

Contemporary Handweavers of Houston News  
<http://www.weavehouston.org>

April 2004— page 1

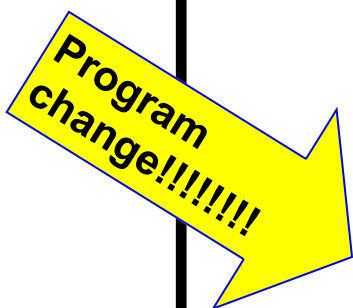
## May Meeting

Thursday, May 20

7 pm

Bayou Manor

4141 S. Braeswood

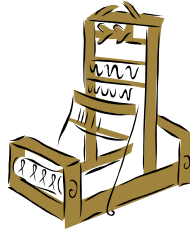


**This month's program: Liz Axford:  
"Redefining Quilts"**

Liz Axford is an artist who lives in Houston, Texas, and whose work includes an increasing variety of fiber techniques: quiltmaking, surface design, handmade felt and embroidery. A former architect, she teaches quiltmaking design and dyeing nationally. Her work has been included in many juried shows including *Quilt National*, *Crafts National*, *Fiberarts International*, *CraftHouston* and *Materials: Hard and Soft*. She was the 1998 recipient of the *QuiltVisions* Quilt Japan Prize, and in 2001-02 enjoyed a 6 month residency at the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft.

Liz's talk will be a look at the work of a half dozen quiltmakers, including herself, whose work is changing the way we think about quilts.

## *From the Loom*



**A**s I sit down to write this I feel

the urge to reflect for a moment on how my two years as president has gone. The hand over board meeting in June 2002 was flooded out by tropical storm Allison. Was that an omen for my first official meeting as the guild's president? In August, I had to make an unprecedented decision to cancel due to horrendous street flooding. That was a difficult decision, thank goodness for the Internet and telephone trees. I recollect that it was a very wet fall and more often than not it seemed to pour down rain on the third Thursday of the month.

I was nervous starting out but I have to confess that I have become quite comfortable leading the meetings. I want to thank each of the board members for the outstanding work they do. It is amazing to me how well everyone works together to keep this fifty five year old organization alive.

Speaking of lively, the April meeting was jam packed with all kinds of good things. First of all, thank you to Pat Souder for driving in from Fort Worth to give us a highly entertaining and inspiring program on using your hand woven scraps. My head was spinning with ideas. Hearing the details about our Livestock Show and Rodeo volunteers was so inspiring. Volunteering truly is the heart of the guild. Look for part two of Art Camp show and tell at the May meeting because quite a few were unable to bring their things in for show and tell. I know everyone enjoyed meeting Humaira Fazili and Shazma Matin and hearing about pashmina shawls from Kashmir. It was a rare opportunity to be able to see and handle such fine quality pashmina. Not to mention, being able to buy one.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your president— it has been a lot of fun.

See you at the May meeting,

DeeDee Woodbury  
President  
[ddwoodbury@houston.rr.com](mailto:ddwoodbury@houston.rr.com)

## Door prizes

Thank you to everyone who brought a lovely door prize. We received quite a few this time, but we only gave away four of them so you'll have to come to the next meeting.

Anita Burgess won a really neat Cattail Rep Weave placemat that Connie Elliott gave us. We gave away the last of the Guatemalan handwoven purses that Gerri Woodhouse donated. Pat Lewis received that. Cheryl McWilliams donated quite a few items, but the little "Maggie" loom was given away to Claire Galbright. The best for last, was a spectacular gift from Blaine Davis. Made by his own hands, a Viscosity print, "chin colle" (Chinese collage) with hand coloring. It was gorgeous and Linda Sura was the lucky person who won that print.

Amber Killian

## Membership renewal time!

It is time to renew your membership. We put out the renewal forms for everyone to start renewing their membership at the last meeting, but May and June are critical months. It is easier to renew at the meeting and you save a stamp!

If you cannot make to the meeting, there are other ways to renew your membership:

- you can print the form included with this e-newsletter; or
- you can use the form included with the newsletter if it is mailed to you; or
- you can print the form from our website [www.weavehouston.org](http://www.weavehouston.org)

Keep in mind that there is a change in the membership form. Starting with this coming year, you will automatically receive the newsletter via email, unless you elect not to.

Send your renewal early to make sure you get your name in the book! Or miss any of our exciting newsletter.

Diane Ferguson  
Amber Killian

## New Complex Weavers study group

### Acadian Textiles

Norman Kennedy first mentioned seeing a private collection of Acadian Textiles in Southern Louisiana, a number of years past. On a return trip to Texas the following year, he taught a group of us how to spin thick cotton for the Acadian blankets. The beautiful textiles and the simplicity of them piqued my interest. Audrey Bernard of Beau Bridge, Louisiana, encouraged me to catalogue as much of her collection as time permitted. At first, I thought I would play around with weaving the collection. Now that I have more insight (there are not enough days in my life to complete the task), I thought further a bout exposing as many weavers as possible to weave and share our discovery around the world.

In the study group, everyone will be encouraged to try to find more information on the Acadians. They were the first permanent French settlement near Nova Scotia Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick in 1604. We have a lot of history to examine.

As a member of Early Weaving Books and Manuscripts, it has been a tremendous joy when an old weaving book is found in somen's estate or attic. My hope is that early notes, textiles and journals will be found showing us more into the lives of the Acadians.

We will weave the collection. Warps and wefts will be assigned. They were all on two shaft looms, using 10/2 or 20/2 unmercerized cotton for warp. Very simple cloth.



The cotton ticking sample here is blue and white. The cloth was 10/2 unmercerized in warp and weft. After weaving the samples, I took this cloth on step further, using 16/1 linen in the weft for a bed sheet.

I did weave the ticking from Old Manuscripts for the swatch exchange, exactly as catalogued. For the balance of the warp, wove off yardage for 2 pillow

shams and 9 yards for 3 panels to sew into a sheet. The weft for the sheet was 16/1 white linen instead of cotton. I felt I needed this for a long life of the cloth. We slept under it. What a DREAM!

**Chair:** Charlotte Lindsay Allison [WC3424@aol.com](mailto:WC3424@aol.com)

**Fees:** \$10 US and Canada, \$15 all others

**Publication:** newsletter once a year in the spring

**Exchange:** one sample exchange per year included in the newsletter

**Group begins:** January 2005

**Membership:** Unlimited

**Note:** You must be a member of coplex Weavers to belong to a study group. Please check your expiry date or contact Francis Alcorn at [alcorn@nwlink.com](mailto:alcorn@nwlink.com).

*Charlotte Lindsay Allison*

## Excess Equipment Auction

At the CHH meeting on Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup> we will have a silent auction of some of the guild's excess equipment. If you are interested in participating but unable to make the meeting you make send an individual who may bid in your place. This person must know your maximum limit on the item and be willing to take the equipment purchased home that evening. The items for auction are:

Mountain Loom table loom  
8 shafts, 22" weaving width, double back beam, reed, texlov heddles, and a stand that the loom sits on. Current retail for a new Mountain Loom is \$870 and the stand \$225. Minimum starting bid is \$200

Louet S10 Spinning wheel  
Single treadle, barely used. Current retail for a new S10 is \$392. Minimum starting bid \$100.

Late breaking news; a past member, Judy Mitchell, son is donating her weaving estate to the guild. There is a Schacht 25", 4 shaft table loom with a stand. Current retail for the loom is \$680.00 and the stand is \$171. Minimum starting bid is \$150.00. There is also an assortment of books, yarn and small tools that will be for sale.

Proceeds from this auction will go towards future equipment purchases and repair of existing equipment. These are great deals for new weavers and spinners, don't miss out!

Tracy Kaestner; 281-347-1055;  
[tkweaver@houston.rr.com](mailto:tkweaver@houston.rr.com)

## Kudos to our members

**Lynn Williams'** lovely silk paper and organza shirt/jacket is featured in the latest issue of Bel Ar-moire magazine.

**Lynn Gammon** has an article in the latest issue of the Surface Design Newsletter.

**Rosemary Malbin** and **Jane Ellis** have fabric samples in the Color Forecast article in the most recent issue of Handwoven.

**Laura Viada** has ahad a piece of yardage accepted for the I Can See for Miles yardage exhibit at Convergence 2004.

Congratulations to all!!!!

*Laura Viada*

## Westside Weavers

Usually meet on the first Tue of the month at 10am.  
Contact Antje Godflam, 281-596-8622,  
[agoldfam@houston.rr.com](mailto:agoldfam@houston.rr.com)

This year's study: scarves, to be exchanged in December 2004. Join us. You can still take part!

Next meeting: at Betty's  
June TBD  
July/August no meeting  
September at Claire's

## Refreshments

Our new refreshment chairperson is Gloria Chuckman. Our thanks to Gloria for volunteering. Everyone please continue to share your cooking creativity when it is your alphabetic turn

Find the first initial of your last name, and bring a snack for the CHH meeting that month.

VWXYZ May

## WOW Meeting

May 11 (Tues) open (Color Theory mug rug exchange)

## Board Meeting

Attention all CHH board members

The hand over board meeting has been rescheduled to **May 22, 2004 Saturday at noon**. The location of the meeting is Lisa Session's home at 334 Elder Glen, Webster 77598. Usually this is a potluck lunch meeting that starts in the morning and goes through the afternoon. But, this time we will bring finger foods and snacks to share and eat while we meet. All new chairs and officers should plan to attend. Out going officers and chairs should be prepared with a final report and be able to hand off to the incoming person.

Call Lisa for directions – 281-488-0178

**CONTEMPORARY HANDWEAVERS OF HOUSTON**  
***P. O. Box 820-0803, Houston, Texas 77282-0803***  
**MEMBERSHIP FORM**  
**June 1, 2004 – May 31, 2005**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Fax (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Cell (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP DUES:**

\$25 Individual Membership

OR

\$30 Family Membership

(Make check payable to CHH. Prorated amount is one-half of either type of membership after January 1 for new members only. One time use - not available to renewing members.)

Please mail my membership book to me at the above address. Add \$ 1.00 for this service.

I want to include a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the CHH Building Fund with my dues. (The Treasurer will issue a receipt for the tax deductible portion of your check which is the difference between the total amount of the check and the dues amount.)

Please complete the following optional information.

I would like to be listed in the membership book as a mentor in the following area of expertise:

\_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in volunteering for the office of \_\_\_\_\_.

I would like to teach a workshop or give a program on the following \_\_\_\_\_.

I would like to be listed in the Equipment List in the membership book. This will allow members to call me for advice and information on a particular kind of equipment that I have. (Example: Loom, Shacht, 8 shaft, 45" wide)

Here are some ideas for workshop subjects or teachers or programs or speakers:

**( ) No, I don't want to receive my newsletter via email.**

For Membership Chair use only: Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Check Date \_\_\_\_\_ Date sent to Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_ Date info sent to editor \_\_\_\_\_

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I'd be happy to send you a free color catalog of our quality handwoven baskets, pottery and line of complementary accessories—products that will add style and function to your home. A collectible *Longaberger Basket* makes a perfect and prized gift for your fiber friends.

Call or e-mail for information on scheduling an informal home show with your friends and family—a fun time to get together and share! (\*All American Made for three generations!) I look forward to hearing from you soon.

## 2004 UREP Expeditions

### **Festivals, Costumes and Textiles of Oaxaca, Mexico**

Led by Cynthia LeCount of UC Davis

When: August 8-21

Contribution: \$1895

Assembly point: Xoxocotlan International Airport (Oaxaca City)

Mexico expert and author, Chloe Sayer (Central Saint Martin's College of Art and Design, London), and Cynthia LeCount will lead a UREP team to document festivals, contemporary festival dress and traditional textiles in the tranquil and beautiful state of Oaxaca.

People in the villages surrounding the city of Oaxaca are known for prolific textile production and regionally distinctive dress. UREP teams will be introduced to Mexico during the first week by traveling to Zapotec-speaking villages near Oaxaca City to document fiber processing, dye methods and materials, and cochineal farming, as well as weaving and embroidery techniques and motifs. Then teams will travel south to the southern Isthmus region, where the women are world-famous for their beauty, spirit and glorious festival dress called traje — incomparably lovely velvet blouses embroidered with bold colorful flowers, with matching full skirts.

The itinerary is planned around three important mid-August festivals, called velas, in the towns of Juchitan, Tehuantepec and Jalapa del Marques: the Vela Asuncion, the Vela San Jacinto and the Fiesta Patronal del Barrio de Santa Maria Relatoca. These celebrations include parades of flower-laden floats, bull-drawn carts and costumed dancers, as well as special festival music and foods.

Participants will attend the festival and document the costume, music and dancing. Teams will also survey the markets and will purchase typical regional, handwoven clothing and fabulous example of the typical traditional Isthmus festival costume for the Textile Collection of UC Davis' Environmental Design Department. Lodging will in the charming local hotel.

Internships through 2004 Expeditions, University Research Expeditions Program (UREP), UC Davis Extension:

[www.extension.ucdavis.edu/urep/expeditions.asp](http://www.extension.ucdavis.edu/urep/expeditions.asp)

*Mitzi Payne*

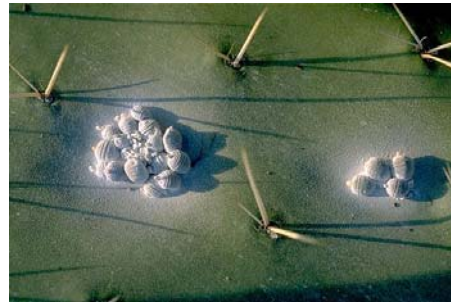
## Spanish Today

Do you know where that scrumptious red color in maraschino cherries and strawberry gelatin comes from?

The source of the rich red and orange colors in many of the foods we consume is cochinita, or cochineal, an unassuming and lackluster cactus insect that, once dried and ground into powder, is used to make red dye. It is such an indistinct and languid little critter that the Spaniards, who first observed Indians farming it, thought it was a seed.

Cochineal is native to Mexico and had been cultivated by the indigenous people in the central part of the country long before the Spanish conquest. After it was introduced in the Old World, the textile industry of Europe created such a big demand for the product that cochineal became the third most important export of New Spain after gold and silver. It was supposedly cochineal dye that gave the bright red tone to the redcoats' uniforms, and also colored the stripes that Betsy Ross used to stitch the American flag. It is also said that Michelangelo used it in his artwork.

The production of dye from cochineal calls for 70,000 insects for one pound of dye; it is thus quite costly when compared to artificial colorants. Not sur-



prisingly, after 1850 with the advent of anilines, the demand for cochineal drastically declined and brought an end to the prosperity enjoyed by Oaxaca and other cochineal-producing areas of Mexico.

The natural dye, however, continues to be used in foods and cosmetics, and with the marked increase now in the number of people who seek out organic ingredients everything they eat, rub on or wear, the demand for cochineal appears to be on the rise again.

Source: Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico San Antonio campus. Look for this feature online at [mysanantonio.com](http://mysanantonio.com)

*Pat Compton*

## Loom for Sale

LeClerc Nilus 36"  
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Contact: Daria Pezman  
281-558-2101



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**June 2004**

Wednesdays 11am-3pm  
2,9,16 and 23

Fridays 6pm-10pm  
4,11,18 and 25

Saturdays 9am-4pm  
5 and 19

*Beginners and Project Classes*

## Some food for thought

A recent issue of Mary Englebreit Home Companion magazine featured a story on textile artist Laura Foster Nicholson who weaves incredibly sumptuous tapestries and fabrics, and then spreads the beauty of her work around with ribbons and trims based on her designs.

Laura's handwoven brocaded tapestries are shown in museum collections such as the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum and the Archives of the Venice Biennale. Besides creating one of a kind tapestries, Laura heads the LFNTextiles Studio, where she designs and produces upholstery and drapery fabrics and a new line of jacquard-woven trims and gift wrapping ribbons based on her tapestries.

Here are some "tricks of the artist's trade" from Laura:

First things first: focus on your art

- Nurture what you know and love. I love nature, gardening, and food, and many of my designs are based on these things
- Learn to do one thing extremely well, then expand your repertoire. Don't fritter away your talent and energy by being a jack-of-all-arts
- When you get burned out, visit galleries or other artists' studios for inspiration
- Don't get distracted by housework or you'll never get to your studio! Art comes first. I save the dishes for the end of the day and clean the house just once a week, on Saturday

## Shows at the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft

Two new shows are currently being exhibited at the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft:

- Cabinets of Curiosities—April 10 through June 6. Fourteen micro-museums collections and their containers, created by 50 woodturners and furniture makers working together to kindle and satisfy our curiosities
- Playing Around. Fifty imaginative toys that recall a time before plastic and mass production, when all toys were handmade. These toys were designed to engage the mind and imagination of users. Organized by the Arkansas Art Center in Little Rock, and Alan DuBois, the Center's Curator of Decorative Arts

Also, in the Artist Hall: Interactive Toys (April 6-May 9), and Three Decades, Three Forms by Chris Cantwell (May 11-June 6).

## Another Oaxaca trip

This trip is organized by Sharon Giles of Fiber Designs by Sharon ([www.fiberdesignsbysharon.com](http://www.fiberdesignsbysharon.com), 610-781-4345).

Dates are July 1 and January 2005. Cost: \$1250/double. This includes all meals, daily tours, cooking and papermaking workshops. Each person needs to arrange for their own transportation to Oaxaca.. The trip includes visits of major archeological sites, Monte Alan and Mitla. Visits to several museums, a mescal factory, local village markets and crafts villages, as well as a full day of cooking classes.

## Don't forget to renew your membership

Yes. Another reminder that it is time to renew your membership just in case you missed the other one. This is easy and convenient: renew at the next meeting, or use the form included with this newsletter, or print the form from our website.

**Upstairs Studio**  
**111 1/2 North Second Street**  
**La Porte, Texas 77571**  
**281-470-0108**  
**Fax 281-470-7979**  
**877-722-4996**

**May 8, 2004**

**Dee Dee Woodbury “Teaching Warping your loom Back to Front”,**

10 AM to 4 PM, Fee \$50.00 Min. 6 Students

This is a full day workshop and the students will wind warp, and dress looms completely!  
Warping tips, threading methods and tying up.

**June 26, 2004**

**Lynn Gammon “ Book Binding”**

10 AM to 4 PM, Min 6 Students, You will not have to bring anything!

Fee \$65.00

**July 17, & July 18, 2004**

**Dee Dee Woodbury “ Transparency Weaving” (Old Finnish Technique)**

Linen Warp with tow Linen inlay, tapestry Technique using a cartoon.

10 AM to 4 PM, Min. 6 Students

Fee \$100.00

**July 24, 2004 Lynn Gammon “Paper Making”**

10 AM to 4 PM, Min. 6 students, You will not have to bring anything!

Fee \$65.00

For those of you interested in learning to weave on a back strap loom please e-mail me.

**[upsstudio@att.net](mailto:upsstudio@att.net)**

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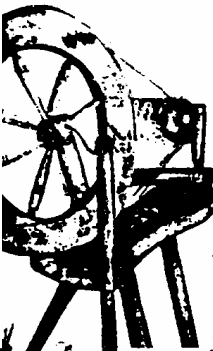
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*Send ad copy and check in advance to Giovanna Imperia, Editor, 934 Caswell Court, Katy, TX 77450. Electronic copy and artwork is preferred ([gimperia@houston.rr.com](mailto:gimperia@houston.rr.com)). Make checks payable to CHH.*

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*CHH is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the art and science of hand-weaving and spinning, related textile arts and historic textiles.*