



Spokes and Weavers

Minnesota Basket Weavers Guild Newsletter
October 2012 - Volume 15 Issue 2

Message from the President

Hi Everyone,

Hope you all had a good, warm and sunny summer! This summer, I took three classes I never thought I would do. I took the opportunity to do some weaving with willow at the Willow Gathering in Decorah, Iowa as well as a class with Jo Campbell-Amsler at Willowglen. Also Felting with Leslie Granbeck. I'm certain, all who participated in the felting class, developed good abdominal muscles and upper arm strength as they rolled and threw their felting projects around. What a creative way to get rid of stress. Thanks Leslie for the terrific classes. Thank you, Jean Ellingson for planning and overseeing a successful Summer Event.

Speaking of events, Basket Bingo is the 27th of October. Please volunteer. This event is a fund raiser for our rent at the Textile Center. Please donate your baskets to Jo or Jill as soon as possible. Contact Jo at jogutts@yahoo.com to volunteer or donate baskets.

Saturday, Nov 17th is our November meeting. It is early in the month. So note this on your calendar. Please register for classes taught by Karen Kotecki, Christmas Jingle basket, and Debbie Mroczenki, Midnight Enchantment basket. Look on the Guild web site for the registration form.

December 8th is our Christmas party. Bring a basket to exchange if you want. This event is a potluck so bring your favorite hot dish. We are planning a special project at the party. More information to follow at our November Guild meeting.

We have plenty of opportunities to volunteer this year. Several positions on the Board are opening. Now is the time to think about giving to our Guild.

Positions open:
President
President-Elect
Program
Newsletter
Librarian/Historian
Bingo Committee

We need to fill these positions to have a Guild. Please consider taking a position. Please contact a Board member to volunteer. I can be reached at 952-935-4762 or by e-mail marthaandedward@yahoo.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

We will be ordering logo shirts later this fall. A picture is included later in this newsletter.

Happy Weaving!
Alice Ford

MBWG Board

2012

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*Calendar - What's Up?**Basket Bingo - 12th Annual*

October 27, 2012
 Doors open at 11AM. Bingo starts at noon.

MBWG Monthly Meeting

November 17, 2012
 Two great class options to choose from. See website for details

*MBWG Holiday Potluck and Basket Exchange*

December 8, 2012
 Bring a dish to share. Participate in the basket exchange, if you wish to. We'll also have a special project!

*Summer Event 2012*

This year's Summer Event was a weekend of felting projects with Leslie Granbeck. The Friday evening class was a small pouch or vessel (individual choice). The participants made use of the wide variety of colors and accents Leslie brought for choices. It was an evening of fun, fibers and friends. Saturday participants had a much larger task with a large tote bag. This was a real workout for those in the class and the results were incredible. The process does require some strength and endurance. The bags were just beautiful and a real treasure for those in the class. Students in the Sunday class added felted accents onto silk scarves. Absolutely beautiful projects walked out on Sunday. It was really interesting that all the scarves started out the same length and after the felting work was completed, each was a different length.

As they say in my little rural Minnesota newspaper - a good time was had by all. Thank you to the teacher and those who were able to participate.

Jean Ellingson

The Willow Gathering

In June, Roxanne Miller and I went to Decorah Iowa for the Willow Gathering. The accommodations were at The Baker Village at Luther College. We had housing next to our weaving site. Everyone had their own room and shared cooking facilities and the living room. Meals at noon and two snacks were provided with our registration. We had an excellent vegetarian chef. She had worked at several Twin Cities restaurants and learned her craft well. The meals were delicious with no overcooked veggies here! Jo Campbell-Amsler and Lee Zieke Lee planned and coordinated the Gathering. If you are interested in next year's Willow Gathering contact Jo via her website www.willowridgebaskets.com

Saturday, Roxanne and I began our "ginger jar" class taught by Sandy Whalen. Sandy has been teaching and weaving with willow for years. She says "I love the strength and character of willow and enjoying sharing what I learned with others".

We were ready to find out more about willow weaving. We had eight weavers in our class. Most of the students had woven in willow before. Since this was my second willow basket, I thought I knew something. No, I did not. When weaving the jar, smaller sized willow branches were used. It is so much easier to work with the smaller size. It is flexible and soft. One of the advantages with willow is soft hands. The oils in the willow impart to your hands.. a natural hand lotion! The jar was challenging, interesting and fun.

Going on around us, were additional classes with excellent teachers of the art of willow and other mediums. Donna Kallner of Wisconsin, is a fiber artist. She is the author of "New age Looping". She held a class on dyeing and printing willow on fabric. The results were amazing.

Katherine Lewis of Washington, had recently traveled to Europe and spent 6 weeks on the willow circuit. She attended willow festivals, fairs and willow competitions. Her presentation on Saturday evening was fabulous! Who knew you could weave a willow sculpture in one day! Her slides of the many weavers and their weaving abilities were highlighted with pictures of their skills. Apparently Europe is a hot bed of willow weavers and growers. Katherine came back with great ideas, new friends and a wonderful Saturday evening program.

The baskets she presented were spectacular When the class was completed, it was difficult to tell the difference between the basket the teacher made and ones the students made. Excellent teacher and excellent students.

On Sunday, Roxanne and I chose the 'day pack'. Sandy was our teacher again. The weaving was easier on Sunday, as I learned to "tell the willow" what to do. After 8 hours the straps were attached and the day pack was completed. What a proud moment that was!

On Sunday evening, Poppy Hatinger presented a lecture on a coracole, a one person boat. Naturally, it is made out of willow. In fact, a coracole is one of the earliest boats on record in the history of the world. Although the current boat was made from canvas and not the animal hide, everything else was authentic in detail. If you have an opportunity to hear Poppy and see the coracole do so. It is informative, funny and entertaining .

Jo Campbell-Amsler plans to have another Willow Gathering next June. Decorah is a lovely three hour drive through the countryside of Minnesota and Iowa. If you haven't tried willow, take the opportunity to learn another weaving skill.

Alice Ford

Bingo

It's getting closer! If you will be donating baskets that Jill doesn't already know about, please let her know asap by sending an email to scar0011@tc.umn.edu. We still have some jobs available if you want to help out.

We appreciate all the time and energy you give to this great fundraising event. Remember it helps provide money for our monthly meeting rent and other assorted activities. It's also a lot of fun. See you all soon.

Jill and Jo

MBWG Logo Shirts

Heavyweight Denim

We'll be ordering later this fall



About Our Organization

Minnesota Basket Weavers Guild

www.mbwg.org

When:

The Minnesota Basket Weaver's Guild typically meets the 4th Saturday of each month, excluding summer, and with a few exceptions on holiday weekends. Go to the website (listed above) to confirm specific meeting dates and times.

Where:

Textile Center
3000 University Ave SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414