

PIEDMONT FIBER GUILD

BOARD MEMBERS

- President - Sue Helmken
- Past President - Gail Boyles
- Treasurer - Maurice Blackburn
- Secretary - Julie Hogan
- Programs - Chris Dunlap
- Workshops - Shirley Young
- Charity - Julia Roskamp
- Webmaster - Maria Derner
- Membership - Dick Kistler
- Marketing/Events/Booth - Gail Boyles
- Social Media - Lori Smith
- Library - Susan Haney
- Equipment Manager - Vivian Brenner
- Newsletter - Sallie Olson
- Hospitality - Peggy Hood

MEETING DATES:

January 21, 2018

February 18, 2018

March 18, 2018

April 15, 2018

May 20, 2018

All meetings at Arts on Main, 212 West Main Ave., Gastonia, NC, from 2-4 pm, except holiday party.

.....

MANY THANKS TO VIVIAN AND DICK FOR HOSTING THE CHRISTMAS PARTY. WE ALL HAD A GOOD TIME, LOTS OF FUN AND GOOD FOOD.

.....

Housekeeping Notes:

- Please remember to return library books.
- Please remember if you signed up for refreshments, drinks, or opportunity items.

Quilt Raffle at January Meeting: At our November meeting, we showed quilts that were made to benefit Quilts for Kids. These quilts are too big to donate to Quilts for Kids so it was decided to have a silent auction at our January meeting.

The finished quilts were beautifully sewn by our own Ursula Blackburn. They are various in size. There are also a few quilt toppers you can sew yourself.

The money made from the silent auction will be donated to Quilts for Kids in honor of our past member Ann Brinkhous. Cash or checks accepted. For more information, contact Gail Boyles at gboyles44@gmail.com.

EVENTS, EVENTS, EVENTS!

From Sue Helmken: CLT, a newly formed textile group in Charlotte, has a show at C3 Lab, 2525 Distribution Rd, Charlotte. The show opened Jan. 5, and will be up until Jan. 26. For hours and directions: c3-lab.com.

From Linda Erickson: Jeff Beacham 'The Weaving Man' is coming to A TANGLED YARN SHOP, 3692 NC-16 Business, Denver, NC 28037, on Saturday, January 20 11:00 - 4:00 to demonstrate various looms he works on. Please note this is not a class, and there is no fee. However, they would like people to call ahead and reserve a spot - 704-966-1300.

From Genie Greenlaw: Tapestry Weavers South will have an exhibit from January 20 - April 22, 2018, at the Folk Art Center, Milepost 382 on the Blue Ridge Parkway, Asheville, NC. The exhibit will be upstairs in the special exhibit hall. For more information, call 828-298-7928. Genie and Michiele Elliott will both have tapestries in the show!

From Gail Boyles: The guild has been invited to demonstrate for an event at Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens, 6500 South New Hope Rd., Belmont, NC, on February 10, 2018, 10 am - 3 pm (or later).

What: Art and Orchids 2018: Featuring Egyptian tapestries woven at the Wissa Wassef Art Centre in Giza, Egypt. Event Information: https://www.dsb.org/event/art-orchids-2018/?instance_id=6373

*Our own Madame President, Sue Helmken will be teaching a weaving class while the guild is demonstrating.

*If you demonstrate, you will get to enjoy the gardens for free during this day. If you have never been to the gardens, this is a great opportunity to see some beautiful plants and the orchid house is amazing.

*This is a come and go as you please event but I would like to know who is coming and what fiber art(s) you will be demonstrating. You will need to bring your own chair and lunch - I don't believe they will have food for sale during this event.

So, if you plan to attend, please contact Gail. If you cannot attend on February 10, consider a visit to the gardens on another date. The Wissa Wassaf Art Centre tapestries will be there from Feb. 2 through March 22; exhibit open 9 am - 5 pm.

Also, there is the possibility that the guild will be invited to another event at Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens on March 10 and 11. More details to come.

More from Gail Boyles: **Southern Alpaca Celebration (aka Carolina Alpaca Celebration)**

For the past few years, the Carolina Alpaca Celebration has taken place in February. This year, the Carolina Alpaca Celebration has joined forces with another regional show to create Southern Alpaca Celebration.

(continued)

The Piedmont Fiber Guild has participated in this show for many years. It's a great opportunity for the guild to get together and show off our awesome fiber talents and fellowship not only with visitors to the event but also with many of the regional alpaca breeders. Along with the name change, there are a few other new things going on: the show will be open 3 days - Friday, Feb. 16, 9 am - 5 pm; Saturday, Feb. 17, 9 am - 5 pm; and Sunday, Feb. 18, 9 am - 3 pm.

- There is a Fleece to Shawl competition. Already 2 teams have formed and they are hoping for more teams. If you are interested in forming a team, please e-mail me. There are cash prizes for winning teams. For those who have never done a competition like this, it's a great chance to learn what is involved. There is no entry fee and the deadline to register your team is January 31. There is also a fiber arts contest. It's a bit tricky to work the registration on their website but I'm here to help you get through it. It's a great contest to show off any skill level. I am looking for anyone who wants to have a class on their favorite fiber skill. If you are up for teaching your skill, let me know and I'll get you set up.

If you want to come, here are a few reminders:

This is a drop in event. Come when you want, leave when you want.

However, I need to know if you are coming so I can register you with the volunteer coordinator.

You will need to bring your own chair.

There is food (hamburgers, fries etc) available or you can bring your own food and drink.

The arena is kept at 60 degrees for the alpacas. Please dress warmly.

I look forward to seeing you at the Southern Alpaca Celebration!

- Gail Boyles

FLEECE to SHAWL COMPETITION:

SOUTHERN ALPACA CELEBRATION FLEECE TO SHAWL COMPETITION.

Join us for a fun Fleece to Shawl Competition at the Southern Alpaca Celebration on February 17, 2018. This is an opportunity to show the public the enjoyment of spinning and weaving and working as a team to accomplish the weaving of a beautiful shawl.

This competition is made up of teams of three members who will demonstrate and explain the process of creating a shawl from fleece to woven fabric using traditional methods and equipment. Each team will prepare raw fleece, spin the singles, ply the yarn and weave a shawl in a three-hour time limit.

(continued)

FLEECE TO SHAWL, continued:

RULES: 1. Team: Each team will be made up of 2 spinners and 1 weaver. This team should decide on the color scheme and design of the end product.

2. Fleece: **WARP: Any fiber can be used for the warp, but the completed shawl must be at least 50% alpaca fiber. **WEFT: Each team will provide its own alpaca fleece for the weft. The fleece may be washed and/or dyed, but no further processing is allowed. Weft fiber will be prepared for spinning during the contest by teasing, flicking, hand carding, or using non-electric drum carders. Other fibers can be added to the weft fiber as long as the completed shawl is at least 50% alpaca fiber.

3. Each team will provide their own equipment (spinning wheels, pre-warped loom, shuttles, bobbin winder, hand cards, drum carders, flickers, etc.)

4. Hand-spun weft must be plied and will not exceed 3 times the diameter of the warp.

5. Warp may be handspun or commercial, natural colored or hand dyed at no fewer than 8 ends per inch. Warp should be tied on to the loom on arrival, with no header woven.

6. Equipment must arrive between 8 am and 9 am and be set up by 9:30.

7. Competition will begin at 10 am on Saturday, February 17, 2018, and end at 1 pm.

8. The completed shawl must be a minimum of 22 inches wide sleyed on the reed. The woven length must be 70" min/76" max long, excluding an optional fringe.

9. Each team will provide a poster detailing: **Team information, names of team members, location of team. **Inspiration: What inspired you to make this particular shawl, color selection/pattern, etc. **Technical information: equipment used, weaving pattern/strategy, fiber used, spinning techniques, fiber processing methods.

10. There is no entry fee.

11. Judging will be done by a certified fiber arts judge.

12. Prizes: Teams will receive appropriate ribbons. 1st Place \$150; 2nd Place \$100; 3rd Place \$50. Non-monetary prizes, such as alpaca fleece, may be awarded as available.

13. Scoring—a 100 point criteria

**Team work and display—10 points Team Sign Team attire Team spirit

**Education of audience: knowledge of process and interaction with observers – 5 points (cont.)

**Fleece—10 points Choice and Preparation Dyed Warp and/or Weft

**Spinning—25 points Uniform preparation, size & type of yarn produced Ability to keep weaver supplied

**Weaver—25 points Design Straightness of edges with minimal draw in Evenness of beating Handspun warp No threading or treadling errors

**Time—10 points First finish Second finish

**Finished Shawl—15 points Aesthetic appeal, including drape, hand and appearance

**Bonus points Fringe—5 bonus points

**Deductions for measurements outside of standards: Length—minus 5 points, Width—minus 5 points

How to Enter: Registration will be accepted beginning December 1, 2017. Please send team name, members' names (indicate the captain or responsible person), address, contact phone number, email addresses of all participants to: Jane Clark, 8009 Austin Peck Trail, Efland, NC 27243 or email the above information to criblemanserialpaca@gmail.com.

Deadline to enter: February 1, 2018.

NO-SEW RAG RUG CLASS

Sunday, January 28, 10 AM-4 PM

At Arts on Main

Cost \$15.00 – Please send payment to Shirley to reserve your place.

Instructor: our own Vivian Brenner

We'll learn to make a rug out of cut-up old clothes, with no sewing!

It's a simple braiding technique that is fun and easy to learn.

It's also a great way to recycle our old, stained, torn, worn-out clothes.

Another good place to get great colors to add to your rug is Goodwill, where children's t-shirts are often less than \$1.

Vivian will send a supply list to the class participants two weeks before.

Imagine the photo of the pretty rag rug that was in last month's newsletter here. My computer won't let me copy it...?

Weavers' Study Group

The next meeting of the Weavers' Study Group will be held at Pam Rumney's house on January 24th. Please let Pam know if you intend to be there.

There is no designated weaver for this meeting. We plan to discuss various options for Rep Weave projects which we will be studying this year.

Maurice Blackburn

BOOK REVIEW FROM Chris Dunlap:

Knit in New Directions by Myra Wood: I have recently become obsessed with modular knitting and combining yarns to de-stash all those single skeins in our collections. Ms. Wood takes this concept to a new and more creative level. She begins with a discussion of her creative process and the basic techniques presented in the book, then through a series of patterns, presents various techniques with detailed instructions. There is a collection of templates at the end of the book, so you don't even need to be able to draw your own templates to use this book. Beautifully photographed by Alexis Xenakis, this book, while not a recent release, is a great resource for folks who want to hone their skills with modular knitting.

PFG Programs Reminder

We are looking forward to having Philip Dail and his wife speak to us on January 21st about Crafting with Friends, their non-profit that creates a fair market for the women of Madagascar who create silk scarves from silk cocoon to finished product. They also have a jeweler in Rio that they work with. Philip will focus on the ladies of Madagascar and will bring some of their art to sell as well.

Looking forward, on February 18th, Vickie Glover comes to us to speak about Get Squared, an online program that teaches how to fit garments to be crocheted. Vickie is a graduate of this program and is now a certified teacher of this material. She will be sharing information about the course and her experiences with the program. Vickie is also the sales rep for our area for several of national yarn companies.

Hope to see lots of folks interested in hearing from our speakers at upcoming meetings.

Christine Dunlap

PFG Programs Coordinator



St. Distaff's Day (January 7, 2018)
gathering of some of the members of
Carolina Handspinners at the Panera
Bread in Gastonia, NC.

Some interesting historical information about St. Distaff's Day from Chris Dunlap:

What is St. Distaff's Day

Distaff Day, also called **Roc Day**, is 7 January, the day after the feast of the Epiphany. It is also known as **Saint Distaff's Day**, one of the many unofficial holidays in Catholic nations.

Many St. Distaff's Day gatherings are held, large and small, in many fiber communities. The distaff, or rock, used in spinning was the medieval symbol of women's work.^[1]

In many European cultural traditions, women resumed their household work after the twelve days of Christmas. Women of all classes would spend their evenings spinning on the wheel. During the day, they would carry a drop spindle with them. Spinning was the only means of turning raw wool, cotton or flax into thread, which could then be woven into cloth.

Men have their own way of celebrating this occasion; this is done through Plough Monday. It is the first Monday after Epiphany where men are supposed to get back to work.

As modern spinners, we recognize this day as a celebration of an art form. No longer is spinning a matter of life and death. Now we learn to make just the yarn we want and then use this yarn to make one-of-a-kind fiber art and clothing.

Thank you for your interest in our celebration of this little-known holiday in a fiber artist's year.

Terms for Guild Equipment Rental

From our Equipment Manager, Vivian Brenner

The Guild has equipment to rent to members in good standing (dues paid for at least one year). If you would like to rent any of this equipment on a month-to-month basis, please contact the Equipment Manager, Vivian Brenner, at 704-841-1624. There is a brief contract you will sign at the time of the rental. Deposit plus first month's rent is due when the equipment is rented. If the equipment is kept over one month, additional rental fees are due.

If you have any fiber equipment you would like to donate, please contact Vivian or the Guild President.

Equipment	Rental Fee	Security Deposit
Drum Carder	\$30/month	\$50
Cotton Cards	\$5/month	\$20
Elbee Picker	\$30/month	\$100
Warping Board	\$5/month	\$25
Clemes & Clemes Spinning Wheel	\$25/month	\$100
Ashford Spinning Wheel	\$25/month	\$100
Sabina 32 in. 4-Shaft Folding Loom	\$50/month	\$100

NOTE FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR: We are so fortunate to have so much going on with the fiber arts in our area. Many thanks to those who took the time to contribute information and photos to this month's newsletter. Looking forward to seeing everyone this coming Sunday, January 21, 2018, for our next guild meeting! - Sallie