

The Weaver's Bag

Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild of Utah • February 2010 • Vol. 55 No. 7

February Guild Meeting— *Byways in Handweaving*

When: Thursday, February 11, 6:30 p.m.

Where: South Valley Unitarian Church,
6876 South Highland Drive

Mary Atwater wrote a book about many small weaving techniques that do not use a floor loom. We want to have a “hands on” evening of exploring many of these techniques. I would like to invite all of you to bring something to share and demonstrate to Guild members. Bring finished items for show and tell. Thread your inkle looms and/or card weaving looms for the hands-on part of the evening. I would like to see several techniques available to explore—inkle weaving: plain weaving on a color warp; add pickup designs on striped warps or on basketweave backgrounds. Then you could play with beads on the selvedge edges. What else do you want to try? For card weaving, we could have some cute designs that are threaded and turned four turns forward, four

President's Message.....

Soon after I joined the guild, I saw a copy of a membership leaflet. It said the motto for the guild is: You Can't Weave Well Enough Alone. This is one of the reasons I have enjoyed the guild so much, all of the help and learning from everyone. This is one of the things I enjoy about weaving - there is always a new idea. I love our sharing time each month. It is so fun to see the variety of things that are produced by everyone.



This month we are going to do a fun evening of sharing and learning many of the 'Byways in Handweaving'. Bring your small projects such as card

turns backwards. Then there are the diagonal designs, where the cards are threaded with two light ends and two dark ends. I will bring the video showing how to do a 10-minute warp for this technique. It would be fun to have someone bring a double faced warp also. Another idea is kumihimo. If you are doing some kumihimo, bring your stand or your foam disk and show off your current braid. I will bring a takidai so you can try out that technique. Who is doing ply-split braiding, this is one you can do in your lap. There are also beading techniques, finger weaving, loop braiding, and other ideas that would be fun to see. So plan to bring something and we will take turns being teacher and students. Please plan to share one of your explorations.

We will have a sign-up sheet at this Guild meeting so we can plan enough tables for everyone. You can email Judie Eatough: judie@eatough.net or Ann Edington Adams: weaverstudent@hotmail.com with questions and ideas. We hope you will all participate and make this a great evening of learning and fun. ❖

weaving, inkle weaving, kumihimo, ply-split braiding and be prepared for a great evening. Everyone will have a good time and see some great ideas.

For additional inspiration try <http://weavershand.com/> a great web resource for narrow wares and lots of information and inspiration. See <http://ingedam.net/index.html> to look at the lovely textiles that Inge Dam creates. The May workshop is going to be very good.

with textiles from the Han dynasty in 200 BC.

Bring items for show and tell—you can include those special gifts that came your way. Did you get a new book or some tools or notions—or perhaps some lovely yarn or fabric. Also bring Asian inspired textiles.

Please read about next month's meeting and send me an email about what you can bring to the meeting.

Judie ❖

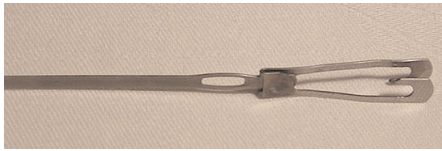
Five Things that I learned or was reminded of again weaving the napkins

By Deanna Baugh

1. Repair heddles are great and worth the price.

When I set up my looms, I have a specific number of heddles on each shaft. I determine this number based on what I usually use. I have flat steel heddles and they add weight to the lifting so I want to keep the weight down.

As you know the heddles have an up and a down and a right and a left and there are two types that alternate when you have them on correctly. Having the heddles on correctly makes threading faster and easier for me.



When I planned this warp, I needed 74 heddles on four of the shafts and 76 on the other four. This loom has 75 heddles on each shaft, so I knew I needed to add to four shafts. Usually when I add shafts I add them in groups of 25 (that is the number of heddles in each group I store). Adding heddles is a lot of work, and for only one heddle, I decided to just add a repair heddle. You can tie in a string one, but in my case I found 4 repair heddles that I have to fit this loom. It took about 5 seconds each to slip the heddles on and I did not have to remove anything from the loom/shafts to do it. I love repair heddles and they are worth the price.

2. Wind the bobbins, pirns, or quills well for easier weaving.

A well wound source of yarn that is not loose, will help the weaving be more even. To wind a quill, you need to know a few things. The heavy paper you use for the quill should be about 3/4" shorter than the bobbin space in your shuttle. I like to have the length of the paper about 1 1/2 times the width of the paper. When you wind you need to



start by building up the ends. These bulges replace the flanges on the bobbins that you buy. You want to build it up to be just smaller than the opening for the bobbin. When the two sides are built up, fill in the center. You want to add tension to the yarn so each layer that you build does not dig into the layers below it. (If you wind it too loosely, the upper layers dig in and then don't feed out evenly when you are weaving.)

Bobbins, quills, or pirns—the way you wind them will determine how even your thread feeds out and how even and pleasurable the weaving is. The finer the yarn is the more this matters.

On pirns, you need to wind in a continuous cone shape. Start at the wide end of the pirn and build

the shape across the length, do not back up to fill in the narrow sections, just continue building the cone to the end.



3. Test the sett, but it doesn't always help because different types of yarns beat differently.

As I was putting the warp on about 2 weeks ago, I did not put a sample warp on to test the sett. I went by the instructions given, which was just a general suggestion. With the pattern that I used, I probably should have used a more open sett. Due to this closer sett warp, I need to do a very hard double beat to come close to squaring my pattern. Also, the Webs yarn was harder to beat in. Is this difficulty because the yarn is a little bit thicker, or because the twist is tighter, or because the twist is the opposite direction? And will that direction of twist change the look of the pattern? That is a lot to think about.

4. After you figure your warp requirements, wait a few hours and recheck them.

By miscalculation I received 8 different yarns, but only gave out 7.

I knew this but at the time I was figuring my amounts (two weeks ago in a rush), I didn't take that into consideration. I had planned on having 12 napkins and so I figured the amounts for 12 napkins, instead of the 13 I needed to weave. I also messed up with the take-up. For some reason having the on loom width of 20 (I didn't have to figure shrink and take-up), I didn't figure shrink and take-up on the length. Big mistake on my part, because I got 11 1/2 napkins instead of the 13 I had wanted to give me a set of 12. I didn't realize the math mistake until the warp was almost woven and the weaving was not long enough. I checked back on my math figuring and found the glaring mistake. Oddly enough I made this

mistake the same week I was teaching "Figuring your Warp" in my beginning weaving class. I always tell my students to get an experienced weaver to check the math if you are not sure. So I want all of you to be aware, next time I figure a warp, I may be giving you a call to check my thinking.

5. Check your loom and keep it in good condition. Sudden changes in warp tension may not be your fault.

Near the end of my warp, I suddenly got badly loosened tension on the left side of the weaving. I looked over the loom to the back beam and warp beam to see if I

could see a problem in the warp. What I saw was a bolt on the floor! All of that hard double beating of the warp had loosened the bolt and nut at the back. Of course, I was not able to find the barrel nut. I'm sure my vacuum will find it later to its detriment. I went digging around in my tool box and found another nut. I loosened the warp, adjusted the loom and unwove about 5 to 6 shots to get back to the even weaving. This experience reminded to tighten the screws and bolts in your loom before you start a project and after you finish it so that your loom stays in working condition. (A good vacuum job to keep the dust off the loom, and controls the dust bunnies under the loom is also a good goal.) ❖

Report on the January Guild Meeting

By Susan Hainsworth, Guild Secretary

The January Guild meeting, held on January 14, 2010, was an early celebration of the Chinese New Year. Those who braved the weather were greatly rewarded by a virtual journey to the ethnic provinces of China and to Vietnam. Our tour leaders were Ann Edington Adams, Jo Stohlhand, and Kathleen Lind, all of whom had spent time abroad and come back with amazingly beautiful textiles. The textiles had been made with such care and often using laborious techniques. We saw exquisitely tiny embroidery stitches, weaving made on backstrap looms (we saw pictures of the women using their bodies to tension their looms), and textiles made with ikat and shibori techniques. The colors used were bright and beautiful. Sometimes we were able to see images of the actual places where our tour guides had purchased their textiles, often at prices that did not at all reflect the work that had gone into them. We were reminded that the human spirit has a drive to create beauty, no matter what circumstance people find themselves in. Thanks so much to the women who took the time to share these beautiful creations with us. ❖

Upcoming Meetings

April Meeting: Tamari Balls

Lori Webb will teach us how to make Temari balls. Those who saw her lovely gift at the Guild party were excited to learn to do this. You will bring a styrofoam ball that has been wrapped in thread and is ready for the design work. Watch the newsletter for instructions on how to prepare your ball.

November 11, 2010:

Kathrin Weber will speak at the November guild meeting plus give a workshop November 11–13.

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The newsletter is published 10 times
a year. Any articles or information
should be to the editor by the 20th of
the month.

To join the Guild send \$30.00
(\$35.00 to receive the newsletter by
mail) to Susan Hainsworth, 91 East
400 North Centerville, UT 84014

To join the Guild e-mail list:
MMAWG-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Guild web page: www.mmawg.org

Guild meetings are held the 2nd
Thursday of the month at the
Unitarian Church, 6876 South
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2009-2010 MMAWG Board

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Website: Judie Eatough

HGA representative: Sara Lee Neill

IWC representative: Carol Milne

2009-2010 Calendar

February 11

From the inspiration of Atwater's *Byways in Handweaving* we will have a Birthday party in her honor and explore band weaving of all types. Inkle and Card Weaving, Kumihimo and Takidai and even ply split braiding and plying. Bring your small band weaving looms and projects. Try some hands on techniques and see the 10-minute card warping method, too.

March 11

Warping a loom, several methods
will be demonstrated.

April 8

Temari balls, by Lori Webb

May 21-25

Utah Fiber Arts Conference with three-day
Inge Dam card weaving workshop

June

Studio Tour to the south

**Monthly meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m.
and last no later than 8:50 p.m.
Show and Tell will begin the evening,
with Guild business and activity
following at 7pm.**