

Piedmont Fiber Guild Newsletter

May, 2016

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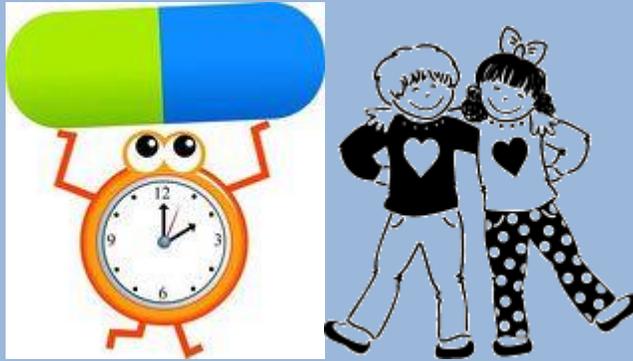
- a. On the Road to Master Knitters! By Christine Dunlap

PFG at Latta Plantation's Sheep-to-Shawl

April 23rd, 2016

We would like to thank Shirley Young for heading Guild participation at this event, and we appreciate all of our members who attended the demonstration to represent PFG and to teach visitors about traditional fiber processing. Please see page 11 for upcoming fiber demonstrations and other events.





The Fiber Project Time Capsule and Summer Fiber Buddies

With the May meeting, so ends another Guild meeting year. There have been many memorable Guild moments: the inaugural year of the Guild's booth at Arts on Main, Martha Matthews Estate sale, some of our Guild members' participation in the Roving to Scarf competition at SAFF, field trips to fiber places and events, and great Guild meeting programs, just to name a few.

While looking over the April meeting minutes from Tammy Diener, I noticed a comment made by Michiele Elliott that every summer she makes grand plans for projects she wants to complete over the summer and then when the September meeting comes, she has not completed her projects. Michiele suggested the Guild do some project planning for presentation at the May meeting. Members can check in over the summer to help keep each other accountable for their projects. A lot of members felt this was a good idea.

How many times have we been guilty of starting a fiber project, getting sidetracked, and never going back to it? By the time we find it again, the momentum to complete it might be lost and completion becomes more of a "chore" than a "conquest".

At May's meeting, I will suggest two ideas - a time capsule and a summer fiber buddy program. In the time capsule I bring, those who want to participate can write down a fiber activity they plan to tackle before the next Guild meeting in September. At September's meeting, the time capsule seal will be broken and each piece of paper with a participant's fiber activity will be given back to them. If they choose, they can let the group know if they completed their chosen fiber activity.

Need someone to keep encouraging you during the summer? That's your summer fiber buddy's job. For those who choose to participate, you will get to pick a summer fiber buddy who shares an interest in the type of project(s) you want to complete this summer. You and your summer fiber buddy can check in with each other to offer encouragement or advice to help you complete your summer fiber activities.

With the Guild year coming to a close, I would like to thank all of the 2015/2016 Board members: Sara Munday, Pat Williams, Michiele Elliott, Tammy Diener, Beth Dunlap, Will Dunlap, Julia Roskamp, Maurice Blackburn, Dick Kistler, Chris Dunlap, Christina Olveri, Shirley Young, Sallie Olson, and Vivian Brenner. I have learned so much from each of you. You have made this year run smoothly, given great ideas and offered big shoulders of support and encouragement for those times when I needed it.

Nominations for 2016/2017 Piedmont Fiber Guild Board Members

The following Guild members have expressed interest in the following positions:

President - Gail Boyles

Immediate Past President: Sara Munday

Treasurer: Tammy Diener

Programs: Donna Molles

Secretary: Sue Helmken, Beth Nathan

Newsletter: Beth and Will Dunlap

Charity: Julia Roskamp

Webmaster: Maurice Blackburn

Membership: Dick Kistler

Library: Chris Dunlap

Hospitality: Lorene Lovell & Janet Kaufman (both can serve in this position)

Workshops: Shirley Young

Publicity: will be broken into 2 positions:

Social Media: Lori Smith

Marketing: Adrienne Joslin

Equipment Manager: Vivian Brenner

These nominations will be presented at the Guild's May 15 meeting. Current Guild members will be able to vote for these members who have expressed interest in these positions.



Piedmont Fiber Guild Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2016

Gail Boyles, President, unable to attend. Past President, Sara Munday, ran the meeting.

Sara welcomed and asked visitors to introduce themselves. We had 5 visitors this meeting.

Program: Heather Storta, certified TKG Master Knitter, designer and knitting teacher, spoke in general about the Master Knitters program, and her personal journey. The Master Knitter program started in 1987. There are 300 Master Knitters throughout the world at this time. There are 3 levels of the Master Knitter program. See specifics below.

Level 1: Basic knitting skills including increases and decreases. You must belong to TKG at \$35.00 per year and then pay \$92.00 for this level. The money is basically for shipping fees. In Level 1, you turn in 21 swatches, write a 2-4 page report on blocking, answer 22 questions with research and references (at least 2 per question), write another 2-4 page report on care of hand knits, and knit 1 mitten. At this level, you must also write a pattern for a swatch and knit the swatch to the pattern. Instructions are very technical and the knitter must be able to follow directions and patterns. All swatches should be worked in worsted weight yarn and tension must be even and consistent. There will be one committee member and one co-chair to review each notebook to TKG. The knitter receives a letter from the co-chair with feedback, comments and resources. After review, the knitter has to complete any recommended resubmissions before moving to the next level. This is true for each level.

Level 2: Finishing techniques, lace and basic pattern design. This level costs \$97.00. At this level, two committee members and one co-chair will review the completed notebook. You are asked to design a few swatches with written patterns. You also design a vest with pattern as if to publish. You also have to complete a Fair Isle wristlet. At this level, you will complete 4 book reviews and knit an argyle sock as well.

Level 3: Advanced knitting, lace and pattern designing skills. This last level costs \$110.00. At this level, 3 committee members and one co-chair will review the notebook; a total of 4 people review the notebook. You will be required to write patterns for many swatches and projects. You will knit 9-15 different cast-ons and bind-offs. Patterns have to be original and written on a professional level. Some new stitch patterns covered in this level include herringbone, smocking, twisted Bavarian stitch, Entrelac, double stitch, slip stitch, mosaic, Intarsia, duplicate stitches and others. You will also design and knit a doily. This level includes demonstration of different seaming techniques. You will write 2 book reports at this level, 2-4 pages each, and a report on different historical knitting techniques. You will also write 2 magazine reviews. You are required to design and complete a hat and sweater using traditional methods. You can request deviations, but these must be approved by the committee and co-chair members.

For all swatches, TKG recommends light-colored 100% wool yarn, not superwash.

You must complete and pass each level before starting the next level. As a TKG member, you receive Cast On magazine. TKG is run by volunteers. There are committee and co-chair positions. The co-chair is the only person

that has contact with the knitters in the program. There is an unlimited amount of time to complete each level, although the knitter must keep up with revisions of the level requirements when updated. Revisions are usually done every 2 years. For each notebook handed in, revisions/resubmits may be requested with specific recommendations. Resubmits from the knitter must be completed and pass review before the knitter goes on to the next level. Knitters will get their notebooks back once they pass each level.

As a TKG Master Knitter, magazine editors know you can communicate a pattern well, so it is easier to publish patterns. You also gain some informal credential to teach knitting techniques. The biggest benefit of completing this program is the knowledge you acquire and the improvements in your own projects.

On Ravelry, there is a TKG board for Master Knitters. There are also software programs to assist with pattern writing. Heather uses Entwined and Vision Knit. You can also create patterns and charts by hand. For potential Master Knitters, TKG has a day during their conferences called On the Way to the Masters, where people in the program can talk to committee members, share ideas, get opinions on their swatches, get questions answered, receive critiques, etc. Heather states this is very helpful and she attended these events twice.

For Heather, her personal journey started in 2007 and she finished level 1 in 2009. Heather then started Level 2 in 2009 and finished in 2013. She started Level 3 in 2013 and finished in 11 months, in 2014. It took Heather 3 months to finish the hat in Level 3, beginning to end, including designing. The sweater in Level 3 took 6+ months.

The day after she received her Master Knitter Certification, the director of the Master Knitter program called Heather and asked her to serve as a committee member. She accepted and now reviews notebooks of potential master knitters. As a committee member, Heather states that she learns so much more every day. When reviewing a notebook, the committee member critiquing the work actually casts on and knits swatches to the patterns to check accuracy. They test all swatches for gauge and check any measurement parameters. Committee members try to complete review of each notebook within 2 weeks. And as the levels increase, more committee members go through the notebook. By Level 3, it can take 2-3 months for the notebook to be evaluated.

Heather did not expect to become a designer, but completion of the program helped her get several professional patterns published. Now she is a knitwear designer.

The #1 reason for resubmits is the knitter not following directions. Knitters never know which committee member is checking their notebook and they only communicate with their assigned co-chair.

All notebooks get mailed to the Ohio office and then the office mails them to the committee and co-chairs.

The fastest someone got through all three levels was 2 years.

Cast-on magazine from TKG opens the door to publishing as they encourage Master Knitter graduates to submit patterns. The next TKG annual conference is in July in Charleston, SC. This conference will also include the On the Way to the Masters Day on the Wednesday the conference starts.

Heather is teaching 3 different classes at TKGA including a cast-on/bind-off class, illusion knitting class and a class on short rows.

While all evaluation takes place in the US, TKGA has members submitting worldwide.

Break and Snack:

Thanks to Christina Oliveri, Dick Kistler, Tammy Diener and Nora Bachan for providing refreshments for today's meeting.

New Board elections: Peggy Hood, Sara Munday and Dawn Brown reported on Board Nominations. Nominations are usually announced at the April meeting and the Guild votes to fill open Board seats at the May meeting. The following Board members have agreed to another year of service:

- President: Gail Boyles
- Immediate Past President: Sara Munday
- Newsletter: Beth and Will Dunlap
- Charity: Julia Roskamp
- Webmaster: Maurice Blackburn
- Membership: Dick Kistler
- Library: Chris Dunlap
- Equipment Manager: Vivian Brenner

Peggy Hood discussed Board positions that need to be filled. The following members have expressed interest in Board positions as follows:

- Hospitality - Janet Kaufman and Lorene Lovell (discussed 2 people in this position may be beneficial)
- Publicity - this position can be broken into 2 jobs:
- Social Media: Lori Smith has expressed interest
- Marketing/events: Adriene Joslin has expressed interest
- Treasurer - Tammy Diener

The following positions still need nominations:

- Programs - This position arranges the monthly programs for 6 meetings. Michiele, the prior member handling programs, states it is a fun position and that other Guild members often help by suggesting speakers. Michiele also said this position was a great opportunity for her to attend many fiber events to scout potential speakers and reach out to the fiber community. Donna Molles, a visitor and soon-to-be member of the Guild, offered to take on this position.
- Secretary - Takes minutes of the meetings monthly. Sue Helmken offered to fill this position as long as she has a back-up. Beth Nathan offered to be the back-up.

Please let us know if you are interested in nomination for any of these positions.

Board member updates:

Immediate Past President: Sara Munday - nothing to report.

Treasurer: Pat Williams - not present. Sara Munday reports the Guild has over \$5000 in both the checking and savings accounts.

Programs: Michiele Elliot – For the May meeting, there will be no program as we conduct our Annual “Boot”(Trunk) Sale. There can be bartering, trading, etc. Garage sale pricing is suggested for this event. We must be out of our meeting space at Arts on Main by 4 p.m., as the gallery has an event going on that evening. Michiele states that every summer she has grand plans of projects she wants to complete over the break, but then when the September meeting comes, she has not completed her projects. Michiele suggests we do some project planning for presentation at the May meeting. Members can check in over the summer to help keep each other accountable for the summer projects. A lot of members felt this was a good idea.

Newsletter: Beth and Will Dunlap - The submission deadline is May 6th for the May 2016 PFG newsletter.

Charity: Julia Roskamp – not present. Sara Munday filled in. Sara discussed the toiletries, soaps, shampoos, and toothbrushes needed by St. Michael's. She also discussed the collection of Knitted Knockers at the May meeting and where one could get the patterns. We would like to have a large collection for donation next month.

Webmaster: Maurice Blackburn - not present. No updates.

Membership: Dick Kistler - Membership dues for 2016-2017 may be paid at the May meeting. Yearly membership dues are \$25.00. If you want to be a Guild member for the remainder of this Guild year, the fee is \$12.50.

Library & Carolina Handspinners: Chris Dunlap - Chris discussed the CH field trip to Yadkin Valley Fiber Room. Leslie Vesperman runs the Yadkin Valley Fiber Room at the Yadkin Arts Council (YAC). Leslie is open to suggestions for classes and it appears there will be a class in the future on double weaving and one on the elements of project planning for a woven project. Weaver Jason Collingwood will be teaching at YAC August 9 – 11, 2016. Weaver Pam Howard will teach in the fall. Look for classes at yadkinvalleyfiberroom.com.

It was mentioned that there is a 2 day Tapestry weaving class at the Fiber Room that needs more participants in order for the class to run. If you stay overnight, YAC has a deal at a nearby Days Inn for \$55.00/night. The Fiber Room has dyeing facilities available for classes. During the visit, Leslie showed a simple technique to make wall art on window screen using fiber and diluted glue.

Sue Helmken said the Guild is welcome to have some dye days over the summer at her studio. She has a lot of dye for cotton or plant fiber. She also stated we can do an indigo dye bath. Tammy Diener has a good variety of Jacquard dyes for those who would like to dye wool.

Chris also discussed the library check-out process for new members and visitors.

Hospitality: Christina Oliveri - not present. Thanks go to Tammy Diener, Dick Kistler and Nora Bachan for bringing refreshments and Lorene Lovell for donating one of her decorated notebooks for Opportunities.

Workshops: Shirley Young - not present at this meeting. There is an inkle loom workshop May 21st. If you're interested, please fill out a form (passed around) or send Shirley an e-mail at syoung4@carolina.rr.com. You can pay Chris Dunlap at the meeting today or you can send Shirley Young a check: Shirley Young 3401 Oakhill Lane, Gastonia, NC 28056. Sue Helmken will provide directions and pre-class instructions before May 21st to members participating in the class. Sue stated the April class went well and was fun.

Publicity: Sallie Olson - not present. Sara Munday reviewed the upcoming events:

April 23 - Sheep Shearing at Latta Plantation. Contact Shirley Young if planning to attend.

April 30 - Belmont Living History Day, 10 am to 3 pm. Contact Sallie Olson if attending. You can sell items here.

May 14 - Mt. Holly Farmer's Market. Contact Sallie Olson if attending. Can sell items here.

May 21 - Mayfair on the Square, Gaston County Museum. Contact Chris Dunlap if attending. Can sell items here.

May 28 - Lowell Freedom Festival at Harold Rankin Park, 10 am – 5 pm. Contact Chris Dunlap if attending.

June 4 - Alpaca Shearing at Apple Hill Farm in Banner Elk, NC, 10 am. This is a 2 hour drive from Gastonia. Contact Gail Boyles for more information.

June 4 - Fiber Feel Day, WNC Farmers Market, 570 Brevard Rd, Asheville, NC 28806, 9 am - 2 pm.

June 18 - Worldwide Knit in Public Day, 10 am - 1 pm, Mint Museum, 2730 Randolph Road, Charlotte, NC.

July 16 - High Country Farm Tour at Apple Hill Farm, Banner Elk, NC. There will be a dyeing demonstration going on as well. Contact Gail Boyles for more information.

Equipment Manager: Vivian Brenner – The Guild has acquired 2 spinning wheels for equipment rental, a Clemes and Clemes spinning wheel and an Ashford Traditional wheel, which will be ready to check out sometime during the summer after repairs are completed. The rental fee will be set later in the summer. There is also a picker, a drum carder, hand carders, and a warping board for rent. Contact Vivian for details.

Next meeting date:

May 15 for the Annual Boot Sale

[Meeting minutes continued from previous page]

Opportunities: Total raised for this meeting was \$29.00.
Donna Molles won a pair of purse handles.
Pam Perkins won spinning fiber.
Chris Dunlap won the journal donated from Lorene Lovell.

Show and Tell.

The DFG Board

We would like to thank all of the Board members who have served our Guild in the past Guild year. Please note that new Board members will be elected at the upcoming May meeting.

President: Gail Boyles

[E-mail: gboyles44@gmail.com]

Past president: Sara Munday

[E-mail: sarat11970@gmail.com]

Monthly Programs: Michiele Elliott

[E-mail: michielerelliott@yahoo.com]

Membership: Dick Kistler

[E-mail: dickkist@hotmail.com]

Library: Christine Dunlap

[E-mail: dunlap_b@bellsouth.net]

Publicity/Marketing: Sallie Olson

[E-mail: sallieolson@carolina.rr.com]

Newsletter: Beth and Will Dunlap

[E-mail: dunlap_b@bellsouth.net]

Webmaster: Maurice Blackburn

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

Secretary: Tammy Diener

[E-mail: tdiener27265@yahoo.com]

Hospitality: Christina Oliveri

[E-mail: miukat@msn.com]

Workshops: Shirley Young

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

Treasurer: Pat Williams

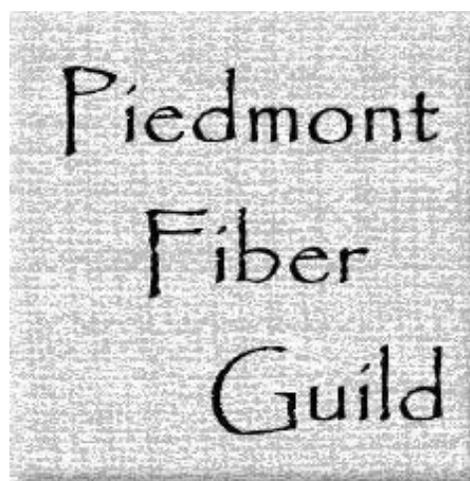
[E-mail: pedmonds001@carolina.rr.com]

Equipment Manager: Vivian Brenner

[E-mail: SockLady@aol.com]

Charity: Julia Roskamp

[E-mail: juliamarie55@gmail.com]



This Year's Guild Meetings:

• May 15, 2016

The Guild will not meet in June, July, or August. Regular meetings will resume on September 18th.

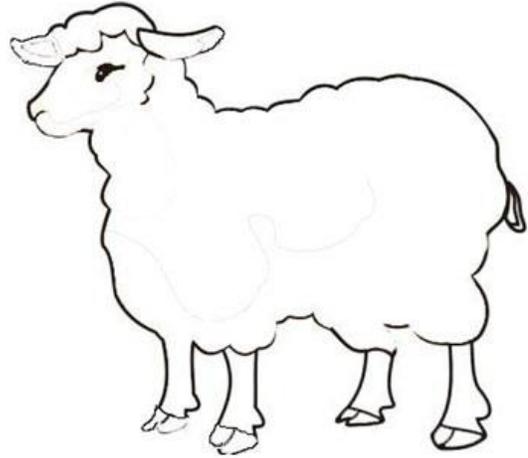
All regular meetings 2-4 pm at Arts on Main, 212 West Main Avenue, Gastonia, 28052. Visitors are welcome.

A Note on the Upcoming Meeting

We would like to thank Janet Kaufman, Nora Bachan, and Michiele Elliott for volunteering to bring refreshments for this month's meeting. If you are interested in bringing food, drinks, or Opportunity items to subsequent meetings, please contact our new Hospitality chair (to be elected at the upcoming meeting).

Following this month's meeting, the Guild will be holding its annual Boot Sale! Please bring overflow stash materials or fiber tools, accessories, etc. to swap or sell (we recommend tag-sale pricing). The sale will be run from members' car trunks in the back parking lot of Arts on Main.

We hope that you will join us at this final meeting of the 2015/2016 Guild year. Guests are always welcome!



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).

<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Rental Fee</u>	<u>Security Deposit</u>
Drum Carder	\$30	\$50
Cotton Cards	\$5	\$20
Elbee Picker	\$30	\$100
Warping Board	TBA	TBA

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.

If you have any fiber equipment you would like to donate, please contact Vivian or Gail Boyles, our most esteemed President.

A List of Upcoming Events

- **May 14:** 8 am – 12 noon, Mt Holly Farmer’s Market – Guild will be demonstrating at the first Market of the year – can sell items – contact Sallie Olson if attending
- **May 21:** 10 am – 3 pm, Mayfair on The Square, Gaston County Museum – can sell items – contact Chris Dunlap if attending
- **May 15:** 2 – 4pm, Piedmont Fiber Guild meeting at Arts on Main
- **May 28:** 10am - 5pm, Lowell Freedom Festival – contact Chris Dunlap if attending
- **June 4:** 10am, Alpaca Shearing at Apple Hill Farm, Banner Elk, NC (2 hours’ drive from Gastonia) – contact Gail Boyles for more information
- **June 4:** 9 am – 2pm, Fiber Feel Day at WNC Farmer’s Market, presented by Local Cloth – 570 Brevard Rd., Asheville, NC 28806 – local fiber producers will be selling fleeces (no official Guild involvement)
- **June 18:** 10 am – 1 pm, World Wide Knit in Public Day (WWKIP), Mint Museum, 2730 Randolph Rd, Charlotte – This event is sponsored by The Charlotte Knitting Guild – contact Gail Boyles for more information
- **July 16:** High Country Farm Tour at Apple Hill Farm, Banner Elk, NC – Dyeing demo also going on – contact Gail Boyles for more information

***If you know of any events that the Guild as a whole might want to participate in, please contact Gail Boyles**

DFG Library News

From our Librarian, Christine Dunlap

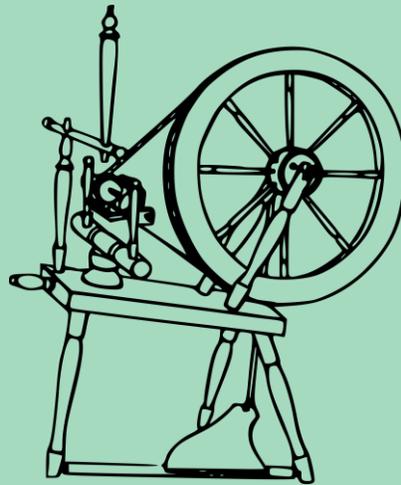
Just a quick reminder that the PFG Library is available to all paid PFG members. The Library cabinets are located in the PFG storage area at Arts on Main where we hold our monthly meetings. Sign-out/Sign-in is very self-explanatory, but please see me if you have any questions. Please look around your home and see if you have any PFG Library items you are finished with and can return at the May meeting (May 15th). I usually go through the cabinet each summer to be sure the Library Log is up to date. If you will still be using items, please feel free to keep them over the summer. We usually ask that items be returned within 3 months but, with summer coming up, you’ll get a few extra months to enjoy your PFG Library selections. Please let me know if you have any Library requests. We’re always happy to consider acquiring items that we feel will be of use to the PFG membership at large. Have a great summer and Happy Reading!



News from Carolina Handspinners

From Christine Dunlap

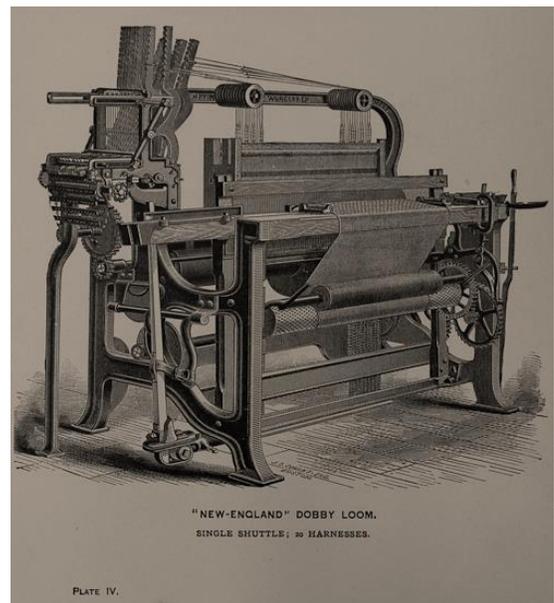
We had a great meeting of Carolina Handspinners in April. We discussed in detail our recent field trip to Yadkin Valley Fiber Room as well as several fiber events taking place in the next couple of busy months. We encourage members of both groups to attend as many of these events as possible. The main goal of both groups is to share knowledge of the fiber arts, and these demonstration events are a great way to further this goal. Please see this newsletter [page 11] for other events taking place in the near future. Our next Bimonthly Saturday meeting will take place on Saturday May 21st at the home of Burgl Pruett in South Charlotte. Please contact Burgl directly (burglpruett@carolina.rr.com) if you're interested in attending this event and be sure to let her know what you will bring to share for Potluck Lunch. We thank Burgl so much for again hosting our group in her home for this event that allows members who can't attend our weekday meetings to enjoy the fun of our group. The next regularly scheduled monthly meeting of Carolina Handspinners will take place on June 14th. We hope to see you there!



Reminder:

Next PFG Weaving Study Group Meeting

The next meeting of the Piedmont Fiber Guild Weaving Study Group will be held at Burgl Pruett's home on May 25, starting at 1pm. Please join us!



On the Road to Master Knitters!

By Christine Dunlap

After our April speaker, Heather Storta, told us about her great adventures in the TKGGA Master Knitter Program, several PFG members, including Tammy Diener, Sonia Salvucci, Lori Millsap and myself, have decided to take up this challenge, beginning over this summer. We have decided to attack this challenge as a group to encourage each other and keep each other accountable for continuing to work on this Level 1 Master Knitter Program when the going gets rough.

We plan to set up a group on Ravelry so we can share what we've accomplished as well as meeting every month or two in person so we can solve problems, answer questions and compare our progress. I appreciate the formation of this small group because it has spurred me on to do this program which I have been on the fence about since hearing Heather talk about it.

My personal goals for this program include learning techniques I have previously avoided, improving the look of some of my knitting, solving some small annoying problems I keep encountering and broadening my knitting horizons.

I began this week by easily downloading the program's requirements and assignments, after purchase. Following their recommendations, I have looked over the entire program, done the research for my paper, organized and started my notebook and completed my first 3 swatches. I have committed to working at least 1 hr. each day on this project.

It's amazing how much research they require for this program, but it makes sense that they're hoping you will improve your knowledge and therefore your knitting as you reference techniques we knitters take for granted, such as knitting 1x1 rib and various cast-ons and bind-offs. I have already learned a new-to-me technique, tubular cast-on, which works brilliantly for pieces starting with ribbing.

My goal is to have as much work done as possible before the TKGGA Conference in Charleston, SC, coming up in July. I want to take part in the On the Way to the Masters evaluation on Wednesday July 13th so I know whether I'm on the right track with the work I'm doing.

We will keep PFG Members updated on our progress as we move through Level One of the Master Knitters Program through TKGGA. Please consider making the short trip to Charleston, SC for this year's Conference. Here's a link with more information: <http://www.tkga.com/?page=TKGAConferences>.

