

◆ Northwest News ◆

Association of Northwest Weavers' Guilds

PO Box 189, Bozeman, MT 59771-0189

YvonneC@anwg.org

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CONFERENCE CORNER



Join your fellow weavers, spinners, and other fiber enthusiasts in Eugene, OR June 21- 24, 2001, for the ANWG conference *2001 A Weaving Odyssey*. The Weaving Guilds of Oregon (WeGO) invite you to embark with them on a journey of this practical art form from the beginning, through the present, and into the future by participating in the various competitions, exhibits, and other activities which will be announced via this newsletter and on the ANWG Website as plans develop.

ANWG 2001 Conference Chair Suzie Liles reports that the committees are all in place and are working hard to make this a terrific conference.

Check the ANWG website at <http://anwg.org/conferences/> for updates and details.

ANWG/Alberta Conference 2003: Beyond Borders

The ANWG 2003 conference is to be hosted by the Handweavers, Spinners and Dyers of Alberta, Canada and will be held in Calgary. Please watch the conferences section of the ANWG website for conference planning developments.

Co-Chair - Sandra Kragelj
1205 Kaasa Rd. E.
Edmonton, AB T6L 6T5
(780) 465-0327
tkragelj@lis.ab.ca

Co-Chair - Rene Freeborn
313 Scimitar Bay N.W.
Calgary, AB T3L 1L9
(403) 239-3743
renefree@telusplanet.net

OFFICERS' CORNER

Video Library News

Laura Fry, Education Chair

We have one new video title in the library: *Profiles in Excellence*. This video is based on a slide kit of monographs from those who have earned a Masters of Weaving certification from the Guild of Canadian Weavers. It also has information on the Guild of Canadian Weavers.

I will be attending Convergence (the HGA convention) in Cincinnati this June, and will be shopping for new videos. Please send me your suggestions for new titles to add to the ANWG Library! To see a current listing of our videos, you may check the website. From the main page at <http://anwg.org/> go to Resources, then Video Library, then choose List Items.

We are also needing good reviews of any of our videos. If you would like to write one, or see one in a publication, send this information to me, and I'll see that it gets onto the website.

Newsletter and Website

Yvonne Coopmans, Communications Chair

Get to Know Your Neighbor!

The website has met with widespread membership approval and acceptance. More than one-half of our member guilds have sent their guild profiles, and some have sent pictures for their gallery and are actively using their activity pages. Guilds report regularly that they have gained contacts and new members from their listing on the website.

Get to Know Your Conferences!

The conference area itself was one of the most widely used features both before and during the conference in Bozeman. One-third of all conference registrants registered directly for the conference on-line. The registration book pages were accessed by several hundred viewers, and as the conference approached, the committee was able to keep registrants informed of last-minute

changes in the schedule via the "Latest News" page, which is set up for the conferences to update directly. Questions posed to the Conference Forum were answered by the conference committee members. There is no doubt that the website proved to be an excellent marketing tool for the conferences.

Get to Know Your Website!

Services such as the Video Library, **back issues of the Newsletter**, and Guild List are used constantly. Wider-ranging services such as the Suppliers, Classifieds, Links and Events Calendar are accessed and added to regularly. Come visit and add your favorites.

To get a complete picture of the features of the Website, go to <http://anwg.org/> and choose the Site Map (on the left of the screen) to see exactly what there is available.

Membership Stats

Celeste Pryde, Membership Chair

It's a new year, a new century, and it's time to blow your horns a bit on the website!!! The form for your guild's profile is available from Yvonne, me, or directly from the website. Go to <http://anwg.org/> then choose Resources, then Forms. Please send your guild's updated or original profile to me or Yvonne.(see masthead on Page 2 for contact information).

As of January 1 we have 84 guilds registered for 2000, with a total individual membership of 3501. Although down slightly from our total of 91 guilds in 1999, as is normal for off-conference years, we still have a great showing of guilds from around the western Canada and Northwestern US. Thank you for your timely re-subscriptions. The most current information on guild membership status and contacts are being maintained by the Communication Chair and Membership Chair. You may check the status of any member guild by using the website.

Do you get the feeling we Board members want to hear from you? Contact us by mail, e-mail or phone!! ☞

ASSOCIATION OF NORTHWEST WEAVERS' GUILDS

OFFICERS FOR 1999-2001

Chairman - Sue Scott

Rt. 4 Box 311
Walla Walla, WA 99362
(509) 525-3339
SueS@anwg.org

Past-chair & Parliamentarian -

Betty Bell
2005 10 Ave.
Milton, WA 98354
(253) 926-1136
BettyB@anwg.org

Vice-Chair - Nadine Purcell

920 Wilson Road
Ashland, OR 97520-9323
(541) 482-2629
NadineP@anwg.org

Secretary - Ilona Schneider

162 Steppingstone Crescent
Vernon, BC V1H 1X2
(250) 558-1408
IlonaS@anwg.org

Treasurer - Ruth Locke

12404 19th Pl. W. #218
Everett, WA 98204
(425) 742-8535

Education - Laura Fry

P.O. Box 4, Stn. A
Prince George, BC V2L 4R9
(250) 563-3144
LauraF@anwg.org

Membership - Celeste Pryde

514 16th St. S.
Lethbridge, AB T1J 3A9
(403) 327-5626
CelesteP@anwg.org

Communication - Yvonne Coopmans

P.O. Box 189
Bozeman, MT 59771-0189
(406) 763-4452
YvonneC@anwg.org

2001: A Weaving Odyssey ANWG/WeGO

Chair - Suzie Liles

3471 Reston Rd.
Roseburg, OR 97470
(541) 679-4600
sliles@wizards.net

Beyond Borders ANWG/Alberta, 2003

Co-Chair - Sandra Kragelj

1205 Kaasa Rd. E.
Edmonton, AB T6L 6T5
(780) 465-0327
tkragelj@lis.ab.ca

Co-Chair - Rene Freeborn

313 Scimitar Bay N.W.
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renefree@telusplanet.net

PERSONAL CORNER

Sue Scott, ANWG Chair

I am a weaver. I have been a quilter, a knitter, a spinner, a cross-stitcher and a needlepointer. I guess you could say needlework of some sort or another is in my genes. But that is really not true either. My Mom sewed, but to quilt something, ah----no, I don't think so. And weaving, well, she would have used the looms for fire-wood long ago. Weaving has always intrigued me because of the mystery. The beautiful colors of the warp when tied together by the weft are a symphony of form and function. By adding different threadings and treadlings (the way you move your feet, almost akin to playing the organ), the possibilities for design and texture are endless. When I sit down to weave and see the design magically appear, I'm always overjoyed and awed. Who thought this stuff up? How did they know where to start?

As the millennium approaches, with all the hype and varying degrees of despair, I find myself thinking again and again of the weavers of the past. If you lined up 1,000 people, each one representing a year in the past Millennium, the number of folks actually living 25 years before, during, and 25 years after the turn of the century would be few indeed.

Not only am I lucky enough to be a human at this time, I am fortunate to be a weaver. I know the weaving studios of old had cats to keep out the mice. Now I have a mouse that gives me access to the Smithsonian Institutes Coptic Textile Collection. With that same mouse, I can buy silk from Japan, wool from Australia, cotton from Utah. I can find old weaving manuscripts, natural dyes from bugs that live on cactus in Peru and exotic wood shuttles from Hawaii or Alaska. All can be delivered to my door and paid for with the click of that mouse.

In previous times, if you were lucky enough to be a weaver, or a stained glass maker, or a lace knitter, you studied with a Master, learned what she knew and worked your whole life in a fairly small geographical area. You may never have seen anything other than what you and your fellows created. Now however, through the advances of technology and desktop publishing, I can actually reproduce Shaker rugs and textiles from patterns written in longhand by Shaker weavers. I can reproduce Overshot Coverlets that were made for only a short time in our history; few originals exist and they will never be made again. I have access to all the ingenuity, engineering, and inspiration that weavers, quilters, and needleworkers the WORLD over have come up with in the past 2,000 years!

What an exciting and sobering thought. All the past history of time on one side, all the uncertainty and potential on the other. It gives me goose bumps just thinking about it! No one really knows what the next 1,000 years will hold. However, I know I am most fortunate. I will get a glimpse of the future while having the benefit of being able to see and appreciate ALL the past.

NORTHWEST CORNER

For more events, competitions, or conferences, please see our Calendar on the website. Go to <http://anwg.org/> and look under Resources, Calendar, or check the Links for other sites which list textile events.

2000

June 20 - 26, 2000

Convergence, HGA Conference, Cincinnati, OH
<http://weavespindy.com/convergence/> or *Shuttle, Spindle and Dyepot.*

2001

June 20-26, 2001

ANWG conference 2001 *A Weaving Odyssey*, Eugene, OR.
<http://anwg.org/conferences/> or Suzie Liles, 3471 Reston Rd.
Roseburg, OR 97470 (541) 679-4600 sliles@wizards.net

2002

Summer (July/August)

Convergence, HGA Conference, *Textile Tides*, Vancouver, BC.
Contact Gaye Hansen, 674 St. Ives Crescent, North Vancouver, B.C.
V7N 2X3, Canada, to volunteer.

ASSOCIATION'S CORNER

The following items are being supplied as an aid in introducing your guild to ANWG. Please read these at a meeting, and/or submit them to your newsletter editor for reprinting.

What is ANWG?

From the ANWG Executive Board

ANWG (pronounced An-wig) stands for the Association of Northwest Weavers' Guilds. The Association is a non-profit corporation dedicated to promoting and stimulating public interest in hand-weaving and related activities, to aiding and encouraging prospective handweavers, and to conducting and assisting with the foregoing endeavours in the Northwest, including Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan, Washington, Wyoming, and Yukon Territory.

At present, we have about 90 member guilds, with a total representation of approximately 3,500 individuals, equally distributed between Canada and the US. Our memberships are by guild only, with fees of \$1.00 (one dollar) per guild member per year.

One of our main activities consists of sponsoring a biennial weaving and fibre arts conference, the location of which depends on the hosting guild's location from time to time. The 2001 conference, hosted by the Weaving Guilds of Oregon, will be held in Eugene, Oregon, and the 2003 conference will be hosted by the Handweavers, Spinners and Dyers of Alberta in Calgary, Alberta.

Individual members of associated guilds have priority registration at our biennial regional conferences before general registration is opened. Member guilds receive one exhibit space at no charge. A limited number of scholarships for conference attendance are offered to individuals whose guild has maintained its membership.

The Association works constantly to promote communications and educational opportunities for its members, both on the guild and individual level. We maintain a library of fibre arts related videos which are available for rental for the cost of return postage. Our website offers numerous outlets for communication, including an up-to-date Association membership and library list, conference information, space for each guild to post their profiles and activities, past copies of our quarterly newsletter, and notification of Association meetings. An online Speakers' Directory is currently under construction.

The main page of the ANWG website is located at <http://anwg.org/> Please check the Site Map to see all the features on the site.

Spring AGM Set for June 3, 2000

Guild reps, please set aside the first weekend of June for the annual General Membership Meeting (AGM) of the ANWG.

The location is the Doubletree Hotel in Pasco, Washington. You will find your room reservation information and attendance confirmation form on the Rep's Pull-out in this newsletter.

If you or someone from your guild will not be attending the meeting, we would still love to hear from you; send your guild report to Sue Scott.

Win a Free Conference Registration!

The weaving contest at the 1998 Spring meeting of the ANWG reps was so successful that the Board has agreed to repeat it this year. The meeting is June 3, 2000 in Pasco, Washington. Here are the details:

Each guild's Rep may enter a piece by one of their guild's members, woven no earlier than 1996 which has never been shown at an ANWG Conference or been part of a guild booth exhibit at our conferences. The entries themselves will be brought to the meeting and returned at the end of the day.

The show registration form, available from your Rep, asks for a documentation sheet to be completed and entered with the weaving, for inclusion in a summer newsletter and on the website.

Judging will be done by the Reps in attendance, with the Executive Board tallying, and voting in case of a tie. Ribbons will be awarded, and one (1) 2001 Conference registration will be awarded to Best of Show, to be used by the winning guild's membership as they see fit. If one Rep is in attendance representing two or more guilds, one weaving only will be shown at the AGM. In such a case, a run-off between these entries prior to the meeting is suggested.

ANWG Logo Contest ANWG Needs an Image!

A logo is a graphic design which portrays an organization in an immediate and positive way, like the Ford emblem, or the Nike "swoosh". The logo should be a symbol of our purpose, energy, and optimism towards the fiber arts to our members and the public as we enter the new year, century, and millennium.

Contest Rules

The contest begins with the publication of this newsletter and a simultaneous announcement on the website. It will run until April 15, 2000. Entries are welcome from any member of an ANWG associate guild.

The Logo Committee will review each submission and make sure they follow the specifications given below. Any submissions failing to qualify will be refused, however the artist will be notified as to the problem, and can re-work the design and re-submit it within the deadline.

All accepted entries will be posted on the ANWG website after April 15, in color, and published in the Spring 2000 issue of the Northwest News, in black and white. Check the website at <http://anwg.org> or with your guild Rep to see the entries.

Selection

Individual members of ANWG may vote for their favorite logo design after April 15 directly on the ANWG website, or they may relay their vote to their Rep. Voting will close May 31. The winning design will be announced at the Spring AGM in Pasco, WA, on June 3.

The winning artist will receive a generous award.

Requirements

Keep in mind that the logo will represent ANWG for many years, for many situations. It will appear in both the Association and guild newsletters, on ANWG and conference correspondence and advertising from the conference host Planning Committees, on signage at conferences, on the website, maybe even T-shirts, aprons, or earrings!

The design

1. should be simple, graphic, and scalable to any size
2. should contain the letters ANWG
3. may be black and white or a maximum pallet of 4 colors with no gradient fills

Submission

Original artwork may be mailed or sent electronically. If you are interested in participating in the contest, please write for a complete set of instructions

Yvonne Coopmans
PO Box 189
Bozeman, MT 59771
YvonneC@anwg.org

MEMBERS' CORNER

Ponderosa Guild and Navajo Weavers

The Kelowna Museum in Kelowna, B.C. has invited the Ponderosa Spinners, Weavers and Fibre Artists Guild to take part in an exhibition along with a Navajo show of rugs and other artifacts. We will have the pleasure of having two Navajo Weavers here for about three weeks. Mae Jean Lewis and her daughter Sherry will be demonstrating their skills in spindle spinning and weaving "Two Grey Hills" style rugs. The show opened in January and will run through March 31, 2000.

We hope you will be able to come and enjoy Mae and Sherry as they weave their beautiful traditional rugs with designs that have been passed down through generations.

The Ponderosa guild will also have work (past and present) on display at the museum. If you are in the Kelowna area between now and March 31, please stop in. The museum is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm.

For further information, please contact:

Ruth Jarret
ruthjarrett@hotmail.com

or

The Kelowna Museum
470 Queensway, Kelowna, BC
V1Y 6S7
(250) 763-2417, 763-5722 (fax)

Teaching Children

by Libby Hocker, Cave Junction, OR

(Libby is also a member of Rogue Valley Handweavers Guild and Saturday Handweavers Guild, both in the Medford, OR area.)

Recently our high school art teacher set up her Harrisville 4H floor loom in her son's fourth-grade class and asked for my help in warping it and teaching the 27 youngsters in the class how to weave. It sounded like a daunting challenge, but I warped the loom with 7 yards of four colors of rug warp for large mug rugs. Using similar colors of 1/2 cotton for weft, we began the project, with the help of my weaving friend Jan Burns. Hoping to inspire the children, we shared some examples of handwoven articles, gave a brief history of weaving—especially as it related to Americans in the 19th Century, and showed how recycled items (such as rag strips) can be incorporated into weaving.

Before we began hands-on sessions at the loom, we tried an activity which my husband had suggested. To help the kids

understand the relationship of the warp and the weft, we created a "living loom" using 10 children for the warp and one little guy as the shuttle carrying the weft. Five kids knelt on the floor, shoulder to shoulder, opposite another five, with an end of a 5-foot piece of clothesline held in each hand. As they held the rope pieces taut, we showed them how to create the shed through which the "shuttle" would pass as he carried a ball of rag strips. Then the shed changed, and the weft-carrier traveled between the layers of warp. After only four "picks" of the weft, we packed in the weft to illustrate what woven cloth looks like. Everyone in the class had volunteered to be part of the living loom, but there was time for just the one group of 11 to "play loom".

Then we worked with groups of four children at the Harrisville loom, each one having a chance to weave. They learned quickly, and all seemed interested. The results of their first effort looked great.

The youngsters will have access to the loom next year as fifth-graders. We'd welcome any advice about sharing with children our love for weaving.

The Skagit Valley Weaver's Guild Celebrates!

From June Schilbach, Bow, Washington

The Skagit Valley Weaver's Guild, based in the Mt. Vernon/Anacortes area of Washington state, celebrates their 25th anniversary in 2000.

Our guild has been re-energized by some simple changes in direction, which seem to be keeping our members enthusiastic about weaving. Inadequate funds forced us to look beyond the usual guild-sponsored programs for fresh ideas, so for a couple of years we had study groups built around themes. When the treasury was restored to a comfortable level we scheduled a large workshop—twenty four participants with looms. The three-day workshop was supposed to involve warping the looms and trading looms for sampling. However the workshop leader's many hot tips and enthusiasm proved to be contagious! It quickly became apparent that we had more weaving than daylight hours, so we opted for lectures and demonstrations and put the looms aside to finish the weaving at home. Actually, we never swapped looms at all, which turned out to be a wonderful bonus because we had plenty of time to work on beat, squaring, and selvages. By the time we did trade samples they were fine examples of the weave structure we were working

with. We highly recommend the format of workshops with more lectures, ample demonstration, and plenty of time for interaction!

Looking forward to 2000-2001, we plan to do a year on garment construction. We'll begin with a one-day workshop on planning basics in the fall followed by a three-day work shop on construction in the spring. But the best part is our members are WEAVING, sharing, volunteering, and voting "yes" to even more!

Fibre Festival 2000

From Celeste Colbourne, Sunshine Coast Weavers and Spinners

We are working in conjunction with the Gibsons Landing Business Association to organize the Fibre Festival 2000 to be held in Gibsons Landing, BC the week of August 14-20. It is a week of workshops, a festival in the streets, Merchants Mall, and demonstrations in the parks and on the ferries.

Our workshop facilitators include Laura Fry, Louisa Chadwick, and Pat Bullen (of Bullen's Woolens Ready Spin) from Ohio. We have confirmations from several other wonderful instructors.

For more information and updates as the dates of the festival approaches, check our webpage at <http://anwg.org/conferences/regional/>

Salt Springs Island Sponsors Workshops Five Workshops Slated for 2000

Salt Spring Island Weavers and Spinners Guild will be hosting the following workshops that are open to non Salt Spring members. Accommodation will be arranged for off island attendees.

March 3 - 4 - 5 *Sumptuous Silk Clothing* with Karen Selk

March 20-24, *Felt Odyssey* with Barb McCaffrey

May 6-7-8 *Spinning Wool Beyond the Basics* with Anne Field

July 25 - 28, 2000 *Sewing With Handwovens* with Cecelia Podolak

September 9, 2000 *Eco-Dyeing* with Karen Diadick-Casselman

Please express your interest in attending these workshops to:

Mary Paddon paddon@saltspring.com or 250-537-5137.

See our Activities page on the ANWG Website for details, including costs.

<http://anwg.org/guilds/> then go to BC, then Salt Springs, then Activities. ❧