

Sheep-to-Shawl

Handspinning & Handweaving Demonstrations

Saturday, May 4, all day beginning 9 a.m. Free admission Sheep shearings at 9 and 11 a.m.

Chimneyville Crafts Gallery porch Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum

Chimneyville Weavers and Spinners Guild members will transform fleece (freshly shorn from a sheep) into a beautiful wool shawl as you watch! They will demonstrate:

- Carding the wool to prepare it for spinning
 - Hand spinning the wool into yarn
- Hand weaving the yarn into a shawl on a loom

This is how America's pioneer women produced clothing and household items for their families. We do it today for the *shear* pleasure of it!

Bring the kids and cameras!

Co-sponsored by the Chimneyville Weavers and Spinners Guild and the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi

(Spinners, remember to bring your lunch.)

MINUTES Chimneyville Weavers Guild April 20, 1996

PROGRAM Jane Dollar was to lead our workshop on "Spinning to Size", in preparation for our Sheep to Shawl, but she was sick and could not make the meeting. We missed you, Jane, program or not! Hope you are hale and hearty and can be here next month.

SHOW & TELL Marcy brought one of her knitted and felted hats, this one having some mohair and overdyed purple. We had fun trying it on, and browsing two books on textiles she saw exhibited during her recent trip to DC. One book was on the landscape kimonos by Itchiku Kubota, using a dyeing technique from the 1200's that he had spent 20 years studying, and the other on the work of Lia Cook. Kathy Smith told us why she was wearing a wrist splint: she got entangled with one of her new angora goats! Then she showed us her neat white cotton blanket she wove in class, done in rosepath. Debbie Levine presented one of her knitted masterpieces: a lacy lap blanket for a friend, in shetland wool. (It was at this point that we had guests come into the meeting, bearing a cage full of fur, which turned out to be a gorgeous angora rabbit—and a show rabbit, at that. Susan and Sarah Davis, we hope you'll come back, with or without the furry one!) After everyone held, petted, and probably generally annoyed the rabbit, we settled back down and saw Nancy Landrum's printouts from her new weaving software, and the samples she had done in preparation toward weaving and making her son Greg's Hungarian riding coat, which he requested. She also had a sample from her handspun and woven linen that has been accepted for a Convergence segment. Lu, Barbara and Heather had been to Hocoka and brought back pictures for us to see, telling us what we missed!

BUSINESS

New Officers to be elected

Kathy announced that the Nominating Committee has recommended the following for 1996-97 officers: Treasurer, Margaret Pittman; Historian, Marva Goodman; Newsletter Editor, Debbie Stringer. This slate will be voted on at the May meeting.

Presence in Weaving Studio

We have been asked to stop by the desk in the Gallery downstairs and let someone know we are in the building before going upstairs.

Sheep to Shawl

Everything seems to be arranged for and in order. Debbie Stringer distributed flyers to members, to advertise locally.

Hocoka

Lu reported on the spinning retreat, which we alternate hosting with the Dyed-in-the Wool Guild on the coast, and said that the usual October weekend will not be possible this year. We voted to change the date to April 1997; the exact date depends on lodge availability.

Membership Dues

The Board recommended that we increase our dues to \$20 for an individual or family membership, and \$7.50 for a friends membership. The two reasons for doing this are the increased cost of the newsletter, and our desire to encourage our guild children to be interested in weaving and spinning, particularly since several already are into these crafts. We will vote on this proposal in May. **Policy and Procedures Manual**

The need for such a manual for officers and chairmen of events was discussed. [A meeting has been set for June 22 at 10 a.m. at Marcy's to follow through with this. See her attached announcement.] While in this organization mode, it was reported that our library books are all catalogued and ready for the insertion of check-out cards, and a list will be published soon.

HGA Items

Marcy reported that the HGA's move to Atlanta was complete. Our T-shirts are on the way, and she has a supply on the HGA logo pins on hand, at \$8 each. [The new address and a membership form is included in this newsletter.]

MEETING ADJOURNED to lunch at Applebee's, and an afternoon of spinning to follow, for those who could stay.

PLEASE USE THE BALLOTS ON THE LAST PAGE TO VOTE IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND THE MAY MEETING!

Send to Kathy Cohron, 414 Lake Cavalier Road, Jackson 39213

MAY CALENDAR

	4	SHEEP TO SHAWL9:00 A.M. Chimneyville Crafts Gallery porch Ag Museum
May	17	SPIN IN
May	18	GUILD MEETING9:30 - 10:00 - Board Meeting
-		THIS MONTH! Northside Drive Library, 807 E. Northside Drive, Jackson
		Refreshments - Marva Goodman
		10:00 - 11:30 - Program: "Exercise for Weavers" - Marva Goodman
		11:30 - 12:00 - Show & Tell
		12:00 - 12:30 - Business Meeting
		12:30 - 1:30 - Lunch
		2:00 - 4:00 - Spin-In, Weave-In, Visit-In, Knit-In(Whatever)
Мау	23	STUDY GROUP
		<><><><><>
CO	MING UP JUNE	15Complete "Baskets on the Loom" at Hazel's 1468 Sunset Drive, Canton (Ph. 859-4836) 22"Book of Procedures" meeting, at Marcy's
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pecial Notes from Marcy:

About the weaving studio and classroom: this is a shared space that Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi Executive Director Kit Barksdale is trying very hard to keep clean and tidy. Please do not leave anything in this space for others to pick up, including on top of people's seaving projects, and do not store anything for the Chimneyvillle Weavers and Spinners Guild (except in the closets). Several classes are being held upstairs in the building and things could be easily misplaced and lost, in addition to creating clutter for those who work there.

Weaving Study Group: Because of some requests and conflicts, this will be the schedule for the study group this summer. Please mark your calendar and attend!

Thursdays: May 23; June 30; August 1; September 5 6:30 p.m. - Refreshments -- 7:00 p.m. - Study Group

Hope to see you this summer!

Book of Procedures: We will have a meeting to organize our procedures, so that we don't keep on reinventing the wheel (we want to spin on ours). Anyone who is interested in helping, please come to Marcy's (950 Fairfax Cr.) on Saturday, June 22 at 10 am. Please note that this date is different than the one discussed at the April meeting, because of a conflict (plus working late in the evening is not the way to go). If you cannot come, but you have written procedures, please send them to Kathy Cohron before June 22 (preferably in printed form as well as on a diskette as a Word file or as an ASCII file, so we won't have to retype the documents). We need procedures for on Ogoing projects, not for one time only projects. Hopefully we will have a book which will contain our by-laws, our policies and our procedures to start the 1996-97 year. Lunch will be served.

Following are the notes Marva prepared for last month's program. I was delighted to get them, because this is a subject I have applied myself to "not at all". The attached sample yarn is the size (plied) that we will make (hopefully!) for Sheep to Shawl. Marva says the singles would be "about the size of thin spaghetti." Read the notes over and give it a spin, if you have time. See you Saturday! The sheep are expecting us—not to mention the spectators!!—sgt

SPINNING TO SIZE

Hint: Drum carded batts can be pulled apart into strips prior to spinning but will make a more consistent yarn if they are rolled lengthwise and pre-drafted. Most commercial roving benefits from pre-drafting.

Predrafting serves several purposes. It reduces the number of fibers that you have to work with, which increases your control. It also gives you a feeling for how this particular fiber moves in your hand. It will show you how far apart your hands can work comfortably, and it helps to align the fibers a bit more.

Patsy Zawistowski gives this hint: For most people spinning is usually a two handed activity. The forward hand, or the leading hand, (the hand closest to the wheel) has a rather consistent job of controlling the twist. While the back hand or the fiber hand has a variety of jobs, it mainly holds the fibers.

THE FORWARD HAND PINCHES AND CONTROLS THE TWIST WHILE THE BACK HAND HOLDS THE FIBERS SECURELY BUT ALLOWS A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF FIBERS TO SLIP THROUGH.

TO START: To start spinning, tie a simple loop at the end of a leader (leader that is about the same size as the yarn you wish to spin). Check your take-up. It should be strong enough to keep the yarn taunt between your hands and to pull the yarn in--or to wind on, if you move your hand toward the orifice. And it should be loose enough to allow you to pull the leader out of the orifice even while you are treadling.

Start spinning on a slow speed when your hands have to learn a new technique. Move to a faster drive whorl when you feel that you have to treadle too fast to create enough twist for the yarn to hold together.

Pull a few fibers through the leader loop and fold them back on themselves. This will hold securely as you start to insert twist and release easily when you take the yarn off the bobbin. As you start treadling, hold firmly to the folded fibers until you see the twist moving into them.

(continued)

With your hands about half the fiber length apart, begin drafting. The leading forward hand pinches the number of fibers that will be spun together. As the back hand begins to let the fibers slip out of the fiber supply, the wheel continues to turn. The turning flyer is building up twist behind the forward pinch. If the yarn between the wheel and your forward hand is pulled taut, you can slide the leading hand down the drafted fibers toward your fiber hand.

To do this, release the forward pinch just enough to slide your fingers. The twist will follow, creating a smooth fingered draft. (If you release the forward hand completely, the twist will run in between your hands, creating a fuzzy point of twist draft.) Draft and slide the twist down the fibers. The hands never touch, they move apart (almost the full fiber length)as the fibers are drafted and move close (about half the fiber length) as the twist moves into the fibers. Each time you draft you can let the created yarn begin to move toward the orifice to wind onto the bobbin. Or you may draft several times before letting the yarn wind onto the bobbin.

This is a very controlled drafting style called fingered drafting. The twist is always under the thumb and finger of your leading hand. Develop a rhythm.

SAMPLE CARDS

As you begin to gain control of your spinning, you will want to match what you spun last week or last month. One method of doing this is to keep small control yarns and information attached to some 3x5 index cards.

Making a control yarn: When you are content with the size yarn you are spinning, stop the wheel and pull out a 15 inch length of yarn. Hold it under tension while you pinch it in the middle and fold it onto itself. Encourage it to twist in the opposite direction evenly, to make the control yarn. Tie a knot in it to hold the plied ends together. Then untwist the yarn ahead of the knot to release the control yarn. You should now have a new fuzzy end to join to when you resume spinning. You can attach the control yarn to the card by tearing two small slits, one to hold the beginning and one to hold the end after it is wound around a few times.

Now tear two more small slits and wind about four wraps of the single ply yarn straight from the wheel onto the card. Again untwist the yarn and pull it apart to leave yourself a fuzzy end to join onto later. These two yarn samples will give you visual comparisons to use as you continue spinning.

Label your card. Keep a pencil near the wheel and write down the fiber, its source, the whorl speed that you were suing and the drafting style

Spin 4 or 5 yards and recheck by folding back as you did above. Spin several more yards and recheck again. These checking control yarns do not need to be removed. Make a judgment about your spinning. Decide whether you need to leave a thicker or a thinner amount of fiber in the drafting zone or to add more or less twist. As you fill the bobbin, check again. It is a good habit to check each time you sit down to spin more of this yarn.

PERSONALS

ADDRESS CHANGE:

Handweavers Guild of America, Inc.

3327 Duluth Highway Two Exec. Concourse, Suite 201 Duluth, GA 30136-3373

Debbie Stringer

e-mail: metheniac@aol.com

Andrea Dinep PO Box 1347 Mississippi State, MS 39762-1347

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Marcy Petrini and Marva Goodman,

who were accepted in to the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi as <u>spinners!</u>

Nancy Landrum's son J.Gregory Keyes, whose novel <u>The Waterborn</u>, will be published in August of this year.

SEE Y'ALL LATER

I'll miss y'all at the May 18 meeting, but maybe not too much. I'll be getting ready to go to Scotland on May 20, for ten days-dream come true! -sgt

FOR SALE

48" 8-harness Tawaquiva loom; sectional warp; warping tree & spools.

Beautiful production loom for a serious weaver. Enormous quantity of high quality wool.

Tay Broad, Jackson 601-948-7285

In excellent condition - 4 harness Nilus LeClerc 36" loom with all the extras - 3 reeds - all original equipment - storage bench - bobbin winder - book collection - volumes of yarn. \$600.00

Beth Arrington, Brookhaven, Miss. 601-833-2547

Like new 36" Harrisville loom. Good Beginner loom. Call for price.

Barbara Mitchell, Jackson 601-362-4570

LeClerc 4-harness Counter Balance with sectional warp beam. Inca model, GOOD CONDITION, with accessories. Call or write. All proceeds go to Guild office or classroom fixtures. Call or write.

For sale by: Ci afismen's Guild of Mississippi, Jackson--601-981-0019

1150 Lakeland Drive, Jackson, MS 39216

1995-96 CWSG BOARD:

President: Kathy Cohron, 414 Lake Cavalier Rd., Jackson, MS 39213; 856-6698

Vice President: Nancy Landrum, 1019 Grand Avenue, Meridian, MS 39301; 482-8823

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Treasurer: Heather Gillis, 2300 Lincoln Road, Apt. 26, Hattiesburg, MS 39402; 264-6263

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Historian: Debbie Stringer, 2534 Crestleigh Manor, Jackson, MS 39204; 373-6292(H), 922-2341(W); email - metheniac@aol.com

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Treasurer: Historian	Margaret Pittman Marva Goodman		Yes No Yes No		
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Historian	Marva Goodman		Yes No		
Historian Newsletter Editor	Marva Goodman	<u>1996-97 Officers</u>	Yes No		
Historian Newsletter Editor	Marva Goodman Debbie Stringer	<u>1996-97 Officers</u>	Yes No		
Historian Newsletter Editor I nominate The Chimneyville W	Marva Goodman Debbie Stringer Change Change	1996-97 Officers for the office of de in Annual Membership Dues ild Board of Directors has recomme	Yes No Yes No Yes No ended that annual membership		
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(Mail ballots to: Kathy Cohron, 414 Lake Cavalier Road, Jackson, MS 39213)

Chimneyville Weavers & Spinners Guild o'o Sandi Tucker 2106 Wildwood Terrace Yaxoo City, MS 39194-2539



