



WOODLAND

Weavers & Spinners Guild

February 2009

Season 2008-09, No. 7

Next Meeting
Monday, February 2
7:00 PM

Inkle Weaving with
Linda Blue & Julia Daniels

Greeters: Joni Rosen, Liz Oppewal

Treaters: Jackie Fisher, Ginny
Kuilema, Sierra Cole

7:00 PM
Trinity Congregational Church
2725 4 Mile Rd NW

Inkle Weaving

Linda Blue and I will lead the February program on Inkle Weaving. We are going to share our inkle designs and help members understand how to design their own patterns. We ask that members bring colored pencils. It will be a "hands-on" program.

Linda and I are also working on compiling a booklet of our inkle loom patterns and will offer them for sale to the members. Each pattern will be written out and accompanied by a color photo of the finished inkle band. We haven't determined the cost yet—depends on how many pages and how much ink I go through. Our supply will be limited (its taking me forever to print this stuff) so if you know you want one ahead of time contact either Linda or Julie. I expect they will cost under \$10.00.



We will also touch on warping the loom and if anyone has questions, please bring them. You are also welcome to bring your loom if you need help.

We will be meeting at Bennigans before the February 2 meeting. Plan on being there at 5:15. Please let me know if you are joining us so I can make reservations.

—Julie Daniels

Program Committee

The program committee will once again be meeting at 6:30 at the Church—before the regular guild meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan the programs for next year.

Meeting Format

At the Officers meeting held on January 12, it was determined that we would like social time to be from 6:30 to 7:00 with the business meeting starting at 7:00. The speaker will start at 7:30 with a generous hour time allotment. We find that the meetings keep running late and by the time the meeting room is put back in the condition we found it, some members don't get home until after 10:00. If we all work together, we can leave much earlier. Thanks.

Words for February 2009

When I first started weaving I got excited about being able to create cloth. I love the rhythm of treadle, throw, beat; treadle, throw, beat; treadle, throw, beat....I was good with plain weave, and since my first loom had 2 harnesses, I felt like I "understood" what I was doing. It wasn't long before I discovered 4 harness weaving.

This was a geometric advancement in what the loom and I could do – it not only opened the world of twills and fancy weaves like overshot & laces, it was possible to do all manner of double weaves, folded cloth, tubes, etc. It took a bit more time and focused thought, but I could still "see" what I was doing.

I seem to like complexity, so it wasn't long before I wanted to try 8 harness weaving. I was past my understanding of the exact way it "worked," but I was seduced by the variety of curves and colors that were possible. There were lots of books and magazines that offered just enough information to be dangerous.

Eventually I met a woman selling a 6 foot AVL with compu-dobby, and I seriously tried to convince myself and my family that it would be a "perfect" addition to our home. It was only when a wiser friend asked if I would like to weave with only 2 treadles, that

I realized that maybe "more" wasn't what I needed or even really wanted.

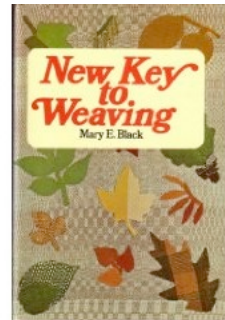
I enjoy sitting in a comfy chair with my colored pencils and graph paper – charting out what I want to make, figuring out the tie-ups and treadlings. I would love to learn how to use weaving software, someday, but right now the pencils help me to understand what I'm doing. I enjoy winding warps, threading, sleying, even tying on. I'm frequently so eager to get started weaving that I forget to spread the warp, or try to tell myself a one inch header is "enough" to leave before I start my main project.

But once I start weaving, I sometimes encounter a weird sort of ennui – I've seen what the threads are going to "do", and I realize I have a lot more of the same until I get to the end of my warp. I can stall out for days, weeks, or months at this point (this is where it's really nice to have more than one loom) until I sit back down and find the rhythm of treadle, throw, beat; treadle, throw, beat; treadle, throw, beat, and I *re*-discover the joy of making the cloth. "Suddenly" I see the knots coming up over the back beam and realize with a sense akin to nostalgia that I'm nearly done. Getting the piece off the loom seems to take no time at all, and one advantage to my lengthy process is that I am frequently surprised when I unroll my work from the cloth beam. "Oh yeah, that's right, I did try that alternate treadling with the bright red weft."

This mid-winter stretch, from the holidays until spring, is possibly my favorite time to weave. The snow and ice make outdoor activity much less inviting, and aside from some mandatory scraping and shoveling; much less necessary. I've been re-reading Mary Black's *New Key to Weaving* and am amazed at how much fun many of her projects sound.

But I'm not weaving right now, I'm writing my column. This is also an activity I enjoy, but it does occur to me that we need a lot of you, dear readers, to help us organize things for the coming year. If you look at our website (<http://www.wwas.org>) and click to membership and officers, you will see that some members

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are doing double duty and chairing more than one committee, and other committee chairs are vacant. We could use help doing many of the things we are now attempting, and "to encourage creative handweaving and fiber arts and to promote fellowship and education". Please consider, in this time of change and new direction, not what your guild can do for you, but what you can do for your guild. Thank you for all you are and can and will do in the future.

—Liz Oppewal

Workshop Information

Saturday, March 7, 2009. **Fiber Retreat** at Christian Reformed Conference Center.

Cost: \$25 (includes lunch & dinner).

Saturday April 18, 2009. **Dying Days** with Bryan Schneider-Thomas. This Dye Workshop with Bryan is held at his studio in Kent City. Cost: \$25. includes dyes to use on your fiber, yarn, cloth. Also a nice lunch of salad & pizza. There are several openings available in this workshop.

Saturday, April 25, 2009. **Fiber Retreat** at Christian Reformed Conf. Center. Cost: \$25 (includes lunch & dinner). For any further information on above opportunities, please contact Linda Blue at 363-0622 or refer to January Newsletter.

Tom Jipson Workshop. Color & Color Interaction for Weavers. Scheduled for Saturday & Sunday, May 2 & 3, 2009. We will be using the Harrisville wool yarns in this study. Cost is \$110 plus a \$30 materials fee (for yarns). Location of workshop will be announced. Time each day from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm. We have room for 2 more participants in this workshop. Please contact Linda at 363-0622 for questions or if you want take this workshop. Payment for these workshops & retreats are to be made to treasurer Rebecca Kugele. (Checks should be written to Woodland Weavers & Spinners Guild)

—Linda Blue

Membership Book Update

Lori Schutte
2030 72nd Street SW
Byron Center, MI 4915
phone: 616-583-1797
Email: lbschutte@att.net

ChiChi VanDyke
Home phone is correct 616-363-2808
Correction to second phone number—
cell: 616-915-0731

Beginning Weaver in (Way) Over Her Head

I have signed up for a Robyn Spady workshop in Ann Arbor the weekend of March 7. I just received the warping instructions and I am . . . I need help. The workshop is called "*There's Two Sides to Every Cloth*" - *Double Weaving*. The literature said "adventurous beginners" were welcome. Would anyone be interested in meeting me for coffee/tea, breakfast, lunch, dinner, drinks, or dessert (my treat) to look over this information with me and talk me through it?

I live in Rockford, but I will meet anywhere (do I sound desperate enough?) or you are welcome here and I will cook - I am better at that than weaving. If something other than food motivates you - I would be happy to trade your help for yarn, fiber (raw and processed), help with your knitting issues, use of my inkle loom . . .

The brief description:

Pattern #12: Stitched double cloth (1 layer 4S straight draw; 1 layer 4S point twill)

Number of shafts: Eight

Warping: Two 5/2 cotton warps beamed together at 32 epi total.

There are also three pages of full-color instructions. I can email them to you ahead of time if that will help.

I have an 8-shaft Baby Wolf. Lest you all think I am even crazier than I am, I have been weaving with Kathy Rowe for the last couple of years - helping her with things and trying a bit on my own. I have wound warp, warped several looms, woven scarves, roving and rag rugs, and bags in straight weave and twills. But Kathy has always been right with me and I haven't had much experience following written instructions. Like knitting, it seems weaving instructions are definitely written in their own dialect!

At Margaret Jager's suggestion during the January meeting, I signed up for Jochen's class. The next one with openings starts March 20 - two weeks after the Spady workshop! Then I looked at the classes at MLH in August (I went last summer with Kathy) and wanted to take Robyn's class, but . . . we were going to be on family vacation that week. Then I found it in Ann Arbor . . . and one thing led to another . . . And wouldn't you know it, our vacation dates have changed and I may get to go to MLH anyway!

But right now - those instructions. If you can help, please email me kathkol@aol.com or call (616)581-8438. I also plan to be at the February meeting. Thanks!

—Kathy Kolenda

Spinning Group

The Spinning Study Group will meet on February 16 at City Knitting at 7:30 p.m. The Fleece Fair in Chelsea is the following Saturday - if you would like to car pool contact Diane VanderPol at dvpo@calvin.edu or 940-2955.

Minutes: January Meeting

Program: Jochen Ditterich

Jochen spent an hour sharing hints which make warping and weaving easier. He stressed the need for quality tools as well as good technique to prevent stress and injury. Guild members left with ideas to try and issues to think about as they continue their own fiber exploration.

Business Meeting

Liz Oppewal chaired the meeting. She welcomed several visitors (Joshua Janzen, Pat Kluz, and Lisa Dykstra).

Treasurer Rebecca Kugele reported total sales of \$7196, or approximately \$6800 pre-tax sales, at the December sale. Eighteen guild members sold merchandise. A more complete report will appear in the newsletter because some bills still need to be paid.

The December minutes as printed in the newsletter were accepted.

Kathy Kolenda shared some of her memories of Kathy Rowe Drescher with the group. In December Kathy lost a decade-long battle

with cancer. Although she had joined Woodland Weavers and Spinners quite recently, Kathy was well known throughout the weaving community, having been, with her husband, a professional weaver for many years. Those of us who attended workshops with her were amazed at her enthusiasm for textile work and her creativity and expertise.

The Executive committee will meet for its mid-year meeting on Monday, January 12, at 6 p.m. at the Alpine Avenue Schuler Bookstore.

The Guild thanks Nate Oppewal for updating our website during his Christmas break.

Rita Petteys has application materials for anyone wishing to participate in Festival downtown in June. (The Guild has done this in the past and given up the idea of appealing to shoppers with wool products in mid-June.)

Guild members opened last year's fiber resolutions. Ruefully, they were updated and re-filed for January, 2010.

Michigan League of Handweavers

Betty Christians brought extra leftover swatches for guild members who don't get the MLH newsletter. (MLH members were appreciative of the gift as well.)

Judy Pulver updated information from the committee responsible for our exhibit at the MLH conference at Hope College in August.

Guild members interested in the summer MLH workshops (August 5-7) and conference topics (August 8-9) at Hope College should check the MLH website. There are

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great opportunities awaiting our exploration!

Guild Sale

The sale committee is complete for next year and will begin working on sale details for the 2009 sale soon.

Coming Attractions

Fiber Retreats have been scheduled for March 7, and April 25. Price for each is \$25 which includes two meals. Retreats run from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and are held at the Christian Reformed Conference Grounds on the shore of Lake Michigan. All members are encouraged to spend all or part of the day working on some fiber activity. See Linda Blue for details.

Tom Jipson has been scheduled to do a workshop the first weekend in May on Color and Color Interaction in Weaving. He will also be presenting the program at the May 5 guild meeting. Sign-up sheets are currently available.

Bryan Schneider-Thomas will be offering a second dye workshop in his studio on April 18. This cost is \$25, which includes dyes, application materials, desired advice, and lunch.

Guild members are invited to knit together on five Saturday mornings this winter. Dates are January 17 & 31, February 14 & 28, and March 14 & 28. Meetings will be held at Boston Square Christian Reformed Church from 10:00 a.m. to about noon. There is no charge.

Miscellaneous Notes

Julia Daniels and Chi Chi Van Dyke won the 50-50 drawing.

Show and Tell participants included Julie Daniels, Linda Blue, Arlene Tiemeyer, Jackie Fisher, Teresa Janzen, and Joni Rosen.

*Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Jager, Secretary*

Carry Weaving Goodies Here

The Woodland Weavers and Spinners Guild zippered bags are available for \$15.00. See Lauri Angell to purchase yours.



Textile Arts Market '08

The 2008 Textile Arts Market was a raging success!!! We did very well for having a sale in white-out blizzard conditions.

We had a total of 24 Guild members participating in the sale.

We collected a total of \$7196.09.

80% were seller's checks: \$5431.01

20% was the guild donation: \$1357.75

6% sales tax : \$407.33

Here is a list showing the kinds of items sold (scarfs, hats, towels, etc.) The "small things" category covers a lot of items all under \$12.00--ornaments, buttons, pins, things like that.

—Rebecca Kugele, Treasurer

Items Sold

little things	50
scarfs	47
towels	43
yarn	42
fiber	24
rugs	18
table linens	8
clothing	6
bags	2
hats	2
jewelry	2
kits	2
baby stuff	2
afghans	1

Guild member Jayne Schafer calls our attention to the International Year of Natural Fibres. The following information is taken from their website: www.naturalfibres2009.org/en/dex.html (*Fibre* is the correct spelling in the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth countries. The alternative *fiber* is the spelling in the United States.)

International Year of Natural Fibres



Why are natural fibres important?

Some 30 million tonnes of natural fibres are produced annually. Natural fibres form an important component of clothing, upholstery and other textiles. Many of them also have industrial applications - in packaging, papermaking and in composite materials with many uses, including as parts in automobiles. In many developing countries, proceeds from the sale and export of natural fibres contribute significantly to the income and the food security of poor farmers and those working in fibre processing and marketing. For some developing countries, natural fibres are of major economic importance: for example, cotton in some West African countries, jute in Bangladesh and sisal in Tanzania. In other cases, fibres are of less significance at the national level but are of major local importance, as in the case of jute in West Bengal (India) and sisal in north-east Brazil.

Why an International Year of Natural Fibres?

Since the 1960s, the use of synthetic fibres has increased, and natural fibres have lost a lot of their market share. Producers and processors of natural fibres face the challenge of developing and maintaining markets in which they can compete effectively with synthetics. In some cases, this has involved defining and promoting market niches. In others, where their natural advantages

allow them to compete effectively with synthetics, basic research and development is needed to facilitate the use of natural fibres in new applications.

The main goal of the International Year of Natural Fibres is to raise the profile of these fibres and to emphasise their value to consumers while helping to sustain the incomes of the farmers. In addition, the International Year will:

- promote the efficiency and sustainability of the natural fibres industries;
- encourage appropriate policy responses from governments to the problems faced by natural fibre industries;
- foster an effective and enduring international partnership among the various natural fibres industries.

Who decided that 2009 would be the International Year of Natural Fibres?

The idea came from a meeting of fibre producing and consuming countries in FAO. At the request of FAO, the declaration of 2009 as International Year of Natural Fibres was made by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 20 December 2006.



Who will coordinate the International Year?

There is a coordinating unit in FAO, but a great many other organizations and people will be involved. An International Steering Committee, with representatives from various fibre organisations, consumer bodies, and funding agencies, will meet from time to time to guide the programme. Most of the activities will be organized by IYNF partners, some at the international level, and many more within individual countries.

What will happen in 2009?

The programme of events is now filling out. One or more large international conferences will be held. There will be displays and fashion shows and many other events in many countries, run by a variety of different national organizations.

Guild Member Sierra Cole calls our attention to this upcoming event.

"It's a fun show and might interest some of the members. Lots of top-notch artists selling samples, supplies, and left over product at super cheap prices. It is unlike any art fair I have ever been to.... I have lots of yarn to take!"

GARAGE SALE ART FAIR

Don't miss 13 at 13!

13th Annual

Saturday, Feb 28, 2009 ~ 9:30 - 4:00

100+ art fair artists, will be selling their leftovers, irregulars and supplies for **ROCK BOTTOM PRICES!!!** If you're looking for **GREAT** prices on handmade pottery, jewelry, glass, weaving, wood, photography, paintings, and more...

"Come early for the best selection, come later for the best bargains"

Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds
2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo MI 49048