

# Piedmont Fiber Guild Newsletter

April, 2017

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## Demonstrating at the Loch Norman Highland Games

By Gail Boyles

April 8 and 9, 2017 was the annual Loch Norman Games at Rural Hill in Huntersville. Although I demonstrate fiber arts during other events at Rural Hill, this is by far my favorite event there. People from all around, whether they have Scottish heritage or not, put on tartan colors and descend upon Rural Hill to witness games of strength, visit different Scottish clans, listen to great Scottish music, eat yummy Scottish food and, of course, drink good Highland ale!



Normally, at Rural Hill 2 day events, I will commute back and forth. However, this time I stayed at the Rural Hill campground in Shirley Young's RV with Ellen McCrea. (If you were following me on Facebook, this trip was dubbed: "Shirley, Ellen and Gail's Excellent Adventure to Loch Norman"). This was my first time staying overnight in an RV. It was great fun and I'm looking forward to doing it again if the opportunity arises.

For events at Rural Hill that include fiber arts, we are usually in the loft of the recreated Davidson Cabin. This cabin is based on the first house Major John Davidson and his wife Violet lived in when they purchased the property in 1765. The loft is a great example of typical North Carolinian sleeping quarters, complete with a rope bed and trundle underneath. Below us in the kitchen is the Catawba Historical Cooking Society. Many times, we will smell wonderful items being cooked based on historical recipes.

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## **A Few Updates from Our President**

Gail Boyles

### **Guild Board Elections**

It's time to get in your nominations for the 2017/2018 Piedmont Fiber Guild Board.

Peggy Hood is your contact if you want to nominate yourself or another member who might be a good candidate for a position. We will be voting at May's meeting, so it's important to let Peggy know very soon. Her email is: [SVWINDSALOFT@hotmail.com](mailto:SVWINDSALOFT@hotmail.com).

Being a Board member is a great opportunity for a member to get to know the inner workings of the Guild and be a part of helping shape the Guild for the future. Many of the current Board members started their Board positions shortly after becoming active members.

All job descriptions are listed on the Yahoo Chat Group page; you can also contact a current Board member to see what their position entails. One really good thing about the Board is that you get a lot of help from other Board members.

Below are the current nominees. We need to fill the open spaces by May's meeting.

- President: Sue Helmken
- Past President : Gail Boyles
- Treasurer:
- Programs:
- Secretary:
- Newsletter:
- Charity: Julia Roskamp
- Webmaster: Maurice Blackburn / Maria Derner
- Marketing/Events/Booth: Gail Boyles
- Social Media: Lori Smith
- Membership: Dick Kistler
- Library: Chris Dunlap
- Hospitality: Lorene Lovell, Peggy Hood
- Workshops: Shirley Young
- Equipment Mgr: Vivian Brenner

### **----- Quilt Raffle -----**

The quilt raffle that started in February is underway. To recap, the Guild has recently received several quilt tops from member Carol Wertz in honor of her mother, member Ann Brinkhous. The goal for these toppers is for them to be made into quilts and donated to an organization that gives them to kids who need comforting in stressful situations.

The biggest quilt top was taken by member Ursula Blackburn and quilted into a beautiful double size quilt. The Guild is raffling off this quilt to raise money for the organization, Quilts for Kids. Their website is: <http://www.quiltsforkids.org/>

I will bring the quilt and raffle tickets to April's meeting and will display it at as many Guild's events as possible. Pictures of the quilt are on the PFG website: <http://piedmontfiberguild.org/>

Pricing for the tickets is below:

- The ticket price is: \$5.00 per ticket or 5 tickets for \$20.
- Raffle tickets will be available at all Guild events and meetings for Guild members to purchase or sell.
- All money and ticket stubs should be given to Gail Boyles. Checks should be made out to the Guild.
- The drawing for the quilt will be October 31, 2017; this will give enough time to sell tickets at many Guild events.

# Piedmont Fiber Guild Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2017

\*Opportunities & Refreshments: Thanks to Ursula Blackburn, Beth Nathan, Gail Boyles for providing this month's refreshments and opportunities.

\*Program: Our very own, Sue Helmken, spoke with us about the Creative Process. With a slideshow of her own photos, she walked us through finding fiber inspiration in everyday objects and in nature. Mother nature's color and texture contrasts are a great way to see combinations that you may not have thought of before or were not yet able to experiment with. Sue brought examples of her work to illustrate how bringing in a new outlook can positively benefit your artwork. We are so lucky to have Sue as a creative resource in our guild.

\*2017/2018 PFG Board nominations: Please see the files section of the PFG chat group for job descriptions. Peggy Hood is overseeing the nominations board.

\*Break for refreshments and Opportunities.

\*Treasurer: Tammy Diener reported \$3102.76 in checking and \$2854.19 in savings for a total of \$5956.95

\*Equipment manager: The Piedmont Fiber Guild has acquired a beautiful Harrisville Designs 20 inch, four shaft, six treadle loom that is available to rent as part of our rental program.

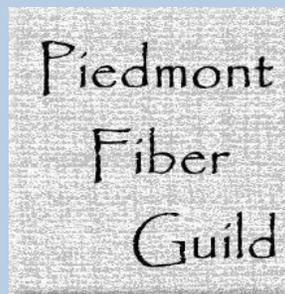
\*Charity: Julia Roskamp gave updates on this year's charity projects. Please consider bringing baby hats for families serving at Fort Bragg, small blankets for Mothers of Angels, as well as blankets for Project Linus.

\*Hospitality: April's refreshments and opportunities will be provided by ... Food- Dick Kistler and Janet Kaufman; Drinks- Ursula Blackburn; and Opportunities - Tammy Diener and Julia Roskamp.

\*Workshops: Shirley Young has multiple classes in the works. A tatting workshop taught by Vivian Brenner, a basic sock making class taught by Maria Derner and a Shetland Knitting Belt class are all being discussed. Please email Shirley Young directly, with any questions or interests, so that she can coordinate the workshops effectively.

\*Raffle tickets for the beautiful Ann Brinkhouse Quilt top (completed by Ursula Blackburn) are in. Tickets are \$5 a piece or 5 for \$20. All proceeds will benefit Quilts for Kids. Please sign out all tickets with Gail Boyles or Chris Dunlap.

\*Member Show and Tell



## The DFG Board

For the convenience of Guild members, we include in each issue of this newsletter a list of the members of our Board, including contact information. The editors would like to thank each Board member for volunteering their time and efforts to the Guild.

**President: Gail Boyles**

[E-mail: [gboyles44@gmail.com](mailto:gboyles44@gmail.com) ]

**Immediate Past President: Sara Munday**

[E-mail: [sarat11970@gmail.com](mailto:sarat11970@gmail.com) ]

**Treasurer: Tammy Diener**

[E-mail: [tdiener27265@yahoo.com](mailto:tdiener27265@yahoo.com) ]

**Secretary: Sue Helmken and Beth Nathan**

[E-mail (Sue): [barefootweaver@earthlink.net](mailto:barefootweaver@earthlink.net) ]

[Beth: [falafee2222@gmail.com](mailto:falafee2222@gmail.com) ]

**Newsletter: Beth and Will Dunlap**

[E-mail: [chrismom98@gmail.com](mailto:chrismom98@gmail.com) ]

**Charity: Julia Roskamp**

[E-mail: [juliamarie55@gmail.com](mailto:juliamarie55@gmail.com) ]

**Webmaster: Maurice Blackburn**

[E-mail: [mblackburn1@carolina.rr.com](mailto:mblackburn1@carolina.rr.com) ]

**Membership: Dick Kistler**

[E-mail: [dickkist@hotmail.com](mailto:dickkist@hotmail.com) ]

**Library: Christine Dunlap**

[E-mail: [chrismom98@gmail.com](mailto:chrismom98@gmail.com) ]

**Hospitality: Lorene Lovell and Janet Kaufman**

[E-mail (Lorene): [stargazerstudio@hotmail.com](mailto:stargazerstudio@hotmail.com) ]

[Janet: [janet.kaufman.littlejohn@gmail.com](mailto:janet.kaufman.littlejohn@gmail.com) ]

**Workshops: Shirley Young**

[E-mail: [syoung4@carolina.rr.com](mailto:syoung4@carolina.rr.com) ]

**Publicity, Social Media: Lori Smith**

[E-mail: [LNSUPPLY@carolina.rr.com](mailto:LNSUPPLY@carolina.rr.com) ]

**Publicity, Marketing: Adrienne Joslin**

[E-mail: [ada.joslin@yahoo.com](mailto:ada.joslin@yahoo.com) ]

**Equipment Manager: Vivian Brenner**

[E-mail: [SockLady@aol.com](mailto:SockLady@aol.com) ]

## This Year's Guild Meetings

- April 23, 2017
- May 21, 2017

The first meeting of the next Guild year will be held on Sunday, September 17.

**All regular meetings 2-4 pm at Arts on Main, 212 West Main Avenue, Gastonia, 28052. Visitors are welcome.**

## A Note on the Upcoming Meeting

We would like to thank Dick Kistler, Janet Kaufman and Ursula Blackburn for volunteering to bring refreshments for this month's meeting, along with Tammy Diener for donating Opportunity items. Of special note in this month's Opportunity raffle are several bags of Suri alpaca fleece seconds from Andrea Nissen of the Carolina Alpaca Celebration. Please contact our Hospitality chairpersons Janet Kaufman or Lorene Lovell if you are interested in providing refreshments or Opportunity items for a subsequent Guild meeting, particularly if you would like to volunteer to help fulfill these Hospitality needs for the May meeting.

This month's program comes from Ann Williams, a local fiber artists and author. See the following page for more information.

We hope you will join us for this month's meeting on Sunday, April 23 at Arts on Main in Gastonia. Guests are welcome.

## April's Featured Speaker

### Ann Williams

Ann Williams, Charlotte area TV personality, historian, fiber artist and author will present a program titled: "An uncommon bond of friendship and regional historical facts about cotton".

Ann has been immersed in regional history for over thirty years. She has a particular interest in antebellum plantation life, and the families, black and white, who worked those plantations. She has researched farming practices of the period, especially cotton farming, and the extensive collections of family papers of several large Mecklenburg planters. She has used a variety of sources to study slave life especially books and papers written by slaves or former slaves. Using this information she has written detailed accounts for local historic sites. Along with her husband she volunteers at historic sites doing research, giving tours, and doing first person interpretations in the personas of those who lived before.

Ann has recently published a novel, *The Uncommon Bond of Julia and Rose*, about a unusually close relationship between a slave named Rose and Julia who owned her. The story takes place on an antebellum Piedmont plantation, and although it is fiction, it is accurately based in history. She took her lead from a phrase in a 1809 will, "and concerning my said old faithful servant Rose, my will is that she shall not be sold (like a brute beast) but shall be kept by my said three daughters in as easy circumstances as the nature of slavery will admit."

Ann will also discuss regional cotton history and even has an interesting short fiber story from Brattonsville, SC she will share at our meeting.

## A List of Upcoming Events

Below is a list of current events on the Guild's calendar. This information does change with new events that we are invited to participate in. For the most current information, check on the Guild's website. If you want to participate, please contact the coordinator of the event.

- April 29, 2017 - Belmont Living History Day
  - Coordinator for this event: Gail Boyles ([gboyles44@gmail.com](mailto:gboyles44@gmail.com))
  - 10am - 3pm (This is a drop in event - you don't need to stay the whole time)
  - 40 Catawba St Belmont, NC (Home of the Belmont Historical Society)
- May 13 - May Faire on the Square Dallas, NC
  - Coordinator for this event: Chris Dunlap ([chrisdmom98@gmail.com](mailto:chrisdmom98@gmail.com))
  - 10am - 4pm
  - 131 West Main Street, Dallas, North Carolina, 28034 (Gaston County Museum)
- June 10, 2017 - World Wide Knit in Public Day
  - More information to follow.
- October 14 & 15 - Cotton Ginning Days Dallas, NC
  - Coordinator for this event: Gail Boyles ([gboyles44@gmail.com](mailto:gboyles44@gmail.com))
  - This is a drop in event - more information to follow
- November 10 & 11 - Art Show at AOM
  - Coordinator for this event: Gail Boyles ([gboyles44@gmail.com](mailto:gboyles44@gmail.com))
  - More information to follow

# News from the PFG Weaving Study Group

From Maurice Blackburn

The Weaving Study Group met at the Blackburn's on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Thirteen weavers plus Ursula were present.

Alice Harrell was one to the designated weavers. She showed two samples using Taupe, Burnt Orange and Sage UKI 8/2 cotton with a pattern from Handwoven magazine. As her first sample did not produce the square pattern she had intended, she modified the weft threads in the second to correct this.

Maurice Blackburn, the second designated weaver, showed three samples, all three using a 8/2 Nile Green UKI cotton warp. The design was based on Sue Hunt's Huck Lace Butterflies in "The Best of Weavers Huck Lace" book. The first sample used UKI 8/2 Champagne cotton in the weft while the second used the same Nile Green as the warp. The third sample however used UKI 5/2 Gold mercerized cotton in the weft and produced a surprisingly different pattern appearance, quite unlike the butterfly effect in the other two samples

Sue Helmken showed a huck sampler where in half of the warp she had alternated light and dark warp threads. This produced quite a different effect from the other part of the sampler where she had only used one color.

Jeanne Smith showed a sampler she had woven in preparation for her project and asked for help on how to add tabby at the selvages. Sue has subsequently put together information for the group – thank you Sue.

Maurice showed the group some pictures of the counterbalance loom which has recently been donated to Latta Plantation. The donors say that they believe the loom was made at the John C. Campbell Folk School in the 1930's.

The next meeting of the weaving group will be held at Kiska Thompson's house on May 24th



## News from Carolina Handspinners

From Chris Dunlap

Our April meeting saw a great group of folks, some of whom we haven't seen in several months, sitting together spinning and chatting up a storm both about fiber and other subjects.

Show and Tell featured long-awaited socks, very complex socks, and gorgeous fibers and yarns to share.

Our next regular monthly meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2-4pm at Lowell Community Center, 501 West First Street, Lowell, NC.

The next Bimonthly Saturday meeting will take place on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at the home of Mary Bare in Monroe, NC. Her farm, Cranberry Creek Fibers, features long-wool sheep and other farm animals and Mary looks forward to sharing all her barnyard friends with our group. If you're interested in attending this event, please contact Mary directly at [cranberrycreekfibers@gmail.com](mailto:cranberrycreekfibers@gmail.com). Please let her know what you will bring to share for potluck lunch. We thank Mary for hosting this meeting that allows those who can't make our weekday meetings to enjoy the fun of Carolina Handspinners.

Happy Spinning!!



### "The Heart of the Gallery"

By Genie Greenlaw

My latest tapestry won 3rd prize at the "Connections" art show at Full Circle Arts in Hickory. Entitled "The Heart of the Gallery", 10" X 15". The artist's statement puts it in perspective:

***"The heart of a gallery is the people, come to gaze, ponder, and learn. Meet, greet, and chat. And yes, the unattended child or two."***

I've only gotten the occasional honorable mention before now; I'm thrilled.



## Recent Paper- and Book-Making Workshops in Kings Mountain

By Pam Perkins

I took three workshops earlier this month with Claudia Lee, a paper maker and maker of books and other items from her papers. Our bookies group asked her to come and teach for us at the Depot in Kings Mountain, so she did 3 different workshops for us in 6 days. First we made wonderful embellished boxes from some of Claudia's handmade paper that she does just for boxes. That was the first 2 days; the next 2 workshops were comprised of making paste papers on the first day and then using those papers to make a book. We did a different book structure in each session. We also rusted papers that we could use then or later. The first photo is of my finished box, about a 4 inch footprint and about 6 inches or so tall with a removable lid, embellished with additional handmade and decorated papers and a few beads, stitched onto the box after tack gluing in place. Next there is a sampling of some of my paste papers, then one of my books, on the left, orange tones with gray and black and set on its case. The last photo is of my second book, orange, some blue and gray-black, lying flat with light blue-gray leather straps on the spine and covers, surrounded by books from several other participants.



## **DFG and Carolina Handspinners at Awesome Alpacas Shearing Day**

By Chris Dunlap

Members Vivian Brenner, Dick Kistler and Christine Dunlap attended Alpaca Shearing Day at Awesome Alpacas on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. For a day that started out early (for the shearers, 7:30am) and chilly, it became a beautiful day filled with fiber and friendship. Joe and Lenell Porter were very gracious hosts and made us feel very welcome. Also doing fiber demos were Andrea Nissen and her son Matthew. Andrea completed a shawl using Prince Royal (prize-winning alpaca from Awesome Alpacas) alpaca yarn on her triangle loom. Her son, Matthew was allowed to help lead animals to the shearing area.

While most who attended were either there to help with shearing or were from other farms having their animals sheared, our demos and displays garnered much interest and we all had a great time explaining the process of preparing and spinning alpaca fiber and showing our finished alpaca projects. What fun to spend the day playing with fiber and burying our hands in luxurious alpaca “on the hoof” before shearing.

These majestic and beautiful animals are not at all ashamed to get rid of their winter coats, despite much crying and kicking during the process. Isn't it nice to know that this time next year, they will all have another supply of luscious fiber for us to enjoy?



## **Demonstrating at the Loch Norman Highland Games**

By Gail Boyles

*[Continued from front page]*

For this year's Loch Norman games, I was privileged to hang out with Maurice and Ursula Blackburn, Shirley Young and Ellen McCrea. Maurice kept busy weaving a historical bed coverlet pattern using the Rural Hill loom. Ellen was demonstrating lace knitting skills while Ursula was working on other knitting projects. Shirley and I were spinning. Since this was the Loch Norman games and we were able to “fudge” just a bit on authenticity; we both spun alpaca fiber from a local farm.

It is always great fun to tell children (and some adults) about early life in North Carolina. The children especially have a hard time grasping common customs of the day. Probably the most asked question is always, “How long does it take you to go from shearing the animal to the final product?” When we tell visitors the answer plus why the majority of people before the Industrial Revolution only had one outfit, they are in shock.

[Continued on next page]

I am always fascinated by the visitors who have never actually seen a working spinning wheel or floor loom. There are those who tell us stories of a relative who loved fiber arts. Many will sit with us and just watch while some want to try their hand at spinning, weaving or knitting. We had so many interested visitors that we almost ran out of Guild bookmarks!

On the hill above the Davidson cabin was the historical encampment. Such groups as the World War II Scottish troop, The Yager Clan and a Viking Clan were up there showing examples of historical life. Also in the encampment was Nancy Gaines from the Old Rowan Fiber Guild demonstrating fiber arts and Beth Melton demonstrating how to make brooms.



**Above Left:** Beth Melton and Gail Boyles in the Historical Encampment. Beth is holding her “ghost stick” that wards off evil spirits. Can you tell I forgot about my sunglasses?

**Above Right:** Shirley Young laughing at Maurice who is taking her picture in the loft.

We had a few Guild members drop by to visit: Peggy Hood, Sallie Olson and her husband Tom, and Linda Erickson. As a matter of fact, the first time Maurice and I met Linda was at the Loch Norman Games.

The Loch Norman Games is truly a great event for us to volunteer at. The staff at Rural Hill appreciates the Guild demonstrating fiber arts. We hope to continue doing this event for many years to come.



**Above Left:** Yes - that is a girl doing the Caber Toss!

**Above Right:** The cool Celtic band, SYR, that Ellen and I “sneaked” out to see Saturday night while Shirley rested.