



Guild Reports

FALL 2014

WeGO

Weaving Guilds of Oregon

www.wegoregon.org

AURORA COLONY HANDSPINNER'S GUILD - CARRIE ROHN

April – We had an all-day spin-in with a pot luck lunch. There were vendors' tables with lots of fun things to buy.

May – Jan McMahon gave a very good talk about CVM/Rommedale sheep. They have amazingly soft fleeces and she has done a great job improving her flock.

June- We met outside at the museum and Sheila January spoke about what to look for when buying an antique spinning wheel and how to care for one. She had several examples and some members brought their problem wheels with them.

July – We didn't have a meeting or program since we had met on Saturday for the picnic and dye day.

August – Members shared their experiences at dye day and showed their projects. Some members also shared about their time spent at county fairs and the ribbons they had won.

September – Kim Sawyer spoke about the fun of raising alpacas and shared fiber from her animals.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Fiber Faire and Fleece Sale– The guild held our annual fiber sale with booths and tables full of fiber and lots of fiber related goodies. There was a well-attended beginning spinning class offered.

Picnic and Dye Day – We had our annual July picnic and dye day at the Aurora Colony Museum. The guild had dyes, pots and burners and members went straight to work dyeing yarns, silk scarves and someone even dyed a dress she had knit. Everyone held their breath as the dress went in the pot. It didn't come out to her liking so some more dye was added. The dress went back in the pot and came out a beautiful deep green. There was lots of chatter and laughing as members shared their successes and worked over any disappointments. It was a day full of smiles and colorful things hanging out to dry in the sun.

CENTRAL OREGON SPINNERS & WEAVERS – MARY WONSER

COSW meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. at the Highland Baptist Church in Redmond, Oregon.

April 2014: We viewed a video on Traditional Silk weaving in Thailand. Laura Cunningham led a discussion on silk. She brought cocoons and various types of silk for spinning and weaving.

May 2014: Mary Anna Swinnerton presented a program on Fibers in Oregon History. The focus was on wool, flax and hemp. She shared examples of the fibers with a informative recap of the history of flax and hemp especially in the Willamette valley area.

June 2014: June is our annual potluck picnic event. We met at the event center in Tollgate which is in the forest outside of Sisters. We had our workshop with Marilyn Romatka and did "Bow Weaving" This was a treat for the guild thanks to receiving the WeGO scholarship award. On the previous day, we did a workshop with Marilyn featuring "Temari Balls" at Linda Gettman's home. In addition, during the month of June we had a fiber art exhibit in the Sister's library.

July 2014: During the July meeting we made lavender wands and sachet bags with lavender from a farm in Madras. The room smelled heavenly.

August 2014: Linda Davis presented a program with a power point and many beautiful samples on "Bateman Weaves". She had done this program at the Complex Weave conference. Great program!

Also August is the Deschutes County Fair time. The fair was July 30 thru August 3. We are in charge of the Fiber Arts exhibit in the Open Class exhibit building. We had a good turnout from guild members and the local community. We had 4 looms threaded, spinners demonstrating, kumihimo cards for kids and lots of interest. Something going on all the time.

September 2014: In September we did a program called "Nuts, Bolts and Wheels" We broke into interest groups. Linda Gettman demonstrated warping the rigid heddle, Kathy Tovey led a group interested in spinning and Kay Flynn demonstrated "Fast Warping"

We all learned new tricks or tips to make our weaving or spinning easier.

As I write this we are planning a field trip on September 24th to the Imperial Stock Ranch in Maupin, Oregon. The home of the Olympics story. We will tour the ranch, have a catered lunch and of course be able to shop for beautiful wool in the historic Hinton House. Over 35 members and their friends and guests are making the trip.

Future: Committee members are busy working on the retreat scheduled for September 2015. We have joined with the guilds from Klamath Falls and The Dalles to host this event. Our teachers will be Robin Spady for weaving and Sara Lamb for spinning.

COLUMBIA FIBRE GUILD - LINDA FRIZZELL

May: Exchange of our yearly project: something for the table. Items made: rug, mug rug, place mat, runner, pot holder, towel, candle holder

June: Picnic at member's home and election of officers

July: Bye

Aug: Bye

CORVALLIS HANDWEAVERS AND SPINNERS GUILD - BARBARA WYTHES

Our guild is now down to four active members, so meetings tend to be more casual gatherings rather than structured sessions.

April – The meeting was highlighted by a guest/new weaver from Scotland who was in town visiting her in-laws. She showed us a small (approximately 6”) circular weaving frame which she uses when traveling. She bemoaned the lack of materials and local training resources in Scotland, so we were happy to share tips on Oregon resources so she could fill her luggage with fiber “souvenirs”.

May, June, July, August – no group activities were held as members were traveling, etc.

September - Members gathered for a Show and Share meeting to discuss our latest projects and summer adventures. Members showed off new works including an incredible array of techniques for textured felt, a woven wool blanket from Navajo yarns and various knitted creations.

We discussed local gallery shows and upcoming events including OFFF and various quilt shows.

EUGENE WEAVER'S GUILD - SHANNON SUTTNER

The Eugene Weavers' Guild meets the fourth Monday of the month, 10 am at The Eugene Textile Center.

For our scholarship we had a workshop on pattern making and fitting garments by Susan Lillie. She focused on handwoven fabric and some students wove fabric for the workshop. Others brought commercial fabrics similar to handwovens. Everyone chose a pattern, was measured and made a practice garment from gridded interfacing. Several people finished their final jackets and several more almost did. All agreed it was a fun and educational time.

In **April** our Fiber Challenge Study group gave a program on what they had been working on the past year. The theme was "Movement" and many interesting projects were presented. Each member presented a piece and talked about its development.

Our **May** meeting would have been on Memorial Day so we did not meet.

The **June** program speaker was Marg Coe who spoke on using computer software as a design tool in "Laptops and Looms". She used examples of a threading manipulated to create many designs and structures. In the accompanying ETC workshop weavers were able to use software on their own computers to make original designs.

Lane Community College down-sized their weaving program and we got several looms, some of which needed work. One summer project has been to get those looms cleaned and refurbished. Most have been sold.

The **July** get-together was a picnic at a member's home.

We also had 18 entries in the Lane County Fair and many prizes were won.

In **September** we were treated to a talk and show by John Marshall. He spoke about his history and growth as a fiber artist. He brought many samples and answered questions about his Japanese-influenced dyeing and garments. There were workshops in conjunction with his visit.

October will be our bi-annual fund-raising auction. Members donate yarn, equipment and even services to be sold to benefit the Guild.

HERITAGE TEXTILE ARTS GUILD – BARBARA MARTIN

April was the month for members to 'show and tell' about the 'Story' scarves they worked on from January to April. A lively discussion followed. Also, notice of changes to the spinning group gatherings were announced.

May: New summer hours were decided; a general studio cleanup and sale (to members) of unneeded items and the nomination of officers took place. The group decided to continue to meet during the summer, but to make the meetings more informal and activity based.

June: Several new members were introduced and the election of officers held. There was a wonderful show and tell followed by a Kumihimo demonstration. Members were reminded of the annual garage sale and also discussed the upcoming guild booth and demonstrations at the Blackberry Arts Festival.

July: A discussion and show and tell was held on 'Eco' dying of cloth and paper; a workshop was planned for August to be held at a member's home. Also, final preparation and moving of items for the garage sale, which netted \$150 to the Guild.

August: An informal meeting was held at the booth set up for sales and demonstrations at the Blackberry Arts Festival. Lots of interested kids and adults watched weaving and spinning demonstrations and tried some of each; brochures were handed out and several members sold handmade, handwoven and hand spun items. A portion of the sales after expenses was given to the guild.

September: Members brought in towels and placemats for comparison and discussion of weave structures. Ideas were exchanged about a new venue for meetings with low or free rent. Several members volunteered to explore various options for holding future meetings. Three members participated in a shared vendor booth at the annual Quilt show. Again, information was given about the Guild and sales were good. There was lots of interest in handwoven, hand spun and hand dyed fibers.

HUMBUG MOUNTAIN SPINNERS AND WEAVERS – NO REPORT AVAILABLE

KLAMATH SPINNERS AND WEAVER' S GUILD – KATHY NELSON

May: Karen Williams, our Guild librarian and treasurer, brought many inkle looms with examples of inkle weaving and demonstrated how to weave on one. Models included tabletop and floor models. There were also some card weavers with projects there. Karen makes lovely bags with the bands she weaves. We also decided we needed a group challenge, so we started a spinning challenge.

June: Our annual potluck, and a fiber blending activity. Sharon Allen, our newsletter generator, brought lots of different fibers and discussed different ways to blend fibers for spinning. Some members brought combs and carders and we practiced some techniques for interesting results. For the spinning challenge we divided 2 oz. of different fibers: white wool, white and dark gray llama fiber, silvery gray wool and dark alpaca. Each participant took home 2oz of each fiber, 1 oz. to be spun with the fiber only, and the other oz. to be blended and spun as the spinner chooses.

Summer: Although we don't meet in the summer, we had a nice lunch gathering at a member Susan Schuette's home where many members ate, visited, spun (or knitted, and we worked on planning and choosing materials for our September Farmer's Market "sheep to scarf" event. Some of our members participated in the spinning re-enactment activity at the annual Heritage Days at Fort Klamath on Memorial Day weekend last May, and September Civil War re-enactment activities locally.

The Farmer's Market event was to raise money for the Farmer's Market EBT match program (match food \$\$ for Farmers Market food purchases) We sold raffle tickets (heavily supported by our group!) and raised \$ 56. Susan Schuette donated the Llama fiber for the weft, Liz Hubbard donated and dyed the Corriedale fiber for the warp, Sandra Hicks spun the warp for us. At the event we had 8 spinners and a weaver, and took the scarf off the loom that early afternoon. It was a fun event!

Sept: We met at Karen's lovely home, planned the guild meeting events for the year, and looked over the first two spinning challenge results (pure Corriedale, and altered alpaca).

PORTLAND HANDWEAVER'S GUILD – JANIS JOHNSON

Portland Handweavers Guild continues to hold two general meetings on the second Thursday of each month, one in the morning and one in the evening. Usually the same program is presented twice. Attendance at the day meetings continues to climb, and our tireless librarians have set up an online catalog of the guild's library and will soon make the library available to day meeting attendees. Show and tell is a popular part of both meetings.

The presentation at our **May** meeting was Rosalie Nielson with "A Kumihimo Kaleidoscope: Glimpses into History and Personal Explorations." Our June meeting was our Annual General Meeting with election of officers; Rebecca Martin was elected President for a second year, Eva Douthit was elected Secretary, and Mary Cooper was elected Treasurer once again. Our study grant recipient was announced; Bev Phelps will go to Finland to learn more about rya weaving, her long-time passion.

The **June** evening meeting is also when we have our traditional strawberry shortcake social.

Our monthly meetings resumed in **September** with a program by Betty Long-Schlieff about Maryhill Museum's "Theatre de la Mode" collection. That collection is the inspiration for our big project this year, handwoven garments for small mannequins to continue our theme "Fiber to Fashion".

At our **October** meetings Janis Johnson and Pat Zimmerman shared their recent experiences weaving on manual Jacquard looms in Italy with "Weaving at Lisio".

In early May PHG held our spring sale which is the guild's biggest and most visible event with 44 members participating as vendors and many more as demonstrators and other volunteers. Once again we were part of the Gathering of the Guilds at the Oregon Convention Center, in a large hall with woodworkers, metalsmiths, glass artists and beaders. Several of our members collaborated with members of other guilds on projects that were for sale or given away as daily door prizes.

PHG set up an informational display at the Oregon Flock and Fiber Festival in September, this time about "felting" which was the OFFF theme this year. PHG offered two \$25 awards for weaving, which were both won by PHG member Stephany Anderson.

Members have been hard at work planning for our fall sale to be held the second weekend in November at the Multnomah Arts Center in Portland and for the May 2015 Gathering of the Guilds sale.

Portland Handweavers Guild meetings are open to the public so drop by if you're in town on the second Thursday of a month (other than July and August). Upcoming activities are listed at portlandhandweaversguild.org.

ROGUE VALLEY HANDWEAVERS GUILD – PATRICIA DORUNDA

RVHG ended our Guild year with our annual potluck in May, when members revealed their “2014 Challenge” projects. Their challenge was to weave one household item using any number of shafts except four or eight.

Guild members participated in a number of outreach activities during the six months--most of these we do every year:

---On Mother’s Day weekend Medford always holds “Art in Bloom,” a huge downtown fair featuring arts, crafts, and gardening exhibits and booths, live entertainment and food. The guild had a very successful sales and demonstration booth.

---At end of **May**, at the Children’s Heritage Fair at Hanley Farm, which is maintained by the Historical Society, guild members taught over sixty kids kumihimo braiding.

---At the County Fair in **July** our annual weaving display and spinning and weaving demonstrations were given a new, much more advantageous location.

---In **September** several members spent one weekend demonstrating at the Southern Oregon Antique Show.

---In **October** we are again offering a three-day beginner weaving workshop. The workshop fees include a one-year membership in the guild.

This has been a great way to recruit new members and to follow up on their progress.

---October also brings the Harvest Festival in Talent, OR, where again, we are teaching kumihimo braiding.

---Finally, in October members are again readying items for the annual Puss-n-boots Ball and Auction for the Humane Society. Last year our donated items brought in over \$1200.

Our monthly programs this year will continue the series started last year featuring classic weaves. The programs are presented by members especially for the benefit of our newer weavers. We will have programs on double weave, pile weave, summer & winter, painting warps on the loom, and crackle.

We’re also going to try a new feature each month called “Short Topics.” This will be a fifteen-minute answer to a question or problem submitted ahead of time by a member.

Our 2015 Challenge is two-fold. One is a “Brown Bag Exchange.” Each member will bring to the October meeting a bag containing one small item meant to provide inspiration for any item its recipient wants to weave. The other challenge is to weave something to enter into the County Fair in July. We have a choice to do one or the other, or hopefully, to combine the two.

SALEM FIBERARTS GUILD – PENNY UNVERZAGT

The **April** guild program was presented by Nancy Arthur Hoskins on Oregon Flax & Linen. The fee for this program was provided by our WeGO grant of \$200. Thank you, WeGO.

May started off with a three day workshop with Jennifer Moore, titled “Doubleweave: Beginning & Beyond.”

Our May meeting date happened to coincide with the Heritage Center’s Sheep to Shawl event. So we made our meeting a potluck and involved everyone in the demonstrations, Mill and Historic House tours, black smithing, sheep shearing and shopping.

In **June** some of our members attended the ANWG Annual Meeting in Portland. We were pleased to receive funding for our Creative Challenge Grant proposal.

The **June** guild meeting was a fieldtrip to Portland yarn stores, Yarnia, Opulent Fibers, the Pendleton Store, and lunch at Bob’s Red Mill.

In **August** it was State Fair time. The demo loom was warped and SFG members Dorothy Golik and Penny Unverzagt helped in getting handwovens judged and displayed for potential new weavers to be inspired by.

The **September** meeting was packed with preparations for our annual sale which took place on the 3rd and 4th of October. The Sale results were good - worrying paid off. We did a Studio Sale at the same time, and cleared out some of our excess weaving equipment.

The **October** program is Judilee Fitzhugh. It will be a hands-on morning with leaf printing on woven and commercial fabrics. Also this month our Challenge Grant proposal will be happening. It will include a fourth grade class getting an in classroom demonstration. Then a tour of the Mill and a follow up class back at their school. It will include looms in the classroom, lots of textiles and fibers for touching. Everyone is enthusiastic!

SATURDAY HANDWEAVER'S GUILD – MARY PORTINGA

APRIL: Cindie Kitchin presented a hands-on program of Name Drafting complete with an excellent handout, demonstration and supplies to create our own unique weaving. The John Mullarkey card weaving workshop was a great success. Renee Stephens attended the Sharon Alderman workshop and said it was a great learning experience.

MAY: A program on how to make Dorset Buttons was presented by Laurie Elliott. She provided a packet containing plastic ring, embroidery floss and instructions and we made our own buttons very successfully. The first annual Elk Mtn. Highland Games May Day Festival in Rogue River was a success and would like to have demonstrators back next year. We discussed providing woven items for a display at the Jacksonville Library.

JUNE: We had a presentation of this year's challenge. Members blindly chose a country and then wove something in the traditional weave of the chosen country. Members also brought food from their respective countries for lunch and also presented historical information on each country. A very enthusiastic challenge. We also decided on two workshops for the coming year. Donna Crispin's Basket Weaving workshop on October 25th and Robyn Spady's Extreme Warp Makeover will be April 25-26, 2015.

SEPTEMBER: Our program was What I Wove This Summer with many fun and beautiful pieces shared. The Donna Crispin workshop is full and we will have more info on the Robyn Spady workshop will be presented in November. A study group on Rep Weave will have their first meeting at the Medford library in November at Noon.

WEBFOOT WEAVERS – CHRISTINA SCOTT

In **April** of this year, the Webfoot Weavers found themselves busy with planning and hosting the biannual WEGO meeting in our own town of Brookings. I trust everyone had fun meeting at the coast. The weather decided to cooperate and it was a beautiful day.

Also in April, several members of Webfoot joined in a road trip to Langlois for an annual open house and luncheon. The show and share portion of the meeting was especially exciting as we viewed projects from a sister guild. The luncheon was fabulous with the sharing of several yummy recipes. Shopping on the way home was a challenge to the pocketbook, but it was a fun day for all.

May was filled with a meeting about planning for the upcoming conference with Nancy Hoskins. We also learned how to make baskets on warped plastic container forms—a project seen at the Langlois luncheon.

As stated, **June** saw the Webfoot Weavers gathered for a conference with Nancy Hoskins about color theory and “Design to Display”. Of course, another luncheon occurred. We do love to eat.

There was no meeting in **July**.

August brought about more good weather and a guild ‘dye day’. Several different fibers and fabrics were dyed with results most surprising to some. We experimented with striping yarn for socks, painting warps, dyeing by immersion, and learning the difference for dyeing cotton and wool fibers.

YAQUINA FIBER ARTS GUILD – BONNIE POWELL

April: We worked on Goody Bag project for NWrSAConference. They are kitchener stitch kits.

May: Special weaving display for our guild. Weavers brought old and new items to display and discuss.

June: Demonstration at annual Newport Celtic Festival. Members demonstrated weaving and spinning. Plaids were chosen to weave.

July: No program. We had a free "take it" table! Lots of patterns, yarns, tools etc.

August: We all enjoyed looking at issues of Ply magazine. Discussion centered on a charity project.

September: Special weaving display and discussion. Two plaid shawls were especially discussed and compared. We discussed an overshot piece. Decision made to donate funds to a local teacher working with a fiber project.