

**CHIMNEYVILLE Weavers &
SPINNERS GUILD**
P.O. BOX 16888
JACKSON, MS 39236-6888

March 2003

CWSG CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**GUILD MEETING Saturday, March 15,
10 a.m. at the Weaving Studio, Ag
Museum***

[REFRESHMENTS – Donna Germany]

**Fiber Forum 2003 - “Riverscape” March 28-30
Simpsonwood Retreat/Conference Center.,
Norcross, GA**

**Sheep-to-ShawlApril 12
Mississippi Agricultural Museum**

Chimneyville Weavers & Spinners Guild meets the third Saturday of each month, September-May, at 10 a.m. in the weaving studio of the Chimneyville Craftsmen’s Guild Building, Agricultural and Forestry Museum, Lakeland Drive, Jackson, Mississippi, unless otherwise announced.

Submissions for Newsletter

Deadline for items submitted for publication in the forthcoming issue of the CWSG Newsletter is the fifth day of that month.

EXCUSE, PLEASE!

(or, What is a “Workshop”, Anyway?)

It has been brought to our collective attention that we should differentiate between an official “workshop” – which is Guild-sponsored, and Guild-supported financially – and other kinds of projects that are taught by our own members.

Therefore, the actual “workshops” that should have been reported under consideration last month are those by (1) Su Butler; and (2) Laura Fry. (The others listed should be classified otherwise, but your Editor can’t come up with the nomenclature right now.) We will discuss workshops further at the March meeting, and possibly add some more candidates. *(Thank you, Marcy. Sometimes we miss the details!)*



MARCH PROGRAM

NEEDLE FELTING with ANN HAYNE

Preparation & Supplies List

At the March meeting we will look at needle felting – in hopes of deducting “felt” from the list of foul four letter words. Unlike wet felting, this form requires no water or Herculean physical effort and makes use of odds and ends of fleece, bits of yarns and locks.

There will be books to look at with the work of Birgitte Hansen from Denmark, Ayala Talpau from the USA and the recently published book, Needle Felting: Art Techniques and Projects by Anne Einset Vickrey, one of the earliest felt instructors in the country, who combines the felt traditions of Norway and craft education and activities for children.

The North American Felters’ Network (NAFN) website offers a wealth of information on needle felting and traditional felting...for those of you who just can’t wait until our meeting. There you will find instructions for making dolls – holiday ornaments – and resources for needles and fleece that is especially good for needle felting.

For those of you who want to try your hand at needle felting, I will have needles you can use or purchase for \$1.00 each. Please bring a sponge or piece of foam that is at least three inches thick and 4” X 8” for the work surface. You may be able to find a bone-shaped sponge with the automotive cleaning products in a grocery store, or a foam pillow form in the back of your closet, either will work very well. The needles are very sharp and the thick sponge will protect the work surface, be it the table or your leg. I like to put the bone sponge in a shoe box – that allows some room for bits of fleece and yarn I plan to use on the project. The larger pillow form fits well in an old hatbox and these boxes provide a little extra protection from the needle, should I get a little too excited about the project at hand.

Please look at the fleece that you have on hand. Short course fibers work best for the core or center of an object and short finer fibers best for the outer decorative surface. Wool yarns and locks can add interest and texture. Please bring enough fiber to form a sphere about the size of a large grapefruit. I will have some core fiber people are welcome to use, but ... the color is light blue. We will consider how to make a head with the features of a nose, eyes, mouth, ears and personality. Some may prefer to make Easter Eggs and decorate them with yarns and colored fiber.

WHO DUN IT?

Local artist George Ann McCullough received a fuzzy purple/blue scarf, handknit we think, as a gift. It was purchased at one of our Gravity shows, and she would like to know who made it. Anyone own up to it?

(She loves it, by the way....)

GOT FIBER?

George Ann McCullough is interested in using interesting bits of fiber in some multimedia works that she is doing. If you have any odd handfults that might interest her, please get them to Deborah Levine, who will pass them along. George Ann is willing to pay for them, by the way. Call Deborah if you need more info – 362-6694.

GOT GUILT?

(It's really not our fault!)



A recent study has indicated that fibers give off certain pheromones that hypnotize women and cause them to purchase ungodly amounts of fiber. When stored in large quantities in enclosed spaces, the pheromones in the fibers cause memory loss and induce the nesting syndrome, similar to the one squirrels have before the onset of winter, such as storing food. The species is perpetuated and there's no population loss due to their kind being cut up into pieces and mixed with others.

Sound tests have also revealed that these fibers emit a very high-pitched sound, heard by only a select few, known as spinners and weavers. When played backward, the sounds are heard as chants—"Buy me, spin me, weave me!"

In order to overcome the so-called feeding frenzy effect that these fibers cause, one must wear a face mask when entering a storage facility, and use ear plugs to avoid being pulled into their grip. Imagine the sight of customers in a fiber/yarn store wearing World War II army gas masks and head sets.

Studies have also indicated that aliens have inhabited the Earth, helping to spread the effect these fibers have on the human population. These aliens are called fiber store clerks!

Furthermore, pheromones seem to cause a pathological need to secret the fiber purchases away when one takes them home and blends them into the existing stash. When asked by a significant other if the fiber/yarn is new, the reply is, "Oh, I've had it for a while!"

--(Pilfered from "Tall Yarns"-SWIC, which pilfered and adapted it from Barbara Gash, Knight-Ridder Newspapers)

The Board of Directors, 2002

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WORKSHOP COMMITTEE REPORT

Contemplate & Come Prepared To Vote

After polling members and looking at exactly what Su Butler offers, your workshop committee has decided on the following:

We recommend inviting Su to come for three days around November 15. We will request that she give the "Understanding Rayon Chenille" workshop over two of those days and use what she needs of the third day to judge our show.

The cost of this workshop may be close to \$100 per person. (This is not yet a definite figure but is based on our estimate of the cost, including airfare, food, and Su's charge for the third day.) Because of this high cost, we would like to suggest that CWSG subsidize each student who is a member of our guild and a member of HGA for a part of that cost, what part to be decided at our meeting of March 15. We would also like to suggest that if we have any open slots after our members sign up that we open enrollment to members of other guilds; these participants would pay full cost.

At the meeting we will need to vote on several things:

- (1) Whether we want to have this workshop at all;
- (2) Whether CWSG will subsidize part of the cost as suggested above; and,
- (3) Whether we open enrollment to members of other guilds

Once we get guild approval we will finalize terms with Su Butler and will have a definite cost for the workshop.

Other Potential Workshops:

- (1) Painted Warp with Linda Weghorst from Memphis
- (2) Laura Fry will be in Cincinnati in April 2004. This would be a good time for us to take advantage of her expertise at a lower cost than if we had to fly her from British Columbia.
- (3) We will be offering the art quilt "workshop" free to members in July 2003.

Please be ready to discuss these possibilities at the meeting March 15. If you will not be at the meeting and would like to share an opinion, please feel free to contact me at 362-6694 or chaires@peoplepc.com.

-Deborah Levine

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY MEETING

The February program was given by Jac Lynn Wilson on posture for fiber-related activities. Jac Lynn is a massage therapist and personal trainer along with a host of other impressive credentials. She stressed the importance of "keeping everything where it belongs." It is amazing how much her tips help when practicing this at home – when I can remember it!

Debbie called the meeting to order. There were no additions or corrections to minutes, no old business and no new business.

Donna Germany reported on plans for Sheep-To-Shawl [S-T-S] to be held on April 12 at the Ag Museum. She will check with Melba for sheep or bring one of her alpacas. Jane Dollar's son-in-law may be able to shear if no one else is available. S-T-S will be cancelled in the event of rain. Joan Henderson mentioned the possibility of holding next year's S-T-S in conjunction with the Highland Games (being held on March 22 this year). Marva will check with Kit Barksdale to see what is scheduled for this year as an informal come-and-go demonstration. We may need to work with those in charge of the Highland Games. Jac Lynn Wilson will be PR person for S-T-S.

Workshops were discussed and due to the urgency of schedules, it was decided that the weekend of November 15 would be reserved for a workshop with Su Butler. It will be held in conjunction with our annual show, which Su will judge if the guild decides to have the workshop.

The Art Quilt "workshop" will be held in July and taught by Debbie Stringer and Margaret Pittman, location to be announced.

The March program will be in needle felting and taught by Ann Hayne. Many of you will remember the felted items Ann brought to the January meeting as Show and Tell.

The May program will be given by Joan Henderson in dyeing with Kool-Aid and food color. Plan to bring some type of animal fiber and your favorite flavor of Kool-Aid.

Marva reminded us that it is still time to register for Southeast Fiber Forum being held on the last weekend in March in Norcross, GA.

She will be working with the children at Vine St Elementary on a date this person can't remember, and also at Art at Work on February 20 for Rankin County high school students.

Personal announcements: Donna Germany has started a Knitting Meet-up in Natchez. It is held at 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Comfort Suites in Vidalia, LA. Sorry that I don't remember the night.

(minutes, continued)

Jac Lynn enlightened us on the knitting meet-ups being held in Jackson. There are evening and morning groups.

Jane has a new washer and dryer in her new house.

We want to keep Jane, Doug, Kate and especially Allen in our thoughts and prayers as he has been activated with the 82nd Airborne.

Even with a small group there was plenty to show and tell. Donna Germany showed her first knitting project, which is going to be a nice scarf.

Jeanne Brand showed her first Mississippi project from Andrea Thompson's class, a nice pine straw wall basket.

Marva showed us the Ragged Quilt she had made for Project Linus.

Jac Lynn, knitter extraordinaire, showed a baby sweater and a hat that glows in the dark.

Carolyn Campbell cross-stitched, as part of a project, the Fireman's Prayer for one of the families of those lost on 9/11/01.

Jane is knitting a sweater. I forget who the lucky recipient is.

Jac Lynn passed around a neat watch that she proposed as White Elephant. We all agreed it was an auction item!

Debbie adjourned the meeting and those who wanted went out for lunch.

[Thanks so much to Margaret Pittman for serving as secretary in my absence! - sgt]

LearntoKnit-LearntoKnit-LearntoKnit

Deborah Levine will be offering the following courses in the Millsaps Enrichment Spring session:

(1) **"Beginning Knitting"** –
6 weeks, starting April 1, 6-8 p.m.

(2) **"Learn to Knit Afghan –
A Stitch Technique Class"**–
8 weeks, starting April 3, 6-8 p.m. Look for the brochure coming out in early March for more info.
