

Piedmont Fiber Guild Newsletter

September, 2016

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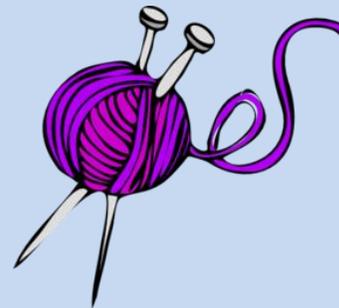
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A Few Notes from Our President, Gail Boyles

The 2016/2017 Guild year is about to begin! PFG will be participating in several exciting fiber-related events throughout the upcoming months, as listed on page 5 of this newsletter. We will continue to update you on other demonstrations and events as they approach. We welcome you to join us at any or all of these events, helping to represent our wonderful Guild!



Additional Notes

During our summer Board meeting, the PFG Board unanimously agreed on the integration of the following procedure into the Guild's customs and courtesies.

If a Guild member, a person within a Guild member's immediate family or any other person with whom a Guild member was very close passes away, the Guild will honor that person with the purchase of a fiber related book for the PFG library. A notation in the front of the book will be made regarding the person whom the selection honors.

Continuing the Martha Matthews Legacy

If you purchased any items from the Martha Matthews estate sale, please bring any finished pieces you have created from these materials to the September Guild meeting. We will send a photo of these pieces to the Matthews sisters to allow them to see how their mother's legacy of fiber art is continuing on.

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

- September 18, 2016
- October 16, 2016
- 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.

A Note on the Upcoming Meeting

Welcome to the 2016/2017 Guild year! The first meeting of the year will be held on September 18th at our regular location, Arts on Main in Gastonia (see above for details). This meeting will not include a feature speaker or program, but will be devoted entirely to Show-and-Tell. We welcome you to bring along any fiber projects you have worked on over the summer, to share with your fellow fiber artists!

We would like to thank Janet Kaufman and Lorene Lovell, our Hospitality chairpersons, for volunteering to bring refreshments for this month's meeting. If you are interested in bringing food, drinks, or Opportunity items to a subsequent meeting, please contact Janet or Lorene.

We hope you will join us at this first meeting of the Guild year! Visitors 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

The Guild Has a New Loom!

From Maurice Blackburn

At the end of June I received an e-mail from a lady by the name of Trish Miller who wished to give an old loom to someone who could really appreciate it. The loom had originally belonged to her mother and it had not been used for the last 20 years.

The loom is a Sabina Folding Loom, which I had never heard of. Trish provided a link to a selection of pictures and I found additional information on the Internet. The folding mechanism is somewhat unusual. In modern folding looms, the supports for the warp beam and the cloth beam fold up toward the central castle. This loom has the warp beam and the cloth take-up roll mounted on a transverse bar which pivots. In operation it fastens to the vertical support for the breast beam, with garden-gate-type hooks and eyes. Another unusual feature is that the ratchet for the warp beam is located in the center of the beam rather than at the end. The mechanism for raising the shafts is unusual too, using the treadles to pull down the chains which then raise the shafts.

One of the Internet links suggested that you shouldn't buy a loom like this and, to be frank, if I was looking to buy a loom, particularly a folding loom, I would not buy this one. Gail and I decided, however, that as it was being given away we should consider getting it for the Guild, either to have it on display in our area at Arts on Main, or to have it available for actual use by our members. So Ursula and I went to inspect it. As it appeared to be in good condition, we brought it home. Trish was quite emotional seeing it leave because of her memories of her mother using it, but was nevertheless pleased to see it going to people who could appreciate it.

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I have subsequently cleaned it up, repaired a couple of minor items, and replaced part of the chain mechanism for easier adjustment. I have dressed the loom and have now woven on it. The central ratchet on the warp beam presented a bit of a problem – I will modify my warping procedure next time! The original loom was designed to be used with sectional warping, however an apron had been attached to the warp beam – presumably by Trish's mother - to allow for regular warping.

Weaving went well. The bench, which came with the loom, was the right height – at least for me – and I found the treadles didn't require excessive force. The shed was quite large, allowing easy passage for the shuttle. The only downside is that to advance the warp you have to walk round the back of the loom to release the ratchet. I haven't tried folding up the loom since I warped it, but, according to what I have read, it is supposed to fold up with a warp for transportation and then open up again without damaging the warp. We will see!

The loom came with two boat shuttles, several stick shuttles, a temple, and a bunch of spare heddles – the loom is currently set up with about 400 heddles. In addition we received several weaving books.

We are very grateful to Trish Miller for her donation to the Guild.



We have moved the Sabina loom to our Guild location at Arts on Main in Gastonia [see page 6 for more information about PFG @ AoM]. I have warped it and woven on it and found that it is very comfortable to use. It gives a large shed and performs well. Above are a couple of pictures which I took after we moved the loom to Gastonia. Many thanks again for this donation to our Guild!

Internet links for the Sabina Loom:

http://www.ebay.com/itm/Sabina-Folding-Weaving-Loom-Wood-/391023974105#cvip_desc

<http://debbiramblings.blogspot.com/2011/01/loom-comes-alive.html>

<http://www.weavolution.com/forum/weaving/sabina-folding-loom-comments-wanted-17224>

Upcoming Fiber Events

September 24: 11am – 5pm, Mt. Holly Arts Festival, Downtown Mt. Holly

(<http://www.mounthollyartsfestival.com/>)

October 8 & 9: Cotton Ginning Days, 1303 Dallas-Cherryville Highway, Dallas, NC

October 15: 10am – 4pm, Curtin Family Farms Fest, 407 North Paraham Rd., Clover, SC

(<http://www.curtinfarms.com/>)

December 4: Downtown Gastonia's Christmas Festival – Arts on Main will be open from 1pm – 6pm; Guild members are invited to demonstrate during this event.

- ❖ If you know of an event at which the Guild might demonstrate, please send information to Gail Boyles at gboyles44@gmail.com

See pages 11 and 12 for photos from a few previous events in which the Guild has participated.

PFG Library News

From our Librarian, Christine Dunlap

Over the summer, PFG received the generous donation of a large collection of weaving books from Trish Miller, who also donated her mother's weaving loom and supplies. Also, Vivian Brenner donated a book from her collection, called *American Indian Design and Decoration*, as well as a collection of patterns. These just about fill up the Library Cabinet we purchased last year and plans are in the works to purchase another cabinet to replace the yellow cabinet that no longer locks.

We have had several requests and new purchases as well as donations over the last few months, so please be sure to come peruse the Library Cabinets during the September meeting. An updated Library Log was placed in the cabinet and an updated list placed in the files section of the PFG Yahoo! Group. The check-out process is unchanged, but please feel free to see me during the meeting if you have any questions.

For new members, the PFG Library Cabinets are located in the PFG storage area at Arts on Main where we meet monthly. All paid members are welcome to check books out of the collection. There is a simple sign-out process using the Lending Log. Please let me know if you have any questions. We ask that books be returned within 3 months.

For all members, we recognize that our meeting times are busy. Please be aware of the fact that myself and my family are always at Arts on Main by 1:30pm on meeting days and you are welcome to arrive early for the meeting in order to have time to look through our Library selections. We are fortunate to have a varied selection of resources, and encourage members to utilize these in their search for information about new-to-you fiber arts. Please let me know if I can help you find something to improve your fiber arts knowledge.

~ Christine Dunlap, Librarian

DFG @ AoM

The Guild's Display Space at Arts on Main

Upon returning to Arts on Main for the September meeting, you will see some changes to the PFG@AoM display area. First, the loom donated by Trish Miller has been set up and is on display in this area. Also, over the summer, the large map on one side wall was removed. This makes it possible for our group to create a vertical display in this area. We have reorganized the current items a couple of times to keep public interest, as well as for general cleaning, dusting and vacuuming to keep display items clean.

With these changes in mind, we would like to freshen the display beginning at the September 18th meeting. Please consider bringing items for display that you completed over the summer or that you think would be appropriate for the Fall season. Remember to allow time for the check-in process so that your items are securely marked to ensure safe return to you.

Also, we are in need of a PFG Member to take over this project beginning at the September meeting. While we have very much enjoyed getting this project off the ground, we are more busy this year with school and outside projects and don't feel we have the time to devote to keeping PFG's display space as neat and interesting as it should be. Please contact Gail Boyles (gboyles44@gmail.com) if you'd be interested in taking over this project. We'll be happy to show you the check-in/tagging process we have set up as well as the supplies that have been purchased for this project.

~ Christine and Beth Dunlap

About the Guild's Yahoo Chat Group

From our Webmaster, Maurice Blackburn

Most members know about the Guild's Yahoo Chat Group. However for new members I would like to tell you about the Chat Group; and for existing members, I would like to remind you of some of the features and some of the recommendations for using the Chat Group

The Yahoo Chat group is restricted to Piedmont Fiber Guild members, and provides an easy way for members to contact each other to discuss subjects related to our various fiber interests and to be informed of upcoming events.

First of all, it is not necessary to have a Yahoo account to become a member of the Chat Group. All we need from you is your e-mail address, and the posted messages will come to this e-mail address. However, there are advantages to having a Yahoo account – this is no big deal and it's free. Having a Yahoo account allows full access to all of the Chat Group features. You can decide how you want to receive the postings - either as e-mails whenever they are posted or as a daily digest. You also have access to the files section where useful information about the Guild is listed, including membership lists (which Dick Kistler regularly updates). There is also a section for posting pictures. The Yahoo Group webpage can be found at <https://groups.yahoo.com/>.

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For Chat Group postings, there are certain rules which we recommend:

1. Sign your name at the end of the posting. With some e-mail systems it can be difficult to see who sent the e-mail if your name is not there.
2. If you are replying to an e-mail, delete the message you are answering from your posting. With so many people reading their e-mail on their phones, the less clutter the better.
3. Make sure that the "Subject Heading" corresponds to the body of your e-mail. Quite often when a discussion occurs with multiple e-mails, the subject matter tends to wander, so the original Subject Heading is no longer relevant.
4. At times it may be more appropriate to reply to the original sender. If so, do not hit Reply, as this will put your e-mail up on the Chat Group. Cut and paste the original sender's e-mail address and use that.

As moderator I have the capability to remove unsuitable messages and even remove members from the Chat Group. I am pleased to say that in the 7 - 8 years I have been webmaster I have not found it necessary to take any such action.

Enjoy the Chat Group! Please let me know if you have any problems or if you have any suggestions for improvements.

○ *Maurice Blackburn*

News from Carolina Handspinners

From Christine Dunlap

While PFG took the summer months off to vacation and spend time with family, our group has met over the summer and had record attendance at most meetings. Since all our educator members were off from school for the summer, we had as many as 18 folks come together to spin fiber into yarn and share our experiences with fiber arts.

We were pleased to have Traci Moore and Kathleen Engart with us on August 6th at Mt. Holly Farmer's Market. We had a record number of folks stop by our tent to see us card, spin, weave and do other fiber arts. We thank Mt. Holly Farmer's Market for having our group at their Markets the first Saturday of each month this summer, and look forward to demonstrating there again next summer.

Our own Ann Brinkhous donated her gorgeous Mother Marion Kick Spindle to our group. At our August meeting, Shirley Young demonstrated this tool for the group and we discussed uses for this generous donation. We plan to loan the Spindle out on a monthly basis, as well as having it available for fiber demonstrations to make the public aware of this special way to turn fiber into yarn.

For new PFG members, Carolina Handspinners meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 2-4pm at Lowell Community Center, 501 West First Street, Lowell, NC. This meeting is open to the public, so please feel free to attend and invite all fiber-interested friends as well. We also meet on a Saturday every other month in a member's home, for those who can't make our weekday meetings.

Happy Spinning!

~ *Christine Dunlap, Coordinator of Carolina Handspinners*

News from the PFG Weaving Study Group

From Maurice Blackburn

The Weaving Group met at Kiska Thompson's house on July 27th. There were 12 weavers present including two new members – Kay Barker and Linda Pushee.

Linda Erikson and Nancy Neely were the designated weavers and showed their shadow weave projects. Linda's project used linen in the warp and weft and, despite anticipating problems weaving linen, she reported that the project had gone well. She said that she sprayed the thread with a fine mist before starting to weave each time, and that she released the tension on the warp each time she finished weaving.

Linda also showed a shawl she had woven using the same yarns. She said that she had not washed it and it didn't yet drape to her satisfaction.

Nancy, who had shown her project at the previous meeting, brought the full specifications and samples with her. She reminded us that just because a design is printed in a magazine, it does not guarantee that the pattern is free from errors.

Linda Pushee showed a sample of crackle weave, which she had woven; Kiska showed dyed warps she had prepared at Kathrin Weber's workshop; and Alice Harrill showed fabric she had woven from a warp dyed at the same workshop.

The next meeting will be at Sallie Olson's house on September 28th.



A photo from the recent meeting of the PFG Weaving Study Group

The AkerKate

A New Kate on the Market for Handspinners

By Jan Smiley

Although they're usually referred to as Lazy Kates, I prefer to call them simply Kates. I spent a few minutes trying to track down where that common term came from, and came up empty-handed. Perhaps I was just too lazy to keep looking? Nancy from Nancy's Knit Knacks calls their version of this useful spinners' tool the Anything-but-Lazy-Kate, and I've also heard them referred to as a Clever Kate, so I guess I'm not alone in thinking the commonly used name isn't accurate.

Anyway, back to the point of this article. While on Instagram, I happened to see that Adan from [Akerworks](#) was working on a prototype of a new Kate. If you're a spinner, you may be familiar with the Akerworks team. They're located in Knoxville, Tennessee and are best known in the fiber world for the 3D printed bobbins that they make in a variety of colors & designs for most of the popular brands of spinning wheels.

The Akerworks team uses consumers as testers of new products before those products are made available for sale. I added my name to the Google spreadsheet of people interested in testing the new Kate; answering questions about what brand bobbins I have access to, what types of yarn I frequently spin, etc. I've no idea how they actually determine who will be selected to test, but I did see some references to "the hat", so perhaps it's a sorting hat similar to the one used by Harry Potter at Hogwarts.....

Adan mentioned on the [Akerworks Ravelry board](#) (where you'll find lots of pictures showing how people set up and used their Kates; including how to suspend spindles for plying) that they included a larger number of testers for the Kate than they typically use when working on a new product. No matter the details: I GOT LUCKY and received one of the prototype Kates to put through her paces. Those chosen had a couple of weeks "heads-up" before the Kates were ready to be shipped, which gave us all time to prepare for how we would test the Kate when it arrived. The timeframe to provide feedback was limited, so I'm glad I had a backlog of singles waiting to be plied; my plying procrastination paid off!

Product Details: the Kate can hold up to 4 bobbins at a time. The base is approximately 5" x 13" x 1" thick. The base is made of Cherry, the shafts are carbon fiber, and it weighs approximately 19 oz. Retail price \$126, which includes US shipping.

Cost comparisons: Majacraft has 2 Kates: \$150 or \$185. Schacht's is \$69, Nancy's Knit Knack's is \$145, Louet's is \$155. There are handmade Kates available on Etsy from \$30-\$120.

Product Observations (subjective): it's an ingenious design that works very well.

The other types of Kates I have used are the Schacht arched Kate (I sold the one that came with my wheel so you know how I feel about that one), the 2 shaft mini Kate from Majacraft (my typical yarn is a 3 ply, so that one isn't really useful for me), and Will Taylor's "Clever Kate", which holds 3 bobbins at a fixed angle.

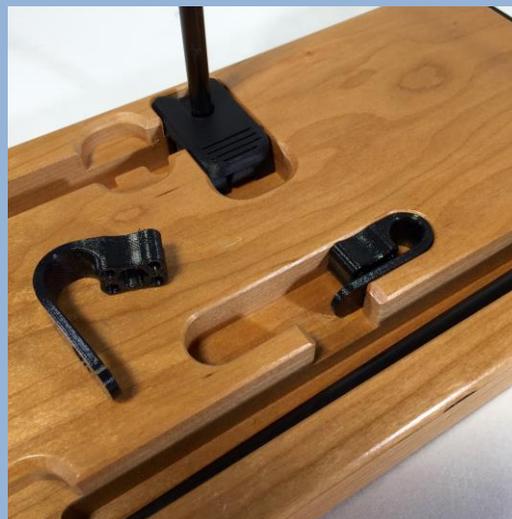
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Unique features: The carbon fiber rods pivot from the base, with bobbin rests that “lock” the rods into place once they’re in a vertical position. Another new feature is what they named “Tension Tamers”. Each Kate comes with 4 TT that store neatly on the Kate when not in use. They can be used to add tension to individual bobbins as you are plying, to control the speed of the bobbin as it winds off. If you’re used to a tensioned Kate, these are what provide tension, instead of the typical string system. The difference from other Kates is that the tension can be applied to each bobbin individually, unlike a string that applies the same tension to all bobbins. I didn’t use the TTs as a tensioning device, as I didn’t find additional tension necessary. If my bobbins had been bouncing around and overspinning as I plied, I could have used the TTs to apply pressure to each bobbin to control it. What I did use them for was as a “yarn guide” for feeding the singles as they passed through the TT on their way to my wheel for plying. Note: this is only an option if you’re not using all 4 shafts to hold a bobbin, as the TT is mounted on one of the shafts when used as a yarn guide.

There is much I admire about this new Kate: I think the design is well thought, well executed, and elegant. The Kate is compact & very portable. Everything stores on board so no loose parts can fall off and get lost, tensioning is an option, and the Tension Tamers allow for easy control of singles prior to being plied.

I found the entire process enjoyable & impressive. Adan was very responsive on the Ravelry group to questions, feedback, and suggestions and made some small but important tweaks to the final product based on the feedback of the testers. Perhaps there are other fiber companies using a similar consumer testing process, but it was my first experience with a process like this and I was very impressed with how it went.

Looking for a new Kate? I don’t hesitate to recommend this one.



Apple Hill Farm Shearing Day

June 5, 2016



Vivian and Gail showing off their skills



Our view from the barn loft:
spectacular!



Watch out - Michiele has needles and
she's not afraid to use them!



Time to get a haircut

World Wide Knit in Public Day

June 18, 2016



The “yarn-bombed” Mint Museum!

A decorated cactus garden. (Check out the mushroom - a Charlotte Knitters Guild member makes fiber fairy gardens!)



Some Piedmont Fiber Guild members having fun with other knitters and crocheters

The lobby at the Mint Museum Fiber Arts Invasion

