

Notes from the Chair...

As summer draws to a close and fall activities are gearing up, my mind jumps ahead to NEXT summer's Midwest Weavers Conference in Kansas. The *Prairie Winds* committee has been hard at work organizing and making plans for us. I hope you, too, are making plans to attend and that you have already begun weaving, spinning, dyeing, knitting and/or sewing something to enter in one or more of the member exhibits (guild/study group, fashion show, general exhibit and/or the swatch exchange). Think how incredible the exhibits would be if we **each** brought at least one item! You all create amazing things, and our greatest inspiration comes from one another. These conferences are for everyone, and the more you get involved, the more you get out of them. You will stretch yourself as a fiber artist if you aim to create something to enter, and everyone attending will be more inspired the more variety and representation there is in the exhibits.

We are very fortunate to have host committees for the next two conference after Kansas (Minnesota in 2015 and Indiana in 2017), but it is not too soon for groups to be thinking ahead to host a conference in 2019 or even 2021. When the registration books become available, if you have any thoughts of getting involved at this level, be sure to sign up for the Lead-

ership Breakfast with the MWA Board. We are here to offer encouragement and help in any way needed.

May you enjoy many hours in creative endeavors between now and when we see one another at *Prairie Winds* next June.....

Vicki Tardy
MWA Board Chair



Table of Contents

Notes from the Chair.....	1
2013 Conference.....	2
Board Members	2
Scholarship Info.....	3
Scholarship Article	4
Conference Hosting.....	4
Future Conferences.....	5
Renewal Reminder.....	5

Looking forward—2013 MWA Conference

Prairie Winds
**2013 Midwest Weavers
 Conference**
June 20-22, 2013
Emporia, KS

Kansas Alliance of Weavers And Spinners invite you to the 2013 Midwest Weavers Conference, *Prairie Winds*, June 20 -22, 2013 in Emporia, Kansas. Come where the windswept prairie grasses bend and sway across rolling green hills, where dancing sunflowers follow the sun's footpath as clouds float idly across endless blue skies. Experience the kaleidoscope of colors in a fiery Kansas sunset, and the shimmering stars in a vast night sky.

Become inspired by the

amazing work displayed by members and guilds. Find your favorite vendors and meet new ones in our Vendor Hall. Take a scenic bus tour and discover the unique Flint Hills. Experience the extraordinary work of fellow weavers at the 'Beyond the Rainbow' fashion show.

Prairie Winds is excited to offer a variety of classes taught by an amazing group of talented teachers: Carol Leigh Brack-Kaiser, Lucy Brusic, Sandy Cahill, Inge Dam, Terri Gardner, Jeanine Graves, Tracey Graham, Jennie Hawkey, Chris Hunsburger, Marsha Jensen, Donna Kallner, Marcia Kosmerchock, Ruby Leslie, Carol Ann Parker, Jeff Reynolds,

Ronna Robertson, Jamie Root, Nadine Sanders, Judy Santer, Jennifer Schermerhorn, Laurie Schlitter, Robyn Spady, Debra Waggoner, and Susan Wilson.

Attendees will be presented with a wide assortment of classes to choose from on a variety of subjects. Classes in weaving will focus on Crackle Structure, Block Weave, 3D Design, Tablet weaving, Lace Weave, Sampling, and Weaving with elastics. Spinning classes will include spinning unusual 'Fibers', Cotton spinning on a Tahkli spindle, and Color Blending. Classes in Basketry, Dyeing, Jewelry Making, Color and Design, Clothing Design, Felting,

(Continued on page 3)

Prairie Winds will be here before we know it. Please plan to participate in what promises to be another fantastic MWA conference!

MWA Board Members and Database & Website Managers

Vicki Tardy
 Chair
 4608 Oak Crest Hill Road SE
 Iowa City, IA 52240
 (319)351-5208
 vtardy@mchsi.com

Patsy Ek
 Newsletter Editor
 3222 S. Fairington Drive
 Bloomington, IN 47403
 (812)333-5211
 patsy_fiberholic@yahoo.com

Carolyn Hart
 Secretary
 Route 3, Box 731
 Vandalia, IL 62471

(618)326-8655
 chart731@frontiernet.net

Bobbi Humphrey-Stephens
 Treasurer
 9046 N. Regent Road
 Bayside, WI 53217
 (414)736-0496
 nstephens24@att.net

Betty Huttner
 Scholarship
 Coordinator
 5 Glendale Circle
 Iowa City, IA 52245
 (319)338-6146
 icliz@yahoo.com

John Mullarkey
 Web Site Manager
 3932 Cleveland
 St. Louis, MO 63110
 (314)518-8350
 webmaster@
 midwestweavers.org

Amy Norris
 Database Manager
 8742 Teasdale Avenue
 St. Louis, MO 53124
 (314)991-6237
 amy@amyfibre.com

(Continued from page 2)

Knitting (counterpane and entrelac), Tatting, Bobbin Lace, and Netting will be offered, as well as a Book Discussion and classes designed to inspire, motivate, and increase your creative focus and confidence. *Prairie Winds* is also thrilled to offer classes in Beginning Spinning, as well as Weaving for Beginners.

The keynote address, “The Winds of Change,” will be presented by Jeanine Glaves.

Conference yarn and fiber are now available through Shepherd’s Mill (www.kansasfiber.com or 785-543-3128). The yarn is a 2-ply blend of alpaca (70%) and Merino (30%), 1500-1600 yards/pound. The yarn is available in two colorways and in either one pound cones or 300 yard skeins. Roving is also available for those of you, who love to spin. There’ll be a special member’s exhibit category for items made with conference yarn or fiber, and we hope you’ll participate in this new category.

Visit the Website www.midwestweavers.org for updates as they become available, and watch your mailboxes for the registration booklet in January.

Questions??? Email us at prairiewinds2013@gmail.com

Prairie Winds will be here before we know it. Please plan to participate in what promises to be another fantastic MWA conference!

MWA Scholarships Can Make Attending *Prairie Winds* a Breeze

Are you a new weaver or spinner who has never attended a fiber arts conference? Did you weave in the distant past and now need a conference experience to jumpstart your return to the craft? Do you love attending MWA conferences but find your fixed income or the tight economy make doing so difficult? If so—and many other instances as well—the MWA scholarship program may help you realize your dreams.

When the Midwest Weavers met in Hancock, Michigan in 2011, eight attendees were able to participate thanks to financial assistance from the association. Once again in 2013, the MWA Board has agreed to support as many as twelve scholarships for the *Prairie Winds* conference in Emporia, Kansas. Three of the awards will include conference registration fees, room, and board: a weaver with less than five years experience will receive the Jack A. Baker Scholarship, and two other all-inclusive awards will be given to weavers who demonstrate financial need. The remaining scholarships provide registration fees for the conference.

Applying for the scholarships is as simple as writing a letter. Full details about how to apply for the scholarship and the application deadlines will be included in the *Prairie Winds* conference booklet and on both the conference and MWA website. Scholarships are awarded following a blind review of applications by an independent committee.

So, if you want to attend the next MWA conference and need help to do so, take the time to apply for a scholarship. The Midwest Weavers Association is committed to assisting all members experience our wonderful biennial get-togethers.

Questions or comments about MWA scholarships: please contact Betty Huttner, scholarship coordinator.

Upcoming Vacancy on the MWA Board

We’re sorry to write that Vicki Tardy has decided to step down from the MWA board at the end of her term – at the close of the 2013 MWA conference.

Layna Bentley, Craig Hart, and Heather Winslow have graciously agreed to serve as the nominating committee. If you’re interested in possibly becoming a member of the board, please don’t hesitate to be in touch with board members for additional information and with committee members to let them know of your interest.

Contact info for everyone may be found through the member roster on the MWA web site, <http://www.midwestweavers.org/>. New ideas are always welcome, and we hope you’ll seriously consider serving MWA in this capacity.

Thoughts from 2011 Scholarship Recipients Randy and Kalene Zerkel . . .

We appreciated the scholarships to help us attend the 2011 Weaver's Guild Conference in Hancock, Mi. The extra financial help of the scholarships encouraged us to make the commitment to attend our first conference. My husband and I both attended and we had a wonderful time!

The classes I took were interesting and helpful to me in extending my spinning skills. I took the Spin, Knit, Nexus and learned about different ways to make different yarns and how to replicate yarn size for knitting projects. The spinning silk class with Heather Winslow

helped me to determine which direction I want to go with the spinning of different preparations of silk. I took a different class....split ply braiding...and I loved it!

Randy, my husband, took a card weaving class that gave him new ideas about his card weaving, another class about netting with a shuttle, and the warp makeover class with Robin Spade....which was his first ever weaving on a loom. He did an excellent job and has been prolifically weaving ever since he got home! He now has a floor loom and a table loom and projects fly off of them! Dish towels, scarves, table runners, book covers, and fabric

for an antique foot stool we purchased at an auction a few years ago and have been unable to find a suitable fabric to replace what was on it with. He likes overshot the best.

We had a wonderful time. We met a lot of really nice people...in addition to the ones we already knew. We enjoyed exploring the area, learning new things, and we can't wait for Kansas 2013!

Thanks for giving us this opportunity!

Kalene Zerkel

Thinking about hosting a MWA conference?

Really? That was my reaction when asked to co-chair the 2009 Midwest Weavers Conference in Iowa. The idea was overwhelming. I thought conference leaders must be superheroes!

But, I found they were just ordinary people, working with many others, who also had a heart for the fiber arts.

Previous committees have amassed a huge amount of

useful information, so we didn't need to reinvent the wheel.

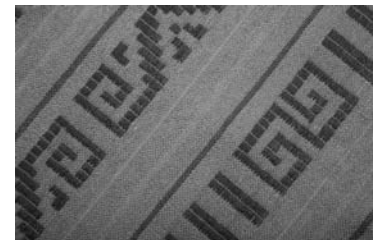
It was a pleasure to create opportunities for growth and inspiration, and to help preserve traditions that we love.

The next three conferences have hosts. Will you consider hosting Midwest 2019?

When you register for *Prairie Winds* in Emporia, sign up to attend the Leadership Breakfast,

even if you're just a little curious. Really!

See you in Kansas!
Linda Ryden
Co-chair, *In the Heartland*



But, I found they were just ordinary people, working with many others, who also had a heart for the fiber arts.

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!

Future MWA conferences to look forward to...

- 2013 *Prairie Winds*
Emporia, Kansas (June 20-22)
- 2015 St. Paul, Minnesota (June 14-21)
- 2017 Indiana
- 2019 ???

A dues reminder for your fiber friends and fellow Guild members...

It's not too late for them to pay dues for 2012-13!

As you know, membership dues are collected on a biennial basis. The initial call for 2012-13 dues went out in the last newsletter (November 2011).

If you received a mailed copy of this newsletter, your membership is paid up. Thank you!

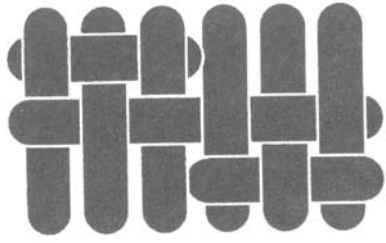
One of the most important benefits of membership is receiving a free copy of the conference registration booklet as soon as it's available. Extra booklets are no longer being printed, so if you're not a member at the time of the initial mailing to paid members, you'll need to print a copy of the booklet from the conference web site.

Membership dues also help defray the cost of conference scholarships, newsletter mailings, and web site maintenance.

So, this is a great opportunity to remind your fiber friends and fellow Guild members to renew or join. They can find a membership form on our website:

www.midwestweavers.org

And remember, if you're ever wondering about your status, you'll find a list of all current members on the MWA web site.



Midwest Weavers
ASSOCIATION, INC.

The official newsletter of

Midwest Weavers' Association
c/o Amy Norris
8742 Teasdale Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63124-1926

E-mail: amy@amyfibre.com
