

Ottawa Valley Weavers' & Spinners' Guild April 2012 Newsletter

Message from your President

Mandy Heggtveit

Shortly before going to sit down and write this month's message I received an email from Shirley B. informing me that Robert Leclerc had died. I had met Mr. Leclerc in 1972 when he came to our house to look at my brand-new 45" Nilus to find out why I was not able to get a decent shed. He was most helpful and I had the distinct feeling that here was someone who was deeply interested in and committed to offering the weaving community the best product possible. I had not thought of Mr. Leclerc for a long time and presumed that he had died a while back. And then I thought that with Robert Leclerc's passing – and that of many others in our community - an era had come to an end. I reminded myself that so many individuals who played seminal roles in bringing our crafts into the 20th century - locally, nationally and internationally - are either forgotten or unknown altogether today. Oh, those sixties and seventies! Yes, they were the days of handwoven ponchos that weighed a ton and Indian Spinners that produced yarn as thick as my fingers, but, more importantly, they were the years of experimentation, of breaking rules and of looking at handspun yarns and handwoven fabrics in the context of their own intrinsic beauty and beyond technical skill. We are so lucky today to have all sorts of highly sophisticated equipment and a variety of fibres and yarns we could not imagine 40 years ago. Speaking entirely for myself, I believe that, today, some of us make things that not so long ago only industry was able to produce and I wonder at times why we are trying to emulate techniques used in industry because we have the necessary tools and therefore can and not because our intended project requires it. Have we lost something the 'pioneers' were able to accomplish?

In this context I want to encourage all Guild members to participate in the current Guild Challenges. There will be special categories for novice spinners and weavers so there is no excuse for new members to participate. The parameters for the spinning and weaving challenges were published several times in previous Newsletters but I asked Melanie to include them as well in this one. The deadline for the Challenge Competition is the October 2012 monthly meeting.

Lastly, elections for members of the Executive and for coordinators will take place during the Annual General Meeting on May 7th and everyone of us should be prepared to get a call, or email call to duty.

Looking forward to seeing you at the April meeting!

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Next Meeting: Monday, April 2nd, 2012

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

Program: A presentation by Maggie Glossop – her lifelong adventure with fibres. Many of you know Maggie through her specific courses given to the Guild, but here is your opportunity to hear about all her many different interests and pursuits. There will be a slide show and examples of her work on display.

Demystifying juried shows/sales.

Our next meeting: Monday, May 7th, 2012.

OVWSG Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the guild will be held the 1st Monday of May, at which time the elections for the incoming executive will be held.

At this time, we need members to consider taking on positions so the guild can continue its many programs. It takes a lot of people to make this guild work and it is hoped we can count on you to fill some positions. A complete listing will be available in the May newsletter. If you would like further information of what positions are vacant, please contact sbrowsky@sympatico.ca.

Membership

Memberships expire April 30th

(unless you joined in 2012)

It is membership renewal time. You may renew at the next meeting. Please fill in one of the application forms with your renewal (it helps my bookkeeping). Copy will be attached to the newsletter

Individual \$40.00 Family \$55.00 (at same address). Make cheques payable to OVWSG.

If paying Cash, please try to have the correct change. If mailing: OVWSG, 153 Chapel St., Ottawa, ON, K1N 1H5, Attention: Membership

Guild Challenge 2011-2012

Weaving Component Directions for Hand-woven Yardage

1. Inspiration: Any weaving draft published before 1975 We suggest that you consult publications such as Warp and Weft or Loom Music where a wealth of interesting weave structures can be found. The challenge is for weavers to use the weave structure and re-interpret it in a contemporary aesthetic.

- 2. Materials: Any yarn in any fibre What is important to consider is the suitability of the materials for the purpose of the yardage.
- 3. Minimum Length: three (3) yards Three yards are the absolute minimum but weavers may wish to weave considerably longer warps.
- 4. Minimum width: 28 inches 28 inches are the minimum requirement but any width wider than 28 inches is eligible. The minimum width can be achieved by sewing yardages of several narrower widths together.
- 5. Assessment: Submissions will be evaluated based on the level of their
- a. Aesthetic appearance
- b. Technical mastery
- c. Suitability of fabric for intended purpose Please advise Mandy Heggtveit (heggtveit@rogers.com) of your intent to participate in the Weaving Component of the 2011-12 Guild Challenge.

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.

Exhibition & Sale 2012

We've received 7 confirmed booth applications. Please get your applications in so that we can determine if we need to extend invitations to Vendors beyond current members. Also please note the following correction in that the long and narrow booths are 5 X 16, not 5 X 20, as given in the floor plan. My apologies for any confusion this caused.

Many thanks to Louise LeBerge, Francesca Overend, Jean Sharp and Linda Tate for volunteering to coordinate the volunteers, finances, publicity and bookmarks respectively for the 2012 Exhibition and Sale. There remain two key positions in need of coordination. The first is the fund raising activity which I had overseen during the last couple of years. This involves deciding on what would be a good fundraiser, co-ordinating both the contributions and the manning of the booth during the sale. The second is the all important Demonstration. This is the showcase for guild members to display their wonderful creations. Neither position is particularly difficult and would give new members a great opportunity to get to know their fellow fibre artists. I look forward to hearing from you. Final note, the dimensions of the booth are in the application. Thanks in advance. Anne Middleton (613) 728-0941 or guildsale@hotmail.com.

Upcoming Events

Westport Dandelion Gardens Studio Tour May 19 - 21, 2012

The annual Westport and Area Dandelion Gardens Studio Tour is being held again on the May long weekend from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Our unique fine art includes magical Photographic art, eclectic sculptures, primitive rughooking, felted items, gorgeous comfortable clothing, stained and mosaic glass, garden art made from recycled farm equipment; unique pottery, weaving, rustic furniture, garden sculptures and much more. For more info contact Loretta Moore at 613-273-8347 or at hookedonthelake@kingston.net or see our

website at

www.artatwork.ca/westport studiotours.

Call for Artists: Art Exhibition & Sale

For the Love of the Farm
Application Deadline: June 4, 2012
It is with great pleasure that the Friends of the
Central Experimental Farm ask for artists'
submissions to our Art Exhibition & Sale, "For the
Love of the Farm" to be held October 6 to 8, 2012,
noon to 6 p.m. If you have any further questions,
please call the office, Monday through Thursday, 9
a.m. – 3 p.m., 613-230-3276.
info@friendsofthefarm.ca,
www.friendsofthefarm.ca

The Wrapping Cloth Workshop & Lecture Series

2 Day Felt Making Workshop Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, Almonte, ON Saturday April 28th & 29th from 9.30 am to 4pm Join internationally renowned FELT MAKER, SUE PEARL and share her felt making techniques and innovations. SUE PEARL lives in London, England and is an active member of the International Felt Makers Association (www.feltmakers.com). She has just returned from three months in Australia where she taught workshops and met Australian felt makers. (see article in 'Felt Matters,' March 2012 issue, "Pam de Groot, Australia"). She is now planning her April and May 2012 sojourn in New York, Montreal and Ottawa with the help of "The Wrapping Cloth". Her busy schedule includes a two day workshop in Hudson – April 25th and 26th and at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, Almonte -April 28th and 29th.

For more information check out her web site www.feltbetter.com

Day 1. INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES

How to make a creative piece of flat felt
How to make felt beads

How to make pre-felt to create graphic shapes and pictures

Learn the basics of cobweb and nuno felt

Day 2. INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS

Three dimensional felt items

Design and Make a felt bag using the techniques from Day 1.

Learn about the International felting 'scene and how to access supplies

The Canadian workshops will be covered in the Autumn issue of 'Felt Matters'

WORKSHOP FEE: \$95 per day or \$175 for 2 days Supply kit \$25 per person

Refreshment provided but please bring your own

To reserve a place: email: shedlandstudios@magma.ca

curator@mvtm.ca

thewrappingcloth@bell.net *

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

Spring Shearing of coated Canadian Polwarths is happening Saturday April 28th at Shirley Browsky's farm outside of Navan. Helpful hands are always welcome and are rewarded with 1st pick of the 17 coated fleeces AND lunch, comraderie and a learning experience. Fleece will be sold that day at \$10 per pound for coated and \$8 per pound uncoated.

If you would like to help, please let me know sbrowsky@sympatico.ca

For Sale:

A 36 inch loom and necessary articles, bench, swift, etc. including several bobbins of wool. Also, instruction books and magazine articles about weaving. In good working condition with all necessary items for weaving. \$600 or best offer. Dan 613-829-0343; dfaber@ncf.ca

For Sale:

- 20 inch Schacht Flip loom. This loom has been used no more than 3 times and is in as-new condition. It comes with an 8 dent reed and all original equipment - clamps, warping peg, extra warp rod, instructions, 2 shuttles and reed and heddle hook. Inserts are in place for the new style stand. \$180.00" firm. 613 862 0097

OCAD University - Used Loom Sale

All floor looms are for sale in as is condition and include a bench, but do not include any other additional supplies, tools or parts.

Cash sale only.

36" Leclerc Jack Loom \$300

4 units for sale

45" 16 shaft AVL Loom \$4000

Fly shuttle beater

72" Shannock Tapestry Loom \$1000

Reeds – a variety of used reeds for sale \$10-30

See selection available in office

Inquire in person at:

OCAD University, Fibre Studio

100 McCaul Street, Toronto

Room 201, Monday to Friday, 9:00-5:00

Email inquiries to:

Laurie Wassink - lwassink@faculty.ocadu.ca

Wish List:

LeClerc Artisat 36" Folding Floor Loom, warping board, orwarping mill, Kate @ 613 237-9812

Minutes of General Membership Meeting 5 March 2012, 7:30 p.m. Heartwood House

Chair: Ann Sunahara Present: General Membership

ISSUE	DISCUSSION	DECISION	RESPONSIBILITY	DEADLINE
1. Welcome	 Ann Sunahara explained that she was the Chair this evening and a sympathy card for Mandy was available for members to sign. Ann welcomed this evening's visitors and new members: Lisa has taken a few courses now, joining the guild to learn to weave and has found inspiration to finish several projects. Denise wants to meet more spinners Elsa declares she is a weaver in training Eleanor joined at the last meeting, is weaving and learning to spin 		members to mbers: ne guild to finish	
2. REPORTS				
a. Resource Centre	now off the 10	r the raffle at N 0-inch loom. ns have or will	lovember's Exhibition have very soon, warp	
b. The Move	 Ann Sunahara There are 2 gr Heartwood Ho space and ma The 45 Montre requires renov Now under rev includes 11 ap time but could HH has a cond 	provided an uoups that have use (HH). Othey take up that eal Rd purchas ations and the view is 400-412 part units. Some be expanded in the price of the expanded in the expand		for new ad as it ansion. aza that ad at this as needed. rent would

	ISSUE	DISCUSSION	DECISION	RESPONSIBILITY	DEADLINE
C.	Membership	 Membership Convenor, Laurie Harkin-Chiasson, reminded all that membership renewals are due in April. Please renew. 			
d.	Workshops	 Elizabeth Watt provided an update on the status of upcoming workshops The full calendar is now available on the website An email reminder will be sent out for workshops for the next month 			
e.	Demonstrations	 Jan provided us with details on an upcoming demo at the Ottawa Farm Show, March 13 to 15th. Contact Jan if you are available. 			
f.	Library	Jan provided a brief update on new items in the Library and those on order. Your feedback on these new items is appreciated and helpful in determining whether or not to order more, for example, more of that author.			
g.	Exhibition & Sale	 Louise Laberg for set-up, take Linda Tait has construction If you would liproduct as so bookmarks. A fundraising been cards measurements and something different interested in Also need sor for the Exhibit Other ideas under the Challenge need 8 – 12 year of The Guild's measurements and Coordinator is from the City. 	Ann Middleton provided an update Louise Laberge will be organizing volunteers, including those for set-up, take-down, the guild table, etc. Linda Tait has accepted duties related to bookmark construction If you would like to be a vendor, please submit photos of your product as soon as possible as these are needed for the bookmarks. A fundraising table convenor is needed. In the past there have been cards made by many for sale at this table. It is time for something different, for example, tree ornaments. See Ann M. if interested in this role. Also need someone to do the set-up / layout and organization for the Exhibition, and the same for the Demonstration area. Other ideas under consideration include: (1) The Guild Challenge needs to be worked into the display (2) a course for 8 – 12 year olds. The Guild's major annual fundraiser is the sale of tickets for the Raffle which coincides with the Exhibition and Sale. A Raffle Coordinator is needed. The primary work is obtaining a license from the City.		
3.	Show & Tell	 Kelly and Annowe weave it' sque Small Projects They will bring Alison showed she recently and Annowed She recently and Annowed She s	showed Kelly's ares. Both Kelly's Workshop in vog finished projed us her treasulattended.	s family heirloom blan ly and Ann recently co which they used 'weav cts to a future meeting res from the Inkle Loo d runner, a knitted sca	ompleted the ve it' looms. g. m Workshop

ISSUE	DISCUSSION	DECISION	RESPONSIBILITY	DEADLINE
4. Program	yarns; alpaca, colourful wool, Jan recently ac inkle shuttle, a Marilyn Milliga handspun weft Francesca sha completed on a Ann Middleton completed a harmonic weave Amanda was well and seven and was well allowed for a described of the end of the Part of the purencourage mencourage menco	h showed us a core spun on a mohair, nylon equired a zebra nd 2 mini inkle n showed us he ared the Bonnie 4 harnesses are attended the reandwoven alpayed her "sun, moton. I wearing her has program was erend represerving and An ers provided satiscussion on justative juror emon parts of the Minutes. pose of offering mbers to contrate the Co-op Teat t	a wood inkle shuttle, a shuttles. er handwoven blanke et I workshop inspired and an airy scarf, 8 EP recent lace weave work aca handspun shawl. hoon, stars" pattern of a moon, stars pattern of a m	d socks of a red cedar at with runner I. rkshop and covershot address. The watter of the item as to hibition and submit their er the sale Guild earns arors of provide a ring with the rested in the labelling details can cosite/cb-



Ottawa Valley Weavers' and Spinners' Guild Heartwood House, 153 Chapel St, Ottawa, ON K1N 1H5

Web: http://www.ovwsg.com
General E-Mail: info@ovwsg.com

1991 REVISED STANDARDS (Updated April 2000)

In the constitution of the OVWSG, the purpose of the Guild is defined: "to promote interest in handweaving and encourage in its members a high standard of craftsmanship and design".

At the October 1976 meeting a motion was proposed and carried that "a standards committee will be set up whose purpose will be to give a constructive evaluation of members' work, to screen Guild shows and sales, and to serve as an educational committee for the Guild. This committee will be made up of a convener elected by the Guild, one person, preferably with an art-design background, appointed by the convener, and two weavers appointed by the president. It would be helpful if one member of the committee had spinning experience."

Since 1976, the OVWSG Standards have been revised and approved by the membership in 1982 and 1986 to assure that uniform and high quality standards will be maintained during functions performed under the Guild's name. Publication of these standards also provides Guild members with guidelines concerning the quality of work expected. The purpose of the present revision is to reflect the progress and diversity of members, as well as the technology of today.

When necessary, experts will be called upon to give advice or constructive criticism.

SPINNING:

- 1. All handspun yarns must be well constructed to suit the end product and fibre used.
- 2. Fibre choice must suit the end product, e.g. do not choose a scratchy fleece to spin yarn for a delicate shawl.
- 3. Commercial threads may be incorporated into handspun yarns provided that they do not detract from the handspun appearance. Commercial threads must not overpower the handspun component.
- 4. All dyeing must be colour fast and guaranteed not to crock or run when washed.
- 5. All skeins must be washed, finished and properly tied and labeled with fibre content, yardage, weight of skein, and washing instructions.
- 6. Finishing of handspun articles must be done according to the finishing section of the standards in this document.
- 7. If commercial yarns are used in the construction of a yarn, it must be labeled as handmade, not handspun yarn.
- 8. Articles that are knit or crocheted must be made from handspun or handmade yarns.

WEAVING:

Technically Well Woven - While design and color can be instinctively known, technically good weaving can only be acquired through practice and experimentation to attain efficiency at the loom. Some of the essentials for good weaving are:

- 1. No mistakes in threading, sleying and treadling.
- 2. Even selvedges, where applicable.
- 3. No knots in warp or weft unless it is part of the technique used.
- 4. Weft joins should be made as invisibly as possible.
- 5. Use an even, correct beat for the type of fabric being woven.
- 6. Thread, reed and sleying should be harmonized to produce the correct warp setting in the fabric suited for the purpose.
- 7. Fibre choice, yarn construction and weave structure must be suitable for the intended purpose. For example:

Table linens must be launderable

Clothing fabrics cannot be rough and scratchy

No long floats on the surface of upholstery.

- 8. Like items to be sold or shown in sets must be even in length and width.
- 9. All articles woven off-loom must follow good design, production and finishing techniques, as outlined in this document.

OTHER FIBRE RELATED CRAFTS:

(e.g. Felting, Coiling, Plaiting, Surface Design, Dyeing, etc.)

In order to encourage innovation, Guild members are requested to submit to the Standards Committee fibre related work which may not be covered by the weaving and spinning standards. When the Guild member is submitting work using a technique or method of production not covered by existing standards, the submission must be accompanied by a verbal or written presentation. The new work will be reviewed by the Standards Committee and critiqued using comparable high standards as a guideline to determine acceptability for exhibition or sale at Guild sponsored functions. The committee will seek out expertise in the fibre field under consideration when necessary.

FINISHING:

Quality finishing is part of good craftsmanship, as in the following:

- 1. Construction of garments should follow good dressmaking practices:
 - All inside seams must be a minimum of 5/8 inch or properly serged where appropriate.
 - Inside raw edges properly finished: butted as invisibly as possible, zig-zagged, serged, bound (satin, tulle, seam saver, ultra suede, silk, etc.), turned under, or finished by hand.
 - Loose thread ends clipped.
 - Finished garments must have matching sleeve lengths and matching front edges.
 - Hems must be even and secure, flat and well pressed.
- Pattern repeats must be matched at seams if called for in design.

- Any visible machine stitching should be even and well pressed.
- In a lined garment, the lining must be pre-shrunk and capable of being cleaned in the same manner as the handweaving without distortion.
- Accessories such as buttons, hooks, snaps and zippers should be of good quality and well applied.
- 2. Good finishing practices, as listed previously, should be employed when making articles other than garments.
- 3. Articles other than garments must be finished in a manner appropriate to the weaving structure used.
- 4. All articles offered for show, sale or exhibition must be guaranteed to be launderable according to the care instructions provided with the article.
- 5. Handspun and knitted or crocheted articles must be blocked and well sewn.
- 6. Stuffing in cushions must be contained in a removable inner lining.
- 7. Wall hangings must be ready to hang with a mounting device attached and must not sag or buckle unless so designed. It must be tidy on back or smoothly lined.
- 8. Labels and tags must be properly affixed according to the Federal regulations. (Industry Canada, Guide to the <u>Textile Labelling and Advertising Regulations</u>). Copies of the document are available in the OVWSG library.

Internet references:

Industry Canada's Textile Labelling page:

http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/SSG/cp01088e.html

Official Government of Canada Statutes site containing the Textile Labelling Act:

http://canada.justice.gc.ca/STABLE/EN/Laws/Chap/T/T-10.html

- 9. Embellishments to weaving such as cuffs, bands, yokes, sleeves, collars, incorporating felting, machine knitting, macrame, commercial trims or fabrics are permitted provided they are less than 50%.
- 10. If machine knitting is used in an article it must be specified.
- 11. Finishing for carpets:
 - Federal regulation requires that rugs which are over 6' x 4' must be tested by a lab.
 - For durability, linen or cotton fringes must be braided, plied or plaited if not sewn back into the rug.
 - Refer to labelling instructions in the Government regulations for special labelling requirements.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- 1. Bilingual product tags must include:
 - Weaver's or spinner's name and full address
 - Fibre content by descending order of percent by weight
 - Care instructions (limited selection available from the library)
 - Upholstery or stuffed product label (available from the library)
- 2. Any article incorporating machine knitting must be so labeled.
- 3. Articles judged unacceptable by the standards committee cannot be exhibited or sold at Guild sponsored functions until corrected and resubmitted to standards.
- 4. Articles that are knit or crocheted must be made from handspun or handmade yarns.

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Web: http://www.ovwsg.com General E-Mail: info@ovwsg.com Membership: membership@ovwsg.com Version: Form updated Sept. 15, 2011

Membership Application / Renewal Form

ANNUAL FEE: Individual \$40.00 Family (same address) \$55.00

The Membership period is from May 1 to April 30.

New Members who join from February-April, the fee remains the same as above. However, the membership expiry is extended to April 30, of the following year, (i.e. receive a few extra months)

Renewals are payable at the April or May meeting or by mail. (Non-renewals by the June meeting, we will assume no intent to renew, with subsequent removal from membership list/newsletter etc.)

Please make cheques payable to: Ottawa Valley Weavers' & Spinners' Guild (or OVWSG) Note: If also paying for workshops, booth fees etc., please make separate cheques for each service.

Please Print Clearly:	
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Annual Exhibition and Sale Sale exhibitor _	
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