

Spokes and Weavers

MINNESOTA BASKET WEAVERS GUILD



Minnesota Basket Weavers Guild Newsletter
August 2020 – Issue 1



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Letter from the Editor -

Greetings fellow shut ins! It has been quite a year for all of us! I wanted to introduce myself since I am kind of a new member and tell you a little about myself. My name is Pam Whitcomb, and I started basket weaving about 3 years ago, so pretty much a newbie! It has been helpful (and fun!) to attend classes at the guild and at conferences – great ways to learn! I am looking forward to when guild classes and other basket conferences can happen again! When I am not weaving baskets or staring at clouds, I love getting out to hike and kayak. Here's some pics of my hikes up north this summer - hope to see you soon!



Quarantine Basketry-

Here are a couple of my covid projects: the first is a plaited crown basket, the second is coiled paper and waxed silk. What have you all been working on? Send me photos and I will put them in the next newsletter!



New Member Corner -

Featuring new member Sarah Peterson for this first 2020 newsletter! Sarah has always loved baskets and how beautiful and elegant they can be. She has woven off and on for several years, and has especially liked working with birch bark and willow. Sarah loves to learn new crafts and has worked on lots of different kinds of stitching, leatherwork, quilting, making natural inks, weaving cloth, paper making, book making and marbling papers. When she is not doing all of that, (wow Sarah!) she likes to read. During quarantine she made a foraging basket and would like to learn more about working with natural fibers. Sarah has also accepted the role of Membership Coordinator for the guild.



Sarah told me she has been practicing coiling sent me a picture – thanks Sarah, and hope to see you soon!

Presidents Message by Deb Johnson -

Well this is exciting! Our first newsletter in a very long time! A shout out to Pam Whitcomb for taking this over! Pam has some great ideas and we are looking forward to many more newsletters to come!

In addition, we are also very excited to announce Sarah Peterson (one of our newer members) has stepped up and volunteered to be our Membership Director! This means your membership renewals and questions will now go directly to Sarah rather than Bonnie. Stay tuned for more information to come!

I do hope this finds you all well. This has certainly been a challenging time. Our last Guild meeting was this past February and here it is August! Your Board has been working hard behind the scenes. Our guild will *not* be able to meet in person at the Textile Center this September, *nor* will we be able to operate our Basket Bingo event this season. As for the remainder of the calendar year, we will have to see how the pandemic numbers are. These very difficult decisions have been implemented by the

Textile Center Board of Directors. All guilds are impacted and seeking alternative methods to work with their membership.

Our best alternative at this time is conducting our classes and meetings via Zoom. You might have had some Zoom experience over the past few months. I had never heard of Zoom prior to the pandemic! I did take a basket weaving class on Zoom to see how it would work for a basket class. It can really be slick. Textile Center now has a commercial Zoom account that our guild will be able to use for our meetings and classes. We have been in touch with a number of instructors regarding their comfort and ability to teach via Zoom. A very exciting opportunity is to bring instructors from across the country that would otherwise be cost prohibitive for us. We will update you as soon as we can.

We will have our website updated soon too. Please know that our website is maintained and updated by *Don Ericson*, as a volunteer for us (for those who might not be aware, former member Dianne Ericson was taken from us by cancer 10 years ago and Don was her husband and he continues to help us). We are so grateful for all Don continues to do for us!

We still have a few vacancies on the Board! If you are interested in helping us fill any volunteer rolls, please let me know via email or call. We want this to be a fun experience, grow the guild, and meet weaving needs and interests for many experienced and new weavers!

We will continue to keep you informed of changes as more information becomes known to us. Please take a few minutes to get acquainted with all our news in this newsletter! We hope it will be of value. Thank you for your patience and continued support during these turbulent times!

1. **Elections:** Due to COVID-19 our May 2020 meeting was canceled, but a phone meeting was held. The By-laws also provide "Should unforeseen circumstances arise, whereby the Annual Meeting of Members cannot take place during the month of May, the Chair may reschedule the meeting, to take place on or before June 30 of that same year." The impact of COVID-19 certainly takes us beyond 'unforeseen circumstances' and our Guild will not be able to meet on or before June 30th. As a result, the Board motions the following:

- (a). ***The 2020 Annual Meeting of Members be rescheduled for September 26, 2020; and***
- (b). ***To ensure the continued business operations of the Guild, during the unforeseen circumstances imposed on our communities by COVID-19, the Board recommends for the members to approve current Board member's terms be extended one year, until August 31, 2021; and the next election be conducted at the May 2021 meeting.***
- (c). ***Current Members in good standing be provided, via email, notice of self-serving consent to the above recommendations, and, unless objection is received by a majority of current members, via email notice to the Secretary (Layce Parkinson at laycep@g.com), on or before May 30, 2020, this motion will be deemed to be accepted and will be effective commencing August 31, 2020.***

2. The Board has agreed at this time, that **rent paid to Textile Center for cancelled meetings be carried forward as a credit with Textile Center and be applied to future rentals.**

3. The Kids National Basket Weaving event that was to take place on June 27, 2020, was cancelled by the organizers. The event has been renamed as '**Kids *International* Basket Weaving Day**', due to international response and interest. It is now scheduled for **June 26, 2021**. Our Guild will continue to be a participant. Jeanne Wilcox has been our Guild Chair of this event. Jeanne needs to step back as Chair,

but will continue to participate as circumstances permit. **A huge thank you to Jeanne for all her work getting this project off the ground for our guild!** Pam Whitcomb has volunteered to step in as Chair.

4. Textile Center will not be permitting large gatherings through the end of 2020, therefore **Basket Bingo originally scheduled for October 24, 2020 has been cancelled.** The Board will explore any possible opportunities to re-schedule this event at a later date, if possible.

5. Requirements and guidelines are currently being developed by Textile Center regarding all aspects of their operations, including guild gatherings in the auditorium. **Our Guild is working with our instructors and Textile Center,** with the hope that we can resume in person our monthly meetings and classes as soon as possible.

6. Pam Whitcomb has accepted the role of **Newsletter Editor.** The next newsletter is scheduled to be issued early August, 2020. If you would like to contribute to the newsletter (ie - weaving tips, write an article - maybe you have attended a class or simply want to share a project you have been working on during this down time), please email Pam at: pjwhitcomb@outlook.com.

7. Your Board is seeking folks to help out with leadership roles. Some of Board members are fulfilling double duty to ensure all functions are taken care of. **We need volunteers for:** Vice-President/President Elect (assist the president and an opportunity to learn what needs to be done if you were president); Basket Bingo Chair (no- need to reinvent the wheel here! Jean Ellingson is still here and sharing information and we have an amazing volunteer team that continues to support this event!).

8. **It's budget time!** We are also entering the budget planning process for the upcoming fiscal year (begins September 1, 2020). If you can help us short term, we would welcome a couple **volunteers to assist** the development and review of our annual budget. This committee is chaired by our Treasurer, Bonnie Buzza. The commitment involves 2-3 Zoom meetings between now and our September 26th Guild meeting. Please contact Bonnie or Debbie for more information.

The Textile Center Gallery and Shop are open by appointment only, on the hour, Tuesday-Friday, 11:00am – 3:00 pm. The gift shop is also online with curbside pickup or shipping options. The library is available with online withdrawal requests with curbside pickup only. Also, check the Textile Center website for the new '**Occasional Shop**' (formerly Garage Sale). You must make appointments to drop off donations and to shop the sale, so book yours soon!

2020 MBWG Classes -

- A Touch of Tradition Willow Baskets – February 22, 2020, with Jo Campbell Amsler. A fun class using willow from Jo's yard! She has studied basket weaving all over the world – a great teacher and interesting person! Thanks for sharing your skills with us, Jo!



Note: There will be no in-person guild Classes through the remainder of the 2020 calendar, due to the pandemic. We are working on virtual classes for our members and hope to bring you some very exciting instructors. We will miss doing Basket Bingo this year too! Keep an eye out for more information to come to you via email, in our next newsletter, and on our website!

<http://www.mbwg.org/>

2020 Minnesota and Wisconsin Events -

Wool Drying Basket – Textile Center, August 19 and 20, 10am – 3:30pm, Debbie Johnson, \$177.30-\$197.00, textilecentermn.org



Knotted Cattail Totes – North House Folk School, Grand Marais, MN, August 20-23, 9am-5pm, Tina Fung Holder, \$390, northhouse.org



Willow Harvest and Weave – Sievers School of Fiber Arts, Washington Island, WI, September 18-23, 2pm Friday – 11am Wednesday, Jo Campbell Amsler, \$505, sieversschool.com



Basket Week – North House Folk School, Grand Marais, MN September 22-29, prices vary depending on classes taken, northhouse.org



Wisconsin Weave Away – thebasketpatch.com, Conference is held at Luther Park Bible Camp in Chetek, WI. October 9-11. Prices vary depending on classes taken.



Birch Bark Sawtooth Table Basket – North House Folk School, Grand Marais, MN, November 7-8, 9am-5pm, Beth Homa Kraus, \$170, northhouse.org



Treasurer's Message -

Due to the Covid 19 temporary closure of the Textile Center, our rent from March 2020 forward is being carried as a credit with the Textile Center. Our Guild's State Fair Sponsorship fees for Basket Weaving classifications (supported by Nancy Fulton) paid to Minnesota State Fair are also carried forward as a credit for the 2021 fair. The International Kid's Basket Weaving Day rental (supported by Jean Ellingson) has also been carried forward as a credit for the June 2021 re-scheduled event date.

Goodbyes -



In Memory of Susan Coyle -

Susan was a creative artist, turning her talents into multiple successful business ventures including needlepoint and basket weaving. Susan and Bob owned and operated a small basket-themed gift shop in Sister Bay, WI where Susan taught basket weaving classes to customers, many of whom became lifelong friends. Susan and Bob took their basket weaving show on the road and traveled all over the country, teaching thousands of students the art of basket weaving. She became a nationally renowned and highly sought-after instructor with her classes often selling out as soon as registration opened. Her talents afforded Susan and Bob the opportunity to travel the country, experience diverse and unique cultures, and dine on local fare. She would recreate recipes she tasted on the road, add her own twist, and made sure to regale her guests with the story of the recipe's discovery. Susan most enjoyed the American Southwest and Southern California where her and Bob would often visit. They stayed with Bob's sister Maureen Armstrong and her husband Doug for weeks at a time in Escondido, CA basking in the sun, visiting the Wild Animal Park, and breathing in the ocean air during trips to the beach.

Published on May 3, 2020, [Appleton Post Crescent](#)

I learned of the passing of Susan Coyle and remember her as a mentor to many, teacher to many many more and a really great woman to be around. I took classes in Door County and thought this must be heaven and over the years have enjoyed meeting up with her and Bob at many different events. Always a treat from the art she was wearing, the stories she was telling, the basket she was teaching. She taught me how to add beads to a basket and another adventure was started. I like to think she is sitting with Diane weaving, laughing and telling stories. We will miss you Susan -Susan Y Burkhalt



In Memory of Diane Ericson -

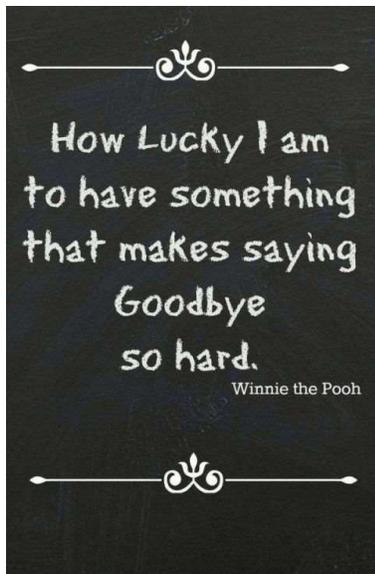
Ericson, Diane age 55, of Rogers, offered a final life lesson to family and friends on April 5, teaching us to accept both joy and heartbreak with strength, dignity, and irrepressible good humor. A St. Louis Park native, Diane bonded with her childhood sweetheart to weave what she called "a perfect life" in Milwaukee, Plymouth, and Rogers. To followers of her "Baskets From the Heart" studio, she was a weaver of national stature, exhibiting at the Edina Art Fair and other local shows as well as the Minnesota History Museum and the Textile Center in Minneapolis. To students and colleagues of the Minnesota Basket Weavers Guild, she was a tireless promoter of her craft, opening her home and teaching at local community colleges, Gustavus Adolphus, and workshops in other states. To dear friends across the country, she was the centerpiece of scheduled gatherings, a constant companion with a laugh to warm any room. And to an extended family that will always cherish her, she was the glue at holiday gatherings and events, building memories that will span generations and time. Survived by beloved husband Don of 33 years. Also survived by parents Kenneth and Shirley Bartes; siblings Gary Bartes (Pam; daughters Jessica Ciko, Katie, Bailey) and Pam Ihle (Glen); mother-in-law Marilyn Ericson (Jim, 1928-2004); brothers-in-law Dave Ericson (Rita; children Anne and Mark), Dick Ericson (Lee Ann Murphy; children Ashley and Matt), and Eric Martinson (son James); and numerous other family and friends. A Memorial Service will be held 1PM Saturday April 10, 2010, at Peace Presbyterian Church, 7624 Cedar Lake Road, St. Louis Park, MN. Memorials addressed to Don Ericson will fund a commemorative program at the Sievers School of Fiber Arts in Door County WI.

Published on April 7, 2010, Star Tribune

I am not sure how or when Diane started weaving baskets, but I suspect it may have been similar to the way many of us came to love basket weaving. Someone invites you to take a class with them, or you see a basket and think could I make that? You see a special on craft on PBS and there is a brief glance at a basket maker at work. And that is how the journey starts. Meeting Diane was my "perfect storm". I found a craft I loved, a friend I loved, and a journey of discovery that continues to unfold in basket weaving experiences and new friends. Diane taught me how to weave and so much more. She shared time, adventures, recipes, her friends became my friends, laughter, a lot of laughter and yes some tears too. I hold a basket in my hands that she wove and I miss her, I really miss her. But thankfully her legacy continues. Her friends are still my friends and our basket weaving guild and our adventures continue to thrive and inspire. My satisfaction with my skill at basket weaving is still a work in progress but I have plenty of mentors/teachers to learn from. Right now our guild is on "pause" as we wait for the pandemic to run its course. This is a very tough time but we all must stay vigilant, keep on our masks and our social distancing, wash our hands a million times, and stay safe so we can gather at the guild again. There is still so much to be grateful for....I am a basket weaver.

Susan Y Burkhalt

If anyone else would like to add thoughts or share memories, please send them to pjwhitcomb@outlook.com. Thanks!



MBWG Board 2021 (September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021)

- Past President, Nancy Fulton – n-fult@umn.edu, 651-552-1453
- President, Debbie Johnson – debjohnson58@gmail.com, 218-491-3550
- Vice President/President Elect - **Open**
- Treasurer, Bonnie Buzza – banddbuzza@gmail.com, 612-353-6695
- Secretary, Layce Peterson – laycep@g.com, 651-454-3415
- Textile Center/Guild Liaison, Nancy Fulton – n-fult@umn.edu, 651-552-1453
- Program Director, Debbie Johnson – debjohnson58@gmail.com, 218-491-3550
- Membership Director, Sarah Peterson – 777sarahpeterson@gmail.com, 612-940-4429

Other Positions -

- Newsletter Editor, Pam Whitcomb – pjwhitcomb@outlook.com, 763-682-6385
- Basket Bingo Co Chairs, **Open** and Suzette Leizinger – aslzinger@gmail.com, 952-212-4408
- Kid's International Basket Weaving Day, Pam Whitcomb – pjwhitcomb@outlook.com, 763-682-6385
- Librarian/Historian, Ann Danko – anndanko15@gmail.com, 612-781-2304

