
Chimneyville Weavers and Spinners Guild
NEWSLETTER

October 1994

September Program

Despite the steady morning downpour, CWSG members gathered in the studio upstairs at the Craftsmen's Guild Gallery on September 17 for Martha Garrott's presentation on wheat weaving--which we learned is not actually *weaving* after all. It's plaiting. And the wheat's called straw. Also, there can be a lot of knots involved. We were soaked, the wheat was soaked, trimmings of straw and thread flew everywhere, creativity ran rampant, and sometime in the midst of all the fun, the sun came out! There's nothing like trying it yourself to give you a new perspective on a craft--now we can better appreciate the patience, talent, and artistry that Martha puts into her creations.

The CWSG always welcomes visitors, especially when they bring "neat stuff" for Show-and-Tell. Cynthia Crull showed us two soft, cuddly cotton blankets and the lovely Dyed-in-the-Wool Weavers' banner (woven, ironically, in cotton). Amy Evans brought photos and stories of lamas, alpacas, the Taos wool market, and her guild/study group in Colorado, the Not Ready for Prime Time Weavers. Cathy Smith, a new spinner, brought drop spindles that her husband made for her. Other showing and telling included two of Margaret's gorgeous matted and framed overshot samples; Hazel's bright, "happy" material; Nancy's wool blanket, spun linen shawl, and twill "experiments"; Carol's undulating twill placemats; Lu's table runners; and Jane's handspun and dyed yarn. Marva brought the Sheep-to-Shawl shawl, samples of wool from a dyeing session held in Alabama during the summer, and some of her handspun wool yarn. Janet St. Lawrence announced that her dishtowels will be featured in an upcoming issue of *Handwoven*. Marcy passed around two marvelous shawls, one woven with eyelash yarn and one with puffy, multi-colored "Christmas ball" yarn.

September Business Meeting Minutes

Hocoka--Lu Harding is coordinating this spinning-and-weaving retreat, which is scheduled for October 28-30. Contact her at 355-8807 if you plan to go. She will make reservations and arrange car pools.

Constitution Revision--Nancy Landrum will chair a committee to examine the guild's constitution and suggest changes. Lu Harding and Sandi Tucker will also serve on this committee. Current plans are for the committee to present its first report in February, followed by a discussion of the changes at the guild's March meeting, presentation of the revised document at the April meeting, and a vote on the revised constitution at the May meeting.

Homer and the Jackson Zoo--October 8 is the deadline for contributing items to the Jackson Zoo's auction. Because of the short notice we received, the sweater the CWSG has promised may be delayed. Anyway, the next step is to spin the yarn. It should be spun at 20 wraps per inch; Marva will supply samples for volunteer spinners to compare to their handspun. To achieve a fairly uniform yarn, the work of two different spinners will be plied together. Marva will have Homer-the-zoo-sheep's wool ready for spinners who attend A Day in the Country on October 1.

1994-95 CWSG Board

Director: Marva Goodman, 404
Parkway Rd., Brandon, MS 39042;
992-0383

Vice Director: Lu Harding, 1715
Devine St., Jackson, MS 39202;
355-8807(H), 968-5128(W)

Secretary: Carol Parks, 832 Cherry
Stone Cir., Clinton, MS 39056;
924-8605(H), 924-1830(W)

Treasurer: Heather Gillis, 507
Boardwalk Blvd., Ridgeland, MS 39157;
856-7850(H), 939-9030x433(W)

Historian: Debbie Stringer, 2534
Crestleigh Manor, Jackson, MS 39204;
373-6292(H), 922-2341(W)

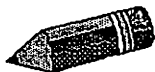
future program. Anonymity is guaranteed! . . . Barbara Mitchell announced that she was accepting donations of handicrafts for the Wells Fest silent auction on Sept. 24. . . . The CWSG will be hosting the next CoE in Weaving; Marva will serve as registrar. . . . Jane Burrows I obtained several cones of thread from a clothing factory where she has connections and sent them (via Marcy) to the guild. . . . Marva and Margaret have recently spoken with Virginia Rogers; she's expecting her baby any day now. . . . Amy Evans presented a copy of *Weaving: A Life* to the guild library in honor of Marcy.

NOTICE: *If you have not yet paid your CWSG membership dues for '94-'95, this may be your LAST NEWSLETTER.* Contact the guild treasurer immediately to assure that you remain on our mailing list.

Chimneyville Weavers and Spinners Guild Study Group

Are you interested in Color, Fiber, and Structure Interactions: A Problem Solving Approach? If so, come to the first meeting of this serious study group on Wednesday, October 12, 1994, at 7:00 PM. It will be held at Marcy Petrini's home, 950 Fairfax Circle, Jackson, MS 39211; 957-1423.

NICE LOOM BENCHES: 40" wide; piano-hinged lid with box underneath for storage; storage box on each side; cypress and pine, stained to your specifications - \$150. Prices may vary with style and type of wood. Call Frank or Lucy Langford at 932-7869 for this and other custom wood needs.



LETTER TO CWSG MEMBERS

Dear Friends:

And I thought I knew how to give a party! Saturday night was a wonderful occasion and one that I will remember all of my life. My only regret is that my Dad could not be with us. He was touched by the card and all the well-wishes.

Even though I knew this was going to be a great event, I was still dumbfounded and I really didn't really express how much this means to me; it took me all day Sunday to "come back down to earth". Merely saying thank you seems so trite.

But I do thank you: for the grand dinner and all the organization that went into it; for the gorgeous pin which I will always wear with fondness as I remember the occasion; for the wonderful shawl which I will wear with pride and think about all of you; and for the contribution to the Silvio and Eugenia Petrini Fiber Grant Fund. But most of all, I thank you for the friendship that you have shown me over the years and for the support that has allowed me to do ambitious things. If weren't for all of you, I probably wouldn't even be weaving, let alone be President of HGA.

When I accepted the job, I knew the year was going to be challenging. But the challenge is made a little easier because of you.

Warm Regards to all,

marcy

JUST SPINNING

The dinner for Marcy was lovely and FUN. I think everyone had a good time. Thanks to Heather and her committee, Debbie and her group, and of course Hazel's flowers. Thanks to all of you who had overnight guests so they could more easily attend. It is such a heart warming to be part of this group.

Carol is doing a great job with the newsletter. Just remember, if you have any item you want included, get it to her the first of the month. This newsletter is our means of communicating with each other. Your news or ads would be interesting to all of us.

"Homer" is in the construction stage. We had five spinners at 'A Day in the Country' Saturday, and four of us were spinning "Homer"--but we need more. It takes a lot of wool to make a sweater. Tina knitted a swatch yesterday (10-1) to test for tension and make the final size adjustments. We decided there was no way we would be able to complete the project by the Auction date of Oct. 8, but we will complete the sweater as soon as possible. Shannon Collins, working with The Friends of the Zoo, plans to place some of Homer's fleece in the auction along with a description of the sweater. Which means someone will buy the project sight unseen! I am ready to finish this project, so I keep spinning away!

After reading a notice in the newsletter of the Memphis guild of Handloom Weavers, I called Margaret minutes before I left town for several days. Rhodes College was discontinuing its fiber arts program and selling all of the weaving equipment. Margaret called and checked on the equipment that was left, then called Marcy and Lu. To make a long story short, due to an announcement in an exchange newsletter, three of our guild members now have looms--at a very reasonable price. Jackie prevailed upon her husband to take her and a trailer to Memphis to pick up the looms.

Marcy says for these new loom owners to put on a sash for the first warp to check loom tension, alignment, and shed. Also check the reeds and heddles for rust. Heather recommends naval jelly with a toothbrush and steel wool to remove the rust. (Soaking in vinegar will also remove rust.)

Southeast Fiber Forum

Marcy put a query on E Mail to Catherine Neiner concerning the organizing and responsibilities of hosting the forum. This was Catherine's reply to the possibility Southeast Fiber Forum in Mississippi:

"Oh, boy! This is so exciting! I am already looking forward to the catfish, mud pie AND the great state of Mississippi!

Here's the story: The Southeast Fiber Forum is governed by a Board of Directors. You need to submit a proposal (nothing like a Convergence proposal just basic information such as dates, place, guild info). As far as I know, we have hosts for 1995 (Peachtree Handspinners, Atlanta) and 1996 (Nashville Fiber Arts Guild, Nashville). I do not think we have a host for 1997, but I could be wrong because I was not on the board this year. We will NOT hold a Fiber Forum in 1998 because, well, you know why!

As to the number of people you need, I, personally, think a core committee of about 12 is fine depending on how hard everyone wants to work and what kind of programs you want to present. Traditionally, about 10 two day (Saturday and Sunday) workshops are lined up. In addition, usually four 2-hour seminars are held (2 concurrently) on Friday afternoon. The evenings are usually a "local color" activity and an informal fashion show. We have never had a formal fashion show, but we are not opposed if that is what you want to do! In addition, commercial exhibits are very popular. When we did Fiber Forum, we had very strong committees with very strong chairman. I think a small guild can do it with no problem -- Peachtree Handspinners is small and they are doing a great job. As a matter of fact, most of our guilds are small; Chattahoochee is the largest, and by HGA standards it is a small guild!

I think \$2000 in seed money is disbursed, and the host guild is given \$500. But please do not hold me accountable for these numbers because I am not sure about these things anymore. Information from previous conferences is available. No guild has lost money (thank goodness!)

I would be happy to talk with you at greater length about this. It is really a fun and challenging project for a guild -- it inspired us to do Convergence! Good luck.....

Please remember, this is just food for thought.

A Day in the Country was fun. Carol updated a handout which we distributed along with info on Marcy's classes taught in the studio.

Keep weaving and spinning, and I'll see you all at the Trace for Pioneer Day on the 22nd of this month. Bring wheels, looms, or any hand work you desire. Dress in costume, if you have it, but don't let that stop you from coming. Activities begin at 10 am and end at 5 pm. Martha will have a ticket for lunch with beverage. We will take a short break at lunch for a short business meeting.

Marva

O L Ray
3505 Seventh St N
Clanton, AL 35045
(205)755-6594

repairs & restores spinning wheels

1994 Sheep and Angora Goat Symposium and Fiber Festival:

Saturday, November 12, 9 am to 4 pm Huntsville, AL. There are ribbons and cash prizes. There are classes for weaving, spinning, knitting and crocheting. For more information contact Kathy Gile Smith, ALWMA, HWY 65/ST RT Box 570, Hollytree, AL 35751, or call Marva Goodman, (601)992-0383.

JANUARY SPIN-IN 1995

DATE--January 25-29, 1995

LOCATION-- Seascape Resort and Conference Center, Destin,
Florida--Located in the FL panhandle.

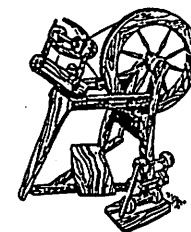
COST FOR SPIN-IN: Please send a check for \$10 along with the enclosed reservation form to Choctawhatchee Bay Spinners Guild, 664 Brookhaven Way, Niceville, FL 32578. A map will be provided when your reservation is received. The information on Seascape is attached.

INFORMATION: There will be an informal gathering at 7 p.m. on Wednesday. This is just the first of many times to put names with faces. On Thurs., Fri, and Sat., we will begin around 9 a.m. in the conference room. If you wish to start your day later that's fine. At least once a day, we will have a time of sharing for anything you have made or are currently working on that you would like to show. We try to break for lunch about noon and resume at 1:00 p.m. Information on local restaurants will be available for ideas on lunch and dinner. We usually break around 5 or 5:30 for supper and in the past various groups have gotten together in individual rooms for more visiting.

It has become something of a tradition to have door prizes at the Spin-in. If you have something you would like to donate, it will be most welcome, but is certainly not required. In the past people have brought such things as books, both new and used, antique bobbins, fiber, handmade craft items, and door prizes that they won the year before and would like to recycle. This is just a fun thing and everyone goes home with a prize (and some years, two).

If you have any thing that you want to sell, share, or show, please bring it with you for the Spin-in. If during the Spin-in you see someone doing something you would like to know more about, please ask them. This is a time to share.

We hope that everyone will have a wonderful time and we are looking forward to meeting each of you. If you have any questions or need any help prior to the Spin-in, please contact Nancy Kahrs at (904) 897-5011.



JANUARY SPIN-IN 1995

There will be a couple of changes this year which we hope will meet with your approval. Rather than limit the size of the Spin-in, we decided to find a larger place to accommodate more people. Since we now have a larger place, we will be able to have the vendors right in the room with us so they can participate more fully and we can get more visiting/shopping done. Oh, how we love shopping opportunities!

Spin-in 1995 will be held at Seascape in Destin, FL. Seascape is located about 5 miles east of the previous location of Spin-in. It is closer to Bayou Bill's Crab House for those of you who feed your faces there on Saturday night.

While the cost of the condo is slightly higher (\$17 more for a one bedroom/night), we hope this will be offset by having the ability to fix your own meals if you so desire. This will also allow those of you who wish, to share the cost with more than one person. As in the past, participants will make their own reservations. We strongly urge you to make your reservations early with Seascape since there are a limited number in each size and, after Dec. 22, 1994, they will no longer be reserved just for us.

Each condo has a king sized bed in the master bedroom, (the other bedrooms contain twin beds) a living room, dining area and kitchen plus the number of baths indicated below. The sizes and prices of the condos are listed below. As in the past, there is also an 8% room tax added to these figures.

| SIZE: BEDROOM/BATH | MAX PEOPLE | UNIT RATE/NIGHT |
|--------------------|------------|-----------------|
| 1/1 | 2 | \$72.00 |
| 2/1 | 4 | \$86.00 |
| 2/2 | 4 | \$104.00 |
| 3/2 | 6 | \$117.00 |

To make a reservation with Seascape, call 1-800-874-9106 and ask to speak with Maria. The local phone number is 837-9181. Be sure to tell her that you are with the Spinners group. You may guarantee your reservations with a credit card. Cancellation policy for individual reservations is 72 hours.

RESERVATION FORM FOR JANUARY SPIN-IN 1995

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

PHONE NUMBER____(____)_____

I am planning on arriving _____

I am planning on departing_____

PLEASE CHECK ONE:

SPINNER_____

VENDOR_____**

**Vendors please let me know if you wish to be set up in the room with the spinners or if you prefer to sell in your own condo.

All reservations must be received by January 12, 1995. Please mail this form and your \$10 check to Choctawhatchee Bay Spinners Guild, 664 Brookhaven Way, Niceville, FL 32578.



23

