

March 2016

Volume 48

Issue 6

TSnuttle

Connecting Through Fiber

Textiles of the Viking Age

Karen, Kal and Lori have been demonstrating and reenacting the Viking Era for about 10 years. They are educators that have a curiosity about the history of fiber. They are always on the lookout for how historical information fits into our era. In the time before spinning wheels, there were spindles. Before treadle looms there were warp weight looms. Before knitting and sewing, naalbinding and hand sewing. Karen, Kal and Lori have picked weaving because it is a natural extension of spinning. People liked color in their clothes then as well as now. Card weaving decorated the clothes and the natural dyes found in plants brought color to the fabrics.

At the March meeting, Karen, Kal, and Lori will be demonstrating the use of textiles from about 725 to 1066 AD. This is known as the Early Medieval period or the Viking Age. They will demonstrate the use of the warp weighted



Join Karen, Kal and Lori for Dinner

5pm , March 14, 2016

Fieldstone Grill in the Woodbridge Shopping Center

(3970 W. Centre, Portage, 269-321-8480)

RSVP to Letty at lettykk@aol.com or 381-0980 by March 8 , 2016

loom, display Viking textile tools, sheep breeds of the era, plant dyes and tablet weaving. Their power point presentation will tell about their participation in the Viking village at the Black Rock Renaissance Faire....otherwise known as what they did on their summer vacation. Through their love of fiber and its history, Karen, Kal and Lori have become friends.

2015-2016 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President – Karen VanderWeele
 Vice President – Letty Klein
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 Photographer – Linda Innes
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 MLH Rep – Cathy McCarthy
 WAFA Chair – Nancy Crampton
 WAFA Treasurer – Jill Strobel
 WAFA Secretary – Cory Zann
 Exemption Committee – Anne Mehring,
 Nancy Clark, Karen Kendall

STUDY GROUPS

For more information, contact the study group leader.

Four Harness-Marcia Freridge – meets second Thursday at 9:30 am at members' homes.

Moonbeamers-Helen Lemmer – meets fourth Monday at 7 pm at members' homes.

Multi-Harness-Marta Williams – meets third Wednesday at 9:30 am at members' homes.

Spinners-Terri Smith/Carolyn Snyder – meets third Friday 10 am to 2 pm at Parchment Library.

Swatch Exchange-Gail Ross – a virtual study group.

Triangle Loom or CSW....Lenore Snyder
 Meets third Tuesday at 10:30 am to 12:30 pm at Marshall District Library

HOSPITALITY

Every month, one of our Study Groups or the Board is responsible for providing the treats for the General Meeting. The schedule of the assigned months is provided below.

March – Popcorn!

April – Swatch

May – the Board

2015-16 PROGRAMS

7 pm

Portage Senior Center

Doors open at 6:30 pm

March 14, 2016 Karen and Kal VanderWeele with Lori Evesque Kalamazoo, MI **“Textiles of the Viking Age”** As members of the Norsemen of Michigan Living History Reenactment Society, they will come in ‘garb’. Lori is going to put together a power point and they will have pictures from the reenactment this summer. They will talk about card weaving, natural dyes, warp weighted looms, and the steps used to make fabrics / clothes of the Viking Age.

From Karen.....Something different this month, Kal, Lori, and I are historical re-enactors. We will be sharing some of the things we do as re-enactors. Because of our love of textiles we spend weekends in July sharing living history with the public. Be ready with your questions, see you Monday, March 14. Karen

April 11, 2016 Elisabeth Hill, Conway, MA

“Masters of Deflection” We can call it Mystery Weave, Deflected Double Weave, Cell Weave - it has as many names as it does possibilities. In her lecture she will explore these dramatic possibilities and will give a detailed explanation of its structure with slides, drafts and many examples.

May 9, 2016 Annual Business Meeting

No Wool No Vikings

Check out this article in the on-line **Hakai Magazine**.

<http://www.hakaimagazine.com/article-long/no-wool-no-vikings>

This article discusses the role wool played in Viking life. Given our March presentation....this article is apropos. Here is an excerpt:

“Keeping sailors warm and dry is just part of the story of Viking wool. *Braute* was constructed in 1994 in the style used by Norwegian fishermen and traders since the Viking Age. Its hull is built of overlapping planks, the wood darkened by more than 20 years of tarring and oiling. At 12.8 meters long, it’s about half the length of some of its big sisters, the longships that once sailed across open oceans. Its square linen sail hangs from a single mast. *Braute* smells of seawater, wood, wet hemp, tar, and a hint of plastic from the bright-orange tarps covering the higgledy-piggledy pile of camping gear amidships. Once a boat like *Braute* would also have smelled of wet wool. As recently as a couple of centuries ago, that sail could have been woolen—dense cloth woven on looms in small, dark cottages strung along coasts once dominated by the Vikings. Meter upon meter of fabric was painstakingly woven in strips and sewn together. Outfitting a single warship about twice as long as *Braute* and its crew might have required the wool of 1,000 sheep or more.”

The Colors of Our Day...An Enchanting Historical Survey of the Natural Dyes we Use"

Richard W. Dapson, PhD
President, Biological Stain Commission
Co-owner, Fabrications LLC

Date: Saturday, March 5, 2016
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Location: Fabrications, 8860 N. 32nd St., Richland, MI

Dick will present a 2.5 - 3 hour talk, which will include a question and answer period. We will not be making anything, but you will definitely leave with information that you can use to enhance your natural dyeing (*and though this presentation is not related to eco-printing, the use of mordants....pre, co and post mordanting...will be addressed and you may find this helpful for all of your dyeing applications.*)


Also, the shop will remain open after the presentation until 4:00 p.m., so there will be plenty of time to browse their fabulous selection of yarns, fabrics (and they have some beautiful silks that would be perfect for nuno-felting), as well as one of the best selections of buttons anywhere in the area. It is a fabulous shop and is very customer-friendly. Even if you're unable to come to our presentation, be sure to add this shop to your next area visit. You'll love it.

And, if you wish breakfast prior to the presentation, East Egg is located in the same complex. They open at 8:00 a.m. and have a wonderful breakfast selection.

If you wish to join us on Saturday, March 5, please send your payment of \$12 to presentation coordinator: (*Limited to the first twenty persons due to limited seating*):

Dawn Edwards
P.O. Box 402
Plainwell, MI 49080

WGK CALENDAR OF EVENTS March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Four Harness 9:30 am	1	12
13	14 General Guild Meeting 7 pm	15 Triangle Loom 10:30am	16 Multiharness 9:30am	17	18 Spinning 10am-2pm	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Easter 	28 Moonbeamers 7 pm	29	30	31		

Library News

Your Guild Library still has extra books and magazines that need a new home. Come to the March meeting and stock your personal library with some classic weaving books, sewing books, and knitting patterns. All we ask is for a donation to the new book fund.

Here's something new: have you heard of Little Free Libraries? Well, we are trying out our very own. Starting with several light fiction books donated by Nancy Crampton, and myself, we will have a sorta cute little library in a box for you to help yourself to, and then return when you're done. No cards, just something fun to pass around. So far the five books are all fiber-related, but who knows where this will go? Feedback is always appreciated.

-Kristi Chapman, Guild Librarian

MLH NEWS

This year's MLH Biennial Fiber Show will run from March 20 to May 29, at the Dennon Museum Center, at Northwestern MI College in Traverse City, MI.

The reception for this show is Saturday, March 19, 2016, at 7:00 P.M.

Awards will be presented at the reception, and juror, Phyllis Frendall, Professor of Fiber and Fashion Design, at Finlandia University, Hancock, MI, will give the presentation that evening.

We hope you can come to the Dennon Museum and enjoy the show!

Historical Tidbits

Founded in 1968, our Guild will turn 50 in 2018. The milestone years have been celebrated in various ways. In 1998, the Guild self-published a perpetual calendar. You may have one of them, or at least seen one. Inside there was a short history and a list of accomplishment. The 18 Charter members were listed. Each of the 12 months had a picture of members' work taken by Dorothy Ward, a long-time member of the Guild. Inside the back cover, a name draft using *30 Years of Sharing* as the 'key' was printed and has been reproduced here.

30 Years of Sharing



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Weavers Guild of Kalamazoo, Inc.

P. O. Box 2795

Kalamazoo, MI 49003-2795

www.weaversguildofkalamazoo.org

Scholarship Application Summary

The Weavers Guild of Kalamazoo offers a total of \$500 in funds for scholarships for active members. Those applicants who are funded may receive up to ½ the cost of their educational project whether class, workshop or some other activity in a particular area of the fiber arts. Recipients of scholarship aid shall then provide an educational or sharing activity with the Guild. These may be a presentation at a General Meeting or to a Study Group, an article for the Shuttle or other activity.

Those who have been members of the Guild for at least one year and have participated in one or some of the following activities are eligible to apply. These may include but are not limited to:

- * Having held a Guild leadership position
- * Regular attendance at Guild meetings
- * Having participated in a Guild sponsored workshop
- * Membership in a Study Group
- * Being a paid-up member
- * Worked at the WAFA sale
- * Worked for the Service Bureau

There will be two rounds of applications accepted. Round I Applications will be accepted at the April 11, 2016 general meeting OR sent via email to the Scholarship Chair with digital attachments where appropriate OR mailed to the Guild PO box above and received on or before April 5, 2016.

The Review Panel will be convened after the April meeting with calls to applicants made following budget approval at the May 9, 2016 meeting for projects to begin on or after June 1, 2016. Any remaining funds will be distributed in Round II beginning September with applications due no less than 3 months in advance of need.

Sharing activities are to be planned and worked out with the input of the Program officer—the Guild Vice President—and Scholarship Chair. A short letter or final report on funded activities is due by the end of the fiscal year, at the May 2017 meeting. Those with questions are asked to call, email or meet with the Scholarship Chair, contact information on reverse.

Applications are reviewed by an anonymous panel convened by the Scholarship Chair and comprised of members from the Guild membership and a visual artist from the community chosen for their overarching, long-reaching knowledge of the visual arts, locally and beyond the community. The Chair is responsible for program administration and provision of materials to the panel, and does not vote on the applications. ***All decisions of the panel are based on materials provided by the applicant. Decisions are final and may not be appealed.*** The Scholarship Chair will work with an unfunded applicant to review and resubmit at the next deadline if applicant so wishes. Please note: Scholarship funds may not be used for equipment.

Forms will be made available at the March General Meeting and afterwards, will be posted on the website.

Swedish Weaving Part 5: Our Finest Hours

by Gail Ross

NOTHING COULD BE FINER

Taking a course (or more) at Vävstuga provides one with so many new experiences and opportunities (requirements?) to go where you've never gone before—weaving, that is. For many of us this included working with those very fine threads that help create that smooth, crisp Swedish look and working with tools necessary to do so.

SETT IN...FLEXIBLE STEEL

Our projects included several items that required reeds the likes of which I'd never seen or used before. To put this into perspective, here is a Swedish metric—American conversion chart for reeds:

dents per 10 cm dents per inch

20	5.00
25	6.25
30	7.50
35	8.75
40	10.00
45	11.25
50	12.50
55	13.75
60	15.00
65	16.25
70	17.50
80	20.00
90	22.50
100	25.00
110	27.50
120	30.00

Most of us own reeds in the most common sizes: 10 and 12. For those rare occasions when we need finer setts we have charts telling us how to adapt one of these reeds :

A solution, but not much fun! Swedish weavers prefer slewing 2 ends to a dent, and Swedish patterns do not shy away from high numbers of ends per centimeter (yes, think metric here), so it makes sense that there is a market for very finely dented reeds. We had projects using 90, 100, and 110 dents (per 10 cm). If you think that means dense dents, you are correct! In fact, the reeds almost look solid grey due to the dents being so close together and we didn't even get to the 120.

The Swedish-made Glimåkra reeds were recommended for two related reasons. They are made from a more flexible steel than our American-made reeds. This makes both slewing and any threading repairs much easier since even your fingernail can gently move the dent. This thinner steel also causes the reed to cost less than Gowdy equivalents. That said, Vävstuga also sells Gowdy reeds because they are admittedly stronger in their construction and more durable for lots of use, not to mention they take less time to arrive than ordering from Sweden.

Warp sett chart for 10 dpi reed	
Threading (sley) order	Sett
0-0-1	3
0-1	5
0-1-1	7
0-1-1-1	7.5
1	10
1-1-1-2	12.5
1-1-2	13
1-2	15
1-2-2	17
1-2-2-2	17.5
2	20
2-2-2-3	22.5
2-2-3	23
2-3	25
2-3-3	27
2-3-3-3	27.5
3	30



One must choose between sleying with your fingers (Becky's preferred method, especially fast with a partner) and using a special sleying tool made of incredibly thin plastic or wood that will squeeze into these tiny, tiny dents (the photo doesn't do justice to the .20 cm width of this baby—and yes, you want to treat it accordingly although it is amazingly strong for its thinness).

THIN advice

Thin threads can be daunting, not in the least of which is their downright quantity! I mentioned last time our Jämtlandsdräll tablecloths with nearly 2400 warp ends. This total came from a multiplication of the width on the loom (133 cm) by the ends per centimeter (18) = 2393 ends and this was using 24/2 cotton for warp (and tabby) and 22/2 cottolin for pattern. While you only see a portion of the width of my project in this photo, you do see the total length of my "tablecloth" —all 6 inches—and some great examples of those distortions that characterize Crackle. Notice the fine threads in the plain weave we wove between our projects. While the use of multiple colors helps show the interlacements, in those plain weave sections they are barely visible:



BUG-EYED?

Well, that may describe hours of looking at fine interlacements, but one of my favorite projects was Mygtjäll or Mosquito Netting—which name puzzles me insofar as the end fabric doesn't look like any barrier to those tiny pests. Swedish weavers think nothing of weaving up curtains for their windows and this structure is very popular for its lacy look that lets in the limited northern sunshine. I think this would make delightful blouse material. The secret to the look is an interesting sleying of warp ends that includes periodic skipping of dents. This project used 20/2 cotton in both warp and weft using a 100 dent reed (100 ends per 10 cm) and it weaves up really fast making curtain yardage quite realistic:

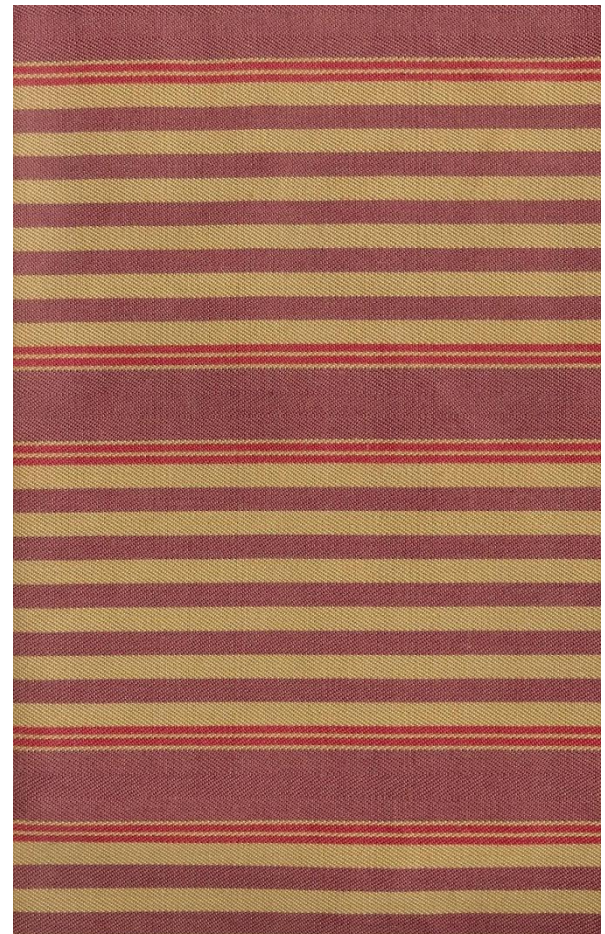


SWEDISH TICKING

So, we come to our finest project, 3-shaft ticking. “Ticking” traditionally referred to a cotton or linen textile that was most often used in bed linens and was very tightly woven so as to keep down feathers from poking through the fabric. Those uses still exist, but now ticking is used for many other interior decorating purposes including furniture upholstery, cushion covers, tablecloths, decorative basket liners, and curtains. While the original ticking was woven in stripes of natural and indigo, in today’s Sweden you see many bright color combinations.

By the way, the term “ticking” comes from bedtick referring to the bag stuffed with feathers to create a mattress and has nothing to do with bedbugs!

Our ticking project was to create yardage using 30/2 cotton warp and 28/1 line linen in the weft using the 110 dent reed (110 per 10 cm). Despite the general preference for slewing 2 ends to a dent, this had 3 ends to a dent. Checking your slewing was hard on the eyes, but you really do not want to have to correct slewing errors in these fine reeds. We wove our ticking in twill that reversed direction with color changes and we wove 33 PPC (picks per centimeter) –great aerobic exercise! Our end result was an extremely smooth warp-faced fabric that could protect against feathers for sure, and would be a great table cover as well.



FINE-ai THOUGHTS

When I was a brand new weaver I joined WGK colleagues attending Convergence in Grand Rapids, but in complete innocence found myself choosing highly advanced and complex seminars way beyond my abilities. However I think back to one of these where Lillian Whipple, the presenter, answered the question “what are fine threads” by saying “any threads finer than you’ve woven before”. Fiber cappellini can be intimidating, but when you finally accept the challenge (or are forced to) you may be pleasantly surprised at what you can do and what lovely results are possible.

Gail



Jochen Ditterich, Weaving Teacher of the Year

Jochen Ditterich, a member of our Guild, has been honored with Handwoven's Teacher of the Year.

Weaving Today had the following article about Jochen:

Weaving teachers are such an important part of the weaving community-not only do they help create new weavers, but they help those of us who are already happily weaving expand our skills and our knowledge. Good weaving teachers are patient, kind, and inquisitive. Handwoven's Co-Teacher of the Year (Sponsored by Halcyon Yarn) Jochen Ditterich is all that and more. He's also full of wisdom and extremely funny.

When I called Jochen at his home studio he was immediately warm and friendly. I could tell immediately why his students loved him so much! Jochen, who was born in Germany and learned to weave in Finland, has been a main stay in the Michigan weaving world for decades, and he's taught by his estimations over a thousand students.

Talking with him was an absolute delight-and he was full of excellent weaving advice that one might expect



from a weaving teacher, including taking care and warp carefully and correctly the first time (something this weaver learned the hard way) to weaving and beating on an open shed so there's less friction on the yarn. He also had some more unusual-but no less useful-advice including being careful about buying a loom that's too wide for your arm-span and to never (ever) purchase a loom made by somebody who makes furniture but doesn't weave. Perhaps most wisely his answer to the question "What's the best loom" is "The one you have paid for."

There's a lot more to Jochen's story, which you can read in the upcoming March/April 2016 issue of *Handwoven*, and we're all very proud to call him our Weaving Co-Teacher of the Year along with Joyce Robards.



Weavers Guild of
Kalamazoo
POBox 2795
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

2015-16 SHUTTLE deadlines

For April 2016 – March 25, 2016

For May 2016 – April 29, 2016

Send items for the SHUTTLE to the SHUTTLE Editor at martag1111@yahoo.com

Volunteers are not paid - not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless

Our Guild is an all volunteer organization.

The Guild functions because members volunteer their time and energy to assure that the benefits all Guild members enjoy are available.

Consider what the Guild means to you.

We are coming to the end of our 48th Guild year.

At our May business meeting, we will be voting on a new executive board and filling vacated chairs. Assure that our Guild will continue to provide you and the other members, the benefits you have come to enjoy and depend upon by volunteering for an open position today.

Contact any Board member to volunteer.

“Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more.”

— **H. Jackson Brown Jr.**