



Ottawa Valley Weavers' & Spinners' Guild

May 2012 Newsletter

Message from your President

Mandy Heggteit

Did you ever notice that spinners and weavers, more often than not, are really good cooks? Whenever several of us get together for a meal and everybody contributes something – there is not a pot-luck in the making but a banquet. Thinking about this I realized that the parallels that can be drawn between cooking and weaving, spinning, dyeing, felting or whatever should not come as a surprise since they all involve a creative process. I cooking, a meal usually starts out with a recipe that we were attracted to based on past experience. We follow the recipe and then, if not the first time then certainly when we try it again, we make it our own by adding this, changing that or substituting an ingredient. Working in our crafts we do the same: we find a weave structure, an interesting yarn, pattern, colour or finished article that looks interesting and we use it as a starting point for a project. Speaking from my own experience, finished articles are often quite different from their inspiration – and a dish unrecognizable. After cooking for years we realize that we don't need recipes and can concoct respectable meals from what happens to be at hand; and we spin a yarn or weave a blanket without following prescribed instructions. For creativity to be truly successful it is also important to be aware that rules, or recipes, are not carved in stone, that we must have the courage to go beyond the tried and proven, to try something new and, if necessary, break rules. The worst that can happen if something does not turn out as we expected is that we learn from experience.

While I hopefully have your attention I would like to draw your attention to the following five workshops schedules for May:

- * May 12 Sewing with handwoven fabrics (Nancy Gauthier)
- * May 19 Yarn Design: How to dazzle yourself (Shirley Browsky)
- * May 19 Spinning Flax into Linen (Cindy O'Gorman)
- * May 26 Introduction to Spinning on a Wheel (Elizabeth Watt)
- * May 27 Introduction to multi-harness Weaving (day 1, followed by days 2 – 4 on June 3, 17, and 24) (moi)

Some of these courses are offered this year and will most likely not be offered again in the near future. If you need more information on any of the workshop please check our website or speak to the instructor.

As you know, the May meeting is our Guild's Annual General Meeting and includes Executive Committee reports, reports from the managers and coordinators as well as elections. Although this might not sound like a terribly exciting program, it actually is really informative. I especially encourage the many members who joined the Guild during the past two years to attend the meeting not only to learn more about it but to become actively involved by letting their names stand for one of the positions that still need to be filled.

As you might know, my term as President of the OVWSG is coming to an end on May 7th and I would like to thank my colleagues on the Executive Committee, the managers and coordinators of the subcommittees and everyone who contributed to make our Guild the successful organization it is. I would also like to assure you that, not having had a Vice-President last year, I will provide my full support and guidance to the next President. See you on May 7th!

Inside this Issue ...

- 1 President's Message
- 2 Next Meeting
- 2 Guild Challenge
- 2 Membership
- 2 Resource Centre: Library
- 3 Workshops
- 3 Ex & Sale 2012
- 3 Upcoming Events
- 4 Demonstrations
- 4 Heartwood House Bonds
- 5 Upcoming Events
- 5 Marketplace
- 6 Guild Meeting Minutes: April 2nd , 2012

Next Meeting: Monday, May 7th, 2012

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

Program:

Since the May meeting is our AGM there will be no program this month. In June, the last meeting before the summer break, we are asking vendors to bring products for sale and members to bring unwanted stash to sell. It will be an opportunity to network and to buy goodies for summer projects. There will be tables set out in the meeting room to display your wares.

Our next meeting: Monday, June 4th, 2012.

Guild Challenge

Fiber Challenge

There will be extra fiber for pick up at the Resource Center at 6:30 pm.

The fiber is 100g for \$8.00. Please bring exact change.

Membership

All Memberships Expire on April 30, 2012 (except those who joined in 2012)

Approx. 50% of members have renewed, as of the Apr. meeting. Thank-you to those of you who have been prompt in getting your renewals submitted.

You may renew at the May meeting, see me (Laurie), at the membership table, in the Gallery entranceway.

Or, mail your renewal to:

OVWSG,
153 Chapel St.,
Ottawa, ON K1N 1H5

Memberships \$40.00 Family \$55.00 (at same address)

Make cheques payable to: OVWSG

Note: You must be a paid-up member to have a vote at the AGM Meeting in May.

Membership policy: Non-renewals by the end of the June meeting, we will assume no intent to renew, with subsequent removal from membership list/newsletter etc.

Resource Centre: Library

As I announced at the last meeting I have ordered a book *Weaving Textiles That Shape Themselves* by Ann Richards. I had an email from Amazon saying there was a delay in publishing and it would be available in October.....but it snowed last week so it must have been October, because the book arrived the next day!



The library will be open at 5 pm on the Monday of the meeting. So please come in and check out our new weaving book!

I was also able to get a copy of the *Wheel Magazine* from Ashford so you may want to check that out too. We now have a good selection of spinning, weaving, and even a DVD on dyeing! Remember to check around your house for stray guild books, we are missing some and would love to see them again.

When checking out books be sure to fill out the card at the back of the book with your name and the date the book will be due back (that the next meeting - there is always a sign on the sign out desk with the correct due date). Please print neatly as it makes it easier on the librarians. If you can't make it to the next meeting contact the librarians and we will renew the book for you. If you forget then we are happy to take your contribution to the new book fund (\$1.50 per book per month late). Come in and check out the books. Its nice and quiet before the meeting so select a cool book and enjoy it before the meeting. See you soon! Jan
jsrmt@hotmail.com

Workshops

Planning for workshops for 2013 is now underway! If you are interested in teaching a workshop or two next year please contact the Workshop Co-ordinator (Elizabeth Watt) with the following information:

- * Name and description of workshop including class size limit, and materials fee (if applicable)
- * Preferred dates for workshop (we'll do our best to accommodate your preferences but if you don't give us dates we'll assume that we can slot you in at our convenience)
- * A short biography

* A picture of you for the website and promotional handouts

If there is a particular type of workshop you would like to see offered you are encouraged to pass along that request to the Workshop Co-ordinator as well. Don't assume that because it was offered previously it will be offered again!

Deadline for submissions is June 30, 2012. This allows sufficient time for planning and for promotional material to be prepared in advance of the Guild Sale and Exhibit in the fall.

Exhibition & Sale 2012 Update

Great News! There are only a few booths left for the November sale. So if you know of any fibre artist who might be interested in joining us, please ask them to email guildsale@hotmail.com. First come first serve! We needed to turn away applicants last year.

There remain two key opportunities for newer members to contribute: fundraising table and exhibition. In the past, the fundraising table consisted of either organizing the making and selling of cards or Christmas tree ornaments along with the vendors contributions. These dollars are used to help support our workshops and library. The coordinator would organize sessions at the Resource Centre which have in the past provided members an opportunity to meet others and cement friendships. For the exhibition, the results of last years Guild Challenge will be put on display for client voting. Additionally, there will be a display of household items hand crafted by members. We are looking for someone with experience, or an interest, in displaying art to its best advantage to coordinate the collection of items and their display.

Please contact Anne Middleton at 613-728-0941 if you are interested in volunteering for either role.

Alternatively you can send an email to guildsale@hotmail.com.

We will be providing an opportunity to have your fibre creations juried at the June meeting (June 4th). All vendors are expected to meet the Guild standards. Both those renting a booth for the first time and anyone interested in adding a few items to the guild co-op booth can bring samples of their items in June. This allows plenty of time to bulk up in time for the sale in November.

Finally I would like to thank those who have come forward to take on the many other jobs which make the annual Ex and Sale a success each year. Your contributions are invaluable!

Happy Spinning, Weaving or just playing with fibre!
Anne

Demonstrations

We are starting to get requests for demos. I will keep track of these and pass them on to the new demo coordinator. Although I have enjoyed being demo coordinator, I have lately been run off my feet and just don't have enough time to do the job justice this year. It's not nearly as time consuming as library, is but it does require a bit of organizational planning and close contact with emails. We have the demo boxes with supplies ready to go and a very active group of spinners who do a wonderful job for the guild. We would love to have more weavers volunteer (we are a weaving and spinning guild so it would be nice to have both demonstrated!) If you don't have a table loom or just don't want to take your own, the guild has a demo loom and I still have 2 of my table looms set up and they can be borrowed. This is a great way to meet other members of the guild so do consider volunteering for demos or for being Demo Coordinator. P.S. I also have lots of signs, name tags, and business card files on the computer and can send them to the new coordinator if they would like! I'm also available if there are any

questions. Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers; you have been an excellent example of our craft as we as educating the public that weaving and spinning are not a dying art (yes, I know dyeing is an art, but you know what I mean!) Thank you again!

Heartwood House Bonds

Heartwood House announces the Heartwood House Community Bonds: a socially responsible investment plan. We invite you to take advantage of this personal investment opportunity, and at the same time support many worthy causes in the community. Your investment will enable 18 small non-profit charitable organizations to continue serving the community by providing them with affordable accommodation under one roof. Our member groups provide health and social services, adult and family literacy programs, economic development initiatives, low income housing, sustainability projects, employment training, immigrant services, and arts initiatives.

Participants include the homeless, women, youth and children, seniors, immigrants, the disabled, unemployed or underemployed people.

Heartwood House has to move. In the fall of 2011 we learned that 153 Chapel Street had been sold to developers, and we have decided to embark on the ambitious plan of buying our own building. This will provide the long term security and stability that our 18 groups have been denied as tenants, and guarantee affordable housing for all the member groups for the foreseeable future. Our offer to purchase 400-412 McArthur Avenue in Overbrook has been accepted, and we are now busy refining our business plan, and arranging the finances to make our dream come true. With expert advice and guidance our financial plan has fallen into place, and we are now coming to the Heartwood community with a sound investment proposition

that will raise the transition funds to facilitate the move to our new location in September 2012. We invite you to purchase a Heartwood House Community Bond. Each bond costs \$5,000. The interest rate is 4% the length of term 5 years. Interest is paid out once a year. The fund will be capped at \$60,000. Our deadline to raise the necessary funds is May 31st 2012. If you would like to learn more about this investment opportunity more information to Moe Moloughney 613-241-5937 Heartwood House Fund-raising Committee members Isobel Bisby 613-304-7919 ibisby@gmail.com or Sharon Collins 613-816-4307 caj_2@sympatico.ca Thank you.

Upcoming Events

Twist Fibre Festival

Looking for a fibre adventure this summer? Your search is over. Introducing Twist Fibre Festival, a brand new event taking place in St-Andre-Avellin, Quebec created to serve fibre addicts of all kinds. The festival which runs August 24th to August 26th will host twenty vendors and feature classes by internationally known fibre superstars such as The Yarn Harlot and Pluckyfluff in addition to workshops by local fibre artists such as Carol Secord of Wabi Sabi and Tonia Weber of Twiss & Weber.

The festival is still looking for more fibre vendors. They want both fibre distributors as well as handmade fibre arts and crafts. They're also looking for a tapestry weaving instructor. If you are interested contact: info@festivaltwist.org or give Wabi Sabi a call at 613-725-5648.

On Saturday August 25th Wabi Sabi will be hiring a bus to take forty lucky fibre lovers to the festival. We will leave in the morning and arrive home in the early evening. Tickets are \$35.00 only but

space is limited. If you are interested contact Wabi Sabi carol@wabi-sabi.ca For more information about this wonderful event visit: www.festivaltwist.org

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:

Leclerc solid maple open end loom bench (23"h x 38"l x 14"w). \$100.

Julie 613-249-9793; jzdunich@gmail.com

Alpaca Shearing Volunteers

So you know your yarns, and you know your fleeces, but you really want the hands-on experience? Come out to the Alpaca Barrio and help shear for a day. The alpacas are full with fibre this time of year and they love the day at the spa. What's more, you'll be rewarded in fibre. looking for help on weekends (and maybe weekdays) during May and early June. Everything is subject to weather. The farm (www.alpacabarrio.com) is just east of Rockland. contact Sheila for more information and scheduling:

sheila@alpacabarrio.com or 613.488.2777

Minutes of General Membership Meeting 2 April 2012, 7:30 p.m. Heartwood House				
Chair: Mandy Heggteit		Present: General Membership		
ISSUE	DISCUSSION	DECISION	RESPONSIBILITY	DEADLINE
1. Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Kate Mullin has been weaving since her teens and she held the guild's Public Relations position in 1984. ◆ Stephanie is a knitter who took up spinning in January; she has been making her own spindles and then she discovered an Ashford traditional wheel. 			
2. Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mandy shared several pieces of information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Twist Fibre Festival is to be held at the end of August. There will be more details in the next Newsletter. Our guild could get a booth if members were interested. ii. Hopewell Eating Disorder Support Group, a Heartwood House agency, is co-hosting a free Suicide Awareness workshop, which includes "safe-talk" training. It will take place in the Art Gallery at Heartwood House on April 24th, 1:00 – 4:00. ▪ Amanda shared information that the Rare Breeds group will be bringing fleece to the Knitters Guild meeting on April 16th. 			
3. REPORTS				
a. The Move – update from Ann Sunahara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ An offer has been made by Heartwood House to purchase the property at 400-412 McArthur Ave. A former Giant Tiger location, the site offers excellent parking and opportunities for expansion. The offer is valid until the end of April and allows for inspections, etc. The financing situation appears to be excellent. ◆ If this offer goes through Heartwood House will take possession July 3rd and we will move September 15th. ◆ Note that due to the move situation, etc., the executive recently voted to extend our lease at Heartwood house until September 30th. 			
b. Membership – update from Laurie Harkin-Chiasson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ All membership renewals are due April 30th (unless you just joined recently). ◆ Membership must be paid and up-to-date for members to vote at May's Annual General Meeting (AGM) and to borrow items from the library. ◆ Any memberships not renewed will be followed up with a reminder in June. 			

c. OHS Conference – update from Laurie Harkin-Chiasson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Ontario Handweavers and Spinners (OHS) Conference will be hosted by our guild in November 2013, along with contributions from other eastern Ontario guilds. ▪ There will be a meeting for the OHS Conference on Sunday, April 15th at Heartwood House. ▪ Numerous submissions have been received in response to the Call for Interest for workshops. Angela McInnis volunteered to take the OHS Conference Workshops position.
d. Workshops – update from Elizabeth Watt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A workshop currently scheduled for Wednesday April 18th is an error and will be re-scheduled. No one has yet signed up for this time slot. ▪ See the full schedule of workshops on the web site.
e. Nominations – update from Mandy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shirley Browsky, Past President, is organizing nominations for elections at May's AGM. ▪ New members are needed for executive roles and a variety of positions. ▪ In general, roles in the guild may involve about 1-1/2 hours of time per month.
f. Demonstrations – update from Jan Scott	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There was a very good radio interview at the recent Ottawa Valley Farm Show at the new Convention Centre. ▪ The next demo will be at Elmwood School. ▪ A new Demo Co-ordinator is needed.
g. Program – update from Janet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The next General Membership meeting in May will be the AGM. ▪ The program for the June meeting will be on "de-stashing"
h. Guild Challenge – info from Mandy & Aurora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A reminder of the Guild Challenge, for each spinning and weaving ▪ Details are in the April newsletter ▪ Due date is October 2012 ▪ For novices too! ▪ Email Aurora if you need more fibre for the Spinning Challenge.
i. Library – update from Jan Scott	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A weaving book on order has been delayed by the publisher until October. ▪ See what's new in your library!
j. Exhibition & Sale – update from Anne Middleton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Many details are in the Newsletter. ▪ Thank you to those who have taken on roles for this wonderful event. ▪ Two people are needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Fundraiser Co-ordinator – to organize a guild fundraising table for the event along with the encouragement of members to make items for this table. In the past, the Fundraising Co-ordinator organized the making of cards by setting aside times for card making and then set up and operation of the table with others' help. It's time for a change from cards. Do you have suggestions for fundraising items? (2) Demonstration Co-ordinator – this role entails organizing the demonstration

	space with sample items, usually along the theme; and arranges volunteers to be on hand over the weekend to show visitors what we do at OVWSG.
4. Show & Tell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rebecca: drop spindles don't go through airport security because of the metal hook on the bottom. Samples were provided for Rebecca's upcoming workshop in June on portable card weaving. ▪ Yvonne: handspun silk and cashmere scarf; the cashmere was re-used from a shawl. ▪ Janet Kiff MacAluso, Marilyn Milligan, and Eleanor: recent workshop participants at Ann McElroy's felted birdhouse workshop and each had colourful projects to show us. ▪ Nancy: French language weaving and quilting books. ▪ Kathleen: Making 4 handwoven bridesmaid shawls in Tencel, Atwater Bronson from a pattern in Handwoven October 2009. ▪ Anne Middleton: 2 more handspun, handwoven alpaca shawls. ▪ Marilyn M: handspun samples from Rare Breeds. ▪ Jean Sharp: handspun skein and scarf of dyed fleece; scarf from leftover warp using cat fur for weft; wool growers fleece that was awkward to work with but is very very soft. ▪ Nancy Gauthier: handwoven fabric for dining room chairs; will be teaching the upcoming workshop on sewing with handwoven fabric, which will include matching prints and project standards. ▪ Ann: completed her small loom workshop project, making a number of squares in different patterns, putting them together and then putting a cross stitch design on the centre square. ▪ Jan: Leicester roving; her new book of 17th century women's dress patterns (not for the library!) ▪ Mandy: recently back from Japan, bought ceramic weights in a weaving supply shop; shibori handtowel; patterned cloth; shibori noren curtain; plus a scarf Mandy recently made on 16 harnesses that has a 3D effect.
5. Program	Guest speaker Maggie Glossop, Fibre Artist and past member of OVWSG provided us with a Power Point presentation of her fibre work. Maggie has worked in many fibre media and forms including spinning, tapestry, other weaving and felting. Her mainstays at this time are felt landscapes and felt sculptures.