

Diedmont Fiber Guild Newsletter

July 2016

Contents:

Pages 2-6: Business

- a. A Note from Our President, Gail Boyles
- b. Congratulations to our 2016/2017 Board Members
- c. Piedmont Fiber Guild Meeting Minutes, May 15, 2016
- d. The PFG Board: a list of our current Board members
- e. Dates for this Year's Guild Meetings
- f. A Note on the Upcoming Meeting

Pages 7-9: Messages from the Board

- a. Updated Terms for Guild Equipment Rental: from our Equipment Manager, Vivian Brenner
- b. Upcoming Fiber Events: dates and information
- c. Board Member Profile: Janet Kaufman, Hospitality
- d. PFG Library News: from our Librarian, Christine Dunlap

Pages 10-11: Associated Groups

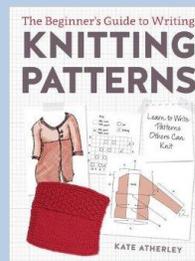
- e. News from the PFG Weaving Study Group, from Maurice Blackburn
- f. News from Carolina Handspinners, from Christine Dunlap

Page 12: Show and Tell

- a. My Completed Tapestry, by Stephanie Ray
- b. Rascal and Mimi, from Vivian Brenner

The Beginner's Guide to Writing Knitting Patterns

A Book Review by Chris Dunlap



I just finished reading this book and really enjoyed it. I originally bought this so I would have all the information I would need to write my pattern for my TKGA Master Knitter Level 1 course. However, even after I got the information I needed for that project, I found I wanted to finish reading. This book is great for anyone who wants to learn the “right” way to publish patterns. The author, Kate Atherley, goes through each of the sections that should be included in a complete pattern and gives tips and resources to accurately complete each one. She even gives a finished format as an Appendix at the end of the book.

However, this book is so much more than just a guide to writing patterns. I found myself appreciating her viewpoint as a pattern user as well. She gives great advice about those important parts you should look for in a pattern you're going to purchase and/or work. She brings together not only her own advice in this area but also that of other professionals and some tips from her unofficial survey respondents as well.

Kate's approach to pattern writing is very organized and sensible. Her book is very readable and moves along quickly enough that you're absorbing lots of facts while you think you're having fun. The book reads like you're having a conversation about patterns with Kate. I love her writing style and her organized approach.

Take a look at this book both if you're considering writing patterns and if you sometimes have trouble following patterns and blame yourself for this . . . sometimes it's just a poorly written pattern.



Hot Fun in the Summer Time

During the summer, the Guild takes a break from formal meetings. Does that mean we all crawl into our fiber-laden caves until the first meeting in September? No! Look at our chat board and you'll know that's not true! If you're a member of Facebook, you can look at any Guild member's page and see lots of WIP going on - plus some "frogging" episodes.

Members are looking into all kinds of ways to express their fiber arts during the summer. There are currently different Guild sponsored KAL and CAL projects going on. Some members are working on their Master Knitter status. Members who love to hand spin are meeting every month with the Carolina Handspinners group. Some members enjoy working alone on summer fiber projects that they then amaze Guild members with at our September meeting. Others are already scheming out what bargain they need to find at the Anything Fiber Sale in August at Warren Wilson College (I know I am!).

As everyone who knows me is aware of, I'm a social butterfly. I love to express my fiber art usually in some big social setting. The summer is no exception.

Already this summer, I've had the opportunity to participate in two big social settings. On June 5, Vivian Brenner, Michiele Elliot and Nora Bachan and I went to Apple Hill Farm in Banner Elk to participate at their alpaca shearing event. We had so much fun talking to visitors, enjoying each other's company, and stimulating the economy by purchasing items at the farm store. Plus, we got to meet two members of the elusive Blue Ridge Fiber Guild. (One of the Guild members works at Appalachian State University and promised to keep an eye on my son - don't tell him.) I learned how to knit with really big needles and enjoyed riding with Vivian on the way up there. Plus, the scenery at Apple Hill Farm is spectacular! A great day all around!

On June 18, I, along with Beth Nathan, Linda Erickson, Joy Bruce and new member Linda Pushee (I think I got everyone - sorry if I missed someone) participated at World Wide Knit in Public Day at the Mint Museum on Randolph Rd in Charlotte. The event was sponsored by The Charlotte Knitters Guild. When I arrived, The Mint Museum had been "yarn bombed". It was fantastic to see so many members of other Charlotte area fiber groups: Charlotte Crocheters, Senior Center Crochet/Knitting Group, Pints and Purls, and Charlotte Off the Hook Crochet Meetup. From a member of the Senior Center Crochet/Knitting Group, I picked up an easy and cool-looking potholder pattern. (I've already made 3 of them!) After the event, some of us toured the museum. There are great historical textile displays - definitely worth the trip. The Charlotte Knitters Guild once again did a fantastic job bringing together Charlotte area fiber groups to help celebrate World Wide Knit in Public Day!

[Continued on following page]

At both of these events, I had great opportunities to network with other fiber groups. The Blue Ridge Fiber Guild seems to not know much about events outside of their area; I think this is due to their geographical location. However, the two members I met do some wonderful hand and fiber crafts. My plan is to attend one of their member meetings to see what they are about. The added bonus is that I “may” get to stay at my sister’s mountain home - it’s a sacrifice I’m willing to accept.

I’ve already joined Facebook and MeetUp pages with the groups from WWKIP Day. They are all very active and I hope to attend some of their future events.

So, although our Guild doesn’t get together as a large group in the summer, rest assured we are all busy with fiber activities! I can’t wait to see everyone in September!

~ Gail Boyles, President

Congratulations to our 2016/2017 Board Members!

In May, the Piedmont Fiber Guild elected its new Board members for the 2016/2017 year. We would like to congratulate all of our Guild officers on their successful election, and thank them for volunteering their efforts to the Guild. Please see page 6 for a list of all current Board members, with contact information.

2016/2017 PFG Board

President: Gail Boyles

Library: Chris Dunlap

Immediate Past President: Sara Munday

Hospitality: Lorene Lovell & Janet Kaufman
(Both will serve in this position)

Treasurer: Tammy Diener

Workshops: Shirley Young

Programs: Donna Molles

Publicity - broken into 2 positions:

Secretary: Sue Helmken, Beth Nathan

Social Media: Lori Smith

Newsletter: Beth and Will Dunlap

Marketing: Adrienne Joslin

Charity: Julia Roskamp

Equipment Manager: Vivian Brenner

Webmaster: Maurice Blackburn

Membership: Dick Kistler

Piedmont Fiber Guild Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2016

Meeting was called to order by Gail Boyles at 2pm.

Good News shared by members:

- Vivian Brenner announced her long awaited retirement had begun!
- Janet Kaufman had great news about her eyes. Her vision was returning enough in one eye that she was starting to see well enough to drive short distances!

From April's meeting, there was interest from many members wanting to obtain their TKGGA Master Knitter status. Members who are currently pursuing this status are: Chris Dunlap, Susan Haney, Lori Smith and Tammy Diener. Good luck to these members in their pursuit of this title!

From March's meeting, a discussion was started by Tammy Diener regarding summer KAL & CAL shawl projects. Members saw samples of some of the potential patterns. It was decided to do all of the patterns, with members selecting which ones they want to do. Tammy set up groups on Ravelry for each shawl pattern so members could encourage one another to complete by the September meeting.

Gail Boyles bought a homemade "Time Capsule" to contain our members' summer plans and goals. The "Time Capsule" will be opened at September's meeting.

New Board Elections: Peggy Hood announced the nominations for all of the Board members for the 2016/2017 Guild year. Since we had a quorum at the meeting, a vote was held and below are the new officers for the 2016/2017 Guild year:

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

Board Member Updates:

- Immediate Past President: Sara Munday - not present
- Treasurer: Pat Williams
 - Checking : \$2189.65
 - Savings: \$2781.64
 - Total: \$4971.29
- Programs: Michiele Elliott - nothing to report
- Secretary: Tammy Diener - not present
- Newsletter: Beth and Will Dunlap - there will be a Summer edition of the newsletter - watch the chat group for deadline.
- Charity: Julia Roskamp - not present
- Webmaster: Maurice Blackburn
- Membership: Dick Kistler - it's time for dues for the 2016/2017 year. They are \$25
- Library & Carolina Hand Spinners: Chris Dunlap
- Hospitality: Christina Oliveri
- Workshops: Shirley Young
 - Next Inkle Loom workshop is May 21st - same format, same level, same place. \$35
 - If interested in attending, please fill out the sign-up sheet or send an email to syoung4@carolina.rr.com
 - You can pay at this meeting or mail a check to Shirley Young, 3401 Oakhill Lane, Gastonia, NC 28056.
 - Sue will provide directions and pre-class instructions before May 21 to all the students.
- Publicity: Sallie Olson
 - May 21: 10am-3pm Mayfair on The Square, Gaston County Museum - can sell items - contact Chris Dunlap if attending
 - May 28: 10am - 5pm Lowell Freedom Festival - contact Chris Dunlap if attending
 - June 18 – 10am-1pm World Wide Knit in Public Day at the Mint Museum - sponsored by the Charlotte Knitting Guild
 - July 16: High Country Farm Tour at Apple Hill Farm, Banner Elk, NC, 2 hour drive from Gastonia - dying demo also going on - contact Gail Boyles for more information
- Equipment Manager - Vivian Brenner.

We did a quick Show & Tell and then members headed to the back parking lot for our annual "Boot Sale" of fiber items.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Boyles

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:]

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

- September 18, 2016
- October 16, 2016
- November 20, 2016
- December – Guild Christmas Party (date and location to be determined)
- January 15, 2017
- February 19, 2017
- March 19, 2017
- April 9 or 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

The next Guild meeting will be held Sunday, September 18th. Please see the September newsletter for details about the program and refreshments organized for this meeting. If you are interested in bringing food, drinks, or Opportunity items to any upcoming meeting, please contact one of our Hospitality chairs, Lorene Lovell and Janet Kaufman. If you would like to see a certain instructor or program topic featured at one of our meetings, please contact our Programs chair, Donna Molles.

We hope you will join us in September at the first meeting of the 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). 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	\$10/month*	\$50*
Cleme & Cleme Spinning Wheel	\$25/month*	\$100*
Ashford Spinning Wheel	\$25/month*	\$100*
Sabine 4-shaft Folding Loom	\$75/month*	\$150*

* Proposed fees, to be confirmed by the PFG Board

Upcoming Fiber Events

Dates and Information

July 16: High Country Farm Tour at Apple Hill Farm, 400 Apple Hill Rd, Banner Elk, NC 28604 - Dying demo also going on during this event [<http://farmtour.brwia.org/>]

August 13: Anything Fiber Yard Sale, 10am - 2pm, DeVries Gymnasium, Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, NC. This is always a GREAT time to find inexpensive fiber tools and other items you didn't know you needed. Many Guild members carpool and visit Black Mountain together after the Sale.

September 10: Hoyle Historic Homestead Open House, 10am - 2pm, Dallas, NC - An annual event at the oldest house in Gaston County. The Guild demonstrates on the side porch. The event is lots of fun, with good music and lots of interesting people. For more information, visit:
[http://www.hoylehomestead.org/?doing_wp_cron=1467937152.6306760311126708984375]

September 16: 11:30am- 12:30pm, "A New Twist on Fiber: Whole Grain Cooking and Fiber Art", part of the Lunch and Learn Series at Discover YOU!, 420 E Central Ave, Mt Holly, NC 28120. Chef Erin Denison will be offering attendees a demo and Q&A on getting more fiber in your diet. The Piedmont Fiber Guild will provide a demonstration of fiber art. *This event requires registration - more information to follow*

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October 8 & 9: Cotton Ginning Days, 1303 Dallas-Cherryville Highway, Dallas, NC 28034. Over 50,000 people come to this event every year. The Guild demonstrates right below the cotton gin. It's a fun event that we enjoy participating in (as long as it doesn't rain). This is a drop-in event – you are not required to come both days or to stay all day long. More information: [<http://www.gastongov.com/departments/parks-recreation/cotton-ginning-days>]

October 28, 29, 30: SAFF in Asheville [<http://saffsite.org/>]

Stay tuned to the Guild chat group for more information!

Board Member Profile

Janet Kaufman, Hospitality

Hello, I am Janet Kaufman, Hospitality Chair for the Guild. I taught art in colleges, high schools, middle and elementary schools in West Virginia for over 30 years before retiring and moving to NC to be near my daughter and her family. While teaching, I also worked with two local interior decorating businesses and owned an art gallery called Littlejohn Arts, where I sold my pottery, paintings, weavings, and mixed media work. I also sold art from various countries and from local artists. In 1991, my pottery was juried into Tamarack, an Art Center featuring only WV artists, in Beckley WV. I sold work there until I moved to NC ten years ago.

Presently, I enjoy making pottery on the potter's wheel, painting, drawing, weaving non functional works of art on a small floor loom and on hand held looms, sculpting using clay and mixed media, and making books using various binding techniques.

I have really enjoyed the incredibly beautiful pieces of work shown each month at our Fiber Guild meetings. It's exciting experiencing such talented people and learning from all the guests who have been featured throughout the years of our meetings. I look forward to all that is in store for us this coming year.

~ Janet Littlejohn Kaufman

Janet Kaufman is one of the Guild's new Hospitality chairpersons, in collaboration with Lorene Lovell. We would like to thank both Janet and Lorene for volunteering to serve the Guild in this vital role.

PFG Library News

From our Librarian, Christine Dunlap

The PFG Library has again increased its holding with the addition of 3 new items:

1. **Finishing Up With Kate Larson: How to Wash, Block, Dry and Finish Your Handspun Yarns** – DVD –Join Kate as she shares her processes, the hows and whys of various finishing techniques for our handspun yarns.
2. **Inventive Weaving On a Little Loom**, by Syne Mitchell. For those of you who have been working with a rigid heddle loom, or for those who have just begun, this book is a great resource for all aspects of rigid heddle weaving. From warping to weaving, color play to complex textures, this book has it all. Syne Mitchell writes with a very approachable style yet shares some very advanced tips, techniques and weaving ideas . . . think weaving with THREE heddles, overshot, double weave. Yes, these are possible on our little rigid heddle looms with this book!
3. **Twice as Nice: Weaving with Two Heddles on a Rigid-Heddle Loom** – DVD – Taught by Liz Gipson, rigid heddle weaver extraordinaire, this resource promises to extend the use of our little looms to great heights. If you're familiar with Liz's work, you know she's very organized, meticulous, and informative in her teaching style.

The PFG Library Log has been updated to reflect new titles acquired in the last few months. All paying members of Piedmont Fiber Guild are welcome to check out selections from the PFG Library cabinet during regular monthly meetings. We ask that you try to return items within 3 months. The checkout process is very simple and self-explanatory. Please see me at a regular PFG meeting if you have any questions.

Please email me at dunlap_b@bellsouth.net if you have PFG Library requests or suggestions. Your request will be presented via email to the PFG Board, and the purchase will be made once the Board is in agreement on the purchase.

Have you read a good book lately? Feel free to write a short review to be published in the newsletter. Share with other members the great fiber-ish literary treasures you've found. Read a good fiber art book this month!

[See page 1 for a review of Kate Atherley's *The Beginner's Guide to Writing Knitting Patterns*]



News from the PFG Weaving Study Group

From Maurice Blackburn

Weavers' Group Meeting May 25th

The most recent meeting of the PFG Weaving Study Group was held at Burgl's house. As it was Sue Helmken's birthday, Burgl had baked a cake. Unfortunately, Sue had to back out at the last minute, but we still enjoyed her cake!

Although it was not her official day for the presentation of her shadow weave project, Nancy Neely brought her project to the meeting. She explained that she and Alice Harrill had found the pattern on the Internet and once she had started weaving she had realized that there was a mistake. She and Alice worked out the problem and she was able to complete her project. They also contacted the author of the Internet article to let her know about the error.

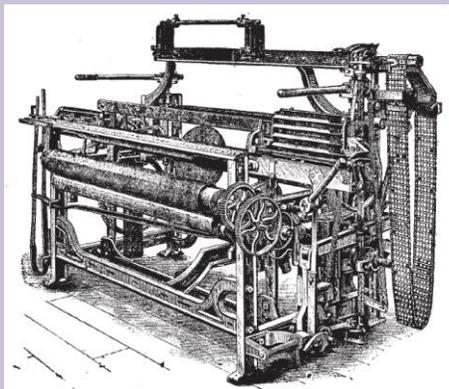
I showed three rugs, which I had woven using yarn which I had bought at the Martha Matthews sale. Two of the rugs were woven from a design in Handwoven Magazine. Just as in Nancy's example, I had to make a threading correction.

Both of these problems show the advantage of using weaving softwares such as Fiber Works, PixeLoom etc. where you can check out and modify weaving designs before dressing the loom.

We also discussed the use of temples, as I had used one for these rugs. Pam Rumney said that she once went into a weaving store to buy a temple and the store owner refused to sell her one, implying that good weavers didn't need a temple. But I believe, like many things associated with weaving, that there is no such thing as a right way or a wrong way to do something. If what you are doing works for you and you are comfortable with it, that's fine with me.

We had 14 members at the meeting, which is great; however, some members do not have a large enough house to comfortably accommodate this many people. It is probable that we will have to plan our meetings so that one group provides the location while a second group provides the refreshments.

The next meeting will be at Kiska Thompson's house on July 27th.



News from Carolina Handspinners

From Christine Dunlap

While PFG has been off for the summer, Carolina Handspinners has continued to meet monthly and has had great attendance each month. Our June meeting had the greatest attendance at a regular meeting yet...18 members! While temperatures got warm, we had great discussions, socialized and shared ideas about how and why we finish our handspun yarns.

For those of you who have not yet seen the postings, Leslie Fesperman of Yadkin Valley Fiber Room has developed a class called Getting What You Want When You Weave, a weaving design workshop we discussed when Carolina Handspinners visited Leslie's facility back in April. Please email me (dunlap_b@bellsouth.net) if you'd like more information about this workshop, taking place on either 8/20 or 8/27 in Yadkinville.

My family had great demonstration opportunities at the Mt. Holly Farmer's Market both in June and July. We have been amazed at the interest from the crowd and have discovered and encouraged many new weavers both young and old through the community weaving loom. We have spoken with so many folks about our fiber arts and the meetings held by Carolina Handspinners and Piedmont Fiber Guild. Please consider joining us on Saturday, August 4th 8am-12pm at the Mt. Holly Farmer's Market. Contact me if you're interested in attending.

Our next regular meeting of Carolina Handspinners will take place on Tuesday, August 9th 2-4pm at Lowell Community Center. This event is open to the public so please invite all fiber-interested friends to attend. Our next Bimonthly Saturday will take place on Saturday, July 23 at the home of Sallie Olson. Please contact Sallie directly (sallieolson@carolina.rr.com) if you're interested in attending. We thank Sallie for hosting this meeting that allows those who can't attend our monthly meetings to enjoy the fun that is Carolina Handspinners.

We hope to see lots of folks at upcoming meetings. Have a great summer and Happy Spinning!

A Note from the Editors

Due to space limitations, we have been forced to withhold some of the items submitted for the July 2016 newsletter. These items will appear in the September 2016 newsletter. (Selections were made based on submission date.) We apologize for this delay. As always, we encourage members to submit items for publication in the newsletter; all submissions will be publicized as soon as possible.

~ Beth Dunlap, Editor



My Completed Tapestry

By Stephanie Ray

This tapestry was first featured as an uncompleted work in the article “Works in Progress”, by Stephanie Ray [March 2016, p.14]



This is my second tapestry. Here I challenged myself to try doing some curving lines. In this tapestry I used a combination of hand-spun wool and acrylic yarn.

Rascal and Mimi

From Vivian Brenner

I had a real adventure a couple of weeks ago! On Tuesday, June 28, I flew to New York City to meet a friend named Mimi (whom I've known for 60 years) to help drive a Subaru, a small U-Haul trailer, and a large macaw named Rascal to Pittsboro. It was a long day, with frequent stops for the drivers and bird (see photos). At 3 AM we finished setting up the bird's cage in the new house, and got Rascal settled into his new home with huge windows and a wonderful view of the woods and wildlife! Dick and Mollie drove to Pittsboro on Thursday to bring a very tired parrot driver home. This trip was a great time for Mimi and I to catch up on our lives, trade stories, tell jokes, and talk to a parrot (who was a bit stressed, but did well on the trip).

