



BASKETRY GUILD

TIDINGS

Volume 4, Issue 02

March/April 2003

From the President's Pen...

Can it really be the first of April? Surely this is just another April's Fool joke. These past two months have been so busy, it is hard to know where to start and WHO to thank. I get more and more impressed with our members and their willingness to donate their time and energies. I do believe we have the very best guild and the most giving and talented volunteers. I feel fortunate to be your President.

Our thanks to:

Meredith Macdonald for her time and efforts in completing the kits for the Technique Sampler. The stations worked well and most of our Sampler members are ready to work on the rim. For those who missed this meeting, we will be doing some makeup techniques after the Dye Workshop in May. Email Meredith and let her know if you need to work on your Sampler basket.

Joyce Smith for her outstanding shaker class. Eleven members completed and proudly carried home elegant business card baskets. Billie is always telling me that a Nantucket basket is not cute. Well, these were adorable. If anyone needs a home for their shaker basket, one would look very nice in my new office.

Jennifer Gramza and Meredith Macdonald for their help in getting the tote basket kits together. The class was a great success. We have some additional kits for sale for \$20.00 each. If you are interested, check with Linda Lindner or Janis Wetzel.

Rhonda Jones for being there to help our members at Open Weave. Seems like Rhonda is always there to help when we need it.

Mary Normand for coordinating and managing our booth at Gathering of the Guilds. This is Mary's first event now that she is back as a new member. We sure are glad to have her talent and enthusiasm in the guild.

Billie Dorris (the Queen Mother) for being the NCBA/TBG Hostess. For those who weren't in NC with us, we never let Billie rest or have a moment to herself. Her hotel room was the gathering place for the guild and especially for our first timers.

Remember to mark your calendars for the May 3rd Dye Workshop. With any luck the weather will be good and we can dye in the yard and have our feast on the porch. Should we have bad weather, we will eat inside and dye reed in the garage.

We have several classes scheduled over the next few months. We will be doing a Jelly Jar at the June meeting. Mary Normand will be teaching a broom class on the 21st of June. She will take no more than 12 students and the cost will be \$30.00. Register at the April meeting to ensure a seat in the class.

In order to avoid problems with our classes, the following rules will apply::

- In order to take classes, you must have registered and paid by the deadline. The deadline for both the Jelly Jar and Mary's Broom will be May 3rd. Sign up sheets will available at the April meeting and at the May workshop.
- There is no penalty for canceling a class if you cancel before the deadline.
- If you cancel after the deadline, you will only receive a refund, if someone else takes your place. If no one takes your place, you will receive a kit.
- We will keep a waiting list for classes that fill up.
- Make checks payable to the guild (TBG) and date them for the date of the class.

Get on the web and look up the Smithsonian Craft Show. This will be held the last week of April and is really worth a trip to Washington, D.C. The baskets are truly art at its finest.

'Til next time, Happy Weaving. **...Laura**



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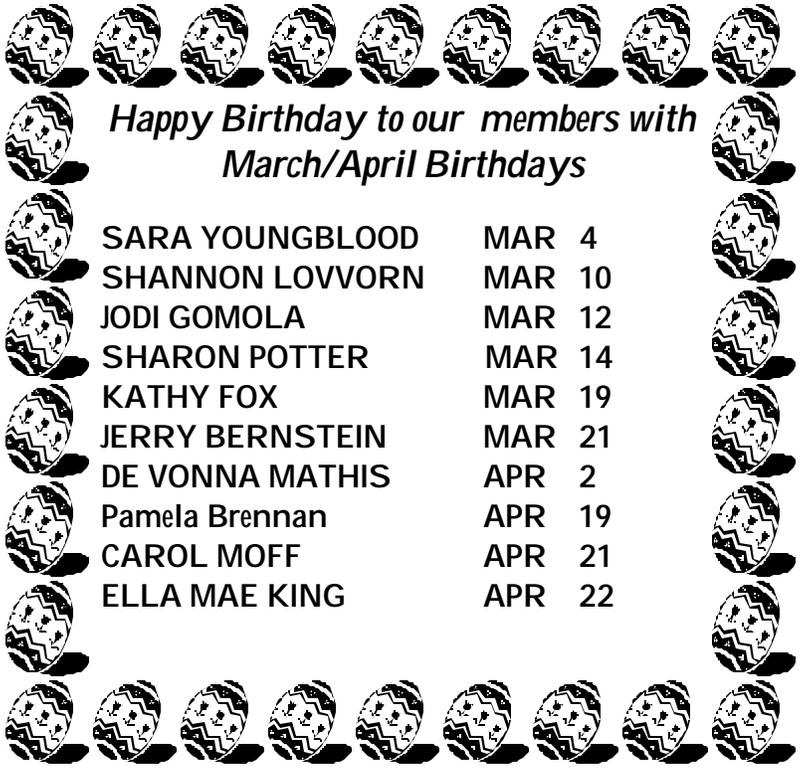
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*Happy Birthday to our members with
March/April Birthdays*

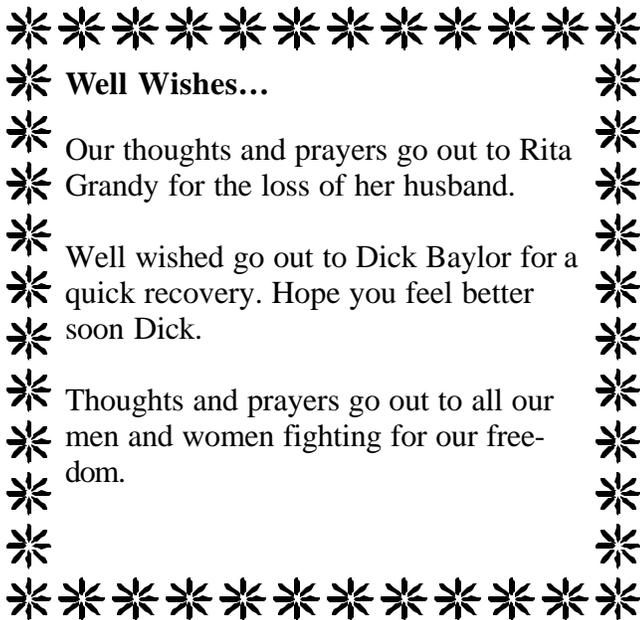
SARA YOUNGBLOOD	MAR 4
SHANNON LOVVORN	MAR 10
JODI GOMOLA	MAR 12
SHARON POTTER	MAR 14
KATHY FOX	MAR 19
JERRY BERNSTEIN	MAR 21
DE VONNA MATHIS	APR 2
Pamela Brennan	APR 19
CAROL MOFF	APR 21
ELLA MAE KING	APR 22

TBG Marketplace

- Trivet/tiles with the TBG logo \$10
- GW water bottles \$12
- Scissor Sheaths \$3

We will be putting together a t-shirt order soon, be on the look out for the information.

If you are interested in purchasing anything, contact Janis Wetzel.



Well Wishes...

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Rita Grandy for the loss of her husband.

Well wished go out to Dick Baylor for a quick recovery. Hope you feel better soon Dick.

Thoughts and prayers go out to all our men and women fighting for our freedom.

News from the Editor

Any news items for the newsletter need to be to me by the 15th of each month. If you have any suggestions or comments, please feel free to contact me at

newsletter@tidewaterbasketryguild.org or call me at 523-8630

For those of you w ho do not have a computer, any members you need to contact, please look up phones numbers in your Members Roster in your Tidew ater Basketry Guild Notebook, we will not publish them in the newsletter in the future.

Thanks, Cindy Stanton

Notes from Linda...

April 6th- Meeting, Show and Tell from NCBA and anything you want to bring.

April 25-27- VA Beach Craft Show in , Sign up today.

April 24-27- Smithsonian Craft Show, Washington DC

May 3-Dye Workshop and Pot Luck Lunch at Laura's house. We will also be catching up the technique basket, give Meredith Macdonald a call if you will be working on your basket.

It's not too early to brain storm for what colors you would like to have at the dye workshop in May. Remember to wear old clothes, one splash of dye and that pretty shirt is ruined!

May 17- Open to the Public Class..Sign up to teach and help out.

June 1- Meeting and Jelly Jar Basket

June 21- Mary Normand's Broom Class

Please remember to check the website for a complete list of upcoming events.

The View From Behind the Table at Gathering of the Guilds...

Part of the original reason for starting the local basket guild was to share our love of baskets with others and lure them into the creation of new baskets. This past weekend while a majority of the guild members went to North Carolina to wear out their fingers and lighten their pocketbooks, there was a gathering of many crafters at the Frances Land House in Virginia Beach. The historic home on Virginia Beach Boulevard is owned by the City of Virginia Beach and has hosted the "Gathering of the Guilds" for many years. Several of the clubs and guilds represented actually meet in the house and when our guild was begun, we tried unsuccessfully to schedule meetings there too. As our numbers have grown, it is probably a good thing they didn't have room for us in their schedule because they only have space for thirty or so in their largest room.

As many of you discovered when you joined the basketry guild, the best way to start a new craft is to see a really good craftsman "make it look easy". I have found that I can't make many things look easy so I did the next best thing. I called Meredith Macdonald and acquired a large number of her beautiful creations to set up the guild display. (I only steal from the best.) Aside from the variety of ash , willow, reed and paper creations, she even managed to acquire a Nantucket on its mould in the beginning stages from Billie Doris. I placed it with the delicate ash, waxed linen and paper baskets and stood guard every time another wave of Brownie Scouts herded through. The placement of the multicolor "porcupine" basket on the top level of the basket tree at the end of the table setup saved the smaller baskets several times. When the accompanying parent/keeper was too enthralled with the display of baskets to see that small hands were bent on clutching the small baskets, I would loudly ask if the owner of said hands had "seen the rainbow". Worked every time and refocused the adults on their small charges. In almost every occasion, the adult returned later to see the display again without juvenile accompaniment.

Saturday was warm and sunny as we have not seen here lately and two of the groups assigned to share the basement space claimed their tables and moved them outside. This left lots of space for display and kept the noise level down between groups of children. Lots of folks picked up flyers for the guild and looking at the baskets all day finally wore down the two knitters who shared the space. They sent me an email today saying they will both be in the Open to the Public class in May. On the whole, there is no finer way to spend a Saturday than luring in new people who will come to love the rough, sore fingers and the empty bank accounts that can come from the love of creating beautiful baskets. Many thanks to Meredith and Billie for sharing the fruits of their labors, to Mary Jo Baylor for loaning me a wonderful guild scrapbook to display and for advice on what she found useful in the past years at the Gathering, and to Cindy Stanton for sending me the OTP application that worked like chocolate luring in new weavers. "...and for only \$25, you too can take home this lovely basket - but wait, there's more. There are thousands and thousands of patterns, tools and techniques and a whole guild of addicts to inspire you - and Convention.....just you wait!" Works every time!.....Mary Normand

Special Note..we received a very nice thank you letter from the Department of Museums and Cultural Arts for participating in the Gathering of the Guilds...Great Job Mary!!

North Carolina Basket Associations Annual Convention....from the eyes of a first timer...

We left Virginia Beach at 7:30pm, myself, Linda Lindner and Rhonda Jones. Linda and Rhonda were the perfect navigators, we arrived at about 10:30ish, with not a wrong turn the entire way. As I told them, never let me navigate, we would have ended up in SC.

When arriving the night was quiet, we checked in and with that, tried to get some rest before our big 4 days started. Thursday morning came very soon! We had a call from the Queen Mother Billie at about 11:00 asking where we all were! After making an appearance at the Royal Room (Billie's room) I went downstairs to see all the excitement, I couldn't believe it! One room full of vendors, approximately 25 in one large room, and another 10 or so down the hall. I tried to contain myself and not purchase too much on the first day.

The weaving room was huge with hundreds of people weaving at the same time. I saw many familiar faces from teachers to students. What fun that was to recognize some old friends! My first class started at 4:00pm, a Nantucket. Wow, I was so excited. We wove until late in the night, our baskets were beautiful and we all came out of there exhausted! It was after 11:00pm before I went back to the room to collapse and try to sleep.

Friday came and I wasn't scheduled for any classes, so I took the opportunity to sleep in a bit. Finally getting down stairs I went to the vendor room alone, and did some major damage to my credit cards there! A little while later I met up with Laura White and Brenda McCall. We headed back to the vendor room and purchased more items. Just can't get enough!! My credit card was melting by this time! The exhibit room had some beautiful pieces that we, the students, get to vote for. Me, I know nothing about these items, but did go through, look at each piece and placed my vote. Awards for the exhibit room will be given at the meeting on Saturday. Finally late into the afternoon, we all arrived back at our room, found something for dinner, went to the wonderful Teachers Marketplace and then fell into bed.

Saturday was another fun day of weaving. Again, what a sight to see hundreds of people, of all ages, weaving! After class, we went to dinner with the Queen Mother and had a really nice sit down dinner, no more sandwiches in the room!

The NCBA business meeting started at 8:00pm. The business portion didn't take too long, then they announced the winners from the Exhibit Room, and guess who won 3rd place for the Mixed Media category...our own Judith Saunders. What excitement on Judith's face, we were all excited! Great job Judith!!! Then on to the door prizes, two TBG members won, Colleen Skelton won a pair of earrings and Sue Legault won a huge book of patterns from the Pattern Room. Also included were 3 or 4 books. You go Sue!!

After the big evening, a bunch of us held "court" in the Queen Mother's room. We had a great time just laughing and talking about all the fun the 3 days had been so far.

Sunday came bright and early and we all had 8:00am classes. I was not feeling well, but attended a wonderful miniature class and learned so very much. At 11:30 we all squeezed back into the truck, with the threat of me having to be strapped on the top, we all had purchased way too much, we headed home. We all had a wonderful time and we all will be back next year. Cindy Stanton

VCR alert--April 11 at 6:30 a.m. HGTV is rerunning the interview they did last year with Patti Quinn Hill. She's the one in the exhibit room at NCBA with the tall paper baskets with curls. Her work is amazing. The program is Our Place-469 *** Billie Dorris (Queen Mother)

Guilders Weave 2004

We are well on our way in the planning stages of GW '04. Myself and co-chair Laura White have "very big" shoes to fill! Sam Winters "Big Dog" has done an outstanding job over the last two years. But don't worry, she hasn't left us, she is still our "technical" advisor.

By the time this newsletter arrives we will have our hotel plans ironed out. And will be ready to send out call letters to our teachers.

We will need many volunteers to make the event run smoothly, so keep in mind where you would like to volunteer your time and let me know.

Also, it's never too early to collect those door prizes and welcome bag goodies.

Thank you and I look forward to being your GW '04 Chairperson.

Cindy Stanton

Impressions of my first NCBA convention?

Where to start? A huge room with 40 classes going on simultaneously! An exhibit room with the most amazing baskets on display. A huge room full of vendors of everything a basketweaver could want, plus a hallway of vendors' hotel rooms full of everything a basketweaver could want, plus a Friday night Teachers' Marketplace of everything a basketweaver could want! Meals of peanut butter crackers and canned fruit wolfed down in the room in between classes or during short class breaks. Fifteen people sitting around Billie's hotel room, relaxing and chatting and laughing. Four classes and a seminar in three days. Brief bits of conversation in the hallways and elevators with other folks carrying buckets and totes and handsome baskets. Staring hopefully at the numbers on my raffle tickets, hoping to hear my number called for that basket full of chocolate goodies. A kaleidoscope of colors of beads and waxed linen thread and dyed reed (nothing like my gray cubicle at work). Eating, drinking, sleeping baskets (with an underlying stream of CNN and images of Baghdad and desert). It was amazing and exciting and sensory overload - a barrage of new ideas! And I came home with a new appreciation for some of the amenities of our own Guilders Weave. For a convention of 700+ people, there was no way to have regularly-scheduled meal breaks where most everyone sat down in the dining room together. No chair massages. No hospitality room with snacks and beverages. Our smaller convention may not have the smorgasbord of experiences, but it has its own comfort food type of ambience!

One tip for the trip home - when you put that recently stained basket in the car trunk so you don't have to smell it on the way home, don't put your pillow in the trunk, too! **MaryJo Baylor**

Note from Special Events Coordinator... Volunteers Needed!!!!

The Virginia Beach Spring Craft Market April 25-27 (Friday - Sunday) 10am until 6 pm. We will need at least 2 people for each shift; shifts are 9:30am - 2:00pm and 2:00pm - 6:30pm (adding the half hour to get in and get set up in the mornings and the half hour at the end to shut down). Volunteers will explain what the guild is, note that the baskets aren't for sale, offer applications for the open to the public class and demo basket weaving (so bring something small to work on).

Billie Dorris and Jerry Bernstein will co-chair this event.

The OTP is May 17 from 8:30am until 4pm. We need teachers for the market baskets and helpers.

If you can help, please give Rhonda Jones a call or email her at:

Specialevents@tidewaterbasketryguild.org Thanks for all your help!! Rhonda

Tidewater Basketry Guild Receipts/Expenses 2002-2003

Members please go to the website and access the members only page to see the budget and expenses for 2003-2003.

If you should have any questions, please contact Barbara Jessome.