

Nobo Meeting May 2015

The meeting opened with a presentation by Roberta Horsman which was followed by the regular business meeting concluding with a brief show-n-share.

Author: ted
Editor: Margaret

Presentation

Margaret introduced Roberta who presented Wheat Weaving

History

Roberta began with a short History of Wheat Weaving

In ancient times the farmers believed that there was a spirit and it resided in the last sheaf of wheat. The wheat was woven and kept on the hearth. The next spring the wheat weaving was taken to the fields and planted thus restoring the spirit for the next harvest.

Love knots were another feature and were required to be woven by the prospective bride and groom. If the love knot was completed it was considered that they were *compatible* and should be married.

Learning Wheat Weaving

Roberta learned wheat weaving from Bonnie after a show. *Bonnie drove in a beat up Toyota from California to Vermont where Roberta was teaching. At the end of the week Roberta spent Saturday learning wheat weaving from Bonnie*

After that Roberta found a book in 1996 on wheat weaving and was able to learn the techniques from the book. The book included step by step instructions. After exhausting that book, Roberta was able to move to less well documented structures.

Items

- Welsh Fan combined to make a star.
- Welsh harp is then combined to make sea horses. A friend from Ireland stated that the image is on stone carvings.



Demonstration

Roberta continued the presentation showing items woven with wheat as well as reeds. On show piece that decorated the table was a *spiral woven decoration which was 55" long taking 1000 pieces of wheat*. Spiral weave is an old English technique. Spiral hollow weave followed from the basic spiral weave.

Sources

Roberta now buys wheat from North Carolina, black bearded Durham wheat. Originally Roberta used wheat from **Newbury farm**. Now Roberta orders a 50lb box at a cost around \$250.

Process

Roberta then demonstrated the process:

- Sort by size typically winding up with 4 types
- Place wheat in a window box and fill with hot water. Daffodil weaving uses a similar technique.
- Need to keep it wet but not too long otherwise it will grow mould.
- Need wheat that is flexible and the knee is low on the stem
- Use waxed thread
- "Four directions weave" to generate a square
- "Corn Husk Dolls"
- Stretch the weaving to overcome the problem of the stems thickening at the end
- Knotted to make a love knot
- Drying between paper bags weighted with books.

Q. Joining?

A. Has to remain wet, keep the pieces under a damp towel

Q. What happens on a break?

A. Cut at the fold and weave in a new straw.

Q. Any beads

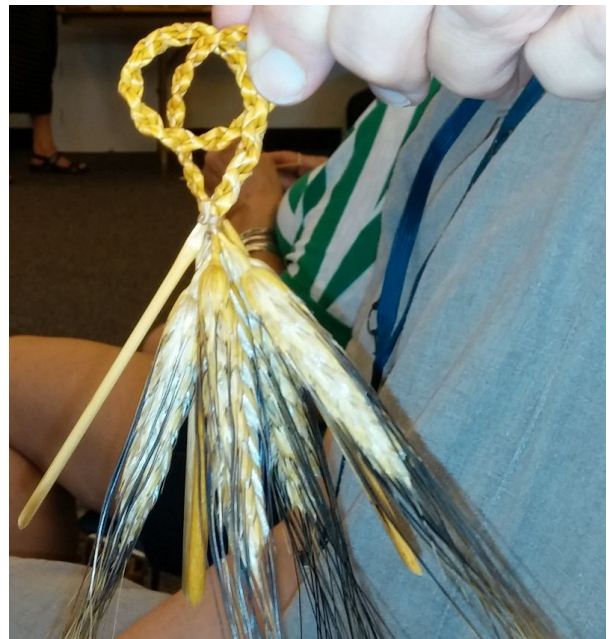
A. Yes

Q. Straw Hats

A. Typical straw hat flat weave and then sewn together

Q. Machine made?

A. Not sure but doubt that it is machine weaveable



Q. When did you start

A. 1996, did take 3 years off due to burn out.

Healing Arts Fair

Roberta introduced the *Healing Arts Fair* which is a 2 week-end Christmas show which costs \$100 per week-end for exhibitors. Roberta stated that the guild would be welcome

Contact

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Other Activities

Roberta teaches an apprentice programme for 5 months, 1 all day session per month. Teach weave, practice for a month, increment. Teach at Roberta's house in [Merrimac](#)

A discussion followed on the show, events and promotions. The primary contact for the Healing Arts Fair will be through Margaret. ***This would be a great opportunity for the guild.***





Business

Textile Tales

Athena, Arachne and the Weaving Contest A Punishment Story

Arachne was famous for weaving, and was very boastful. Athena arrived disguised and challenged **Arachne** to a weaving contest. Athena wove items showing the good side of the gods while **Arachne** wove items of the gods in their worst setting. Athena declared **Arachne a good weaver and turned her** into a spider.

Table Cloth Project

This is a group project to dress our table at NEWs and other events. Martha, Melissa and Betsy agreed to lead the project. The team have decided to use 5/2 mercerised **cotton and to use the** colours from the NoBo logo. Each weaver can decide the weave structure but need to use the **chosen** colours. Piece needs to be 110" long unfinished. Need to wet finish all pieces together. When the weaver has finished **stitch ends only, no other finishing necessary.**

Members interested in contributing should planning their contribution to the project. Time line:

- Get yarn requirements by August 1st
- Yarn will be delivered at the September meeting.
- Pieces are to be ready by February.
- Please provide the name, width of loom and shafts.
- It would be helpful to have a sample for the project leads.

- An email will be sent out with commitment by the June meeting.
- Summary:
 - June - commitment
 - August - yardage requirement
 - February - completed item
 - April - Tablecloth complete

Betsy will bring the full set of colours to the June meeting.

NEWS

Weaving Memories for June meeting

Write down a story, who what etc.

Just bring what's completed - part of the process.

Weaver spotlight preview for **NEWS**

Discussion on NEWS

The question was posed if the the guild wants to continue as a member of NEWS, based on the **lack of interest in submitting items for the** gallery. The fee is not a huge amount \$20.

A partial response related to copyright infringement, however discussion of this topic was cut off by the moderator.

One underused benefit is that NEWS has an extensive traveling library.

There was no vote or decision on the question.

Financial Report and New Password was presented to the members.

Please contact ted for the new password. This is the page protection password not your user password.

New Business

Newburyport Arts Show

- Tax Number - need a federal ID and then the state tax number
- Cash or cheque only *solves the credit card problem*
- Every member responsible for their own material.
- Need to think about handling other people's sales.
- Space allocation and logistics will be decided at another meeting
- Margaret will handle the application and the fee. Margaret will write the cheque and the guild will reimburse Margaret.
- Which week-end? Will sign up for the first week-end,

Future Presentations

- July - meet at Panera
- August - Dye Day
- Card weaving
- Sarah

- Show and share in January

Upcoming Events

- Maine Fiber Frolic
- June 5,6,7 Salem Front St, textile exhibit
- Please check the NoBo web site for other events

Show and Share

Show and share was brief due to time constraints

- Margaret: Whitefaced Dartmoor for one of her British Breed “Preservation Wraps”
- Leah: Rayon / bamboo spun
- Ted and Sandra: Silk twill scarf woven at 60 epi, 2 Rayon Chenile scarves in wave and diamond designs, scarf using strips of silk material *rug style*.
- Eileen: Huck warp from booklet from Weaver's Guild of Boston. Great resource. Recepte exchange 12 harness design
- Diane: Natural dyeing samples on wool - indigo, cochineal, henna, osage orange

tg 05/28/2015, proofed and edited by Margaret