



NEWSLETTER

2012 February

Editor: Suzi Ballenger: realfibers@aol.com : Contact me with information for the newsletter.

WGRI, P.O. Box 517, Saunderstown, RI 02874 www.wgri.org
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Message from our President

It's a new year and I am eager to see all of you at the next meeting! We have much to discuss, schedules, projects and most important, our goals for the Guild. We as weavers need to share our work, experiences and encourage others to weave. I would like us all to think about **How** to do this. **How** do we approach this as a Guild? **How** can we reach new weavers? **How** can we fulfill our mission statement better?

Perhaps gathering a state wide directory of the Weaving Schools and Fiber Shops; more money for educational scholarship; or grants to schools and/or studios for weaving equipment?

It is in our young and new weavers that will carry on the traditions of the Rhode Island Weavers Guild. This may be our biggest challenge yet, but let's make this year really count and share the wealth of knowledge and resources the Guild has and spread it around. We have much to gain opening up our doors.

On a personal note, I would like to share my new project series with you called "Waiting for Winter". My goal is to weave a series of ponchos, open jackets and shawl's with all the beautiful wools, mohair and alpaca yarns I've collected over the years and finally it's time. My first project is a white on white woolen poncho with a mixed warp of wool, rayon and nubby silk. The weft is a non-fuzzy mohair purchased from the R. I. Sheep and Wool Festival. These are some of my first experiences working with wools and large setts this will be a nice change from the bamboo and Tencel threads I usually like to weave. I am also experimenting with some 4-shaft patterns too.

I look forward to sharing with you and hope this inspires you to consider weave something similar as an entry for the NEWS 2013 Fashion Show! Remember, we are hosting this at NEWS and now is the time to start planning for our entries. So check out your favorite 4-shaft patterns and find something in your yarn closet, so you too can experience something old that could be new again!

Thank you,

Barbara Jarzombek

WGRI Programs 2012

March 2, 2012 : Mo Kelman "Sculptural Shibori workshop" , materials fee \$8.00
Materials list: 1 spool Coats & Clarks white "dual duty plus" thread, a few #9 sewing needles, 1 ball med weight crochet cotton of any color, one pint or 1/2 pint glass CANNING jars, optional -- disappearing ink pen or quilter's pen

April 7, 2012: Program/ meeting will be used to talk about the NEWS projects and plan for WGRJ participation.

May 4, 2012 *****this is the regular meeting date***** however, I sent an email regarding our interest in Rough Point. It was suggested by the Museum staff, that our group could visit on a Monday (perhaps May 7) to have open access to the tapestry, and other undivided attention. If we choose to keep the May 4 date, each person will be charged \$20 to enter the Museum. I had no response from the board members regarding this item for discussion.

June 2, 2012: WGRJ Resident Authorities, and Members Show and Tell, with Pot Luck Lunch

We would like to have 3 members talk about their work, for about 20 minutes each, and then have our Show and Tell. Please contact Laurie Steger or David Westcott if you would like to make a 20-minute presentation.

Events and Items of Special Interest

Book Review:

WEAVE CLASSIC CRACKLE & MORE by Susan Wilson

Schiffer Publishing Ltd. 2011. 128 pages, over 200 illustrations, many in color. \$34.99
Reviewed by Norma Smayda

There have been books available to us that cover a single weave structure - books on overshot, summer and winter, twills, and lace come to mind. Now we have a book devoted solely to crackle. Author Susan Wilson, is an experienced weaver and teacher, having taught at many conferences and guilds. She earned the Certificate of Excellence in Handweaving from HGA in 1990, with classic crackle as her specialty. Her clearly written book has wonderful color illustrations, and is a fine publication for which Schiffer is known.

The book begins with a history of crackle and its characteristics, including a very clear section on drafting crackle. Other chapters cover profile drafts, and designing with motifs and with color. Her asymmetric designs are most striking, especially the flowing designs of her scarves. There is a long chapter on the many treadling variations possible with crackle, much as we might weave variations in overshot. Color is an important aspect of this book, clearly shown in the intriguing chapter on polychrome weaving. Another chapter is devoted to crackle on more than four shafts, with numerous tie-ups and treadling possibilities. She concludes with the more unusual

techniques of turned crackle, color and weave effects, and weaving eight blocks on four shafts.

Crackle is a weave structure that, superficially, looks like summer and winter, but in reality is very different. The more familiar summer and winter is a block weave with only two blocks possible on four shafts (four blocks on six shafts). Crackle is a twill-based weave structure with four pattern blocks possible on four shafts, each block being a three-shaft point twill. However, these blocks do not weave independently, but weave with an adjacent pattern block because of the shared shafts. This makes designing a challenge until one becomes familiar with the crackle weave.

Most of us who have woven crackle, weave it like overshot, with pattern and tabby shots alternating. However, there are no long floats as in overshot. In crackle the pattern yarn floats over three warp ends, under one, and the reverse in the background areas, appearing like a summer and winter weave.

I first learned of treading 'classic crackle' from Atwater, but never really understood it until I read Wilson's description. Classic crackle is woven with three weft yarns using the twill treadles, but no tabby, and it allows for interesting color play. However, because there is no tabby to hold the warp yarns in alignment, they sometimes shift causing the characteristic 'crackle' that Atwater identified.

Photographs of Wilson's work include many lovely scarves, pillows and throws, runners and placemats. There is a very complete bibliography. This is not a recipe book, but one of instruction and inspiration. My next project will be table mats in classic crackle!

WEAVERS RETREAT

Block Island, RI April 27-29, 2012

Come explore the beauty of weaving, learning, friends and a fantastic destination. Weaving classes limited to 20 weavers maximum.

Three Programs: Rigid Heddle Weaving, taught by Jane Patrick, Weaving Exploration, taught by Jan Doyle, and Weaving a Rug, taught by Fran Curran. There will also be Fiber Exploration and Yarn Mill Tour!

For More Information please visit:

www.northlightfibers.com/weavingretreat2012

or contact Sven at 401-466-2060, sven@northlightfibers.com

From the Editor:

Thank You, all members of the Guild for allowing me to serve as your Editor for the Newsletter! The next issue will be my last. I am happy to share all information and outlines for anyone interested in assuming the position.

As always, I can be sent photos, articles, links, and opinions at: realfibers@aol.com.
And for traditional parcel post: 10 Tri Pond Court, Peace Dale, RI 02879
Suzi Ballenger

How to Find the WGRI

The Weavers' Guild of Rhode Island meets monthly, September to June alternating Friday or Saturday. **This year begins Saturday September 10, 2011.** Guests are welcome!

Meetings are at Slater Mill Museum (www.slatermill.org) in the Community Guild Studios, 67 Roosevelt Ave., Pawtucket , RI. (2nd floor, yellow mill building). There is an elevator for those who cannot manage the stairs. There is plenty of parking, next to the building.

Meetings begin promptly at 10:00 am with a break for lunch – Bring your own.

From NY, CT, Providence:

I-95 North to Exit 28 (School St.). Left at bottom of ramp.
Go through light, down hill, bear right across the river and turn right on Roosevelt Ave.
Slater Mill is on the right.

From Cape Cod and east:

I-195 West to I-95 North and follow directions above.

From Boston/Attleboro area:

I 95 South to Exit 29 (Downtown Pawtucket) onto Broadway, follow Broadway to merge with Main St.
Take right at light.
Slater Mill is on your right

From Worcester/Sturbridge area:

Rte. 146 South to Mineral Spring Ave. (Rte 15).
Turn left at bottom of ramp and follow Mineral Spring Ave. until it joins Church St. and ends at Park Place.
Turn right, then immediate left on Circulator.
Bear right on Main St., first left on Roosevelt Ave.