

2018 State Fair Report

Submitted by Dorald Stoltz – 10/13/2018

The 2018 State Fair ran 11 days, August 24 through September 3 at the State Fairgrounds in Salem. Felting, Spinning and Weaving shared space with Needlework and Clothing and Quilting in Columbia Hall – actually, the whole back third of the hall. Together, the three departments comprised “Textiles.”

Entries

There was a total of 106 entries in Felting, Spinning and Weaving. This compares with 107 in 2017, 114 in 2016, 93 in 2015 and 68 in 2014. The largest number of entries came from Central Oregon, followed by Eugene and Clatsop. Still little participation from southern or eastern Oregon even though we offered free shipping.

Judging

The judges were:

- Weaving – Suzie Liles from Eugene and Sue Walsh, Portland
- Felting – Pat Spark, Albany
- Handspun yarn and handspun articles – Cydne Pidgeon, Portland, a NwRSA-certified judge

WeGO for years paid for the judges, but now the State Fair covers this cost. Instead the WeGO money goes to prizes for winners. The judges had a display case donated to their creations.

Prizes

This year, for the first time, we had a commercial partner – Eugene Textile Center. The center donated \$250 in gift certificates and fibers for the four best of division winners and for the best beginner. This supplemented the gift certificates paid for by WeGO and the gift baskets donated by the Aurora Handspinners Guild and Salem Fiberart Guild. Each division winner got a \$50 gift certificate to ETC plus a basket of yarns and/or fibers. The best beginner received a \$25 gift certificate to ETC and a subscription to SpinOff magazine. The best of show received a \$250 cash prize from the fair.

Cooperation

Over the years, the three textiles departments have gotten closer together, not just physically but personally. Volunteers from N/C and F/S/W worked together to set up the display cases. People moved freely between the knitting table and spinning demo area and everyone pitched in when there was need for coverage of the quilt walk. For next year, the N/C and F/S/W people are asking to be seated together and are planning a 11-day fleece to shawl project that will produce both woven and knitted shawls.