

**CWSG**

P.O. Box 1152  
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**Submit newsletter items to:**

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**CALENDAR****Feb. 6**

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

**Feb. 8**

**Jackie Wilson Triaxial  
Weaving Workshop**  
Dyed-in-the-Wool Weavers &  
Spinners Guild; 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Contact Helen Caire, 452-2390.

**Feb. 14**

**Valentine spin-in & dinner**  
at Hazel Howell's house in  
Canton; 6:30 p.m. Details in  
this newsletter.

**Feb. 15**

**CWSG meeting**  
Program: Double Weave Pick-  
up by Jill Hammes. Details and  
map in this newsletter.

**Feb. 27**

**Weave-in, spin-in** at Kathy  
Cohron's, 10 a.m. until. Bring a  
sack lunch. 856-6698.

**Mar. 1**

**Deadline** for newsletter items.

**Mar. 1-31**

**"From Looms to Heirlooms"**  
Dyed-in-the-Wool Weavers and  
Spinners Guild annual show;  
Pass Christian Library.

**Mar. 22**

**Felting workshop with Julia  
Kubat.** Details in this newslet-  
ter.

*continued*

# Chimneyville

## Weavers & Spinners Guild

February 1997 newsletter

**Next meeting: Feb. 15 in Meridian**

Our next meeting will be at Jill Hammes' new weaving studio Feb. 15 in Meridian! Jill will lead a program on double-weave pick-up. We will caravan from Jackson; meet at the Ag Museum parking lot (in front of the Sports Hall of Fame) at 8 a.m. (A map to her house is enclosed with this newsletter). We'll leave by 8:10 so we can be at Jill's around 10 a.m. Jill will provide lunch.

Our business meeting will include an important vote on Marva Goodman's move to host the 1999 Southeast Fiber Forum conference in the Jackson area (details in this newsletter).

See you there!

**A special valentine spin-in**

Hazel Howell will host our next spin-in, Friday, Feb. 14, 6:30 p.m., at her house in Canton (directions follow).

Bring your sweetheart or come solo. Hazel will provide chili. We need to bring the rest: tea, drinks, desserts, side dishes, bread, etc. We don't want our men (or ourselves) to go hungry!

**RSVP:** Please call Hazel to let her know you're coming and what you'll bring (859-4836).

**Directions:** From I-55, take the Canton exit (#119) and turn right (you'll be on Highway 22). Stay on this, going due east. At the courthouse square, it becomes Highway 16 (same road). At the edge of town where hospital is on left and StaHome Health is on right, turn right onto Lakeview Drive (flashing light alerts you). Go one block; turn left onto Sunset Drive. I am 5th house on right (south): long, pink brick with wall—1468 Sunset.

**'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

**January membership drive/meeting minutes**

*by Jane Dollar*

President Kathy Cohron called our meeting to order. Since we had so many visitors (welcome, everyone!), we introduced ourselves. We welcomed:

- Rosalie Nast, who just moved to Meridian and came with Nancy Landrum. She is a past president of the Portland, Ore., guild.
- Margaret Butler, who lives in Jackson and read of our meeting in the paper.
- Julia Kubat and Aggie Hurdle, guests of Marcy's. I don't think they need any introduction to most of us!
- Georgia Polk, 4-H leader from Brandon.

**Mar. 28**

**Deadline for slides for "Reflections: Contemporary Fiber Images,"** a regional juried fiber exhibit. LSASE to Judie Dysart, 1021 Old Tn. Rd. NE, Pine Log, GA 30171.

**Apr. 3-6**

**"Southern Alternatives"**

**1997 Southeast Fiber Forum** in Birmingham. Hosted by the Greater Birmingham Fiber Guild. Contact Jonnie Venglik, 205-822-5855. Kathy Cohron has class schedule. **Update:** Classes are filling rapidly, and some are nearly full. Jan Friedman's class is filled.

**June 27-28**

**R&M Yarns Dollar Day Sale**  
Cartersville, Ga.

## Directory update

Please update your membership directory with this information:

### Correction

Lucille Miller's phone number is 664-0357.

### New members

Milti Leonard  
115 Pecan Blvd.  
Jackson, MS 39209  
355-3937

Adrienne Wendland  
3912 Mesilla Dr.  
Jackson, MS 39212  
H: 371-1692  
W: 932-1333

Yvette DeLeeuw  
112 Bent Creek Dr.  
Brandon, MS 39042  
H: 992-2433

### Friend

Julia Kubat  
2825 Oakridge Ave.  
Madison, WI 53704

- Former member Milti Leonard, of Jackson, who re-upped!
- Adrienne Wendland, from Jackson, read of our meeting and came (and joined the guild).
- Yvette DeLeeuw and Joan Cotter, both members of Marcy's weaving class (and both new CWSG members!)
- And David (Nick) Nichols, Carolyn Nichols' husband, who also weaves.

**Program:** Marcy gave our program, "How to Make an Ugly Color Disappear." In addition to that wonderful item, The Handout, Marcy gave us several tips and recommended several books: Itten's *Elements of Color*, Joseph Albers' *Interaction of Color* and the series *Designer's Guide to Color*, #1-5. She suggested the Color Compass by Grumbacher as a good color wheel. And if you want to weave a color blanket, there is a kit available from The Lunatic Fringe.

She showed us a sample she had done of different colors on the same warp, first in plain weave, then using different structures. Remember that weft will affect color; plan not only the warp. Size of yarn and whether warp face or weft face all play a part. If you need to separate colors to keep them from blending, use a bit of white. If in doubt about the value of colors, photocopy them. This shows them as shades of gray. In addition, use a different number of colors than shafts, and don't use a multiple of that number.

**Martha Garrott sent us a note thanking our guild for the decorations we donated to the Craftsmen's Guild Christmas Tree at Chimneyville.**

**The Craftsmen's Guild made more than \$250 just from our guild!**

**Meeting:** Kathy gave a correction for member Lucille Miller's phone number (incorrectly printed in the Jan. '97 newsletter). The correct number is 664-0357.

Margaret Pittman gave a report on the status of name tags for Fiber Forum. The weaving is in progress, and she'll get with Hazel and Marcy to plan a time for assemblage. Volunteers may be needed.

Marva Goodman gave a short report on the Southeast Fiber Forum—what it is, what goes on, who attends, etc.

Everyone was reminded that the February meeting will be at Jill's in Meridian.

Debbie Levine repeated her invitation to join her for knitting sessions on Saturday afternoons after guild meetings (note: in the weaving studio—not her house as she originally planned).

Everyone was reminded that our own Melba Nipper has a shop and spinning and weaving goodies are available.

Kathy reminded everyone of the weaving, spinning, etc. at her house every month.

Marcy reminded the huck study group of their Feb. 6 meeting.

Debbie Stringer would like to have newsletter items by the first of each month (or at least notification that they're coming).

Julia Kubat is offering a one-day felting workshop, \$20 per person; you furnish supplies. (More info in this newsletter.)

The pink elephant sale had numerous items, most notably one of Nancy Landrum's Malaysian baskets. I still don't know why my number wasn't drawn!

**Show and tell:** Julia showed a woven felted vest and a felted jacket with knit sleeves (reversible, no less!) as well as felted boots. Nick showed a saddle blanket he had woven in double twill with wife Carolyn's cast-off

"The lichens once used to dye Scottish Harris Tweed contain substances that gave the fabric an earthy aroma and reputedly made it moth repellent."

"Lichens: More Than Meets the Eye," *National Geographic*, February 1997

## For sale

**Harrisville loom:** Like new, 36-inch loom. Good beginner loom. Call for price: Barbara Mitchell, Jackson, 601-362-4570.

**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).

yarns. I think he's a keeper, Carolyn! Kathy Smith showed a skein of her 14-year-old daughter's first yarn, plus two baskets Kathy had woven and a rug she's making. Debbie Levine showed a sweater she had made (gorgeous!) and Rainbow Socks knitted by refugees of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Marcy brought her felted hat and the *Spin-Off* article about it. Her tips: it takes about 5 oz. of fiber; cast on tightly and knit loosely (*more tips in this newsletter*). Nancy brought pictures of (and samples of fabric from) her son Greg's Hungarian riding jacket—handwoven, felted and lined. I've been impressed for years; this is just awesome! She also brought a woven Malaysian food cover and a book made by Greg and his wife as a Christmas gift.

Hazel brought her dog hair yarn from "that black poodle that I never thought could be spun." Marcy showed a scarf from handspun dog hair that had felted somewhat. Her comment was that the dog was a "dog."

Guest (and new member) Yvette DeLeeuw showed her first project, a lovely woven belt. Marva brought her first-ever knitting, a cap and a vest made from Barbara Batson's handwoven fabric. Melba brought (just in case we hadn't seen it) the green hand-spun and -dyed, hand-knit scarf she made for her husband, Mike. She also brought the blue jean and wool-blend yarn for which she bought the fiber at Roc Day.

Aggie Hurdle brought her bast fiber notebook on her hemp research. She got started on this through the HGA TLC (Teaching and Learning through Correspondence) program. Debbie Stringer brought resist-dyed fabric samples she'd done when it was cold out and she was suffering from cabin fever. What would she do if she were snowed in? Boy, do I wish I had that energy! Maybe now that I'm retired....

At this point we adjourned to eat, always one of our favorite activities! Many thanks to all who brought the delicious food and special thanks for Carolyn Nichols for coordinating the membership drive and lunch. And double thanks to Nick, who provided muscles and other help. (I *said* he was a keeper, Carolyn!)

## Linda Gayle becomes Schacht distributor

CWSG member Linda Gayle Smith of Stillmeadow Farm Creations is now a distributor for the Schacht Spindle Co., which offers spinning and weaving equipment and accessories. During the past year Schacht has developed many weaving and spinning accessories: closed-bottom boat shuttles, tapes-try bobbins and a support spindle. Each item has been made to Schacht's impeccable specifications using hard maple and Danish oils.

Linda Gayle's prices are lower than shops' and catalogs'. For more information and low price quote, contact Linda Gayle Smith, Stillmeadow Farm Creations, 740 Lower Myrick Road, Laurel, MS 39440; 601-426-2264.

## President's message

by *Kathy Cohron*

**Books, videos:** Let's update our library! Hand in a list of books or tapes you would like to have in our library. If you have one already for your home collection, please bring it to the March meeting.

Each tape or book will be reviewed by four committee members—Sandi Tucker, Marva Goodman, Marcy Petrini and Nancy Landrum—after our March meeting. During our April meeting they will have narrowed the selection down to two or three, and we as a whole guild can make the final decision then.

Dear Huck Study Group members:

Thank you for the lovely pottery from Claudia Cartee. Not only is it really appreciated, but it came as a great surprise. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

I have enjoyed our huck so far and I hope you have, too. I can't wait to see Margaret's weaving for the SEFF name tags—huck, of course!

Have a happy new year!

Marcy

### Study group schedule

This is the schedule for the rest of the year:

- Feb. 6
- Mar. 6
- Apr. 3: Canceled. (We're going to Southeast Fiber Forum, aren't you?)
- May 1
- June 5 We will decide a summer schedule then.

The study group meets at Marcy's house unless otherwise notified in the newsletter (for times when I'm out of town). Come at 6:30 for coffee and 7:00 p.m. for study.

**Montgomery Spinners and Weavers Guild's** new address is:

301 Columbus St.  
Montgomery, AL 36104-3644

If there is a book or video you would like to donate, it will be greatly appreciated. However, purchases must be made through the library committee.

Don't forget your pink elephant! We need the money for books.

**Felting workshop:** Julia Kubat will be giving a workshop on felting slippers March 22. To those people who have signed up for this workshop, please send your \$20 check (payable to Julia Kubat) to CWSG, P.O. Box 1152, Ridgeland, MS 39159. **These checks must be in by March 7.** This way, others on the waiting list can take the empty spots. A list of materials to bring will be mailed March 8, or as soon as I receive your \$20 fee.

You will need 6 oz. of wool, plus a little extra if additional color is desired. Melba Nipper will have this for you if you wish to purchase it from her (let her know as soon as possible so she can have it ready for you).

If you have any questions or would like your name on the waiting list, call Kathy Cohron, 856-6698.

### Education Committee report

by Marcy Petrini

As those attending the January meeting know, Julia Kubat is now in the area and has offered to teach a felting workshop to make slippers. This is not a guild-sponsored event, but I thought guild members would like to know of this opportunity. (See president's report above for more information.)

### Move to host Fiber Forum's 1999 conference

Marva Goodman moves that the Chimneyville Weavers and Spinners Guild propose to the board of directors of the Southeast Fiber Forum to host the 1999 Conference in the Jackson area. Marcy Petrini seconds.

It is imperative that you read the following carefully, as we need to vote on this issue in February. The proposal to the SEFF board is due at the beginning of March for their consideration during the 1997 SEFF conference. If you cannot come to the February meeting, please send your proxy with someone (vote and signature in writing). This is a wonderful opportunity for our guild, but we need your support. If you don't feel that our guild can undertake this event, vote against it. If the event fails because of lack of support later, our guild will look really bad.

It is impossible for us to give you details, as the details will require months of work. Certainly we cannot be expected to line up facilities and workshop/seminar leaders only to find out that our guild is not interested in undertaking this! However, based on discussion with some guild members, with other conference planners, and based on the budget and information provided by the SEFF board, we can provide these details:

1. Marva Goodman and Marcy Petrini would serve as co-chairs of the event. Specifically, Marva would be exhibits chair and Marcy program chair. The rest of the steering committee would be: Rosina Echols, facilities chair; Becky Jefferis, registrar; Margaret Pittman, treasurer; Debbie Stringer, publicity chair. These individuals have agreed to serve, know their responsibilities and are willing to do their share of the work, but not all of it. Under each chair there will be committees, or subcommittees, depending on the circumstances. Everyone who is willing will have the opportunity to participate, even out-of-town guild members. No job is too small. Tasks can be subdivided so that no one individual feels overwhelmed.

2. SEFF would provide us seed money; a separate account would be set

up. SEFF is fiscally responsible for the event, but they also receive most of the profits (profits go toward a fund that would bail out any conference that may fail). SEFF also would be ready to help with advice and would approve the budget prior to the start of the event.

3. We anticipate that every guild member, including steering committee members, be able to attend workshops and seminars. Planning this far in advance would give us the opportunity to be well organized. There should be very little work to do during the actual hours of the event.

4. The steering committee would invite teachers based on guild members' recommendations, SEFF recommendations and results from Convergence '98. We must remember that our guild alone wouldn't be able to support the conference (at least 150 attendees are needed; see item 6 below) and that we must invite teachers who attract the maximum number of attendees possible.

5. Based on past conferences, we would expect the skeleton budget outlined in the box on this page.

This is a proposed skeleton budget; that is, any additional expenses incurred would be passed on to the participants. For example, materials fees to be paid to the instructors would be collected from participants of the particular workshop, etc. The budget purposefully has a buffer for unexpected expenses. The budget would be finalized after determining the best facilities for the money, and 1997 SEFF conference.

6. This is a break-even budget. We expect more than 150 participants, but if by a certain date we don't have 150 signed up, the conference is canceled. Instructors have contracts with cancellation clauses (standard in the conference world). SEFF would lose the seed money already spent, such as printing of the program and a facility deposit.

7. We (Marva and Marcy) realize that a lot

#### **Income**

150 attendees @ \$85 each	\$12,750
25 vendors @ \$100 each	2,500
Sales of promotional items	500
Advertising in the program, 10 @ \$25	250
25 day shoppers @ 20 each	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,500</b>

#### **Expenses**

Facilities	\$5,000
Instructors' fees, 10 @ \$300	3,000
Instructors' transportation	2,000
Printing of program	2,000
Office expenses	1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,000</b>

of the burden of the conference would fall on our shoulders, and we are prepared for that. We both travel, probably more than anyone else in the guild, for educational purposes, and thus if our guild doesn't host this conference we are likely to go wherever it is being held. So, why are we proposing that we do it? For several reasons: our guild seems to really come together best when we are working on a project; there is a lot of pride in having our guild recognized by other guilds for a job well done, as when we hosted Roc Day; and we will do anything to avoid weaving and spinning (just kidding, checking to see if you are still awake).

8. Yes, it is possible that the conference would fail, despite our best efforts, because of unexpected events. Every conference undertaken runs that risk; Jackson could flood, we could have a tornado. But most of us don't live our lives planning with those unlikely odds in mind. Our guild is taking a risk to reap a benefit. It's up to you to decide whether the risk is worth taking.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Marva Goodman & Marcy Petrini*

# *Hints for Knitting a Felt Hat*

by Marcy Petrini

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1. Knit loosely; the finished, pre-washed hat should be very floppy and the fabric should be sleazy (in the old meaning of the word).
2. In the Spin-Off article I said the size of the yarn should be 10-12 wraps per inch. That number was not a mistake! Yes, the yarn is much thinner than you would normally use for those size needles, but that's necessary to allow room for the fiber to shrink during felting.
3. Be mindful that not all animal fibers felt the same way. Also, don't forget that different animal fibers have different densities. For example, mohair is denser than wool. The finished hat should be firm, but light. You are making a hat, not a helmet!
4. An ideal hat will be felted to completion. By that I mean that, if you wash it another time, no more shrinkage will occur. But this may result in a hat too small for your head; to avoid a hat too small, check it during the third washing, and any washing after that. Felting is not a process easily reversed.
5. If the hat is slightly too small for your head, it can be stretched somewhat. Do it right after the last washing and put it on your head until partially dry. You can also use a head form or a bowl.
6. An ideal hat will not show the knitting; that is, one shouldn't know how the hat was produced. This is very important. Hats that show a ribbing-like effect from the knitting are not felted correctly, usually because the yarn used was too thick, the knitting was too tight, the fiber didn't felt well, or a combination of these factors. These hats also tend to be way too big for anybody's head and too heavy.
7. To make a brim that will not flop, cast on tightly (but don't forget to knit loosely!). If you tend to cast on loosely, try casting on 100 stitches, knitting one row, then increasing to 110 on the second row. To fix a finished hat with a brim too floppy, use a blanket stitch around the edge of an already felted hat; crochet, if necessary, on the blanket stitch until the brim is as tight as desired; wash the hat again (if the hat is felted to completion, this won't change the portion of the hat already felted) or leave unfelted.
8. If you are unsure of your knitting or your fiber, you will have to make a sample. Make sure the sample is either knitted in the round, or sewn after knitting so as to form a round shape. Flat stockinette knitting will be distorted when felted.