



Where the Weft Begins

The Heddle Herald

The Newsletter of the Fort Worth Weavers' Guild
 Founded in 1955

October 2007 • Volume V, Issue 2

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President: Margaret Arafat
1st Vice President/Programs: Ann Schrader
2nd Vice President/Publicity: Nancy Berger
Treasurer: John Grundmann
Secretary: MaGee Grundmann

President's Notes -- Margaret Arafat

While we were eating lunch at Lynn's during a break in painting silk warps this week, there were several comments about the beautiful weather as well as some about the drowsiness that fall always seems to induce. I've told you before that October is my favorite month, and although I maintain it's because of the cooler temperatures (most years anyway) and golden sunlight, perhaps it's also in part because of the lethargy it induces. Whatever the cause, my brain is in repose. I only seem to be able to

think in fits and starts. If that bothers anyone with whom I come in contact, I'll be too sleepy to know. Enough about that . . .

If you've ever had the opportunity to attend a weaving-related gathering such as the CHT Conference or HGA Convergence, you know you get to rub elbows with some of the best teachers and artists in our field. You take classes in which you gain new insight into a particular subject about which you may know a little or learn something entirely new. You get wonderful ideas and make plans you can't wait to get home to try. You hear lectures and keynote speeches, make new friends, and talk with old ones, some of whom you know only via the Internet. These are wonderful experiences, but in my view, they cannot compare with the energy of a workshop. Besides, the odds that I get to take a hands-on class at a conference are fairly slim. I know at a workshop I'll get my hands dirty.

I love workshops. Almost to a person, the participants are people I know at least a little, and by the end of the workshop, they are people I know better. That is almost always a good thing. Of course, everyone gets to know more about me, too, which can be a mixed bag. The instructor is usually chosen carefully and wisely, and offers much more than the stated objective for the workshop. Sometimes, the "offer" includes an invitation to pilfer supplies at will. Who could ask for more? Well, I can, and I know a few others can, too . . . "a loom of one's own."

Had I not read her book, I might have thought that Virginia Wolff was a weaver, not a writer, that "A Room of One's Own" was a misprint. I love workshops; I'm just not enamored with round-robin workshops. I see their value in that one

can try different drafts of the weave structure under study and learn more about it. I also see that it's a good way for someone shopping for a loom to "kick a few tires" before making that final decision. I love my loom. I don't mind anyone weaving on it; I just don't want to weave on anyone else's. Okay, I did get to try a direct tie-up – twice. I learned, along with Margaret, that a table loom is not in the cards -- we have foot- not hand-memory. I began to worry that I was spending more time trying to learn how to weave with this or that piece of equipment than I was about the weave structure. But no matter how pathetic my attempts to weave on strange looms were, I will not let a round-robin format keep me from a workshop. If you've never taken a workshop, do so. It's a great learning experience for seasoned and novice weavers. They are fun, and you'll love them, even if the loom is not your own.

Please make room on your calendar for the next Guild Meeting on Saturday, October 27. Rebecca Shanks will present a program on twills which will be a good introduction into our guild challenge for this year. I hope those of you who couldn't be at the September Meeting can join us this time. I look forward to seeing you. Weave on --

Margaret

. . . with Gratitude . . . Margaret Arafat

My most heartfelt thanks to all of you who called, sent cards, notes and gifts, and kept me company both during Cathryn's illness and after her death. The support you gave helped get me through a long, difficult process. I don't know what I would have done without you.

Treasurer's Report: *October 2007 – John Grundmann*

Current balance: \$5933.38

Meeting Minutes – September 22, 2007

John Grundmann/Margaret Arafat

President Margaret Arafat called the meeting to order. Twenty-three members were present. Members participated in a Show-and-Tell program of travel and accomplishment during the summer.

May meeting minutes approved as published in the September Heddle Herald.

Treasurer – John Grundmann

The current checking balance is \$7465.46. He also gave a preliminary accounting from CAC sales vs. expenses.

CAC Show – Nancy Berger and Allison Gray

Nancy reminded everyone that “Textiles, Textures and Treasures” would be taken down on September 30 from 1 – 3PM. Volunteers were solicited for September 29 weaving demonstration at the CAC.

CHT Samples – Margaret Arafat

Volunteers were solicited for cutting and mounting the samples. Samples are due to CHT Newsletter Editor Margaret Arafat by January 1, 2008.

Community Service

Sue Freeman reminded the members that the Celtic Festival will be on October 13 and 14 and weavers needed for demonstration both days. Spinners and weavers are needed to help with the Civil War Reenactment at Beaumont Ranch in Grandview. The costumed event will be held October 10-13. Contact Lorelei if you are interested in helping with either event.

Historian – Ellen Smith

Ellen continues to work on organizing the guild's archives and preserving them.

Hospitality and Sunshine – Evaline Wright

Evaline stated that there were still some dates open in February, March and April to provide meeting refreshments. A sign-up sheet was circulated.

Library – Sue Freeman

Sue brought two books for reviews in October and December newsletters. Nancy Berger agreed to review a book on rigid heddle weaving for the newsletter.

Newsletter – Jean Walbridge

Jean reminded all of next newsletter deadline of October 16. The next meeting is October 27.

Programs – Ann Schrader

There was discussion concerning end-of-year challenge of twills. Rebecca Shanks will present the October 27 program – Introduction to Twill.

Publicity – Nancy Berger

Nancy reported no changes.

Study Group – Sue Freeman

Sue suggested a get-together for weavers interested in joining a taquete study group. The group could meet on the first Saturday of the month at Heritage Arts or before a guild meeting. Participants who haven't submitted completed samples for the Shaker towel study group should do so soon or will be dropped from the group. Samples woven for these individuals will be returned to members of the group who submitted them.

Vision – Sherri Coffey

Sherri proposed an idea for discussion: to develop an annual fiber festival at a venue that would allow for a wide range of fiber arts demonstrations and displays. This project would be complex and involve extensive time and planning, but this is the direction in which she and Pat Souder are working.

Workshops – Teresa Sanchez

Teresa stated that there were two spaces available at Jette's lace workshop for a total of 17. A sign-up sheet for providing snacks and meals for Jette was circulated. Fees were collected for Kati Meek's linen workshop, which has a waiting list.

Web Site

Please send photos from “Textiles, Textures and Treasures” to Nancy Berger to post.

Yearbook – Lorelei Caracausa

Yearbooks will be available at the October meeting.

Old Business

Presentation of a shuttle was made to Margaret Humphries honoring her service as President.

New Business

There was discussion about available space and deposit required for the 2009 CAC show. Two spaces were approved as well as making a deposit to reserve those spaces. It was also agreed to place a deposit for 2011 CAC show. John will contact the CAC.

HGA renewal was received and John will check to ensure the Guild web site or link is on HGA web site before sending renewal.

Only a few Guild brochures remain. The brochure needs to be revised before printing new ones. Sherri Coffey and Pat Souder will oversee the task.

Announcements

Lynn Smetko announced that she and Margaret Humphries would hold a Dye Date on October 18. The fee is \$30.

The meeting was adjourned.

The Raffle . . . Margaret Arafat:

The Raffle for Lynn Smetko's beautiful huck lace shawl was held on September 30 during the takedown of the Show. The lucky winner . . . Jean Walbridge. It's no wonder one of our guild members won it; we bought a huge block of tickets for ourselves.

Programs -- Ann Schrader

October 27, 2007 – “Introduction to Twill”

Rebecca Shanks has been interested in fabric and clothing design since she can remember whether dressing Barbie dolls, furnishing the Barbie house or making clothes for herself. Her mother was an avid sewer and has always been active in some way in quilting. The natural progression (or is it digression?) to Rebecca was to make the cloth to sew the garment. While a senior at North Texas she was introduced to weaving and hasn't looked back. Rebecca received a BS in Clothing and Textiles in 1974 and has been weaving for 32 years. Many years have been lean in the weaving area and without workshops she would not have woven a thread. Thank

goodness for the learning process! Professionally, she has managed a publishing company for the past 15 years and she states the weaving and sewing keeps her sane. Rebecca will discuss twill weave structure basics, share examples of woven cloth and resources to turn to for information.

Remember, the 2008 Guild challenge is "Want a thrill? Weave a twill!"

2007-2008 Program Schedule

October 27, 2007

Rebecca Shanks: Introduction to Twill
Fort Worth CAC

November 2007 – no meeting

December 15, 2007

Christmas Party
Margaret Arafat's Home

January 26, 2008

Cate Buchanan: Twirling Tassels
Ridglea Presbyterian Church

February 23, 2008

Christine Miller: Wire Weaving
Ridglea Presbyterian Church

March 29, 2008

Lynne Lovett: Jacket Construction
Ridglea Presbyterian Church

April 26, 2008

Ellen Smith: Shadow Weave
Ridglea Presbyterian Church

May 17, 2008

Spring Luncheon & Guild Challenge
Ridglea Presbyterian Church

Workshops -- Teresa Sanchez

Kati Reeder Meek's Linen Workshop will be held February 15, 16 and 17, 2008 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday). Contact Teresa if you want to be added to the waiting list.

A Newbie's First Workshop --

Martha Zinn

Do you remember your first day at a new school? Experienced kids running by

chatting eagerly to old friends and you are sitting in the corner feeling stupid waiting nervously until your mother left you - gripped in the jaws of trepidation and despair? That's how I expected to feel at my first intense weaving workshop given in October by Jette Vandermeiden. I didn't know the protocol, and I didn't have much confidence in my abilities amidst all the ten, fifteen, and twenty plus year weavers. I was a newbie of only eight months with only a couple of projects beneath my belt. I was the novice in a strange world adjusting to the idea of not being the competent superstar but the slowest kid in class. However, by the end of my three-day seminar with Jette and a whole room of Guild mentors, I had an attitude change toward my new craft.

Many of the Guild members shared their memories of their first workshops, their fears, their mistakes, and their triumphs. They filled in many pieces in the jigsaw that is weaving. Perhaps it wasn't that way for others, but for me weaving has had a hard, laborious learning curve. Every time I think I've figured out one step, the next step seems just as difficult as the one behind, leading me up a never-ending ascent with no summit in sight. I have never wanted to quit the struggle, but at some point I sincerely hoped it would level out and get easier. Maybe that happened at Jette's class.

Jette taught us not only about the weave structure of huck and lace and Bronson but also about weaving ergonomics and finger weaving. Maybe I didn't understand all she said about profiles and units and design, but I did begin to grasp more about weave structure. For the very first time I forgot my selvages and just wove. The magic that is the loom and following the pattern overtook my trepidation and made me loose some, if not all, my fears. In addition, I learned the process and protocol of using other people's looms and sharing my own. I didn't get samples from all the other looms, but I did complete several, gazing in wonderment at the different patterns and weave structures while developing the confidence to weave on other types of looms.

For the very first time, I felt like a weaver. And the spell it cast is illuminating and

contagious. I will eagerly be the first in line to sign up for all the classes I can manage in the future. Thank you, Guild, for providing me with this opportunity.

Yearbook – Lorelei Caracausa

Copies of the 2007-08 Yearbook will be available at the October meeting.

Hospitality/Sunshine -- Evaline Wright

Hostesses for the October meeting are Ann Schrader, Ellen Smith and Jean Walbridge. Coffee and hot water for tea will be ready shortly after 10:00.

Book Review -- Marty Benson

Polychrome: Colorful Techniques for Weaving

A personal journey of exploration

Carolyn Gritzmaker, self-published, Maypearl, Texas, 2007, 55 pages.

Humans have long been fascinated with magic. There is something mesmerizing about seeing a magician take ordinary items – a hat, a rabbit, a silk scarf – and make them do wondrous and unexpected things. Looking at Carolyn Gritzmaker's work has always reminded me of magic – except, in her case there is no trick involved. Instead, there is artistry and stunning technical skill. *Polychrome*, a small, self-published diary of sorts, reveals how Gritzmaker turns ordinary items – sewing thread, slim shuttles, a table loom, a draw loom – and creates magical cloth.

Focusing on five weave structures – overshot, satin, taquete, samitum, and lampas – Gritzmaker walks the reader through the inspiration, planning, preparation, execution, and evaluation of more than twenty projects. Sharp color photographs and clear diagrams illustrate each section, allowing the reader to follow along as if looking over the author's shoulder. Her wryly humorous, casual writing style allows the reader to take part in Gritzmaker's "personal journey of exploration" as she maps out new weaving territory, with sometimes glorious, sometimes glitchy, but always amazing results.

Much more exhaustive and encyclopedic than a program or workshop on these

weave structures, Gritzmaker's descriptions of her projects bring each technique to life. One such project is Carolyn's three Texas wildflower tags woven on a draw loom using 60/2 silk, 20/2 silk, and serging thread in lampas. Small, 3-inch square tags feature three beautifully rendered wildflowers: bluebonnet, paintbrush, and yellow star. Other projects include pieces using techniques such as polychrome satin woven in pick-up on five shafts and on a draw loom, polychrome pattern inlay with pick-up in four shaft false damask, and taquete and samitum on a draw loom.

After reading this work, the reader will have a clear picture on just how the rabbit got into the hat and all would-be prestidigitators will head straight to their looms. Others of us will marvel, and be well content to simply enjoy the magic.

Editor's Note – Thanks to Rebecca Shanks and Marty Benson for allowing us to use this book review previously published in *Threadlings* - newsletter of the Dallas Handweavers and Spinners Guild, Inc.

Christmas Luncheon & Gift Exchange -- (I know it's early but the stores already have holiday merchandise for sale)

The Fort Worth Weavers Guild Christmas luncheon will be held at Margaret Arafat's home on Saturday, December 15, 11:00 a.m. We'll follow tradition with everyone bringing a dish. Directions to Margaret's home and last minute instructions will be in the December *Heddle Herald*.

The "rules" for the gift exchange are simple --

1. All members are encouraged to attend the Christmas luncheon, whether they wish to participate in the gift exchange or not.
2. Each member who participates will bring a gift in a brown paper sack, and the hostess or a designee will number each sack consecutively.
3. At the time for the gift exchange, each participant will blindly draw a number, checking quickly to be certain the number drawn is not his/her own gift.

If one's own number is drawn, that person may redraw.

4. The gifts will be opened one at a time starting with sack number one.
5. The gift must be handwoven or handmade or be an item that may be used in weaving. The suggested price for the materials or gift is around \$15. This is an opportunity to give something wonderful to another guild member.
6. If someone wants to participate but doesn't have anything handwoven or handmade that is appropriate, Heritage Arts will be glad to make some suggestions. This does not imply that you must purchase something from Heritage Arts.
7. Any member in good standing may participate in the gift exchange, whether present or not. If the member can't be present, he/she must have the gift at the exchange and must designate someone to draw a number for them. We welcome all who wish to participate.

Again, you do not have to bring a gift to attend; we just want you to join the festivities.

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**Happy Birthday to You in October!**

Lynn Smetko (3) Dotty Thomas (15)

Leslie Shimomura (15)

Carolyn Gritzmaker (18), Teresa Sanchez (23)

Ann Schrader (28)  
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Did you know . . . ? The term "round robin" originally referred to a document in which the names of the signers were arranged in a circle to disguise the order in which they signed. Frequently used as a nautical term, it was practiced by sailors when they mutinied. I know how they felt. – **Margaret Arafat**

FWWG Library – Sue Freeman

We have five new books in the library.

Double Weave: Theory Practice by Laya Brostoff

Double Weave by Palmy Weigle

Donated by Margaret Arafat is *Lands Vavbok* by Eivor Boalt. The text is in Swedish and each piece has a draft .

Donated by MaGee Grundmann is *Finger Weaving - Indian Braiding* by Alta R. Turner.

Donated by Betty Newman is *Designing on the Loom* by Mary Kirby.

On the Road Again -- Rebecca Shanks

In September Cynthia Bohnenblust and I along with Sylvia Keizer (many of you know her from CHT and Dallas Handweavers and Spinners Guild) visited Hinke Schroen (many of you know her also from CHT and Dallas Handweavers and Spinners Guild) in Munich Germany. What a great trip! On the first day (after jet lag had subsided) Hinke lined up for us to visit a Textile Fair in a monastery in Benediktbeuern south of Munich. It was a lovely sunny day, a great train ride, and fun to speak with the weavers, spinners and felters about their wares. Luckily we had Hinke who spoke German to interpret for us as needed. Most of the wares were wool with some silk and a little cotton and linen. Obviously the clothes were for colder climate than we experience, and they were wonderful talented people with great color sense. You could get anything from a hand towel to woven/felted jackets, skirts, hats and even garments hand painted. You are not going to believe this, but I think I only saw one booth solely devoted to yarn. Below are two photos: one showing children card weaving with the warp tied to a tree, and the other a close-up of card weaving on an inkle loom.



Children card weaving tied to a tree

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**Happy Birthday to You in November!**

Jana Trent (8), Lorinda King (10)

Evaline Wright (11), Marie Baker (16)

Katie Gosko (28)  
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Wanted -- Empty pressed paper thread cones, any size. If you have such, please bring them to the October meeting. I know this sounds strange, but my new yard dog loves to chew on them! Thanks, Evaline Wright

Part 2 --

**The Wonderful World of Fibers
Cellulose Fibers: King Cotton –**

Lynne Lovett

A confusing subject concerning cotton is mercerization. Just what is mercerized cotton? OK, y'all bear with me for some technical stuff. While the cotton is still growing, there is essentially a cylindrical channel running up the center of the length of the fiber. When the cotton plant is mature and the boll bursts, the cotton fibers are exposed to air and sunlight and this internal channel collapses, resulting in its flat, twisty-ribbon structure. In the 1850s John Mercer discovered that exposing the cotton fiber to caustic soda (sodium hydroxide) caused the fibre to swell and become round again. This discovery sat unexplored (as there was no use for the technique since it didn't change the luster or other visible qualities of the fiber). In 1890 Horace Lowe discovered that by keeping the fiber (in a spun yarn) under tension while submerging it in the caustic soda, the yarn acquired a high luster. This still left some fine "fuzz" on the fiber, and later, some yarns were subjected to "gassing" or "singeing" (passing the already mercerized yarn through a heated atmosphere) removing the "fuzz" and increasing the luster even more.

Now we have a yarn that has sheen, but is it really any different in function to unmercerized cotton? The answer is a definite yes. Because the fiber has swelled, its absorbency has increased. With all the other variables being equal (staple length, tightness of spin, etc.) mercerized cotton will absorb up to 25% more dye, and additionally, future water absorption is increased as well. When considering absorbency, the degree of twist in the yarn must be taken into consideration. Testing has shown that cotton roving will absorb more water or dye than fiber in a twisted state. Consequently, highly twisted and tightly plied yarns will be less absorbent in the finished product than a yarn with less twist.

Because mercerization is accomplished with the yarn under tension, the Extra Long Staple fibers (Egyptian, Pima & Sea

Island cottons) are usually the ones selected to undergo the process. This allows the yarn to have less twist, yet still hold together under the tension necessary for the mercerizing to be successful. In general, mercerized yarns are of a higher quality than unmercerized yarns.

In summary, our handwoven towels are wonderful in cotton because it is a soft, strong, absorbent fiber that stands up well to repeated laundering. Additionally, the really special towels using mercerized cotton are not only lustrous, but more absorbent.

To finish, below is a chart of common setts for various COTTON yarns. This combines suggested setts from many sources and shows quite a wide range, but it will give you a place to start. (Here is my disclaimer: as much as I dislike sampling, it is still the best method to determine the proper sett for any yarn and structure combination.) In general, in the following chart, the first two numbers indicated for sett are for a loose and firm tabby, and the third and fourth numbers are ranges for twills.

<u>YARN</u>	<u>YPP</u>	<u>SETT</u>
3/2	1260	10-14-16
4/2	1680	10-15-20
5/2	2100	12-16-20-24
6/2	2520	14-18-24
8/2	3360	16-20-24-30
10/2	4200	20-24-28-36
12/2	5040	20-24-30-36
14/2	5880	24-28-32
16/2	6720	22-30-40
20/2	8400	28-32-36-44
40/2	16,800	36-48-60
8/4 warp	1680	10-15-18
Chenille	550	5-6-7
Chenille	900	6-8-10
Chenille	1450	12-15-18
Chenille	2500	15-16-18-20
Flake	1320	10-12-14-16
Flake	1500	10-14-18
Flake	3000	18-20-24
2.2 Softball	1848	12-16-18

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"What Is Mercerized Cotton?"

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Editor's Note: Look for Lynne's article on linen in the next issue.

Internet Resources: Web sites offer assistance or interesting or useful information. Share your favorites.

If you are planning a trip, or just want to browse around a museum on the Internet, check these websites for textiles and fiber arts.

* The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City: <http://www.metmuseum.org> has the Antonio Ratti Textile Center – (click on “Works of Art”, then “Antonio Ratti”). Also, look for textiles and fibers in other focused collections.

* deYoung Museum: <http://www.thinker.org> (click on “Collections”, then “Textiles”)

* Boston Museum of Fine Arts <http://www.mfa.org> (look under “collections” for their “Textiles and Fashion Arts”)

* Fort Worth Weavers Guild website: <http://www.fortworthweaversguild.com>

... from the Editor ...

Jean Walbridge

Occasionally, I'm at a loss for words and this is one of those times. My goal is to get all this information into your hands, and nothing is coming into my head to write. I know you'll enjoy all the comings and goings of members as shown in this edition. You are an active group with travels, workshops, and volunteer activities. There is a lot to read. This wonderful weather makes me want to be outside, and holidays coming on like a freight train. There is much to do to get ready, but I hope you take some time to weave (I think that was more for me than for anyone else). Let me know what you are doing. See you Saturday.

For Sale

Spinning wheel made by Col. James A. Ronin. He was a part of this area's history for many years and a member of the Dallas Guild. Comes with 2 spinning books. Price for all is \$275 firm.
Pat Souder 817-921-1995

2007-2008 Committees

Telephone numbers and e-mail addresses are in the Yearbook.

CHT Samples

Lynne Lovett

Community Service/Education

OPEN

Financial Advisement

John Grundmann

Historian

Ellen Smith

Hospitality & Sunshine

Evaline Wright

Library

Sue Freeman; Lorelei Caracausa

Membership

Gypsy Perry

Newsletter

Jean Walbridge

Nominating

MaGee Grundmann

Vision

Sherri Coffey

Web Site

Lynn Smetko, Nancy Berger, Sherri Coffey

Workshops

Cynthia Bohnenblust

Yearbook

Lorelei Caracausa

Events Calendar

❖ **Linen Workshop:** Kati Reeder Meek

Date: February 15-16-17, 2008

Register at September meeting

Additional information TBA

❖ **Basket Workshop:** Linda Lugentill

Date: October 10-11-12, 2008

Two-day workshop on large antler baskets and a one-day market basket workshop. Cynthia Bohnenblust will have more information and pictures at the October meeting.

Additional information TBA

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*If you know of an upcoming event, don't keep it to yourself, share the information so everyone can see what, where and when it is.*

**Heritage Arts**

*Guild members always receive a 10% discount.*

Heritage Arts  
P.O. Box 250  
Beaumont Ranch  
10740 County Rd 102  
Grandview, Texas 76050  
(817) 517-5800 (metro)

*Hours: Wed 1:30 - 5:00 p  
Thurs - Sat 10:00 - 5:00 p*

The HEDDLE HERALD is published eight times a year for members of the Fort Worth Weavers Guild.

In September and October 2007, the FWWG will meet at the Fort Worth Community Arts Center, 1309 Gendy Street, at the corner of Montgomery and Lancaster Avenue. The December Meeting is a Christmas Luncheon and Gift Exchange, traditionally held at the Guild President's home. Meetings from January through May 2008 will be held at Ridgela Presbyterian Church, 6201 Camp Bowie Boulevard. Unless otherwise announced, meetings are held on the fourth Saturday of the month, and begin at 10:00am for coffee, followed by a 10:30am Program and Business Meeting.

Dues for membership in the FWWG are payable in May at two levels: \$20 a year for members who receive Internet copies of the *Heddle Herald* and \$27 per year for those who receive it through the US Postal System. Checks are made payable to the “FWWG.”

Advertising in the *Heddle Herald* is available at the following rates:

- \$20 = full page
- \$15 = 2 columns or ½ page
- \$10 = 1 column or ¼ page
- \$5 = less than 1 column or ⅛ page

Rates are per issue and apply to any business ad regardless of Guild affiliation. Ads must be submitted in copy-ready format. The sale of personal fiber-related equipment is listed free of charge by Guild members; all others are charged \$25 per issue. Checks are made payable to “FWWG.” Contact the Editor to advertise or for more information.