



BASKETRY GUILD

TIDINGS

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Mar/Apr/May 2005

From the President's Pen...

Greetings Fellow Members,

Take a few minutes and review the new activities scheduled on the TBG website. We have a busy class schedule planned for the next six months starting in July with Dawn and Joel Simpson. This is followed by the August workshop with Anne Coleman and the September weekend with Judy Wilson. We're going to celebrate the holiday season with holiday baskets from Susan Reed-Fanfoni. Carefully check the deadlines for registering and paying for your classes. You won't want to miss any of these.

On a more serious note --- It is time to nominate candidates for the offices of President and Secretary. We haven't asked Peggy Williams yet if she is willing to run for Secretary. She very graciously accepted our request last year that she complete the term of office for Jamie Van Oekel when Jamie was elected Vice President. Hopefully she will agree to be on our nominee list. Cindy Stanton and I have volunteered to act as the nominating committee as Cindy has no interest in running for either office and as the President serving my second term, I am ineligible. We will be eagerly waiting for volunteers and nominations. Before you submit a nomination, you must ask your candidate if they are willing to run for the office.

Give serious consideration to accepting a nomination for these two offices. The jobs are tough but watching the guild grow in size and reputation has really been a reward in itself.

As I look back over the last four years I have to applaud the quality of my board members and their efforts. The Board has given generously of their time with no thought of reward or recognition. Their efforts and those of the general membership have led to a notable slate of accomplishments.

- With much discussion, mediation, and review, the website concept was developed and executed. Use of the website has been a major cost savings. Our postage and copying costs have reduced to nearly nothing. The postage savings alone more than covers all website costs annually. More than 85% of our members depend on the website for keeping up with Guild happenings. Great praises to Cindy Stanton for her support and efforts.

- The Not For Profit process was initiated after a lot of discussion, review and paperwork. Process is ongoing at present between the accountant and the attorney. Billie Dorris and Mary Jo Baylor deserve a steak dinner for this effort.
- The Volunteer Program was conceived and initiated. We really didn't know what we needed until Alice Wyvill showed us. Our thanks to Alice for her continued support and guidance.
- Four very meaningful years of Guilders Weave events. Our reputation for a well run, hospitable event has grown throughout. I was stopped several times at NCBA this year by people who wanted to come to GW 06 because they had heard such good things about our Guild and GW. Oh, how proud I am....Credit for much of this goes to Sam Winters for her great leadership for the first two years. Sam set the pace and Cindy Stanton and Alice Wyvill carried the banner the next two years. Sam's detailed "HOW TO" will be an invaluable guide to the chairs that follow.
- The draft Procedures Manual is complete and is circulating through the Board in final draft form. This manual was conceived by Sam Winters in response to my constant inquiry "Didn't we vote on this last year and the year before?" The board was constantly reviewing old decisions - How much are membership fees for new members in July? Why does the Board require members to be at least 18 years of age? What is required to setup for Gathering of the Guilds? Sam's response to this was to draft a manual listing all events and suggested procedures, listing all forms currently in use by the Guild, and maintaining the vote and particulars on reoccurring issues. The responsibility for the manual and updates will pass to the Secretary. The draft manual will be reviewed and re-reviewed by each voting Board member until all have approved the manual. It is intended to be a living document to grow and change with the Guild. New events and documentation will be added by the Secretary after the board meetings. I want to take this opportunity to thank Sam for her endless contributions and her numerous hours devoted to the Guild. Her organizational and editorial skills have helped make my four years easier and have truly made a notable contribution to TBG that keeps on giving.

Again, thanks for everything you all do.....

Happy Weaving,Laura

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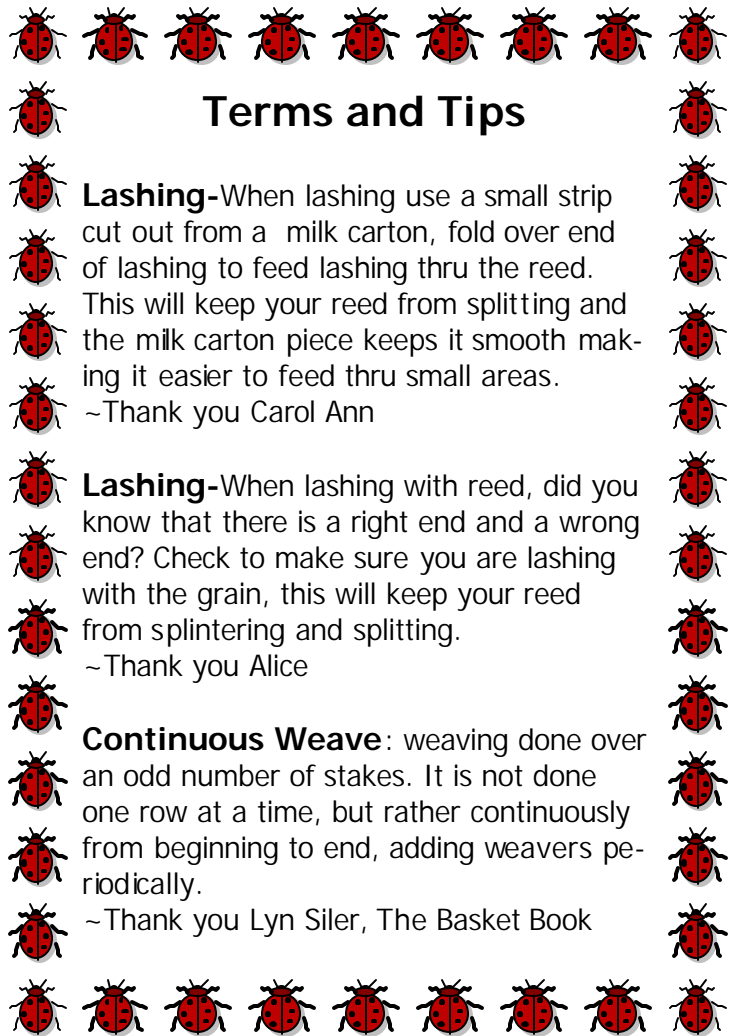
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Terms and Tips

Lashing-When lashing use a small strip cut out from a milk carton, fold over end of lashing to feed lashing thru the reed. This will keep your reed from splitting and the milk carton piece keeps it smooth making it easier to feed thru small areas.
~Thank you Carol Ann

Lashing-When lashing with reed, did you know that there is a right end and a wrong end? Check to make sure you are lashing with the grain, this will keep your reed from splintering and splitting.
~Thank you Alice

Continuous Weave: weaving done over an odd number of stakes. It is not done one row at a time, but rather continuously from beginning to end, adding weavers periodically.
~Thank you Lyn Siler, The Basket Book

Note from the Editor...

Any news items for the newsletter need to be to me by the 15th of each month. If you have any suggestions or comments, please feel free to contact me at newsletter@tidewaterbasketryguild.org or call me at 523-8630

For those of you who do not have a computer, any members you need to contact, please look up phones numbers in your Members Roster in your Tidewater Basketry Guild Notebook, we will not publish them in the newsletter in the future.

Thanks, Cindy Stanton

Check out this site:

In a recent Weavers Words a web site was mentioned www. AdirondackBasketry.com. In addition to waxed linen kits she offers three sets of technique directions for working with waxed linen, one on beginning a 16 over 16 base as well as a rim, one on how to do the arrow and a third on "stacking". If you ordered two or her patterns and mentioned you had seen it on Weavers Words the stacking one was free. They aren't inexpensive but think they are worth the price. They include lots of close-up color pictures of the various techniques. Digital images not drawings. I think they would be good reminders even if you "THINK" you know how to do the technique. Her kits also seemed reasonably priced since they call for 7 ply waxed linen which most of us don't have.



Do you have any new ideas for the newsletter? Please email/call Cindy at webmaster@tidewaterbasketryguild.org

Bits, Pieces and Plugs from Jamie...

Spring has finally Sprung and with it come many opportunities to join in TBG activities!

We do not have a regular May meeting. Instead, we will have a Fire Sale/Potluck/OTP kit-cutting Extravaganza at Peggy Williams' house on **May 14**. Put a price on anything that you want to sell or trade and bring it over. Peggy will be ready for us at 10 am and everyone should be ready to eat at 12.

Cathy Gray is leading the way on the **May 21st** Open to the Public class. She has several helpers lined up but, depending on the response, may need an extra teacher or two. Please let me or Cathy know if you can help.

Make sure you check out all the links for all our visiting teacher classes. All 3 are great opportunities!

Janet Jackson, Peggy Williams and I enjoyed a nice Saturday at Gathering of the Guilds. Many nice people came through the exhibits and visited. We were located next to the weavers and spinners and enjoyed watching and learning more about their craft. The official word is that the folks at Francis Land House will let us come back again next year!

Many "thank you's" to all our volunteers. Our meetings, classes and demos could not go nearly so smoothly if it weren't for those of you who give of your time and energy to support the events that our club sponsors. If you are in charge of an event, please make sure to file an After Action Report (copy link on website), especially when TBG needs to reimburse you for expenses. We also use the report to account for all the volunteers. All those named in each report go into the "big basket" for prize drawings at our August Pool Party.

Enjoy the sunshine while you weave a memory!

Please remember to check the website for a complete list of upcoming events.

<http://www.tidewaterbasketryguild.org>

This year at NCBA, TBG made a great appearance: Carol Vanderzee wins a Blue Ribbon, Sue Legault and Judith Saunders win Red Ribbons. Congratulations ladies, Great Job!!!!



Thoughts from Billie:

There were several areas not covered in the recent discussion about selling your work at shows and various other venues. I will try to cover them in the newsletter.

One question asked is if shows provided booth sitters for bathroom breaks and the like. That is not something you can count on. If at all possible you should take someone with you. Occasionally a show that is run by volunteers will offer a sitter for a brief time. At a professionally run show you are on your own. The opportunity to meet with the artist is an important part of the advertising for many shows and some actually require identification at set up time to insure that the person who applied is present. Also keep in mind that no one knows your product better than you. That being said everyone needs SHORT breaks so take a helper along. This person will also be handy to assist in other areas such as wrapping items and the like if you get really busy dealing with customers. However one important thing to keep in mind is that you are there to talk with your customers NOT with your friend. Nothing turns a buyer off more than being ignored when they have a question but the artist is chatting with a friend.

One of the most important items you should take with you is a good attitude. Smile and be pleasant even if you are clenching your teeth. Customers don't really mean to insult you but they usually don't understand what goes into weaving a basket. Part of your job is to educate them. I have found simple demonstrations both draw the customer into the booth and help them understand. They seem to be less intimidated by someone who is busy working than by someone waiting "to pounce" on them the minute they enter the booth. A simple good morning when they enter the booth is enough to encourage further dialogue. One final warning, NEVER! NEVER! Disparage another artist or product. You can always find something nice to say. "Her work is quite unusual." Yes, Longabergers are hand woven but they are a production line item" In other words be nice. Even though they might not buy at that point you never know who is going to win the lottery.

What supplies do you need for taking part in shows?

First of all the most important is money. You need to be able to make change for your customers, how much is up to you. Depending on your price range I would recommend no less than \$50. Actually I take at least \$100 in various denominations. These days \$50 bills aren't that uncommon and making change for one of them can deplete your available cash. For example \$20 in ones, \$30 in fives and \$50 in tens is a good spread. Depending on your prices you might also need several dollars in silver. The best place to keep the money is on your body. For the bills I use a money clip wallet, which will fit either in my pocket or a fanny pack, the silver in a small-lidded container behind the display. Cash boxes can easily disappear when your back is turned.

You also need basic office supplies, tape, pencils/pens, sales book, paper, scissors, thumbtacks, string or rope and the like. I also carry one of the footstool toolboxes. It can hold basic tools such as hammer, screwdriver, bungee cords etc. plus be used a mini ladder. It sure is better than standing on a chair which folds up. Indoor shows sometimes provide tables. Outdoor shows usually don't. You will need a tablecloth that will cover the table to the floor. A plain sheet can be used but not a wrinkled one. One item many forget is a chair. You need some place to sit. You also need some kind of bag for the items you sell. Many use old grocery bags but I prefer clean new bags. I also like clear bags that you can see through. You want your product in view as much as possible and sometimes one customer will ask another where they purchased the item if they can see it. Some of the clear plastic trash bags aren't too expensive and those with the drawstrings are particularly useful. This by no means covers all the items you need but you can always add needed items. One recommendation however is that you keep these items in a separate place and don't "borrow " from them at other times or you'll leave something important behind.

Many shows will provide a sign for your booth but you need your own business cards. These should include your name and some way to reach you for further purchases. A phone number or email address is fine.

Guilders Weave 2006

Plans for Guilders Weave 06 are progressing. The catering contract and the room contract are signed. Rooms will cost \$61 per night - suites \$109. Since last guilders weave they have added (or are adding) microwaves and refrigerators to all the rooms! We are in the process of asking teachers to submit baskets.

Volunteers have stepped forward for all the chairs. Jurying, Cindy Stanton; Swap, Kim Voska; Door Prizes, Andrea Margrave; Hospitality, Carol Moff; Kits for Welcome Bags, Carol VanDerzee; Market Place, Alice Wyvill; Massage, Ella Mae King; Memorabilia, Peggy Williams; Raffle, Jamie VanOekel; Registration, Judith Saunders; Signs & Posters, Cindy Stanton; Vendor, Diane Short; Welcome Bags, Cathy Gray. Please give these ladies a big thank you next time you see them. Their work makes us all have a fun time!

Any questions? or suggestions :) get in touch.

guildersweave06@cox.net

Tina and Donna

NCBA's Convention 2005 was a blast this year. Pictured at the right are most of the TBG members that were there. (We do have some missing, like our President? Where was she?) What a great time we all had. Make your plans to attend NCBA 2006, you will not be sorry you did!



Yard Sale/Fire Sale/ Potluck Lunch, Come one come all!!!

May 14 will be TBG's first Weaving Supply Yard Sale and Potluck Lunch. Go through your stash of supplies and take out those items you no longer want or need. Also consider UFO's that someone else might like to complete. Tag the items with a price, or "willing to swap". You can give them away if you'd like. This is a great opportunity to clean out your excess inventory or pick up an item you'd like to have. So, bring your reed, embellishments, patterns, books, bases, dyes, stains, tools, waxed linen, catalogs or any basket weaving related items. If you don't have anything to bring, come to shop. The event will begin at 10:00 a.m. and continue until ???. We will eat lunch at approximately noon. See you on the 14th at Peggy Williams' home. Directions are on the Members Only section of our web site. Please bring a small table if you have more than a few items.