



READING-BERKS CHAPTER

Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen

P.O. Box 85, Mohnton, PA 19540

★ ★ *Reading-Berks Guild Website:* www.rbcrafts.org ★ ★

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President's Message □

Here I am writing this message on Fat Tuesday and I am feeling pretty skinny having had to miss one of my favorite events, Fat Sunday as I call it. That is the day I get to eat Fastnachts, those wonderful little confectionery delights and all because I had a big fat miserable headcold I did not get to indulge. Yuck! I guess it is headcold season as well.

Anyway----If you were unable to attend February's general meeting, I will bring you up to date. New ideas for the Guild's two shows were presented. Terry and Judy Boyer will be the show chairpersons for both shows and Karen Myers will be the Advertising and Publicity Chairperson for both shows. Both Terry and Karen gave a presentation on how they would like to accomplish this and are asking all of you for help. Please support Reading-Berks Guild in their new direction with these shows. I know that if a lot of people will offer a little time we can accomplish much! The Reading-Berks Guild does appreciate what our members do! Without our members, there would be no guild.

The Spring Festival at Kutztown is shaping up. Excitement is in the air--let's face it, when you say Spring in February, one cannot help but get excited. "Easter on the Farm" an eggciting event is scheduled for March 15 at the Heritage Center. You, your kids and grandkids do not want to miss this event.

Michael Wargo, program chairperson, has lined up some good programs for us. If you are interested in doing a program, please contact Michael. *"Whenever you are asked if you can do a job, tell'em, 'Certainly I can!' Then get busy and find out how to do it."* -----Theodore Roosevelt *Barry Bennecoff. Your President*

Proposed Bylaw Change □

Article III Membership

Section 1. d.

Currently:

A person must be a member for at least six (6) months before being juried. All members shall be in good standing and their crafts juried prior to their being accepted for any participation in sales at a local show or state show sponsored by the Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen and/or the Reading-Berks Chapter. No one shall be permitted to sell at a Guild sponsored sales outlet until the above requirements have been met.

Proposed:

A person must be a member for a period covering at least three (3) meetings and/or 3 months before being eligible for chapter jurying. All members shall be in good standing and their crafts either chapter juried at a regular jury session, or approved by the standards committee with direction from the board of directors prior to their being accepted for participation in shows or any other Chapter marketing venue.

BCTV "Your Berks Craftsmen"

The February "Your Berks Craftsmen" program will be the pre-taped segment from the 2007 Kutztown Festival. March's program will feature artisans who will display and sell their wares at the upcoming Spring Festival. Chairperson, Terry Boyer will also talk about the new features of this year's Festival. So mark your calendars for these two programs. *W. Eugene Burkhart, Jr., "Your Berks Craftsmen" Host* □

March Program

As we move closer to spring, each of us imagines what the new season has in store for us. Some of us are thinking about our gardens, some vacations, others some sunny days.

Bob Ballantyne will present the March program. The subject is "The How and Why of Fly-Fishing". Now here is a fascinating subject. I know you might think that we have renamed our group the Reading Berks Rod and Gun club, but that is not the case. However...

Part of the passion for fly-fishing is the beauty of the surroundings. Those who have seen the movie "A River Runs Through" can relate to this. Bob will take us on a journey into the Yellowstone National Park and its fantastic sights. Part of the challenge is the intricate lures that are used, the names of which are also a unique part of the sport. Fly tying is an art and a passion, and I might add a craft. Some are content to reproduce these lures only for their beauty. Others are seeking the perfect lure for the trophy trout. Bob will relate his experiences and provide some engaging slides.

So, come with us on our journey. I'm sure it will be enlightening.

Just a note about the April program – I am looking for a few of our people that are willing to show "before and after". This program will feature people showing their work from the earliest entry into the craft to the refined product of today. So, if you are willing show your early work, and how it has progressed over the years, send me a note at MGWDECOY@aol.com, or phone 610 670-5545. I will be glad to discuss the details about the program.

Program Chair - Michael Wargo

PA German Cultural Heritage Center

Easter-on-the-Farm is just around the corner - Saturday, March 15, 10 AM - 4 PM. Volunteers are always needed.

Kids Camp is the end of July, if you can volunteer some time to teach a class, contact Elaine Vardjan.

Heritage Harvest Fescht is scheduled for October 18-19, 2008 the application is enclosed in this newsletter.

Mark your calendar for the ***first Saturday of December*** for Christmas-on-the-Farm.

Website

Calendar of Events A reminder that members should mail or email me a list of shows you are participating in this year. Include Name of Show, Location, Dates, Hours and if possible website for information.

Website Meeting March 13th, Exeter Library, 4 PM. For directions or questions email me.

Member Listing Update I will be using as a reference the current database for Reading-Berks Chapter members as of March 15th, 2008 to update the website members listing. I will list, name, business name, address, phone and FAX number, email, jury status and craft. If you do not want this information to be listed, please email or write to me. Reading-Berks Chapter, PO Box 85, Mohnton PA 19540 Attn: Website *Kelly Brown Brehm*, brehm@teddybears.com

Standards

Please note that the next chapter jury session is scheduled for March 11, 2008. If you would like your work to be juried, see Louise Mehaffey at a meeting for an application.

Applicants for the jury session should arrive between 6:30 and 7pm. All standards committee members should arrive for the jury session by 7. ***Standards Committee members, please call or email Louise if you can't attend.***

A Standards Committee Meeting was held on Jan 15. After much discussion, the following decisions were made.

1. Recommend that the waiting period for chapter jurying for new members be reduced to 3 months instead of 6 months. ***This will require a by law change.***
2. All crafts except food will be juried based on merit. This will include digital photography, knitting and crocheting.
3. Fine arts may be included at our shows by invitation at the discretion of the standards committee.
4. Show jurying will be continued. The applicant must be a member of the chapter, and can be show juried only once. They should then apply to the next chapter jury session.

Louise Mehaffey, Standards Co-Chairperson

PGCHC Harvest Fescht Application included as an insert in this issue.

Spring Festival

Hello to All! We are at the beginning of February and where does the time go! The Spring Festival is only 7 weeks away and moving in high gear.

On Tuesday night, February 5, 2008, at the general meeting Karen Myers and I spelled out the reorganization of our chapter shows. Karen will be covering advertising and public relations for our chapter. This is needed to promote not only the shows but also the entire Reading-Berks Chapter. Judy and I will take over as chairperson and overseeing the committees of each part of the makings of our shows.

The two chapter shows were treated as totally separate shows. This put a lot of pressure on both chair people and every one else that volunteered to run the shows. A lot of us volunteered for both shows and a big part of the help came from board members and the same volunteers.

NOW this is where YOU come in, as members of the Chapter we need your help. To be a member in good standing are YOU helping the chapter move forward? For those that belong and are not setting up at the shows, we need your help! Our chapter is surviving and growing from our two shows. This is our only source of income.

So, call Pat Oxenford and volunteer to help at the Spring Festival. Pat has taken over the role and is in charge of pulling the volunteers together. It would make her job much easier if you call her.

If you didn't send in your application for the Spring Show do it NOW! The last deadline is February 27th. To date we have 12 college seniors setting up and doing their 1-person show. This is a dream for the past 5 years, to get the college art departments on board with this show.

With the reorganization of the spring festival and everything that has happened in the past 7 months, we are running a bit late. The post cards are newly designed and we are late distributing them, but they are on the way. You will also get free passes to give to your good customers and hopefully reap the sales benefits from them. They will be sent out to you ASAP.

So in closing it has been a challenge and a lot of work. However, with this reorganization and the help of everyone pulling together as one, this will be a great year! *Terry & Judy Boyer, Show Co*

Chairpersons

With Our Sympathy

We have lost another long-time member of our chapter. On January 24, 2008, Robert Jameson, Sr., 83, passed away in the Reading Hospital where he had been a patient since January 8th. His wife Catherine, their three children and four grandchildren, survives Bob. He was a long-time employee of the *Reading Eagle* and also designed stained glass, most recently participating in our Holiday Show Chapter Booth.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Please keep **Ray Oxenford** in your thoughts and prayers. Continue to keep **Dominic Attili, Sylvia Hendershott, Judy Boyer, Kathy Harris, Lucy Neilson and her husband, and Anita Geiger** on your prayer list. Also, keep **Ruthanne Hartung's husband, Jim Mehaffey, Leon Schultz, Ernie Fredericks, Skip Hamaker and Carolyn Flickinger** in your prayers. We wish them all a speedy get well.

Members in the News

"New Horizons", artwork by **Sharon Giles** and her daughter **Rachel Sholly** will be featured in the Leesport Bank Artist Gallery, located on the third floor of GoggleWorks during February.

Newsletter

Information to be included in the March 2008 newsletter should be submitted by Wednesday, March 5, 2008. Thank you.

Bus Trips

February 23, 2008 from the GoggleWorks to The American Craft Show in Baltimore, MD. See last month's newsletter for more info or call Sharon Giles at 610-374-4600 ex. 113 or sgiles@goggleworks.org

March 5, 2008 from The Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center at Kutztown to our State Capitol in Harrisburg. Contact Darlene Moyer at PGCHC 610-683-1589 if you are interested.

Donations Wanted

Junior Achievement is seeking donations of items for their silent auction on Wednesday, March 12th at their Hall of Fame Dinner. Ca.; 710-373-3637 and speak with Melanie Heffner, Special Events Coordinator if interested in contributing.

Volunteers are needed to work at the admission table for our Spring Festival.