

CWSG

P.O. Box 1152
Ridgeland, MS 39159

Submit newsletter items to:

Debbie Stringer
2534 Crestleigh Manor
Jackson, MS 39204
home: 601-373-6292
office: 601-922-2341
office fax: 601-922-9869
e-mail: Metheniac@aol.com

CALENDAR**Nov. 14**

Spin-in
at Hazel Howell's.

Nov. 15

CWSG meeting
10 a.m., in the weaving studio
above the Craftmen's Guild of
Mississippi Crafts Gallery, Miss.
Ag and Forestry Museum,
Lakeland Drive in Jackson

Nov. 15

**"From the Heart" crafts
show**

with 13 exhibitors, including
Margaret Pittman, at the
Reservoir Fire Station Commu-
nity Room, 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Margaret will show string
angels, Christmas tassels and
Victorian pins. She invites
members to stop by after the
Guild meeting that morning.

Jan. 10**Roc Day**

in Baton Rouge with Bayou
Yarn Benders

Jan. 16-17

**"Ya Gotta Be Warped to
Weave"**

workshop with Michele Belson
of the Lunatic Fringe; Jackson.
Details in this newsletter.

continued

Chimneyville

Weavers & Spinners Guild

November 1997 newsletter

Next meeting: Nov. 15

The program for our November meeting will be on marketing.

Important: If you plan to contribute any fiber ornaments to the guild's Christmas tree during the Chimneyville Crafts Festival, please bring your ornaments to the November meeting.

We'll enjoy something out of the ordinary for lunch, while helping feed hungry people to boot! Stewpot Community Services will offer "Empty Bowls" soup lunches on the porch of the Crafts Gallery. We get to eat a hot lunch from handmade and painted bowls (ours to keep for a donation), and Stewpot raises funds for its programs.

The meeting schedule:

9:30 a.m. — coffee, set up for show and tell, shopping tables
10 - 11 — program on marketing
11 - 11:30 — coffee, show and tell, shopping tables
11:30 - 12 — business meeting
12 - 1 — lunch at the porch
1 - 2:30 — handwork in the studio
2:30 — travel to Margaret's show at the reservoir

Agenda for business meeting:

(see October newsletter for motions)

1. Minutes
2. Fiber Trust motion
3. Motions for CWSG sponsoring of events
4. Motions for guild directory
5. Motions for Sheep-to-Shawl funds for library
6. Budget (in this newsletter)
7. Chimneyville Festival Tree (Jane Dollar)
8. Loom Crawl (Holly Redford)
9. January meeting
10. New business
11. Adjournment

'97-'98 CWSG board

- **President:** Marcy Petrini, 957-1423
- **Vice president:** Sharon Williams, 233-2990
- **Treasurer:** Margaret Pittman, 956-1478
- **Secretary:** Jane Dollar, 323-7079
- **Historian:** Marva Lee Goodman, 992-0383
- **Ex-officio member:** Kathy Cohron, 856-6698

Members demonstrate at Pioneer & Indian Festival

by Marva Goodman

(The Pioneer & Indian Festival, held Oct. 24-25 at the Crafts Center on the Natchez Trace, preempted our regular October meeting, so we have no meeting minutes to report. Marva led mini weaving workshops during the Pioneer and Indian Crafts Sampler on Friday; on Saturday, she and other guild members demonstrated spinning and weaving.)

Crafts Sampler

The first Pioneer and Indian Crafts Sampler was a huge success, as far as I am concerned. The fiber sampler for children was weaving a rug for a mug on a small Styrofoam meat tray. This was turned into necklaces by some of the students.

Calendar, *continued*

Jan. 18-24

Introduction to Network Drafting with Alice Schlein

at John C. Campbell Folk School, Brasstown, N.C. Call 1-800-FOLK-SCH or visit their web site: www.grove.net/~jccfs.

Jan. 21-25

10th January Spin-in

at Destin, Fla.; \$10 registration due by Dec. 15. Call Nancy Kahrs, 850-897-5011.

Feb. 7-8

Spinning Workshop

with Rita Buchanan, hosted by New Orleans Weavers Guild. Contact Jackie Schweitzer, 504-764-8094, or Maureen Preau, 504-482-3546.

Feb. 23-25

LunaSea

fiber retreat at Sandestin Beach Hilton, 10 miles east of Destin. Details in this newsletter.

Third Annual SWIC Spinning Retreat

May 27-31

at Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center, south of Alexandria, La. Deposit required by Jan. 3. For registration form, call Debbie Stringer, 601-373-6292.

Directory update

Please update your membership directory with this information:

New members

Nancy Olson
1428 Wisteria Dr.
Vicksburg, MS 39180

Joan Henderson
Rt. 3 Box 116
Carrollton, MS 38917

Welcome Nancy and Joan!

I made and warped 200 of the looms, then wound 200 shuttles ready for weaving. Using a shed stick to open the warp and insert the shuttle, students wove a small sample, tied it off, and proudly took home their finished piece, instruction sheet, and the loom and accessories.

This almost would have been an impossible task without help from guild members. *Huge thanks* go to Hazel Howell, Melba Nipper, Susan Davis, Sarah Davis, and Lu Harding. Also helping were Angela Goodman and three Ridgeland Middle School students. A monetary donation to the guild treasury will be made thanks to their donation of time.

Pioneer and Indian Day

Rain put a damper on the day but let up enough that everyone had a great time. Lots of visitors to the Crafts Center participated in activities and watched demonstrations of earlier times. The old bee hive oven proved very popular, as Debbie Levine was one of the bread makers. Margaret Pittman sold her wonderful hand-woven articles in a booth.

Guild members Hazel Howell, Kathy Smith, Nancy Landrum, Heather Gillis, Melba Nipper, Marva Goodman, Lu Harding, Debbie Stringer and Sherrie Lee demonstrated a wide variety of fiber activities. Nancy had a treadle loom set up on the porch (out of the damp) alongside Hazel and her traditional spinning wheel, on which she was spinning brown cotton.

Sherrie used a table loom, and Kathy wove on a triangle loom and her rigid heddle loom, which husband Terry made. Lu spun cotton on a modern Reeves wheel, while Marva spun angora on a traditional Saxon Reeves wheel. Melba Nipper spun wool from her own sheep! Heather spun wool blended with denim fibers on a Tiny Tim Majacraft wheel. Debbie demonstrated the ancient art of card weaving on a card loom.

Many thanks go to Martha Garrott for all her work in preparing for these two days. Many people have a greater understanding of how people lived in the very early days of this country.

Guild study group focuses on Summer & Winter

by Marcy Petrini

The Guild study group met Oct. 9 to start discussing Summer & Winter. We talked about where S&W fits in the classifications of weaves, we covered the basics of the structure and we decided to begin weaving samples described in chapter 1 of Donna Sullivan's book. Those who missed the study group session and are interested in participating are encouraged to read that first chapter and weave whatever they would like from the described samples.

Samples from the Huck study group will be distributed soon. If you still have a loom with the Huck samples, please bring the loom to the next study group, or bring it to my house before the meeting.

Demonstrating? Please let Melba know

Out of our long-range planning session during the September meeting came the consensus that the Guild needed more visibility in public (demonstrations, etc.) to promote itself, as well as fiber arts in general, and attract new members.

Toward this end, Melba Nipper has agreed to serve as chair of the guild's community services effort. As such, Melba will serve as a sort of clearinghouse for information on who is demonstrating where and when.

If you plan to demonstrate spinning, weaving or any fiber work at a function—crafts show, historical re-enactment, arts festival, school, etc.—please let

Melba know the details and whether you need to solicit guild volunteers to help. Melba will compile this information in a report to appear in the newsletter.

We appreciate Melba's efforts and hope this arrangement will

Well said

No one cares how much you know,
until they know how much you care.

—submitted by Margaret Pittman

Chimneyville Weavers & Spinners Guild 1997-98 Budget*

Income	
Memberships	\$700
White- <i>elephant</i> sales	120
Equipment rental	80
Raffle	100
Retreat	300
Workshops	500
Total	\$1,800
Expenditures	
Postage, newsletter	\$200
Photocopying newsletter	120
Library	220
Equipment upkeep	80
Christmas tree	50
Expenses	
Membership drive	50
Sheep-to-Shawl	50
Gifts for retiring board	50
HGA membership & Fibertrust	140
Retreat	300
Workshops	500
PO box	40
Total	\$1,800
From reserves for library	\$200

* This is a draft. Please bring suggestions, changes, etc. to the November meeting for discussion during the business meeting.

For sale

Table loom: LeClerc 15-inch, 4-shaft loom; 2 reeds, raddle. \$200. Call Kathy Smith, 601-854-6441.

Hand towels: Margaret Pittman is offering her red-and-black handwoven hand towels at the same price as her twill and log cabin towels. Weavers' and craftsmen's discounts apply. Offer good through December. (Margaret will have a booth at Chimneyville.)

result in better-organized fiber demonstrations—and maybe more of them.

Belson's warping workshop set for Jan. 16-17

by Marcy Petrini

"Ya Gotta Be Warped to Weave" workshop by Michele Belson of the Lunatic Fringe will be Friday, Jan. 16, and Saturday, Jan. 17, 1998. It will cover warping from the back, with or without a paddle, using a raddle, threading accurately and easily, and a wonderful tie-on method. This way is suitable for both floor looms and table looms, but *not* for inkle, rigid heddles, backstraps and lap looms.

The workshop will be Friday night for about 1 1/2 hours for an introduction starting at 7 p.m., and all day Saturday. There will be snacks at 7 p.m. for workshop participants. Optional group dinner will follow the workshop.

The cost to each participant will be \$50, payable to the guild (if the motion about guild events passes at the November meeting), plus the cost of a kit of your own choosing, payable directly to Michele at the workshop. However, you *must* order the kit ahead of time. The \$50 fee will cover Michele's fee and expenses, calculated for a break-even point of 10 participants. Choices for the kits are listed in the Lunatic Fringe catalog (if you don't have one, information is on its way). Michele's fee is \$200 plus 31 cents/mile x 400 miles.

You can take the workshop in one of three ways: 1) You can bring a loom (table or floor), warp it while at the workshop, then take it home to weave off; 2) you can bring a table loom, warp it while at the workshop, then prepare another warp for a floor loom to take home and put on; 3) you can prepare a warp to take home, observe the dressing of the loom, and perhaps practice some of the steps at the loom available for demonstrations.

There will probably be an on-going weaving class at the weaving studio; thus, most, if not all, the looms will be tied up. Any remaining looms will be rented by the Craftsmen's Guild pending availability; the warp then will have to be woven off no later than the end of February, at times when the Chimneyville Crafts Gallery is open (but *not* during class time, unless you are enrolled in the class).

Shopping with Michele of the Lunatic Fringe will be Friday, Jan. 16, 1998, at Chimneyville Crafts from 4 to 7 p.m. You do not have to take the workshop to come shop, but shopping will end *promptly* at 7 p.m. because of the workshop.

January meeting: Because the workshop will occur during a regularly scheduled guild weekend (there were no others available), we have several choices of how to handle the situation: 1) have a business meeting at noon Saturday, Jan. 17, but skip the program and the membership drive; 2) have a business meeting and get together Saturday, Jan. 17, at night but skip the program and membership drive; 3) either 1 or 2, but move the membership drive to February; 4) postpone the meeting, program and membership drive to the next weekend.

LunaSea fiber retreat set for Feb. 20-25

The folks at the Lunatic Fringe invite you to LunaSea '98, a fiber retreat filled with seminars, intensive workshops, classes, shopping, special events and fun.

The event is organized into two parts: The first three days, Feb. 20-22, offer weekend seminars, half-day classes, a marketplace, and other events. On Feb. 23-25, LunaSea offers intensive three-day workshops with an instructor for more in-depth exploration.

LunaSea instructors include Marcy Petrini, Madelyn van der Hoogt, Norman Kennedy, Lois Ericson, Jackie Ericson-Switzer, Bonnie Inouye, Ingrid Boesel, Doramay Keasbey and many more.

Topics include Weaving Puppets (guess who?), Shaker Textiles, Peyote & Beyond, Triaxial Weaving, Color Blending for Knitters, The Warping War, Fiber Jewelry, Knitting Machines, Introduction to Weaving, Embroidery Embellishment, Beaded Fringes, History of Scottish Textiles, Secret Baskets, Kumihumo and much, much more.

A LunaSea weekend pass is \$175 and includes three seminar sessions, vendor mall admission, exhibits and prizes. Add a fourth session for \$35 more.

Registration for the three-day intensive workshops is \$140.

SEFF update

At the SEFF conversations after the September meeting, the group informally decided the use the slogan "And the Beat Goes On . . ."

Demonstrations

compiled by Melba Nipper

Recent spinning and/or weaving demonstrations by CWSG members:

Kathy Smith & Melba Nipper

10/7 Miss. Homemaker Volunteers

10/21-22 Miss. Soil & Conservation Fair (for fifth graders)

10/23 Central Miss. Sewing Guild

Marva Goodman

10/21-22 Miss. Soil & Conservation Fair

10/24 Children's Samper, Trace Crafts Center

Hazel Howell

10/4 Porter's Creek Herb Farm Fall Festival

10/9 South Hills Library, Jackson

10/15 Nichols Middle School, Canton

Linda Gayle Smith

10/4 Lauren Rogers Museum of Art, Laurel

If you have demonstrated or plan to demonstrate a fiber craft, please let Melba Nipper know.

LunaSea will be held at the Sandestin Beach Hilton Golf & Tennis Resort, located 10 miles east of Destin. LunaSea participants get the special rate of \$89 per night (plus \$6/day resort fee and 9% tax) for up to four adults in a Junior Suite. Rooms have two double beds, an alcove with bunk beds and a balcony with a gulf view. To make hotel reservations, call 800-445-8667.

For more information, call the LunaLine, 800-483-8749.

President's letter

by Marcy Petrini

I love to travel because of the inspiration it provides. I am just back from traveling in New England and SOAR, where I was inspired by the great fall foliage colors, by the fibers at the market, finished products in the Gallery and at the fashion show, and the four wonderful seminars I took. And even the Ben and Jerry ice-cream parlor with its crazy colors provided inspirations and new color blending possibilities.

Attending SOAR and other conferences provides me a breath of opportunities I simply cannot find at home. But, never, I repeat, never have I found that the quality of the best work elsewhere is better than the best our guild has to offer. Marva Lee Goodman's and Jane Dollar's spinning is as good as the best I have seen at SOAR. I have never seen a more creative use of dyeing and its application to weaving than what Margaret Pittman does. Sharon Williams' garments are as elegant and gorgeous as any I have seen in fashion shows. And the list goes on.

We are small, so we don't have the breadth. But what we lack in quantity we make up in quality. Let's not fall into the trap that an "expert" is someone who is more than 500 miles away! Let's cherish what we have.

I must share with you a fairy tale that Patsy Zawistowski told the cotton spinning class. It applies well to my cotton spinning, but it is applicable to any of our work:

One upon a time there was a virtuous maiden who at night picked up all the waste fiber from the spinners and all the waste threads from the spinners and weavers, and made herself a gown so beautiful that it impressed the prince, who married her. The moral of the story is: unless you are looking for a man, you don't need to be a virtuous maiden!

How many times have I tried to salvage broken threads in my spinning (especially cotton)? And I am sure I am not the only one! It only serves to waste time and break up the rhythm of spinning. How many times have we tried to salvage knotted yarns and junky yarns? Time is more valuable than a few yards of thread, and certainly we don't enjoy the process.

So, as Ben and Jerry would say, "If it's not fun, why do it?"

Keep those wheels turning and those shuttles flying!

Chimneyville Christmas Tree: Jane Dollar will serve as the chair for this committee. But Jane cannot do it alone, so don't forget to volunteer!