

fiber forum 2015

Bimonthly e-Newsletter May 2013 Issue 07

www.sefiberforum.org/



Past President's column

Fiber Forum 2013 was a wonderful weekend in a magical place! My thanks to everyone who made it possible – the teachers, Arrowmont, the Piedmont Guild, our vendors, and the terrific and hard-working SFFA Board members. I feel honored and privileged to be your Chairman over the past two years. I'm particularly proud of the success we've had in recruiting new members and growing our organization. It's been a team effort all the way. I want to thank our retiring Board members Susan Boykin and Marjorie Warren for their great contributions!

As spring arrives in the mountains, I'm discovering special delights in the daffodils and hyacinths blooming in my new yard, the flowering Bradford Pears and Weeping Cherries, and all the little critters I don't usually notice. That's one of the gifts of having to slow down and take it easy, as I must do as I recover from my bout with this crazy neurological disorder, Guillian Barre. Please know how much your companionship, kind words, cards and hugs have meant to me these past few months!

Weave on! - Judi Jetson

President's Note

The 2013 Fiber Forum gave me the opportunity to meet many of you and witness the abundant creativity this group has. Spinners, weavers, felters, dyers, knitters and sewers - you all inspire me - I enjoyed those days immensely.

Planning the 2015 Fiber Forum began on April 7th with the election of a new Board and setting a date for our next get together at Arrowmont School of Craft: April 16-19, 2015. Your new Board is a diverse group, from many different locals and eager to bring you the best Fiber Forum get-a-way ever.

The previous board will stay on as our advisors without which we'd be lost. So, a big THANK YOU to the previous board for their willingness to share their expertise and time with us.

We're also very pleased that SEFAA (Southeast Fiber Arts Alliance) of Atlanta is our host guild. Suzi Gough, President of SEFAA, and her Host Committee have begun planning what will be another wonderful three days of creative fiber opportunities for everyone. Stay tuned and check the monthly newsletter for their progress.

Well, it's the end of April with the joy of spring in the air, and once again I find myself tangled up in wool. I've been plotting my next fiber project and it seems like washing some fleece and dyeing it, is just the ticket for this lovely day. So out with the fleece, dye pots and dyes, and on with a day of fiber fun!

I hope you enjoy many fiber filled days between now and the next time we meet at Arrowmont.

Warmly,

Kristen Nicholas

President, Southeast Fiber Forum, 2013-2015

Chair Notes

Imagine what it feels like to get a fabulous and completely unexpected present. That's how excited all of us at the Southeast Fiber Arts Alliance (SEFAA) are about being the host organization for Fiber Forum 2015. It will be very hard to top the Piedmont Fiber Guild's 2013 conference, but we're going to give it our best shot. And, we can't wait work with you to create another wonderful conference full of fiber, friends, and fun!

We'll start with creating a budget and a list of potential instructors. I'm going to guess that helping with the budget isn't anyone's idea of fun (do holler if it is), but I bet you have ideas about workshop topics and great instructors. If so, please [email](#) and let me know your thoughts. In the meantime, let me tell you a little bit about SEFAA. Our mission is to cultivate a vibrant fiber arts community and we:

- Provide diverse and comprehensive fiber art programming (classes, workshops, lectures, tours, exhibitions, and events),
- Promote the fiber arts,
- Inspire and support fiber artists, organizations, businesses and educators,
- Connect the fiber arts community, and
- Encourage public understanding and appreciation of the fiber arts.

What makes us different from most guilds is that we embrace all fiber art disciplines and work for the benefit of everyone in the southeast fiber arts community. Find out more about SEFAA and our upcoming programming on our website (www.fiberartsalliance.org) and, while you're there, sign up for our monthly E-newsletters which include regional happenings and exhibition opportunities.

April 2015 will be here before we know it and it will be time to enjoy Arrowmont, catch up with friends, and learn something new. SEFAA may be the host organization for Fiber Forum 2015, but we're really just the facilitators. This is your conference and I know that together we'll make it a great one!

Suzi Gough
Fiber Forum 2015 Chair



Southeast Fiber Forum Association Bi-Annual Conference

April 16 - 19, 2015

Registration begins:

October 1 2014 for members

October 15, 2014 for non-members

website: www.sefiberforum.org for information and download forms

Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts

556 Parkway, Gatlinburg, TN 37738

<http://www.arrowmont.org/>

865-436-5860

Contact Arrowmont directly for room reservations

SFFA Scholarships 2015

Scholarships will be available! Please be sure to also complete an application for classes and send with the scholarship form.

This is an exciting and rich opportunity for any student in the Fiber Arts. Ten scholarships for class tuition, room and board and Fiber Forum membership will be awarded.

Questions? contact Micheala Macintosh at michaela9749@att.net

SFFA Website Update

If you encounter and problems with Web page appearance or missing links, please e-mail :

webster@sefiberforum.org

Please describe the problem you have found and if possible send me a screen shot

- Maurice Blackburn, Webmaster

Southeast Fiber Forum Association 2013-2015 Board of Directors

President: Kristen Nicholas
kristencdg@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Angela Schneider
akspins@comcast.net

Secretary: Deb Bartz
bartzdeborah@yahoo.com

Member: Michaela Mcintosh
(Outreach)
michaela9749@att.net

Member: Walt Turpening
(membership/communication)
walt.turpening@att.net

2015 Conference Chair: Suzi Gough
sgough@bellsouth.net

Past President: Judi Jetson
judi@judijetson.com

Webmaster: Maurice Blackburn
webster@sefiberforum.org

SFFA Board Biographies

Kristen Nicholas, President

Kristen began sewing at a young age but it was her creative spirit, love of color, texture, and the smell of raw wool, that naturally led her to explore other fiber arts. Taking a raw fleece, washing it, dyeing it, carding it, and either spinning or felting it, brings her great joy. She's taught beginning drop spindle and drum carding at SAFF, the Friends and Fiberworks Retreats and the 2013 Carolina Fiber Frolic. She and her business partner Vicki Bennett started 'Tangled Up In Wool' a few years ago, and they've been tangled up in the many uses of wool ever since. Kristen is especially excited about her newest fiber adventure, President of SFFA

Deb Bartz, Secretary

Deb is the owner/operator of Painted Swan Textiles located in Julian, North Carolina. She have been weaving over 40 years but really became a focused weaver after graduating from the Professional Crafts program in Fiber at Haywood Community College (HHC) in Clyde, North Carolina. She has belonged to several guilds including the Kalamazoo Weaving Guild in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Her current fiber interest is handwoven rugs and natural dyes, incorporated into her weaving.

Angela Schneider, Treasurer

Angela is a weaver, spinner, knitter, and enthusiast for all textile structures from the common to the esoteric. She teaches math, computer science, color theory and dance in addition to beginning weaving, advanced topics and spinning in Memphis and the region. She is the editor of the TWIST Journal (Tablet Weavers' International Studies and Techniques) and has attended Fiber Forum since 2005 as well as Convergence. She has been the treasurer for the Memphis Guild of Handloom Weavers since 2006.

Suzi Gough, Host Organization Chair

Suzi is a weaver who also spins, dyes, and sews. She is a founding member and current Board President of the Southeast Fiber Arts Alliance, the host organization for Fiber Forum 2015. Suzi also served two terms as President of the Chattahoochee Handweavers Guild, spent many years as the Secretary for the Cambridgeshire Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers, and coordinated workshops for both the Chattahoochee and San Antonio weaving guilds. She lives with her husband and five assorted critters in Cochran, GA.

Michaela Mcintosh, Board Member - Outreach

From 2002 to 2008 Michaela was the head weaver and fiber craft interpreter for Middleton Place Gardens in Charleston, SC. In this capacity she demonstrated weaving for visitors and talked about the historic aspects of textiles as they relate to the plantation. In 2004, she and three other weavers founded the Palmetto Fiber Arts Guild and acted in the capacity of President three years, and subsequently another three as co-president or vice president. During that time she held warping workshops, demos and individual instruction with newbies. She grows and processes indigo and sweetgrass. She is the South Carolina HGA representative.

Walt Turpening, Board Member - Membership/Communications

Walt changed careers to make custom fitted benches, stools and chairs and since 1997 has focused on seating with woven seats and backs using braided cotton cord made in his shop. At SFFA 2013, Walt began a new aspect by teaching his methods for weaving seats. He lives in Kingsport, Tennessee with Ellen who weaves on conventional floor looms.

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SFFA Board Biographies, continued

Judi Jetson, Past President

Judi weaves, spins, dyes, knits, makes paper, prints, paints and embellishes fabric for fun and also loves to teach these things. Judi recruited Convergence to Tampa in 2008 and organized 50 community exhibits, co-owned a fine craft gallery in Ybor City with her husband Gary Burge, and was 2011 workshop coordinator for SAFF. She lives in Weaverville, NC and works as a consultant to revitalize small towns throughout the mountain region and to grow the fiber economy as President of the nonprofit Local Cloth.

Maurice Blackburn, Webmaster

Maurice, who was born in England, had spent the greater part of his working career in the Textile Industry. Most of his work related to synthetic fibers, initially in manufacturing research and later in melt spinning equipment sales. Since retiring, he has enjoyed switching to loom building and handweaving. He has built both a 4 and 8 shaft countermarche loom but tiring of the multiple tie-ups on the 8 shaft loom, he has converted it to computer control. An article on this conversion has been published in Complex Weaver Journal. Maurice was the President of Piedmont Fiber Guild, the Host Guild for SFFA2013

Editor's Notes

As I sit here a little over a month after SFFA 2013, memories are still vivid of the great time we all had at Arrowmont in Gatlinburg. Classes seemed to be enjoyed by all, the location full of history of craft, East Tennessee mountain retreat (even if it were in the midst of the town of Gatlinburg), and the meals! Personally, teaching a class was more of a learning experience for me than maybe it was for my students. But we sure did have fun.

Two years from now we can do it all again. The SFFA board is complete with excited people and the work has begun. The location will be the same and the dates April 16-19, 2015. Set it in stone in your calendars!

If you know of a teacher you would like to take a class from, please let Suzi know and she will put them on the list to contact.

This is a regional guild. So if you want to get the word out on an event (workshop, show, exhibit, ...) in your area send a note to me (walt.turpening@att.net) about it with SFFA Newsletter as the subject.

You may note a picture is included on the front page of the newsletter. Jeff Stoner is a Kingsport photographer that is letting me use some of his pictures of the Baatany Project Angora goats. If you have images of fiber animals, plants, or other fiber related scenes send them along (.jpg format so I can edit and resize). There are another 11 issues between now and the next Forum gathering that need images.

The following article is from one of the Teaching Assistants. If you would like to write about your experience at SFFA 2013 please send it in. I try to get the newsletter out every two months with a deadline of the 25th of the previous month. (i.e. June 25th for the July issue)

-Walt Turpening, editor (walt.turpening@att.net)

SFFA 2013 Comments

Wow!! I had such a wonderful experience at the Fiber Forum. Thank you SO MUCH for coordinating the scholarship program, and please extend my sincere thanks to the rest of the board and everyone involved with the organizing committee for creating such a great event!

This was my first time truly experiencing a fiber conference (I did go to Convergence last summer when I was in California, but it was more of a drop-in thing -- I got a day pass for one day and just went to the vendors and exhibits). I really enjoyed my workshop (with Kathrin Weber), and I was so pleased to have the opportunity to help others in the class in my role as assistant. As I know you know from your own teaching experience, the big hidden benefit of teaching or helping someone else is that YOU learn even more as the teacher!! I also loved getting to meet so many friendly and fascinating people involved with fibers. On top of all that, it was a huge treat to get to be at Arrowmont and enjoy the beautiful, well-appointed facilities and delicious food!!

I very very very much appreciate that y'all decided to create a scholarship program to make it possible for starving students like me to attend the forum. It was awesome!!!!!!

Thank you all so much again!

- Isabel

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The Fiber Forum 2013 was a terrific experience. It was difficult to select a workshop with all the wonderful choices. The site and food could not have been any better.

Everyone claimed their class was the best, but I can say the people in my class were fun. Our teacher was stupendous !

Our vendors had lots of knowledge and beautiful stuff. I should know since I took plenty home with me.

What stands out to me is all the work behind the scenes to make this happen. The Peidmont Guild and SFFA Board worked very hard. Everyone of you that I met was delightful. The Peidmont Guild have a team spirit that was very obvious. I want you to know your work was very appreciated. This is what Fiber Forum is all about.

For SFFA members, who didn't make it to Fiber Forum 2013 you missed out. Mark it on your calendar for 2015 and start saving the dates already. Talk it up among your guilds and friends. Let's have an even bigger turn out next time.

- from a Fiber Forum 2013 attendee

Upcoming Events in the Region

HERITAGE SKILLS WEAVING SEMINAR

~ DESIGNED FOR NOVICE & EXPERIENCED WEAVERS ~

Co-sponsored by: The Tennessee Family and Community Education Council
and The University of Tennessee Extension

Monday, September 30–Thursday, October 3, 2013
Clyde M. York Training Center, Crossville, TN 38572

For more information, visit us on the Web at:
<http://uteasternregion.org/fcs/Heritage%20Skills.htm>

Calling all weavers, both Novice and Experienced. Come and enjoy 3 full days of dedicated weaving and interaction with other weavers and instructor, Ellen Dorosh from Cascade, Maryland, who will lead this Double Weave and More Double Weave workshop. Students will come to the workshop with their 4-shaft looms dressed (or a warp to dress a camp loom) for a sample basic double weave project. The second day we will learn about integrated double weave and dress looms with a second warp. There will be no materials fee. However, if a student wishes to purchase materials from the instructor, please notify her in advance. A letter of instruction will be sent in late August or early September with warping instructions.

Ellen has been weaving for over 20 years. She took her first formal weaving class in the fall of 1991 with Barbara Diefenderfer, Master Weaver, at the Washington County Museum of Art in Hagerstown, Maryland. Over the years Ellen has attended various fiber conferences, studying with nationally- and internationally-known instructors. She loves to share her knowledge and teaches both small groups and individuals. She is a member of Hagerstown Weavers Roundtable, Central Pennsylvania Guild of Handweavers, and Blue Ridge Spinners and Weavers Guild.

This seminar runs Monday through Thursday. The registration fee includes 3 full days of instruction, use of equipment as needed, 3 nights lodging, all meals, and insurance. (Although some camp looms are available, students are encouraged to bring their own looms so they can complete work at home.) The registration fee is \$325.00; \$50.00 is due with the registration form and the balance of \$275.00 is due the first day of class. No refund will be made after September 15.

The class size will be kept small to allow individual attention as needed. Registration will be on a “first-come, first-served” basis. If you have questions about this 3-day workshop, please call the instructor at 301-241-3405 or email elnweevs@verizon.net.

Registration Forms are due by September 1, 2013.

Please note that this workshop fills quickly. A \$50.00 deposit along with the Registration Form will hold a spot for you; the balance of \$275.00 is due during class.
(Sorry, but no refund of the deposit can be given after September 15, 2013)

Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development. University of Tennessee institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating.

UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment