

Piedmont Fiber Guild Newsletter

May 2017

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World Wide Knit in Public Day

At the Schiele Museum

From Pam Perkins

Joy Owens of Things Remembered Framing and Yarn Shop here in Gastonia has arranged a World Wide Knit in Public Day event for Sunday, June 11 at the Schiele Museum of Natural History, 1500 E. Garrison Blvd. The event is scheduled from 1:00pm – 5:00pm. The Guild will set up in the Back Country Farm behind the main museum building.

Here is what the event flyer says:

Come and enjoy the day with your fellow fiber friends. Knitters, crocheters, spinners, weavers and fiber enthusiasts of all types are welcome.

Bring a chair, a snack if you want and projects to show off and work on. There will be mini workshops, classes and displays. Kits will be available for purchase.

You may also plan to explore the beautiful grounds of the museum as well as indoors.

Museum Admission: Members – Free; Residents of Gastonia – \$5; Non-Residents - \$7.

Hosted by Things Remembered Framing and Yarn, [704-824-0473](tel:704-824-0473);

ThingsRemembered@carolina.rr.com.

Find us on Facebook

In the event of inclement weather, we will move indoors.



A Note from Our President

Gail Boyles



The passing of the gavel and block

And so here I am in my last month as president of The Piedmont Fiber Guild. I shall be striking my gavel for the last time on May 21 – quite a surreal moment.

I took this office in September, 2015. I've led groups before but I still had the small nagging voice telling me: "What if I fail?"; "They will hate me"; "Am I really up for this?". Seriously - presiding over a large group of people you consider much more talented than yourself can be overwhelming. But I shut the nagging voice down, put on my big girl pants and started being the president.

At the first Guild meeting I presided over, I invited a speaker to talk about a project he was involved in at Kings Mountain. For those of you who were there, his topic seemed far-fetched. At that moment, I thought, "I might as well resign - I have failed". But the support I received helped me get over that rookie mistake and keep going.

In the meetings that followed, I gained more confidence in performing the duties of president. I have always had a great Board I could lean on for their opinions regarding everything Guild related. They also have not been afraid to rein me in when my excitement overpowers my common sense.

One memorable moment happened when Alan & Milissa Dewy (aka Bobbin Boy) visited a meeting. After seeing some rowdiness in the meeting, Alan asked for my home address so he could send me something. A few days later, a gavel and block showed up! Now, I felt like a real leader with my "toy" to keep things in line at meetings ; o)

Being president of any organization is not easy; if it was, everyone would want to do it, right? But I have found this presidency rewarding. Rewarding in the sense that my confidence level as a leader has soared. Rewarding also in the diverse group of fiber artisans I have had the privilege of presiding over.

So, thank you to my two great Guild Boards who stood behind me through thick and thin. Thank you to all the Guild members who have remained active through my presidency, inspired me with their show and tell projects, joined me at countless events, made me laugh, and helped me think outside the box. I have so enjoyed being your president!

Piedmont Fiber Guild Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2017

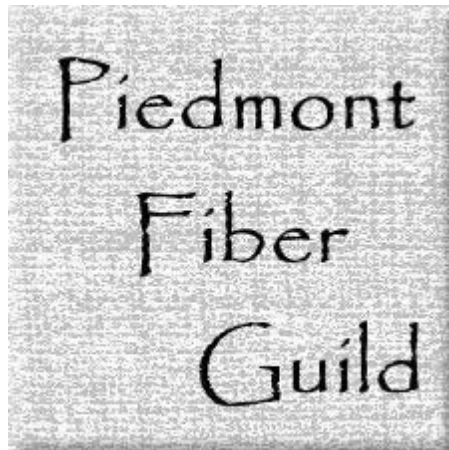
- Meeting called to order
- New members introduced
- Quick discussion about Suri alpaca seconds fleece donated by the organizers of Carolina Alpaca Celebration
- Thanks for Hospitality participation by Dick Kistler, Janet Kaufman, and Ursula Blackburn.
- Thanks for Opportunity participation by Genie Greenlaw, Tammy Diener, Erica Blake and the estate of Catherine Sullivan.
- Sign-up sheet circulated for May meeting volunteers.
- Introduction of Ann Williams by Jim Williams
 - Jim Williams is affiliated with Mecklenburg Historical Society and is responsible for weekly emails, monthly postings of historical events in the area and periodic newsletter about local historic sites.
 - Ann Williams is an author on historical topics, fiber artist (particularly historically accurate weaving of the 19th century), textile researcher and interpreter, and researcher of all things 19th century history related to plantation living in the Carolinas.
 - In 1991, researched and accurately described “Mystery Dress” found at Historic Brattonsville, SC.
 - Found it was woven with natural cotton warp with weft stripes, also in cotton. This is a much more difficult process than weaving with warp stripes and the dress also had interesting construction features including Leg-O-Mutton sleeves created by cutting on the bias.
 - More recently, Ann has researched for and interpreted at various historic sites such as Latta Plantation. Ann has a passion for correctly interpreting life in an antebellum plantation as seen from all perspectives.
 - Most recent book, The Uncommon Bond of Julia and Rose, was based on the life of an 18th century plantation mistress and her personal slave.
 - Ann chose to write this book as a novel because she wanted to take the information she found out from primary resources about these kinds of relationships and set the story at the height of plantation farming.
 - Ann has a passion for debunking myths held by many about slave life and relations with their white masters. She feels that she was able to accomplish this within her book by researching carefully and including the results of her research in her story.
 - For example, many think that it was illegal to teach slaves to read. While Lutheranism does not encourage a close personal relationship with your beliefs through complete understanding, The Presbyterians felt that a person could best understand and commune spiritually with God if they understood His word, which they believed was best accomplished through a great understanding of religious texts. They would have therefore helped their slaves to read so they could better share their beliefs.
 - Ann’s other goal with her book was to show the relationship of mistress and slave through life experiences during the Spring and Summer of 1860, just before the election of Abraham Lincoln.
 - As the mistress, Julia, nears the end of her life, her son suggests that she write a will. In doing so, she secures care for her personal servant after her passing, though she sees little other purpose to this document. The mistress then begins to think back over her life and

decides to create a memory journal. Rose asks if she might also do this. Ann's book, then, is a collection of these entries from both these ladies in their individual voices and showing many of the same experiences from each of their perspectives.

- For reference about Rose's literary voice, Ann referred to documents from the WPA Slave Narrative Project where WPA members went into the mountain areas and spoke with slaves and documented their experiences in their own words.
- The backdrop for this book includes historically accurate events and shows how life changed for both master and slave as farming in the area changed from small farms with a few slaves to work the land to huge plantations where the number of slaves vastly outnumbered the white family members. There were conflicts that occurred on all sides as this change took place.
 - Ann sold signed copies of her book to Guild members.
- Break for refreshments
- Opportunities Drawing: Winners – Ellen McCrea, Julia Hogan, Carol Serwint, Christine Dunlap and others.
- Roxann James of Lando-Manetta Mills History Center of Lando, SC presented some information about their project and a bit of history about Lando Mills.
 - Site includes the Company Store with displays, artifacts from the Mill and items that could have been purchased at this Company Store.
 - Looking for fiber arts demo volunteers for 2 events:
 - Saturday, July 28th, 5-7pm – Old Movie Night: movies begin at 7pm and are video movies of the Main streets and stops in Lando during different times in history.
 - Saturday, October 7th – Lando Days: all day event featuring historic demonstrations and items of interest as well as a talk by Professor Phil Moody of Winthrop University on the social fabric; would love to have weavers and other fiber artists to demo, particularly for children.
- PFG Board Nominations:
 - Please contact Peggy Hood if you're interested in becoming part of the PFG Board.
 - Open positions include: Programs
 - Thanks to Sallie Olson for agreeing to be Nominee for PFG Newsletter. Beth Dunlap has agreed to help her with this transition and offer any help she needs with this position.
 - Thanks to Sue Helmken for agreeing to be Nominee for PFG President.
 - Thanks to Maria Diener for agreeing to be Nominee for Web Master.
 - Thanks to Julie Hogan for agreeing to be Nominee for Secretary.
 - Board positions will be voted on by membership at large on May 21 at our next regular meeting.
 - Thanks to all those members agreeing to continue in their present positions.
- Create with a Cop - Maria Derner
 - Nonprofit, Lighthouse is focused on community outreach and healthy activities for kids whose parents may not be in the best situations.
 - Maria is offering knitting classes at a booth during their May 29 event, CREATE WITH A COP. Police officers will learn to knit with children.
 - Maria wants donations of yarn and needles to help with this activity.
- Raffle tickets for quilt
 - \$5 each or 5 for \$20
 - Picture of quilt is in February newsletter
 - Tickets are bundled in 20-packs

- Have members sign them out with the numbers noted
- Quilt tops donated by the family of Ann Brinkhous to benefit Quilts for Kits
 - Ursula Blackburn has completed quilting on 3 more of the quilt tops donated by the family of Ann Brinkhous. We thank Ursula for so generously donating her time to get these quilts completed.
 - One of these will be sold via Silent Auction at our 2017 Christmas Party to benefit Quilts for Kids.
 - If you still have any of these quilt tops, please contact Julia Roskamp and plan to have them completed by our May meeting.
- Upcoming Events
 - May 21 – Next meeting
 - Boot Sale
 - Board Voting
 - April 29 - Belmont Living History Day
 - Maurice Blackburn, Vivian Brenner, Dick Kistler, Sallie Olson, Beth Nathan
 - May 13 - May Faire on the Square in Dallas, NC
 - Chris Dunlap is the contact
 - Able to sell handmade items at this event.
 - June 10, 2017, 10am - 2 pm – Anything Fiber Sale, Warren Wilson College
 - June 10, 2017 - World Wide Knit in Public Day
 - Charlotte Knitters Guild hasn't contacted me yet with event details
 - October 14, 10am - 4pm – Curtin Farm Fest in Clover, SC
 - October 14 & 15 - Cotton Ginning Days in Dallas, NC
 - November 10 & 11 - Art Show at AOM.
 - Will be able to sell at event but Guild space is limited.
- Board Member Updates
 - Immediate Past President: Sara Munday
 - Treasurer: Tammy Diener
 - Checking : \$3022.77
 - Savings: \$2915.24
 - Total: \$5938.04
 - Programs: Our May meeting features our Annual Boot Sale/Swap instead of a speaker or program.
 - Get together all your unwanted/unloved fiber, yarn and fiber tools and take part in this great event where everyone goes home with new-to-them treasures.
 - Boot is British reference to the trunk of our cars.
 - Secretary: Christine Dunlap
 - Newsletter: Beth Dunlap
 - Deadline for May Newsletter submissions is Friday, May 12th.
 - Beth is resigning from this position due to increased demands on her education. She will be assisting incoming Newsletter Editor with their duties.
 - Charity: Julia Roskamp
 - **Linus Project Donation:** completed quilt tops from Ann Brinkhous
 - **Baby Bundles:** Group takes donations to support new parents in the military with E-4 rank or below whose income is very low. Packages include blankets, booties, mittens, caps plus diapers/vouchers and more.
 - **Mothers of Angels:** Group takes donations of small blankets, tiny hats and such to help comfort mothers who have had miscarriages, stillborn infants or lost babies to SIDS.

- Webmaster: Maurice Blackburn
- Membership: Dick Kistler
 - Dues 2017/2018 - \$25
 - New membership dues for 2017/2018 can be paid starting at May meeting.
- Library & Carolina Handspinners: Chris Dunlap
 - Reminded new members about Carolina Handspinners monthly meetings
 - Availability to members of a vast selection of fiber related titles from the PFG Library.
- Hospitality: Lorene Lovell & Janet Kaufman
 - For May meeting refreshments: Shirley Young, Sara Munday, Gail Boyles. Opportunity items: Vivian Brenner
- Workshops: Shirley Young (absent)
 - Current workshop
 - Tatting Class May 7 (FULL)
 - Leather Knitting Quiver May 14 (FULL)
 - Ideas for future workshops:
 - Twining class
 - Sock Knitting by Maria Derner
 - Sewing series by Shirley Young
- Social Media: Lori Smith
 - Continues keeping Facebook page and Ravelry group up to date.
- Equipment Manager - Vivian Brenner
 - Cleme & Cleme spinning wheel \$25/month \$100 deposit
 - Ashford Spinning Wheel \$25/month \$100 deposit
 - Warping board \$5/month \$25 deposit
 - 32" Sabina 4-shaft folding loom \$50/month \$100 deposit
 - Drum Carder \$30/month \$50 deposit
 - Please contact Vivian (socklady@aol.com) if you'd like to rent equipment so she can bring it to a regularly scheduled meeting.
- Show & Tell
 - Visitor brought up Foust Textiles of Kings Mountain as a possible source for fabrics for quilting or other fiber crafts.



The PFG 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]

Immediate Past President: Sara Munday

[E-mail: sarat11970@gmail.com]

Treasurer: Tammy Diener

[E-mail: tdiener27265@yahoo.com]

Secretary: Sue Helmken and Beth Nathan

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

[Beth: falafee2222@gmail.com]

Newsletter: Beth and Will Dunlap

[E-mail: chrisdmom98@gmail.com]

Charity: Julia Roskamp

[E-mail: juliamarie55@gmail.com]

Webmaster: Maurice Blackburn

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

Membership: Dick Kistler

[E-mail: dickkist@hotmail.com]

Library: Christine Dunlap

[E-mail: chrisdmom98@gmail.com]

Hospitality: Lorene Lovell and Janet Kaufman

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

[Janet: janet.kaufman.littlejohn@gmail.com]

Workshops: Shirley Young

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

Publicity, Social Media: Lori Smith

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

Publicity, Marketing: Adrienne Joslin

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

Equipment Manager: Vivian Brenner

[E-mail: SockLady@aol.com]

A Note on the Upcoming Meeting

We would like to thank Shirley Young, Sara Munday, and Gail Boyles for volunteering to bring refreshments for this month's meeting, along with Vivian Brenner for donating Opportunity items. Please contact our Hospitality chairpersons Lorene Lovell or Janet Kaufman if you are interested in providing refreshments or Opportunity items for a subsequent meeting.

As per Guild tradition, there will be no speaker for the May Guild meeting. We mark this last meeting of the Guild year with our annual trunk/boot sale; see below for more information.

We hope you will join us at this final meeting of the 2016/2017 Guild Year on Sunday, May 21 at Arts on Main in Gastonia. Guests are welcome.



Annual Guild Car Boot Sale THIS SUNDAY!

Immediately following Piedmont Fiber Guild's May meeting, our annual Car Boot Sale takes place in the parking lot behind Arts on Main. It's a great opportunity for sellers to let anything fiber related find a new home. It's also a great opportunity for the buyer to find a new fiber treasure at a great price. Come join us for all the fiber fun!

Guild Board Elections May 21

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

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

All job descriptions are listed on the Yahoo Chat Group page or you can 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.

- President: Sue Helmken
- Past President : Gail Boyles
- Treasurer: Maurice Blackburn
- Programs: **OPEN!!!!**
- Secretary: Julie Hogan
- Newsletter: Sallie Olson
- Charity: Julia Roskamp
- Webmaster: Maria Derner
- Marketing/Events/Booth: Gail Boyles
- Social Media: Lori Smith
- Membership: Dick Kistler
- Library: Chris Dunlap
- Hospitality: Lorene Lovell and Peggy Hood (this is a two-person position)
- Workshops: Shirley Young
- Equipment Manager: Vivian Brenner

A Note from Our Webmaster

Maurice Blackburn

I have been the Guild's webmaster for the last ten years. I am pleased to report that we now have another Guild member - Maria Derner - who is interested in carrying out this Board position's duties over the upcoming Guild year. What is even more interesting is that Maria's husband is a professional web designer. This seems like an excellent time for me to step aside and have someone with new ideas take over this duty.

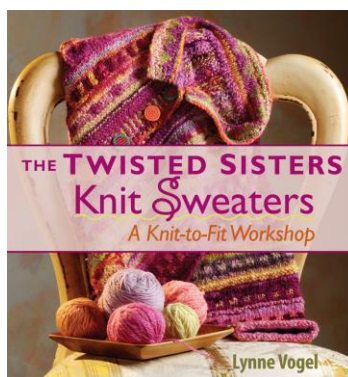
Although I can see that not many members view the Website on a regular basis, the Website represents our face to the world, so to speak. Anyone searching for information on local Fiber Guilds is directed to our website. Over the years, we have added quite a number of new members through the website and many book, fiber and equipment donations have been made to the Guild from people in our area; the easiest way for potential members and donors such as these to discover the Guild is through our internet presence.

A New Addition to the PFG Library

From Our Librarian, Chris Dunlap

The Twisted Sisters Knit Sweaters, by Lynne Vogel

A new selection for the PFG Library, this book is great for those of us who like to create our own garments from scratch. Ms. Vogel first goes through the way to properly measure yourself and determine how you'd like your garment to fit. She goes through the importance of swatching and then begins to cover several basic garment shapes and presents ways you can make stunning garments using simple techniques. Everything is covered here so you can design your own garment with great success and even use your own handspun yarn! Thanks to Lori Smith for requesting this great book.



News from Carolina Handspinners

From Chris Dunlap

The next regular meeting of Carolina Handspinners will take place on Tuesday, June 13th, 2-4pm at Lowell Community Center, 501 West First Street, Lowell, NC. This event is open to the public so please invite all fiber-interested friends to attend.

While the weather on Saturday, May 13th could have been the big story, our changeable weather decided to cooperate and we had a great day of fiber demonstrations at May Fair On the Square in Dallas. Members attending were Gail Boyles, Bill Dunlap, and Chris Dunlap. While traffic was light, we did still meet some nice folks with some interest in the fiber arts we were featuring.

The next public event we demonstrate at is Lowell Freedom Festival. This is a big event for our group and we hope to see lots of folks coming out to take part in fiber demonstrations on Saturday, May 27 at Rankin Park in Lowell, NC. Please contact Chris Dunlap (chrismom98@gmail) if you would like to attend this event. The festival is a family-friendly day of fun with rides, carnival food, games, vendors and music. Attendance is free and tickets will be available for rides. Come spend a bit of time with fiber friends and then spend a family day at a fun event.

DFG Weaving Study Group

Upcoming Meeting Reminder

From Maurice Blackburn

The next meeting of the Weaving Study Group will be at Kiska Thompson's house on Wednesday, May 24th at 1:00 pm.

All interested are invited, but please let Kiska know if you are coming.

Tapestry Weavers South Exhibition in Yadkinville

From Sallie Olson

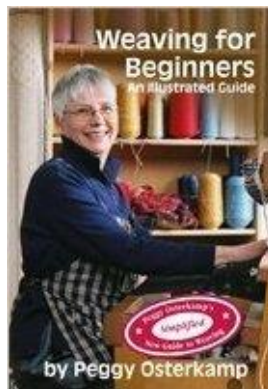
Here is a photo of Genie Greenlaw and Michiele Elliott at the opening of the Tapestry Weavers South show at the Yadkin Arts Center in Yadkinville. Genie's piece is to the upper left of her, and Michiele's piece is to the right. Nora Bachan and I also attended the exhibition which showed an incredible diversity of tapestry techniques and designs.



Book Review – *Weaving for Beginners*, by Peggy Osterkamp

From Sallie Olson

Peggy Osterkamp is a very knowledgeable and well known weaver and teacher of weaving. She has also written several books. The folks in the weaving study group know that I have been struggling with some technical issues in my weaving the last couple of years. It has caused a great deal of disappointment and frustration on my part. So, I decided to go back to the beginning, bought Weaving for Beginners and found it to be a real gem of a book. While it is written for beginners, I found it extremely helpful. It has great illustrations, information referenced to be on another page is indeed found on the specified page, great index, and lots and lots of clear and concise information. I would totally recommend this book to anybody embarking on their weaving journey.



Carolina Fiber Frolic 2017

From Sallie Olson

March 24, 25, and 26 brought the 8th Carolina Fiber Frolic to Sapphire, NC. The Frolic is our own Jan Smiley's fiber retreat. In the spring, there are classes to choose from; in the autumn, there are no classes, just lots of time for knitting, spinning, visiting, taking walks, and relaxing.

Once again, Burgl Pruett and I traveled together to the Frolic. We were surprised to see the road construction on Highway 64 as we approached Sapphire. That part of Hwy. 64 is full of switchbacks and tight turns. Apparently they are trying to straighten out some of the curves and make the road safer, but it is requiring many trees to be cut down. The local people are not happy about it.

While the weather was not particularly nice, we found the Hampton Inn as hospitable as ever. The retreat is held at the Sapphire Community Center, possibly a quarter of a mile from the Hampton Inn. Each year the classes vary as do the instructors. I took four classes, one about making a felted book cover which I really enjoyed, and three different knitting classes. There were vendors there from Oklahoma (Lost City Knits), Georgia (Kristen's Fiber Studio), and Baltimore (Neighborhood Knits), as well as Martha Owen from Brasstown, NC, who had a table with beautiful knitted garments, fiber, and interesting books in addition to her teaching several classes.

On Friday and Saturday of the retreat, lunch and dinner are provided. Jan's husband, Tom, gets better and better with his lasagna. Saturday night there is a 'fashion show' where people can show off their knitted garments. There is also a competition with several different categories including best project made from the previous spring Frolic's special color way. It is inspiring to see how people can come up with so many different ways to use the same starting material.

It is a very enjoyable weekend. I have been fortunate to attend all eight of the spring Frolics so far, but have only been able to attend one or two of the fall retreats. The dates for the 2017 fall retreat are November 10, 11, and 12. Jan will put out an announcement when she is ready to start taking registrations for the fall retreat. In the meantime, you can check out the Carolina Fiber Frolic web page to see photos of previous gatherings.

