

CWSG

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CALENDAR**Apr. 11**

CWSG meeting & spin-in
at Margaret Pittman's, 6:30
p.m. Please RSVP.

Apr. 12

Sheep-to-shawl
at Ag Museum, all day begin-
ning 9 a.m. Bring a bag lunch.

Apr. 18-20

Fiber retreat
at Nancy Landrum's in Meridi-
an. Details in this newsletter.

Apr. 24

Weaving & spinning
at Kathy Cohron's (RSVP, 856-
6698).

May 1

Study group: Huck
at Marcy Petrini's. Coffee at
6:30 p.m.; study at 7 p.m.

May 10

Spinning lessons
at Tina Bradford's. Details in
this newsletter.

May 16

Spin-in
Location to be announced.

May 17

**CWSG meeting & shawl
raffle drawing**

May 22

Weaving & spinning
at Kathy Cohron's.

continued

Chimneyville

Weavers & Spinners Guild

April 1997 newsletter

Next meeting: the night before sheep-to-shawl

Our next spin-in, April 11, will double as our meeting because of sheep-to-shawl activities April 12 at the Ag Museum. Margaret Pittman will host the spin-in/meeting at 6:30 p.m. Please call Margaret to RSVP at 956-1478.

During the business meeting, the nominating committee will announce the following nominations to the board: Marcy Petrini, president, and Sharon Williams, vice president. We'll vote and the new officers will assume their posts at the May meeting.

March meeting minutes

by Jane Dollar

CWSG President Kathy Cohron introduced V.A. Patterson, the new director of the

Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi. We did introductions all around; welcome to Clyde Watkins, who is new to Jackson—but not to weaving—and is sure to be a great addition to the guild!

Program

Our own Margaret Pittman gave us a program on overshot borders. In addition to a useful handout some hints were: smaller pieces look better with smaller designs; if enlarging a design consider the length of floats and the use of the piece; traditional overshot uses wool so it will full in the design; warp and tabby are normally half the size of the pattern thread; and, yes, there is an error in the Norse Kitchen pattern in M. Davidson's book.

Pink elephant

The pink elephant sale netted \$29.50. Congratulations to Nancy Landrum, a double winner, and Linda Chapman, Heather Gillis, Debbie Stringer and Sherri Lee! We now have \$106.50 from the pink elephant for books, etc.

Show and tell

- Hazel Howell brought a really neat woven bag and handspun brown cotton (homegrown and hand ginned) she said she'd been saving for an overshot project.
- Jane Dollar brought a piece of knitted, fullled wool (jacket material!).
- Margaret Pittman brought space-dyed yarn; she said it was a mistake but it looked great!
- Lucille Miller brought lovely wall hangings, both in shades of white. They really showed textures well. She also brought a chenille rug she had purchased. It was lovely.
- Nancy Olsen brought her first woven piece, a lovely scarf. Congratulations, Nancy!

'96-'97 CWSG board

- **President:** Kathy Cohron, 856-6698
- **Vice president:** Nancy Landrum, 482-8823
- **Treasurer:** Margaret Pittman, 956-1478
- **Secretary:** Jane Dollar, 323-7079
- **Historian:** Marva Lee Goodman, 992-0383

Calendar, continued

May 24-26

Introduction to Navajo Weaving with Kim Mumbower

at Casa de Cosas, Pensacola, Fla. Sponsored by Gulf Coast Weavers' Guild. Participants will warp loom, use traditional tools, select a design and weave a small piece. Plans for loom sent with supply list. Fee is \$60 plus materials for non-members. Last date to register is May 12. Call Leslie Caruso, 904-932-8667.

June 5

Study group: Huck at Marcy Petrini's.

June 6-9

Jason Collingwood Twill Workshop

Huntsville, Ala. Contact Mary Geier, Greater Birmingham Fiber Guild, at 205-967-2792.

June 13-16

Jason Collingwood Rug Weaving Workshop: Block Weave

in Fairhope, Ala. Cali Caroline Bates-Hoffman, Mobile Bay

Directory update

Please update your membership directory with this information:

New member

Clyde Watkins
4125 Navajo Rd.
Jackson, MS 39211
362-5737

Phone numbers

Jennifer Jacob, 737-4788
Rosalie Nast, 679-5893

- Sherri Lee showed her first piece, another lovely scarf. Way to go, Sherri!
- Kathy Cohron brought a felted hat to match her raincoat, and I won't repeat what she said about Chet!
- Marcy Petrini brought a sampler she did for her beginning class showing various mistakes. Personally, I've managed to make most of them all by myself!
- Marva Goodman brought silk hankies, caps, etc. from the Celia Quinn silk spinning workshop she and I attended in New Orleans.
- And last, but not least, Melba Nipper brought goodies to sell from her shop. Thank you, Melba!

Business

Tina Bradford will teach a **spinning class**, beginning and advanced, May 10. See details in this newsletter.

April 3-6 is **Southeast Fiber Forum** in Birmingham. They still have a few openings.

Kathy Smith is selling **mohair**. Lovely stuff!

Not only is Melba Nipper a dealer, but Linda Gayle Smith is a **Schacht** dealer now.

There was an article on the state's **goat industry** in *Today in Mississippi* with a picture of Kathy Smith—written by our own Debbie Stringer.

Margaret has two towels that will be in *Early American* magazine, August issue.

Marcy will speak at the opening of the **American Textile Museum** in Lowell, Mass., and will teach in Texas in June.

Marva will teach a **basketry class**; time to be arranged.

Hazel will teach **inkle loom** at DeSoto this summer. Why didn't she do this when I was in girl scouts?

Sheep-to-shawl will be April 12. First shearing at 9 a.m., second at 11 a.m. It will be over at 5 p.m. V.A. Patterson said there will be an out-of-town group attending.

The board of Southeast Fiber Forum is checking on sites for the '99 conference which we will be hosting.

The **spring fiber retreat** will be at Nancy Landrum's house on the weekend of April 19. Lu says we need 10 people to confirm. Send in \$15 by April 1.

At this point we adjourned for lunch at McAllister's. Several members came back to the studio to help assemble the SEFF name tags. They featured gorgeous huck fabric designed by Marcy and woven by Margaret.

Spinning classes scheduled

Tina Bradford will be offering combined beginning and advanced spinning lessons May 10, 8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m., at her home in Vaughan (north of Canton off I-55).

Tina has been spinning various fibers since 1976, when her father built a spinning wheel to decorate her fireplace. Not content to merely look at the wheel, she learned to use it with the help of library books and other spinners, and through trial and error. Today, Tina is a knowledgeable spinner and able instructor.

Class fee is \$75. Bring a bag lunch. If enough people request the advanced class, she may reschedule it to May 24. If you're interested in either class, please call Tina (601-673-9446) as soon as possible so she can order supplies.

Beginners' class: Will include folklore; mechanics of learning to spin; the handling and care of fleece; care of your wheel; opportunity to work on

several types of wheels; spinning techniques of wool and cotton.

Bring drop spindle (if you have one) and a spinning wheel (a *must*). Supplies (fleece and cotton) are included in class fee.

Advanced class: Will cover spinning techniques for specialized fibers such as silks, musk ox, mohair, and brown and white cotton. Course will involve learning to duplicate a yarn's physical structure and identifying the mechanics of your particular wheel (and your elbow) as they relate to your spinning techniques. Supplies (fleece, cotton, specialized fibers) are included in class fee.

Felting with Julia

Julia Kubat led 11 students through the process of making a pair of hand-felted boots during her felting workshop last month. Hazel Howell provided fabulous food and a beautiful setting for the workshop at her house in Canton. By the end of the day everyone had created a pair of boots from mohair, wool or silk roving torn into bits and felted.

"We had a wonderful time, and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience," Melba Nipper said. But Melba said she wasn't anxious to do more felting; it was hard work, with all that rubbing and rubbing and rubbing . . .

Craft shopping among the Amish

by *Debbie Stringer*

While photographing destruction left behind by the tornado that swept Pontotoc County in March, I ventured into a settlement of Amish in the south part of that county.

I begged my driver to hit the brakes when I saw a hand-lettered sign advertising cakes, candies and *baskets* for sale at one of the Amish houses. I had been told that some of these homes have a room in the back where they sell straw hats and such, so we headed to the rear. We were greeted by a young Amish girl who shyly invited us in.

Once inside the tiny room—closed off from the rest of the house—we found counters piled with egg, tulip and picnic baskets. They had been made with purchased supplies and many had been dyed with Rit dyes, she told us. Prices ranged from a few dollars to around \$20. I chose a small undyed tulip basket and my friend picked out a small lidded basket.

On my way out I asked the girl about an unusual rag rug at the door. She said it was a "mud rug," so called because you can shake the mud out of it, and said they were sold at another Amish house a half mile away. We also inspected a huge iron pot of hominy boiling over a fire outside and admired the Amish carriages lined up in a shed nearby.

Next stop was the Amish mud-rug maker's house. Friendly and vivacious, she explained how she used a treadle sewing machine to stitch hundreds of fabric squares onto a backing to make her mud rugs. She prefers to use polyester double knit for her rugs, she said, because it's resilient and washes easily. (Similar Amish scrap rugs appear in the March/April '97 issue of *PieceWork* magazine.)

A rack displayed several multi-colored rugs; I chose one stitched in blues that looked more like denim than double knit and paid her \$10.

Back on the road to the job at hand: photographing tornado damage. But what a fascinating diversion we had shopping for crafts in the land of the Mississippi Amish!

Melba needs help!

Melba Nipper needs your help for a special (secret) project she's planning. She needs your handwoven scraps, 3 inches by 3 inches, or smaller. Please bring your scraps to the April meeting or sheep-to-shawl. Or mail them to her by April 19. She promises to share the project with us at our May meeting. We can't wait!

For sale

Mohair fiber: Kathy Smith has sheared her registered angora goats and is offering kid and adult mohair for \$6.50 per pound (washed). Call Kathy at Willow Creek Farm, 601-854-6441.

Spinning wheels:

Majacraft Tiny Tim traveling spinning wheel, one year old, \$225, plus bobbins. Ashford Traditional scotch tension spinning wheel, five years old. Includes many bobbins and lazy kate. \$150. Contact Heather Gillis at home, 601-264-6263; at work, 1-800-821-7399 (Miss.) or 1-800-321-8750 (WATS).

Dealers

(CWSG members)

Melba Nipper
(Ashford & LeClerc equipment; yarns; fiber), 601-825-3749.

Linda Gayle Smith
(Schacht equipment), 601-426-2264.