

MINNESOTA BASKET

WEAVERS GUILD



# Spokes and Weavers

Minnesota Basket Weavers Guild Newsletter

**President's Message by Nancy Fulton**

July 2016- Year 20 Issue 3

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**Hello all,**

I've done lots of weaving this spring and summer, much more than I've done in years. I promised myself I'd take more classes when I retired and it really happened.

In April, I went to Wallops Island Virginia for the Road Scholar class: Coastal Basketry and Barrier Island Ecology taught by Jean Koon. I made three baskets, two with pine needles and one with pine needles and marsh sea grass, some of which I collected. The center for two of the baskets are shells that we collected on the field trip to the shore. We stayed in dorms at Chincoteague Bay Field Station. Jean is a great teacher and I learned a lot about both pine needle and grass basketry and about the barrier islands.

<https://www.roadscholar.org/find-an-adventure/20926/coastal-basketry-and-barrier-island-ecology/dates/>

Then it was the Stowe Basketry Festival in Stowe Vermont in June. I'd heard about Stowe over the years but learned more when I took a class from Flo Hoppe at Weavin' in Winona last year. Stowe is amazing, seven days of classes and I took a class every day. I wove with Flo Hoppe, Jackie Abrams, Wendy Durfey, Vladimir Yarish, Marilyn Moore (twice) and Pam Talsky. The classes are held at the Stowe Mountain Resort in one of the lodges. Everyone was very friendly, great views of the ski runs and the mountains and fantastic food. Definitely something to add to one's basketry bucket list.

<http://www.roundhearth.com/programs/stowe-basketry-festival>

At the end of June was my second Weavin' in Winona with many other guild members. I took classes from Dianne Stanton and Kay Kjeldgaard. I was able to weave my first cedar and elm bark basket with Dianne. Winona is a great time, it is held in the Tau Center at Winona State University. The teachers are also vending with lots of great kits and supplies.

Next month, I'm going to the Second Annual Basket Camp in Osceola Wisconsin. I took a birchbark star class from Beth Homa-Style and found out about the camp. I'll be weaving a birch bark market basket.

<http://www.basketcamp.net/>

There are an amazing number of basket making opportunities available to us both locally and nationally. Be sure to check out the weaving opportunities from MBWG this fall. <http://mbwg.org/classes.html>

## MBWG Board 2016

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## In this edition of 'Spokes and Weavers'

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Hope you are enjoying a picnic basket  
full of fun like Yogi and Boo Boo Bear!

## What happens to our Guild when no one volunteers?

The board members of our guild are confronted with this question quite often. Every year we are searching for a **President Elect** and at times other positions. As it stands now, we don't have a **President Elect, Special Events Chair or NEW! Facebook Liaison** for next year. We try to find someone for **President** long before the year's end, so the person has time to understand how the guild functions and what the duties of the **President** are.

Many of our positions do not change hands unless the person doing it cannot or does not want to continue with the position. The **President** is the one job that changes every year. Why is this? It was written into our by-laws and in the past we have had different lengths of time for the position, from 1, 2 and 3 years. The current is 2 years-1 learning and 1 leading. This has evolved over the last 20 years of our guild's existence and works best, as past board members have decided.

Often **Past Presidents** attend board meetings because they are fun and the camaraderie is infectious. We meet at the **Highland Bakery and Cafe, 2012 Ford Parkway in St. Paul, on the fourth Wednesday of the month, September thru May** (there are some changes when our meeting date changes from the fourth Saturday.) Also board members believe in the guild and the service it provides to members regarding the craft of basketry and the friendships that develop from a common interest.

**Will we cease to exist if we can't find a President for next year? Who will lead us?** These are "scary" questions we don't want to answer but are always hovering in the background. The **President** is very important, but the work load is light. If you are interested ask Nancy Fulton, our current **President** or Christine Dellwo or Alice Ford, both recent **Past Presidents** about the duties.

If you enjoy attending guild meetings, consider volunteering to keep our guild functioning so we don't have to answer the "scary" questions from above. **P.S. We also need a Special Event Chair and Facebook Liaison!** Respectfully written by Jill Scarpari

After writing the above editorial, I decided to put our mission statement here. How many of us have actually taken the time to read it lately? I know I haven't. So here it is, may it inspire you to volunteer.

The purpose of the Guild is to bring together the various elements that make up a guild; to establish something that is lasting and functional; to cultivate and continue the friendships that emerge; to stimulate growth in knowledge and skills; and to contribute to the overall well being of many through the practice of basket weaving. -MBWG Mission Statement

## Fall Class Schedule for MBWG

Saturday, Sept. 17, 2016



Karen Kotecki  
October 22, 2016



Debbie Mrozcenski

## BASKET BINGO!!!



- The day is coming fast! While you are weaving this summer remember to weave one or two baskets for our annual fundraiser.

**November 19, 2016**



**Pam Ihle**



**Shirley Mount**

**December 10, 2016**

**Annual Christmas Party and Service Project**

- Check our website-MBWG- for more details about the classes and schedule. And remember: the open weave table is always open; except at Basket Bingo.

**April Guild Meeting 2016**



**Suzette Leizinger and Roxanne Miller...Janet Prow and Jo Guttormson working with ash as Mark Boyce, the teacher, looks on.**



More students making the ash basket. An ash backpack by Mark.



Open weave table with lots going on. Jo shows off her recent weaving endeavors.

A heartfelt thank you from Juli Fick

Dear Board Members:

Please accept my sincere thanks for the gift through your Random Acts of Kindness Program. My 7 year old Boxer suffered an injury when she was accidentally poked in the eye with a stick and the subsequent vet bills made it impossible for me to consider going to the annual retreat in Bemidji.

Your generous gift turned that around and make it possible for me to attend.

I love this retreat and have it enjoyed it numerous times-especially seeing old friends and making new ones.

Thanks again to you angels amongst us.

Shalom, Shalom (perfect peace)

Juliana Fick

Random Acts of Kindness is a program intended to help our members in need attend a weaving class. Nominate someone today! Find a board member and fill them in on someone's need. Check out pictures of the Headwaters event to see what Juli is writing about.

## Guild Members in Action at the Headwaters Workshop in April 2016



Linda Wilcox, MBWG member with Eve and Kathy. Layce Parkinson working with Eileen.



Susan Burkhalter weaving a lazy susan. Janet Prow and Layce weaving away.



Margaret Fiedler in the back row.



Paul Scarpari teaching his mushroom basket.



**Janet and Jean weaving the mushroom basket. Jo Guttormson working on a picnic basket.**



**Cream of veggie soup with a caviar deviled egg! Byron showing how to work with black ash.**

Twelve of our guild members attended the Headwaters Basketmakers Workshop in April. Steve and Sandy Atkinson vended basket weaving materials as well as taught classes. Sandy taught a lazy susan basket, a picnic basket and a bread/cracker basket. Steve conducted classes of a bench, footstool and youth arm chair. Cathryn Peters facilitated a two day antler workshop and an antler tray. Paul Scarpari taught a large gathering basket, while I, Jill Scarpari, taught a modification of a Grace Kabel pattern on Friday and a tapestry basket with Eve Sumsky on Sat. and Sun. Eileen Spilman worked with beginners all three days weaving a bowl, a shopping tote and a pitcher. The food as always was superb-one of the reasons I keep going- and the company phenomenal. The setting at the Concordia Language Finnish Village is breathtaking by the lake. Countless door prizes were given away. A great time was had by all. Next year's dates are April 21, 22 and 23. Plan ahead now and join us.



## Members in Action at the Hennepin County Fair

What did you do on the hottest day of spring?

Jeanie Wilcox and Juli Fick spent June 19th at Lion's Park in Corcoran at the Hennepin County Fair. They represented our MBWG for a basket weaving demonstration outside the creative activities section at the fair.

While the 93 degree heat and the fact that it was Father's Day may have kept some people away, several showed a lot of interest in our guild and learning our craft. The steady breeze and open tent provided relief from the hot sun. Fair-goers - both young and old - came in and tried a bit of random weaving and saw beautiful and varied samples of our art.



**Members in Action at Weavin in Winona 2016**



**From left to right: Nancy, Marcie, Alice, Jo, Jean, Roxanne, Margaret, Suzette**



## **Weavin' in Winona 2016 by Jo Guttormson**

I was so excited to be heading south to my first Weavin' in Winona Workshop in several years. My class started at 8:30 am and, to save my dollars for goodies in the store, I left home in Blaine at 5:06 am!! It was a peaceful drive. I was too early for rush hour problems and all of the construction along the way hadn't yet begun. I arrived in plenty of time and was in my seat and rarin' to go with time to spare.

Friday I had class with Marilyn Wald. It was called Vanilla Bourbon and looked simple but Marilyn always throws in a few new techniques to keep you humble. There were announcements, door prizes and invitations to shop, then weaving began.

I had a room reserved in the Winona State dorms. Spartan accommodations, but very economical. Zazu's a local pizza and pub was across the street so Jean Ellingson and her cousin, Marcia Hoffman of the Mineola Guild, and I walked over for supper. Then I slept like a rock!

Saturday classes began at 8:30, so we were up and on the way early (by my standards). My class was Oval Yarnscapes with Marlene Meyer. A simple start and then creating a beautiful upper section utilizing Marlene's selection of gorgeous yarn. The choices were overwhelming and it was such fun to see the variety of results.

Saturday supper we went to Mango's a great Mexican restaurant. There were 10 of us-guild members Margaret Fiedler, Marcie Bilkrie, Roxanne Miller, Alice Ford, Nancy Fulton., Jean Ellingson, Jo Guttormson and Suzette Leizinger. Plus Marcia and Vicki. Fun! Laughing! Great Food! A few adult beverages! A guild-building event! Then back to the dorm.

Sunday I was weaving with Marlene Meyer again. This time was Tower of Yarn. Again, a simple basket but the creative choices produced an amazing variety in the baskets. Both days we finished the rim with leather which is a beautiful completion step and Sunday we added a little bling to top it off.

Weavin' in Winona is a great workshop! The teachers were all nationally known. Marilyn Wald, Dianne Stanton, Marlene Meyer, Char Ciammaichella, and Kay Kjeldgaard. Students came from 8 states! Baskets were small, medium, large and VERY large in size. Materials were a variety-reed, cane, elm bark, yellow cedar, ash, yarn, mesquite wooden bases and I've probably forgotten a few. Catching up with friends, learning new techniques from great teachers, shopping (always dangerous) and making new friends. It was really fun! I'd recommend attending to everyone. It's always the weekend after Father's Day.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

We continue with just under \$9,000 in the budget, and the bills paid. Your support of Basket Bingo (hint, hint) makes this possible....as well as your dues. Memberships are an important base for us, as well as a source of revenue, even though our major revenue source is Basket Bingo.

So those of you who have renewed your memberships—thanks!!

Bonnie Buzza, Treasurer

### **The fun of showing your work.... by Bonnie Buzza**

My college graduation class at Macalester had its 50th anniversary in June, and as part of the planning committee I organized a “show” of art and creative work called “An Artist’s Eye, a Crafter’s Hand, a Musician’s Ear, A Writer’s voice...” There were 24 of my classmates participating, and a wonderful variety of high quality painting, photography, quilting, book making, different types of writings, musical performances on CD or posters, a couple of theatre productions shown on posters, woodwork, bowl turning...and baskets and weavings by me! I selected four baskets for the show...one of which I had had for sale at the Weavers Guild’s Fiber Fair last November. It hadn’t sold there, so I had left the tag on it to take this year...and forgot to take it off for the Alumni/ae show. Well....someone who saw my basket there wanted to buy it so I sold it to her! Then, the wife of an alum who has a gallery in River Falls asked me if I would show and possibly sell my baskets at her Gallery in July, and my husband sell his bowls. David would be out of town for their opening, so we said we couldn’t do it then...but I said I could refer a basket maker to her for that month if she were interested. She was, and I contacted Jill Scarpari who I thought was around in the summer...and she and Paul will do the July show. And....I’ve just confirmed that David will have his bowls there, and I’ll have baskets and wheat weavings, in October....

So, in addition to all the nice comments I got for my work at the show itself, I got a sale and another showing. Who would have thought it???? So next time you have a chance to share your work, do so! Who knows where it might lead????



Does this look like a basket to you? Me neither but....It is! At least a character named Dale/Chip Baskets on an 2016 FX comedy series. I have never watched it but....another use for baskets, I guess.

Editor's disclaimer: Awaiting a glorious fall and winter so Guild is back in session as well as my beloved snow being back. Don't throw things at me, I can't help it. I am a true Minnesotan! 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](mailto:jill.scarpari@gmail.com) . I would especially appreciate articles, thanks to Nancy, Juli, Jeanie, Jo and Bonnie for their contributions to this newsletter.

Respectfully written/edited by Jill A Scarpari