

New and Returning Events I know we've been saying we're slowing down and eliminating some of our biggest shows on the East Coast. So why did we *add* a new event this fall? Because it was different, sounded interesting, was relatively close, and they wanted a weaver to demonstrate. Most of you have probably heard about **Mother Earth News Magazine** with articles on sustainable living. But did you know they sponsor Fairs throughout the country with hundreds of seminars, workshops, and vendors? I know... Neither did we. It was a very interesting and rewarding new experience for us, in Topeka, KS.

Christianson Native Craft Workshop craft camp, last week of July, 2015, has persuaded me to return, after a couple years hiatus, to teach Continuous Strand Weaving, Inkle Weaving and more. This week-long family craft camp at Shannondale, Missouri (about 20 miles south of Salem on Route 19), has activities for every age group, plus family float trip, dancing, auction, and more — over 35 “native crafts” including chair caning, silver and black smithing, split oak basket making, spinning, weaving and dyeing, dulcimer playing, broom making, photography, and much more. See contact information on page 11 to learn more.

This year the **Jefferson City Fiber Retreat** in March will be hosting acclaimed weaving instructor from the Mannings School in Pennsylvania, Tom Knisely, as key-note. Bex and I will again be teaching and vending. The **All MO Spring Spin-In** in April will be held in Chillicothe, MO. Zelma Cleaveland puts together a great event with vendors and spinning competitions. Bring your spinning wheel and just hang out for the day.

Midwest Weavers Conference is hosted this year in June by very active Minnesota Weavers Guild in St. Paul. Didn't get my teaching proposal in on time, so will just be vending this time. (I need a secretary to help me meet deadlines!) Of course, we plan to attend our 10-day fur trader rendezvous, the **Alafia River Rendezvous** in Homeland, Florida this January, to teach shawl weaving, inkle and tablet weaving, spinning, and dye seminar, compete in the Highland Games, hear period music, attend the pow wow, and much more. I've been invited to teach Continuous Strand Weaving in Gulfport, FL the weekend before Alafia. And we're again teaching and vending at the **Michigan Fiber Festival** in August. Then I plan to retire from shows. Hmmm. We'll see how that goes! Bex and Eric will continue to represent us at shows in the future.

That doesn't mean I'll slow down completely. I plan to attend workshops and conferences as a participant, and get more involved in such organizations as WARP (Weave A Real Peace), conference in San Francisco, May 2015. And, want to spend more time kayaking the Missouri River, working on family geneology, and organizing my home.

Workshop with **Madelyn van der Hoogt** coming up in May: **Things that go Bump, Deflected Weaves**. Many of you know Madelyn from her editing time for *Weaver's Magazine* through XRX Publishing, then editing *Handwoven Magazine* several years for Interweave Press. She has written *The Complete Book of Drafting*, currently runs The Weaver's School on Whidby Island, WA, and has recently made several DVD's on weaving techniques. She and I started weaving together in a Study Group of our Columbia Weavers and Spinner's Guild back in 1980. She's coming home in May to teach this workshop with our Guild.

Tips and Tricks for Mending woolen items: Have a hole in your favorite wool sweater? Or a hole in your Pendleton blanket because your new puppy used it for a chew toy? Don't enjoy darning? Don't throw your damaged item away. Try using a felting needle! Either slightly overlap the two torn edges and poke the two layers together with the needle, or, find matching wool fiber or yarn and needle-felt a patch over the hole. Felting needles have little barbs on them which cause the wool fabric to meld together when poked with it a few times.

Using the same idea, try repairing the shawl you have woven on the triangle loom when you discover a float of yarn that missed its over/under weave. Cut one of the floats, slightly stretch the two cut tails so they can overlap, tuck the tails into their corrected position, then needle felt the repair. You won't notice the repair. Trust me. I've done it! Too bad I didn't think of this trick before writing the book *Continuous Strand Weaving Method!*

Another tip: wear heavy rubber gloves when cleaning fish or other game to avoid bacterial infections. Denny's been cleaning fish all his life, but last week he wound up in the hospital two nights with a severe strep infection: temp 104, causing a heart murmur, red streaks up his arm, and hand swollen to three times normal size for several days. He's fine now, but certainly learned a lesson.