



Florida Society of Goldsmiths

Special points of interest:

- Wildacres workshop details in WC Chapter report.
- New series: Meet our Members.

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Florida Society of

Newsletter Date: Spring 2010

FSG is open to all metal artists

FSG is known for its mission statement of Education in the Metal Arts for All. While our name is Goldsmith, many of our members work in silver and other metals as well. We welcome the curious collector as well the beginning and professional metalsmith. Our workshops are well known nationwide; as well as the tips that we try to include in every issue of our newsletter.

In 1999, FSG created the National Metalsmiths Hall of Fame. Artists, educators, and patrons are selected and recognized for their exceptional careers and achievements in metalsmithing and related fields. This project is funded entirely by donations.

Florida Society of Goldsmiths is run almost entirely by volunteers. Half of all membership dues stay in the member's area to assist in running local programs. The other half is used to maintain the corporate which is a (501 (c) 3) non-profit; as well as host workshops nationwide.

FSG offers scholarships to FSG members to many of our major workshops. Details are available on our website, www.FSG4U.com.

FSG Lending Libraries are open to all FSG members

WC Chapter Library contact is

Brenda Harrelson—baubleheaven@yahoo.com

SE Chapter Library contact is Beth Katz at bethkatz@aol.com

State Library contact is Jean Marie DeSpiegler at FSGJM@earthlink.net

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DEADLINES for submissions:

January 15 for February (Winter edition)

April 15 for May (Spring edition)

July 15 for August (Summer),

October 15 for November (Fall edition)

Message from the President—Lisa Compagnone lisagems@yahoo.com

First of all, I'd like to put out the call for a member to take over as Editor of the FSG Newsletter. The Editor receives the information from each Chapter and formats it into the newsletter frame four times yearly. Many thanks to Jean Marie for putting together our first newsletter in over a year. With many FSG members living across long distances, the newsletter helps us to keep in touch with each other, hear what other chapters are doing and what classes/workshops are coming up. I encourage all members to not only read the newsletter, but also to contribute to it. We want to hear what's happening in your neck of the woods.

Another great way of keeping in touch is attending Chapter and FSG workshops – with members throughout the United States, there are friends I see only at these classes. I may see them once every year or so, but sharing a week-long class with a kindred spirit can make friendships that last over decades. Each workshop becomes a reunion with old friends.

I was very excited to attend the Northeast Chapter's Winter Workshop at The Plaza Resort and Spa in Daytona Beach, Florida. The Plaza is a historic oceanfront hotel on a gorgeous stretch of beach. Even though we had record breaking, freezing temperatures for ten days, I had a blast and loved the amenities. The fireplace was a favorite spot to meet between classes. The instructors were great: Juan Carlos Caballero-Perez, Mary Hettmansperger, Tom McMarthy, Pauline Warg; the food delicious and the company scintillating. I understand that 2011's WW will be held again at The Plaza

Kudos for the excellent planning and organizing by the NE Chapter: Karen Tweedie, NE President, and Chris Carlson, WW co-chairs; Deb Blazer and Sid Sharples, NE Board members; Jim and Lia Biond, past NE President and Treasurer, respectively, and all the volunteers behind the scenes. You guys were amazing -- thank you for doing such a great job!

'Til next time,
Lisa

From the Editor

I would like to apologize for the lack of newsletter for the past year. We had several volunteers, but unavoidable delays caused us to miss the past issues.

Welcome to a new format for the FSG newsletter. Joe Cunningham had volunteered as new editor and unfortunately has experienced some health issues and has not been able to produce a newsletter so the executive director, Jean Marie DeSpiegler, tried her hand at the job with this issue. If anyone is interested in helping with the newsletter, please contact Jean Marie at fsgjm@earthlink.net.

This issue was formatted in Microsoft Publisher which we will be happy to help you learn.
Jean Marie DeSpiegler

Director's Perspective —Jean Marie DeSpiegler fsgjm@earthlink.net

I would like to share bench tricks and tips in my future columns, so please send me your ideas. Try these and let me know if they work for you:



Air cool on the last joint to keep strength in your solder work.

If your saw frame does not have a deep enough throat to make the necessary cut, use a pair of flat pliers to bend the saw blade 90 degrees while it is still in the saw frame. You will need to bend both the top and bottom of the blade.

Bench pins have two sides- for two different tasks. The flat side is for sawing and the angled or beveled side is for filing.

Plug your pickle pot into a timer. If you use a timer with removable setting pins, you can set it to turn off the pot and not have to worry about it being turned back on automatically. You can also plug the pickle pot into an outlet strip that also has a lamp plugged in. If the light is on, so is the pickle pot.

Popsicle sticks are great mandrels for oval shaped jump rings. Some wooden coffee stirrers are thick enough to make small oval jump rings as well.

Bench Magazine is now available on-line! It is a free monthly newsletter with articles written for bench jewelers BY bench jewelers. Visit www.benchmagazine.com to sign up.

The Ganoksin Project is a Gem and Jewelry resource that is non-profit. Their forum has many interesting questions posed by jewelers of all levels and even offers a digest version of all forum postings for the day. There are articles, blogs, and galleries of artist's work, as well as a large library to search. The how-to videos are interesting and easy to follow. Visit www.ganoksin.com to sign up.

I was taught to add ammonia and hot water to liver of sulfur to enhance the rainbow effect of the colors from the very first time I used it. So let me know what you take for granted that someone else was surprised to learn. Most of it is new to me, and I want to thank all of those members who have graciously shared with me over the years.

Now please send me your best tip, or just the one you use the most. I can be reached at FSGJM@earthlink.net

GP Chapter news by Tamara Prudhomme

It's a new year and new people have joined the Greater Pensacola Chapter board. Steve Robinson is our new Treasurer and Joe Cunningham has been elected as Vice-President. Rose Padgett continues in the position of Secretary and Valerie Harmon-Curtis will continue writing/editing our newsletter. Kristina Weick, whom I thank immensely for her hard work and dedication as President, will stay on the board as President Emeritus. Chris Bowen and I, Tamara Prudhomme, have been elected as co--Presidents.

For the second year, FSG-GP has participated in Downtown Pensacola's March Gallery Night. Nine members dug deep into their imaginations and made unique, one-of-a-kind pieces that represented their interpretation of the theme "...and All That Jazz". The only guidelines were that the piece had never been shown before and that it incorporate metal.

It took a year to find a place for our local chapter to find a studio/meeting space. Last fall we set-up a partial studio at the Sanders Beach/Corinne Jones Community Center. The facility has just been built by the City of Pensacola as a replacement for the community center that was destroyed by Hurricane Ivan in 2004. We have some additional tools that are on loan from the State offices of FSG to round out our studio. Big thanks to Joe Cunningham for driving to St. Petersburg to pick them up. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month with a demonstration at each meeting. Demo's have included decorative metal stamp making, wire-wrapping, forming a fibula, and heat-coloring titanium. We have a great group of members that are always willing to share their expertise.

As we pursue more visibility in the community, we are offering metal-smithing classes, participating in public demonstrations, talking about FSG-GP at other venues and generally promoting our group. Our goals are to increase our visibility in Pensacola and the surrounding areas, continue teaching classes, increasing our offering of classes, and welcoming new members into our exciting world of metals.



members at 2010 Gallery Night



Kristina Weick at the Greater Gulf Coast Arts Festival last November demonstrating soldering a copper pendant.

“Because of the overwhelming response of this year’s attendees, the Winter Workshop will again be held at The Plaza Resort & Spa in Daytona Beach!”

NE Chapter news—by Karen Tweedie

The NE chapter has a full schedule of workshops planned for their De-Land studio. Just completed was a very inspiring 3-day advanced enameling workshop taught by Linda Darty.

April 10 features Bill Fretz teaching “Plannishing and More” with his fabulous miniature stakes and hammers followed on April 17 by Brenda Berdnik’s “Magic in a Bottle: Etching. These workshops are filled to the brim with excited students! We end the month with Marilyn Nicholson’s “Total Approach to Jewelry Design” an intensive 3-day workshop April 30, May 1 & 2.

May workshops include Sonja Marshall-Bone’s “Beginning Jewelry Making & Metalworking” which will kick off a beginner’s series of studio classes. The summer classes continue with Adrienne Gaskell’s “Kumihimo Pajama Party” on July 10 and 11, classes with Tom and Kay Benham, Tom McCarthy’s “Concrete for Fun and Profit”, and more.

The Winter Workshop 2011 plans are in full swing. Because of the overwhelming response of this year’s attendees, the workshop will again be held at The Plaza Resort & Spa in Daytona Beach. Instructors include: Juan Carlos Caballero-Perez, John Cogswell, Bill Fretz, Andy Cooperman, and Deb Blazer.

Full details of the classes are available on the chapter website: www.fsgne.com and updates are on our blog: www.fsgnortheastchapter.blogspot.com. The chapter can be reached at: fsgne@yahoo.com.



Ilze Oberholzer’s award winning design representing the AIDS crisis in South Africa.

Meet our Members: Ilze Oberholzer

Ilze Oberholzer is a jewelry designer from South Africa, and is an At-Large member living in America. She was the overall winner of Auditions 2005/2006, the worldwide jewelry design competition hosted by AngloGold Ashanti. The aim of the competition is to encourage excellence in gold jewelry design and to assist with skills development in the gold jewelry industry.

Where do you find your inspiration from?

I find nature, especially flowers and trees inspirational. In South Africa there are exquisite flora and therefore an endless source of inspiration. In the jewelry world I admire the way Lalique had a unique style towards his glass and jewelry work during the Art Nouveau period.

What other early influences determined your career path?

Since the age of three I picked up stones and kept it in secret boxes. Who knew that later in life these collections would turn into diamonds and gems? I feel as if I was born to do this.

How would you describe your work?

I would explain it as modern shapes with a floral, even lace-like twist.

Your theory on life...

I see life as an adventure. I am not only being shaped as a person, but also as a designer.

NW Chapter news—by Quincie Hamby

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FSGNW Chapter just completed hosting a PMC certification class with J. Fred Woell as the instructor on March 12 – 14th.

Also, after completing the PMC certification class, Fred stayed on to teach a fantastic class, “Bead Tricks” on March 20th. Each class was filled to capacity and all the students had a great time!

Quincie Hamby hosted an art opening for both Fred and his wife, Pat Wheeler at her gallery during their stay in Tallahassee. Local and out of town members came by to meet and greet Fred and Pat during the show. Kristen Anderson traveled from her studio in Apalachicola, Fl and Pat Phillips and Marie Brusher traveled from Panama City, Fl to visit with Fred. We all had a wonderful experience with Fred and Pat and therefore wonderful memories too.



PMC Class with Fred Woell

Starr Payne in PMC Class
with Fred Woell



***Saturday open
studio days
are on again!
Join us on the
third Saturday
of each month
at the Cape
Coral Arts
Studio!***

SW Chapter news—by Bob Small

The SW chapter held elections April 12, 2010 and by unanimous vote Bob Small was elected President, with Joe Reppert as the VP, Patti Reppert as the secretary, and Michaelene Kauffman as the Treasurer.

We have received a generous donation of a used kiln from Ken & Mary Ann Devos for our chapter. A big Thank You to the Devos! We have started up our Saturday open studio days again on the third Saturday of each month at the Cape Coral Arts Studio, Cape Coral Fl (CCAS to the locals).

We have lined up demonstrations for the end of our meetings, each month, until the end of the year.

We are also starting up our Sunday fun days thank to Joe & Patti Reppert donating their garage to use.

As president, I and all of the SW chapter would like to thank Bev Fox for her indispensable help in running the annual Ring of Fire exhibit show for the SW chapter.

Congratulations to Joe Reppert for wining 1st & 2nd prize in the category of jewelry in our annual Ring of Fire exhibit. Bev Fox took 3rd place in jewelry.

Bruce Carlson won 1st place in sculpture and Bob Small won 2nd place in sculpture.

We would like to thank all the entries. They were all great works of art. You can see the pictures at our yahoo web group at http://us.rd.yahoo.com/evt=42879/*http://groups.yahoo.com/group/



Ahhhh. New Year – New Beginnings. The SE Chapter is off to a great new year's start with a "changing of the guard". Tracey has stepped down as president and Terry Walker is now "the head honcho". Carol Entin (former president) as Vice President, Beth Katz (also former president) continues as VP in charge of workshops and special projects, Marjory Yovin is our recording secretary, Ellen Levy is our corresponding secretary and Kathy Robbins (yet another former president) is treasurer. Sally Franke is "the greeter" at the door to our meetings with a great sign in/sign up policy that Terry has instituted. The energy is terrific. 2010 promises to be a great year for our SE chapter. Plans are in the works for more demos and mini workshops. We continue to work with the City of Pembroke Pines and are "inching" forward to establish a studio situation. Working with government/politics is "challenging" at best but we remain positive/hopeful.



Clasps, Fasteners and Findings
Class with John Cogswell

October has become our "Annual John Cogswell Workshop" month. Last year's workshop was wonderful – just as any other workshop with John. He has so much knowledge/information/skills to share and his enthusiasm is so contagious that a terrific workshop with him is a "no-brainer". This year's topic was clasps, fasteners and findings. Once again we all learned some very useful techniques.

At our October meeting Terry Walker demonstrated a cold connected Window Frame Pendant (or Pin). Several members worked on their frames – David Zemach put the "grandfather" spin on his, framing a photo of his grandkids.

In November we had a wonderful chain maille demo by Shannon Valdes who is a student of our member Ester Soued. Shannon got everyone very fired up about chain maille and I expect we'll be having some follow-up workshops with Shannon.

Gary Abbott was the star of our December meeting speaking about stones and showing/selling his collection. Gary always has some very interesting stones and information.

January was Terry's first meeting as our President (we're moving into "high gear now"!!) and she did a great job of putting together our annual Social, coordinating a members "swap and shop" leading the "show and tell" from Winter Workshops and surprising me with a great "leaving office" gift of an automatic torch lighter. We can never have too many tools! Several of our members attended Winter Workshops in Daytona. I think all of us came home with great inspiration/motivation/new skills. We've experienced the wonderful Juan Carlos
Please see page 8 "SE Chapter continued".



Inspiring chain maille purse
by Shannon Valdes

WC Chapter news—by Clara Ricker

WILDACRES: We have another great lineup of talented instructors for our 2010 WildAcres Summer Workshop scheduled for June 27th – July 3rd. Participants can look forward to fun with forging, shell forming, loop in loop chains, and other exciting classes including blacksmithing. Look for instructions, a detailed list of instructors and class descriptions on our website—www.WCFSG.com. Since our web site is up and running we will no longer be mailing out paper applications. Print out your application from this web site for mailing at the appropriate time.

In case you are not familiar with the Wildacres Retreat Facility or our WildAcres Summer Workshop, it is nestled in the mountains of North Carolina. The weather in late June is beautiful with warm sunny days and cool evenings. We offer you six fun filled days with excellent instructors, good food, refreshments and a wonderful artistic experience that you are certain to treasure for years to come. We present classes that are tailored to meet the needs of metal smiths of all skill levels from master to beginner. WildAcres has great accommodations and looks out at Mt Mitchell. Six days of meals, refreshments, accommodations and camaraderie and all for a very reasonable rate. This is the best value for any metals retreat in the country. We hope to see you there.

WORKSHOPS: John Cogswell will be at Art Center Manatee in Bradenton on November 12, 13 and 14 for a workshop. More information will be on the WC web site soon.

WC METALS STUDIOS: WC has three metals studios that we actively and economically support. Our Board of Directors works hard to search out and engage accomplished artists for workshops at Art Center Manatee, Morean Art Center and Hyde Park Art Center. We have signed a contract with the SunTan Art Center, St Pete Beach, establishing our fourth metals studio in the WC chapter area. We are very enthusiastic about this new metals studio and we are now in the planning and development process with this agency. We have an ongoing relationship with the Florida Craftsman's Inc. All WC members can display their creations for sale at the Florida Craftsman's Gallery in St Petersburg. WC supports high school metal arts programs, Largo High School and Youth Arts Corp of Pinellas at the Morean Art Center. We also provide assistance to the Pinellas Technical Education Center.

WC LENDING LIBRARY: Brenda Harrelson maintains our library of books, instructional CD's and tapes. She is in the ongoing process of acquiring new technical CD's to replace the VHS recorded material. Please let Brenda know if there are books or CD's that we should purchase for the library. The library material is available to all FSG members. There is a postage and handling charge for checking items out of the library. Brenda can be reached at: baubleheaven@yahoo.com

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SE CHAPTER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7:

Caballero at other workshops and have to say that we're ready to sign up and take his class again. It's not just his infectious smile but the great techniques that he so readily shares that makes his classes so good.

Pauline Warg confirmed that the hydraulic press is a "dream machine" and she shared some great "tips/tricks". Tom McCarthy - you should meet/get to know/work with this guy! is just full of great techniques for working with pearls as well as creating "beads".

I have to say that I just fell in love with Mary Hettmensperger. Down-to-earth/organic/motivating/inspiring/sharing . . . I could go on and on (like I usually do) but then I wouldn't get to the point of what a great class I had with her. Mary is a "cross dresser" of sorts in that she's taken her fiber arts and translated that into metal arts and . . . oh my gosh what a whole new world she has opened up! She is a perfect example of teaching you that you're only limited by your imagination and she is wonderful at teaching you/helping you to explore your imagination!

Bernadette Denoux gave a very informative demonstration of copper metal clay which she torch fired at our February meeting and she "fired up" more than clay! The versatility of this medium is very tempting/inviting/alluring/intriguing/rewarding – if you get what I mean!

Our March meeting was the first held at the Davie Women's Club in Davie. Carol and Terry demonstrated patinas using liver of sulfur and Tracey demonstrated heat patinas on copper. Both techniques yielded interesting results. Also in March Bev Fox lead a workshop teaching her wonderful closed box forms. She is so much fun and a wonderful teacher too.

In April Terry Walker will present a class to teach how to use an acetylene torch for people new to "playing with fire". At our monthly meeting Carol Entin will be demonstrating how to draw wire. And the fun continues in the SE Chapter!!!!

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CONGRATULATIONS!

Sally Bedrosian as the Featured Artists of the month at Morean Arts Center in St. Petersburg, FL.

Fran Rosenbloom of the SE Chapter, won the Jewelry Award at the American Orchid Society with her entry of "Blue Drusy".

FSG Officers and Boards of Directors:

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FSG Dues
\$40 single—\$60 Dual
\$20 student (18+ Fulltime)
See FSG4U.com
For membership application

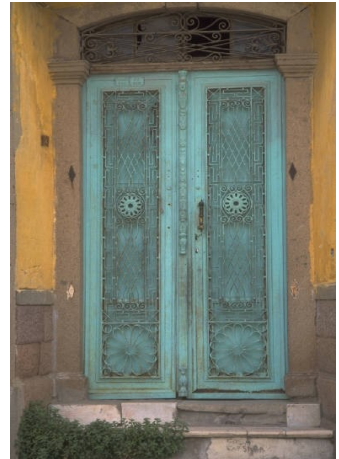
See our website
FSG4U.org

Do you know of an FSG member that has interesting story that they would share with our readers? Please contact JeanMarie at fsgjm@earthlink.net

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Meet our Members: Karen Tweedie

Beginning with a line of Sign Language jewelry in the mid 1980s, Karen Tweedie's jewelry business has grown and changed over the past 25 years. From her original career as a teacher of the deaf, came the beginnings of what would ultimately change her career path. Her mail order Sign Language jewelry business was an instant success providing high profit fundraising products for deafness related schools and organizations. Always one to embrace new technology, she learned developed her own marketing and website development has had an e-commerce website since 1992. She continues to take classes through FSG, William Holland, the New Approach School and GIA.



Exciting travel destinations are an inspiration for Karen Tweedie's jewelry.

Karen and her very supportive husband, David, a retired college professor, share a love of learning and travel. While Karen is working at her studio, or making you-tube jewelry videos, David is studying world history, art, or music, or searching online for exciting travel destinations, a constant source of inspiration for Karen's jewelry designs.

When asked to describe Karen's work, David calls it "incessant!" and Karen calls it "an exploration" which corresponds to her theory on life: an adventure of love.

Karen is also president of our NE chapter. Her work is available on WWW.KarenTweedie.com & ASLjewelry.com