

Jacksonville Weavers' Guild

www.JaxWeaversGuild.org

JWG Newsletter - March 2012

March Program: Donna Markovitz will be doing the guild's program for the March 10th meeting. It will be a presentation on Miniature Coverlets, including lessons learned that apply to all weaving.

Lynette's Fernandina Beach Show: Lynette will be the featured artist at the Blue Door Artists studios beginning March 10th from 5-8 p.m. during the Fernandina ArtWalk. The opening of this show features Lynette's handwoven clothing and accessories from the 1980s up to the present. There will be actual garments, some of which will be for sale. She will also show her work through a picture viewer, most of which has sold through weaving guild sales in Portland and Seattle. In addition, notebooks of actual fabrics will be on display. This retrospective will hang through early April. The Blue Door Artists studios are located in downtown Fernandina Beach, 205 1/2 Centre St. Look for the colorful stairs between the Island Coffee Shop and Go Fish. Regular hours are Monday-Saturday, 11:00-5:00. Call 904-557-1187 for more information or to make an appointment. www.bluedoorartists.com March 10th is the Second Saturday Artrageous Artwalk so the other galleries in town will be open. Lynette's latest fiber art piece, *Transitions*, which won Best of Show in December, is hanging at the Island Art Association gallery, 18 N. 2nd St. www.islandart.org

JWG Field Trip: At the February JWG meeting, we decided on planning a daytime field trip for Tuesday, March 20th with a few carpools from Jax, arriving in Fernandina Beach at 10:30. After visiting the Blue Door Artists studios, we can walk to Café Caribou for lunch, as well as stroll downtown to visit other studios. Please let Connie know if you want to go so that she can complete the carpool arrangements. Of course, you're welcome to go to the opening or on another day, but please make arrangements with Lynette if you decide to go on a different date.

Gainesville Guild News from Judy: I attended the Gainesville Guild meeting and it was announced that the President, Sidsel Moreb, has won 2nd place in HGA's "Small Expressions" 2012. Sidsel is a tapestry weaver and wove the Geisha using sulky sewing thread. See Page 9 in the Winter 2011/2012 issue of Shuttle Spindle & Dyepot. Amazing!

Internet Tidbits from Susan: Darya Ikat: A warp is wound with a dummy weft; the resulting material is screen printed; the dummy weft is removed; and the now-dyed warp is rewoven with the real weft. There's a great video of this process at <http://tinyurl.com/7xz3h6f>. It is long (about 11 minutes) but fascinating.

Loom for sale in Fernandina Beach (a friend of Lynette's): Leclerc, Fanny, 36" 4H counterbalance with sectional beam, bench, shuttles, and books. Contact Maryclemens@gmail.com

Officers of JWG's Executive Committee

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| President | Linda Schultz |
| Vice President | Jeanne Applegate |
| Secretary | Susan Wallace |
| Treasurer | Donna Markovitz |
| Past President | Lynette Holmes |

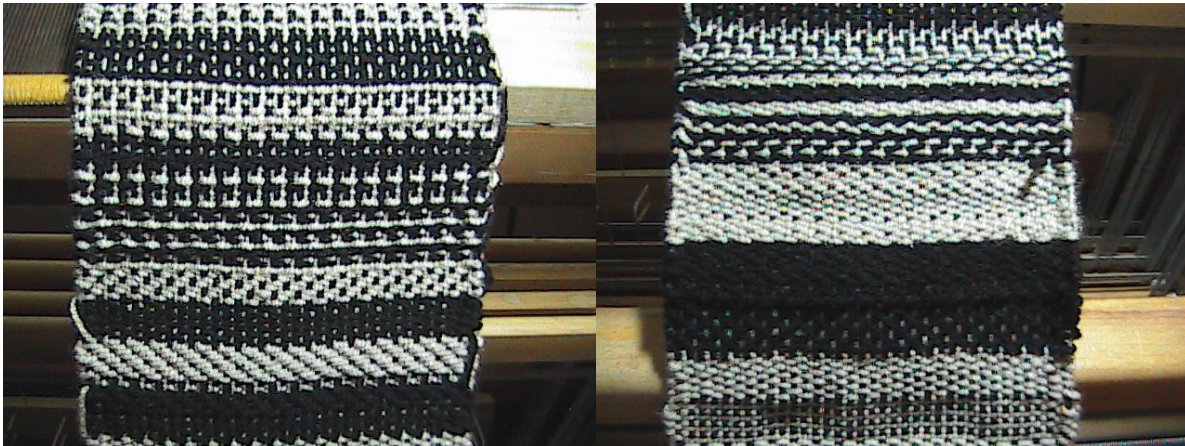
**Susan's current project on her loom:
Double Weave Wool Throw**



**Rudell's current project on her loom:
Braided Twill for FTWG's Napkin Exchange**



Rob's current project on his loom: (see his bio with many photos on pages 5 - 7)



Minutes of the Jacksonville Weavers Guild

February 11, 2012

Fort Caroline Community Center, Jacksonville, Florida

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by President Linda Schultz.

Members present: Jeanne Applegate, Nancy Baer, Kathleen Bowles, Katherine Carrick, Connie Geller, Lynette Holmes, Judy Jull, Lee Kessler, Judi Leatherberry, Donna Markovitz, Robert Matthews, Nanette Miller, Linda Schultz, Susan Wallace, Barbara Wroten.

Welcome and Introductions: Members were welcomed.

Minutes from the January 14, 2012 meeting were approved as corrected (below):

Treasurer's Report: September balance: \$ 897.64

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|-----------|------------------|
| Income: | 210.09 |
| Expenses: | 0.00 |
| Balance | <u>\$1107.73</u> |

Treasurer's Report: January balance: \$1107.73

| | |
|-----------|------------------|
| Income: | 40.20 |
| Expenses: | 61.25 |
| Balance | <u>\$1086.68</u> |

Committee Reports:

Library – Barbara reminded members to return books and magazines. She was requested to put a “gentle reminder” of outstanding items in the newsletter. She also encouraged everyone to use the library which has a very good selection.

Membership – Nancy Baer and Katherine Carrick joined in January. Connie distributed contact information for the new members to be added to the yearbook.

Newsletter – Kudos were expressed to newsletter editor Rudell.

Hospitality – Judi said the roster is complete with three members for each month.

Old Business:

Donation – In an Executive Committee meeting on February 4, the committee voted to donate \$200 each September to the Fort Caroline Community Center. The donation for last September will be made immediately and the next donation in September 2012.

Magazine Subscriptions – The librarian (rather than the president) will be designated to receive guild magazine subscriptions. We seem to have missed some issues in the address change from the former president to the current president. Donna will notify Handwoven and Spinoff of the new address and will work on getting the subscriptions straightened out. Kathy will donate a 2 year subscription to Shuttle Spindle & Dyepot to the guild.

New Business:

May Meeting – The Gainesville and Tallahassee guilds will be invited to join us for a May picnic at Judy Jull's house in Starke. The tentative date is our regular guild meeting date of May 12.

Announcements:

Holmes Retrospective – Lynette's work will be featured at Blue Door Artists in Fernandina Beach, opening on Saturday, March 10 and continuing through April 14th. Connie will organize a guild field trip to see the exhibit.

Show and Share:

Susan: A wool color and weave throw woven folded on the loom (in progress photos appeared in the newsletter).

Donna: A shadow weave scarf in silk and alpaca.

Nan: Items that she has woven over the years for her mother-in-law: placemats, a cotton throw, napkins to match a tea set, a cotton shawl in huck lace, and a tencel shawl.

Judi: A small triangle in log cabin structure.

Jeanne: A small inkle loom with a band in progress and two Susan Foulkes band weaving books. She also mentioned that Anne Dixon has a book of Baltic inkle patterns coming out soon and an on-line Indigo workshop is beginning in March.

Nancy: Three scarves from a 9" rigid heddle loom.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Program: Color Play - Lynette

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Wallace, Secretary

Robert Matthews' Bio

What got me started weaving:

I grew up knowing that on my mother's side there were Scottish ancestors. After digging out boxes of old family photos and papers that had been stored for decades, I decided to combine and catalog much of that on my Ancestry.com FamilyTree. In that box were the few saved photos of 2nd Great Grandmother, Mary Johnston, who was born in Arbroath, Angus, Scotland in 1839 and came to the U.S. in 1852. There were also a few photos of her daughter Jessie. One of those photos showed Jessie at about 8 years old wearing a plaid-looking suit. I wondered if I could replicate what that fabric looked like. This led me to the next step beginning in late October 2010--building a loom of some sort to try and weave what that fabric looked like in the photo. I tried to "guess" what the colors were as that was not apparent from the black and white image. So I assigned colors which I thought might be common as well as available in the 1870s post-Civil War America.

This was my first work on any loom. After that project, I went back to researching what the family Johnston tartan was, looked at different photos and listing of colors and thread counts, and then set about making scarves for all of the immediate family using knitting yarn. During this time I also made a few modifications and improvements to my homemade loom so that it would create a cleaner, straighter weave that I did not get in my first piece. From the genealogy work, I found that my sister-in-law also had Scottish ancestors and was a descendant of Robert Rollo, 4th Lord of Duncrub (Perth, Scotland), so another tartan representation was created for her. After that I helped my granddaughter and step-daughter design their own scarves which I wove up for them.

I was still doing research and lots of reading on-line about weaving and that's how I found the Jacksonville Weavers Guild. I attended my first meeting as a guest in early 2011 and got LOTS of valuable advice. By this time I was "hooked," joined the Guild and wanted to weave more and weave better. I now had a desire to weave a full-size piece of tartan fabric. I watched e-bay ads and in June 2010 I bought a loom which had to be shipped by truck. I now had a floor loom. After cleaning and making minor loom repairs and adjustments, it was practice time again, as well as making tools and weaving accessories, still keeping in mind that I WILL someday soon weave a full tartan. During this practice time I had read about natural dyes and decided to try dying some neutral wool that was gifted me using out-of-date frozen blueberries from the freezer, plus natural wild-growing briar root I had in my yard.

My new goal was to use what I had learned to weave a clan tartan to be made into a kilt. So the time had come. I practiced weaving with several different types of yarn and different patterns. (I asked myself again - do you really want to do this? YES!!!) So after several sessions of varied hours researching and looking at yarn suppliers' ads, trying to refigure what weight or size of yarn to get, changing color choices several times, recalculating the quantity I would need, I finally went ahead and placed an order. Sadly, now that I had excited myself, I had to wait on some of what I wanted as the supplier did not have it in stock and it was back-ordered until they can get another "batch" with matching dye-lot numbers. This would be 2/18 worsted spun wool, 4800 yards per pound. I figured the piece I should end up with would need to be 10 yards long and by the recommended yarn sett I would need 612 ends to make sure I have a 28-inch minimum width. The first portion of in-stock yarn came in a few days, the rest I did not get until December 6th. So now the "fun" began. I wound off the yardage on my homemade warping frame, having to keep track of the number of ends of each color group and keep each group in order as it had to lay coming off the sectional warp beam for this tartan.

The weaving finally began and all went as anticipated, keeping a watchful eye for the potential sneaky crossed yarn, keeping just enough tension without getting too tight. Just as I was afraid of, but not shocked, one blue thread had a small section that lost strength in the twist and separated. I had no choice but to tie on another piece to rethread the heddle and reed and set it with a cross pin to keep on weaving. I got toward the end and then it happened. As much as I tried to be careful of my warping lengths, I ran out of blue to finish the weft weaving to the end of the warp. I did a quick hand stitch to secure the end before cutting off and took the tartan fabric off the loom. The first two things I did was lay it out and measure the whole rough length and then folded it up to weigh it on electronic scales. I had a good finished piece measuring 7 yards 10 inches long x 27-1/4 inches wide, 3-1/2 pounds.

Next came "Kiltmaking 101 for Dummies." While waiting for the back-ordered yarn, I had ordered the kilt-making book and had gathered all of the supplies to do the project. It all went pretty much "by the book," step-by-step. After the buckles and belt straps were sewn on, as well as the loops to hold the sporran strap, and finally removing all basting stitches holding the pleats, the kilt was complete.

So now this weaver has his own handwoven, hand-sewn tartan kilt of Clan Johnston of 2nd Great Grandmother Mary Johnston, m.Hendry, m.Colville that I wore to the Robert Burns Dinner Jan. 28, 2012 (see page 7).

Photos on left: 2nd Great Grandmother Mary Johnston and her daughter Jessie. Seen below: Jessie's plaid & practice weavings, plus the scarves in process on the loom. Center page: Rob's first handmade loom before & after modifications.



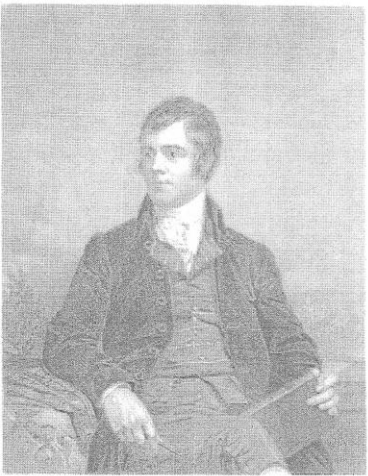
Above right: Handmade loom bench & handmade PVC boat shuttle. Below, on left: Handmade stick shuttles; Center: blueberry dye pot & chopped briar root dye pot; Right: Wool scarf using these 2 dyes.



See next page for more photos, including the floor loom that arrived in time for weaving the kilt, modeled by its proud owner and maker, Robert Matthews.

As a member of The St. Andrews Society of Jacksonville, I attended the annual Robert Burns Dinner on January 28th along with over 100 other members of Scottish heritage. It was held at San Jose Country Club on St. Augustine Rd. at Toledo Rd. (past photos are shown on <http://www.jaxstandrews.org/links.htm>).

This past week I talked to Suwannee Valley Genealogy to see if they would help support the upcoming April 6th holiday, Tartan Day. They asked if I would come to the monthly meeting and would I wear my kilt? The photo below showing me in my handwoven clan tartan kilt was taken by Ann MacLeod whose husband is southeast U.S. regional vice president of Clan MacLeod.



*The St. Andrew's
Society of Jacksonville
Presents*

***Robert Burns Supper
2012***

At the San Jose Country Club

*An evening celebrating the life and
works of Robert Burns, on the 253rd
anniversary of his birth*

A framed graphic containing a black and white portrait of Robert Burns at the top. Below the portrait is text in various fonts and italics, including the society name, event title, location, and a description of the evening.