

WeGO Grant Activity Report, October 2015:

**Klamath Spinners and Weaver's Guild** opted to give four-\$50 scholarships towards workshops from the \$200 WeGO grant awarded to the guild in October of 2014. Grantees were determined in a drawing of interested members' names last spring. One member due to unforeseen obstacles later decided she would not be able to attend a workshop, so we ended up dividing into three \$66.67 scholarships instead. Awardees are:

- Jennifer Lehman who attended a Black Sheep Gathering Navajo Spinning workshop in June
- Sharon Allen who attended the Robin Spady Extreme Warp Makeover Weaving workshop in September
- Marjorie Brick Who is attending "Blast with Bast" at Oregon Flock and Fiber Festival in late September

Here are their reports:

### **From Jennifer Lehman**

Hi, Kathy.

I went to BSG in June and learned how to use a Navajo Spindle. This was my first exposure to using any sort of spindle, so it was quite the experience! I was interested in the topic because my father-in-law has a passion for Native American history, so I have developed an interest in it as well. In addition, I enjoy learning how tasks were completed traditionally.

For those unfamiliar with a Navajo Spindle, as I was, the spindle has a long shaft with a large wooden whorl. The spindle is used in a seated position resting on the floor with the shaft supported by your leg. The shaft is then rotated along the leg to twist the wool. As it is twisted, it is collected on the spindle until enough is available to spin yarn. The spun wool is then spun into yarn using a method of creating a chain in the yarn (like you would in crochet) to create a three-ply yarn.

The class discussed and demonstrated techniques of spinning wool and plying it into yarn. I will use the information to continue practicing spinning using the Navajo Spindle and learn more about spinning techniques that have been used for ages. Overall, the class was a great experience!

Jen

**From Sharon Allen:**

Attending the Robin Spady workshop in Bend was a pleasure, educational, rewarding and entertaining. The workshop was entitled, "Extreme Warp Makeover" and it truly opened my mind to the possibilities a weaver can do to change one warp threading. The possibilities and options created by changing the tie-up and/or the treadling were so many that it was a challenge to get them all done in 2 days/ (which I didn't, but am working on) I tend to be a weaver that only follows the recipe and Robyn's workshop showed me that it really isn't hard to change the recipe. She also showed us how to change the tie-up and treadling sequence on a computer program.

Robyn's explanations at the beginning of each morning and afternoon sessions were extensive, well thought out and humorous. She has a great sense of humor. She is very encouraging. She "thinks" and understands weaving. I learned a lot from this workshop and enjoyed it very much. Thank you for the scholarship.

Sincerely,  
Sharon Allen

**From Margie:** (who may or may not get a post workshop report to me before the fall 2015 WeGO meeting – OFFF is Sept.26-27 in Canby)

**Date:** Aug 23, 2015 1:37 PM

Saturday afternoon, at OFF, I am taking workshop 553, 'Blast with Bast'. Bast fibres (flax, bamboo bast, ramie, hemp) are amongst the most eco-friendly of spinning fibres. Also flax grows very well in Oregon even Klamath County. As spinners, weavers, and fiber artists, both locally and regionally, we are truly short changing, missing out, and ignoring some of the most fabulous of fiber experiences. I hope to encourage my guild to experiment more with these little used products. And for myself I hope to finish processing the flax I grew and harvested in my garden three years ago and make something with it!

(An afternote from a post OFFF phone discussion with Margie) – In the class they spun three preparations of flax, some ramie (hemp family), and bamboo. The key to spinning is wet fingers, but not wet fiber – smooth the yarn after it is twisted. Flax is Europe grown, but China processed (the best is combed in one direction only). Ramie was very nice, like silk, shiny, and spins thin. Margie still wants to learn to grow and process flax. She learned from the teacher of a group in Victoria BC that is doing this. Group is called "Flax to Linen Victoria BC" and has a Facebook page.