

Norman Kennedy's Visit in April

Norman Kennedy, a recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts Lifetime Honors National Heritage Fellowship in 2003, will be visiting the area April 13-25 and the Guild is lucky to be sponsoring some of his appearances in the area. Born and raised in Aberdeen, Scotland, Norman immigrated to the United States in 1966. From an early age Norman was interested in the songs, stories, and lore of his homeland, absorbing them from his family members and neighbors. In his teen years he started "hanging around" with the local hand weavers, learning their trade. He has traveled extensively in Scotland and the surrounding islands learning local techniques of weaving, spinning, and knitting. From 1967 to 1972 he served as the master weaver at Colonial Williamsburg, VA and then in 1976 founded the Marshfield School of Weaving where he taught until 1995.

On April 14, at 6:30 pm, Norman will be talking about his experiences with the old weavers of his youth. The meeting will be in the Carriage house at the Penrose house and directions are given below. After his presentation he will be presiding over a waulking, the rarely practiced community method of shrinking cloth accompanied by group song. The presentation is free of charge to the public and we hope to have a good number of people come. If you are planning on attending please let Weldon Walker, our vice president, know so he can give the Penrose house a more accurate number for setup of the Carriage house. Also we need approximately 10 yards of material for the waulking. This should be about 43-45 inches wide and of wool. The fabric needs to be basted into a loop and we will be doing this after the April 10 PPWG meeting at Green Valley Weavers and Knitters. If you are going to provide fabric please let WW know and plan to be there for the basting so we can get this done quickly.

April 15 – 16, at the same location Norman will be demonstrating and teaching traditional spinning techniques. The first day will be devoted to spinning wool and the second to flax and cotton. We can still fit a few people in with their wheels. The cost is \$135 and there will be a materials fee for the cotton and flax. The price includes a continental breakfast and lunch both days. If you are a spinner this is an opportunity not to be missed. Please contact Weldon Walker, corancher1999@yahoo.com or 719-440-2080 for further information.



The Mountain Acoustic Music Association (MAMA) 2009 concert season will begin on April 17, 2009 with Norman as the featured artist that night. Norman is the real deal, and will be singing authentic Celtic folk songs acapella interspersed with great storytelling. The cost of admission is \$5 at the door.

Finally, Green Valley Weaver's and Knitters will be hosting Norman April 18 for a knitting class, "Fisherman and Worker's Knitting in Scotland and the outer Islands". Norman will be presenting and discussing examples of various knitting techniques from Scotland, Fair Isles, Shetland Islands, and the Hebrides. The class will be held at the Old Town Guest House in Old Colorado City since the class has outgrown the classroom at the shop. There is still some room left in the class. The cost is \$60 and does include lunch. Some knitting will be done by the students. Contact GVWK, 448-6693 for further information.