

MINNESOTA BASKET

WEAVERS GUILD



Spokes and Weavers

Minnesota Basket Weavers Guild Newsletter

President's Message by Nancy Fulton

Jan. 2017- Year 21 Issue 1



Happy 2017,

This is going to be a great year for the Minnesota Basket Weaver's Guild (MBWG). Julie Pleski, as always, has put together a great schedule of classes for 2017. Be sure to check out our website [MBWG Class Schedule](#) to see all the classes. Please remember to register early, use the [MBWG Registration form](#), **available on the website**, to guarantee a place in class and to help instructors plan.

I am always interested in the State Fair Creative Activities basketry competition and this year we're going to sponsor an additional award for the Work of the Senior Citizen Basket Competition. This means that MBWG will sponsor \$25 awards to the winner in 6 different lots. A first place winner in any of the basketry lots will be awarded \$33 (\$8 from the State Fair and \$25 from the MBWG) plus a one year membership worth \$25. The easiest way to get the information on entering is to subscribe to the [Minnesota State Fair Email](#). Signing up for this email list will not overwhelm your inbox and it is easy to unsubscribe.

As always our great Board of Directors meets the Wednesday before our Saturday classes. The next meeting is January 25 at the Highland Cafe and Bakery (Highland Shopping Center, 2012 Ford Pkwy, St Paul, MN 55116) for dinner at 6. New faces are always welcome, if you're interested just let me know, n-fult@umn.edu and I'll make sure to send an invitation with the agenda and more information if necessary.

Elsewhere in the newsletter is detailed information on our 2017 classes, Julie Pleski has done a great job soliciting proposals then organizing and setting up the classes. There are two great offerings for January 28 plus open weave.

I'm looking forward to a great 2017. The Board welcomes all comment and suggestions, we're here to make the guild work for our members.

MBWG Board 2017

President & TCM Liaison

Nancy Fulton
n-fult@umn.edu
651-552-1453

President-elect

TBD

Past President
Christine Dellwo
cadellwo@gmail.com

Treasurer

Bonnie Buzza
banddbuzza@gmail.com
612-353-6695

Secretary

Layce Parkinson
laycep@q.com
651-454-3415

Program Director and Registration

Julie Pleski
jpleski@yahoo.com

Librarian/Historian

Ann Danko
adanko15@gmail.com
612-781-2304

Librarian/Historian

Other positions:

Newsletter Editor

Jill Scarpari
jill.scarparsi@gmail.com
651-322-1964

Basket Bingo Co- Chairs

Suzette Leizinger
aslzinger@gmail.com
952-212-4408
Jean Ellingson
952-949-2026

Special Event Chair

TBD

Hospitality-Everybody!

FB Liaison

TBD

In this issue:

- President's Message
- Alexandra House
- 2017 Classes and Conferences
- A Year in the life of....
- Basket Bingo a pictorial essay
- Nov and Dec meeting pictures
- Treasurer's report
- Bingo recap
- This and that...

Alexandra House Update

After our December get together, I delivered all 18 of our wonderful baskets, filled with treasure and Christmas cheer to the Alexandra House in Blaine! In addition we had an overflowing of cuddly, oh so squeezable soft plush animals. The lady who helped me bring them in from the car that cold day was so excited she ventured out with her cart and no jacket!! Oh, brrr! There is no doubt that they were all well received. What a wonderful thing for our guild to do - and I thank you for the opportunity to deliver them! The experience was a gift for me. I am quite certain that all who received a basket must certainly have felt a little much needed love and joy. Thank you to everyone who was able to participate in making these lovely baskets, the extra supplies of dyed reed, the beautiful holly leaves to adorn them, goodies for moms and children that filled them, the friendship and fellowship we shared that cold December day. These are the things the holiday season is all about. Debbie Johnson

(see pictures later in the newsletter on our service project.)

(More info from Nancy)

2017 Classes and Conferences

Stowe Basketry Festival (Stowe) is May 15 - 21, 2017. Stowe Vermont is a ski and tourist area about one hour from the nearest airport, Burlington Vermont. Google maps says it's just under a 21 hour, 1338 mile drive through the US or just over 21 hours, 1273 miles through Canada. The plane trip is about 4 hours with one stop. The plane flies over the Great Lakes, cars have to drive around.

The teachers for Stowe are usually vetted by Flo Hoppe and are all excellent. Some of the teachers actually both teach and take classes. In 2016 there were 50 different basket taught, just about every type of basket using many different materials. The cheapest place to stay is the Round Hearth which is basically a ski camp, bunks in shared rooms. There are lots of good hotels in the area. I stayed at the Arbor Inn, a Bed & Breakfast, across the street from the Round Hearth. Lunch and dinner through Stowe are very good. See [Stowe Registration](#) for details.

National Basketry Organization Biennial Conference (NBO) is July 18-23, 2017 in Tacoma Washington at the University of Puget Sound. What I found unique about NBO is that there are 13 workshops, all 3 ½ days long, all taught concurrently. I feel very lucky, I was able to sign up for Exploring Northwest Gold - Western Red Cedar taught by Kathey Ervin.

I attended the 2015 NBO conference at Macalester College and studied birch bark baskets with Vladimir Yarish. I made 5 baskets during class. I took this class because Vladimir is Russian and I thought this might be a unique opportunity. I later found out that Vladimir has taught at North House Folk School in Grand Marais and I also took a class from him at Stowe in 2016. See [NBO Registration](#) NBO Registration for details.

Arrowmont is teaching four basketry classes this year. See [Basket Workshops](#), then select [baskets](#) for details.

North House Folk School is teaching 6 basketry classes between January and July this year. See [Basketry Classes](#), then click [View Calendar Listing of Basketry Courses](#) for details.

There are two other Folk Schools in Minnesota, [Ely Folk School](#) in Ely and [Rail River Folk School](#) in Bemidji.

Another Nationally known Folk School in North Carolina is [John C. Campbell Folk School](#), then click on Basketry.

The Wicker Woman website has a listing of [US Basket Weaving Guilds and Organizations](#).

Wisconsin Weave Away is March 9 - 11, 2017, see [The Basket Patch](#) for details.

Weavin Up North 2017 is April 21-23, 2017, check the Headwaters Basketmakers Guild [Facebook page](#) for details.

Weavin' in Winona is July 23-25, 2017, check later this year at [Weavin' In Winona](#) for more details on this year's classes.

These are things I know about, I'm sure there are many more.
Nancy

Guild Classes 2017-from Julie Pleski

Hi! I hope your holidays went well and that good memories were made. The winter is on us here but don't let that stop us from thinking about basket classes. There are great classes coming up in next few months: Roxanne with her Seagrass Doublewall (lots of seagrass), Tressa with her Charm Basket Necklace and Jasper Twined Basket, Della with her Potato Basket (I wonder if we can bring real potatoes to see how many will fit in there?), and two instructors from out of the state (let's give them a warm welcome!) Jo with her Oval Sieve made from willow and Marilyn with her A Little Twist Basket made from wire.

These wonderful classes are offered on the following dates:

January 28, 2017

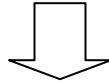
-Seagrass Doublewall which will be taught by **Roxanne Miller**



-Charm Basket Necklace which will be taught by **Tressa Sularz**

February 25, 2017

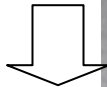
-**Potato Basket** which will be taught by **Della Pleski**



-**Jasper Twined Basket** which will be taught by **Tressa Sularz**

March 25, 2017

-**Oval Sieve** which will be taught by **Jo Campbell-Amsler**



-**A Little Twist** by **Marilyn Moore**

All the instructors have requested one week notice, so please sign up ASAP if you are interested in either one of those classes. The instructors need to get the materials ready. There is one exception: **Jo Campbell-Amsler for March class Oval Sieve, she has a different registration deadline (January 31, 2017).** Thank you in advance for this. Check MBWG website for prices and descriptions.

A bit of preview for more classes in 2017:

April 29 - Weaving the Local Landscape with Emily Derke and Black Forest Twill with Ellie Lida

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

Please forward this information to anyone that you think that would be interested. If none of the classes interest you, please feel free to come to the open weave table which is open to all. There will be people to help you with your projects in progress or just to lend an ear.

To see more information about these classes, 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 on the website. If you have any questions, please let me know and I will do my best to answer the questions.

Thank you so much, I hope to hear from you soon!

Have a wonderful week! Julie Pleski

A little more info about Minnesota Events from the people hosting them!

Cabin Fever Weavin' Marlys Sowers & Marilyn Wald January 14 th & 15th , 2017
Saturday 8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. ; Sunday 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Steele County Community Center
- 1380 S. Elm (Fairgrounds) -- Owatonna MN Contact: Deb Mather 507-456-6532
weavinwinona@gmail.com

You are invited to join us for a weekend of weaving to break the Cabin Fever of midwest winter. Registration fee is \$22 per day. Lunches are available or you may bring your own.

For more info contact Deb Mather at above information.

Wisconsin Weave Away 2017.

We are so pleased with the amount of registrations coming in for our 5th annual **Wisconsin Weave Away 2017**.

- There are only a few openings left, so if you have been thinking about signing up, **please hurry**.
- We are now accepting registrations for those people that want to come for just one day or one class
- Go to www.thebasketpatch.com to check what classes have openings and register now!

SAVE THE DATES!!!!



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

Mark your calendars, enter the dates on your phone, and write it on the back of your hand with Magic Markers— this is a date you need to remember!

Headwaters Basketmakers guild is excited to announce that Shirley Mount and her Basket Patch will be our vendor. Saturday night will not only offer our fabulous banquet, but we will be offering a special event "Painting Basket Tie Ons with Lily". There also might be time for a bonfire, a walk in the woods or who knows what the Salolampi Village might offer.

Our teacher line up is very exciting again this year. We welcome back, **Pam Talsky, Annetta Kraayeveld, Shirley Mount, Cathryn Peters, Eileen Spilman, Jill and Paul Scarpari**. The brochure will be in your email box by mid- January --



My trips in 2016-Nancy Fulton

In April 2015 when I retired after 40 years working for the University of Minnesota, one of my goals was to travel and take classes. I did some traveling in 2015 and then more in 2016.

March - Ladyslipper NeedleArts Society winter retreat at the Miracle Lodge Retreat and Conference Center in Stewartville MN (15 miles east of Rochester). This is a long weekend where up to 45 people work on their own projects in a great 2 story room with lots of windows overlooking a river.

April - Road Scholar class [Coastal Basketry and Barrier Island Ecology](#) on Wallops Island in Virginia. The 5 day class includes lectures, field trips and lots of time to make baskets using pine needles and native grasses. One of the field trips included shelling on the private Wallops Island beach and I later used one of the shells as the base for a basket. This class will be taught 3 times in 2017.

May - my sister Debby and I took a cruise from New York City up the east coast to Halifax Canada then across the Atlantic to the Azores and finally ended in Portugal. We went with two friends (sisters) who also needlepoint. Besides doing lots of touring, we had 7 days at sea where we needlepointed sitting in a lounge overlooking the Atlantic.

June - [Stowe Basketry Festival](#) in Stowe Vermont where I took 7 days of classes from great teachers. The classes are taught in a ski chalet at the Stowe Mountain Resort. This is a beautiful part of the world and summer is a great time to both take classes and explore the beautiful countryside. This is a definite Bucket List destination for any basketmaker. Stowe is also the home of the Trapp Family Lodge for Sound of Music fans.

August - [Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts](#) where I made a table in a Woodworking class and then took a Box Making class taught by a bookbinder. There are also basket classes in the catalog but none while I was there. Arrowmont is in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. In November there was a terrible fire that started in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and spread into Gatlinburg but all of the Arrowmont studios were safe and classes will be taught in 2017.

August - A week after I got back from Arrowmont, I was in New Orleans for the [American Needlepoint Guild](#) annual conference. New Orleans is still hot in August but I did do some sightseeing but I spent most of my time in classes. I also entered my needlepoint picture Pumpkin with Bargello Border and won a third prize. I was and am thrilled to have won at a national level.

September - [Lady Anne's Retreat](#) was the second time I've gone on to a Crewelworks program with Phillipa Turnbull in England. We did touring in northwest England and Scotland and I did an add-on tour and spent 2 days in London. We also started a crewel and goldwork project of a falconry pouch which I haven't worked on since I got back from England but I will work on it in my spare time.

October - I went to the North House Folk School in Grand Marais. The class was [Pine Needle Pouch](#) taught by Jean Koss. Jean was the teacher who taught the Coastal Basketry class I took in April. The pouch is interesting, it is done on a mold, not the usual method for pine needles. The north shore of Lake Superior is beautiful and since we have such a protracted fall, some trees still had some color.

November - The [Embroiderers' Guild of America](#) national seminar was in Arlington Virginia. I took beading, canvas shading and goldwork classes. This is a huge conference, over 450 participants. The conference was at the Hilton Hotel Arlington which has over 30 floors. As I learned the first day, leave for classes early or wait forever for an elevator that isn't already packed with people.

Those are the highlights of my 2016 adventures and I've already got lots of adventures booked for 2017

October Basket Bingo 2016



Food Crew



Set up Crew



Before the eager Bingo players arrive.



Raffle Baskets



Large Basket Prizes



Small Basket Prizes

November Guild Meeting 2016



Nancy Fulton and visitor Anne Lingren in Pam Ihle's class. Pam teaching, past prez-Mary Konobek, Layce Parkinson and Margaret Fiedler making Santa heads too.



Linda Wilcox shopping from Shirley Mount while Christine Dellwo works on her Santa.



Open weave table with Linda Wilcox, new member Debbie Johnson, Jo Guttormson and Shirley.

December Pot Luck and Service Basket Project 2016



Nancy, Pam, Julie, Della, Debbie, Jeanie, Alice, and Suzette weaving baskets for Alex. House.



Pam, Bonnie, Julie, and Roxanne working on the service project while Paul talks, he made his basket the day before.



Total 18 baskets for Alexandra House, a women's shelter. Yeah!!!



And it wouldn't be a potluck without food, this year we ordered pizza from Pizza Luce.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report

As reported at the annual meeting, the Guild has a healthy bank balance. Some \$11,000 was reported at that meeting on Dec. 10; since then the rent for the meeting space has been paid for just over \$2000, and our balance is some \$9,000.

I don't have the December bank statement yet to report the exact amount, as we had a couple of checks uncashed on the last statement. We will have rental bills for the storage space and mailbox in, most likely, March. The Textile Center now splits the two bills. We made about \$1900 at Basket Bingo. A final 2016 budget report will be made at the January 2017 Board meeting. If you would like a copy of that report, just e-mail me and I'll see that you get one along with the Board members.

Membership renewals for 2017 are now due, and we have 18 paid membership so far. Last year we had 44 members by the end of the year, with a goal of 45 memberships. This year we have the same goal of 45 members. The Board voted to continue for this year the "joint membership" in the Guild and the Textile Center, for \$50. This includes \$30 for the Textile Center Guild membership level (this is an individual membership open only to members of member guilds, with all the TC membership benefits included for a reduced membership rate), plus a Basket Weavers Guild membership for \$20 rather than \$25. If you are interested in this joint membership, you may send one check for \$50.00 to me, and I'll get your membership information and payment to the Textile Center. If you prefer, you may send your TC membership directly to the Textile Center, attn: Sharon Mulhollam, indicating that you are a member of the Basket Weavers Guild, and a check to me for \$20.00, indicating that you have joined the TC separately. There is a membership form for the MBWG elsewhere in this newsletter.

We have a busy year ahead, with many fun classes planned by Julie and the proposing teachers. Do get your registrations in ASAP to help with their planning and materials preparation....and your Guild renewals in ASAP! At the drawing held at the annual meeting in December, among the 16 members who had paid by that date Sue Leizinger won a 2018 membership—our first paid member for next year!

BASKET BINGO RECAP

By all accounts it was once again a success. You can see by Bonnie's treasurer's report that we made quite a bit of money. A few less people came this time for various reasons, but the outcome was normal. "A good time was had by all", as Jean Ellingson would say. As you can see this event pays our rent for the year at the Textile Center and enables us to keep the class prices low—just what the teachers charge. So soon you will be hearing from Suzette and Jean to donate baskets. Be sure to support this money maker for the guild next year with a basket or two when you hear the donation call!

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, considering volunteering for one of these 2 positions. **SOON!**

Guess how much the basket below is worth. It is Folk Art from the early 20th century, offered at 1stdibs. \$1500 is the correct answer. Keep on weaving! Yours could be next!



Editor's disclaimer: Well winter is here but really disappointing in my mind. The snow has not lived up to the great memories I have of it in the past. And my snowshoe bindings broke!!! Can't ski on the icy snow. Oh well, still a couple of months left. Guess I will ski on frozen grass! 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