

Diedmont Fiber Guild Newsletter

February, 2017

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▲ New Loom Donation

The Guild now has a second loom. Laurel Evan of Charlotte has donated a Harrisville Design 22-inch, four-shaft, 6 treadle folding loom. Her sister gave the loom to Laurel when she upgraded to a larger loom, but it has sat unused ever since. Laurel said that she is pleased to donate it to the Guild where someone who appreciates it will use it.

The loom looks to be in excellent condition and will be available for rent. It could also be used to take out on Guild demonstrations, as it is quite compact. The loom came with an adjustable bench seat, an 8 and a 12 dent reed as well as a warping board. The donation also included an umbrella swift and an early copy of Deborah Chandler's "Learning to Weave" published when she was still Debbie Redding.

~ From Maurice Blackburn



A Note from Our President, Gail Boyles



Where's Gail?

Yep, I accidentally double booked myself on Sunday, February 19. But, never fear - Past President Sarah Munday is stepping in for me to preside over February's meeting.

I'll be back for March's meeting ; o)



Quilt Raffle Update

During the fall, member Carol Wertz donated several quilt tops to the Guild in honor of her mother, member Ann Brinkhous. The goal for these quilt tops is for them to be made into quilts and donated to Quilts for Kids - an organization that was dear to Ann.

One of these quilt tops was too nice to cut into the correct size quilt for Quilts for Kids. Therefore, member Ursula Blackburn finished the top into a beautiful double size quilt. Above is a picture of the finished product.

This month, the PFG Board decided the quilt should be raffled off and the proceeds sent to Quilts for Kids. The quilt will be on display at The Carolina Alpaca Celebration this weekend. Raffle tickets will be available for patrons to purchase at the show.

- 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 allow enough time to sell tickets at many Guild events.

Piedmont Fiber Guild Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2017

*Opportunities & Refreshments: Thanks to Peggy Hood, Sonia Salvucci, and Kathleen Engart for this month's refreshments. Thanks to Lorene Lovell and Tammy Diener for providing opportunities for this meeting.

*CABO sign-up sheets were distributed.

*Program: Mary Crew, the Charlotte metro area, chapter coordinator for Project Linus spoke about her chapter's mission and requirements for submitting blankets. Project Linus is a non profit volunteer organization dedicated to providing comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized or otherwise in need. They accept a wide variety of blankets including knitted, crocheted, quilted and knotted fleece. The blankets must be new, machine washable, smoke free and without any embellishment that could present a hazard for little ones. With nearly 400 national chapters and 11 local drop off sites, "Blanketeers" have many opportunities to craft for a good cause. Mary Crew can be reached at projectlinuscharlottenc.webs.com. She also meets with volunteers at the Mint Hill Public Library on the second Tuesday of the month, from 4-8pm. Thanks to Donna Molles for another lovely guest speaker.

*Break for refreshments and Opportunities.

*Treasurer: Tammy Diener reported \$2854.10 in checking and \$2835.15 in savings for a total of \$5689.25.

*Library: Please visit our new and improved library. New cabinets have been installed and Chris Dunlap has organized the library for easy viewing.

*Charity: Julia Roskamp gave updates on this year's charity projects and discussed handwork days for completing baby hats for families serving at Fort Bragg and small blankets for Mothers of Angels.

*Hospitality: February's refreshments will be provided by: Food- Vivian Brenner and Julie Hogan; Drinks- Pam Durrett; and Opportunities - Genie Greenlaw

*Workshops: Shirley Young has multiple classes in the works. She will be teaching a basic sewing class, where you will make your own small bag. The moccasin class will be Sunday, March 5th from 10-4. Cost for this class is \$40.00, including tuition and a supply kit. A basic sock making class taught by Maria Derner and a Twining class taught by Paul DeRosiers are both being discussed. Please email Shirley Young directly with any questions or interests, so that she can coordinate the workshops effectively.

*Upcoming Events: Carolina Alpaca Celebration - Andrea Nissen and Char Johnson spoke with us about the upcoming event at the Cabarrus Arena in Concord. Guild members will be demonstrating on Saturday, February 18th and Sunday, February 19th. For more information, please visit their website at www.carolinaalpacacelebration.com.

*Member Show and Tell

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]

Programs: Donna Molles

[E-mail: dmmolles@gmail.com]

Secretary: Sue Helmken and Beth Nathan

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

[Beth: falafee2222@gmail.com]

Newsletter: Beth and Will Dunlap

[E-mail: dunlap_b@bellsouth.net]

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: dunlap_b@bellsouth.net]

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]

This Year's Guild Meetings

- February 19, 2017
- March 19, 2017
- April 23, 2017
- May 21, 2017

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 Vivian Brenner, Julie Hogan, and Pam Durrett for volunteering to bring refreshments for this month's meeting, along with Genie Greenlaw for providing Opportunity items. If you have any questions concerning the charity arrangements for the upcoming Guild meetings, please contact our Hospitality chairpersons Janet Kaufman or Lorene Lovell.

This month's program comes from Susan Walker, President of Arts on Main. Susan is a painter by trade and works with acrylic, watercolor, casein and gouache. She has studied under many well-known painters. She will speak to the Guild about Arts on Main, including the resident artists, upcoming programs and other items. She may even give a tour of the building. This is a great opportunity for PFG members to learn more about Arts on Main and for Susan to learn more about PFG.

We hope you will join us for this month's meeting on Sunday, February 19 at Arts on Main in Gastonia. 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). 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, 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
Cleme & Cleme Spinning Wheel	\$25/month	\$100
Ashford Spinning Wheel	\$25/month	\$100
Sabina 32 in. 4-Shaft Folding Loom	\$50/month	\$100

A Reminder of Upcoming Charity Deadlines

I'd like to remind the members who volunteered to complete the quilt tops donated by the family of Ann Brinkhous that NOW is the time to finish these quilts for the Quilts for Kids project.

In addition, if you have any completed baby hats for the Baby Bundle Hats project for Ft. Bragg soldiers and their families, please bring these to the upcoming meeting.

~ Julia Roskamp, Charity

Need Flyer and Whorl for a Canadian Production Spinning Wheel

I have had other parts for this wheel restored by Bobbin Boy. Please Contact Member Pam Rumney at Marginposh@AOL.com with any contacts for obtaining these additional parts. I can send photos.

~ Pam Rumney

News from the DFG Weaving Study Group

From Maurice Blackburn

The weaving group met at Sue Helmken's studio on January 25th. There were 16 weavers present. After introductions, we proceeded to the discussion of this year's project – Huck weave tea towels.

Alice Harrill was the original designated weaver, however she was unable to attend, being on vacation out of the country. Carol Wertz had, however, worked on the project and produced several towels using an 8/2 unmercerized cotton warp. The warp was a multicolor warp from Blazing Shuttles (similar to those we made during Kathrin Weber's workshop last year). She had initially sampled at 15 epi but did not feel it was a good towel weight and settled for 20 epi. The pattern was from Ann Dixon's *A Handweaver's Pattern Directory*, page 168. She tried three different wefts: 8/2, 3.5/1 slub and 5/2 cotton yarn. She added tabby at the start and end of each towel as well as at each side.

Linda Erickson showed samples of Huck weave that she and Peggy Hood had woven during the classes they had taken with Beth Melton. In this case, both warp and weft were the same color, demonstrating how effectively Huck weaving can be used to show textured effects.

Maurice Blackburn showed some sampling of 8 shaft Huck weave where different effects were achieved by different tie-ups. These samples showed the need for tabby at the side of each pattern area.

Sue talked about the basics of Huck weave and how it is achieved from the combination of blocks - some plain weave, some with warp floats, some with weft floats, and some with both warp and weft floats. The threading is based on blocks of an uneven number of ends (typically 3 or 5) where one end would be a tabby end and the other a pattern end. Typical threading blocks would be 14141 and 23232 where 1 and 2 are tabby ends.

Sue said that Huck weaving could be done on a rigid heddle loom using a pickup technique

Sue and Kiska Thompson recommended the book *The Best of Weavers Huck Lace*.

Sue again stressed the desirability of sampling (one of her favored themes) ahead of starting the actual weaving project. She defines sampling or a sampler as a narrow, short piece woven strictly for learning and trying different options. It is a chance to check the sett, try different treadlings &/or tie-ups, and experiment with various colors and types of yarns. It helps you find out what works and what doesn't. This is as opposed to a "sample", which is swatch from the final cloth.

During her presentation, Carol said that she had had a problem with pull-in and had used a homemade temple to minimize this. This arrangement was composed of clamps on the edge of the fabric tied to strings from which weight was hung. Sue showed the group a commercial temple. These have a group of angled pins at each end, which are inserted in both edges of the fabric on the loom and can be adjusted to hold the fabric to a given width. It was pointed out that temples should not be relied on on a routine basis (except perhaps in rug weaving).

The next meeting will be at the Blackburns' house on March 29th.