



NOVEMBER – DECEMBER, 2006
NORTHWEST ARKANSAS HANDWEAVERS GUILD

WEBSITE: www.nwahandweaversguild.com

President	Linda Long
First Vice President	Flo Schumacher
Vice President-Elect	Roberta Hamilton
Secretary	Vicki Kell-Schneider
Treasurer	Beverly Maloney

MEETINGS ON THE SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH, SEPTEMBER THROUGH JUNE
10:00 A.M. AT THE ART CENTER OF THE OZARKS
214 SOUTH MAIN, SPRINGDALE, AR

COMING EVENTS

NOV. 11 In January 2004, a doctor from Colorado and his wife set out for Africa, he to train AIDS doctors and she to ... change the lives of the women there. She came upon women leaning against their mud huts in the evenings making beads by tightly rolling, then varnishing, thin strips of discarded magazine pages and stringing them into necklaces, bracelets, and chokers. They sold them to the occasional passerby as they had to support their children and the children of AIDS victims whom they had adopted.

The doctor's wife bought several necklaces and received so many compliments that she bought more. Then an idea was born: a cottage industry. She brought beads to the US to sell and called this project BeadforLife. The project continues to grow and whereas they used to make \$1/day crushing rocks for 10 hours in the hot sun, most of the beaders have tripled their annual income. For the first time they are feeding their families 3 meals a day, have money for clothes, medicine, mosquito nets, and infant rehydration kits.

To learn more about this project, go to www.beadforlife.org.

Since we, as a Guild, like to help women in third world countries, I hope that you will come to our Nov. meeting to hear a CD of the women singing, to see a DVD of the women beaders, to enjoy the African recipes that the Program Committee will prepare for you, and to buy some unique Christmas gifts.

Don't forget that our meetings are open to the public, so bring your friends!

DEC. 9 Our December meeting will be an auction with Bev Maloney as our Auctioneer. Won't THAT be fun?! Please bring clean, new or nearly new treasures, and hopefully some handwoven and weaving related items. We won't do a handwoven gift exchange this year but do bring some of your favorite cookies to share. Also, if you bring your recipe written on one side of paper and place it under your place of cookies, people can write their names on the recipes they like and I will copy and send the recipes to them.

With both of these fun buying opportunities, your Christmas shopping should be a snap this year!

President's Message

I have been busy since I saw you last – going to craft fairs and quilt shops with an old friend and on a bus trip with a newer friend. We went to Little Rock and visited the new Clinton Library, the Old State House Museum, the Arkansas State Capitol and the Governor's Mansion. We also have been on a camping trip recently to the beautiful Buffalo River. My head is swimming with flashes of beautiful fall colors and wonderful old building and Arkansas history and dreams of making small quilts and weaving fabric for bags and purses. Whew! I hope I can realize a few of these dreams as soon as I finish the summer projects still on the loom.

I hope you all are enjoying the fall colors and have happy projects on the loom. We will want to hear about your weaving and see your results at Show and Share.

Flo has arranged a good program for our November 11th meeting about African ladies making beads from paper. See you then.

Happy weaving,

Linda

MINUTES

The September meeting of the Northwest Arkansas Handweavers Guild was called to order at the Arts Center of the Ozarks in Springdale, Arkansas on September 9, 2006, at 10:00 A.M. by Linda Long, President.

Linda Long recognized Marie Bouchette and Helen Jeffrey, old members, who were present., and introduced new member, Carol Alford. Emily Purdom brought her sister, Lydia, and Karen Glen, a friend, as guests. Harlene Henson brought her sister, Robin Cook.

Minutes for May and June were in the newsletter. Sue Stewart moved the minutes be approved as printed. Monica Milam seconded. Motion passed. Beverly Maloney's treasurer's report showed a previous balance of \$2,926.95 with income of \$165.00 in dues for a new balance of \$3,091.95. The annual contribution to the Arts Center of the Ozarks of \$200.00 was deemed a regular bill not requiring a motion to pay. The Treasurer was directed to write a check.

At the Washington Co. Fair, Emily Purdom received a grand champion ribbon and a young man won in the junior division. Louise Maringer also won a ribbon. Janice Neighbors would like to have a fair exhibit in the future for masters and teachers of items not for judging. Linda Long reported that the Benton County Fair starts next week. The Guild exhibit booth will be set up with items by several members and nice flyers about the Guild made by Beverly.

The following upcoming events were mentioned: Deadline for the 5 x 5 exhibit at the Arts Center is Sept. 22. Living History Day at Ozark Folkways in Winslow, Arkansas. Halcyon Yarn is having a 25th anniversary contest. Details on Halcyon's website. "Off the Beaten Path" tour in Mountain View at various artisans' homes around the area.

Projects of interest to members were discussed: Monica Milam says Heifer Project is having a 2 for 1 sale on animals. There is an effort to knit hats for children in the Little Rock hospital. Their goal is 10,000 hats by November 27th. Patterns are available at Handheld in Fayetteville. Details at www.archildren.org/volunteer. Cecelia Jaffe and Janice Neighbors reminded members of the project to knit helmet liners for soldiers. Cecelia has a new improved pattern if you need a copy. Remember to use pure wool yarn for their safety in case of fire.

Committee Reports

Program: Flo Schumacher thanked her team members: Ed Thompson, Roberta Hamilton and Emily Purdom. She explained how swatch exchanges and study groups worked and asked anyone interested to contact her. The challenge this year is on the Fibonacci series. Roberta Hamilton will be next year's chairman. She would like suggestions for next year so she can be working on them. She would like to do a member exhibit next fall and would appreciate input.

Publicity: No report as Ann McKnight was not feeling able to attend.

Hospitality: Sharon Loyd and Monica Milam are co-chairs. Refreshments today by officers. Sign-up sheet to bring goodies was circulated at meeting.

Library: Laura Redford brought duplicates of old magazines for sale at meeting. She is giving the program today on the resources in our library.

Newsletter: Harlene Henson has correspondence from several other guilds. She said if you have a name and address of someone who might be interested in receiving a copy of our newsletter, to let her know.

Yearbook: If there are any changes to your address or e-mail, please let Laura Redford know.

Membership: Sharon Loyd asked everyone to please sign in at meetings so we will have a record.

Sunshine: Sue Stewart said Ann McKnight enjoyed the cards she received. Laura Thompson has had a bad fall and could use some sunshine.

Demonstrations: Monica Milam said Sheep to Shawl is coming up October 5 and 6 at Shiloh Museum. A sign-up sheet is being circulated today. She says it is fun but they need more people.

Problem Solvers: Beverly Maloney brought her bag made from summer and winter sampler done in seminar which we had discussed how to finish last month.

Show and Share: Louise Maringer: Tapestry from the Fair and her 5 x 5 piece for the show. Vern Sidler: 12 placemats and coordinating napkins. Emily Purdom: Rep weave mug rugs, 4 block, 4 shaft, summer and winter placemats, and the boundweave piece that won Grand Champion at the Washington Co. Fair. Monica Milam: Inkle bags made at seminar and a knitted and felted bag. Marilyn Stewart: An outcome of summer seminar—a polychrome summer and winter piece—and a Marsh lace cotton vest for which she is looking for two antique or spectacular buttons. Vicki Kell: Dukagang sampler. Carol Alford: Handspun brown cotton overshot coverlet. Sharon Loyd: Knitting bag of nylon raffia in log cabin pattern. Polly Potter: Coverlet found at a yard sale. Linda Long: Dukagang sampler made into napkins.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 A.M. for refreshments and program on our library by Laura Redford.

Respectfully submitted, Vicki J. Kell-Schneider, Secretary

The October meeting of the Northwest Arkansas Handweavers Guild was called to order at the Arts Center of the Ozarks in Springdale, Arkansas, on October 14, 2006, at 10:00 A.M. by Linda Long, President.

Guests present were Lisa Manzini-Pace and Tracy Crews and Ed and Gearolyn Thompson's granddaughter, Bailey. Lynn Tedder was also present to give the program today.

Minutes for September will be printed in the newsletter. Beverly Maloney's treasurer's report showed a previous balance of \$3,091.95 with income of \$138.00 and outlay of \$311.78 for a new balance of \$2,918.17.

Linda Long said that the Benton County Fair had happened and brought pictures of the exhibit. She also advised that Genny Olsen had won the Best of Show prize. The 5 x 5 exhibit at the Arts Center was on display downstairs.

Correspondence had been received from Laura Thompson, who said she is improving. Emily Purdon's siblings are selling poinsettias for a youth program. She said she could deliver them to the December meeting. Contact Emily if interested.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program: Flo Schumacher says today is Lynn Tedder on rep weave. She asked about interest in swatch exchange and study groups. Roberta Hamilton is interested in studying computer downloaded programs such as Pixelloom (Interweave Press). If interested in joining, contact her. Also, a friendship coverlet project has been suggested as an idea.

Publicity: Ann McKnight had a notice of meeting from Morning News.

Hospitality: Astrid Aberg and Angie Jones brought refreshments today. Reminders for pcoming months will appear in newsletter.

Library: Laura Redford can provide a list of library contents to anyone who wanted one and didn't get it last month.

Newsletter: Harlene Henson was not able to attend but will be home October 23rd to start on newsletter.

Yearbook: Yearbooks were distributed by Laura Redford. If there are any changes to your address or e-mail, please let Laura Redford know.

Membership: No report.

Sunshine: Sue Stewart reported no news.

Demonstrations: Emily Purdom reported that they had 600 kids at Sheep to Shawl with 3 people the first day and 4 people the second day.

Problem Solvers: None.

Show and Share: Louise Maringer brought a double Rolakan tapestry wall hanging and a bag made with Sharon Loyd's swatch. Emily Purdom brought knitted hats for the Children't Hospital program. Sue Stewart made white huck tea towels from Best of Weaver's. Peggy Bowen brought 3 yards of lace. Linda Long has made a huck sampler of 10/2, but didn't have it there.

Meeting was adjourned for refreshments and program on warp rep by Lynn Tedder of the Tulsa Guild, who is also an editor of Handwoven.

Respectfully submitted, Vicki J. Kell-Schneider

PLANNING A PROJECT

BY Sharon Loyd

Hoo boy, where do I begin? There are probably as many ways to plan a project as there are to warp, tie on and weave said project.

First of all, do as I say and not as I do by KEEPING RECORDS! I can't stress this enough. You may think you will remember how you calculated the number of ends ("now, how did I come up with THAT figure?"), but chances are, you will have forgotten by the time the project is off the loom and finished. If it is a gift, you are really sunk because you may never see it again.

I will often draw a picture of what I am planning to weave, ensuring that I have included all my hems or fringes and the 'body' of each piece. I may make more work for myself, but it works for me to draw it out, write the numbers out to the side and then add them up. With that in mind, I can follow the formula for figuring my warp and weft requirements. Before we get to that formula, there are other considerations.

Warp take-up

Because take-up shortens a warp, you must plan this into each project.

- Size: The heavier the weft, the more warp take-up there will be. It takes more warp to go over and under a fat weft, than a skinny weft. Allow 20-25% take-up for Rep weave.
- Structure: The more the warp interlaces with the weft, the more the take-up. Plain weave will take-up more than twill.

Weft take-up

Weft has take-up because it travels over and under each warp but we often refer to it as draw-in.

- Size: The heavier the warp, the more take-up there will be.
- Structure: The more the weft interlaces with the warp, the more the draw-in. When the weft catches the selvedge it tends to move the edge in, creating a stronger edge, but a narrowed width. You will always have some draw-in unless you use a temple. Be sure to arc or angle or bubble your weft to help limit draw-in. Some structures will draw-in more than others. There is usually very little draw-in in Rep.

Loom Waste

This is the warp that you just can't weave. It includes the amount of yarn you use to tie onto the front and back tie-on rods and the distance between the back tie-on rod and the heddles when you just can't squeeze out another inch.

NOTE: Give yourself some room here. The closer you weave to the end of your warp, the less room your harnesses have to rise and fall, causing sticking warps and skips (mistakes) in your weaving. It is one thing to be frugal (I am), but it is frustrating to have the mistakes. If you give yourself a little extra for waste, you can always weave a sample, yes, the dreaded "S" word, with a different weft or treadling or just for fun. Of course, you DID allow enough to make a sample for RECORDS, right?

Shrinkage

The fiber content and method of finishing (washing/drying/dry cleaning) determines the shrinkage of any piece. Ideally, you will weave a 12-inch square sample with your fiber, finish it appropriate to the fiber/fabric's purpose and measure it for shrinkage. Yeah, I know that takes time and uses up yarn, but think how much time/yarn you will save if you need 12 towels and only get 10. If you choose to not weave a sample, you may get by with cutting two identical lengths of the fiber to be used, wash and dry one of them and compare with the unwashed fiber.

Let's say we are going to weave four plain weave mats with 2" fringes. They will be 15 inches wide and 17 inches long, not including the fringes and wover in a balanced plain weave (same number of picks per inch as ends per inch). We will set our warp for 12 ends per inch and sley one thread per dent.

Draw your picture with the dimensions written on the side. Don't forget that each mat will have 2 inches of fringe on both ends.

WARP CALCULATIONS:

Finished project length (not including fringes) 4 mats x 17" = 68"

Fringe (first and last mats can use the loom waste for one of their ends)

3 sections x 4" = 12"

Shrinkage (5% of mat length 68" + 12" = 80") .05 x 80" = 4"

Take-up (10% of what is to be woven) .10 x 68" = 6.8 or 7"

Loom waste (front and back) 24"

Total warp length 115" 115" divided by 36" = 3 yds, 7" I would round up to 3 yds, 9" or 117"

This is how long the warp needs to be. Now calculate how many **ends** we need to measure to weave our mats:

Finished width of mats 15"

Draw-in 1"

Total width on loom 16"

12 epi x 16" wide = 192 warp ends, each measured 3 _ yds long = 624 yds

WEFT CALCULATIONS

When using the same size fiber for weft and a balance weave, you could double the total of warp calculated and come close to the amount of weft you will need. Unless you do a sample and know exactly how hard you will beat and the tension of the warp, the amount of weft required will be an estimate. Don't forget about take up in the weft. A fabric which has many more wefts per inch than warps will have more take up in the weft. So if our warp is 16" wide in the reed then one weft shot will be approximately 16" + 1.6" = 17.6" or round up to 18" long.

Length of one weft shot = 18"

x ppi (12 in this case) = 216" to weave ONE inch

x inches to be woven = 68"

= total inches needed 14,688"

Divide by 36" = 408 yds needed for weft. Add warp needed to weft needed for total yardage needed for 4 fringed mats 15" x 17" finished.

FORMULA FOR FIGURING WARP

_____ project length in inches

+ _____ fringe

+ _____ take up (10% avg.)

+ _____ shrinkage (10% avg.)

+ _____ loom waste (You could just add an extra yard for take up, shrinkage and waste totals)

= _____ total length*

Then calculate:

_____ finished width

+ _____ draw in (1-2" avg.)

+ _____ shrinkage (10% avg.)

= _____ on loom width

x _____ warp sett

= _____ total ends needed**

Multiply total length (*from above) by total ends needed (**from above) = inches

Divided inches needed _____ by 36" to get yards needed _____ for warp.

FORMULA FOR FIGURING WEFT

_____ length of one weft shot in inches

x _____ shots per inch

= _____ inches needed to weave one inch of fabric

x _____ inches to be woven

= _____ inches of weft needed to weave all of project

Divide inches of weft needed _____ by 36" to get yards needed _____ for weft.

Resources: The Magic of Handweaving, the Basics and Beyond.
By Sigrid Piroch

Learning to Weave with Debbie Redding (Chandler)

And my own experience of mistakes, miscalculations and frugality

RECENT PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM: Our Guild librarian, Laura Redford, gave us a "tour" of the library and the many books, magazines, and videos the Guild owns. She also passed out a list of our holdings. (If you want one, let her know. Also, it's on our web site.) There are at least three ways to utilize the library. First, for research. Maybe you'd like to know more about Coptic weaves or color in weaving. The library includes several indexes that can help you find magazine articles about any subject. The book list, while not indexed by subject, can help too as fiber books usually have descriptive titles. Maybe you are interested in advancing your knowledge or skill in a particular area, maybe lace or biederwand. Our library has a variety of books and extensive journal collection to help you there. Or, maybe you just need some inspiration. Check out a couple swatch books or a year's worth of "Handwoven" or "Weaver's." A cup of coffee or tea and a bunch of weaving magazines—you're bound to find something you want to weave!! There's always "browse time" before, during and after regular meetings.

OCTOBER PROGRAM: Lynn Tedder, member of the Tulsa Handweavers Guild and Technical Editor of "Handwoven," presented an excellent program on Rep. She explained the difference between ripsmatta and rep—words commonly used interchangeably. Ripsmatta actually means a rep mat while ripa, or rep, denotes the weave structure. Rep weave is a warp faced plain weave in which the color in the warp produces the design. She showed many interesting examples including pick-up techniques used to "draw pictures" in rep. She also gave us several good warping tips and much practical information.

ANOTHER FRIENDSHIP COVERLET? There has been some interest in doing another Friendship Coverlet. Laura Redford has agreed to be the "contact point" for the early stages of this project. If you are interested, let her know before the first of the year so that the planning can get underway.

Here's a bit of history about our first Friendship Coverlet project. In 1985, there was much talk about ways to celebrate the upcoming Arkansas Sesquicentennial (150 years of statehood). Many organizations, individuals and communities were planning projects. The Guild decided to create an overshot coverlet in "Arkansas red" made of natural materials, cotton and wool, and to feature it as the centerpiece of a display of woven pieces both old and new. Ellen Engle adjusted the many overshot patterns to weave the same size so they would fit together well. Then 19 weavers chose their patterns (all 4-shaft), threaded their looms and wove one square in red for the Guild's coverlet, and then 19 other squares—one for each of the coverlet weavers. When all were done, the squares were exchanged. Elise Metzler wove 2 squares (to make 20) and all the border material. She then put it together—mostly by hand. It took a lot of planning and prodding to meet deadlines but the finished coverlet is truly an heirloom. It has been shown many times in the 20 years since it was made. Weavers of that coverlet included current members: Flo Schumacher, Jean Whiteman and Laura Redford; for members: Marty Gillespie, Harriet Johnson, Trudy Breitag, Dottie Fox Allison, Elise Metzler, Irene Kintner, Sally LeBoeuf and Jane Bailey; and now deceased members: Frances Cox, Lois Fry, Helen Robbins, Ellen Engle, Nell Cooke, Linnea Sylvander, Lois Imhoff and Charlene Dressler.

So, if YOU would like to be part of making the next Guild heirloom and have a coverlet for yourself, call or email Laura at 925-1102 or wannaweavemore@cox.net.

SHEEP TO SHAWL: We have received thank-you notes and some pictures from the Shiloh Museum for our participation in their award-winning Sheep to Shawl program. About 600 children attended the two day event. Thanks to Emily Purdom, Carol Alford, Astrid Aberg, Marilyn Stewart, Ed and Gearolyn Thompson, Monica Milam, and Vernon Sidler. Carol did double duty – she spent Thursday in the General Store with the weavers and Friday in the Log Cabin with the spinners. Also in the log cabin on Thursday and Friday were two other NAHG members, Genny Olson and Janice Neighbors.

REFRESHMENTS: Those who have signed up to bring refreshments to Guild meetings are as follows: (Just a reminder, in case you forget which month you signed up for.)

- Nov. 11 Program Committee and Monica Milam
- Dec. 9 Everyone brings goodies to share
- Jan 13 Tammy Sowers-White, Carol Alford, Cecelia Jaffe
- Feb. 10 Sallie Simmons, Bev Maloney, Louise Maringer
- Mar. 10 Everyone brings sack lunch or buys lunch at library
- Apr 14 Marie Bouchette, Sue Stewart
- May 12 Sharon Loyd, Laura Redford, M. J. Stewart
- June 9 Everyone – Pot Luck Luncheon

ANNOUNCEMENT: Rebecca Bluestone's weavings will be on display through December 1st at Spiva Art Center, 222 W. 3rd, Joplin. Web site www.wovenharmony.com includes images and sound samples of her husband's music. Robert Bluestone is a classical guitarist.

FUNDRAISER: The Youth Orchestra Program is having a fundraiser., and is selling poinsettias. Three sizes will be available: 6 _ inch pots for \$12, 8 inch pots for \$22, and 10 inch pots for \$32. Poinsettias are available in Red, White, Pink, Shimmer Surprise (Red with White speckles) and Marble Star (Pink with White edges). Please let Emily Purdom know NO LATER THAN the 5th of November. Phone 479-248-7058 or wheresmyloom@hotmail.com.

GUILD YEARBOOK: The Guild yearbook was handed out at the October meeting and mailed to those members not present. Guess what? Corrections and additions below:

- Remove Sharon Loyd from the Membership Committee
- Add Carol Alford's email: clatermite@hotmail.com
- Change Marilyn Stewart's email to: weaver2k@arkansas.net
- Add member: Laura Thompson, P.O.Box 58, Deer, 72628, 870-428-5923, thompson04@ritternet.com

**AND BEST WISHES TO EACH OF YOU AND YOUR FAMIY FOR A
WONDERFUL**

THANKSGIVING AND A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON