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GUILD NEWSLETTER Winter 2011

Volume 23 Number 1, January to May 2011

Happy New Year everyone!

We begin the basketry year with a party:

Opening reception **Saturday January 15**, 2011 at 2pm. Enjoy traditional Mi'kmaw food samplers and drum presentation celebrating the work of Eskasoni basketmaker Caroline Gould in the exhibition *Klogowej (Star)* held in conjunction with the Mi'kmaq Mid-winter Feast and Honouring of Grandfather Frost. Caroline Gould presented one of her incredible baskets to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth at the Membertou 400 Celebration in Halifax last summer.

Mary E. Black Gallery, Nova Scotia Centre for Craft and Design, 1061 Marginal Road, Suite 140, Halifax.
 902-492-2522; www.craft-design.ns.ca

DUES (calendar year)

\$15 per individual
 \$20 per couple

Payable to:
 Nova Scotia Basketry Guild

Mail to:
 121 Crichton Avenue,
 Dartmouth, Nova Scotia,
 B3A 3R6

FUTURE WORKSHOPS

Suggestions for workshops, and locations to hold the workshops are always appreciated.

If you, or someone you know, would like to teach a workshop, or have an idea for a workshop, or an idea for workshop space, please e-mail us and let us know. We have people who can help make it happen!

GORDON TUESDAYS

Tuesday mornings
 9:30am to 1pm
 complete with tasty potluck lunch.

Bring your current project to finish or start a new one with lots of help.

Loads of fun and good works are completed!

Phone Joleen for details

GUILD ACTIVITIES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Sunday February 6 (storm date Feb.13) Noon to 1pm

We will meet in the multipurpose room of the Nova Scotia Centre for Craft and Design ahead of Ursula Johnson's Artist Talk at her Klogowej (Star) exhibition. This will give members a chance to vote at our AGM, meet Ursula Johnson and see the beautiful baskets woven by her great-grandmother Caroline Gould and hear about her life in basketry.

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UPCOMING GUILD EVENTS

March/April 2011 – we may be asked to take part in the HRM Libraries “Arts and Crafts” showcase of local artists and craft groups. We will keep you posted.

April 2, 2011 – Paper Spill Baskets at the Alderney Landing Market 10:00am to Noon.

This is the second of our lead up demonstrations to our 2012 “**GREEN** Basketry” exhibition at the Alderney Landing Craig Gallery. Join in for spilling fun! This demonstration/workshop will focus on paper - materials we toss in the recycle bag – newspaper, magazines, posters, etc. A spill is a rolled sheet of paper used for fire starting. They can be bent and held into various shapes - dish-shaped basket or flat circle mats - with colourful telephone wire. Also used in jewellery making.

July 2011 – Summer Baskets at Cox Lake with Hannah Dunleavy – more later...

April 2012 – Guild Basket Exhibition: “**GREEN** BASKETRY” We have been successful in our application to have another basketry exhibition at the Craig Gallery at the Alderney Landing in the Dartmouth Ferry Terminal Building. This exhibition of recently created baskets by our members will feature locally grown or found materials available in Nova Scotia. We have a rich variety of natural materials – shoots of willow, witherod and dogwood; strips of maple, ash and poplar; stems of grass, rush and straw; long lengths of tree roots, vines and garden leaves. We also have a wealth of man-made materials – colourful telephone wire and plastic cord as well as paper, cardboard and boxboard, some of which can be cut, woven, twisted, coiled, wrapped or re-shaped and re-woven into a variety of both traditional and “new” baskets, arbours, trellises and wonderful organic garden creations.

We shall be offering Guild workshops to the public and our members focussing on making and creating with both traditional and “new” man-made basketry materials between now and April 2012. Let's hear about your Green baskets ideas for future workshops!

During the exhibition, we are planning a public workshop making the “Wine Box Basket Tote” re-using the Alderney Landing NSLC boxes. We also plan to offer basket demonstrations reflecting the exhibition theme during the April Saturday morning markets. We are also planning an evening seminar discussion “What is a Basket?” delving into the long debated topic of the difference between Art and Craft.

This should be a lot of fun for us – and very educational for the public!

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GUILD MEMBER NEWS

Guild member **Dawn MacNutt's** recent work "Caring, 2009" is installed at the IWK Children's Hospital in Halifax. Bronze cast from woven willow, 8 foot high. A must see!

Guild member **Heather Sanft's** Lunenburg County Winery won three bronze awards at the recent InterVin International Wine Awards for their wines – Lake Rossignol Cranberry, Birchtown Blackcurrant and Montbeliard Pear – Congratulations!

Guild member **Kay Stanfield** has her work included in the 2010 Volume 2 of "The Nova Scotia Contemporary Artists" edited by Dee Appleby – Congratulations!

MONTHLY GUILD WORKSHOPS

Usually the Third Saturday of each month (September to May)

Register with and pay the contact person listed for each class.

If you are not a current member you will be required to pay the \$15 annual dues plus the class fee.

January 16, 2011 - **SUNDAY** A Bevy of Baskets!

Our former member Sandra Winter willed us her basket collection with the request that we fund raise for the Guild. We have decided to have a home-sale of her baskets along with some IWK Kermesse baskets and basket books gifted to us by Guild members Edie Nickerson and Clary Josey. The baskets will be spread out on tables in groups – those made by Sandra, the Mi'kmaq, the Black, and the "off-shore" baskets. People will be asked to pay what they can. This event will be advertised to Sandra's friends within the craft community. Come and find a treasure! Hot cider and cookies for all.

Place: 21 Crichton Avenue, Dartmouth

Time: 1:00pm – 4:00pm



February 20th, 2011 - **SUNDAY** Mi'kmaq Quillwork with Mi'kmaq artist Cheryl Simon

We had a wonderful fall class with Cheryl making a quilled Christmas ornament. In this class, we will learn the fascinating Mi'kmaq skill of "painting" with porcupine quills by creating an authentic Mi'kmaq petroglyph design on birchbark with tiny white quills suitable for framing. Paper and frames available - request when registering.

Cheryl sells her work at the Alderney Landing Saturday Market.

Instructor: Cheryl Simon

Cost: \$20.00

Participants: 10

Place: 121 Crichton Avenue, Dartmouth

Time: 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Tools: Scissors for bark, tweezers

Class contact: Register with Nancy McKenzie

Please Register and Mail in your Class Fee before February 6, 2011

to: Nova Scotia Basketry Guild, 121 Crichton Street, Dartmouth, NS, B3A 3R6



**March 12 and 13, 2011 - Saturday and Sunday
Willow Easter Baskets with Joleen Gordon**

Weave your very own Easter Basket, or make one for someone special, using English bark willows. An 8" round-bottomed, double-staked randed or twined-sided basket with a single high "overhand" wrapped handle. Good for beginners and experimental for those with weaving experience.

Instructor: Joleen Gordon

Cost: \$40.00 (includes materials)

Participants: 8

Place: Nova Scotia Centre for Craft and Design, Halifax

Time: Saturday, 9:30am to 3:30pm
Sunday, Noon to 3:30pm

Tools: clippers, awl, knife, spray bottle, old towel to wrap wet willows and lunch

Class contact: Register with Joleen Gordon

Please Register and Mail in your Class Fee before February 26, 2011

to: Nova Scotia Basketry Guild, 121 Crichton Street, Dartmouth, NS, B3A 3R6



**April 10 and April 16, 2011 - Gathering and Weaving
Spring Withe Baskets with Donna Silvert**

Spring in the Annapolis Valley is wonderful for basketmakers for the ditches are full of bright red withes of Red-osier Dogwood and bright yellow French Golden Willow. Gathering on Sunday April 10 and weaving on Saturday April 16. Weaving raindate Sunday April 17.

Instructor: Donna Silvert

Cost: \$10

Participants: 8

Place: 5366 Roome Street, Halifax

Time: Gathering - Sunday April 10th, 9:00am to Noon
Weaving - Saturday April 16th, 9:30am to 3:30pm (same time rain date)

Tools: Clippers and lunch both days

Class contact: Register with Donna Silvert

Please Register and Mail in your Class Fee before April 1, 2011

to: Nova Scotia Basketry Guild, 121 Crichton Street, Dartmouth, NS, B3A 3R6



May 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2011 - 4 Tuesdays
Red-Maple Basket with Clara Clayton-Gough

Nova Scotia is participating in the 2011 United Nations International Year for People of African Descent – we are too!

In this 4 day workshop we will weave a beautiful Red-Maple Basket in the Nova Scotia Black tradition with our Honorary Member Clara Clayton Gough from East Preston. Having learned from her grandmother, aunties and mother, Clara will show us how to split and carve the saplings for the ribbed framework and then how to separate the growth rings for the weaving strips. Clara is a great teacher and her classes are always a lot of fun! This is a very special basketry technique which has its roots in the Black southern rice plantations of the 1800s.

Instructor: Clara Clayton-Gough

Cost: \$50 (materials provided)

Participants: 8 only

Place: Workshop at 121 Crichton Avenue, Dartmouth

Time: 9:30am to Noon

Tools: non-folding knife, clippers and a pair of sharp scissors; Potluck lunch each day.

Class contact: Register with Joleen Gordon

Please Register and Mail in your Class Fee before April 19, 2011

to: Nova Scotia Basketry Guild, 121 Crichton Street, Dartmouth, NS, B3A 3R6



May 21st and May 22, 2011 - Saturday and Sunday
Fishing Creel with Hannah Dunleavy

Make your own fishing creel just in time to catch your feed of spring trout! We will be using imported reed but you may wish to make your second creel with locally gathered willows or witherod. Guild member Hannah has made several of these wonderfully shaped baskets and her classes are always a delight.

Instructor: Hannah Dunleavy

Cost: TBA

Participants: TBA

Place: TBA

Time: TBA

Tools: TBA

Class contact: Register with Hannah Dunleavy

Please Register and Mail in your Class Fee before May 7, 2011

to: Nova Scotia Basketry Guild, 121 Crichton Street, Dartmouth, NS, B3A 3R6.



NON-GUILD EVENTS & NOTICES

Basket and Basketry Outlets

Clara Gough has been selling her Maple baskets in the Dartmouth Alderney Landing Market on Saturday mornings.

Anne Mae Darville and Maggie Bean have baskets for sale at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia shop.

Greg McEwan's ash baskets and **Alan Hayward's** bark baskets are for sale at The Bogside and Carrefour in Halifax. Greg's baskets are also on sale at Lucia Studio in Chester.

Maritime Hobbies in Halifax is now selling reed basketry kits, tools and books. The kits are great if you don't have storage space for bundles of reeds. They will also order reed, handles, tools, dyes at your request. 1521 Grafton Street, 902-423-8870.

Nova Scotia Basketry Contacts

New Glasgow: Donna Manuel
Cape Breton: Diane Langdon-Dann
Chezzetcook: Hannah Dunleavy
Lunenburg: Heather Sanft
Antigonish: Sian Turner

Other Things to See and Do

Baskery/Woven Workshops

Historic Farmers Market at the Brewery.

Guild members Hannah Dunleavy and Peggy Jenkinson are launching a new series of workshops at the Historic Farmers Market at the Brewery. There will be short 1-hour drop-in workshops making small basketry/woven objects plus – Great stuff!

Weaving Trivets with Hannah Dunleavy

Make a trivet or two using locally gathered materials. Choose woven, twined or braided rush to make a gold brown hot mat or choose fragrant sweetgrass and leather to make a lacy and more open version by coiling and sewing with linen thread.

Saturday January 29; 9-1pm

Cost: \$20.00; materials included

Place: Historic Farmers' Market at the Brewery, 1496 Lower Water Street, Halifax

Register with Hannah

Hannah runs Handbound Books and has been making baskets for 25 years.

AND

Chair Seating with Peggy Jenkinson

Introduction and information session – Saturday January 22; 10-11am

Weaving the chair seat – two Saturdays February 5 and 12; 10-2pm

Possibly a future class using rush and flat reed. Participants bring their own chair to weave a seat on, materials are provided. Learn to weave a chair on a ladderback or stool. This introductory class will teach you how to weave a chair seat using twisted paper.

Cost: \$40.00; materials included

Place: Historic Farmers' Market at the Brewery, 1496 Lower Water Street, Halifax

Register with Peggy

EXHIBITIONS

**Klogowej (Star): A 30-year Retrospective of Caroline Gould
January 13-February 27, 2011**

Guest curator – Ursula A. Johnson, Caroline's great-granddaughter
Mary E. Black Gallery, Nova Scotia Centre for Craft and Design, Halifax.

This exhibition shows the evolution of the wood and sweetgrass basketwork of Mi'kmaq basketweaver Caroline Gould from Eskasoni, Cape Breton. Caroline gave one of her baskets to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in Halifax this past summer at the Membertou 400 Celebration.

Opening reception Saturday January 15, 2011 2pm

Enjoy traditional Mi'kmaw food samplers and drum presentation celebrating the work of Caroline Gould in conjunction with Mi'kmaq Mid-winter Feast and Honouring of Grandfather Frost.

Artist Talk in the gallery: Sunday February 6 at 1pm (storm date Sunday Feb 13)

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Uncommon Threads: Wabanaki Textiles, Clothing and Costume"
Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History in Halifax
October 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011

The Maine State Museum in Augusta, Maine, is featuring Mi'kmaq basketry reproductions and many other objects.

We hope to have basket demonstrations and workshops at this time.