



# WNCFHG NEWSLETTER

Western North Carolina Fibers/Handweavers Guild, Inc.

PO Box 644 Asheville, NC 28711

## 2015-2016 BOARD MEMBERS

### President

Charlene St. John

### Vice President

Ellen Turpening

### Secretary

Nancy Crabtree

### Treasurer

Lynda Feldman

### Member at Large

Margaret Wills

## COMMITTEES

### Blue Ridge Fiber Show

Joan Berner

### Community Service

Patricia Koss

### Historian

Ursula Powers

### Hospitality

Suzanne MacGuire

Jane Champion

### Librarian

Susan Trotter

### Membership

Marjorie Krueger

### NC Mountain State Fair

Gail Griffith

Lucy Daley

### Newsletter

Catherine Alter

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### Southeast Animal Fiber Fair

Ellen Turpening

### Website Contact

Charlene St. John

### Retreat

Pat Brown

*O, what a tangled web we weave  
when first we practice to deceive.*

Walter Scott

## President's Message

Charlene St. John

This month our scheduled program got cancelled unexpectedly. Rising to the challenge, Ellen Turpening took it upon herself to put on a program about working with wool. In truth, she had been working toward doing this kind of a program for a while. This cancellation was just the impetus she needed to pull it all together.

And, boy, did she.

I work with wool. A lot. She brought up things I didn't know and several things I had forgotten. As my mind keeps going over the ins-and-outs of washing and fulling wool, I realize that I have strayed from what I know to be tried and true methods for these processes. Ellen did a wonderful job of getting me back on track.

Because I knew that Ellen was doing this program, I had brought my workbook from Laura Frye's workshop, *Magic in the Water*, for show and tell. Now, I'm going back into it to review and bring myself fully back on track.

Isn't amazing how a disruption in our day to day lives can bring clarity?

I encourage each of you to take advantage of the little disruptions in your life.

Remind yourself what is important. Don't take shortcuts that are just plain wrong. (Experience talking, here.)

Consciously select the correct fiber for the job at hand, even if it means a bit a sampling along the way.

Experiment? Yes. Enhance your craft? Yes. Enjoy? Absolutely.

Leave being foolish to the uninitiated.

# June Program: Irene Heckle, Felted Creatures



Like many of you, Irene was drawn into the teddy bear world by some special bears in her life. Some of these special bears were definitely more than she could afford as they were made of mohair. As with

many of her crafts and interests, she decided to try and make her own teddy bear to help herself “get over” this desire. She made a jointed bear out of some plush she found, and discovered that instead of the bears getting out of her system they had found their way in. *She had found a new passion ....creating teddy bears.*

So it began in 1986. She designed her own patterns and went out and purchased that wonderful mohair she loved, and began making teddies for the friends and acquaintances that had asked. Before she knew it she had created a monster – She had no time for her “full time” job and no time for her part time job at night as a self-defense instructor. After doing some doll and teddy bear collectible shows she found herself producing and creating mohair teddies for the Toy Fair in Manhattan at the Javits Center. This was the beginning of *Irene Heckel Originals* (originally known as “Grin & Bear It”). Since then she have been one of the first artists to do an angled joint for the head (She still use this today).

Irene says, “Over the years I have been very grateful to have been nominated and won a number of awards for several of my “friends” including nominations in the 1999/2000, the 2003/2004 and the 2005/2006 TED Worldwide Competition that is produced by Bar Report (Bear Report) Magazine in Germany.



# 2016 GUILD CALENDAR

- February 13 Winter project – Make an Apron
- March 12 Melanie Wilder – Student Presentation, Warren Wilson College
- April 9 Susan Levielle- Overshot: Timeless Beauty in Woven Construction
- May 9 Working with Wool—Ellen Turpening
- June 11 Irene Heckle – Felted Creatures
- June 24 Kathrin Weber – Not your Grandma’s Dye Pot
- June 25-26 Kathrin Weber – Weaving Workshop: Focus on the Warp
- July 9 Joan Berner – Sheep to Shawl Competitions
- August 13 Walt Turpening –Bench Making
- September 10 Vicki Almaroad – Magic in the Flax
- October 8 Retreat
- November 14 Our Annual Potluck November 14



## Share & Care

Sheila Law

Think of You Cards to:  
Barbara Bigham - Nursing home Jean Smith - Retirement Home in Brevard N.C.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive a card please email me @ [sheilawc@charter.net](mailto:sheilawc@charter.net)

# Membership

Marjorie Krueger

A warm welcome to new a Guild member:

Katie Logue, Spartanburg NC 704-287-2521

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## Help! Help!! Help!

Teena Tuenge

If you can help assemble the ribbons for the Blue Ridge Fiber Show for about 45 minutes after the June Guild meeting, please let me know. I need two or three helpers.

Call or email me if you are willing to help. Teena Tuenge 828-667-8102 or [teena.tuenge@gmail.com](mailto:teena.tuenge@gmail.com)

THANKS!



Schacht WOLF PUP 4 harness direct tie up (4 treadle) loom, perfect for workshops. Compact storage, lightweight, 18" weaving width, attached wheels make moving simple. Purchased new in 2011 for \$995. Asking \$500, with loom bench, 8" and 10" reeds included. Presently at home in Black Mountain; email [lyndafeldman@gmail.com](mailto:lyndafeldman@gmail.com).

8 shaft older Gilmore loom. 40" weaving width. Texsolve tie-ups. Great shed. Easy to take apart and put together. Instructions provided. Includes 7 or 15 dent reed, threading hook, stick shuttles, extra tie ups and push pins. Adjustable swivel stool for threading. Price: \$1000. Contact [janbeech43@yahoo.com](mailto:janbeech43@yahoo.com). Request more photos.



## Blue Ridge Fiber Show...Anything Fiber Show

Once again we will use the Anything Fiber Sale to raise money to support of the Blue Ridge Fiber Show. Please consider volunteering that day to help with the sale or contribute items to the sale. Full details are available on the Facebook page – Blue Ridge Fiber Show. The sale this year is on August 13<sup>th</sup>. Please bring your donated items to the July guild meeting and I will take them on that date. If you are willing to help at the show please send me an email ([joanberner@gmail.com](mailto:joanberner@gmail.com)).

I hope you are working on your entries. This is an opportunity to both show your work and sell it with only a 30% commission. We have so much good work in the guild; it should be shared with our community and encourage other fiber artists. Please support the show with your entry.



*more of Irene's whimsical characters*



**Western North Carolina Fiber/Handweavers Guild  
Treasurer's Report: April 2016  
Lynda Feldman**

03/31/2016 Balance, Education Fund	\$ 2,566.37
03/31/2016 Balance, General Fund	<u>10,778.57</u>
<b>March 31, 2016 Balance</b>	<b>13,344.94</b>

**Income**

2016 Dues	125.00	
2016 Workshops	840.00	
Advertising	10.00	
Donation (to Ed. Fund)	10.00	
<b>Total April Income</b>		<b>985.00</b>

**Expenses**

Website	(240.00)	
Program	(100.00)	
Rent (3 mos)	(210.00)	
<b>Total April Expenses</b>		<b>(550.00)</b>

04/30/2016 Balance, Education Fund	\$ 2,576.37
04/30/2016 Balance, General Fund	<u>11,203.57</u>
<b>April 30, 2016 Balance</b>	<b>\$13,779.94</b>

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**Western North Carolina Fiber/Handweavers Guild  
Nancy Crabtree**

**WNCFHG Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2016**

*Amendment to March Minutes: Treasurer's Report from February was approved per Lynda Feldman.*

President Charlene St. John called the meeting to order at 10AM.

Old Business

- Minutes of the April meeting were unavailable for approval. They will be published in the June Newsletter for review at the June meeting.
- Correction to the April BRFS Quarterly Report per Lynda Feldman: The balance is correct, but the total expenses should read \$325, not \$300. The Treasurer's Report was approved by members with Pat Brown making the motion and Gail Griffith seconding.

Announcements

- Marjorie Kruger, membership chairperson, discussed the guild information brochure. There could possibly be two versions. One that would be sent to new members as part of the welcoming package. The other a smaller trifold version for prospective members. The latter one would be distributed at various fiber- related events such as SAFF, SHCG, etc.
- The Boarding House Gift Shop is being remodeled. There are 'Guild Date Books' that need to be removed and or sold per Nan Miller.
- Website is not up to date yet. It is 'down for service'.
- Judy Jetson updated members about events at Local Cloth (Textile Study Group). A Fiber Field Day will be held at the Asheville Farmer's Market on Saturday, June 9. Also the Local Cloth Fashion Show will be September 22 at the Folk Art Center. The theme is 'Elements of Nature' if you are interested in participating. Entrants could be a team of 'designing divas' such as a designer, a weaver, a sewer. See brochure for additional info.
- Local Cloth will also hold a day camp for kids. Activities will include projects at the community dye kitchen. See brochure per Judy Jetson.
- A needle felting class will be held next week at Mary Jo Lanik's business, the Wool Room. The project will be to needle felt a rabbit.
- Marjorie Warren reminded members that today is Fiber Day at the Folk Art Center and that on Sunday, there will be the Fashion Show.
- Pat Brown mentioned a study group which might be of interest– Warp Fiber Artist of the Foothills.

Committee Reports

- Project Linus quilts can be given to Pat Koss, our community service representative. or they may be dropped off at A.C. Moore in Asheville. Measurements for the quilts are available for pick up on the back table.



- Marjorie Kruger, membership, indicated there were 32 members who signed in and no guests.
- Gail Griffith, North Carolina Mountain State Fair, indicated that catalogues for the fall event have been mailed. Additional ones are available at the door today. You can also download an entry applications online. If you do not include your social security number, you cannot receive a cash prize. Lucy Daley will coordinate the volunteers for the fair.
- Susan Trotter, librarian, reviewed a couple of books on the subject of wool (our program for today). Ruth Howe indicated there are additional books on wool in the Heritage Weavers library. 'Magic in the Water' notebook from a class is also available.
- Ellen Turpening asked members to think about whether they would like a Overshot Workshop in 2017 with Susan Levielle. See Ellen if you need more info about the upcoming dye and weaving workshops with Kathrin Weber
- If you have ideas for things to do at the Retreat (in October this year, not September), contact Ellen Turpening.
- Our member-at-large, Margaret Will, reminded us that Harvest House in Asheville will have an Open House on Memorial Day. Ursula Powers is the weaving instructor there.

New Business (none)

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned with Nancy Crabtree making the motion and Walt Turpening seconding. All were in favor. Show and Tell followed the business meeting. Ellen Turpening presented a program about wool.

Submitted by Secretary, Nancy Crabtree



**8th Annual**  
**Anything  
Fiber Sale**

*a yard sale just for fiber artists!*

**Clean out your closets, Make your lists and  
Come to Sell and Buy**

**Any and all Fibers, Materials and Tools for  
the Fiber Arts!**

**Saturday August 13th, 10am - 2pm**  
**Warren Wilson College, DeVries Gymnasium**  
**Swannanoa, NC**

*See our website to register and for more info!*

**sponsored by Nice Threads Fiber Studio • [www.nicethreadsgallery.com](http://www.nicethreadsgallery.com)**

# Photo Gallery..... May Program



*Ellen Turpening filled in at the last minute with a great program about wool. Here she is with many of her samples.*

## Show & Tell



*Beautiful fabrics*



*Books on Wool*



*...and more beautiful fabrics*