

PENELOPE'S NEWS



April 2015

The newsletter of the Ottawa Valley Weavers' and Spinners' Guild

Marianne Heggteit.....*Board Chair*
Sayward Johnson.....*Board Vice Chair*
Kelly MacGregor.....*President*
Kathleen Schwass.....*Treasurer*
Ruth Cooper.....*Corporate Secretary*
Sandra Jager, Brenda
Mills.....*Studio Managers*
Elizabeth Watt *Education Coordinator*

The Ottawa Valley Weavers' and Spinners' Guild (OVWSG) is a non-profit, incorporated organization, whose mandate is "to encourage its membership to achieve a high aesthetic standard and technical expertise and to promote and foster the knowledge of, interest in, and appreciation for historic and contemporary weaving, spinning, and their related fibre arts."

President's Message

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Open Studio Days

Every Tuesday and Friday.
Everyone welcome. Tuesday is
potluck lunch.

Meeting Info

This month's meeting:
Monday April 13th, 7.30pm

Program:

Jay Ellen Bogen will talk about
Indonesian baskets, with video.

Next meeting:

Monday, May 4th, at 7.30pm

Spring. Spring! Hey, Spring! Where are you?

It has snowed for half of the day and it has stayed on the ground. We have 'officially' crossed the threshold into spring, according to the calendar. I guess spring didn't hear about that yet. Folks who tap trees have told me it has not been a good year as we have not had the expected warmer days, above zero, coupled with the cooler nights just below zero. I heard someone describe has the hovering between plus five and minus five, essential to good sap flow.

We will forge on. Spring will arrive, in its own sweet time. Despite its tardiness, lambs and other babes will be born. And we will welcome spring and plan for spring and plan for summer too.

I need to inform you that the OVWSG Annual General Meeting (AGM), usually held in May will take place in June this year. This is not a "big" election year for positions; however, those in positions are being asked by the Nominations Committee of Julie and Mary to confirm they will remain in their positions for year two of the two year term ending May 1, 2016. There are some position changes that require a vote at this year's AGM. As well there are one or two more vacant positions. If you are ready to volunteer in the guild, please contact the Nominations Committee or the Executive.

At the AGM our Treasurer, Kathleen, will present the financial statements; I will present a year end President's report; and there will be brief reports from numerous operational positions. Oh, and we might have cake, too, so be sure to come out for the June AGM!

At the recent gathering of the Executive, Workshop Coordinator

Elizabeth Watt reported a huge increase in workshops. This is wonderful and reflects the substantial increase in membership, now at about 210 members. One year ago, we had about 140 members. With the increase in our membership coupled with the increase in workshops there has been a great deal of activity related to equipment rentals. A committee has been struck to review and refine the rental activities and processes. Brenda Mills, Studio Co-Manager; Sayward Johnson, Vice Chair; and I, President, will be working on this over the next few months. Your patience is appreciated while we refine these processes.

As we grow in numbers and activities it is necessary that we become more process oriented, more bureaucratic. In addition we receive government funds which require proof that we manage the funds well. Through the Strategic Planning process and the creation of policies and procedures for various aspects of the guild we will be able to improve activities, and satisfy funders as well as members. Stay tuned.

At the April meeting I will speak with you directly regarding the Strategic Plan and the next steps. Let me say here that the Executive has agreed to hire a consultant to meet with the membership to conduct a SWOT Analysis Focus Group. Through this process the OVWSG's organizational Strengths (S), Weaknesses (W), Opportunities (O) and Threats (T) will be identified. The results of this focus group activity will inform the Strategic Planning Working Group as they create a map for the organization's future.

So, when you hear about the SWOT focus group, please plan to attend. Your input is valuable. The OVWSG is *yours* and this is *your* opportunity to voice *your* ideas regarding *your* guild's future.

Kelly

Announcements from guild coordinators

Workshops

Workshops continue to be very busy, with new sessions added at a remarkable pace.

The following workshops are on the books for April and May and still have space:

April 11 Pine Needle Basket 1 spot remaining
April 19 Intro to Finger Weaving - Ceinture Flechee 3 spots remaining
April 25 Wet Felted Birdhouse 2 spots remaining
May 2 Beginning Weaving 4 spots remaining
May 10 Handpainted Warps - Visual Landscapes 3 spots remaining

As usual, please use the form on the website to register.

Plain Weave Frivolities Acadian Style is full, but I am keeping a wait list and once we have enough students to fill a session we will schedule another. If you are interested in this workshop please send me an email so I can add you to the list.

Linus Blankets

As many of you heard at the February meeting Ann McElroy was at CHEO with her brand new

grandson (he's fine now, they were being cautious) and met the volunteer who distributes Linus Blankets. These are blankets given to patients to provide soft, colourful comfort. The volunteer shared that the blanket she gave Fynn was the last one she had that was appropriate for male infants. She had plenty of quite feminine ones, however. Many knitters make Linus blankets for CHEO, but the hospital has found that they are inappropriate for babies who have caught fingers and toes in the stitches and nearly been injured. For babies they prefer quilts. Or, Ann pointed out, woven blankets would also work. The requirements for Linus Blankets seem to vary depending on where you look, so, when my daughter Heather had to go to CHEO for dental surgery (she's fine, too) we visited the Volunteer Office and got a clearer answer. We also saw the room where they store the blankets. Yes, they go through enough to need a walk in closet! The baby shelf was looking a little thin and most of them were pink. We can help with that. We can weave blankets in "boy" and "unisex" colours.

Here is what they are looking for according to their handout:

- Fabric blankets or quilts for cribs: minimum size 28x52"
- Fabric blankets or quilts for toddlers and teenagers: 36x40" or larger up to 66x96"
- Knitted blankets, minimum 36x40" or larger up to 66x96" NOTE: knitted items must ensure that little fingers and toes cannot be caught! Don't forget our teen boys and girls
- Fabric or knitted socks and slippers with non-latex anti slip on the bottoms.
- Knitted hats for teenage boys in sports team colours
- Knitted finger puppets.

Fabrics welcomed are cotton, synthetics and fleece.

All donated items must be made with new, washable materials and be free from odour (e.g. smoke, fabric softener) and pet hair.

Also note that blankets for little people should not have fringe, but should be fully hemmed instead. Weave structures should not have floats or lace which fingers and toes could catch in.

Samantha Van Noy has already completed one blanket on a loom in the studio. Ann Sunahara threaded a Studio loom in March for anyone to work on the next blanket. There is a stash of yarns set aside for the purpose in the Studio, please see the Studio Managers if you would like to use some of it. We will collect the blankets at the Studio and take them to CHEO as they accumulate. The demo team also plans to warp a demo loom and work on blankets over the demo season.

This is meant to be an ongoing project. Personally, I am planning on practicing a variety of weave structures with my Rigid Heddle looms as I make blankets for the project, however, workshops registrar is a big job and I cannot commit to coordinating this project as well. If you would be willing to take over overseeing the project please let the executive know.

Elizabeth Watt

Workshops Registrar

Membership

Membership Renewal Time

Time to renew! All memberships expire on April 30 (unless you joined in 2015)

Renewal can be done:

1. Online www.ovwsg.com/membership Paypal or credit card, follow the directions.
2. A meeting - At the membership desk by the door. Please fill out a renewal form (attached to newsletter e-mail)
3. By snail mail with a cheque:

OVWSG
Heartwood House
404 McArthur Ave.
Ottawa, ON K1K 1G8

*****All Cheques to be made out to **OVWSG** or **Ottawa Valley Weavers' and Spinners' Guild**

2015 Ex & Sale

Call out to new vendors!

We are busy planning our annual event OVWSG Ex and Sale 'Simply Unique' being held November 6-8, 2015 @ the Glebe Community Center. Thinking of joining our event as a new member? Get a head start and have your products juried at our next meeting. We are working hard to make this one of the most attended event! It would be a great chance to share and sell your products.

Carole Stuart
Ex and Sale coordinator

Demos

We have been given an opportunity to demonstrate our skills to a group who will visit the studio on July 8 from 1:30 to 3:00. I would like to have three people available to demonstrate fibre preparation, spinning on the wheel and spinning with a drop spindle. If you are interested please contact me. I have discussed this with Carole (she was in the departure lounge at the airport) and she's good with this as I have presented it to you. Kathleen Schwass and I are working together on this one. Sandra could you book the studio for us on that day please.

Please reply to demo@ovwsg.com if you are available.

Bernadette Quade

Library

Hours: opens 5pm the Monday of the meeting, to 7:15pm. Please come in early to look over the library materials (Books, DVD- use them in your computer and Magazines) and drop off the items you took out last month.

The library will try to be open at one of the socials but the librarians would like to be social too and not just work in the library!

Dropping off books between meetings: inside the studio there is a drop off book box. It is beside the double doors at the north end of the studio. Please leave books there. Please do not take library materials out of the drop off box.

Taking out books: Members with no overdue books *may take out four items* from the library (5pm to 7:15pm on the Meeting Monday). The items will be *due back the next* (5pm to 7:15pm) Meeting Monday. If you cannot make a meeting (snow storm, unexpected lottery win vacation! Illness.) Email **Library at OVWSG** or one of the librarians and we will renew your book for a month. If you forget the *library fine is 1.50 per book per month* late.

Really Important **filling out the card!!** *Date due is next months' meeting!!* Do not put this months' meeting or we will start to believe you and think the book is already late!! (Yes we had had a few generous members wanting to donate immediately to the late book fund!) In the next space we need you to Print Legibly your name and phone number. If it takes you 2 lines to do this that's ok I got the big box of pocket cards the last time I ordered them. So your card should look like this:

746.4222 NON	Nonomus, A <i>Spinning, Sprang & Knitting for Cats. A cats guide to getting the pur-fect string then with careful needing and prodding getting a human to give you what you want. 15-1530</i>
Date Due	Name of borrower
May 2015 (OR)	Miaka Scott-Martin 613-555-6666
05-2015	Elfy Kavanagh 613-444-5555

(Unfortunately this book is fictitious but I'm sure both Miaka and Elfy would want to take it out if we had it and they had family memberships.)

So if this fictitious book was out and Seven Watt would like to borrow it, she could request it for the next meeting by e-mailing the librarians who would put it aside when it comes in. If Elfy forgets to return it then Elfy would pay the 1.50 per month fine and Seven would get to borrow it the meeting it was returned.

Please be careful with the books and other library materials. They are expensive and coffee stains make it hard for the next person to enjoy. There are plastic bags in the studio under the sink if you need to protect a book from the rain. If the supply is getting low just let me know I have a dog... and a very large supply of plastic bags.

Studio Reference Books: these are the books in the open shelf white cabinet beside the magazines. *They are for use in the studio*, to help you design a project or answer a weaving /spinning question while you are there. They are not for circulation. Please use them in the studio then return them to their

shelf for the next person to enjoy.

LOST BOOKS: We have a number of very missed missing library books. Please check your shelves, and behind furniture to see if any have accidentally followed you home! If you see one please bring it back to the library (the Returns box by the double doors is a perfect place to put found library materials). I will send out a list of the most missed lost books and the new author title and subject lists shortly. I'm just a bit stuck in taxes at the moment.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask us. We also usually have candy.
library@ovwsg.com

All for now. Dyslexically yours, Jan

Welcome New Members!

Sharon Whittaker
Elizabeth Briggs
Monica Monaghan
Jacques Amsellem
Annemiek Van Den Berg
Emily Monks-Leeson
Karine Gelinas

General Announcements

Egg Basket Workshop (a "Rib-structured" basket) – Laurie Harkin-Chiasson

There has been some interest in having an Egg basket workshop. The basket is 12" in diameter at the rim. It features a 7 strand braid of cane on the handle. No previous basket weaving experience is necessary. All materials (fee to be determined) and tools are provided. Instructor: Laurie Harkin-Chiasson

Previous basket workshop participants have suggested that basket workshops should be held over 2 days, not 1. Since a lot of the weekend time slots are filled, I am suggesting that this workshop could be held over 2 weekday evenings, a week apart. Perhaps a Tues. or Wed. evening?

Interesting note: Egg baskets feature "pockets" on either side of the centre basket bottom. Kind of a "bum" shape to the basket bottom. These pockets allowed the eggs to be collected, gently placed on either side of the slightly raised centre, which meant that the eggs could not roll around, avoiding possibly breakage.



Please let workshops@ovwsg.com know if you are interested in this workshop and day preference. If

Car-Pooling Coordinator Needed! Ideal small job for new member to help to get to know members! Could be as simple as posting a sheet at general meetings for Requests for Rides, volunteers to drive and/ or car-pool, according to regions in area (i.e south, west, east, central, etc.) and co-ordinating people.

If interested, please contact Ruth Cooper (recooper424@gmail.com) for details.

Events

Open House at La ferme Le moment present

We are giving a 1st door open and a spin-in day at our farm.

The goal of the day is to meet our alpacas and Shetland sheep **before** they get shorn. People will have the chance to see and feel the fiber on the animal then choose the fiber they would like to buy and/or to reserve for a trade.

Bring your Wheel and your lunch and or something to share for a potluck!!

WHEN: SATURDAY APRIL 18, 10am to 4pm

Where: La ferme Le moment present 155 Thomas Nord, Notre dame de la salette, J0X2L0

Please confirm your spot before April 5th to Celine at [819-766-2022](tel:819-766-2022) or by e-mail, lafermelemomentpresent@hotmail.com

Fibre Fling 4 – Textile Art Show and Sale

April 10-11, 2015

Kitchissippi United Church, 630 Island Park Drive, Ottawa, Ontario

Out-of-the-Box Fibre Artists and the Kitchissippi United Church invite you to a show and sale of fibre and mixed media art on Friday and Saturday in the church hall. This show is a fundraiser for the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Hours: Friday 10 am-8 pm and Saturday 10 am-5 p.m. Admission is \$5. High Tea will be available on Saturday 12-5pm for an additional \$10. Light refreshments available throughout the show.

For more information contact Rita Rottman (ritarottman@sympatico.ca), or visit www.out-of-the-box.org

Shearing/Fleece Buying Opportunity

On the afternoon of May 4 starting around 1:00PM Tom Redpath will be shearing our flock of 30 purebred Shetland Sheep. They range in colour from fawn to black and have various markings. We live just outside Ashton. If you are interested in coming to the shearing to purchase a fleece of your choice or just to experience the activity please contact Janet Snyder at [613-253-7164](tel:613-253-7164) or forestrow@xplornet.com. I can give you directions when you contact me.

Janet Snyder



Annual Quebec Weavers' Conference in Gatineau, QC
June 5, 6 & 7

<http://www.lestisserandsduquebec.com/congres-en.html>

Member Tips & Tricks

How To Make a Quill From Recycled Paper –by Alison James

I found the original instructions for this on the Internet, but can't find them again. Here are the instructions in my own words.

Quills are a handy way to save all those little bits and bobs of yarn that take up bobbin space. If you are using guild bobbins, it is nice to be able to take your own yarn off it and save it for a future project. Yarn isn't inexpensive these days. It is also nice for the next person to have an empty bobbin. You can also free up your own bobbins at home and save those little ends of yarn in useable format.

1. Find some scrap 8.5 x 11 computer paper and fold in four. (One fold lengthwise, one crosswise). This gives you four sections 4 1/4 by 5 1/2 inches.
2. Cut the sections apart and stack them one on top of the other.
3. With your scissors round off the corners. You now have four quills.
4. Wrap one of the quills around the bobbin winder toward the end of the shaft, tightly. If you have a problem holding it tight, secure with a piece of tape. Make sure that you wrap in portrait mode, so that your quill will be 4 1/4 inches long. If the paper is printed on one side, put this side next the winder shaft, just in case.
5. Tuck in an end of your yarn under the flap of the quill, and wrap the yarn around several times to hold it closed. Push up on the bobbin winder shaft, so it is tight.
6. Wind away, filling as you normally would a quill, building up toward the ends, and then filling in the middle.

This should fit a standard shuttle. You now should feel virtuous, having rescued unwanted paper and put it to good use, also having thriftily kept a potentially useful quantity of yarn.

Time to reward yourself. You can store your quills ready for use in a little box. Ferrero Rochers come in nice plastic boxes. Just sayin'!

Burn Test for Fibres (from The Weaver's Companion, submitted by Mandy Heggveit)

If you have a yarn with an unknown fibre content, use this burn test to figure it out. Perform this carefully, and not in your local yarn shop! Light a match or candle. Using tweezers, hold a short length of yarn horizontally, and slowly feed the yarn into the edge of a flame and observe what happens. Be prepared to extinguish any errant flame.

Wool:	Burns slowly in an open flame and self-extinguishes when removed from the flame. Has a characteristic 'burning hair' odour and produces an irregular dark ash.
Silk:	Burns slowly in an open flame and self-extinguishes when removed from the flame. Has a characteristic 'burning hair' odour and produces an irregular dark ash.
Linen:	Burns quickly in an open flame and continues to glow when removed from the flame. Smells like burning grass and produces a gray, feathery-smooth ash.
Cotton:	Burns quickly in an open flame and continues to glow when removed from the flame. Smells like burning paper and produces a gray, feathery-smooth edge.
Rayon:	Burns quickly in an open flame and continues to glow when removed from the flame. Smells like burning paper and produces a gray, feathery-smooth edge.
Acetate:	Burns and melts in an open flame and continues to burn and melt when removed from the flame. Produces a brittle, hard, black bead.
Acrylics:	Burn and melt at a low temperature, give toxic fumes and the melted residue is very hot. Produce a brittle, hard, black bead.
Modacrylics:	Burn very slowly; melt in an open flame and self-extinguish when removed from the flame. Produces a brittle, hard, black bead. Produces a brittle, hard, black bead.
Nylon:	Burns slowly and melts in an open flame, self-extinguishes when removed from the flame. Produces a brittle, hard, gray bead.
Olefin:	Burns and melts in an open flame, continues to burn and melt briefly when removed from the flame and then self-extinguishes. Produces a brittle, hard, black bead. Produces a hard, tan bead.
Polyester:	Burns slowly and melts in an open flame, and self-extinguishes when removed from the flame. Produces a hard, black bead

Marketplace

The Marketplace portion of the 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.

For Non-Members: \$15.00 for the first 25 letters. \$0.28 for each additional word. \$2.00 per image. Contact Natalie at marketplace@ovwsg.com or newsletter@ovwsg.com

FOR SALE

Versatile pine display props excellent for use at studio tours, craft markets and shops.

7 panels (7ft high by 39ins wide) linked by pinned brass hinges for flexibility; removable inserts - pine shelves, "windows", burlap covered solid panels, cloth skirt for desk shelf and one display shelf (lights and back curtains not included). Will deliver within reasonable distance. Price \$175. Contact Nancy Ingram (613) 272-3604/ ingram@rideau.net.



Threads Magazines available for small donation

I have a great number of Threads magazines that I would like to give away. They contain many helpful hints and systems for helping sewers.

I shall bring some to the meeting and ask that you give a reasonable donation to the Guild in lieu of a set price.

Mary Morrison

March Program



Céline Paquette of "*La ferme Le moment présent*" gave a presentation about her farm and her fleece trade deal.



Show & Tell



Clockwise from top left: Alison shows everyone how to make a quill; ibid; Linda Perrier's Tunisian carpet; Bernadette's year's worth of handspun yarns; Trish's doubleweave stick holder; Trish's sampler; Christine Henri-Hanna's basket; Gord tells the guild about the Pendulum wheel demonstration; Rita announces the Fibre Fling; Liane's handspun & knit beret; Liane's spindle-spun handspun; Anne talks about her upcoming birdhouse felting class; Rebecca's felted animals; Shirley shows some of the modern overshot samples for her upcoming class.

Farm show demo



March meeting minutes

General Membership Meeting - 2 March 2015

Chair: Say Johnson

- Chair welcomed all old and new members and any guests in attendance. **We are up to 208 members now!**
- Executive was introduced.
-

Business:

- There have been 3 guild positions removed: Fundraising Assistant to the Rosepath Auction; Corresponding Secretary and the new member on the Standards Committee.
- 5 Vacant positions: a) Program co-ordinators for weaving and spinning. In the new year, the b) Equipment manager and c) Equipment assistant positions will become vacant. d) Rental co-ordinator for spinning equipment, active just before general meetings. e) Fundraiser to co-ordinate making of cards, etc. for guild revenue.
- Carol Stuart expressed gratitude for many volunteers that have come forward to assist at this year's Ex and Sale on November 6-8. Say will continue to do design. Many vendors have confirmed. Coordinating meetings will start soon.
- It was announced that a local flock of 43 Shetland sheep are for immediate sale at a reasonable price. Sale can be of the entire flock or smaller numbers or sheep. Details can be provided to interested buyers. This is a low maintenance, frugal and tough breed with excellent wool and mild flavored meat, and is perfect for a hobbyist with small acreage. Contact Judy Kavanagh for details.
- Topsy Farms of Amherst Island also has days to come to help with sheep and feed foster lambs. They sell blankets, bedding, mattress covers, etc.
- Jacquard class is being offered this May at the Montreal Centre for Contemporary Textiles (Centre des Textiles Contemporains de Montréal), by Louise Berube.
- Reminder of the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners (OHS) Conference (Panoply 2015) this May 22-24 in Burlington.

Program:

Céline Paquette of "*La ferme Le moment présent*", located in Notre-Dame-de-la-Salette, north of Buckingham, Quebec, raises 52 alpacas, 21 Shetland sheep, angora rabbits and has a feisty llama, named Maggie. Along with the caring for these fleecy animals, the 325-acre farm offers summer camps for families and children.

People who know how to work with fleece can be **Traders**. This involves coming to the farm in shearing season (April-May) and picking the alpaca fleece that you like. You weigh the fleece chosen and keep ½ of it. The other ½ comes back to the farm cleaned, picked, carded and spun. (*Spin a pound, get a pound!*)

Shearing one adult alpaca can take from 45 minutes to 1 hour. The animals are vaccinated, have their nails cut, teeth cleaned and the fleece is skirted. The Alpaca have no lanolin like sheep, and fleece is less greasy. The 1st year alpaca babies are called Kria and they have the softest fleece. The 2nd year, or yearlings' fleece is also soft. The adult alpaca can provide 3-7 pounds of fleece each. June 21st – The farm has an Open House for the public.

Break: 15 minute refreshment and social break.

Alison James demonstrated how to **make a quill** or paper bobbin to hold yarn in a shuttle. Often in classes, students fill up the guild's bobbins with yarn, take them home to complete their class project and either don't return them or tie them up when others can't use them. This will give you many take-home "bobbins" or quills to use.

- 1) Take an 8 x 11" paper and fold into four. Round off the corners and cut along the fold seam so that you get four separate pieces of paper.
- 2) Place one edge of one paper along the shaft of a bobbin winder and wind until the paper is wound around the shaft into a tiny tube.
- 3) Now wind your yarn around onto it. When you slide the quill off of the bobbin winder, you will have a "bobbin" with yarn on it that can be used in a shuttle for weaving and you can keep it!!

Show & Tell:

Linda Perrier	Tunisian Carpet woven with geometric designs.
Bernadette Quade	One year's worth of spinning – various coloured skeins. Felted basket.
Patricia Moore	"Beyond Beginning Weaving" class – results of double weave samples. Shuttle and lease stick holder for wall.
Christine Henri-Hanna	Cranberry red Basket decoration.
Gord Moat	March 18 – Pendulum wheel (don't walk with it like Great wheel) – Demonstration at 2155 Roger Steven's Drive, North Gower.
Rita Rottman	"Out of the Box" Group is having a "Fibre Fling" on April 10-11 at the Kitchissippi United Church. Proceeds to Stephen Lewis Foundation.
Liane Thiry-Smith	Used earring to mark/count knitting stitches when she didn't have a marker. Beginning Spinning class- spun yarn with drop spindle and made Beret.
Ann McElroy	Felted Bird House class – April 25
Rebecca Dufton	Felted animals – rat, skunk, seal.
Shirley Browsky	Bringing Overshot into 21 C. – starts March 14.

Meeting adjourned at about 9:30 pm.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 13th