

MINNESOTA BASKET

WEAVERS GUILD



Spokes and Weavers

Minnesota Basket Weavers Guild Newsletter

President's Message by Nancy Fulton

April 2017- Year 21 Issue 2



Happy April, we're making it through this very strange winter and hopefully spring flowers will be here soon. I've been forcing some paperwhite narcissus and having the blooms in the house this time of year just seems to make it feel like spring is really coming.

We have some great classes coming in April, be sure to check out the [class schedule](#) for more details on our two April classes, **Weaving the Local Landscape with Emily Derke** and **Black Forest Twill with Ellie Lida**. Then in May **Jo Guttormson is teaching Trifecta**. The quild is off for the summer but we return in September with **Jill Scarpari's Pine Needle Basket with 2 Slices**.

Coming up later this month in Bemidji is the **Headwaters Basketmakers Workshop**. I know many of us are going to either attend or teach. The Concordia Language Village has such lovely spaces for classes.

June is the 24th annual [Weavin' in Winona](#) Basket Workshop. This is a marvelous conference in a great space and only a couple of hours away. Deb as always has a great line up of national teachers making a great range of baskets.

In July I'll be attending the **National Basket Organization 2017 Conference** in Tacoma Washington. I registered early and was able to get my first choice - **Exploring Northwest Gold – Western Red Cedar taught by Kathey Ervin**.

I'm finishing the summer in September by attending **The Road Scholar Craft Week** at Snow Farm in Williamburg Massachusetts. The class is being taught by **Jackie Abrams**. I made a paper basket using pre-painted watercolor paper from Jackie last year at the Stowe Basketry Festival. This year at Snow Farm we'll be painting the paper first and then making the strips into cat head baskets.

Thanks to the good offices of **Martha Bird**, we realized that this is the **20th Anniversary year for our Minnesota Basket Weaver's Guild**. [Stay tuned as we plan how we will be celebrating this monumental event. Watch for an email later in the month.](#)

Nancy Fulton

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Hospitality-Everybody!

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Cream Cheese Bars at Jan Meeting From Roxanne Miller

2-8 oz cream cheese
2 tubes crescent rolls
 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. sugar
1 egg separated
1 tsp. vanilla
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. almond extract

Place one tube crescent rolls on the bottom of 9 x 13 ungreased pan. Beat the cream cheese, egg yolk, vanilla, sugar and almond extract together. Spread over the crescent rolls. Place the 2nd pkg. of rolls over the creamed mixture. Beat the egg white to soft peaks and brush on top. Sprinkle with additional $\frac{1}{4}$ c. Sugar on top. Bake at 375 for 20 min. or until lightly brown.

MBWG Jeopardy! The answer is – October 28, 2017. The question is – When is the next MBWG Basket Bingo? Bring your donations to guild meetings in April, May and September. Basket donations accepted throughout the summer as well and will be happy to arrange a pick up location. To arrange a pick up contact Jean Ellingson at [952.949.2026](tel:952.949.2026). Donations also gladly accepted the day of Bingo.

There will be additional opportunities to help with the event. Those details will be included in future Newsletters.

A Review of “Weaving in the Sunshine State” by Jeanie Wilcox and Betty Buckley

January 2017 both Betty Buckley and I found ourselves attending a basket conference in Florida. The first “Weaving in the Sunshine State” was January 27 through January 29 in Fort Myers, Florida at the Hilton Garden Inn, which was close to the airport.

The conference was organized by Becky Bechtel after she innocently posted a question on a facebook basket weaving group to see if there were others who would be interested in getting together to weave in the southwest Florida area. I asked Becky for more information from her about how she decided to organize this event and she said . . . “a little known fact . . . **not only had I never organized a weaving retreat before, I had only ever even been to ONE.** Yep, ONE. Part of my inclination to sponsor a weaving retreat was that I could never find one that was close to me or on the dates that worked for me to travel. I pretty much had to speculate and shoot from the hip on how things should be done.” I think both Betty and I agree that Becky did a great job and is a very fast learner!

Below are our short summaries of the conference and information about next year’s event.

Betty said: I was told of the conference when Deb Mroczenk and Karen Kotecki came to teach in Minneapolis for the Minnesota Basket Weavers Guild. Deb was one of my first basket teachers when she was working at East Troy Basketry. I told my husband about the conference and he thought it would be a fun winter trip. I met women from various locations; some are snow-birds, some now live in Florida year round and some came just for the event.

I made three baskets with Deb (Swirled, Cascade and Everly). I also did Lisa’s Confetti Basket with Jennie Baas and Triple Arrow Cathead with Patti English, This was the first time taking classes from Jennie and Patti. I came home with four finished baskets and one ready to rim.

I didn’t notice any issues with the organization, except that it was hard to know where a class was going to be since all classes were held in one large conference room. I believe that after Friday one class was moved to a neighboring hotel where we also had an open weave room set aside for the conference. The tight space made it difficult to look at what everyone was weaving. (NOTE next year’s conference will have a larger classroom space).

For me, being able to weave, seeing green growing things and feeling the sunshine and warmth made the trip worthwhile.

Jeanie said: Vickie Ronnenberg and I traveled together to attend the conference. It had been 7 years since we had traveled to Florida to weave baskets. That time it was for the first basket cruise organized by Sandy Bulgrin. Seems like we like to attend **FIRST TIME WEAVING EVENTS in FLORIDA.** The instructors I selected for my classes were new instructors for me. I had Laura Lee Zanger for Designer Chevron, Patti English for a Four Leaf Clover Tray and Becky Bechtel for Iris Counter Tray. All of my

baskets came home ready to rim. I did that partly for shipping purposes to get them in my luggage and partly for time constraints. Vickie and I did take the evenings off from weaving and explored the area's dining options.

Similar to Betty, I found a mixture of women at this event – some I recognized from other weaving events I had attended and had many chances to meet new people. The weavers varied in their amount of weaving experience. I think the newest weaver I met was in my Sunday class. Rose had only started weaving about 6 or 7 months ago and she was doing a great job. The conference provided us with everything we needed and a few nice extras. . . goodie bags, door prizes, good food, vendors market place and even a tool sharpener for our scissors and knives!

The 2018 Weaving in the Sunshine State basket weaving retreat will take place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel at Bell Tower Shops in Fort Myers Florida from **January 23 to 25, 2018**. This is a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday just before **Sandy Bulgrin's next basket weaving cruise departs for 9 nights in the southern Caribbean (January 26 to February 4, 2018)**. More details can be found at www.weavinginthesunshinestate.com. Registration for convention and hotel rooms will probably start in September 2017. Check out the cruise at www.basketweavingcruise.com.

Our MBWG classes:

April 29 : Our 20th Anniversary!!!! Cake will be served.

Weaving the Local Landscape with Emily Derke (left)

Black Forest Twill with Ellie Lida (right)



May 20: Trifecta with Jo Guttormson



September 23: Pine Needle Basket with 2 Slices with Jill Scarpari



October 28: **Basket Bingo**

November 18: Shirley Mount-A Charm



December 9 - **Annual Holiday Party**

- ❖ To see more information about these classes and events, please go to our website, www.mbwg.org/classes.html Also, if you wish to take a class, please register for a class in advance to guarantee your spot in the class. This is becoming important since all instructors have minimum students required to keep the classes. The form can be found on the website.

What's happening for our 20th Anniversary Party? Watch for an email as plans are finalized or show up on April 29th to join in the fun!

A little more info about Minnesota Weaving Events ...



WEAVIN' UP NORTH 2017 APRIL 21, 22, 23, 2017

Contact Nancy Baer at baerbaskets@hotmail.com to see what is still available.

**Going on at the same time as Weavin' Up North.....
2nd Annual Pine to Prairie Fiber Arts Trail Studio Tour
April 21-22, 2017**

If you have a spare time you can check out the Fiber Arts Studio Tour. Members will have open studios and demonstrations on these two days, their studios are in Bemidji, Solway, Turtle River and Tenstrike, MN. Eve Sumsky, a fellow basket weaver from the Headwaters Guild, will have her studio open in Tenstrike. Tressa Sularz will also be the keynote speaker on Friday evening at 7 pm as well as teaching a class at the workshop on Sunday. For more information go to

<http://midwestfiberartstrails.org/pine-to-prairie-fiber-arts-trail/>



Pine to Prairie Fiber Arts Trail Studio Tour
April 21 - 22, 2017
Bemidji • Solway • Turtle River • Tomzlike, Minnesota
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. both days

Tressa Sularz
TEXTILE ARTIST KEYNOTE TALK

'DANCING MY WAY HOME'
7:30 P.M. FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2017
HEADWATERS SCHOOL OF MUSIC
519 MINNESOTA AVE NW BEMIDJI

Artist Reception
Trail Member Exhibit
WILD HARE BISTRO
523 MINNESOTA AVE NW
BEMIDJI
DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 P.M.
FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2017
www.midwestfiberartstrails.org

Dancing My Way Home
TRESSA SULARZ
TEXTILE ARTIST KEYNOTE TALK

This exhibit is made possible by the support of Bemidji, Solway & Turtle River Fiber Arts Trail. Support is provided by the Bemidji Area Council on Economic Development, the Bemidji Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Bemidji Area School District. Photo by Paul Burman

GIGAZONE

More info here on the event.

Weave with Marlene Meyer-A New Offering from Deb Mather

May 19th and 20th, 2017 are the dates. Marlene will be offering a choice of 3 baskets. Mesquite Wall, Birch Cathead Overlay and Unique Mesquite Storage. Contact Deb at weavinwinona@gmail.com

24th Weavin" In Winona

Contact **Deb Mather** to see what classes are still available (registrations were due on March 10th) at weavinwinona@gmail.com or 507-456-6532 or google **Weaving in Winona** and go to the website to **download the brochure**.

Check out North Shore Basketry Guild offerings at www.nsbq.org

Their classes are at Holy Cross Lutheran in Duluth. Jo Guttormson and I went up for the March meeting and wove on Lake Superior rocks. Ask to see our pictures! It was awesome, I hope we learned enough and can find enough rocks to teach the class at guild sometime. Kathy Falk was a great teacher!

Tressa Sularz has a solo exhibition **INNER GOLD** with related events around the same time. These events will all be at the White Bear Center for the Arts. INNER GOLD, the solo exhibition will open with a reception the evening of Thursday, July 13. Tressa will present an Artist Talk Thursday evening, August 10. At this talk a beautiful film INNER GOLD created by Mike Hazard shows Tressa and her artwork in-progress with many captivating conversations. This film will be screened at the talk. This talk will take place in the gallery surrounded by Tressa's work. Please save the date on your calendars. Any questions or more detail please contact Tressa at tressasularz@gmail.com.

And from Cathryn Peters:
The First Stage Gallery opens a new exhibit in March.

The First Stage Gallery in the Lyric Center for the Arts is presenting the exhibit **Natural Ranges: Photography of the Appalachian Trail** by Jill Aubin, and **Antler Basketry of Northern Minnesota** by Cathryn Peters. Cathryn Peters creates wonderful baskets and woven sculpture using locally harvested materials including naturally shed deer antlers. Her baskets meld male and female forms using antlers as an integral component, becoming either the handle or focal point of all of her creations. Each antler tells its story and “speaks” to her, suggesting the form it wants to take. Learn more about Peters' talents at www.wickerwoman.com.

The First Stage Gallery is located at 514 Chestnut Street, downtown Virginia, MN. The gallery will be open our regular hours, Thursdays through Saturdays, 11am – 3pm throughout our storefront reconstruction. The gallery, and the March 30th presentation are free and open to the public. More information on this and other events is available on the [Lyric Center for the Arts Facebook page](#).

January Teachers 2017



Tressa Sularz



Roxanne Miller

February Teachers 2017



Della and Julie Pelski



Tressa Sularz

March Teachers 2017



Marilyn Moore



Jo Campbell Amsler

New members and visitors in February 2017



Louanne Hipp's legacy-Kathy, Jen and Roxanne. Jen is a new member! Kathy and Jen wove with Louanne at community Ed.



Claudia Speak-returning member now that she has retired she has time to join us!



Nancy Hovanes-returning member, she won a membership, renewed and came to take Tressa's class!

New Members and Visitors in March 2017



Mike Slinkard weaving his first basket ever!



Returning member Martha Bird, who reminded us of our 20th anniversary in April 2017. Thanks!



New member Cheryl Batson, welcome!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report

The Guild remains healthy financially. We've paid our main bills for the year, now, and have about \$9,500.00 in the bank. This includes \$480 in Random Acts of Kindness. Remember, if you or someone you know could use a little help to take a class or attend a workshop, contact one of the Board members and pass the info along. We can act quickly by e-mail and hopefully help someone make some baskets!

I have sent out e-mail reminders to those who had been members last year but so far hadn't renewed.....Here are some numbers for you:

Members in 2014 54

2015 44

2016 47

2017 32, new and renewals so far..... our membership goal is 45

I encourage you to renew your memberships if you haven't done so—these are a real marker of the health of the Guild. The Board is concerned about the membership numbers and also the difficulty we have in finding folks willing to serve in the (non-taxing, please believe me!) leadership positions.

We also encourage you to register for classes, or to join the open weave table, to "keep on weaving" and touch base with your basket weaving friends. Feeling connected is an important step in staying connected!

We are 20—happy birthday to us! No longer a teenager...stepping into adulthood as a Guild. We need your participation as we take up our new "maturity."

Bonnie Buzza, Treasurer

Basket supplies for sale

#2 smoked round reed #5 round #10 round #7 round 0 1.25mm round
1/4 Flat oval caning small caning
5/8 Flat oval 7 mm f/o 1/4 f/o 11/64 f/o full coil 1/4 flat full coil
11/64 f/o 1/4 f/o
1/2 flat 5/8 flat 3/8 flat 3/16 flat 1/4" flat color
4mm seagrass 1/2" braided seagrass
2 large notebooks with patterns



If interested contact Sue Leeman

[320-253-3477](tel:320-253-3477) evenings

sue_rocks@msn.com

office@granitecityjobbing.com (work)

She is a former member of NSBG and can no longer weave.

President-Elect, Facebook Liasion ??????

We are still looking to fill these positions, so if you love the guild and want to see it stay in business, consider volunteering for one of these 2 positions. **SOON!** I know someone out there **looooves Facebook** and can help us out! Also ask Nancy **how much work she actually does** as President....hmmmm. It is not taxing, as Bonnie explains-she has also been President.



Under water basket weaving, where do I sign up?

Editor's disclaimer: Well that was a sorry winter, oh well that is Minnesota for you. I have been hiking a lot to make up for the lack of snow. This has also given me more time to work on the newsletter- NOT! I spent the same amount of time I usually would. Send any additions, articles or corrections-**corrections meaning factual errors not grammatical/semantical errors because I can live with those**-you want addressed in the next newsletter to jill.scarpari@gmail.com .

Respectfully written/edited by Jill A Scarpari