

**MINNESOTA BASKET
WEAVERS GUILD**

Spokes and Weavers



Minnesota Basket Weavers Guild Newsletter

President's Message by Nancy Fulton

April 2016- Year 20, Issue 2



Welcome to the end of a not so bad winter and on to my favorite season-**spring**.

There are many activities to look forward to in the coming months.

- Our April class is a beautiful Black Ash Berry Basket taught by Mark Boiyce on April 23. He was inspired by Dennis Chilcote who teaches at the [North House Folk School](#).
- Our May 21 class is by our own [Della Pleski](#). This Gem Antler Class features a variety of materials using a pre-drilled antler horn, lots of opportunity to be creative while making a beautiful basket.
- This newsletter will have information about the [Headwaters Basketmakers Workshop WEAVIN' UP NORTH](#) on the weekend of April 15, 16 and 17.
- And information about the 23rd [Weavin' in Winona](#) that takes place June 24, 25 and 26.

Remember the Guild will rebate \$10 to any member who attends either Weavin' up North or Weavin' in Winona but not both.

The MBWG board is working on setting up an annual calendar to help keep track of what we need to do each month to keep the guild well functioning, any additions are much appreciated.

While our website already has a [Newsletter](#) tab, I'm going to be working on cataloging all our old newsletters and having them available hopefully this summer.

Wishing us all a great spring, Nancy

MBWG Board 2016

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

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TBD

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Hospitality-Everybody!

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In this edition of 'Spokes and Weavers'

- President's message
- Call for 3 positions-FB liaison, Special Event Chair and President Elect
- Textile Center's Garage Sale
- Guild classes and Weaving Events
- Tressa Sularz-Solo Exhibition
- A message from the NBO
- Basket Bingo
- Reviews of Cabin Fever Weavin and Wisconsin Weave Away
- Jan, Feb and Mar Meeting Photos
- A request
- Treasurer's Report
- Hare-brained
- Membership renewal form

We are looking for someone to start and maintain a **Facebook** page for our guild. If you are interested in this endeavor please talk to Nancy or Bonnie for more information. We still need a **Special Event Chair** and **President Elect**. The guild runs with volunteers. Many hands make the burden light. If you like the programs offered and friendships formed think about how you can help the guild keep going.

Guild classes and Other Weaving Events 2016



April 23, 2016-Black Ash class with Mark Boiyce, cost \$40. All levels welcome.



May 21, 2016-Gem Antler Basket, cost \$30. All levels welcome.

*See the MBWG website for more information and registration forms.

For all interested parties: April 7-donation day- and the 8 and 9 are the dates for the **16th Annual World's Largest Textile Garage Sale**, sponsored by the **Textile Center**. It takes place at U of M ReUse Program Warehouse, located at 883-29th Avenue S. E. in Minneapolis. They are looking for volunteers to help with this event. More information can be found on the Textile Center Website.



Textile Center Solo Exhibition-Tressa Sularz

There is a new exhibition at the Textile Center with work by Tressa Sularz in the Studio Gallery. The show opened March 10 and will run through April 30th. Tressa has been a frequent teacher for classes at our guild during the past 20 years of the guild's existence, as well as teaching at many conventions and workshops nationwide. She has also been a strong supporter of the craft of basketry as beautiful as well as useful and now has entered a new conceptual phase in her long career. You can read more about her career and view more photos of her work at: mnartists.org/tressasularz., as well as at the newsletter for the Textile Center, Textiles on the Town. Below are two examples of her new work as well as her artist's statement.



Photos by Peter Lee

Artist's Statement from Tressa Sularz:

My art has always been organically intertwined with my life. After a major health challenge I find myself dancing back to life again. During this time, because of some physical limitations, a new body of work evolved. I left my comfortable world of creating rattan baskets, and began working with new complex techniques and different materials. I am very energized by my new work, and look forward to each day when I can begin working. Creative energy abounds. My recent work has grown into more sculptural forms. I am learning to listen to my materials and techniques, and follow my heart. The graceful shapes reflect a new-found, hard-won grace in life. A special thank you, Mike, for your wonderful photos showing my work in a new light.

To see an interview with Tressa by Matt Peikin of 3-Minute Egg check out <https://vimeo.com/158086228>



Weavin' Up North

April 15, 16, 17 2016

Notes from Nancy at Weavin' Up North - 2016

I would like to personally thank Minnesota Basket Weavers Guild (our "sister" guild) for the wonderful support of our guild and the Weavin' up North Workshop. Headwaters Basketmakers Workshop would not have the huge success if not for your memberships' attendance and the generous gifts from your guild. It's an added bonus that you help your members with a \$\$ gift for travel expenses – MBWG rocks!!

We look forward to seeing you in a couple of weeks to enjoy the fabulous food, a lot of laughing and some very good times. Oh, did I mention the WEAVING? That too! If you aren't coming – we will miss you! It's a great road trip for the spring!! We still have a few spots open – email me and I'll see if I can get you a spot!!

Thanks again for all of your help,
Nancy Baer baerbaskets@hotmail.com
Workshop Chairperson.

Weavin in Winona-June 24, 25, and 26, 2016

You are invited to enjoy a wonderful experience of basket weaving with warm and friendly people at the 23rd Weavin' in Winona Basket Workshop, scheduled for June 24, 25, and 26 at the Tau Center of Winona State University in Winona MN. Very talented and experienced teachers have been invited to instruct and share their talents. Come join us for 3, 2, or even 1 day of relaxation and fun! We look forward to seeing you again to renew old friendships, or meeting you for the first time to create new ones. Information can be found on www.weavinwinona.com and attached is a pdf file of the brochure. Teachers scheduled for this year are: Char Ciammaichella, Kay Kjeldgaard, Marlene Meyer, Dianne Stanton and Marilyn Wald.

The shirts page will be updated soon, so please check back for that information. Please let your friends know and hope to see you in June! If you have any questions, contact Deb Mather at www.weavinwinona.com or [507-456-6532](tel:507-456-6532).

Thank you!
Deb Mather
Weavin' in Winona www.weavinwinona.com
Ferggie's Basket Case
Like us on Facebook

Spread the word- this from the NBO newsletter that our President, Nancy Fulton, shares with you.

NBO Guild Advisory Committee

At the NBO 2015 Conference in Minneapolis, the Guild Advisory Committee hosted a lunch meeting for guilds to talk among themselves about what they would like from the NBO. One clear request was a way for guilds to talk to each other. In response, we have launched the Basket Guild Bulletin Board, a Facebook group intended for allow communication between guilds, and for guilds to tell basketmakers across North America what they are doing:

The Basket Guild Bulletin Board is a Facebook group sponsored by the National Basketry Organization to help facilitate information sharing between basketry guilds, related non-profit groups and individual guild members across North America.

Any guild member, NBO member or basket weaver is welcome to join. Posts and discussion are intended to promote basketry. Our biggest goal is to provide a platform for basketry guilds to communicate with each other.

We encourage guilds, non-profit craft schools and individual instructors who teach in these formats to tell others about their events. Teachers and guilds can use this information to help facilitate sharing teachers between several venues. Guilds can use the group to talk amongst themselves about issues they encounter, how to attract new members, what activities are most successful. We hope that through this new group the activities of the many basketry guilds across North America will be more visible and will encourage even more basketmakers to participate.

Please visit the [Basket Guild Bulletin Board](#) and join the conversation!

BINGO!!!!!!! Respectfully submitted by Jean Ellingson and okayed by Suzette Leizinger.

Yep, that's right it is time to start thinking about and planning for the **MBWG Bingo Extravaganza on October 22, 2016**. The event started as a simple Saturday afternoon in the upper part of, "The Barn" in Eden Prairie over 15 years ago, and has indeed moved from "Event" status to "EXTRAVAGANZA" status. This conversion has been accomplished through the efforts of many guild members and event, sorry correction, **EXTRAVAGANZA** leaders, their families and friends. What makes it an **EXTRAVAGANZA** you might ask? Well, just look.

Consider the following marvelous things that happen each year (yes, each year):

- * **Attendees** come from across the Twin City area, the state of Minnesota and yes, even exotic places like California, Maryland, North Carolina, and Wisconsin.
- * Only the very best in **hot dog cuisine**, bagged chips, the finest beverages that Coke and Pepsi have to offer for a value price; it was less than \$3 in 2015.
- * **Free**, yes **FREE**, **bars, cookies, candy corn/peanut** mix. Who said there was no such thing as a free sugar high?
- * Fabulous **table decorations** that attendees win at the end of the day.
- * **Door prizes** galore.
- * Humorous, handsome, beautiful and clever **bingo callers**.
- * **Two**, yes you read correctly, **TWO kinds of raffles**.
- * and **BASKETS, BASKETS, BASKETS**.

What is needed from ALL MBWG members? BASKETS, BASKETS, BASKETS!

As you may, or may not know, the **EXTRAVAGANZA** relies on baskets of all sizes, and shapes. There is need for small/medium sized baskets for the straight bingo games and then larger baskets are need for the other kinds of bingo. The lazy T and loaded H to name a couple (please note, absolutely no verification of terms was used for this article). The baskets need to be in good shape, clean and ready for distribution as prizes.

For several years there have been theme **raffle baskets**. The raffle brings in considerable cash for the guild and the leaders of the **EXTRAVAGANZA** are always looking for interested weavers to provide something for this important part of the day.

The **EXTRAVAGANZA allows the guild to continue operating and offering classes**. Without the funds raised at bingo, the guild would be challenged to continue having access to the great space available at the Textile Center. If you are a member of the guild or have just enjoyed taking a class, and find you enjoy this wonderful craft, art, or hobby (call it what you want) please consider starting your active participant in the **EXTRAVAGANZA by donating a basket, or baskets**. If you don't have supplies and want to participate, there is a member who would be willing to get you what you need to create something **FABULOUS!**

Contact Suzette Leizinger-aslzinger@gmail.com 952-212-4408 or Jean Ellingson (best option for communication – landline [952.949-2026](tel:952.949.2026)) for details. **Thank you and we'll leave the light on for you.**

Cabin Fever Weavin' a Short Review by J. Ellingson

Cabin Fever Weaving in Owatonna was held again this year at the Steele County Fairgrounds on January 9th and 10th. Deb Mathers from Owatonna, who also organizes Weaving in Winona, puts this easy going weekend of weaving together. Each year there are classes offered on Saturday and Sunday. This year the teacher was Dianne Gleixner. The set up was, as is often the case, with all the classes are available for either day. I was not able to attend on both days,

but the basket I wanted to make was available either day so I was able to weave the basket regardless of when I attended, very flexible and accommodating. There was another basket I wanted to make so I just purchased a kit. Most of the baskets offered for the weekend were available as a kit as well as some of Dianne's other patterns. As would be reported in a hometown newspaper, a good time was had by all. I look forward to attending again in 2017.

Wisconsin Weave Away 2016-pictures and content by Alice Ford



Left- We don't just weave baskets! Right-Roxanne Miller and potential new guild member Ellen weaving "DelRio".



Left-Bertie weaving with pine needles on a ceramic tray. Right-Bertie busy getting things right.



Left-The wax linen basket Bertie and Roxanne are making. Right-Roxanne using pine needles to decorate the ceramic tray.

[Wisconsin Weave Away](#) was held [March 10-12](#). About 45 weavers attended the event. We had 6 people from our guild attend. They were Roxanne, Bertie, Elle, Julie, Della and Alice. Julie, Della and Elle were teachers at this event. We all had a great time. Lots of friendships were made as we struggled to learn new techniques to weaving waxed linen, rib baskets and challenging patterns.

The Camp provides delicious food, new accommodations for housing and pleasant surroundings for basket weaving. Shirley Mount and her daughters are wonderful hostesses. They think of everything so you are free to weave to your heart's content. Make and take weaving was fun, no weaving just new ideas to make small projects for pure enjoyment.

If you need basket supplies, Shirley had tables of items to buy. She sells quality reed throughout the year. Check her website thebasketpatch.com for supplies and further information on next year's [Wisconsin Weave Away](#).

January Guild Meeting 2016 in pictures



Left: Julie Pleski and Nancy Fulton in Della's Antler Bask class.



Right: Jean Ellingson and Layce Parkinson sharing a laugh at the open weave table.



Left: Diane Gotham, Roberta Wakeling and Sandi Quint weaving in Roxanne Miller's class.



Right: Chris Dellwo and Rebecca Gotham with teacher Della Pleski.



Left: Christina Grans and Julie working on the antler baskets.



Right: Mary Smith and Suzette Leizinger working on Kabel's modified Onion Harvest Basket.

February Guild Meeting 2016 in pictures



Left: Jo Guttormson and Janet Prow at the open weave table.



Right: Leslie Granbeck explaining the felting process.



Left: Christina Grans and Layce Parkinson listening intently;



Right: as is Pam Ihle.



Julie Fick, Layce and Nancy Fulton making sure they understand the felting process.

March Guild Meeting 2016 in pictures



Left: Jo Guttormson teaching. Right: Ann Danko and Janet Prow following Jo's instructions.



Left: Della and Julie Pleski working hard as Alice Ford watches. Right: Jo, helping Suzette Leizinger as Christina Grans is distracted by me!



Left: Linda Wilcox and Bonnie Buzza at the open weave table. Right: Layce Parkinson and Nancy Fulton working on kits at the open weave table.

Basket Bingo request!

We need decorative stones or marbles to complete our table decorations for Basket Bingo this year. If you have any that you no longer need, please give them to me, Jill Scarpari or Susan Burkhalter at guild sometime before Oct. 2016. Below is what we are doing and we will use the stones or marbles inside the jars. All the jars are made and LED candles have been acquired. All that is left is locating the stones or marbles. Don't buy any; just let Susan or I know if you have some you want to donate.



TREASURER'S REPORT

The Minnesota Basket Weavers Guild continues to be happily solvent, keeping pace with the proposed budget and last year's activity. We awarded a Random Act of Kindness scholarship to Bemidji, which was the only variation from our typical expenses last month.

Thank you to the many of you who have renewed your memberships. Although this is only a small part of our income, it is important that we have this base for our activities. And a dozen of you did the joint membership with the Textile Center—they are really pleased. I think our initiative got them off to a good start with their Guild membership level—we are such a small guild, and have about 25% joint participation! Just a reminder about Basket Bingo—our primary income source..... we do need your baskets!!!! and other help! Sue and Jean will be calling on our volunteers from last year soon, to see who will continue. Even if you didn't help last year, we will be appreciative if you can help this year. And, again, **we do need those baskets. Chris will store them over the summer, so bring any you have to our April and May meetings.**

If you haven't yet renewed, and there are a couple of you, we hope you will do so soon!

Bonnie Buzza, Treasurer



Why did the
Easter Bunny
cross the
road?

*Because the
chicken had
his Easter
eggs!*

www.ActivityVillage.co.uk



Why can't a
rabbit's nose
be 12 inches
long?

*Because
then it
would be a
foot!*

www.ActivityVillage.co.uk



What happened
when the
Easter Bunny
met the rabbit
of his dreams?

*They lived
happily ever
after!*

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How does
the Easter
Bunny
travel?

*By hare
plane!*

www.ActivityVillage.co.uk

Hello, Basket Makers! This is a reminder that our membership year runs January through December. The \$25.00 due is one of the best bargains in town!!!

Attached is a membership renewal form for your convenience--it is helpful if you complete it so I can double check your contact info. Also--**if you change your e-mail address, please let me know**....otherwise we won't know how to reach you for messages, announcements, or newsletters.

See you soon! BB

**MINNESOTA BASKET WEAVERS GUILD
2016 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Please complete this form and send with your check for \$25.00 (or \$50 if including Textile Center membership) annual dues to:

Treasurer, MBWG
Mailbox #7
Textile Center of Minnesota
3000 University Avenue SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Name _____

Date _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Telephone A _____ Telephone B _____

E-Mail

Address _____

Editor's disclaimer: The snow ended too soon for this skier, oh well there is always next year. Send any **additions, corrections, or articles** you want addressed in the next newsletter to jill.scarpari@gmail.com

Respectfully written/edited by Jill A Scarpari