

Piedmont Fiber Guild Newsletter

November, 2016

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Shaft Switching

By Maurice Blackburn

*"[In other weaves], harnesses 1 and 2 are used to tie the weaving down and harnesses 3 and 4 are the pattern harnesses. Two blocks of weaving, A and B, are possible with block A controlled by harness 3 and block B controlled by harness 4. . . BUT! Suppose that there were some way to 'rethread' harnesses 3 and 4 in the middle of the weaving sequence. Then the pattern blocks could be changed at will, greatly increasing the design possibilities. This is what Collingwood has accomplished with the **shaft switching** technique."*

Paul O'Connor, "Peter Collingwood's Shaft Switching Technique, Part 1"

https://www.cs.arizona.edu/patterns/weaving/articles/mw_05_06-1.pdf



Loom modification for shaft switching



Shaft switching sample

A Note from Our President, Gail Boyles



If I had to pick my favorite season, it would be fall. The temperature is slowly going down (do I hear an Amen on that?), the trees are giving us a glorious show and the crisp smell of cold air when you walk outside is so refreshing compared to the slap-in-your-face heat we've had all summer.

Another reason to like Fall? There are so many opportunities to get together with other Guild members at events. In October, I participated at one of my favorite events - Cotton Ginning Days in Dallas, NC. Hurricane Matthew kept us away on Saturday, but on Sunday we showed up in force. Bill and Chris Dunlap, Beth Nathan, and Sallie Olson joined me demonstrating crochet, weaving, tapestry and spinning. We were also visited by Guild members Maurice and Ursula Blackburn, Mary Jo Gayer, and Sheryl Brown. There were many visitors who came by to reminisce about seeing relatives who could do fiber arts, and they wanted to learn how to do them. We let them know how happy we'd be to lead them down the rabbit hole of fiber arts.

A core value of our Guild is to educate others about fiber arts. One way, which I've already discussed, is to participate in public events. However, some members aren't comfortable with public events and that's OK; there are other ways to educate. A few of them are: invite someone to a meeting or Guild get-together; give a fiber-interested individual the information on our Guild (I've always got some bookmarks on me at meetings if you need any), when someone asks about a fiber creation you're wearing, tell them you know how to meet people who will show them the way to make something just as unique, visit a yarn shop and strike up a conversation about the Guild; or just start doing a fiber project somewhere and let people ask about it.

Nelson Mandela said: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world". Keep that in mind the next time an opportunity arises that you may be able to talk about fiber arts.

- Gail Boyles

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Annual Guild Christmas Party
December 11, 2016, 10am - 4pm (Drop In), Arts on Main in Gastonia

At November's meeting, there will be signups for refreshment categories for the Guild holiday party. If you can't attend November's meeting, but will be at the Christmas party, please send an email to gboyles44@gmail.com to let us know what refreshments you'll bring.

We will be holding our annual gift exchange, so bring a wrapped gift valued at no more than \$15. On your gift, note what fiber craft it is for. During our meeting, we'll have a drawing for the gifts.

This is a non-business meeting and a great way to get to know other Guild members. Hope to see you there!



The **Carolina Alpaca Breeders and Owners Show (CABO)** is almost here! PFG has demonstrated at this event for 3 years. Although it's a chilly event, it's a great time to hang out with some of the best people I know (ie: Guild members), and you get to show off your fiber wear.

One thing I participated in last year at CABO was the Fiber Arts Competition. I entered a crocheted shawl and 2 skeins of handspun alpaca yarn. Guess what? I won 3 blue ribbons! This year, I'm challenging other Guild members to enter this competition with me. You've got 4 months to make your items. The specifics for the competition have not been posted yet, but I'm in contact with the coordinator - stay tuned for more information.

The event is:

Cabarrus Arena and Events Center

February 18, 8am to 5pm

February 19, 8am to 4pm

*This is a drop in event – show up when you want, leave when you want.

For more information go to: <http://carolinaalpacacelebration.com/>

Piedmont Fiber Guild Meeting Minutes

October 16th, 2016

*Visitors/new members introduced:

Vicki Glover, Lori Maurer, Kathy Kipp, Ruth Ferns [owner of Cottage Creations, 501 W. Garrison Rd, at the intersection of Hwy 321 and Garrison]

*Opportunities & refreshments: Janet thanked this month's hosts – Julia Roskamp, Aimee Smith and Sallie Olson. She reminded members to sign up to help with refreshments and to wear their name tags.

Program: Roland Zevallos of the Wellness Center, The Five Elements of Healing in Concord described how people often let their past failures keep them from trying again. He outlined a 3-step program which helps people break through their perceived limitations, enabling them to grow both personally and [in our case] as an artist He has offered members a special discount on the course of \$100 [available until Sunday, November 23rd. After that, they can get a 50% discount if they enroll through him. Classes are held monthly and cover 4 days: Thursday 6pm-12:30am, Friday 6pm-12:30am, Saturday 9am-11pm and Sunday 11am-7:30pm* [*end times are approximate.] You can contact Rolando at rzevallof@fiveelementsofhealing.com or call with questions at 704-918-9926.

Break for Refreshments

Opportunities items raffled this month included the book A Beader's Stash, dyed rovings, an embroidery book, knitting needles and sock yarn.

Members were reminded that Ann Brinkhous's memorial will be held next Saturday. It was noted that Carol will have some of her mom's items available at an upcoming meeting.

*Next month's refreshments will be provided by Chris Dunlap & Pam Perkins for food and Phoebe Lawing for drinks. Opportunities will be provided by Burgle Pruett and Maria Derner.

KAL/CAL follow ups will be postponed until after the holidays.

New member Ruth Ferns volunteered to help with the guild display area. Thanks Ruth!

Board Updates:

*Past President: Sara Munday reported no requests for guild member class loans. Loans have no cap but are limited and must be repaid through teaching within one year.

*Treasurer: Tammy Diener reported \$2907.38 in checking, \$2853.95 in savings for a total of \$5761.30 in assets.

*Program Chair: Donna Molles announced our next program will be Tracey McCracken Palmer. Tracey will speak on felting. She welcomed suggestions for future programs.

*Recording Secretary: Sue Helmken was asked to send a card to Catherine Sullivan.

*Newsletter: Beth Dunlap said Fri, November 4th is the next article deadline. They need reports from all board members. PLEASE send reports as an attachment. If you have no report, let them know!

*Charity Chair: Julia Roskamp discussed the Baby Bundles & Mothers of Angels programs. Baby Bundle items will be taken to Fort Bragg in May. Julia needs a contact for Caromont [Chris offered to check].

It was suggested we have a work day to make hats, possible having regional days. Lori Smith will host a work day at her home on Sunday, Nov. 13th from 12-4. Sonja Solvucci will also host a workday on Saturday, January 21st from 10-4. If you are willing to host a workday, send the information to Beth & Will for the newsletter.

* Webmaster: Maurice Blackburn reminded folks to CHECK THE WEBSITE. There's a lot of information on there. There is also a new Vendor and favorite links section where articles members find or that have been posted on our Facebook page will be here.

* Membership: Dick Kistler welcomed 4 new members and reminded everyone that if you haven't paid you 2016/2017 dues to please do so.

* Librarian: Chris Dunlap will ask Carol Wertz for book suggestions in memory of her mother. She showed donations from Vivian and said there will be 2 new book cabinets in our future!

* Hospitality: Lorene Lovell & Janet Kaufman asked for volunteers to fill in the empty dates on the refreshments schedule.

* Workshops: Shirley Young is asking members if they are interested in a leather workshop [making moccasins?] to contact her. Shirley will teach a 2-stage class on sewing. If you would like a spinning workshop, let her know what interests you. Sally will be assisting Shirley with her duties while she undergoes surgical procedures.

* Social Media: Lori Smith continues posting links and articles. Maurice said he could add links section to the website.

* Publicity: Bill Dunlap is contacting local papers and such to publish guild events.

* Events: Gail Boyles reviewed old events [Mount Holly Arts Festival, Cotton Ginning Days & Curtin Farms Festival. Chris mentioned over 40 children visited our booth!

New Events:

November 13: Work Day at Lori Smith's home from 12pm – 4pm [feel free to come earlier]

Nov. ? – Dec. 30th Arts on Main Holly Days. Members can rent a table to sell their items.

December 4: Arts on Main will be open from 1-6pm during the downtown Christmas Festival. Members are encouraged to demonstrate their crafts during the event.

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December 11: Guild Christmas Party at Arts on Main, an open house from 10am-4pm. Bring refreshments and [if you care to do so] a wrapped gift. Please keep the cost to a minimum and indicate if the gift is for spinners, knitters or such.

January 21: Work Day at Sonja Solvucci home from 10am – 4pm.

* Equipment Manager: Vivian Brenner reminded members we have the new Sabina loom available for use.

Next meeting November 20th

The PFG Board

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]

A Note on the Upcoming Meeting

We would like to thank Pam Perkins, Chris Dunlap, and Phoebe Lawing for volunteering to bring refreshments for this month's meeting. Thanks also go to Burgl Pruett and Maria Derner for providing Opportunity items. If you are interested in bringing food, drinks, or Opportunity items to subsequent meetings, please contact our Hospitality chairpersons, Janet Kaufman or Lorene Lovell. Please contact Lorene to make any changes to the Hospitality arrangements for the upcoming meeting.

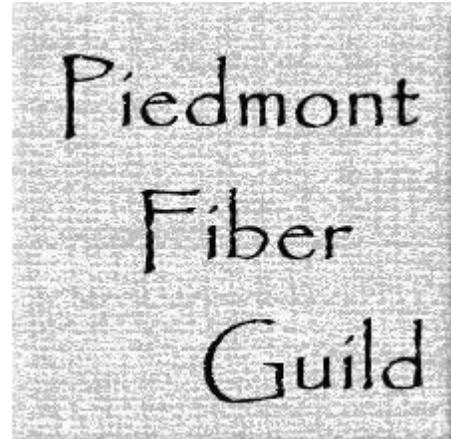
This month's program comes from accomplished lifelong artists Tracey McCracken Palmer of Bonnieblink Studio in western NC. Tracey will speak to us about her beautiful felted landscape "paintings." Working with wool and silk, she uses a combination of wet felting and needle felting to create her highly detailed works of art. Tracey is a member of the Southern Highlands Craft Guild.

We hope that you will join us for this month's meeting, Sunday, November 20 at Arts on Main in Gastonia. Guests are always welcome.

This Year's Guild Meetings

- November 20, 2016
- December 11, 2016 – Guild Christmas Party, 10am – 4pm, Arts on Main
- January 15, 2017
- 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.



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

PFG Library News

From our Librarian, Christine Dunlap

I am pleased to announce that the PFG Library now has two new-to-us cabinets for storage of our extensive and interesting fiber library. Thanks to Gail Boyles for finding these cabinets for us, and to herself and her son Alex for getting them transported to our meeting location. These new acquisitions will make it possible for us to better organize our library selections so they are easier to access by members.

Our library cabinets are located in the storage area adjacent to our meeting location at Arts on Main in Gastonia. Selections may be borrowed for up to three months by paying members. The check-out process is very easy, but please let me know if you have any questions or are looking for a specific topic or title.

New this month: We will be adding Kate Larson's DVD Twice as Nice: Weaving With Two Heddles on a Rigid Heddle Loom to our selection of instructional DVD's. New books are donated all the time, so please consider checking items out of our fiber library before/instead of purchasing them when you are researching a special technique or a new fiber art.

Remember, we welcome reviews of any fiber-related resources for the PFG Newsletter. This need not be complicated: just a quick note about what is included in the resource, and your impressions of the content.

Have a great month and share a great book!

~ Christine Dunlap (dunlap_b@bellsouth.net)

PFG Librarian

Charity Handwork Day

November 13th, 2016

Thanks go out to Lori Smith for hosting our Charity Handwork Day on Sunday, November 13th. Thanks also to all those who got together at Lori's house and shared great food, great company and did some handwork for charity. Thanks to both Lori and Julia Roskamp for providing yarn and patterns for this project. The next Charity Handwork Day coincides with our Guild Holiday Celebration. We will take a bit of time to give to others as we enjoy some Christmas Spirit.



News from the DFG Weaving Study Group

From Maurice Blackburn

The Weaving Group met at Sallie Olson's house on September 28th. Ten weavers attended.

Joy Bruce presented her shadow weave project. It was based on the Shimmering shadow-weave scarves article in the January/February 2012 edition of Handwoven magazine. She said that she had found it helpful to do sampling first. Sue Helmken is always preaching the merits of sampling, but not all of us have followed her recommendation!

Carol Wertz and Alice Harrill attended Leslie Ferperman's workshop at the Yadkin Valley Fiber Room. The workshop, entitled "Getting What You Want in Weaving", was all about the importance of sampling (Sue would have approved of that!). They concentrated on the effects of sett (number of ends per inch in the warp), and on drape and pattern, and came home with a notebook of samples for their chosen project.

They became proficient in hemstitching the samples on the loom, and also learned a technique for joining yarns when, for example, the warp yarn runs out and a new bobbin is inserted into the shuttle. The technique, called a Russian Join, works well for broken warp threads as well. There are several videos on YouTube which demonstrate this, for example: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9MXT2mrR894>

This method of joining yarns without knotting them is also used by knitters and crocheters.

Carol said that she had woven her first sample on her "new" Macomber loom which she bought from the Martha Matthews' estate

Nancy Neely showed a scarf which she had woven using a coarse sett handspun wool warp together with a weft of roving (rather than yarn). After weaving, she had dyed the scarf in onions skins, giving a very pleasing result.

I told the group that I had been playing around on my four-shaft loom with the Shaft Switching technique developed by Peter Collingwood. This is primarily used for rugs, and allows the weaver to move blocks around on the rug during the weaving process. I did not have any sample to show, but I did have some pictures [see front page].

The next meeting of the Weaving Group will be on November 30th.

- Maurice Blackburn – with help from Alice Harrill

News from Carolina Handspinners

From Christine Dunlap

Our group has met each month this Fall and once even fulfilled my fondest dream of meeting out on the gorgeous front porch of our location. We have had great crowds each month and lively discussions about fiber processors, the hottest new spinning wheels and, lately, our adventures at SAFF. The Dream Weavers did a fiber to scarf demonstration on Sunday, October 30th for SAFF attendees, blending fibers and demonstrating various tools and fiber equipment, since they were not on a time crunch. Team members Dawn Brown, Jennifer Floyd and Shirley Young said they had a great time working on their project but wished there had been more of a crowd for this event.

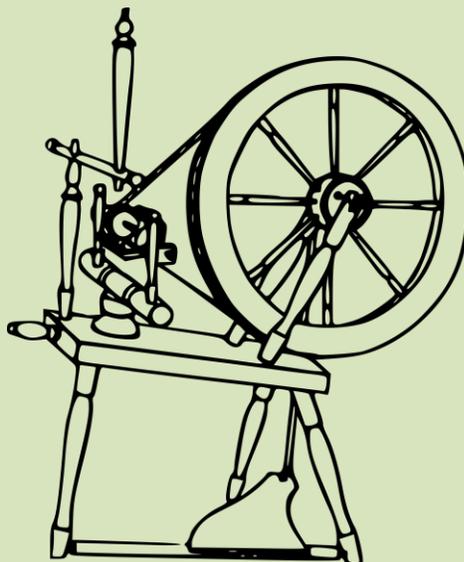
For our next meeting, December 13th, we will be lunching together at our meeting location, sharing holiday cheer. If you wish to take part in our "Secret Santa" gift exchange, please bring a fiber-related gift (\$15). Also at this meeting we will be setting up a spinning wheel Round Robin so members can try a variety of different wheels owned by other members. Those interested in participating should bring their wheel and a bit of easy-to-spin fiber and be willing to assist other members in spinning on their wheel. Included in this event will be the Mother Marion Kick Spindle generously donated by member Ann Brinkhous. Note that this particular piece of equipment loans out to members on a monthly basis.

Our group meets monthly on the SECOND TUESDAY of each month, 2-4pm at the Lowell Community Center, 501 West First Street in Lowell, NC. This meeting is open to the public, so please invite any fiber-interested friends to attend. Our next Bimonthly Saturday event will take place in January. We are looking for a host for this meeting that allows folks who can't make our weekday meetings to enjoy the fun of Carolina Handspinners.

Happy Spinning!

~ Christine Dunlap (dunalp_b@bellsouth.net)

Coordinator, Carolina Handspinners



Some Current Projects

By Stephanie Ray

Here are some pics of things I've been working on, among others.

Pam P. so graciously gave me a bead loom she had as a child [photo left]. Pam and Genie came over last week and she got me started! I love it: seems to go pretty quick. I haven't taken it off the loom yet, that's next.

I also decided to revisit the Naal binding! Over the course of several days of visiting different web sites related to the subject, and restarting over and over, I finally got it going. Whew!

I decided to do a pouch and winged it doing the flap [photo right]. I'm pretty pleased with it.



Here is a picture of my first Naal binding sock. It didn't start off being a sock: totally experimental and more of a tube sock. Probably need to size it more but it fits great on my right foot. Not too tight. It actually was quite an accident but a happy accident.



I have a 3.5 pound bag of wonderful natural-color blended alpaca and wool done by Echoview Fiber Mill. It's a nice creamy color, one continuous rolag ready to be dyed. I would like to sell it for a little less than I paid for processing: \$65. Please contact me if you're interesting in purchasing.

(E-mail: Stephsangelcat@yahoo.com)

