

Notes from the Chair...

As I think back to June and our week together in the UP at the “Northern Wefts” conference, my thoughts go to the smiles of old friends greeting one another, the “oohs” and “ahhs” as we viewed the work of our peers in the members' and guild exhibits and the fashion show, as well as the work of our instructors in the teachers' and special exhibits, the excitement of learning new skills and techniques in the wonderful classes and workshops, and discovering new fibers, yarns, books, equipment in the vendor hall. It's a week of stimulation and inspiration that gets those creative juices flowing to carry us through the two years to the next conference.

It takes many hours of organization and planning to make this all happen, and we are indeed grateful to those people from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan who worked so hard to put this wonderful conference together, most especially Mary Brownell and Jean Lind. It was gratifying to see the registration numbers coming in after hearing some comments about the distance to travel for this conference. I think most of us were very pleased to have the excuse to visit this beautiful area of the Midwest and to experience the lake shores, evergreen forests and wildlife of the area. The geography and history of each area is unique and brings a special flavor to each conference.

Now we look forward to “Prairie Winds” in June of 2013. This committee is well into the plans for this next conference. They have provided us with exhibit themes and categories so we can begin our weaving, spinning, felting, dyeing with these in mind. We have no excuse not to have items ready for the fashion show and member and guild exhibits!

May your winter be filled with time to enjoy and create beautiful things.....

Vicki Tardy
MWA Board Chair

Table of Contents

Notes from the Chair.....	1
2013 Conference.....	2
Board Members	2
2011 Awards	4
Fiber Artist of Distinction.....	5
2011 Scholarships	6
News.....	7
Minutes of General Meeting	8
Renewal Form	9

Looking forward—2013 MWA Conference

We are most assuredly a people of the wind.

An Invitation to Prairie Winds Emporia, Kansas

The name 'Kansas' comes from a Native American word meaning "The People of the South Wind". The links between the wind and Kansas are long and strong.

The wind's turn can mean a sudden change to rain, snow, or extreme cold. It can drive devastating tornadoes, dust, and blizzards. It speaks to us in roaring gales or soft murmuring breezes.

Windblown prairies resemble ocean waves flowing up and down across the landscape.

Kansans have been taking advantage of the wind since

territorial days with the use of windmills in providing water and now as a source of power to drive a modern economy.

We are most assuredly a people of the wind.

Midwest Weavers Conference 2013, "Prairie Winds", will be held at Emporia State University, in Emporia KS.

In the heart of the beautiful Flint Hills lies the continent's largest remaining tract of original tallgrass prairie. Tallgrass prairies once covered 140 million acres of North America. Today less than 4% remains, primarily in the Flint Hills of Kansas. It is one of America's unique places, harboring a wealth of adventure, beauty, and history.

The region's sweeping horizons and carpets of wildflowers captivate artists and enchant visitors.

The Kansas Alliance of Weavers and Spinners invites you to experience the vast prairies and broad horizons of the Sunflower State.

Let the winds carry you to the Midwest Weavers' Conference:

Prairie Winds

June 20-22, 2013

Emporia, KS

Preconference workshops will begin June 17.

(Continued on page 3)

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(Continued from page 2)

Guild Exhibits:

Ad Astra per Aspera

Latin for “To the stars through difficulty”, the state motto of Kansas paints life as a storm and heaven as the stars on the other side of it.

‘Ad Astra’ sends our eyes to the skies. And with two-thirds of our view as sky, we can’t help but look up, gaze into the blue background, the passing clouds, and at night, the stars.

The expression ‘Per Aspera’ refers not only to the pioneering spirit of the early settlers, but also the difficult times Kansas went through before becoming a state. It reminds us that without hard work and sacrifice, success and wonderful achievements are difficult to attain. We invite your guild/study group to look to the skies for inspiration and share with us the successes you can achieve through hard work and diffi-

culty.

Member Exhibits:

People of the South Wind

- Items for the household
- Items woven on 8 shafts or more
- Handspun skein (any fiber, wheel or spindle, at least 100 yards)
- Wearable Items
- Items constructed of at least 50% of MWC 2013 Conference Yarn
- Misc/Other (Any media or technique)

Fashion Show:

Over the Rainbow

The deep blue skies of Kansas provide a perfect background for emerald windswept prairies, vivid autumn flames of crimson and orange, bright golden fields of wheat, and a dazzling rainbow of wildflowers.

We invite you to be inspired (but not limited) by the colors of our beautiful state, and welcome you to create hand-woven, felted, hand-dyed, knitted, and embellished garments and fashion accessories to walk the runway in June 2013.

Conference Yarn

We are excited to present our “Prairie Winds” conference yarn and will be featuring a special member’s exhibit category for items made with our conference yarn. The Alpaca/Merino yarn will be produced from Kansas grown fiber, and processed at The Shepherd’s Mill in Phillipsburg, Kansas.

Yarn Details: 70% Alpaca, 30% Merino 2 ply, 1500-1600 yards per pound. 1# cones (\$80) or 300 yd skeins (\$16.50). Roving will also be available at \$48/pound.

Colorway 1: Golden wheat ready for harvest and winter grasses blowing in the breeze are both caught in the tans and golds of this yarn

Colorway 2: Brilliant summer blue-sky to the storm clouds of tornado season, prairie winds of all degrees are depicted in this shades of blue yarn

The yarn will be available January 1, 2012 and may be ordered through Shepherd’s Mill website:

www.kansasfiber.com

by email, or by phone (785-543-3128).

We hope you’ll start weaving now for MWC 2013!

DUES

Attention: It’s time to pay dues for 2012-2013! The form and additional information are in this newsletter.

If you joined when you registered for *Northern Wefts*, the conference last June, you will need to renew now to continue receiving the benefits of membership.

One of the most important benefits of membership is that you receive a free copy of the registration booklet for the conference as soon as they are available.

We are no longer printing extra booklets to mail after the initial mailing to paid members, so if you are not a member at the time of the mailing, you will need to print a copy of the booklet from the conference website.

**We hope you’ll
start weaving
now for MWA
2013!**

Awards from 2011 Conference

**Congratulations
to all the award
winners!**

Award Winners

2011 MWA Conference
Northern Wefts
June 23-25, 2011
Finlandia College,
Hancock, Michigan

Member Exhibits -- Natural Elements

(judged by Robyn Spady)

Woods (fabrics, rugs, linens)

- ◆ 1st place **Wynne Mattila** for *Aurora*
- ◆ 2nd place **Peggy Baldwin** for *Overshot Towel*

Water (felt, knitting)

- ◆ 1st place **Sue Bell** for *Hold It Bag*
- ◆ 2nd place **Mary Boulet** for *Solstice Moondance*

Winds (clothing, hats, scarves)

- ◆ 1st place **Karen York** for *Dancing on Water Jacket*
- ◆ 2nd place **Mary Brownell** for *Wild Rose Scarf*

Weft (tapestry, painted weft/ warp, handspun weft, 3D)

- ◆ 1st place **Bonnie Hay** for *Earth Spirals* coiled basket
- ◆ 2nd place **Vicki Tardy** for *Sunset At Seat* handspun silk overshot

Wondrous (jewelry, wire, beads)

- ◆ 1st place **Carol Henry** for *Firebird* woven copper

- ◆ 2nd place **Candace Gerbers Brey** for *Viking Chain with Felt Pendant*

Elsie Bell Award for Hand Spinning

sponsored by
Weavers' Guild of St. Louis

- ◆ **Vicki Tardy** for *Sunset At Sea* handspun silk overshot

Libbie Crawford Memorial for Loom Controlled Weaving

sponsored by Weavers' Guild
of St. Louis

- ◆ **Wynne Mattila** for *Aurora*

Ila Roberts Memorial Award for Handwoven Table Linens

sponsored by Illinois Prairie
Weavers

- ◆ **Peggy Baldwin** for *Overshot Towel*

HGA Award of Merit

sponsored by Handweavers
Guild of America

- ◆ **Bonnie Hay** for *Earth Spirals* coiled basket

Handwoven Weaving For The Home Award

sponsored by Interweave
Press

- ◆ **Wynne Mattila** for *Aurora*

Complex Weavers Award

- ◆ **Marcia Kosmerchock** for *Pillow*

Guild Exhibits

(judged by Anita Mayer)

- ◆ 1st place Margaret O'Shaughnessy Award to **Weavers Guild of Minnesota Rag Rug Study Group**
- ◆ 2nd place **Weaving Indiana**
- ◆ 3rd place **Weavers Guild of St. Louis**

Viewers Choice Award for the Guild Exhibits

- ◆ Weavers' Guild of Minnesota Rag Rug Study Group

Fashion Show

(judged by Daryl Lancaster)

Conference Theme *Superior Seasons* award

- ◆ **Georgie Hurst** for *Superior Breeze*

Traditional Heritage award

- ◆ **Julie Hurd** for *Mushrooms for Color*

Margaret Grant Memorial
for weaving on no more than
4 shafts

- ◆ **Jean Hutchison** for *Stretch of the Imagination*

Judge's Choice award

- ◆ **Alie Thompson** for *Cloudy Day In the Northwoods*

Originality award

- ◆ **Peggy Bowman** for *Spike's Cuddle Coat*

Honorable Mention

- ◆ **LeAnna Franklin** for *Woven Webs*

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Re-use Re-new Re-cycle (judged by Pamela Kotila)

Wearables

- ◆ 1st place **Julie Hurd** for *Country Casual Encore*
- ◆ 2nd place **Jean Hutchison** for *Holiday Vest*
- ◆ 3rd place **Mary Sue Fenner** for *Wool Afghan Jacket*

Non-Wearables

- ◆ 1st place **Ann Masemore** for *Iguana Sculpture*
- ◆ 2nd place **Jessica Speer** for *Superior Shore*
- ◆ 3rd place **Poppy Hatinger** for *Copper Pennies Bag*



FIBER ARTIST OF DISTINCTION

We have many talented weavers in MWA and have established a new award to honor them.

This award is based on a point system, and when a weaver has accumulated 25 points, they will receive the Fiber Artist of Distinction Award. Points will be earned by receiving either 1st place or a named award (3 points), 2nd place (2 points), or 3rd place or honorable mention (1 point) at MWA conference competitions.

Once a person has received the Fiber Artist of Distinction Award, their name will be published in the next MWA newsletter and will be added to the honor roll that will be posted on MWA's web site.

Peggy Baldwin, Wynn Mattila, Vicki Tardy and several others are on their way to receiving this award.

Guild Corner

So folks know about guild activities, we would like to highlight a few guilds in each newsletter, but we need your help.

Please send a brief paragraph to MWA board member Patsy Ek (patsy_fiberholic@yahoo.com) describing programs and other activities your guild is involved in, upcoming workshops, time and place of your guild meetings (who knows, one of us

may happen to be in your neighborhood on the day of your meetings).

We also highlight Midwest area Guilds on the MWA website. Check out what we're saying about your Guild and let us know if we need to make any revisions.

What better way to spread the word about what your guild does?

**We need
your help!**

What I did on my summer vacation...

First of all, I need to tell you that I am a brand, spanking, new weaver. I had the Iowa City Craft Guild's four month Beginning Weaving class under my belt and had warped my borrowed-from-the-guild 4-harness loom from start to finish two whole times. At our guild's May meeting, I reported my fiber plans for the summer as "weaving a bit on the warps at the Guild House" so when I got the call from Cathy, my weaving teacher and mentor, I thought we'd be talking about place mats (and we did). Then she asked what I thought about going to the weaving conference in the U.P. You know, the week-long one talked about by the uber-experienced weavers at guild meetings . . . the one that prompted the luminosity exploration in study group (I know it when I see it but don't yet have a clue how to make it happen) . . . the one where all those gorgeous scarves were headed for display . . . Well it turns out that one of our guild members wasn't able to attend the MWA conference and was willing to let me fill-in her spot. The kicker – this was a Monday and I would need to leave on Sunday for a week, with a loom warped and ready for a 3-day pre-conference class.

Pre-conference classes are great! Jeanne, the weaver who gifted me with her registration, talked to me on the phone and within hours her friend dropped off a large assortment of brightly colored 10-2 perle cotton and MapQuested directions. A trip to the Guild House produced an 8-harness loom and all the gadgets I needed. Then I took a trip out to Vicki Tardy's for a quick lesson in designing stripes and more fiber choices (yep – I know how unbelievably lucky I am). Sheila O'Hara, the teacher of the class even e-mailed me with suggestions for designing the warps. Pre-conference felt different from other fiber arts classes I had been involved with over the years, in a good way, and somehow, with the help of many, I got to my class with my loom warped correctly.

At least five years is how long it would have taken me to learn the things on my own that I learned with this class. For one thing, when they say warping the loom, this doesn't necessarily mean designing, winding, and threading one warp. In the class I took it meant two to-

tally different warps on the same loom – please note I doubled my lifetime warping experience with this class! With eighteen 8-harness looms, two separate and distinct striped warps on each loom and samplings of multiple treadlings and weft colors, the results were all so different from what I might have predicted. Add to this the teacher's samples and I began to absorb a little of what is meant when talking about "color and weave effects." I learned so much from the people in my class – as well as being great weavers, they were all so supportive. I really felt the love when we were given a 16-harness drawdown to figure out and stretched my understanding with this exercise. Not only did I learn from my class, but I was able to take daily walks through the building and look at what was happening in other classrooms. Oh the possibilities – I could have been happily immersed in most all of the classes.

Conference was fabulous! There was the fashion show, the exhibits, judging, vendors, teachers' sale, and many more classes. Fiber overload! I can honestly say that even as a beginning weaver I felt like I fit in. Weavers really seem to be a welcoming bunch and although my 9-months experience paled in comparison to the 20 and 30+ years of many attendees, and I hardly knew anyone when I got there, I truly felt a part of this group and was immersed in new fibery things from morning to night.

What I learned from attending this conference is that I can make anything I want . . . from any fiber. I learned that everyone there, including me, is good enough to enter pieces in the show. I know when I go to the next conference in Emporia, KS, I'll have a piece entered (maybe a silk scarf from the luscious hand-dyed 20-2 silk I took home from the vendor's hall as a souvenir). I learned that I'd like to try my hand at rug making using 3 shuttles – Gallery Walks can be inspiring, too! I learned about sampling, color, pick-ups, what to do with all my little weavette squares (thank you John Mullarkey), and how to spin better yarn and reduce operator error (it was like taking home a brand new wheel – thank

(Continued on page 8)

At least five years is how long it would have taken me to learn the things on my own that I learned with this class.

Special Exhibit in St Louis, Missouri

Woven in Time

September 10, 2011 - August 12, 2012

Missouri History Museum

Lindell and DeBaliviere in Forest Park
5700 Lindell Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63112
Phone: (314) 746-4599

This exhibition is made possible in partnership with and through the generosity of the Weavers' Guild of St. Louis.

Hours

Daily: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Tuesday: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

General admission to the Museum is free.

Woven in Time commemorates the 85th anniversary of the Weavers' Guild of St. Louis, which was founded in 1926 by a group of former students at Washington University.

It is the second-oldest weavers' guild in the United States. The gallery installation showcases artists working with a variety of materials.

Exhibit Invitation

Weavers are invited to submit entries to "Complex Weavers: Glamour, Glitter, Glitz", a traveling, juried exhibit opening at the Hellada Gallery in Long Beach, CA in July of 2012 to coincide with Convergence sponsored by the Handweavers Guild of America.

The show then travels to the Kaplan Gallery at the VisArts Center in Rockville, MD where it will be open during the Complex Weavers and the Textile Society of America seminars and conferences.

Complex Weavers sup-

ports handweavers using weave structures and inter-lacements beyond plain weave.

Complex handwoven structures, regardless of device used to weave them, are welcome.

The jurors, Patrice George, Sandra Rude, and Bhakti Ziek, will evaluate images based on incorporation of the theme, originality and diversity of

weave structure, technical excellence, aesthetics, and visual impact.

Download the prospectus and entry form at:

www.complex-weavers.org.

For further information, contact:

VicePres1@complex-weavers.org or phone US-719-488-3716.



(Continued from page 6)

you Amy Tyler). One of the things I learned, important to new weavers like me, is that every weaver, even a beginner, is welcomed at these conferences and that the exposure opens up so many possibilities for growth. Thank you Jeanne Cadoret, and to all the weavers who helped make my summer detour over the river and up north through the forest so spectacular. “Northern Wefts” was truly a marvelous experience.

... Stephanie Van Housen

Midwest Weavers Association Web Site

- ◆ Want to know about upcoming fiber events that are taking place near you?
- ◆ Read past MWA newsletters?
- ◆ Join MWA or renew your membership?
- ◆ Change your mailing address with MWA?
- ◆ Learn about the 2013 MWA conference “Prairie Winds”?

Answers to these questions and more can be found on MWA’s web site www.midwestweavers.org. We hope you’ll visit it often! We also hope you’ll send us info about fiber activities happening in your area, so that we can post the details on the web site and others will be able to participate in them.

Minutes of the MWA General Meeting

June 25, 2011

The general meeting of the Midwest Weavers Association was held at 8:30 p.m. on June 25, 2011 in the Hancock Middle School in Hancock, MI.

The meeting was called to order by Vicki Tardy, chairman, who welcomed everyone to Finlandia University.

Carolyn Hart read the minutes from the last meeting. Vicki asked for a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was made, seconded, and approved.

Bobbi Humphrey-Stephens gave the treasurer’s report. The balance in the treasury is \$87,524.62. Vicki asked for a motion to approve the treasurer’s report. The motion was made, seconded, and approved.

Betty Huttner gave the scholarship report. We have in-

creased the number of scholarships and now have two comprehensive scholarships that include registration, room, and board. Betty introduced the scholarship winners. The Jack Baker scholarship was awarded to Ryoko Marti. The two comprehensive scholarships went to Kandys Beil and Susan Wilson. Midwest Weavers Association scholarships went to Maria Peterson, Emily Say, Kalene Zerker, Judith Baldwil, and Randy Zerker.

Cheryl Johnson nominated Patsy Ek to continue on the Board. Vicki asked for nominations from the floor. Vicki asked for a motion to accept the nomination. The motion was made, seconded, and approved.

Lynn Ryden nominated Betty Huttner to serve on the Board. Vicki asked for nominations from the floor. Vicki asked for a motion to accept the nomination. The motion was made,

seconded, and approved.

There were no evaluation forms in the conference packets. The Board feels that evaluations are a valuable tool in planning future conferences. This year evaluations will be done through survey monkey. A link will be sent to everyone through e-mail.

Carolyn thanked Mary Brownell and Jean Lind, co-chairs, and the rest of the conference committee for their hard work to make this a great conference and presented shuttles to them as a token of our appreciation.

Betty Huttner and Patsy Ek drew names for two free registrations for the next conference. The two winners were Bonnie Hay and Holly Shaltz.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Please feel free to contact a Board member at any time to share your thoughts and ideas regarding MWA. Contact information is on page 2 of this newsletter, and on our webpage.

MWA Membership Dues for 2012 and 2013

These dues are for 2012-2013. Dues are collected the first of January every even numbered year and run through the end of the next/ odd numbered year.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Name and address of guild(s) you participate in _____

Please make checks payable to "Midwest Weavers Association".....\$10.00

Please send this form and your check to:

Amy Norris
8742 Teasdale Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63124

Please do not include my name, city, and state on the on-line membership list.

Membership Dues

Membership dues are collected on a biennial basis. A call for them goes out in January of even numbered years, and the dues carry you through the end of the next odd numbered year, which is also a conference year. These dues help defray the cost of conference scholarships, newsletter mailings, and web site maintenance. Benefits of being a member of MWA include receiving MWA newsletters and ***automatically receiving a free registration booklet for the next conference.***

To facilitate networking between fellow fiber enthusiasts, we'll be including MWA's membership list on our web site. The list will only include a person's name, city, and state, and will not include any personal contact information. We'll automatically include your information on the web site unless you opt out now or sometime in the future (you can either check the box on the membership dues renewal form or e-mail John Mullarkey, the web site manager).

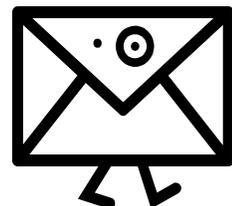
Please complete the form above and return it with your check for \$10. These dues are for 2012 and 2013. Thank you. Hope to see you at Midwest 2013 *Prairie Winds* in Kansas!

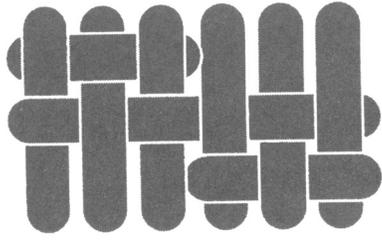
Address Changes

If you move, please let us know by sending your new mailing information to:

Amy Norris
8742 Teasdale Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63124

or send her an e-mail at: amy@amyfibre.com. Thank you!





Midwest Weavers
ASSOCIATION, INC.

The official newsletter of

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