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GUILD NEWSLETTER

Spring/Summer 2011

Volume 23 Number 2, May to August 2011

As I write, the ground is warming up and the plants are sprouting. Spring is in the air! We had a good winter, fund raising for the Guild with Sandra Winter's basket collection, learning more quillwork skills with Cheryl Simon, teaching and demonstrating for the HRM Library Art Program, gathering Red Osier Dogwood and field tripping.

I would like to end this note to all of you with a quote:

"Basketry is an inward process involving only a single individual. The worker's eyes or the tips of his fingers are always appraising the form developing from the manipulation. The point of construction is always perceived in relation to the portion ahead which has not even been started. The concentration is expressed in the basketmaker's hands, to which all the rest of his being seems subsidiary. The fingers are constantly moving, working the materials to his will. The hand has not been extended by tools; no mechanism intervenes between the basketmaker and the basket; no separation is implied or actually exists between the worker and his materials. They, the worker and the materials, seem a self-sufficient functioning unit".

Ed Rossbach from his book, *Baskets As Textile Art*, which is in our Guild library. Ed Rossbach has been a mentor to many people, including me. Joleen

DUES **(calendar year)**

\$15 per individual
\$20 per couple

FUTURE **WORKSHOPS**

Suggestions for
workshops, and locations

GORDON TUESDAYS

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

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| <p>Payable to: Nova Scotia Basketry Guild</p> <p>Mail to: 121 Crichton Avenue, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, B3A 3R6</p> | <p>to hold the workshops are always appreciated.</p> <p>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!</p> | <p>potluck lunch.</p> <p>Bring your current project to finish or start a new one with lots of help.</p> <p>Loads of fun and good works are completed!</p> <p>Phone Joleen for details</p> |
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GUILD ACTIVITIES

GORDON SUMMERTIME TUESDAYS

Tuesday Mornings - There are several basketry-related projects we can do over the summer. Contact Joleen if you are interested and we can plan:

- 1. **Nantucket Basket** – We have the supplies for 8” round baskets woven with imported cane on wooden moulds. They take some time to weave, so plan for 4-6 Tuesday mornings.
- 2. **Porcupine Quill Collecting** – May/June driving out the #107 in search of road kill.
- 3. **Birchbark Collecting** – July is the month for lightening bugs and bark collecting.
- 4. **Straw Weaving** – July is the month for collecting straw in the Valley and weaving split-straw earrings and whole straw ornaments.
- 5. **Rush gathering** for winter projects – August/September is the time to gather.

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UPCOMING GUILD EVENTS

June 4 (Saturday) – Basket Demonstration at the Alderney Landing Market - 10:00 am to Noon

This is the second of our lead up demonstrations to our 2012 “Green Basketry” exhibition at the Alderney Landing Craig Gallery. This demonstration will focus on “stake and strand” baskets – those made of stick-like material such as telephone wire, colourful plastic-coated copper wire which can be easily woven into small baskets and those made of real sticks such as Willow, Witherod and Red Osier Dogwood.

PLEASE come and show the public how they can make wonderful baskets of reused and gathered materials. **Contact:** Joleen to sign up so we can have a chair ready for you!

July 23-24 (Saturday - Sunday) – Acadian Days at Grand Pré.

We demonstrated last summer on the Sunday with lots of interest. Bring whatever basket you are working on at the time and enjoy the festivities. For complete program: www.grand-pre.com. To carpool, contact Joleen

September 17-18 (Saturday-Sunday) Berry Basket of hand-pounded Ash splint with Mi'kmaq Chief Greg McEwan. To be held at Cox Lake Camp. Details in next newsletter.

October 15 (Saturday) – Nocturne in Halifax - 6pm-midnight – Seaside Market location

We have been asked by the Nova Scotia Centre for Craft and Design if we would like to participate in this popular yearly event. My idea would be to make Masks or Lanterns. Any other ideas? Please contact Joleen. Final details in next newsletter.

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, withered 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

Peggy Jenkinson reports that the HRM Libraries have an interesting DVD, "***Between the Folds***" examining the wonders of origami worldwide.

For the spinners in the group, Norman Kennedy from Vermont will be coming to sing at the Lunenburg Folk Harbour Festival this summer. He will be teaching an advanced spinning workshop either before or after the festival. Contact Joleen if you want to know more.

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.

May 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2011 - **Class Full**
Red-Maple Basket with Clara Clayton-Gough

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June 2011 - **No Classes**

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**July 16 and 17, 2011 - Saturday and Sunday
Summer Baskets with Hannah Dunleavy
Fishing Creel OR Wool Basket**

This July we are offering a choice between two baskets: a fishing creel complete with lid and trout hole OR a replica of an antique wool basket also with lid and handle. Both classes will go on side by side, so that even though you'll be making only one basket you'll be getting a generous knowledge of the other. Both are made of round reed. The class will be held on the beautiful Eastern Shore in Seaforth. Feel free to call Hannah Dunleavy with questions.

Instructor: Hannah Dunleavy

Cost: \$60.00 (includes materials)

Participants: 10-12

Place: Seaforth, Nova Scotia

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

Tools : clippers, awl, knife, spray bottle, old towel to keep reed damp and lunch

Class contact: Register with Hannah Dunleavy E:mail Hannah

**Please Register and Mail in your Class Fee before July 8, 2011
to:** Nova Scotia Basketry Guild, 121 Crichton Street, Dartmouth, NS, B3A 3R6



August, 2011 - No Classes



