

WOODLAND Weavers & Spinners Guild

Season 2006-07, No. 8

April 2007

Newsletter

Next Meeting

April 8, 2007
7:00 p.m.

Convergence Revisited

With Jackie Fisher & Liz Oppewal

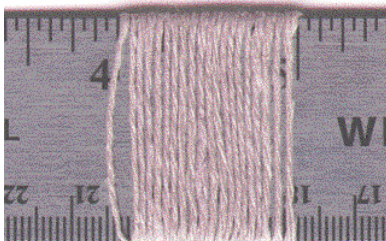
“How to Figure Sett “



We meet at
Trinity Congregational Church
2725 4 Mile Rd NW
Grand Rapids, MI

Treats

Virginia Bullock
Bea Kenny
Martha Steele
Brenda Terry



Member



Michigan
League of
Handweavers

Newsletter Editor:
Bob Meyering, 940-0621
meyr@calvin.edu
Copy deadline,

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It was so nice to see all of you at the March guild meeting, especially since we didn't meet during the month of February. I was excited to hear about the guild sale that will be coming up in December of 2007. I have even done some weaving that could be included in a sale. I missed the guild retreat in March since I was afraid of the weather, but am looking forward to the next one in May.

A couple of weekends ago, I had the opportunity to demonstrate warping from back to front for my sister and a previous member of the guild who is interested in getting back to weaving. I had already wound my warp, so we started with putting the warp in the raddle and lashing it onto the back beam. It was nice to have a couple extra hands to hold things for me, and to wind the warp onto the back beam while I kept the warp taut and tried to keep it from tangling. This was by far the shortest time I have spent in warping and threading my loom.

It was also reinforced to me that weaving takes a great deal of patience. However, it was easier to get to the final step of actual weaving, since the previous steps are becoming more of a habit. I still feel like I am all thumbs when I am threading the reed, but it is getting easier and a little bit faster.

In the process, I realized how much I enjoy weaving. I like to use handspun yarn, decide what pattern I am going to use, which threading, etc. There are not many limitations involved. I generally like to choose something simple, and make it look

more complex. My attempts at weaving large projects, (such as the 9 yards of rug warp, which turned into one long rug, and three very short rugs, and then got cut off the loom), have not been so successful, so I have been trying to build up to larger projects. My last project was four tote bags, which were inspired by one of my Convergence classes, “The Fab Four”, in which we explored the variety of weaving patterns that can be done on four shafts. It worked out pretty well. I was able to handle my 3-4 yard warp,

I can honestly say that without being involved in the guild, my loom would probably not be seeing much activity.

and actually ended up with the number of tote bags that I originally planned; I just need to sew them up.

When I demonstrated warping from back to front, I decided

to weave a couple of twill scarves from some handspun yarn. Weaving with handspun is very different from weaving with commercial yarn. I am still trying to determine how much tension to put on the warp to make my selvages look better without putting too much stress on the yarn. I also learned how to make self fringe by hemstitching with help from a Harriet Tidball book. My hemstitching so far has consisted of glue and the sewing machine (which is okay, but doesn't work for all applications).

I hope that all of you have had time to spend at the loom or in some other creative endeavor! I can honestly say that without being involved in the guild, my loom would probably not be seeing much activity. I have met so many people, and have been inspired by all of you and awed by all of the talent in our guild.

On that note, I would like to again mention that if you have not been an

(Continued on page 2)

WORKSHOPS & RETREATS

Late Spring Fantastic Fiber Fling

Our 2nd annual Spring Fiber Fling Retreat is coming up May 12. This is the Saturday just before Mothers' Day. Bring your knitting, spinning, weaving, or other fiber activity you need to work on, or finish. Chat with others as you complete that pair of socks or sweater, spin that new fiber you found at Chelsea or City Knitting, weave that last yardage on your workshop loom or start a new project, exchange ideas, walk on the beach, relax.....enjoy the day.

The location is the same.—The Christian Reformed Conference Grounds on the beautiful shores of Lake Michigan. Time, from 9:00 am to 9:00pm. Lunch & dinner are included for the same low price of \$20. Contact Linda Blue, Arlene Tie-meyer or Julia Daniels. Plan on joining us for that day—we promise no snow-storms!

Additional Option at the Spring Fantastic Fiber Fling

Kumihimo. The ancient cord braiding technique to be taught by our own Angela Hammer. The date, May 12, 2007. Included in our scheduled May Retreat. Cost will be \$20 in addition to the cost of Retreat... which would be \$40 total. Angela is including all needed materials for the workshop. Please contact Linda Blue at 616-363-0622 or e-mail at Lgb1242@aol.com.

(Continued from page 1)

—Linda Blue

officer of Woodland Weavers and Spinners (or even if you have), to please consider being an officer or volunteering for one of the guild positions. I never would have volunteered to be Vice President two years ago, but was approached by the Nominations Committee (i.e., Brenda Terry), and gave it some thought. Yes, it involves some work and a time commitment, but I am truly glad for the experience. I have met so many nice people. I really enjoyed talking with potential speakers, and getting them set up for guild programs. I am terrified of speaking in public, but I have had many opportunities to practice that in front of all of you. The hardest thing about being President, is writing this column every month! It seems like there has been a resurgence of interest in the fiber arts in the past few years, and I think that with our upcoming sale and other opportunities we can really grow the Guild with your help! See you in April!

—Mary Ellen Gedris

JOCHEN'S LOOM

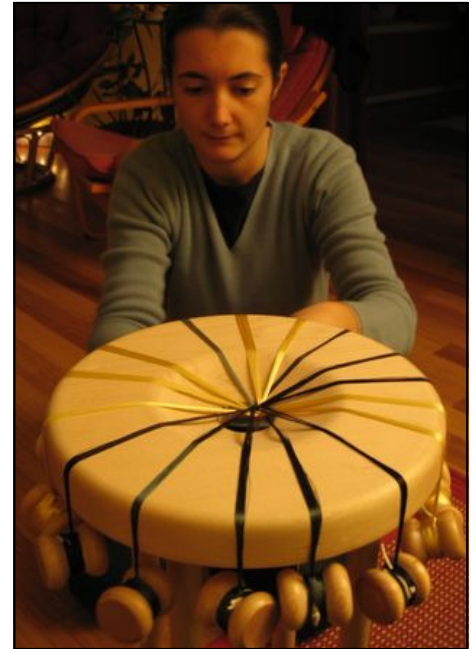
Jochen continues to weave and be involved with the Franciscan Center in Lowell. At the time of our last guild meeting, this loom was still available for purchase. If interested, talk to Jochen (616-304-5337, weaverjochen@yahoo.com)



OLD LOOM AVAILABLE

Jennifer Gould sent email with the following information:

I received a call from Karen Vander Breck (sp?) who has an old wooden loom (with all the parts) that she wants to pass on to someone. You can call her at 399-6174---I assume that she lives in Holland.



Kumihimo



SPINNING GROUP

The Spinning Study Group will meet at City Knitting (423 Norwood SE) on Monday, April 16, at 7:30 p.m. See <http://www.city-knitting.com/info/#map> for directions.

KNITTING STUDY GROUP.

Margaret Jager's Saturday Knitting Group has scheduled one more meeting. Saturday, April 14, 9:30 am to 11:30(ish) am. We will continue to meet at the Boston Square Christian Reformed Church on the lower level. Enter near the parking lot on that lower level. Margaret has graciously offered to meet with us one more time this Spring. Boston Square CRC is located at 1803 Kalamazoo Ave SE.

BACK ON TRACK!

We have the date! December 7 and 8, 2007.

We have the location! Prince Conference Center, Calvin College.

Now it is time to plan the details!

The **WWS Annual Show and Sale** is back! Your sales committee has been working hard. We went out in teams armed with a long list of criteria to find a good location for our sale. We are very excited about the Hickory Room at the Prince Conference Center at Calvin College! The room is more than 6 times the size of the space we've been allotted at Art on the Grand! The walls and carpet are neutral. The lighting is excellent – both natural and artificial. The room is located just off an entrance. And there is room to grow in the future!

At this time our vision is to open the sale to invited guests on Friday evening, December 7, serving light refreshments, and to open to the general public all day Saturday, December 8.

What do we do now?

1. We will need lots of "stuff" to sell. We are looking for high quality fiber goods – handwoven items or items incorporating handspun fibers. If you warp your loom to make yourself a new kitchen rug, add enough warp for a second rug to sell!
2. Be creative! Think of interesting things to make from your handwoven scraps – Liz Oppewal's checkbook cover is a great example!
3. In what ways can we promote our craft through this sale?
4. What fresh ideas do we have to promote this sale?

Your sale committee is Catherine Adas, Laurie Angell, Ann Bont, Betty Christians, Julie Daniels, Rebecca Kugele, Liz Oppewal, and Rita Petteys. Please share your thoughts and ideas with any of them – or better yet, join the committee!

MLH NEWS

The Board of MLH encourages all fiber artists to enter the three juried shows at MLH this summer. The categories include Functional Fiber Art, Fiber Art, and Fashion Show.

Let's have the Woodland Weavers and Spinners well represented in these three shows this summer at the MLH Summer Workshops and Conference, June 25 through June 30, 2007, at Hope College in Holland Michigan.

Functional Fiber Art Exhibit

Deadlines for entry into this exhibit is May 15, indicating technique and size requirements. (It was decided at the March MHL steering committee meeting that you may enter up to two (2) pieces in this show). Finished pieces need to arrive by May 24 to: Nancy Grant, 5613 Tiffany Lane, Midland, MI 48642

Fiber Art Exhibit Deadlines for entry into this show is May 15, with title, technique and size of piece needed. Completed pieces must arrive by May 24. (It was decided at the March MLH Steering Committee meeting you may enter 2 pieces in this show) Send to: Nancy Grant, 5613 Tiffany Lane, Midland, MI 48642.

Fashion Show Entry Forms for up to three garments must arrive by May 15, completed garments must arrive by May 24, 2007. Send them to: Sharon McKenna, 2077 Champaign, Lincoln Park, MI 48103

Entrants to these three shows must be MLH Members, so if you are not a MLH member contact Mary Fechner to become a member: Mary Fechner, 403 Toledo, Adrian, MI 49221 (517)265-9561, mlfechner@tc3net.com.

For an entry form visit MLH Web-Site, www.mlhguild.com or ask your MLH Rep, Cathy McCarthy, for a registration booklet. She will see that you get one.

Remember, the **Michigan League of Handweavers Workshops and Conference** is this summer, June 25-30, at Hope College in Holland Michigan. This would be a fun activity in which to participate. There are three day workshops, two days of seminars, vendors for fiber shopping, a fashion show, several exhibits to view, and many fiber friends to visit and encourage in our world of fiber! Hope to see you there!

—Cathy McCarthy

WEAVING BOOKS DONATER

Martha Despres, a former guild member, recently donated to the guild about 20 books from her library on various weaving topics. Her hope is that the guild could use them in some way, perhaps to start a library where members could check them out. We are now looking at a way to store them at our regular location. Margaret Jager is willing to catalog them along with our existing video collection.

If you have ideas about how these books could be used, please bring your ideas to the April meeting. We hope to have the books available by the May meeting.

Martha was very active in Woodland Weavers in the 80's and early 90's. She served as treasurer, coordinated show and tell, organized munchies, helped with sales, and just loved being a member. She is now living in a retirement community and dealing with disabilities from a fall she took many years ago. She sends her regards to all who knew her.

CALLING ALL FIBER-ARTISTS!!

Creative Spirit Center is accepting applications to showcase your original, imaginative and out of the ordinary Fiberart in our next Fiberplay exhibit, **From These Hands** from June 8 through August 18. Submit your pieces for jury review!

Deadline for submissions:

Applications must be received by Creative Spirit Center by May 5, 2007

Jury process to take place May 6-11

Only artists chosen by the jury will be notified May 12-14.

Works selected for exhibition must be received by June 4.

Prizes:

All art featured in this exhibit will be voted on by the public with awards given to the winners.

People's choice awards: 1st = \$250 2nd = \$125 3rd = \$75 4th = \$50

Submissions:

Submissions will be accepted via email, U.S. mail, or by hand delivery to Creative Spirit Center. All submissions must be original work done by the artist, (no kits, commercial patterns, etc.) aged 18 or older. Value of work for sale must not exceed \$5000. Art must be ready to hang or display and must not have been submitted to any previous Creative Spirit Center Fiberplay. Submissions must have a completed and signed entry form, entry fee and photos in one of the following formats: photographic prints, digital jpegs or CD.

Photographic prints (5"x 7" or larger preferable) -1 full view and 1 detail view

On back of prints: last name, first name, title, size of piece (W" x H")

Digital images CD or jpeg images need to be 750 KB to 1 MB, 200 dpi - 1 full view and 1 detail view.

Digital images may be sent on CD via U.S mail or via email to Creative Spirit Center (creativity@creativespiritcenter.org, subject line: ATTN: fiberplay 2007 entry)

Entry will be disqualified if all materials are not provided as required

Please name your jpegs accordingly: last name, title, type of submission, width, height. For example: artist Aura Jones whose piece "Fiberart" is 23" x 36" = [jones.fiberart.full.23.36](#) or [jones.fiberart.detail](#)

Fees:

Up to four(4) works may be submitted for a non-refundable \$20 entry fee. Make checks payable to Creative Spirit Center. To pay by credit card call Creative Spirit Center (989-837-1885.) The entry form is available online at www.creativespiritcenter.org or by sending a request via e-mail, letter or by calling 989.837.1885. Entry form and jpegs may be submitted via email to (creativity@creativespiritcenter.org, subject line: ATTN: fiberplay 2007 entry). For submissions to be considered, non-refundable entry fees must be received via U.S. mail or by phone with credit card by submission date, May 5, 2007.

Creative Spirit Center will retain 30% of all sales while work is on display. Indicate whether work is For Sale (FS) and price or Not for Sale (NFS).

Jurors/Fiberplay Committee:

Terry Christens, Barbara Douglas, Donna Hoff-Grambau, Gerry Nalezty, (Juror bios available online at www.creativespiritcenter.org)

Creative Spirit Center

Fiberplay 2007

1517 Bayliss Street

PO Box 1204

Midland MI 48641-1204

Phone: (989) 837-1885

FAX: (989) 837-1817

Website: www.creativespiritcenter.org

E-mail: creativity@creativespiritcenter.org

WOODLAND WEAVERS AND SPINNERS

Guild Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2007

Mary Ellen Gedris called the meeting to order, welcoming new member Amy Ranger.

Guest speaker Chris Hornby presented a program on inkle weaving.

Business Meeting

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Julie Daniels reported a current balance of \$2675.27

Program: The April program is entitled "Convergence Revisited." Jackie Fisher and Liz Oppewal will share a technique on figuring sett which they learned at Convergence. Other members are invited to share things they learned or produced at Convergence. Please notify Arlene Tiemeyer if you would like to participate.

Workshops: The next scheduled workshop, "A Dyeing Day" with Bryan Schneider-Thomas" on Saturday, March 24 is full. There are several people on a waiting list. Please notify Linda Blue at least one week before the event if you signed up and are unable to attend. Cost is \$20 and must be received by March 15 in order to hold your spot. Send your money to Julia Daniels. Let Linda know ASAP what types of fiber you plan to dye, so appropriate materials can be purchased.

Retreats: The next "Fantastic Fiber Fling" will be held on May 12 at the Christian Reformed Conference Grounds. Cost is \$20. Angela Hammer will conduct a Kumihimo workshop at this time. Cost for the workshop is an additional \$20, which includes materials.

Sales: The sale committee announced that the Woodland Weavers and Spinners Guild Annual Show/Sale is back! It is scheduled for December 7-8 at the Prince Conference Center at Calvin College.

MLH: Cathy McCarthy promoted the MLH Conference which is in June at Hope College. Extra copies of the registration booklets were available. WWS will be responsible for the transportation of speakers/leaders to and from the airport. Guild's are asked to exhibit the results from one workshop that they have held. Each MLH member Guild is asked to contribute towards the exhibit prizes at Conference. Ann Bont moved that WWS donate \$100 towards prizes. Linda Blue seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Study Groups:

Spinning Spinning group will meet on March 19 at City Knitting.

Drafting The drafting/weave structure study group will meet briefly at 6:45 before the April guild meeting.

50/50: Congratulations to the Tiemeyers for AGAIN winning the evening's 50/50 raffle!

Hearts and Flowers:

Our sympathy is extended to Jeanne Hoin on the recent passing of her father.

Get well wishes to Virginia Bullock, who has been "under the weather" for about a month.

Speedy recovery wishes to Inara Kalnaraups, who had surgery to remove some skin cancer.

Speedy recovery wishes to Alice Griswold, 96 year old master weaver from East Lansing, who broke her hip in a fall.

Announcements:

Treaters are needed for the April and May Guild meetings. Please let Paula De Young know if you can contribute.

Laurie Angell brought printed stretching instructions to share as a follow-up to the January program.

Margaret Jager announced that several new DVD's have been purchased.

Please note that the April Guild meeting will be on April 9, which is the 2nd Monday of the month.

Show and Tell:

Participants were Margaret Jager, Mary Ellen Gedris, Mary Ippel, Julie Daniels, Liz Oppewal, Jochen Ditterich, Judi Pulver, Diane VanderPol, Catherine Adas, Cathy McCarthy, Ginny Kuilema, Paula DeYoung, Joni Rosen, Suzanne DeVries-Zimmerman, Linda Blue, Brenda Terry.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectively submitted,
Ann Bont, secretary

**MICHIGAN LEAGUE OF HANDWEAVERS.
WORKSHOPS AT HOPE COLLEGE
JUNE 25 - JUNE 27, 2007
MLH CONFERENCE FOLLOWING ON
JUNE 28 - JUNE 30, 2007**

Woodland Weavers and Spinners Guild
2230 Edgewood SE
Grand Rapids MI 49546

**Next Meeting:
Monday, April 8, 2007
Convergence Revisited**

LATER SPRING FANTASTIC FIBER FLING Retreat Details

Coming May 12th: our Retreat at the CRC Conference Grounds on the edge of Lake Michigan—near Grand Haven. If you have not already paid for this workshop, you need to do so at the April meeting. Cost for attending only the general gathering to weave, spin, knit, chatter, or sing is \$20.

Those who wish not only to attend the retreat but also to take part in the **Kumihimo**. Workshop with Angela Hammer, need to pay an additional fee of \$20, for a total of \$40.

Here's what Angela has to say

about the workshop. "I just want to let everyone know that the only thing they need to bring to the kumihimo workshop is a writing utensil and a pair of scissors. I'll bring everything else including yarn, instructions, and braiding disks. If there are any questions, please pass them on to me." Kumihimo, you will recall from a previous guild meeting, is the ancient cord braiding technique which can begin very simply but become as complex as you wish to make it.

The Retreat hours are from 9:00am until 9:00pm. Those of you who have not been to the retreat location may need direction. Anyone from the Grand Rapids area should probably take Lake Michigan Dr. (M-45) straight

west until it dead-ends into Lakehore Dr. Turn north (right), drive about a mile or so until you see the CRC Conference Grounds sign on the left. It has camping facilities as well as cabins. You will find the community/all purpose building as you drive in. There is plenty of parking area near the building. Any questions, call Linda Blue at 363-0622.

