationally.</li> <li>▪ Over 40% of the world's wool is exported to China; 60-79% of Carleton Place wool is sold to China.</li> <li>▪ Website includes breeder listings if interested in particular type of fleece.</li> <li>▪ "Lambsdown Park Festival" is held in June each year.</li> </ul> <p>There is a premium fleece division that caters to handspinners.</p> |          |                |          |