



The Weaving, Spinning & Fiber Arts Guild  
of Idaho Falls Studio  
482 Constitution Way, Suite B-11  
PO Box 1522  
Idaho Falls, Id 83403  
Newsletter Published monthly and posted at:  
www.srfiberarts.org

# Rovings, Ravelings and Thrums

## The Weaving, Spinning & Fiber Art Guild of Idaho Falls

"Sharing A Love of Fiber Art!"

April 2010

### Guild Officers

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### Up Coming Events & Classes-

Unless otherwise specified, events are held at The Studio, 482 Constitution Way Suite B-11, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83403

**Studio Night** — *Members and visitors are welcome every Tuesday evening from 7pm to 9pm at 482 Constitution Way B-11-same building just down the hall. Bring your wheel or a project and join for an evening of fun & Chat. Ring the bell below the front window if the front door is locked.*

**Board Meeting will be Tues. May 4th at 6pm. Members welcome.**

## 16<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SNAKE RIVER FIBER FAIR

May 15th & 16th 2010

Twenty-two classes are being offered including two from famous Navajo spinner and weaver Roy Kady of the Dine Woven family of Arizona. Fourteen other accomplished teachers will also be having classes.

The national Navajo-Churro Sheep Association will be having their Annual-Meeting in conjunction with our Fair, so you will be seeing some new faces and activities. They are sponsoring two tours to the U. S. Sheep Experiment Station in Dubois, Idaho on Friday. You must contact Bonnie Barcas at [spindanceacres@clearwire.net](mailto:spindanceacres@clearwire.net) if you want to go.

We are also having a Wool Show this year so bring your best fleeces to show and sell. Ingrid Painter of Oregon will be the judge.

Saturday night, will be a potluck at the Studio. Check the Fair booklet for details at [www.srfiberarts.org](http://www.srfiberarts.org).

**Monday Studio Luncheon**—April 19 at 11:30 am at Jaker's. This is for our Studio Luncheon. Everyone is welcome to lunch with us & then go to the studio to work on what ever projects you want.

**Market Night** — Every 2nd Tuesday during Studio Night. Bring items to sell and your purse! If you have to sell, a place will be designated for you. We ask a donation of 5% of sales go to the Guild.

The **Raffle squares** have been completed for our knitted afghan. Skye Larsen will conduct a session to join then together. The tickets for the Raffle will be sold at the Fiber Fair and throughout the summer. For more information call Skye at 932-4173

## Fiber Fairs and Fun

Our Own Snake River Fiber Fair will be held May 15th & 16th 2010, at the:  
Eastern Idaho Technical College  
1600 East 25th South

## Maws Conference 2011

The Billings Weavers Guild and Prairie Hand-spinners invite you to our conference **Under the Rims, June 4-6, 2010.**

We have booked Montana State University—Billings as in our previous two conferences. We love that housing, food, and classes are all in one building. More information on classes, housing, etc.  
<http://mawsonline.org/Conference.html>

Great Basin Fiber Arts Fair  
South Jordan 2010 September  
4-5th  
Competitions, Vendors etc.  
[greatbasinfiberartsfair.org](http://greatbasinfiberartsfair.org)

## Montana Fiber Round-up

Kalispell July 10-11 [gttsfibermill.com](http://gttsfibermill.com)

## More Up-Coming Events

**Monday Luncheon in May** will be on the 24th, the lunch will be at the Frosty Gator at 11:30 a.m. Notice this is a change to the 4th Monday instead of the 3rd, as it would be the day after the Snake River Fiber Fair.

**Rug hooking** will be on Thursday, April 22 from 6-9 pm.

**June 15, Towel weaving class with Mary Ellen Anderson.** She will warp the Cranbrook loom with a towel warp. The purpose of the class is to learn to use the Cranbrook and to learn to make towels. Each person signing up will need to pay a \$5 rental fee for use of the loom and the cost of the warp. It is possible you can buy weft from Mary Ellen as well. Call her at 523-7260 to sign up.

- **The Post Register has invited the Fiber Arts Guild to have a show in their Gallery during the month of July. We will be having the show on June 29<sup>th</sup> and taking down the show July 27<sup>th</sup>. Hazel Meshrow is our contact 522-1800 ext 1178. Please start picking out pieces you would like to have displayed in the show. Some possible categories are Knit pieces, Felting (hats, vests, purses), Baskets, Woven items (rugs, table runners, towels, scarves), Dyed Fiber, Spun Fiber, Rug Hooking, Needle Punch, Rug Punching, Rug Punching, Silk Painting, etc. We will also display a spinning wheel and loom with work in progress. This might be a good time to promote our classes for the upcoming year.**

- **Scotland Tour with Nadine Sanders: Registration for the April 2010 Threads, Ruins & Tunes tour is open. "I'm looking for people who have a great desire to visit Scotland to join me on this 4<sup>th</sup> annual tour. I welcome a group of travelers from a guild that wish to share a fiber adventure, individuals or couples. Detailed information is available on my website [www.singingweaver.com](http://www.singingweaver.com) while images and stories from past tours can be seen at [www.singingweaver.blogspot.com](http://www.singingweaver.blogspot.com). Contact me to request a brochure mailed directly to you." Nadine Sanders, Tel: 360-740-0914, PO Box 268, Chehalis, WA 98532 [nadine@singingweaver.com](mailto:nadine@singingweaver.com) (N-CSA Annual Meeting Event)**

- **U.S. Sheep Experiment Station Tour Dubois, : May 14, 2010**

Scientists at the USDA, Agricultural Research Service (ARS), U.S. Sheep Experiment Station (USSES), near Dubois, Idaho, conduct research to improve the lifetime productivity of ewes; growth performance and carcass merit of market lambs; sheep nutrition; sheep health and wellbeing; and management and productivity of grazing lands. Research began at the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station in approximately 1918, and the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station is the only USDA, ARS research location that has been dedicated to sheep research throughout its existence.

The general content of the two tours will be approximately the same, but the exact content of the tours will o-Churro Sheep Association and Dr. Lyle McNeal's contacts at the USSES have arranged tours for our organization. The first USSES tour is scheduled for 10 a.m. on May 14, 2010, and the second tour is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on the same day. Each tour will last approximately 2 to 2½ hours and will include indoor presentations and then outdoor demonstrations and discussions that will include buildings and handling facilities, lambing management, feed preparation, applied nutrition, and general management of depend on the questions from and interests of the participants.

Because of the nature of USSES research, a biosecurity program is in place and must be followed to participate in the tour. These measures are in place to protect USSES stock and yours.

1. Before the tour, clothing and shoes must have been washed and disinfected since last direct contact with livestock, manure, or soiled bedding.
2. The USSES recommends that after the tour, your clothing and shoes should be washed and disinfected before you come in contact with your stock.
3. Foreign Nationals (i.e., non-U.S. citizens) will need to have their passport for sign in.

The tour sizes are limited to 25 people each due to room restraints. Anyone planning to attend either of the tours please RSVP to Bonnie Barcus at [SpinDanceAcres@clearwire.net](mailto:SpinDanceAcres@clearwire.net). Please indicate which tour time you plan to attend.

After June 1st the cranbrook loom available to members to weave a towel. For more info. Contact:  
Education Coordinator  
Mary Ellen Anderson 523-7260  
[andersondan@q.com](mailto:andersondan@q.com)

\*\*\*\*\*SALE\*\*\*\*\*RENT\*\*\*\*\*TRADE\*\*\*\*\*SALE\*\*\*\*\*RENT\*\*\*\*\*

**Lynn Ruggles** of Boise (who is often a teacher at our Fiber Fair) has recently received the prestigious Handweavers Guild of America Certificate of Excellence award for:

Level 1: Technical skills in Handspinning.

She is the 36<sup>th</sup> participant to be awarded this honor in the history of the program. Way to go Lynn, Congratulations!

## Show Scheduled

The Post Register has invited the Fiber Arts Guild to have a show in their Gallery during the month of July. We will be hanging the show on June 29<sup>th</sup> and taking down the show July 27<sup>th</sup>. Hazel Meshrow is our contact 522-1800 ext 1178. Please start picking out pieces you would like to have displayed in the show. Some possible categories are Knit pieces, Felting (hats, vests, purses), Baskets, Woven items (rugs, table runners, towels, scarves), Dyed Fiber, Spun Fiber, Rug Hooking, Needle Punch, Rug Hooking, Rug Punching, Silk Painting, etc. We will also display a spinning wheel and loom with work in progress. This might be a good time to promote our classes for the upcoming year.

## Guild Drum Carder Gone Missing!

### Please return the Carder

We are missing several items from our studio. The biggest item is our **drum carder** which has been gone for some time. If you know anything about it, please let one of the guild officers know. Also, we are unable to find our **Rigid Heddle loom**. It was in a box and last seen in the studio a few months ago.

If you have any equipment, books or videos from the Studio, we ask that you return it in a reasonable time. It is important that the Guild has these items available for all members, so please don't keep items too long.

The Guild now requires a \$350 deposit, for equipment to be loaned. A Guild officer must check the items out and collect your deposit and rental fee.

## ADVERTISE HERE

Newsletter Prices:

2.50 business card size

5.00 1/4 page

20.00 full page

10.00 1/2 page

Link on website: \$25.00/yr

Page on website with link: \$50.00/yr

Your Newsletter advertisement will be posted on our web-site as well.

### Advertise on the Guild Website:

To add your web-site link to our favorite Links page ---\$25.00 per year.

For those who don't have a web-site, we'll post you a Full page and a link for \$50.00 per year.

Please send your payment to:

**The Weaving, Spinning & Fiber Arts  
Guild of Idaho Falls**

482 Constitution Way, Suite B-11

PO Box 1522

Idaho Falls, Id 83403

Contact Shelley Peterson at :

"gbunny.com@hotmail.com" or

Call 208.745-8952 & leave a message.

Guild has renewed it's membership to the Northwest Weaver's Guild. Go to their site at [www.northwestweavers.org](http://www.northwestweavers.org) to be informed of your membership benefits. You may check out videos, tapes and books and many other benefits.

THE 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SHEEP IS LIFE CELEBRATION takes place Thursday through Saturday, June 17-19 at the Land Grant Program facilities and Rodeo Grounds, Diné College, Tsailé, Arizona, Navajo Nation. Free events on Friday and Saturday feature hands-on demonstrations, fiber arts show and sales, two sheep shows, wool grading, food tastings, programs for the whole family and many other events. One- to five-day workshops will be held Monday through Friday, 14-18 June; tuition fees may apply. Sheep is Life is a gathering for all those who love sheep, wool, fiber arts and the diverse cultures that have maintained these lifeways for thousands of years. Everyone is welcomed to participate.

If you are interested in offering a workshop or demonstration, please contact us, email: [weavinginbeauty@yahoo.com](mailto:weavinginbeauty@yahoo.com) or phone: 928-652-3247.

Diné be' iiná, Inc. is a nonprofit organization incorporated in the Navajo Nation.  
PO Box 683  
Window Rock, AZ 86515

THE BLACK SHEEP GATHERING will be held June 18-20 at the Lane County Fairgrounds, Eugene, Oregon. The show catalog is published in the winter issue of the *Black Sheep Newsletter* and is posted on line. For more information: [www.blacksheepgathering.org](http://www.blacksheepgathering.org)

## In Memoriam: Russell E. Groff

Russ attended 14 years of our 15 Snake River Fiber Fairs.

It was such fun to see all of the things he brought and fun to visit with him too. When his store was open, it was wonderful to pick up bargains in silk and other exotic fibers and yarns. Members asked that a tribute to him in this Newsletter. This one on the Weave Fine website captures his spirit.

Submitted by [Syne Mitchell](#) on 7 January, 2010 - 13:00 on January 7, 2010

Once upon a time in McMinnville Oregon, there was a wondrous weaving store: Robin and Russ Handweaving. It was a treasure trove of weaving yarns at reasonable prices, books (many of them published by the store itself), equipment, and at the center of it all: Russell E. Groff, avid handweaver, [author](#), generous dispenser of weaving knowledge, and the store's owner.

When I visited the store in the early 00s, it was late at night, about a half-hour before closing, I'd been driving for hours to get there and just barely squeaked in the door. Russ was working at his loom in the center of the store. He was weaving dishtowels in fine cotton. At that point, his health wasn't good, he was on oxygen, but still weaving away, the tank hovering at his side like a faithful dog. And I thought to myself, "That's a *real* weaver."

We talked about his project, and he got me browsing cones of 16/2 cotton. I apologized for coming in at the last minute, and he told me not to worry about it. I browsed for a bit, made my purchases, and left, looking forward to my next trip down to Oregon.

Before I could return, however, circumstances forced Russ to close his store. I still saw him at conferences, selling his yarns and books. At ANWG in Tacoma, I bought some 140/2 silk from him, and was amazed to see him adding every order up without a calculator, quickly and accurately. I thought to myself, "That's a *real* salesman."

When he was selling at Black Sheep Gathering in 2006, I was a very new podcaster. I screwed up my courage and asked if he'd give me an interview. The only time he had free was a few minutes before the booth opened. With his usual generosity, he agreed to share those with me. My gear was not the best, and a large fan started up in the room during our conversation, but hearing him tell stories about his life was a treat. You can hear them on [WeaveCast 5.5 BSG Confidential](#).

So it is with sadness that I opened my email this morning to read that Russell E. Groff had passed away on January 3rd, 2010. He went peacefully in his sleep, ending a long struggle against the fibroid tumors in his lungs. It is a loss for the weaving world.

As fate would have it, yarn I bought from Russ is on my loom now. I look at the handwritten details on the cone's label and feel a connection to a weaver who—for decades—shared his passion for handweaving with the world. I'll be sad when this yarn is used up, but that's part of weaving. Eventually the yarn runs out.

When the cloth is done, I'll save a swatch along with the cone's label and a bit of the yarn. It will go into my weaving notebook, which will be part of my legacy someday. And so it goes, the weaving passes down from hand to hand, as it has for at least 30,000 years.

I'm not sure about an afterlife. But if there is one, I imagine Russ—with all his determination and gumption—has found a way to weave.

*Yes, we have a store!*  
**Call, we can be open anytime!**  
**(208)522-1337**

## Hartwell's Lazy PJ Ranch

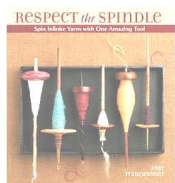
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**Call before you come, so we can better serve you.**  
**Phone: 208-522-1337**

**Checkout our website at [lazypj.com](http://lazypj.com)**



If you are a member of Ravelry.com, ANWG Association of Northwest Weavers' Guilds. (which you a member of as a Guild member) has formed a group for you to participate in. There is a forum that discusses fiber, weaving, knitting etc. The **group** name is: "Assoc. Northwest Weavers". If you have trouble logging in, contact Linda Shelhamer at "shara@bresnan.net" or Carolyn Wostenburg at "lwostenb@rtconnect.net".

**Special Thanks to Pat Day Hartwell for helping so much with this months newsletter!**

**Some beautiful knitting projects are being worked on at Studio night. Kim DeBlase explains where this is a coming from and referred to this:**

## **Sock Yarn Blanket**

by [Shelly Kang](#) Published in [The Heathen Housewife](#) Craft Knitting Type Blanket

Yarns suggested

Yarn weight

Fingering / 4 ply (14 wpi)

Gauge

7 stitches and 14 rows = 1 inch in Garter Stitch

Needle size

US 2 - 2.75 mm

This pattern is [available for free](#).

The original blanket is done! For the tutorial on how to make your own blankie visit my blog at [www.shellykang.com](http://www.shellykang.com) and look for the All About Blankie Button on the right hand side.

Thanks to all of you who contributed yarn to this project!

Suzanne LeMay-Riche's husband Craig left for kidney transplant surgery a few our Spring Spin-In. He is still in Ohio and still having many tests and meetings.

I talked to Suzanne today and they still haven't done the tissue test to make sure the transplant can take place.

## **A Tribute to Linda Mercer of the Handweavers Guild of Boise Valley**

7-13- 49 to 1- 23-10

Linda was an excellent fiber artist and raised wonderful angora goats. We will surely miss her contributions. If you have bought mohair from Mary Williams, you have purchased Linda's product. Her Guild printed this poem from her Memorial Service:

"Life should not be a journey to the grave  
With the intention of arriving safely in an  
Attractive and well preserved body,  
But rather to skid in sideways,  
Chocolate in one hand,  
Wine in the other,  
Body thoroughly used up,  
Totally worn out and screaming,  
"WOO HOO," what a ride!"

Author Unknown



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Because of the cost of mailing and printing, we regret that we will no longer be mailing the newsletter. It is posted for download online each month at [www.srfiberarts.org](http://www.srfiberarts.org) and can be emailed to you as a pdf. Email us a request to receive an email copy of the newsletter with your name to "gbunny.com@hotmail.com". We often broadcast changes & updates through email. Copies will also be available at the Studio. Emails are not shared. Don't miss out!

### COME ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF GUILD MEMBERSHIP

Dues are \$25 for individuals and \$32.50 for families. Dues may be mailed to: The Fiber Arts Guild of Idaho Falls, 482 Constitution Way, P.O. Box 1522, Idaho Falls, ID 83403.

Please add your email address so we can send your newsletter via email. [www.srfiberarts.org](http://www.srfiberarts.org) (emails will not be shared for any other use)

### Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_