

❖ Northwest News ❖

Association of Northwest Weavers' Guilds

northwestweavers.org

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The fall weather is upon us and the trees around my home are beautiful in their colors. They are a real inspiration for something woven!

I was lucky to be part of the Handweavers Guild of America, Inc.(HGA) Certificate of Excellence in Weaving examination last month. The Handweavers Guild of Boise Valley was the host guild for this year. It was an extraordinary experience to see the beautiful submissions. There are two levels. Level I is Technical Skills in Handweaving which includes forty woven samples. Level II is Specialized Study and In-Depth Research. Both are self-directed programs offered to members of HGA. When you pass Level II you are entitled to call yourself a Master Weaver. The Boise Guild is very lucky to have three Master Weavers and one Master Spinner.

The process started long before the examination period of four days for the Boise Guild. We had planning meetings for food, accommodations for HGA staff and examiners, and organizing scribes. The Chair and Registrar were appointed long ago and all submissions were sent to the Registrar for safe keeping. All applicants are given a number so their submissions are not identifiable.

Each day of the examination started around 8 a.m. with the two Level I submissions to be examined for the day opened in their folders. The weaving and color samples were put out on a table for an overall impression and quick examination. They were then collected, and an examiner and a scribe were closeted in a room for the rest of the morning. Each submission is read and examined in detail by two examiners, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The scribe is there to record into a computer on the HGA exam form, all comments and grades made by the two examiners. The scribe does not comment or talk to the examiner—that was hard for some of us especially when the samples were beautiful!! There was one Level II, and it was stunningly beautiful—my comment! The examiners work together on that, and they don't require a scribe. It was the last submission that was examined. The process was four long days for everyone.

The whole experience with the HGA staff and the examiners has been an inspiration for me to be ready in two years to submit my Level I. Each topic seems to be a study or project on its own. It should give anyone doing it a rounded knowledge of weaving, color and design.

Woven together,
Anne Oglevie, President





TREADLE LIGHTLY

ANWG 2017
NW Weavers'
Conference

ANWG CONFERENCE 2017

The ANWG 2017 Planning Committee thought we would take the summer off while we had the chance, so it has been pretty quiet around here. We did get two big steps completed, though.

First, the conference website is up and working. We hope you will come and have a look at anwgconference2017.com. You can also link through the Northwest Weavers' Guild site.

Second, we have a logo designed by Jeff Werner, a graphic artist from Vancouver, BC. We loved Jeff's clean simple design and his visual pun on our theme. Just to make life interesting for all of you, we have a 2 colour logo which will be reproduced in all six primary and secondary colours - green, orange, pink, blue, purple, and yellow. Check out the logo on our website. You can watch it cycle through the colours. We have also put the colours, with their RGB and UKI/pantone codes, on the website to help with your weaving plans.

Watch for an announcement about our keynote speaker in the next couple of months. Also watch for details about the Fashion and Juried show categories. We want to give you lots of time to create great things to share.

Finally, if you like to blog or spend time on Facebook, Twitter or in another group, spread the word about ANWG 2017.

Christine Purse
2017 Conference Chair

Late Arriving News:

The conference will include:

Pre Conference 3 day workshops- Wednesday to Friday, *June 28th to June 30th*

Welcome and Dessert Reception and a Shop 'till you Drop in the Market Hall, Friday *June 30th*

Half day and full day seminars- Saturday and Sunday, *July 1st and 2nd*

Fashion Show- Saturday, *July 1st*

Banquet and Keynote Speaker- Sunday, *July 2nd*

We are looking forward to hosting the next ANWG Conference.

We are in the process of looking for instructors for these classes. If you are interested in teaching please contact anwgconference@gmail.com

DUES FOR 2015 ARE DUE!!!

Reminder.....Reminder.....Reminder.....Reminder

Please remind your treasurer that ANWG dues should be paid now. The dues are based on the total membership of your guild for 2014. Example: 10 guild members for 2014 X \$1.00 per member = \$10 for ANWG dues.

Pay before December 1. After this date the dues will be assessed a \$.50 per member late fee...bringing the dues to \$1.50 per member.

Membership renewal forms are on the ANWG website under Member Services. Please complete the form and mail it with your check so we may keep our records up-to-date.
(www.northwestweavers.org)

Remember: Challenge grant applications will be out and you will need to be in good standing to be considered.

Any questions? Please contact me at woodtick50@aol.com.

Christine Bunnell
Membership Chair
ANWG

CHALLENGE GRANTS

The winning guilds of the first round of Challenge Grants have been hard at work finalizing their plans. Sixteen of the twenty-five grants awarded have signed contracts with specific dates and received their checks*. Some events took place in September, others continue to occur through early 2016.

The first Challenge Grant project was held by Sunshine Coast Spinners and Weavers "Fibreshed," a Fibre Camp on September 12-14, 2014. Now other reports are starting to come in. Read them and be inspired for your guild's application. (See p. 4, 5, 6, 7)

Now it is time to look ahead:

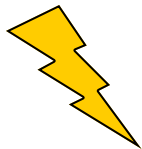
*Because 2015 would have been a Conference year, even though there will not be a Conference, **a new RFP (Request for Proposals) will be presented to the guilds in March of 2015.** This will include an application with criteria and instructions established by the ANWG Board. The applications will be due by October 1, 2015; the awards will be made in January 2016. The funded activity must be completed between January 2016 and March 2017. In March 2017 (again a conference year), a new RFP would be announced, etc.*

Gloria Lebowitz, Education Chair
ANWG News Summer 2014

As the 25 guilds who received the first round of grants move forward with their plans, ANWG hopes you are hard at work on your ideas for the 2016 round of Challenge Grants. The summer issue is also a source of ideas as that issue contained a list of winners and their winning projects. Maybe something in that list will inspire you to create or adapt a project that will meet your guild's needs.

Remember you can join with another guild to combine grants and extend your reach to a new challenge.

*Grant check recipients: Anchorage, Central Oregon with Columbia Fibre and Klamath, Prairie Wool, Cross Borders with Kettle Creek, Sunshine Coast, Fernie, Helena, Whonnock, San Juan County, Columbia Fibre, Seattle, Eugene (2 study groups), Methow Valley, Salem, Whatcom with Peace Arch



DATES TO REMEMBER!

March 2015 Applications for Challenge Grants Available

June 20, 2015 Annual Membership Meeting,
Boise, ID

October 1, 2015 Challenge Grant Applications Due

January 2016 Challenge Grant Winners Announced

June 28, 2017 ANWG Conference, Victoria, BC
June 28-30 Workshops
July 1-3 Conference

June 11, 2019 ANWG Conference, Prince George, BC
June 11-13, 2019 Conference
June 14-16, 2019 Workshops

CHALLENGE GRANT REPORTS

Sunshine Coast Spinners and Weavers FIBRESHED 2014

For three beautiful days in late summer, fifty-one women gathered for the first annual Fibre Camp. Most were members of our Sunshine Coast Spinners and Weavers Guild with others from Powell River, Greater Vancouver, Vancouver Island, the B.C. Interior and Washington and Florida states. We were thrilled with the venue of the Salvation Army's Camp Sunrise which is conveniently situated alongside the Langdale Ferry Terminal and offers great quiet and privacy on a beautiful wooded site with oceanfront beaches.

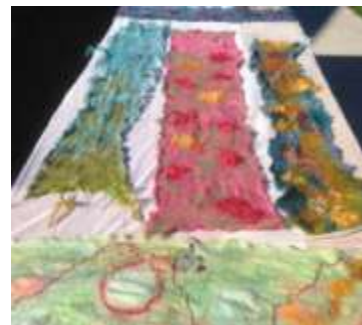
Some came to "camp" in the cabins for two nights while many registered for the full day Saturday to attend the several workshops offered. Each cabin has separate bunk rooms, shared washrooms and a common area for socializing with cabin mates.

During the day we all gathered in the Chapel, a beautiful round building, to create a wonderful inner circle of spinning and knitting. The vendors beautifully displayed their fibres and accessories along the wall of windows overlooking the grounds, which gave them great light and a connection to all that was going on. There were displays of our Sunshine Coast Fibreshed and an array of fibres and fabric dyed with natural dyes. Some of our members did displays and gave demonstrations. Dorothy showed participants how to hook rugs and Bonnie demonstrated rigid heddle weaving and tablet/card weaving techniques. There was an opportunity to weave at a rigid heddle loom. Lynda demonstrated carding and blending.

Other buildings on the site were used to house the various workshops: Painted Warp Silk Scarf workshop taught by Guild member Barby Paulus, Nuno Felting taught by guild member Ursula Bentz, Eco-Dyeing by Caitlin French from East Vancouver, and Magic Ball Knitting by Doreen McLaughlin.

The Friday evening event was an impromptu Fashion Show/Show & Tell. On Saturday evening Caitlin French gave a wonderful slide presentation titled "My Creative Journey so Far," an inspiration to all and particularly those who are familiar with India Flint and Eco-dyeing. Caitlin is working on her first book called 'Dark Woods'. A huge hit for all participants was the amazing array of door prizes where every registrant was able to choose a prize to remember Fibre Camp 2014.

Fibre Camp offers a wonderful opportunity for artists and artisans to gather together to learn new skills, inspire and be inspired and enjoy the company of fellow fibre enthusiasts.



CHALLENGE GRANT REPORTS

Whonnock Weavers and Spinners BASKET WORKSHOPS

First of all, the Whonnock Weavers and Spinners would like to express their gratitude for the Challenge Grant which assisted us in being able to host two basket workshops. These workshops filled very quickly since there is quite a lot of interest within our guild for basket making.

The first workshop was held on September 13, 2014. The instructor was Joan Carrigan of Salt Spring Island, and the topic was Zigzag Twill Basket. Ten students took part, seven from the Whonnock Guild, and the other three from neighbouring Coquitlam and Langley Guilds. This was a fairly advanced basket, as we had requested, but Joan is such an amazing teacher that even the newer basket makers were successful. One of them has expressed an interest in joining the basket interest group that is an offshoot of the Whonnock Guild, and we will welcome her and help her improve her skills. It was a superb learning experience for us all.

The second workshop was held on September 14, 2014, also with Joan Carrigan, but this time the topic was using natural materials, a topic that Joan is quite famous for, and in which she is very experienced. Ten members of the Whonnock Guild attended. The basket was actually a tray made of cedar and willow bark. Joan had prepared all the bark for us, and spent considerable time talking about gathering, storing and preparing bark as well as demonstrating how to cut it into strips. This was valuable information, since many of us live on rural properties and are interested in using what grows on our land. Everyone successfully completed this project, and the interplay of the colours of the cedar and willow made a very attractive tray.



CHALLENGE GRANT REPORTS

Methow Valley Spinners & Weavers Guild EXTREME WARP MAKEOVER Robin Spady Workshop

This may seem like an odd way to begin this report, but it was a long and strange summer here in the Methow Valley. As some of you may be aware, what came to be known as the Carlton Complex wildfires began with lightning storms on July 14. It became the largest wildfire in Washington State history, burning about 390 square miles, and bringing over 3000 firefighters from all over the country to our little valley. The valley was without power for over a week when electric transmission lines were burned. Hundreds of homes were lost and farming and ranching businesses severely affected, not to mention the impact on a local economy that is heavily tourism-dependent in the summer. All of us have family members or friends who lost their homes, and some of us had to prepare to evacuate at a moment's notice. The ongoing stress and pervading sense of doom continued until mid-August.

Our Challenge Grant award was to support two workshops, one to be held in September 2014 and the other within a year of that. We had already booked Robyn Spady last spring for September 20-21, but when the time drew near we weren't sure if we would have enough participants to pull it off. Everyone just seemed so dispirited. We also reached out to the Shear Creative Guild in Omak, and in the end had 10 weavers sign up for the workshop. It turned out to be a healing and re-invigorating experience.

The workshop was her "Extreme Warp Makeover" class, in which you choose one of three threadings (overshot, rosepath twill, or huck lace) and then learn how you can "make over" that threading by changing treadling sequences and wefts. It includes a very comprehensive workbook that covers all three threadings.

We set up our looms ahead of time at our guild meeting room. It seems that the usual thing to do is put on a relatively narrow and natural color warp, but many of us chose to use color or put in stripes of color to see what happened. Also some of us put on a wide and long enough warp to weave some towels after the class sampler was done. Robyn seemed surprised and excited to see the color choices! Each day included two lecture sessions, and a lot of weaving.

We also had a potluck and open house in the evening following the end of the workshop, so other folks besides the workshop participants could meet Robyn and have some good conversations about weaving and fiber arts in general. At our weekly guild meetings since then, everyone has had a chance to look at the workshop samplers and get inspiration from what was learned.

Here are some comments from a few of the workshop participants:

"I enjoyed the workshop with Robyn Spady and came out of it with a better understanding of weave structure and new technical skills I plan on using in my next project of a table runner. The experience gave me more confidence in my weaving abilities. I was surprised to discover how much I enjoy weaving with other weavers in a setting away from the daily distractions of my home. "

"I want to thank you again for including me in your workshop. My knowledge of and comfort with the weaving process expanded during those two days! The sampler is beautiful and I am having a hard time figuring out what I want to try first on my floor loom. Some great Christmas towels will result I am sure. Also, it was inspirational and educational to see everyone's projects."

We thank ANWG for this grant, half of which was used to pay for Robyn Spady's travel costs, the materials fee for the workbooks, and to partially cover her teaching fee to bring down the tuition cost for workshop participants.

(See p. 7 for photos.)

Methow Valley Spinners & Weavers Guild
EXTREME WARP MAKEOVER
Photos



Out and About in the Guilds

Alpine Weavers and Spinners Guild At the Fair

The Alpine Weavers and Spinners Guild (AWSG) of Kalispell, Montana has been doing demonstrations of weaving and spinning at the Northwest Montana Fair in Kalispell for the last three years. Previously, AWSG had demonstrated in the sheep barn on the Sunday before the fair opened while the sheep and fleeces were judged, but this year began demonstrating in the building where all the needlework, craft, art, 4-H, and cooking entries are displayed during the five days when the fair is open. This move allows many more people to see the weaving and spinning process.

This year in addition to spinning and weaving demos, AWSG also had a spinning wheel, eight harness table loom, and inkle loom as well as a small 2 harness loom available for adults and children to work on. Guild members also brought in their own spinning wheels and looms for demonstrations. The guild made seven strand braid looms from mat board and gave them, along with leftover yarns, to kids. Inexpensive drop spindles made from CD's and wooden truck wheels are also given to those fairgoers who show a great interest in spinning.

This year seemed to be the busiest so far with a steady stream of people trying weaving and spinning—mostly kids.



Out and About in the Guilds

Threadbenders Guild: Weaving in the Woods

In August, several members of Threadbenders Guild of Northeast Oregon headed to their 25th campout known as Weaving in the Woods. The campouts started in 1982 with one at Phillips Lake where Betty Swinkels taught Navajo Weaving. The campouts were held again in 1983 and 1986. In 1990 the campouts moved to their current site, a Wallowa-Whitman Forest Service campground. The outdoor activities continued in 1992 and 1994, then annually at the same location. Some years a special project has been the focus (Navajo Weaving, Ravenstail, Cherokee Double Wall Baskets, felting, etc.), while other years each weaver brings her loom or other materials to work on individual projects.

Camp plans are made at a potluck dinner held in July. At that time each camper chooses one meal to prepare for the others during this time. Each person brings her own tent, bedding, and other equipment, including the utensils needed to prepare her meal. Some equipment is guild owned, *i.e.* a table and kitchen. Some campers bring equipment to share: camp stoves, firewood, water jugs, large pot for hot water, coffee pots, etc.

At camp, everyone participates in camp chores beginning with helping each other set up as needed. A campfire is started each morning (if fire season permits), coffee is put on and ready as the late sleepers begin to crawl out of their tents. Each cook begins work with many offers of help. Post meal clean up is handled by willing hands.

Camp is a time of camaraderie, exchange of ideas, weaving and other fiber activities, much conversation and consultation, remembering and honoring members from the past, and cooling off in the creek that flows around the campsite. No wonder this tradition has continued 25 times over a period of 32 years!



Out and About in the Guilds

Central Oregon Spinning and Weaving/WeGO Oregon State Fair

Central Oregon Spinning and Weaving Guild along with other WeGO guilds were pleased to have 72 entries in the Spinning and Weaving Department at this year's Oregon State Fair. A new Online system was put into place this year that made sign-up for entries much easier. The Spinning and Weaving Department had their own Online Book. Remote pick-ups through the State were made possible by *Sleep Country USA* volunteering their trucks. Handweaving had 36 entries, with Central Oregon Spinning and Weaving contributing a large number that would not have been possible without *Sleep Country's* cooperation.

This was the 35th year of Demonstrating Weaving and Spinning at the State Fair. Forty nine WeGO members and friends put in 528 hours spinning and demonstrating five different types of weaving.

