

April 2010

Whatcom Weaver's Guild

Promoting community interest and education in textiles, and communication among fiber artist, with an emphasis on weaving

Regular Meetings:

September through June, 2nd Wednesday of the month

6:30pm- -Social time

7:00pm- -Short business meeting, Show & Tell,

7:30pm- - Scheduled program

St. James Presbyterian Church (Westside, lower level)

910-14th Street, Bellingham, WA

Message from the President:

For May election:

Slate of Officers for 2010-2011

President: Donna Hunter

Past President: Pat Fisher

Vice President and Programs: _____

Secretary: Cathy Thompson

Treasurer: Barbara Young

Workshops: _____

Membership: Toni Wade

second person needed to help with opening, closing, coffee

Librarian: Sheri Ward

Member-at-large & ANWG rep: Gloria Lebowitz

Newsletter: Tracy Vandermay

Education: Joyce Noordmans

Wool Show: Marcia Ford

Fibers and Beyond Chair: Mary Oates

Webmaster: Maggie Weyer

If anyone would like to help us with one of the three available positions, please contact Donna Hunter or Pat Fisher. We would like to have 2 people each for Workshops and Programs - the new person(s) and the chair from the previous year to assist.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, April 7, 2010--6:30 p.m.

APRIL GUILD PRESENTATION

“The Influences of Travelling on my Textile Practice” by Toby Smith

This presentation will be about my travels and how they have influenced my weaving and other textile practice such as embroidery. For example, I have been fortunate to have taken two textile tours to India. Since I love colour and acres of fine cloth flowing like water, I really felt like I had come to my aesthetic home. I am particularly attracted to the textiles of the people who live in the Kutch desert, with their sometimes rough weaving, sometimes fine weaving with supplementary weft. I also love the amazing embroidery with mirrors. As well, I have taken a weaving course in Norway where we made traditional vadmal cloth, fulling it in a water-driven fulling mill. Part of this course was the design and construction of a garment using traditional methods. I have also spent time camping around Eastern Europe, specifically, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, and the Czech Republic. These countries have wonderful outdoor museums in the countryside. In the buildings brought to these sites we see the textiles of humble people. In the cities are marvellous ethnographic and applied art museums which focus on the finest craft commissioned by the aristocracy, as well as a range of other classes. I shall show slides and some gorgeous textiles from some of these places. I'll also bring a few of my own pieces that illustrate how I have integrated these travel experiences into my own creative process. This process begins with my fat, worn design journals that I always have on me when I travel. I will use these to illustrate how I get from inspiration to finished textile. See you on April 14th.

Sneak Peak at Future Programs ~

May: to be announced

Jun: "Influences" show and tell along with our annual stash sale

WWG Board Meetings:

Board meeting is the 3rd Wednesday, at 6:30 pm at Richard's community room unless otherwise noted.

The Daytime Weavers:

Dayweavers are now meeting at the Roeder Home on the first Thursday of each month @ 10:30am.

On Thursday, April 1st, the Daytime Group will meet at the Roeder Home at 10:30am.

Please bring your lunch and a project to work on. We will also have the opportunity to try our hand at doing rubbings. There are so many wonderful subjects in this wonderful old home.

Hope to see you there. Kathy Sano 738-7085

F.Y.I.

Felting Study Group Proposal

Testing out the possibility of forming a Felting Study Group, to meet monthly, except during the summer months. The purpose would be to

explore together, the many aspects of felting: techniques, including wet felting, felted knitting, and needle felting; felting artists; materials resources; books and other instructive and inspirational works; workshops, etc.

The aim is that meetings might include demonstrations, hands-on workshops, and exploration of materials. Location, when not otherwise specified, could be held in the studio of Sandi Ernst, on the first Friday of each month, at 10:00 am.

Initial meeting, to bring like minds together and discuss parameters, direction and goals - Friday April 2nd/10., 10 am.~ address; 47323 Swallow Crescent, Chilliwack.

Jump-start; felting workshop, Saturday March 27th/10, Langley location

Information; contact: Sandi Ernst, 604-702-9897. Felting Study Group Proposal

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felting; felting artists; materials resources; books and other instructive and inspirational works; workshops, etc.

Show and Sell Opportunities

Whatcom Art Guild has invited our Guild to show and sell at their Spring Art by the Lake event, May 28th thru May 31st, at the Bloedel Community Building on Electric Avenue. Depending on interest, I am prepared to organize for the rental of one or two booths, with our Guild's name and display of membership information. Cost of the booths will be \$25 per booth – in past events this has worked out to be \$3-\$4 per participant.

The Art Guild provides all cashiering; we need to prepare tags and inventory sheets as per our regular Fibers & Beyond process, and we follow normal F&B item acceptance guidelines. WAG charges 20% commission on any sales. Our responsibilities are to set up and take down our booth(s), check in and check out items.

I need to provide WAG with our decision by Easter weekend, so I would appreciate a call or email from anyone interested in participating by April 2nd.

I mentioned in the last newsletter that WAG has decided to set up an Artists' Market/Gallery in the Fairhaven Waldren Building site where some of us participated in Thanksgiving thru Christmas last year. Four of us from WWG have decided to take part; the site has been open since mid-March and we are beginning to attract more visitors. Approximately 23 various types of artists are involved. Drop by and see the show some time soon – it's open 10-6 every Friday thru Sunday. And bring your out-of-town visitors! There are lots of locally made items for them to enjoy.

Again, let me know soon if you are interested in the WAG Spring Art on the Lake event.

Pat Fisher. <<mailto:pat.fisher@comcast.net>>pat.fisher@comcast.net 360 715 3360

Springfest ART STUDIO TOUR of Blaine

Plan to join us for this 2 day self-guided tour through scenic Blaine Washington and the surrounding country side. Visit the private studios of some of the area's premier local artists. This thriving community of artists, many of regional and national acclaim, is sure to spark your interest in the visual arts, the creative process and the unique studio environment of the working artist. May 8th & 9th 10am to 5pm

Brochures are available at the Blaine Chamber of Commerce or
<<http://www.blaineartists.com>>www.blaineartists.com

Donations of knitting yarn wanted. My mother-in-law, Barb, knits over 100 hats for children each year. Fifty of them go to Interfaith Coalition and 50 go to a low income school district in Washington state for two 1st grade classes. The students each get a hat. The families in this district are not well off and many students come to school under dressed for the weather. The teachers keep extra clothing items for the students and really appreciate the warm hats. Any knitting yarn will do. Barb is good at combing yarns and coming up with interesting hat patterns.

Please email me if you have a yarn donation. Thanks much, Kathy Green,
<<mailto:kmgreen196@msn.com>>kmgreen196@msn.com

NEW GUILD MEMBERS:

No new members this month.

Community Events & Classes

Greetings Fibre Enthusiasts!

Our website is now being updated for this year's Festival, which runs from Thursday, August 19 - Saturday, August 21st, 2010.

Over the coming weeks, information will continue to be added - so please check back if the information you're looking for isn't available yet.

Visit us at <http://www.gibsonslandingfibrearts.com/>www.gibsonslandingfibrearts.com

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If you add us to your bookmarks, be sure to refresh the page each visit to make sure you have the latest updates!

We're looking forward to another great Festival this summer. Thanks very much for your interest!

'Celebrating Everything Fibre'

Whidbey Weavers Guild Meeting

April 1 ,2010

For this meeting only:

10:00 - 12

Program Small Projects taught by guild members

Study Funds reports

noon - 12:45pm Brown Bag Lunch
12:45 - 1:45 Business Meeting / Show and Tell
1:45 - 2:00 Wrap up/clean up

April Program

Small Project include Wet Felted Yarn Balls, Introduction to the Drop Spindle, Ply-Split Braided Basket, Kumihimo on the Disk (for beginners and experienced braiders), Hanji Paper Felting (using paper from mulberry bark), Fiber Fluency (learn basic characteristics of fibers)

Pacific Northwest Art School
(formerly Coupeville Arts Center)
15 NW Birch Street
Coupeville WA 98239

The Pacific Northwest Art School is the first street on the left off North Main Street as you enter Coupeville from Highway 20.

Important parking information! Parking on the street can only be the side opposite the School and the additional space at the end of the street in the unpaved area. There are only a few spaces in the Art School lot itself so you need to drop off items or people please do then park elsewhere. Do not park on the street on the same side as the Art School as this is a tow away zone.

Please Join Us for the 39th Annual Whidbey Weavers Guild Spin-In

Saturday and Sunday April 10&11, 2010, 10am to 4pm

Oak Harbor High School , 950 NW 2nd Ave, Oak Harbor, WA

Donation: \$15, One price for both days – Optional Fiber packet \$10

Featured Presenter Saturday & Sunday

Amelia Garripoli, Owner of the Bellwether

Saturday – What Makes a Good Sock?

Sunday – Spinning Color for Sock Yarns

Bring your usual spinning equipment, three bobbins and a lazy kate.

Spindlers bring a 1oz or less spindle and a 1.5 oz spindle

The People's Choice entry categories will include 1) The 2009 Challenge for best handspun skeins or items in colors inspired by a photo, picture, painting, etc. 2) Best Overall Handspun Skein, and 3) Best Item Created with Handspun. Bring your best handspun items and share them in this fun competition.

An exciting array of Vendors offer fiber, fleeces, yarns, roving, books, equipment, tea, soap, notecards, and more

Also:

- Basic spinning intro workshop offered by Marcy Johnson which includes 2oz fiber and use of wheel during 1hr small group instruction for \$12.00. Contact Marcy directly at 360-331-2660 to register.
- "Liquidation" table for fiber equipment you wish to sell
- "Open to the public" shopping with great selection of vendors on Saturday April 10th from 11am-1pm
- Please bring your own lunch each day; coffee, tea provided
- Daily raffle and door prizes

For more information see:

<<http://www.whidbeyweaversguild.org>>www.whidbeyweaversguild.org

Or Ann Brenaman: 360-403-8757 or

<<mailto:annebren@comcast.net>>annebren@comcast.net

Getting There

From the North: Take I-5 Burlington exit to Hwy 20 Whidbey Is & Anacortes. Follow Hwy 20 & Whidbey signs to Oak Harbor (about 1 hour). In the central part of town, after seeing North Whidbey Middle School and field on your left, turn right at the stoplight on Whidbey Avenue. Drive approximately .8 mile, turn right on Jib Street. Drive .2 mile until the road terminates at Oak Harbor High School. Follow Weavers Guild signs to Parker Hall.

From the South: Take I-5 Exit to SR 526 and Whidbey Island. Follow RS 526 past the Boeing Plant. There will be a Whidbey Island ferry sign at the stop light at 84th Ave. Turn right. Turn right again on SR 525 and follow it to the ferry dock at Mukilteo. On the Island,

follow the highway north up Whidbey past Coupeville, and on into Oak Harbor (about 1 hour). In the central part of town, after seeing K-Mart on your left, turn left at the stoplight on Whidbey Avenue. Drive approximately .8 mile, turn right on Jib Street. Drive .2 mile until the road terminates at Oak Harbor High School. Follow Weavers Guild signs to Parker Hall.

Overnight Accommodations

Please check:

<<http://www.whidbeycamanoislands.com>>www.whidbeycamanoislands.com and

<<http://www.coupevillelodging.com>>www.coupevillelodging.com Reserve early—it's Marathon weekend.

Program for Saturday Afternoon

What Makes a Good Sock?

This presentation will provide a look into fiber, spinning technique, and knitting method for making a good sock. We'll look at different wools, blends, and how to blend ourselves. Be reminded of the spinning methods that create long-wearing yarns and see a review of resulting yarns as compared to commercial yarns. Then we'll dive into knitting techniques which help your sock have a long and warm life. Finally, we'll wrap up with handling those boo-boos with some darning tips to replace rubbed-out stitches with fresh yarn for a second life.

Workshop for Sunday

Spinning Color for Sock Yarns

Let's combine two spinning favorites: color and sock yarns! We'll tune our wheels for socks, explore the needs of sock yarns, and play with color at the same time. How can you spin a self-striping sock, and another to match? How can you get the locking effects of a cabled yarn without all that cable work? With this great technique for spinning striping sock yarn, that's how!

WORKSHOPS

1. **LEARNING CURVES:** There is still room in Mary Oates' one-day workshop to learn how to make the "Leather handled utility basket." This large basket is not only beautiful, it is practical. I really appreciated at Robyn Spady's workshop how handy such a basket is.

Those with a good sized open basket to hold their weaving supplies never had to dump them out on the floor, never had to say Now where did I put that ****screw driver, never had to scrounge amidst the lint and the snotty old kleenexes and the old banana peels to find what they were looking for; everything was visible and available. Dignity maintained at all times. So go make yourself a weaving basket. The cost is \$32 plus \$14 for materials. Contact Mary immediately. Her email is <mailto:meoates@comcast.net>meoates@comcast.net. The workshop will be held April 17th from 9 to 4 at Mary's house, 2553 Yew St. Road, Bellingham

2. NEW IDEA: I know some people who might offer Learning Curves think others will not be interested to learn what they have to offer. Well, maybe so, but we aren't looking to make life perfect for 157 people; we just want to share the knowledge wealth in this guild around to a few people at a time. Since I am not getting much response from potential instructors, then let's try it the other way around. Let's hear from potential students. What do you want to learn? Maybe we can put together a few students with an instructor. Or maybe we just have one person who wants to learn one thing. Maybe we can find someone who will teach you that one thing, like the beautiful inkle-woven straps on the hand made basket that was at the last workshop. Do you feel stalled in your textile development; would you like to try dyeing or spinning or surface design? Maybe we can't find an instructor, but it costs you nothing to ask and it costs me nothing to try to find someone. Contact me at <mailto:tobyMsmith@hotmail.com>tobyMsmith@hotmail.com, or [604] 924 1712.

3. STUDY GROUPS: Perhaps a study group is more your style. Would you like to meet with a few people a few times a year, research a weave structure, or dye, or try an effect like colour and weave, or learn to spin novelty yarns, or get some ideas for clothing design for hand weavers, or whatever, and trade samples and ideas, keeping records so someone else can reproduce your contribution. In the end you would end up with a binder full of information and samples, much like we do when we bring someone in from the outside. E-mail me and I'll spread the word.

4. TAPESTRY WEAVING with Sarah Swett: May 8, 9, 10 (Sat, Sun, Mon)

Well, you know by now that Sarah Swet's workshop now full. If you are in this workshop, you will hear from me soon. If you are interested in being put on the waiting list, please contact me at <mailto:tobyMsmith@hotmail.com>tobyMsmith@hotmail.com, or [604] 924 1712.

ROBYN SPADY WORKSHOP

Submitted by Toby Smith

In March Robyn Spady's workshop was held at the Squaticum Yacht Club clubhouse with its picture window view of the boat harbour. This "Fab Four" workshop included weave structures with a variety of effects. I guess I've heard this a hundred times, but I am still amazed at the wonderful cloth one can achieve with just four shafts. Robyn owns a computerized loom with a billion shafts, but what she mostly uses is her four shaft loom.

Jane Stafford says the same thing and this is very heartening to those of us who either choose fours or are stuck with fours. The weaves in this workshop are wildly different from one another. The diversified plain weave is kind of a snooty basket weave, elegant but simple. There were a couple of ribbed weaves that take a straight draw to new heights. And I do mean heights; you can stuff the ribs and really make them stand out. I'm thinking I could stuff them with bamboo skewers so they would stand up like a basket. We also wove corduroy, a strange experience. We couldn't get a good tight beat on the table loom so when I went to cut the long floats that were supposed to fluff up to make the pile, the bits of weft started to come out. But I can see that using more yarn in the weft and using a floor loom with a heavy beater would result in a kind of miniature rya weaving. The big revelation for most of us regarding pile weaves was learning the difference between velvet and velveteen—the pile runs in different direction. We also did a weave called 'bead leno' [and learned to pronounce it properly as leeno]. This should be called lazy leno. We were all expecting to make a leno structure with beads in it. But in fact, the bead is threaded between the reed and the heddle and is only there to twist the threads on shafts one and four so that you can just weave along in the usual way without manually twisting the threads as one does in traditional leno. Very clever. The weave I liked the best is the 'swivel treadling on an overshot threading'. You get the decorative design effect of overshot, but the surface is plain weave so there are no floats. Overall, I don't think I've ever been to a workshop that had such a range of samples to it. And of course we learned all kinds of things about weaving in general that were not on the menu, which is one of the things that I love about workshops. Robyn, who has completed the COE is an excellent teacher with amazing organizational abilities. Our binders are so complete that they even contained cardboard pieces to separate samples, post-it notes for writing down treadling sequences, and a cute little tiny baby bull clip for attaching notes to looms. So you missed a good one, if you weren't there. Great teacher, great learning, great company, great lunch, a little refund, and Robyn did the dishes.

If you are willing to provide a Learning Curve workshop, please contact me at <<mailto:tobyMsmith@hotmail.com>>tobyMsmith@hotmail.com, or [604] 924 1712.

WWG Updates

<<http://www.ferndalefiber.com>><http://www.ferndalefiber.com>

It is all about my needle felting wool packs.

Thanks much!

Kathy Green

A book review written by our own Toby Smith

for WeaveZine ~ you can find it here....

<<http://www.weavezine.com/reviews/weavers%E2%80%99-wearables>><http://www.weavezine.com/reviews/weavers%E2%80%99-wearables>

A blog for the guild

Guild's Blog

(<<http://www.whatcomweavers.blogspot.com>>www.whatcomweavers.blogspot.com) ~
From Julie Barnes

For those of you who visit the Whatcom Weavers' blog ~ Thank you! The blog was created not only as a promotional tool for the guild, but also as a place where members could interact, share ideas, and post some great photos of our meetings and events. If you are interested in participating, i.e. being a guild blogger, send me an e-mail (<<mailto:jahbarnes@msn.com>>jahbarnes@msn.com). I'll get an "invitation to blog" e-mailed to you. All you have to do is click the link in the e-mail, sign up with Google, and start blogging! It is super easy and fun! --- Questions? Contact Juliet Barnes

WWG Business-

Whatcom Weaver's Guild

Annual Membership Dues:

Adult: \$20.00-- Family: \$30.00-- Student: \$15.00

Make checks payable to Whatcom Weaver's Guild, mail to Whatcom Weaver's Guild,
P.O. Box 403, Bellingham, WA 98227

2009-10 BOARD

President: Donna Hunter

Past President: Pat Fisher

Vice President & Programs: Julie Barnes

Secretary: Cathy Thompson

Treasurer: Barbara Young

Workshops: Toby Smith

Newsletter: Tracy Vandermay

Education: Betsy Turner

Librarian: Sheri Ward

Hospitality/Membership: Toni Wade & Louise Bayma

Member-at-Large: Gloria Lebowitz

Wool Show: Marcia Ford

Fibers & Beyond Chair: Mary Oates

Newsletter Editor-Tracy Vandermay

Contact information: (360) 927-1459

E-mail: <<mailto:TracyLeeArt@gmail.com>>TracyLeeArt@gmail.com

The deadline for newsletter submissions
is the 25th of the previous month.

Whatcomweaversguild.org