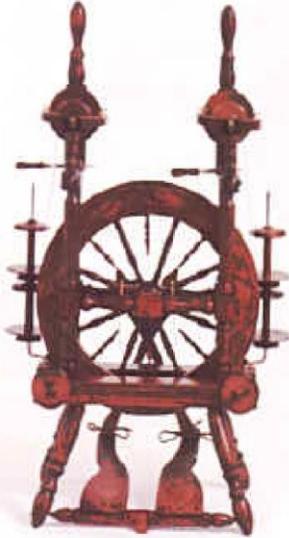


# THE GOSSIP WHEEL

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## ZUMBRO RIVER FIBER ARTS GUILD

May, 2017



### *May 24, 2017—Field Trip*

*And also, a regular meeting in  
Oronoco for those not going to  
Decorah (see below)*

**ZRFAG Day in Decorah**--Rochester area members will meet at the **Hobby Lobby parking lot at 8:30 a.m.** for carpooling. Once in Decorah, we will meet at the Vesterheim Museum main building at 10:00 a.m. We will be given a tour of the main building at 10, and then will be shown the storage area, where we will see a variety of textiles and equipment.

About a block away is the Old Armory BBQ where we will meet for lunch. After lunch, we could visit the Red-Roxy quilt shop or Blue Heron Knittery. Also, the open-air buildings of Vesterheim will be open if anyone is interested in touring. Group rate admission for fifteen or more visitors will be \$8 for seniors and \$9 for adults. Members are free. Don't miss the trip: it will be lots of fun!

Those not going on the trip can meet in Oronoco at 1 p.m. as usual. President Anne Black-Sinak will lead a session on temari balls, but those attending are welcome to work on whatever projects interest them.

### ***June Meeting***

**Wednesday, June 28, Oronoco Community Center, 1 p.m.** We will be treated to a presentation on color trends by the staff from Ginny's Fabrics in Rochester. Weavers' Study Group meets at noon. **Treats: Leslie Hall.**

### ***Upcoming Events***

**June 25, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.: Natural Dye Workshop** with Leslie Hall and Norrie MacIlraith at High Prairie Ranch, Dennison, MN, sponsored by Upper Midwest Alpacas. For more information, contact Leslie Hall at 507-269-1172, [lesliehallconsulting@charter.net](mailto:lesliehallconsulting@charter.net).

## **ZUMBRO RIVER FIBER ARTS GUILD**

Minutes April 26, 2017  
Oronoco Community Center

The business meeting opened at 1:00 p.m.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** \$1773.11 in checking; \$2045.62 in savings.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Carolyn has finished her inventory of guild books and equipment. This information will be published on the guild's website.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The current Membership List will be available on the guild's website. A current list will also be mailed to members. The website now has a private, members only section which can be accessed with the password that will be mailed to members. If you don't receive the password, contact Jonya Pacey or Anne Black-Sinak for it.

Other events coming soon include:

May 24<sup>th</sup> guild meeting. We will be touring to Decorah Iowa. Meet at the Hobby Lobby parking lot in Rochester or in Zumbrota to car pool. Contact Laurice Johnson if you are willing to drive. If you would like to request viewing of any special fiber related equipment let Laurice know.

Shepherd's Harvest on the weekend of May 12, 13 and 14. Check the guild's Facebook page if you would like to car pool. Stacy is teaching a needle felting class this year.

Beelighted is expanding their yarn selection. The yarn store in Cannon Falls is closing and will be selling their yarn at Beelighted on consignment.

Art Splash will be September 16 in Zumbrota. Guild members can show, sell or demo. The guild members present approved use of the guild's funds to pay the \$45 entrance fee which allows all members to participate. In order to make sure that space will be available, please contact Marit Lomen if you are interested in attending.

Many inspiring Show and Tell projects were shared.

Members present started the process for creating temari Balls.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Chris LaPlante, Secretary

## *Sett in My Ways*

This is the season when I tend to leave fiber arts behind. Spring is all about my garden, which is not a dye garden or anything but a sometimes weedy, sometimes frustrating, and yet a beautiful-to-me garden. If you've read my book, *All the World in a Blade of Quack: Reclaiming a Garden, Growing a Gardener*, you know that though I'm not the most knowledgeable gardener in the world, I may be the most gregarious. I will try almost anything, from laying a brick path to growing a Zone 10 perennial, at least once. Some plants become old friends, others become persistent pains in the neck with their tendency to want to take over the whole place, some barely struggle to survive. Some benefit from my benign neglect, some need constant care. Some love the places I select for their lives in my garden, some clearly wish for a change of scenery. Through it all, we grow together.

As I was moving a pink hydrangea whose name I am sorry to say I can't recall, I was at the same time contemplating what I might write about this month. It was the color, I suppose, that made me think there are some connections between fiber arts and garden after all. We weave colors together in a garden, and the garden has taught me that all colors work together in nature. Why is that? I tend to believe that not all colors work together well in a weaving or a quilt or a piece of knitting—or do they? Maybe my reticence about using colors together harks back to perceptions of color expressed by others. If someone calls a color combination “ghastly!” I may file that in my subconscious as “do not use these colors” instead of having the creative courage to give them a try. My ghastly is someone else's “amazing”.



The garden presents us with so much color information, if we just observe carefully. I have often joked that my next gardening book should be called “*Fifty Shades of Green*”, and there is a lesson in the humor: every shade of every color has its own purpose and time. Training our eyes to see the differences can be a challenge and a fun game. In the garden we can test color combinations as simply as we can pick two flowers and see how their colors work together. Sometimes we are inspired by the colors we see to create a specific project, as in “wouldn't it be great to have a poncho/quilt/sweater in that beautiful deep plum?”

Another connection I made between fiber arts and the garden while moving the hydrangea was the way proportion is important in both. Why did I move the hydrangea? Well, there were a few reasons, but one was that it was not growing to be as tall as I'd hoped it would, and so it was hidden between some very tall Karl Foerster grass and a trellis of clematis whose profusion of plum flowers throughout the season cast a long shadow over the foot-high hydrangea. The clematis's proportion to the shrub was jarring to the eye: the shrub, had it been three feet taller the way I had expected it to be, would have been a pleasing accompaniment to the clematis or grass, but its location made it look puny and out of place. It now resides near my house where it

can commune with some lovely blue hydrangeas, and where a warmer winter climate may encourage it to grow taller. We'll see. In fiber arts, too, proportion makes a difference. A wide stripe against a narrow stripe makes a statement, sometimes a statement we do not care for. Stripes of equal size may seem monotonous. How do we calculate a pleasing proportion for width to length for a rug? We have to trust either our eye, or the Fibonacci Sequence, or maybe just magic tricks, to help us create the look we want, not just the look that happens, unplanned.

Fiber art. Garden art. Maybe I never really leave fiber arts behind, at least in my mind. That counts, right? I'll bring flowers to a guild meeting someday.

--Coleen Johnston

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***Treat List and Proposed Meeting Topics 2017 (Note: Still looking for July treats)***

July 26—Explore Slow Stitch Movement; Treats ??

August—Dyepot at Lands Church; Potluck

September 27—Hand Embroidery Presentation; Treats, Laurice Jahnsen and Carolyn Barsness

October 25—Saori Weaving and Color Challenge; Treats, Sue Kahle and Sara Pruett

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**For Sale**

**LECLERC ARTISAT FLOOR LOOM--\$650**

Loom is 4- shaft with 6 treadles, folds to 15", is 32" wide, 36" front to back when open, and has a 26" weaving width. Included are strips for sectional weaving, metal heddles, 8, 10 and 12 dent reeds and lease sticks. Excellent condition, easy to use!

Contact Ellen Simon, 507-258-4507 (Rochester)

[Simonellen41@gmail.com](mailto:Simonellen41@gmail.com)



### **Floor loom for sale, \$800.00**

The Leclerc Nilus, 27 inch, low castle floor loom. Excellent condition.

A sturdy 4-shaft, six treadle, jack-type loom with wire heddles. Folds to a depth of 25 inches, with an independent shaft ideal to weave any type of fiber. One of the most popular Leclerc floor looms. Friction brake. Removable front and back breastbeam. Still being manufactured by the Canadian Leclerc company. Current price for a new Nilus is \$2865.00. Local delivery possible.

Price includes numerous extras: 4 boat shuttles ( ~\$120.00 new), many flat shuttles, bobbins, 10 and 12 dent reeds (~\$150.00 new), bench (needs work), bobbin winder (~\$115.00 new), lease sticks, many how-to books and patterns, miscellaneous others. **Contact Sara Pruett, 507 533 8328, [sara3wren@gmail.com](mailto:sara3wren@gmail.com)**

**Newsletter:** Contact Coleen Johnston if you have news you would like to share in the newsletter.

[coleenlou@gmail.com](mailto:coleenlou@gmail.com) Website: <http://www.zumbroriverfiberartsguild.com/> Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1656219207971338/>

Meeting Site and Time: Meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of most months (a combined November/December meeting is held the first Wednesday in December, for example). All meetings are in the Oronoco Community Center, 115 2nd Street N.W, Oronoco, MN, 55960, lower level, unless otherwise noted. Dues are \$20 per year. New members are always welcome!