

# GLEANINGS

VOICE OF NAWW SUMMER 2017

## Memorial Fund History in the Making

2017 marked the 14<sup>th</sup> year for the giving of Memorial Fund Scholarships. We had 5 recipients this year bringing the total scholarships awarded over the years to 41. This year's recipients were Tami Anderson, Carole Bolton, Linda Foster, Debbie Nystrom and Raisa Ramanenia.

The Statement of Purpose for the memorial fund is to sponsor activities that promote the growth and development of NAWW. In keeping with this statement, the Memorial Fund awards scholarships for first time convention attendees, donates money to the *Gleanings* so that they may utilize color and/or other enhancements at their discretion and donates to the web hosting fee. NAWW was honored to have Raisa Ramanenia from Belarus at our convention this year. Since Raisa does not speak English, the Memorial Fund helped to sponsor Tatyana Bychkov as her interpreter. Raisa and Tatyana made a very good team!

Past scholarship winners attending this year's convention were Catherine Chamberlain, Kate Farris, Norma Schertz, Richard Kulbacki, Debra Smart, Paige Johnson, Elaine

Lindsay, Joy Whitbeck, Tatyana Bychkov and Cathy Meyers.

The teacher project auction continues to be the largest money making event for the memorial fund. Thank you to all the teachers who donated their items for auction.

Also this year we received some wheat related items to put up for auction from Bekka Rousek and Janet Brewin. We appreciate these donations.

The Traveling Weave Auction goes to the Memorial Fund account. A big thank you for all items donated and for member support in bidding on these items. I hope all of you enjoy your purchases.

As indicated in our title "Memorial Fund", I want to thank all who donate to NAWW in memory of past members. Recently we received donations in memory of Jan Gowan. We miss her. Dianne Ruff, Memorial Fund Chair.



*Present & Past Scholarship Winners attending convention this year. Front from L to R: Cathy Meyers (NE), Elaine Lindsay (UK), Linda Foster (IN), Norma Schertz (IL). Back row from L to R: Debra Smart (KS), Joy Whitbeck (IL), Tami Anderson (IL), Debbie Nystrom (IL), Carole Bolton (MI), Catherine Chamberlain (CA) and Tatyana Bychkov (CA). Absent from picture were Richard Kulbacki (Canada), Paige Johnson (CO), Kate Farris (MI) and Raisa Ramanenia (Belarus). Photograph: Dianne Ruff (IL)*

### • C o p y   D e a d l i n e •

The next issue *deadline* is **September 1, 2017.**

**Future Deadline:**

**December 1, 2017**

Joan Dulcey thanks you for contributing to *Gleanings*.

### Quote to Remember

*"Everything good,  
everything magical  
happens between the months  
of June and August."*

Jenny Han,  
The Summer I Turned Pretty

# The NAWW Annual Convention: Weavers Start Your Plaiting!

by Joan Dulcey (MD)

Indianapolis welcomed 49 members of the National Association of Wheat Weavers along with their guests to the NAWW's annual convention from April 19 to April 23, 2017. The early birds who arrived on Tuesday had several tour options in the city on Wednesday, including a trolley tour of the city and raceway tour or tour of the State Museum or the Eiteljorg Museum. Our nine instructors taught a great mix of classes with advanced, intermediate and beginning techniques featured in 16 different projects. We had instructors from four countries, U.S.A, Belarus, Scotland and Canada. Fifty-five attended the Friday evening banquet and favor exchange. Attendees were given a preview of the next convention to be held in Boise, Idaho and were invited to "Come to Idaho for a Little Wheat and Potatoes." At the

annual meeting, the membership elected Christine Swanson to First Vice President and Membership Chairman, Rita Weber to Secretary and the following district directors: Central, Dianne Gardner, Eastern, Kathy Dailey and Western, Kristen Scholz.

The five scholarship winners were joined by 55 others for the Saturday evening banquet with entertainment by Brian "Fox" Ellis, a historical story teller.

Another highlight of the event were our delicious breakfasts and lunches in the Hospitality Room prepared by Chuck Frost and friends. It was a nice way each day to visit with old friends and meet new ones.

The Trade Show had seven tables of beautiful works, supplies, books and other interesting items for sale and display.

A happy consequence of the

convention was that we now have a new *Gleanings* team! Rita Weber has consented to replacing Linda Beiler as my co-editor and has brought along her husband, Garry as a proofreader. Norma Schertz has volunteered as a second proofreader. This is a tremendous relief to both Celestine and myself who will miss Linda very much. Thank you so much, Rita, Garry and Norma. Thanks to Linda for five great years and also to Kathy Morris who has served as proofreader for several years.

I would also like to thank Dianne Ruff, Pat Frost, Kathy and John Dailey, Joy Whitbeck, Linda Meeker and Kathy Morris for all their hard work in putting together this wonderful event.



## *A Touch of Kansas*

Dianne Gardner

Larned and Turkey Red

bundles for sale

Ph 785-794-2464

Email [dianne\\_gardner@yahoo.com](mailto:dianne_gardner@yahoo.com)

*The color of the Larned wheat this year is excellent.*

*Lengths varied from 13 to 16 inches.*



## Notes from the President

Becky Straub (KS)



It is mid-May as I write my report. I hope your year is going well. We have been getting a lot of rain in Kansas and my trees and plants are loving it. But today the sun is shining, and it is a beautiful day.

If you have not heard, I fell and broke my shoulder (4-part proximal humerus fracture) on 17 December 2016. My shoulder was patched together with a metal plate and 10 screws. The repair as it appears in the x-ray has been variously described by friends as a hairbrush or some strange bug. I am healing and, with therapy, hope to have a full recovery, which can be expected to take at least another year (hopefully in time for Boise!). And the first week of May I was able to weave wheat for the first time in five months.

I was not able to attend the 2017 Convention, but from the accounts I have heard, it was a big success. Thank you to those who made it so. I am looking forward to 2018 in Boise.

From the elections in Indianapolis, returning Board members are Christine Swanson - 1st Vice President, Rita Weber - Secretary, and Kristen Scholz - Western District Director. New Board members are Kathy Dailey - Eastern District Director and Dianne Gardner - Central District Director. Stepping down from Board positions are Pat Frost - Eastern District Director and Clyde Goering - Central District Director. Thank you for your service to the NAWW.

Rita Weber has agreed to become co-editor of *Gleanings* with Joan Dulcey. Norma Schertz has volunteered to become a proofreader. Thank you to all.

I am also looking forward to working with the NAWW Board and all the members in the coming months. My first step is to be more accessible. I plan to check [wheatart52@cox.net](mailto:wheatart52@cox.net) at least weekly. If you need a quicker response, please text me at 316-640-9035 with the best way to contact you, the necessary contact information (e-mail, address, phone number) and the best day and time to make contact.

I am planning to hold quarterly Board meetings via conference call. The first meeting is to be scheduled some time in July. If you have items that you would like brought before the board, please contact me or any of the NAWW Board Officers or Regional Leaders.

Happy Weaving!  
Becky

# European Filigree Favor

by Linda Meeker (CT)

*This piece was designed after some European pieces that I saw on the Internet. They were done in all spirals with plaited flowers. I wanted a smaller version.*

## Straws Required

8 matched medium straws 14" - 16" long

4 matched medium straws 16" or longer

4 matched fine to medium straws 12"

(for hanger, just in case your other straws are not long enough)

2 thick straws 12"

## Other Supplies

Thread

Pinning board

## Techniques

Two-straw plait \*

Whip Plait\*

*\*The NAWW Plait Directory*

Straw Rose

*The NAWW Plait Directory*

*First Addition*

## Finished Size

Approximately 3" x 4"



*Photograph: Joan Dulcey (MD)*

## Instructions

1. Soak straws until pliable. Make 4 two-straw plaits as long as possible and equal in length and size.
2. Find middle of each plait and coil the ends toward the middle. Pin in a V shape to dry with one each pointing North, South, East and West.
3. When dry, tie the plaits together near the center.
4. Make a whip plait long enough to encircle your designs, plus a hanger.
5. Tie each coiled piece to the whip plait.
6. Make a two-straw rose and glue in the center.
7. Brush some glue onto the back of the coils so they don't spring out.



# Figure Eight Wheat Thread Earrings

by Dianne Gardner (KS)

*About a year ago, Dianne and I saw a video post on Facebook by a woman named Samo Noor for directions to make this figure 8 design using fine cord. We both thought they looked interesting, and Dianne said she was going to try making them with straw thread. Her beautiful version using straw thread was a big hit at the convention. Here are her directions. A wheat friend from Hungary also has used this technique with two straw and catsfoot plaits and a combination of the two with a straw bead in the middle! You can also put 5 together to create a flower. There are endless possibilities! Joan*

## Straws Required

Two straw threads at least 16", longer is better

(It is not recommended to join the threads as there is no place to hide the knot.)

## Other Supplies

2 ear wires

Two 1 ½" findings with flat bottom or small ball

Masking tape

Waxed paper

Piece of Styrofoam 4" x 4"

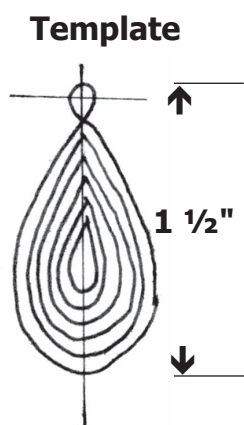
Glue

## Techniques

Figure 8 weave

## Finished Size

Approximately ¾" x 2"



*Photograph and Template: Joan Dulcey (MD)*

## Instructions

NOTE: You will be working on the front of the earring. Finish one but do not put on glue until you have the second one done to make sure they match!

1. Place the pattern on the Styrofoam and cover with a small piece of waxed paper to protect the pattern.
2. Starting at the large end of the thread, make  $\frac{3}{16}$ " loop and tie with a fine thread. Tie loop on both threads so that you get them both the same.
3. Lay the loop on the pattern with the tail on the top of the thread with the end pointing to the left. Pin it down. This loop hides the wire loop that attaches to the ear wire. Coil the thread onto the pattern on the 5<sup>th</sup> line. Pin it on the left and right side just above the halfway mark and along the bottom of the loop. You will have to stagger the pins. The thickness of the thread will determine how tight the pattern will be.
4. Return to the top and cross over the thread at the top, right at the tie of the loop. Thread the wheat thread onto a needle and slide it under the loop just above the loop tie or directly on it. Pull the thread under the loop, around to the front and cross it over the thread to the left side. The thread should be snug against the tie of the loop. Pin through both threads. Repeat this process, keeping the loops close together. Each time you go under the loop at the top, the thread will lay below the previous thread and will be a little wider. If you pull it too tight, you will distort the loop. If you do not like the looks of the loop, you can start over going either larger or smaller. You want an opening big enough for the small bead to fit in the center.
5. On the last wrap, you will bring the thread back to the front and down the middle. Put masking tape on the

front of the loops to secure it so you can handle it and keep the loops in place. Take the bottom pins out first and put on a piece of tape. Then remove the side pins and place on another piece of tape.

6. Thread the thread onto a needle. Working on the back side, insert the needle between the front and back and pull any excess thread to the top. Be careful not to go through any thread.
7. Put the bead on the wire and lay it in the space in the center of the loops. Tie the wire in place by going between the 2 threads on the right and left at the top of the opening for the bead. Tie on the back side. Tie at the top over the original tie and catch the thread that was pulled up the middle and the wire with the bead. You will have to work it into the threads so it does not show. Try not to have any of the unspun thread going up the middle because it will show through the pattern. Go to the top and gauge how much wire you need to make a loop to lay behind the thread loop. Cut off the excess wire. Carefully shape the wire loop making sure it is completely closed or the earring will fall off the ear wire.
8. Place the earring onto a piece of waxed paper and paint the back with a coat of glue. Let it dry completely and remove the masking tape. Make sure the ear wire catches both the thread loop and the metal loop.
9. Attach the dangle to the ear wire and enjoy!

## Linked Hearts

by Gladys Brockway (KS)

*This is a simple and quick little project. I have made them for a museum gift shop, a school fund raiser, and other organizations. Or use them as a bow on a package.*

### Straws Required

8 - 12 medium matched long straws

### Other Supplies

Base for pin (mat board works well)

1" bar pin back

### Techniques

Four- or Six-straw fill-the-gap plaits

Compass Plait

*The NAWW Plait Directory*

### Finished size

Approximately 2 ¼" x 2 ¼"



*Photograph: Gladys Brockway (KS)*

### Instructions

1. Soak straws. Make two round plaits (4 or Six-straw fill-the-gap, or Compass plait) 6" to 6 ½" long. Stretch slightly if needed.
2. Fold each plait in half and tie about ¼" from the fold. Fold one butt end to the right and the other to the left.
3. Make a heart with one of the plaits and tie. Tie the narrow plait ends together and take the butt end of the second plait through the first heart and complete the second heart. Pin to dry. Add a hanger if you desire.
4. Decorate with a bow, roses, baby's breath, etc.

# Triple Heart Favor

by Deborah Warren (VA)

*Here is the lovely triple heart favor that Debbie made for Friday's favor exchange.*

## Straws Required

24 medium Blackbeard straws  
2 short medium straws for hanger

## Other supplies

Wooden heart  
Red acrylic paint  
Ribbon  
Thread  
Drill

## Techniques

Six-straw fill-the-gap plait\*  
Three-straw rick rack plait\*  
Two-straw plait\*

*\*The NAWW Plait Directory*



*Photograph: Joan Dulcey (MD)*

## Finished Size

Approximately 6" x 6"

## Instructions

1. Thoroughly soak black bearded straw until pliable.
2. Drill a hole through the heart vertically and paint with a deep red.
3. Make 2 rick rack plaits and 2 fill-the-gap plaits long enough to frame wooden heart.
4. Make 1 two-straw plait
5. To assemble. Tie the 2 rick rack plaits together at the end of the plaits. Put one of the straws down through the heart and tie the heads together and bring post down behind the heads. Tie in place.
6. Tie the heads of the fill-the-gap plaits with the other heads from the rick rack plait. Bring the fill-the-gap plaits along side and around the outside of the rick rack heart, tying at the top and bringing the ends down behind the hearts. Tie in place.
7. Tie hanger in back.
8. Glue the heart in place and decorate with ribbon and small straw element right above the ribbon.



# Wrapped Rose Pin

by Tatyana Bychkov (CA)

*Tatyana's favor for the exchange on Friday was this lovely wrapped rose pin. I am thrilled that she is sharing it with us.*

## Straws Required

Red straws to cover pattern  
Golden straws for leaves  
12 large straws for Swiss Straw Rose

## Other Supplies

Dyed parchment paper\*\*  
Favorite glue for marquetry  
Pin back  
Strong glue to attach pin back  
Thin wooden circle  
Gold beading wire #28 and #32\*  
1/8" x 12" wooden dowel\*  
Small piece of heavy card stock\*  
Macramé board with "T" pin\*  
Masking tape\*  
Straw splitter\*  
Strong glue to attach pin back  
Thin florist wire

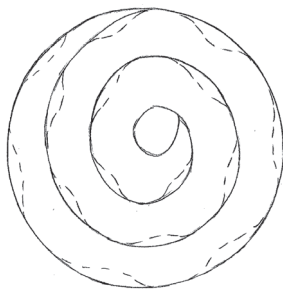
## Techniques

Marquetry  
Swiss Straw Rose\*  
\*The NAWW Plait Directory  
First Addition

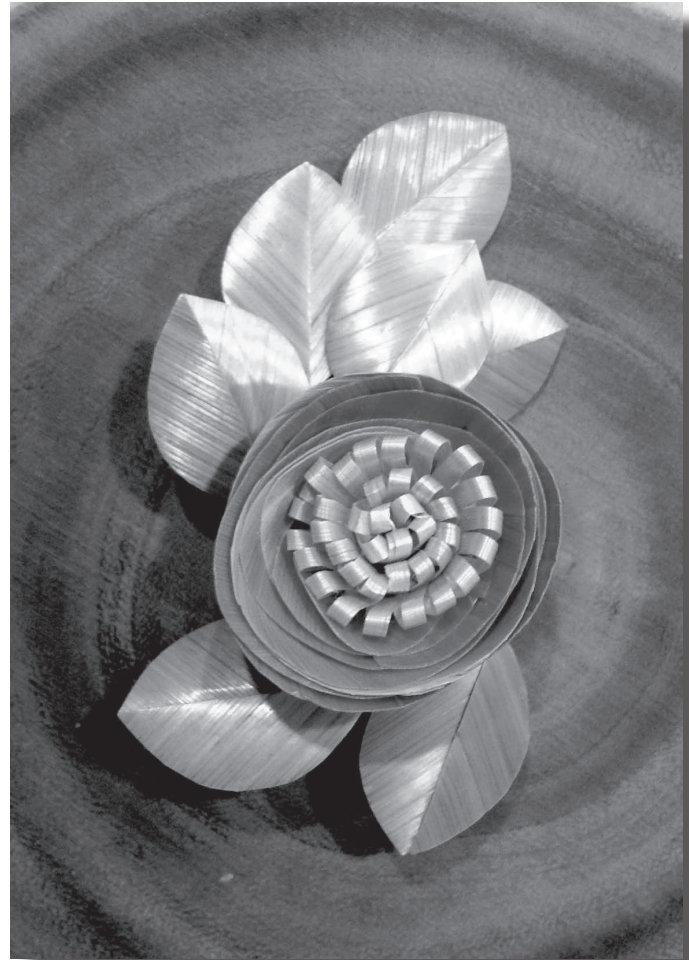
## Finished Size

Approximately 1 1/2" x 2 1/2"

## Template



*Full size template  
on page 23.*



*Photograph and Template: Tatyana Bychkov (CA)*

## Instructions

1. Prepare straw for marquetry.
2. Trace pattern on a piece of parchment paper. Turn it over and cover it completely with straw by gluing strips of straw next to each other without any space between them, until the circle is covered.
2. Cut on the line starting from the outside edge to the center of the circle. When it is done, cut out some curves, as shown, to create petal-like edges.
3. Make a Swiss Straw Rose following the directions in the Plait Directory First Addition. (You can skip this step and use another element in the center).
4. Start wrapping the spiral leaving some space in the center for the stamens. Add glue as you wrap. Glue some parchment paper to the bottom of the flower to keep the shape of the rose. Leave it to dry. After it is completely dry, insert straw rosette or any other decorative element.
5. Use a thin florist wire for the leaves. Trace leaf pattern and cover with marquetry. Cut out leaves and glue a wire between the leaf and additional layer of the parchment paper.
6. Take a thin wooden circle and arrange your leaves on it first. Use a hot glue gun or use hot glue to attach the leaves to the circle. Then glue the rose over them to hide all the ends. Attach a pin to the back of the wooden circle.

\*\* Tatyana dyes the parchment paper after she is finished dying straw. She submerges the paper in the dye bath. This way it matches the straw.

# Swheat Pins

by Kathy Dailey (IL)

*Raisa Ramanenia's beautiful work filled with details was the inspiration for the teacher pins in Indianapolis. I used different textures, levels and color to add interest to the pin. This project takes a lot of time and precision. Patterns and measurements are not given. It all starts with your base shape. Even with patterns I had to do a lot of adjusting to each pin. It is hard to cut the heavy mat board exactly on the line. So you need to adjust all the pieces to fit the actual shape. By adding the pieces and trimming them to the base shape you will have a neater and a more "finished" piece. Use the photo as a guide for each step. Be sure to always wipe off excess glue and smears.*

## Straws Required

3 medium matched straws 12" - 14" long  
About 4 short straws for lattice work and  
marquetry

Several pieces of red, bleached, green and  
yellow long straw for quilling  
(depending on the width of straws, you  
may get 1 or 2 quilled pieces from  
each straw)

## Other Supplies

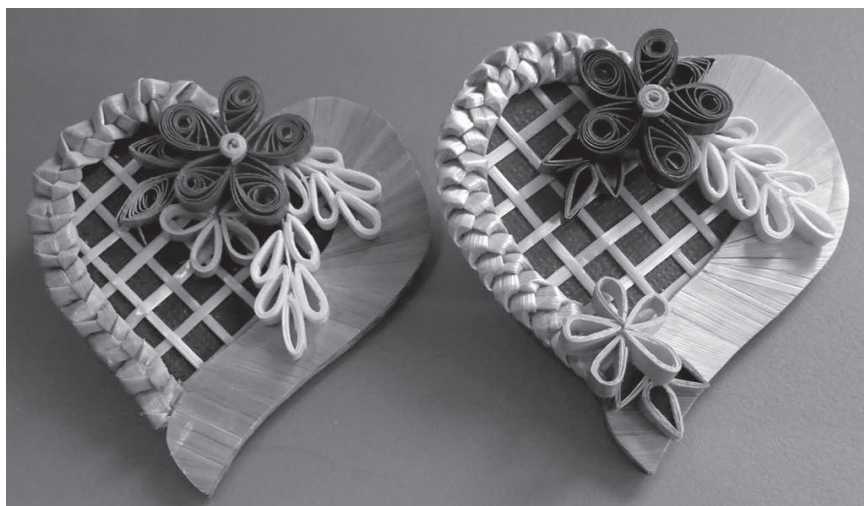
Base for pin (mat board works well)  
1" bar pin back  
Clothespins  
Xacto knife  
Quilling tool  
Tacky glue  
E6000 glue  
2 fine emery boards  
Hindenburg  
Pointed tweezers  
4.5 mm knitting needle  
Block of wood with two blades imbedded  $\frac{1}{8}$ " apart  
Colored card stock  
Spring clamps  
Hot glue gun  
Masking tape

## Techniques

Catfoot  
*The NAWW Plait Directory*  
Marquetry  
*The NAWW Plait Directory*  
*First Addition*  
Quilled flowers  
*Insert for The NAWW Plait Directory*

## Finished Size

Approximately 2  $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 2  $\frac{1}{4}$ "



*Photograph: Kathy Dailey (IL)*



## Instructions

1. To prepare straw for quilling, you will need to mill and cut straw to  $\frac{1}{8}$ " strips. (Straw ribbons) Open dampened straw and run Hindenburg or other flattening tool across straw. Pull straw ribbon across tool with blades. To make flowers, you will not need straw to be more than 3" - 8" long. Pull between two emery boards several times so that the shiny side of the straw will accept the glue. Make desired shapes from directions on insert and set aside.
2. Cut heart shape about 2  $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 2  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from mat board with Xacto knife. Cut 2 holes for the pin back to fit through. The holes need to be big enough that the pin will open and close easily. Push the pin through the holes and glue in place on the inside of the pin. By doing it this way, the pin will be secure and will be hidden on the inside by the design.
3. Split straws and basket weave them to form the lattice work background. Cut a square of colored cardstock bigger than the heart shape. Mark masking tape with the spacing you want for the weave. Tape one end of the vertical splits at the markings and tape down to the table. Weave the cross splits. Tape one end of the cross splits to the markings on the tape and press to the table so that the ends of the tape overlap to start making a square. Tape the other side of the cross splits the same way. Tape the 2<sup>nd</sup> end of the vertical splits the same way. Carefully lift the tape from the table and paint tacky glue to the back side of the lattice splits. Glue it to the colored cardstock background. Wipe off excess glue and weight down until it dries flat and secure. You can iron it from the wrong side if it is not really flat.
4. Glue the heart shape to the back of the cardstock lattice piece using E6000 glue. Weight it down or cover it with a protective piece of cardboard and clamp it with spring clamps until it dries. Trim the excess cardstock from the heart shape with an Xacto Knife.
5. Cut a curved shape for one side of the heart pin. This shape goes from the V at the top of the heart to the bottom point. Turn over the pin and trace this onto the medium thick cardboard. Only cut the inside edge on the line. Cover the shape with marquetry. Trim the ends of the marquetry on the inside edge. Lightly sand this edge with an emery board to soften and round the edge. Glue the shape onto the heart using E6000 glue. Cover it with a scrap piece of cardboard and spring clamp it in place. The extra cardboard keeps you from marking the marquetry with press marks from the clamps. When it is dry, use the Xacto knife to trim the outside edge of the heart shape.
6. Make a piece of cat foot plait longer than the edge of the heart. You can choose another narrow flat plait in place of the cat foot. Paint tacky glue on the ends of the plait where you think you will be cutting it to fit the edge of the heart. After the glue is dry, cut through the glue to make the plait exactly the length you need. The plait meets the marquetry at the V and again at the bottom point. The glue will keep the plait from unravelling. Glue the plait to the edge of the heart using E6000 glue. Use clothespins to hold it in place until it dries.
7. Use an emery board to lightly sand the edges of the heart pin. This will help remove glue and sand the wheat and cardboard edges smooth to the heart shape to give the piece a "finished" look.
8. Glue the quilled flowers to the heart shape using a hot glue gun.
9. Date and sign the back of your pin.

# Color Photographs of Projects



*European Filigree Favor  
by Linda Meeker (CT)  
Project instructions: Page 4  
Photograph: Joan Dulcey (MD)*



*Figure Eight Wheat Thread Earrings  
by Dianne Gardner (KS)  
Project instructions: Page 5  
Photograph: Joan Dulcey (MD)*



*Triple Heart Favor  
by Deborah Warren (VA)  
Project instructions: Page 7  
Photograph: Joan Dulcey (MD)*



*Linked Hearts  
by Gladys Brockway (KS)  
Project instructions: Page 6  
Photograph: Gladys Brockway (KS)*



# CONVENTION

## "Weaver's...Start



*Egg Class*  
 Seated L to R: Joan Anderson (IL),  
 Raissa Ramanenia (Belarus), and Sidney Lee (WI)  
 Standing L to R: Richard Kulbacki (Canada),  
 Kathy Dailey (IL), Rita Weber (OR), Joan Dulcey (MD),  
 Nancy Meeker (CT), Dianne Gardner (KS)  
 and Tatyana Bychkov (CA)  
 Photograph: Raissa Ramanenia (Belarus)



*Eastern Traveling Weave*  
 Photograph: Kathy Dailey (IL)



*Western Traveling Weave*  
 Photograph: Kathy Dailey (IL)



*Paige Johnson (CO), our youngest  
 teacher and Mary Thrower (KS)*  
 Photograph: Kathy Dailey (IL)



Ph



# N - INDIANA

## ...Your...Plaiting"



*International Traveling Weave  
Photograph: Kathy Dailey (IL)*



*Sunday's Spiral Flower Class  
L to R: Kathy Meyers (NE), Kathy Dailey (IL),  
Marian Vavra (KS), Dianne Ruff (IL), Diane Davis (CA),  
Lorraine Homco (TX), Kathy Morris (MA), Debbie Warren (VA),  
Pat Frost (IL), Raisa Ramanenia (Belarus)  
and Maxine Fricke (SC)  
Photograph: Raisa Ramanenia (Belarus)*



*Central Traveling Weave  
Photograph: Kathy Dailey (IL)*



*Wednesday's Trolley Tour  
Photograph: Kathy Dailey (IL)*



# Color Photographs of Projects and Tools



*Wrapped Rose Pin*  
by Tatyana Bychkov (CA)  
Project instructions: Page 8  
Photograph: Tatyana Bychkov (CA)



*Sweat Pins*  
by Kathy Dailey (IL)  
Project instructions: Page 9  
Photograph: Kathy Dailey (IL)



*The Hindenburg*



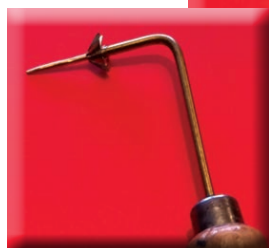
*Leaf Boards*



*The Needle Holder*

*Photographs of top 3: Elaine Lindsay (Scotland)*

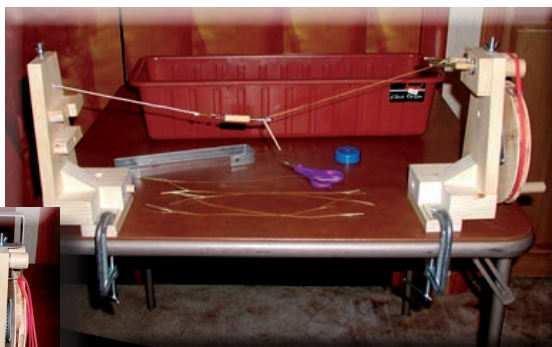
*Splitter*



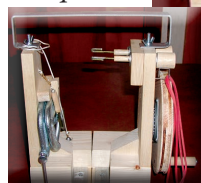
*Splitter  
Close-up*

*Photographs: Walter Kilchmann*

*Spinner  
Set-up*



*Spinner  
Compacted*

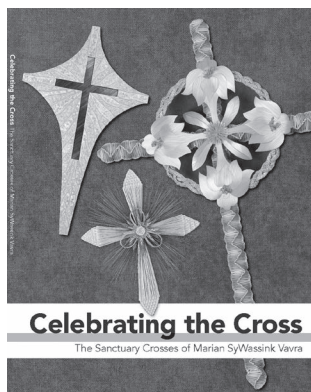


*Photographs: Dianne Ruff (IL)*



## NAWW OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>President</b>	Becky Straub (KS) <i>2016-2018</i>
<b>First Vice-President, Membership Chair</b>	Christine Swanson (CA) <i>2017-2019</i>
<b>Second Vice-President, Ways &amp; Means</b>	Sondra Messenger (KS) <i>2016-2018</i>
<b>Secretary</b>	Rita Weber (OR) <i>2017-2019</i>
<b>Treasurer, Finance Chair</b>	Kate Farris (MI) <i>2016-2018</i>
<b>Eastern District Directors</b>	Kathy Morris (MA) <i>2016-2018</i> Kathy Dailey (IL) <i>2017-2019</i>
<b>Central District Directors</b>	Gladys Brockway (KS) <i>2016-2018</i> Dianne Gardner (KS) <i>2017-2019</i>
<b>Western District Directors</b>	Karen Bell (CA) <i>2016-2018</i> Kristen Scholz (CA) <i>2017-2019</i>



### Celebrating the Cross

*The Sanctuary Crosses of Marian SyWassink Vavra*

In addition to providing detailed instructions for crosses or companion projects, experienced wheat artist Marian SyWassink Vavra explains the specific techniques needed to complete the artwork. Woven into this colorful, photograph-filled book are the stories behind and inspirations for the design of nine masterpiece crosses, as well as the prayer written on the back of each.

Contact: Marian Vavra • 316-776-0661  
[mbvavra@powwwer.net](mailto:mbvavra@powwwer.net) or at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)

List Price: \$50.00 / 134 pages / 8.5" x 11" (21.59 x 27.94 cm)

ISBN-13: 978-0692739129 • ISBN-10: 0692739122 • BISAC: Crafts & Hobbies / Weaving

## 2017 Scholarship Winners



*From L to R:  
Tami Anderson (IL), Debbie Nystrom (IL),  
Linda Foster (IN) and Carole Bolton (MI)  
Photograph: Dianne Ruff (IL)*

### **Scholarship recipient: Tami Anderson** by Tami Anderson (IL)

As a recipient of a scholarship to this year's National Association of Wheat Weavers' Convention, I had the joyful experience of connecting many of my life experiences to the present day.

For as long as I can remember, I have enjoyed studying about other countries and cultures, and the artistic love seen throughout each of them. As my parents were missionaries, I had a special love for the Eastern European countries and would pour over books and magazines with photos of far-off lands.

When my children were small, I had the joyful experience of visiting Hungary, Slovakia, and Austria. Later I was able to travel with a friend to Russia, where we spent three weeks helping her adopt a little girl. It was there I fell in love

with the Eastern European art. The detailed decoration of the eggs, the stories painted into their dolls, eggs, paintings and so much else captured my heart. The joy of living with a local family, experiencing the culture first-hand, and sinking into who the people were was an experience I will always treasure.

Throughout the years of my marriage, I have also had the joy of watching my mom-in-law, Joan Anderson, weave beautiful art out of wheat. I began to look for examples of her work from different countries where wheat weaving has been embraced (or originated). However, I never had the chance, in the midst of raising four rather rambunctious kids, to try my hand at weaving... until this week spent with the NAWW weavers.

What an incredible surprise it

was to learn that we had teachers from all over the world - and we would be taught some of the very art I had fallen in love with when traveling in Eastern Europe! To create a decorated egg that had the same beauty I had fallen in love with in Russia, to create a mosaic of tiny tiles, and peonies and bees like I have seen in my own gardens throughout the years was truly magical! To see the creativity that seems endless, and simply enjoy the camaraderie of a delightful group of weavers, was an incredible gift...and I am truly thankful!

Thank you so much for allowing me to join all of you in your gift of weaving!

Tami Anderson

## Scholarship recipient: Debbie Nystrom

by Debbie Nystrom (IL)

In 2011, I accompanied my mom, Joan Anderson, to the annual wheat weaving convention in Boston. Since I was homeschooling my two daughters Nicole and Olivia, they were able to come along and were excited about the opportunity to go on a trip with their grandma. What fun we had getting to know the NAWW members as we explored the historical streets of Boston. The convention was most impressive as we saw various unique and beautiful examples of straw art being taught and on display. The girls and I had a very rewarding time.

From then on it became a tradition that Olivia and I (since Nicole was in college) would accompany mom to her convention each spring. We looked forward to seeing familiar faces each year and exploring new cities like Portland,

Minneapolis and St. Louis. The last two conventions were missed due to my dad being ill. After my dad passed away this past January, I encouraged mom to attend the April convention in Indianapolis.

This year my daughters couldn't make it to convention, but my sister-in-law Tami Anderson was able to come. We were looking forward to our trip and the adventure of having some "girl time" together. Mom encouraged me to apply for a scholarship so I could take classes and learn a skill this time. I was excited to receive the email from Dianne Ruff that I was accepted for the scholarship. The classes I chose taught techniques in weaving and marquetry. Even though the skill level was more than my experience, the teachers were very helpful and patient. I would like to

thank NAWW for the scholarship opportunity and I would like to thank Mary Thrower, Paige Johnson, Richard Kulbacki, Elaine Lindsay, and Tatyana Bychkov for teaching me their skills with straw art. I learned so much and really enjoyed my projects and can't wait to display them at home. I would like to thank the convention committee for all their hard work and creativity in organizing all the details that made an enjoyable and successful week of convention. Especially rewarding for me this year was sharing in my mom's love for straw art and learning alongside her in class. I am looking forward to joining all of you next year.

Debbie Nystrom

## Scholarship recipient: Linda Foster

by Linda Foster (IN)

My many thanks to Association leaders, teachers, new friends, and everyone for your inspiration! You, the Association, first of all, made it possible for me to attend by providing me with a scholarship, and for that I thank all of you. May I assure you that it was well worth your dollars in attaining new techniques and inspiration alone. But more than that, it was wonderful to finally meet fellow wheat weavers! I hope that my admiration for your corporate and individual talents is an encouragement to you.

On my drive home to DeMotte, IN, my mind was swimming with

ideas for new projects. Everything I saw along the road was translating into wheat – wind turbines in woven spirals? blossoming trees in marquetry? But then arriving home brought back the needs of husband, family, friends, and church. How do I keep it all in perspective? It wasn't long before I had the opportunity to join my daily life with wheat weaving – a marquetry cross on a sympathy card. (Thanks for that new skill.)

Springtime in Indiana brings a changing view of nature every day. (I hope you enjoyed your visit to my part of the country.) I especially

enjoyed experiencing God's creation in the projects you taught me... Rita's God's Eye Butterfly, Beth's Spreuer Garden, Raisa's Apple Blossom, Paige's bumble bee and flower favor, and Marian's soon-to-be-explored Applique Lily from her awesome book, "Celebrating the Cross".

Now I look at my backyard and ask myself, "What else do I see?" and "What might appear with the changing seasons?"

Hmm... I wonder...

-Linda Foster



## From Scholarship Recipient

by Carole Bolton (MI)

I'm Carole Bolton, a recipient of a scholarship to the 2017 NAWW Conference. Although I've been a member of NAWW for nearly 30 years, this was the first year I've been able to attend. My teaching position, caring for elderly parents and distance have deterred me in the past.

A short-term weekly class on wheat weaving at a local craft store lured me into the craft. After the term of six lessons, I was totally hooked. The instructor moved, but the store had many booklets for sale, and I purchased them all. Using these books, I became self-taught in many of the weaves, but desired to learn more. Shortly after that I discovered NAWW.

My husband and I are living history re-enactors, doing 18th to early 19th centuries' events. Through the years I have demonstrated wheat weaving throughout the eastern United States at various locations. I also love to share the history of wheat weaving with local groups. Recently I displayed various weavings I had made at our local library. Information about NAWW was included in my display.

Last week my husband and I attended our first conference at Indianapolis. We were welcomed and gifted with a workbook containing instructions for each project, a beautiful carry-all, stitched with the 2017 logo and my name, sweets and some tools. I took five courses at the Convention. Marian Vavra taught a two-part class entitled "Pure Heart--A Cross for Poland". Straw applique was the skill I attained. A complete framed cross was the result of this class. Rita Peterman was the instructor for the "God's Eye Butterfly". I had used several techniques taught in this class, but Rita showed me how to perfect them. She is a fountain of knowledge.

"Butterfly in Spreuer Garden", taught by Beth Keller, was a fun, but sometimes frustrating class, for me. I didn't finish, but I intend to complete it sometime in the near future. Beth is a remarkably patient instructor who I appreciated very much. For a long time I had wanted to learn about spreuers. Marian Vavra was the teacher of "A Gallery of Plaits". The 7-straw plait with picot variations was demonstrated

and then woven. The finished project was then wired to black canvas. It was satisfying to be able to finally understand these weaves.

An interesting thing occurred at Saturday's Banquet. Everyone was urged to wear wheat items. Besides a straw hat and earrings, I wore a Celtic knot pin that I had won eight years ago in a local Scottish Society's raffle. The pin had been donated by a Scottish lady who had purchased it while visiting relatives in Scotland and then later donated to the raffle. Elaine Lindsay, Scottish instructor, inquired where I had gotten the pin. After I explained this to her, she said, "I made it!" That certainly shows that it's a small world indeed.

The Convention was intensive and also fulfilling. Meals were hearty and delicious. I was happy to be able to put faces with names I've read in *Gleanings* throughout the years. We enjoyed being a part of the Wheat Expo and also purchasing many interesting items.

Thank you for the scholarship!

Carole



## Scholarship recipient: Raisa Ramanenia

by Raisa Ramanenia (Belarus)

*The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step*, Chinese proverb by Lao Tzu. My path to America began with the question from Dianne Gardner: Would you like to come to America to give several master classes? For me, a person who loves and travels a lot, this was not a problem. I answered that it was possible and, from that moment my journey began, or rather the preparation for it. I think it is necessary to recall how American colleagues and masters from other countries got acquainted with the Belarusian art of weaving straws. The credit belongs to Tatyana Repina; it was she who created the Belarusian site about straw weaving in Belarus and found people from America and Europe who are also engaged in weaving. Tatiana organized two festivals in Belarus, which were attended by everyone who was interested to see, learn and meet with Belarusian artists.

A special place in the association of masters from different countries belongs to Morgyn Owens-Celli, a man who did a great deal for all the festivals that took place from 2003 to 2016 (Belarus – 2003 and 2005, Hungary - 2007, Ukraine - 2010, Serbia - 2014, Poland -2016). So, I was already familiar with some masters from America. In 2014 I met Joan Dulcey at the festival in Serbia. Later, in 2016 at the festival in Poland, Joan and I met as old friends. Joan took the initiative and did all that was necessary and even more so that I could come this year to Indianapolis.

To go on a long journey alone is a risky business, but only the brave conquer the seas (Russian proverb). Now I understand that I was able to do this thanks to

everyone who helped me, and who prayed for my well-being. On the way to Washington and back, there were people who guided me and supported me with a smile. After I passed the passport control, and I was greeted by Joan and Joe



*Dianne Gardner (KS),  
Raisa Ramanenia (Belarus)  
and Joan Dulcey (MD)*

*Photograph: Raisa Ramanenia (Belarus)*

Dulcey, my stay in America was like a fabulous trip. The country, the beautiful places we visited, caused me a lot of emotions. Yes, and spring is a special time. Of course, all that I saw caused me delight, but the most important is the care and attention of my friends. I felt comfortable in their cozy house. I spoke a different language, yet we still understood each other. All the concerns about organizing classes and selling my work, Joan took care of for me, for which I am also very grateful. For me, Joan and Joe have become close friends. I think that's the case when the Almighty brings together people close in spirit.

I will not hide it; I waited anxiously for the convention to start. It is not so simple to conduct training classes with minimal knowledge of the language. I was very worried. The students coped with their task, and I did everything I could do to help them. I think the

main factor of success is a friendly attitude between people and a desire to understand and gain skills. Our interpreter, Tatyana Bychkov, was able to find the exact translation and thanks to her, we found a common language. I am very happy that I was able to get to know her and everyone who came to my classes.

Of course, we have different weaving techniques and there are some differences in what material we use in our work. But, I think, for creativity it is important to be able and know as much as possible to create new interesting things from straw. I love this material for its simplicity and, at the same time, its natural beauty; for being a very docile and thankful material when you take it in your hands. I know that each of you finds your own charms working with straws. Just like me. The love for this material unites us, and even gives us an opportunity to understand each other, despite the language barrier. I hope my students will be able to use the skills they learned in my classes and will apply this in their creative works.

I'm always open to communication. You can find me on the Facebook social network. I hope for further cooperation with your magazine. This in my plans to prepare a class for publication here.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to all those who helped me and supported me. In particular; Joan and Joe Dulcey, Dianne Gardner, Tatyana Bychkov, Richard Kulbacki, Pat Frost, Dianne Ruff, Linda Beiler, and Beth Keller.

Thanks to everyone who bought my work and came to my classes.

Sincerely, Raisa Ramanenia



## No Z in Boise

by Rita Weber (OR)

One convention is in the books, and another is being planned. In fact, I'd like to personally invite you to make plans to attend the 2018 convention in Boise, Idaho. Garry and I have been working hard to get the convention ready, so mark your calendars for April 18-22 at the Red Lion Boise Downtowner. Since Idaho is famous for its potatoes,

the theme is, "Come to Idaho for a Little Wheat and Potatoes." When we shared information about Boise at the recent convention, we passed out Idaho Spud candy bars to everyone and watched an entertaining YouTube video by Jewel as she performed a song she wrote especially for folks in Boise entitled, "There's No Z in Boise."

(This is intended to help people know how to pronounce Boise correctly, as Idahoans pronounce it with an S.) You just might want to take a look at the video for beautiful sites around Boise and the greater Treasure Valley area, but be warned, you will be humming the song for days, and days, and days... See you next year!

## There is no Z in Boise

We look forward to seeing everyone in Boise, Idaho for the 2018 NAWW Convention, April 18-22! Our theme is "*Come to Idaho*

*for some Wheat and Potatoes.*" This is an open topic so PLEASE consider submitting a project to teach! We are looking for a variety of half day

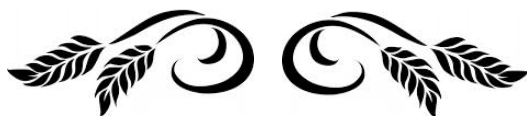
and full day projects for all weaving levels. Projects must be mailed to Christine Swanson by **September 16th, 2017.**

### Here is the project schedule:

Projects mailed to Christine by **September 16, 2017**  
Notification of accepted projects **September 30, 2017**  
Teacher Contracts due by **October 15, 2017**  
Project Instructions due *no later* than **December 1, 2017**  
**Convention: April 18-22, 2018**

Mail your project to **Christine**  
by **September 16, 2017** at

**Christine Swanson**  
3554 Mauricia Avenue  
Santa Clara, California 95051



	<b>Wheat Street</b>
	Melissa Ruboyianes 3227 Amelia Avenue Flushing, MI 48433
	810-919-6180 • 855-55-wheat <a href="mailto:wheatstreet@rocketmail.com">wheatstreet@rocketmail.com</a>
	Black Bearded Durum, Dakota Blackberries, North Dakota Wheat and some Oats and Flax. <i>I hope to have additional varieties to offer in the fall of 2017.</i>

## Message from Pat Frost

by Pat Frost (IL)

My dear friends,

I wanted you to know we did enjoy the convention. It was so special seeing friends, meeting new friends and being in the classes with such wonderful teachers. Of course, we always have those! I would not have shot out of bed every day at 5 a.m. and joined Chuck and Ed for breakfast preparation for more

special people than all of you! I am so very glad the meals were adequate and met your needs for the busy, fruitful days we had.

Amid the fun and learning, of course we all get weary, but it is a good type of weariness...with friends!

We did miss those of you who were not able to be with us and

hope that next year you will be able to attend the Idaho event!

Thank you for your patience and understanding with the circumstances that met us at IN. We all were doing the best we could for you.

Pat, Chuck and Ed Frost

## 2017 NAWW Membership Report

by Christine Swanson (CA)

You should find the 2017 Membership directory in this issue of *Gleanings*. We currently have 132 members.

The breakdown by region is as follows:

Eastern District:	40	Western District:	43
Central District:	30	International:	19

NAWW added 9 new members since January 1, 2017. NAWW would like to welcome our newest member, Laurie Duff-Robertson who joined on May 9, 2017!

### Laurie Duff-Robertson

512 W. Paradise Rd.

Spokane, WA 99224

509-624-1218 • duffrobertson@aol.com

## Tips

by Joan Dulcey (MD)

### Tip #1:

Use a fine wire to wrap the ends of plaits until dry. Remove the wire and put the pieces together with one tie! No more bulky ties. Submitted by Dianne Gardner from Raisa's class.

### Tip #2:

Blow only into soft straw such as barley, oats, and rye to make flattened straw for marquetry. No need to soak straw. From Raisa's class.

### Tip #3:

For plaiting hold bundle of straws up as a cylinder and pour hot/boiling water into it so it drains through; wait a few minutes and ready to plait. Good for soft straws.

## Tools: New and Old and Renewed Information Assembled

by Joan Dulcey (MD)

All we really need is straw, thread and a pair of scissors, but honestly, don't we all love our little extras to make our work easier? For many years Gordon Thwaites from the UK made many of these "extras": straw splitters, Hindenburgs and other tools. Mr. Thwaites, now in his 90s, no longer makes these tools, but Walter Kilchmann, from St Silvester in Switzerland, has collaborated with a specialist engineer to produce highly engineered straw splitters modelled on the design of those previously made by Gordon Thwaites.

The splitter will be made to your order with the number of cutting fins you desire; between two and nine fins. The cutting fins and shaft have been engineered from brass. To ensure a long-lasting sharpness to the cutting fins they have been

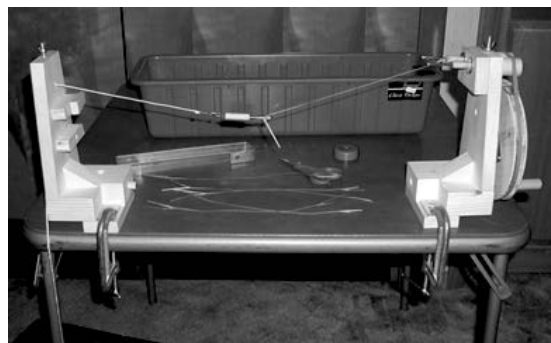
The improvement to this splitter has been to increase the length of the tapered metal guide enabling more stability as the straw is split. Original splitters, of the 1800s, also had this longer guide point.

To order your splitter contact Walter Kilchmann: [walterbees@gmail.com](mailto:walterbees@gmail.com). Price per splitter: 50Chf (Swiss francs) plus shipping. Each splitter is specially made to order and will take approximately one month.

Scotland's Sandy Lindsay (Elaine's husband) also produces some of these specialty items. Sandy mainly makes 3 tools. The Hindenburg, The Needle Holder and a variety of Leaf Boards. Again, the patterns have come from Gordon Thwaites who used to make these

tools. Price is £12 for each at the moment, and they can be bought from Elaine through her website [www.somethingcorny.co.uk](http://www.somethingcorny.co.uk).

Dianne Ruff's husband, Don, makes a straw thread spinner. The price is \$100 plus shipping. For more information contact: Don Ruff, 46 Ophir Ave., Lincoln, IL 62656, 217-732-1957, [wheatwood47@gmail.com](mailto:wheatwood47@gmail.com).



*Spinner Set-up*

*Photograph: Dianne Ruff (IL)*

And here is another "tool" easily bought in most department stores, a hair curling or flattening iron to flatten straw for marquetry! Here is information from Linda Downs in California:

Set a cool temperature setting or slightly higher on a hair curling or flattening iron. (You can find them at Target for about \$10-\$15) After soaking the straw for a few minutes, split open the straw and mill the inside to remove the starch. Put the end of a prepared straw between the two "blades" of the iron and pull the strip through. You might have to pull it through two or three times depending how wet your straw is. Your straw will be flattened and ready to be used for marquetry. Be sure to let the iron cool before removing any starch build-up on the iron with a cotton ball and "Goof Off" or a similar product.



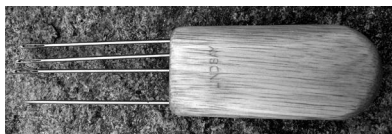
*Splitter*

*Photograph: Walter Kilchmann*

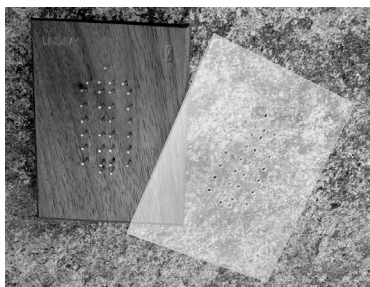
coated with a hardwearing material called 'phantom gold'. The solid wood handle fits comfortably into the hand.



*The Hindenburg*



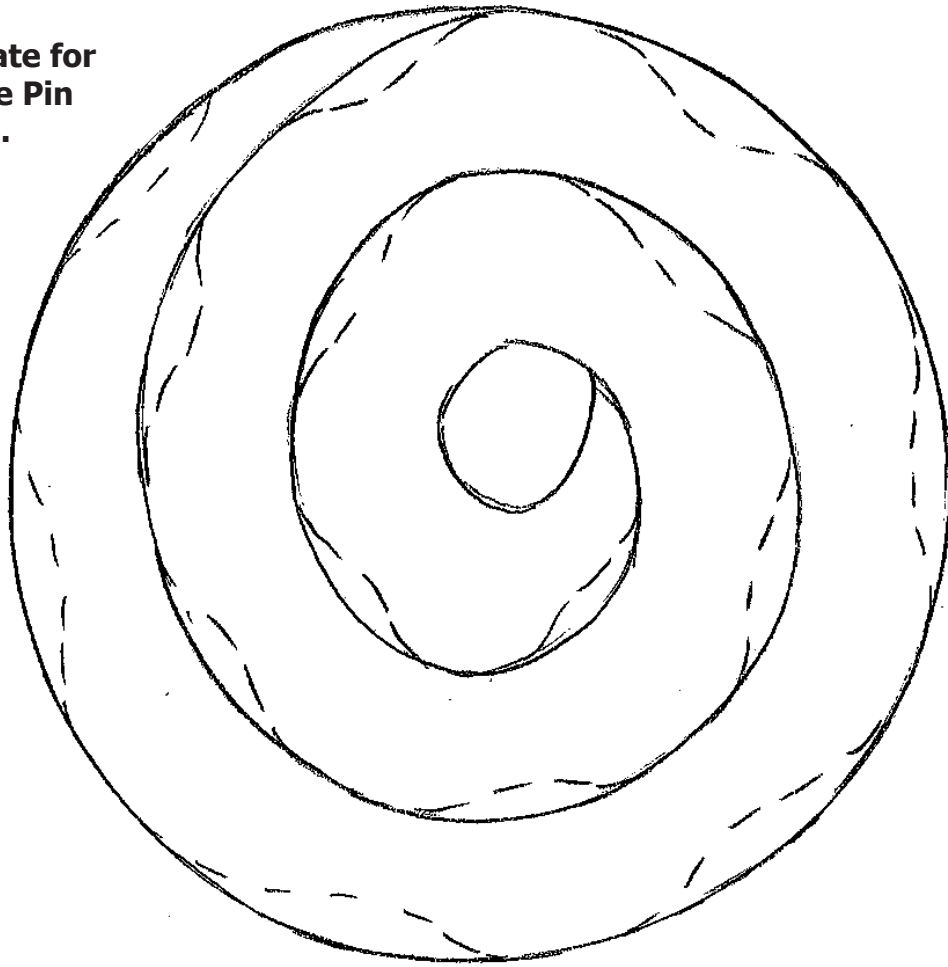
*The Needle Holder*



*Leaf Boards*

*Photographs: Elaine Lindsay (Scotland)*

**Full size template for  
Wrapped Rose Pin  
on page 8.**



## **Straw News:**

### **California Straw Arts Guild (CSAG) [californiastrawartsguild.org](http://californiastrawartsguild.org)**

CSAG enjoyed another successful convention in February, "Flora and Fauna in Straw". We decided to offer three all-day classes instead of two classes per day. Everyone who attended really enjoyed being able to learn and complete projects in a relaxed atmosphere! We've decided to do the same next year.

#### **Classes included:**

Stained glasses effect in marquetry by Tatyana Bychkov  
Quilling with straw by Diane Davis  
Straw paper flowers by Carol Thompson

Make plans to come to CSAG's next convention in California. Location to be determined. February 23 - 25, 2018.

Check out our website and become a member! <http://www.californiastrawartsguild.org/> Membership includes four issues of "Straw Talk" each year.

### **Illinois Association of Wheat Weavers (IAWW) [illinoiswheatweavers.org](http://illinoiswheatweavers.org)**

Upcoming meetings: July 12 at Dianne Ruff's, August 12-13 Bishop Hill, bring things to sell.

### **Kansas Association of Straw Artists (KASA)**

Workshop was May 5-6 two locations in Mountridg, KS. 4 fun-filled half-day classes in Salina on July 7 and 8.



# GLEANINGS

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NAWW 2017

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Visit the NAWW web site for all the  
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Show your straw art to the world; send images to  
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