

NoBo Meeting Minutes – September 2015

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Agenda *new format*

Presentation by Sarah Fortin

Business

Show and Share

Presentation by Sarah Fortin

Introduction

Sarah, slfortin@myfairpoint.net, has an impressive resume. Sarah has been weaving since the 1970's, and has won numerous awards most recently at Convergence in Rhode Island in 2014.

Sarah is now resident in New Hampshire since 1972, graduating in Clothing and Textiles at Washington State University. After graduation, Sarah was awarded a position at the University of New Hampshire as an Extension Instructor and moved to the East Coast.

Sarah's initially started as a food major but could not handle Organic Chemistry and switched majors more aligned with fibre arts. Sarah has taught weaving extensively in the Northeast and across the country.

Sarah claims to be more of a practical person than a theorist. While claiming to be *Not much of a scarf or shawl weaver* Sarah has recently won an award for a scarf Sarah's primary interest is weaving fabric for construction of clothing. Sarah runs clothing workshops.

Presentation

Sarah provided hand outs to the guild members and then used a combination of slides, sample pieces and finished clothing to provide an over view of garment construction using hand woven material.

- **SETT** - Sarah has a **sett** guideline and will send an email with the tables. Sarah recommends a sett 20 to 25% denser than what would be used to a scarf. For example, if a scarf or shawl is woven at 15 then use 20. For 10/2 use a **sett** at 30. For anyone planning on taking one of Sarah's classes, weave the fabric with a tight **sett**. Sarah does not advocate using linings or interfacing, requiring the woven material to have structural integrity without any additional backing.
- **Patterns** – any commercial pattern can be used however for the class there is a limited

choice. All commercial patterns have a seam allowance 5/8" is recommended. For a more simple design without using a pattern, for example a Kimono style jacket, remember to cut the neck 2" lower than centre compensating for people's tendency to be more *turtle shaped*.

- **Press** - as you go.
- **Warp** – Sarah will us 10 to 15 yard warps and varies the weft thread, colour through the yardage. Sarah weaves to a maximum width of 41 to 44", for the class a 22" loom can be used because the garments are constructed of panels.
- **Sampling** - Sarah does not sample except to test new weave structures.
- **Washing** – Sarah uses an older top loader with Wisk or Tide and a fabric softener. An older model allows more control over the amount of water while the newer top loaders are more limiting because they automatically control the amount of water. Cool to warm temperature should be selected and use the rinse water at the same temperature. *It's agitation that causes shrinkage not the water temperature*. Sarah loads full yardage into her machine.
- **Yarns** – Sarah does not dye, yarns are from varied sources including Fiesta, Jaeger Spun, and Harrisville, A woven interfacing is preferred. If a lining is used, silk or *silk essence* is recommended.
- **Sewing machines** – Sarah uses rugged Elna machine, not computerised. Also Sarah does not use a serger, *it gives a commercial or industrial look which is not what Sarah is trying to achieve*.

Clothing Samples

In addition to the samples on display, Sarah used a slide show to display a variety of jackets, kimono's and coats. Illustrations included

- Rosepath in multiple tabby reflected double weave at 30 epi.
- Kimono style coat., Jacket from McCalls patterns
- Double weave for a Kimon style coat, Ithiyaki coat pattern.
- Wool, silk, Italian yarn front panel coat.
- Coat from upholstery fabric.

Seams, Finishes, Hems and Buttonholes

Sarah continued with samples of seams, finishes a button holes. The seam allowance is to achieve a *clean finish* and not to have top stitching shown. The purpose of seam finish is partly

aesthetic and partly construction. Seam finish is decided on the look required

Edge finishes include knit on cuffs to provide some stretch, crotchet seams and twisted cords straight stitched. Sarah uses a hair twister for making twisted cords.

For turned up hems, use a catch stitch.

Button holes, if you machine stitch a button hole finish it off by hand. Do a hand button hole stitch over the machine button hole. For button hole as loops, tend to make a flat loop.

Sarah does not like patch pockets and prefers to use bag pockets instead.

Front bands, always interface the inside. Always hand stitch the bands down.

Q&A

- Darts – Sarah knows how to modify flat pattern
- Sarah will email details of classes.
- Sarah is in Mason, NH just over the state line above Fitchberg
- For the workshop, Sarah has a list of equipment, good shears, sharp small scissors, tape measures, twisters. The facility will need ironing boards and multiple electrical outlets
- Duration is 3 days, this allows for placement of patterns, etc.

Business

Table Cloth Project

Betsy reported that Olivia had donated cones, unfortunately they did not fit Betsy's cone winder. To complete winding on the yarn, Betsy needs 34 cones of the type that are used by Harrisville yarns. A few cones were available and were distributed at the meeting. Betsy also showed a woven panel in all the colours for the project.

Please do not forget, **DO NOT WASH.**

The original plan called for 12 weavers, there is enough yarn for one or two more weavers. If anyone wishes to join the project please contact Betsy. The deadline for the project remains as preciously published with completed panels due in February.

Guests

The following guests were introduced

Sue Lee from Rockport, started weaving in 1972 then stopped due to work. Now picked up weaving again. Sue has had no formal training. Sue Lee intends to join NoBo.

Sarah Holmes, learned weaving at a course. Sarah is an experienced weaver.

Louise Cramer took a class with Margaret and is a beginning weaver. Louise is considering joining NoBo.

John Griswold has only completed one project to date and John is starting to warp another project on his 6 harness floor loom. John is a software engineer, currently unemployed and looking for another position. His first woven sample was double weave overshot.

Dye Day

The weather forecast caused the original date to move to October 3rd which conflicts with a NEWS meeting. The final date is still not determined, 4th October was proposed at the meeting and an email blast will be sent out with a response deadline by Monday 28th.

Newburyport Artisan Show

Margaret reminded the members that this show is on December 4th from 4pm to 9pm and the 5th from 10am to 4pm. 10% of all sales will go to the guild. At the next meeting, Margaret will arrange a meeting date with the members who have signed up to discuss final details including layout, pricing, taking credit cards, etc.

Set up is Friday afternoon, also please plan on helping to clean up.

AOB

Planned member events, NoBo will not be at the Topsfield fair.

Martha showed a catalogue which included corrugated cardboard, if anyone interested in joining in a bulk purchase please contact Martha.

Upcoming Events

- Fibre Arts and Textiles Oct 8 at MFA
- Fiber Sale at A Place to Weave on Sept 25,26, and 27
- Symposium on Material at Harvard Art Museum on Sept 26

Show and Share

There was no time for show and share at this meeting. A table was set up with samples from our Summer weaving projects.