



FROM THE EDITOR | Madelyn van der Hoogt

I grew up in Los Angeles, where we lived in a small house on a very small lot. It was before the era of Lawn Care Givers and their mowers and blowers, so my dad mowed our lawn with a nonmotorized mower that had two wheels and rotating blades. My mother tended a few small rose beds. She tried to get me interested in gardening the way she tried to get me interested in cooking, but what interested me at the time was going to the beach. I left home for college devoid of both gardening and culinary skills.

Then came the Back to the Land movement. My husband bought a book called *Grow It!* and began to dream of doing just that. I remember leafing through that book (which included information about how to raise pigs, goats, chickens, and sheep in addition to gardening), but he and the author were about as successful as my mother at attracting my interest. I did, however, develop a vision of myself wearing a calico dress and a sunbonnet, drifting down garden rows like aisles in a grocery store, putting ears of golden corn and big red tomatoes into a handwoven Shaker basket.

I never did read *Grow It!*, but in the Midwest some years later, we raised most of what the book covered. The reality (tilling, planting, weeding, handwatering, battling pests and Missouri weather extremes) did not much match my prefarming vision, but I learned to love watching things grow.

Now living in the Northwest, I am surrounded by Master Gardeners. They know (and use exclusively) the Latin names for all the plants. They arrange their gardens according to color families a lot like weavers arrange yarn cones on their shelves. Gardeners belong to groups—gardeners' guilds I think of them—that meet regularly. I don't know, but I imagine their guilds hold Show and Tells and have refreshments, programs (and program chairpersons), and workshops—just like us.

I should probably join one. I have some of the same problems as a new gardener that I had as a new weaver. When experienced gardeners talk, they use words I don't understand. There are lots of "right" ways to do things, and I don't know which expert to follow. The "best" tools and plants are expensive. Gardening, in fact, takes the same ingredients weaving takes: time, space, money, and patience. Gardening is not portable.

Gardening also offers some of the same rewards: beautiful and tangible objects to show for time spent; an activity that is meditative, creative, and good for the body and soul; and membership in a community of people like you.

Madelyn

If you have an article idea or a project to share, send a photo or slide and a brief proposal or description to Madelyn van der Hoogt, PO Box 1228, Coupeville, WA 98239, or e-mail her at madelynv@interweave.com. Note that your submission does not have to be related to an issue theme. Themes are a focus only—if you have a great idea or an especially successful project, we'd love to share it with our readers. Send submissions six months before the issue date. For more information about future themes, visit: www.interweave.com/weave/handwoven_magazine/future_issue.asp.
November/December 2007: *Two for One (multiple projects on one warp—warp the loom one time and weave a variety of different pieces).*

January/February 2008: *Weft-faced Weaves (rugs, runners, wall-hangings, and more).*

March/April 2008: *Fabrics for Interiors (coordinated textiles to decorate a room: living room, dining room, kitchen, bedroom, or bathroom).*

May/June 2008: *Summer is for Lace (Bronson, huck, Swedish lace, canvas weaves in bright summer colors; think picnics, summer wear, sherbets, beach parties...).*

September/October 2008: *Weaving Worldwide (projects inspired by weaving around the world—Japan, Scandinavia, Latin America, India, Africa, Turkey, and more).*

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