

2010 Instructor Bios

Dave Barriger: Since 1946 Dave Barriger has been developing a deep understanding and appreciation of wood's diverse and beautiful qualities. His experience as an instructor of biology and botany at the college level has given him an extensive knowledge of growth characteristics found in the variety of hardwoods in this country. He began turning in 1965 and has pursued it fulltime since 1995. He is a past president and director of the American Association of Woodturners.

Jan Beckenbach: Jan Beckenbach started weaving in a college class in 1960. Like most who get into the fibers, she tried a lot of the associated crafts. Weaving, spinning and pine needle coiled baskets are the only ones she has actively pursued and taught. Coiling is a lot like hand sewing, which she has done since childhood. In 2008 at Convergence, Jan took the Rwandan Fruit basket pre-conference workshop taught by Janet Nkubana. It built on the skills already possessed to create a beautiful new basket form, which Jan is looking forward to sharing with FTWG members.

Carol Leigh Brack-Fraizer: Carol Leigh Brack-Kaiser began Hillcreek Fiber Studios and a regular teaching schedule in 1986. She has a Master of Arts degree in Textiles from the University of Missouri and is best known for the development of the continuous strand weaving method, which now includes triangle, square and rectangle frame looms. Carol Leigh has taught both natural dyeing and continuous strand weaving for guilds, conferences, universities and craft schools. We hope her new book *The Continuous Strand Weaving Method, Techniques and Projects on the Triangle, Square, and Rectangle Frame Looms* will be available in time for conference.

Barb Gallagher: Barb has been weaving since she stumbled upon a weaving studio in Los Angeles in 1971. She has a BA in Art from Edgecliff College in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she did her thesis on rug weaving. Her focus for the last 30 years has been primarily rugs, but she also enjoys weaving other useful items such as towels, scarves, shawls & throws. She's been teaching weaving for more than 15 years. She also owns The Weavers Loft, which is a retail weaving, spinning & knitting supply shop as well as the home of her weaving studio.

She is an active member of the Weavers Guild of Greater Cincinnati as well as a member of the Miami Valley Weavers Guild, the Central Ohio Weavers Guild, SWIFT, and SWA.

Mary Hettmansperger: Mary Hettmansperger is a fiber artist with her focus on Basketry, Metals, and Beadwork. She has been teaching full time for 25 years. She teaches in many venues, including Arrowmont Craft School., Bead and Button, Convergence, national and regional fiber conferences, basketry and beading conferences, art and craft schools, private guilds, workshops and retreats. Mary has had her work published in several magazines and has work in numerous books. Mary has authored and illustrated her own book and is currently working on her second book. She exhibits in many galleries and has won several awards.

2010 Instructor Bios

Bobbi Irwin: Bobbie, who lives in Montrose, Colorado, teaches for guilds and conferences around the country and loves textile research. She is considered an authority on twined rag rugs and is the author of *Twined Rag Rugs*, the first book ever written about these rugs. Her sequel, *Twist and Twine*, is scheduled for publication later in the fall of 2009. Bobbie is also the author of *The Spinner's Companion* and many articles in numerous weaving and craft magazines.

Nancy Jo Designs: Mary Jo LaClair and Nancy Tepas have both completed the Ontario Handweaver's Master Weavers Certificate Program and have been weaving for more than twenty years. They are professional teachers who teach workshops on weaving, color and design. Currently they are studying with Patricia Lambert author of [Color and Fiber](#).

Joan Ruane: First a professional teacher and then a spinner, Joan Ruane has been teaching spinning classes throughout the U.S. and New Zealand, since 1972. Active in local and regional Guilds, she has also owned and operated fiber shops in both Florida and Arizona. Joan has published cotton newsletters, written articles for fiber magazines and has published a DVD called *Cotton Spinning Made Easy*. Presently Joan is living near Bisbee, Arizona where she raises a small crop of colored and white cotton to use for her own spinning projects. She has a web site that offers tips on spinning and working with cotton: www.cottonspinning.com. Proudly she is responsible for 15 continuous years of Bisbee Fiber Arts Festivals each October and the development of the Bisbee Fiber Arts Guild that has an active fiber studio located in Old Bisbee.

Mary Scott: Mary Scott, owner of Serendipity Farm and Studio in Suffolk, Virginia, has been teaching fiber-related classes for nearly 30 years. Her passion is 18th Century textiles as woven and dyed in the early history of the American Colonies. As the weaver at George Washington's Mount Vernon for 8 years, she demonstrated techniques to thousands of adults and school children. She has been the weaver in Heritage Village at the State Fair of Virginia for many years, teaches classes and lectures for guilds, museums and colleges. Mary also teaches weekly classes in spinning, weaving, and natural dyeing at the Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts.

Heather Winslow: Heather Winslow has taught at conferences throughout the United States and Canada for many years along with exhibiting in numerous juried and invitational exhibitions. She has been published in *WEAVERS*, *HANDWOVEN*, *SPIN OFF*, *BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS* along with publishing her one book on the Theo Moorman Inlay Technique adapted to Clothing in 1994.

Jo Wood: Award winning bead and fiber artist Jo Wood has practiced her skills with needle and thread for more than 40 years. Her "bead paintings" are a celebration of place, inspired by 20 years of life in the Northern Forests of Minnesota near Lake Superior. Her work captures the rich colors, patterns and textures of nature. She shares her knowledge and passion for bead embroidery by teaching workshops regionally and nationally. Jo's beaded landscapes have appeared throughout the U.S. in publications and juried exhibits. Her works are represented by several MN galleries and have found homes in collections around the country and in Europe. Jo's home/studio is in Duluth, Minnesota. You can view her work on the web at www.JoWoodBeads.com