

Chimneyville Weavers and Spinners Guild

November 2021

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Logo image adapted from image
graciously provided by Marcy Petrini at
<https://www.marcypetrini.com/>

Message from the President: Giving thanks!

From Nancy Hester, President

Dear Members,

November is the time of year when I start reflecting on the past months, and on all the things for which I am grateful. Very near the top of the list is the Chimneyville Weavers and Spinners Guild.

I am so thankful for the friendship and support our guild community brings, and for continued learning. November is also a time to both remember and treasure our past and consider our future in weaving and spinning. I hope that you will consider sharing your skills and talents with our weaving community.



CWSG Fall Program Schedule

Submitted by Debra Sue Pate

November 20th: "Convergence in Our Back Yard"

HGA's biennial conference takes place July 14-18, 2022 in Knoxville TN (a mere 7 hours by car from Jackson). Convergence offers an extravaganza of fiber experiences and can be expensive. Regular attendee Beth Palmer will share some of what makes Convergence special and offer tips on how to make the most of Convergence on a budget.

December 12th: Virtual Christmas Crawl

Many thanks to Debbie Stringer who has volunteered to coordinate our gift exchange and the other party festivities. If you are participating in the gift exchange, please mail your gift no later than November 30th. Gifts should be something handmade (by you or another) or a fiber-related item.

Other Happenings this Month

Submitted by Nancy Hester and Janet Lee

Stringer Alpaca Festival, November 20th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This festival allows people a chance to check out alpacas up close and personal. The back porch area is open to fiber art demonstrations, including spinning, weaving and carding. Admission is free. You can find more information at <https://www.astrokageneusalpacas.com/stringeralpacafestival>

Shave 'Em to Save 'Em Hat and Scarf Challenge, November 3rd to December 8th

In this four-class fiber challenge led by expert knitter Margaret Radcliffe of Maggie's Rags, participants will make a hat and scarf using wool from breeds of rare sheep on the Conservation Priority List. While these tutorials will be focused on knitting, participants are welcome to create a hat and scarf using any fiber techniques they choose. [Register for the Hat and Scarf Fiber Challenge.](#)

Wovember, month of November

Wovember began in 2011 as a yearly event in November to celebrate wool and its unique qualities in stories and pictures throughout the month and to effect changes in the garment and textile industry that often incorrectly describes and markets items as wool. Go to <http://wovember.com/> for information and inspiration on campaigns through 2018. Interested in participating this year? You can find many daily prompts and are encouraged to use the hashtag #Wovember during this month to share your woolly content on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. [Anne | I Thought I Knew How \(@ithoughtiknewhow\)](#) has daily prompts as well as a challenge with prizes. Not into social media? No problem, you can simply weave with wool, wear it, share it, or learn more about it.

CWSG Fall Program Schedule

September 18, 2021

"Exploring Color Combinations"

Presented by Judy Busby

October 16, 2021

"Textiles and Tea Video and Conversation"

Presented by Debra Sue Pate

November 20, 2021

"Convergence in Our Back Yard"

Presented by Beth Palmer

December 12, 2021

Virtual Christmas Crawl

HGA Textiles and Tea

Each Tuesday at 4 pm (EST), HGA hosts a conversation with some of the most respected fiber artists in the field today. They are broadcast via Zoom and free to view and open to all. Full schedule at weavespindye.org

November 2, 2021: Bhakti Ziek sponsored by Heddlecraft

November 9, 2021: Deann Rubin generously sponsored by Green Shades

November 16, 2021: Alanna Wilcox sponsored by Green Shades

November 23, 2021: TBD sponsored by Green Shades

November 30, 2021: Char Norman sponsored by Weavers Guild of St. Louis in Memory of Laura Blumenfeld

2022 Mini Roc Day

Roc Day (also known as Saint Distaff's Day) is the day after the feast of the Epiphany, and in many European cultural traditions the day women resumed their household work after the twelve days of Christmas. The distaff, or rock, used in spinning was the medieval symbol of women's work.

A small, scaled-down version of ROC Day will be held at the William Waller Craft Center on January 8, 2022. For those who can join in on the fun, there will be opportunities to demo, eat some potluck, and perhaps draw for prizes. **Please contact Nancy Hester if you can help coordinate this event.**

Twice as Much Fun: Playing with Energized Yarn

By Donna Peyton

I had heard of energized singles, but had never thought of working with them, since I tend to like plied yarns better. However, an article in Spin-Off made me want to try an experiment with energized singles in plied yarn and see how the yarn reacted.

The article is "Opposing Plies: and the Quest for Elasticity" in the Winter 2021 issue by Heavenly Bresser. Bresser experimented with using energized singles to make the plied yarn more elastic and stretchier. I thought that recreating this experiment to see for myself how stretchy the yarn could be would be a fun idea. This will take some time, since I have work and graduate school, but I will present updates throughout this year as I continue to try different plies with different amounts of energized singles.

My first attempt will be a 3-ply with two singles spun clockwise or Z twist and one singles spun counterclockwise or S twist. In the picture, the first two spindles are the Z twist and the last one on the far right is the S twist. Next month I will give an update of the yarn itself with knitted and woven swatches.



Spinning Energized Singles

How I Spent My Summer Vacation

Submitted by Kathy Perito

As some of you know, last year my husband and I left the central Mississippi area. We now spend much of our time on our farm in Pearl River County, just north of New Orleans. Being on the farm, when spring came around, along with my vegetable garden, I decided to try my luck growing cotton. Here's how things went.

I was able to purchase Sea Island Brown cotton seed from an heirloom seed company. I carefully measured the depth and spacing and planted my seeds directly in the prepared garden beds. And then the torrential spring rains came. At one point, we received 14" of rain over a two-day period. Since my seeds had not yet germinated, I had little hope of seeing any cotton plants. But I continued to keep the beds mulched and tended, just in case. To my surprise, by early June, plants began to emerge. They did not, however, maintain that carefully planned and measured spacing I had arranged. Several seeds floated around the garden and I ended up with some plants clustered together.

By early July the plants were getting robust. With so many pink and white blossoms, I was sure it would be a good harvest. And by late July bolls began to appear. By mid-August, everything looked good except the threatening skies.

Then along came Ida. Although some of the bolls had begun to split open, the plants had been knocked down and were laying in the grass around the beds. I thought my cotton experiment was coming to an end, so I harvested what I could.

As it turns out, cotton plants love warm, sunny autumn days. By October, the plants were once again reaching for the sky and producing more blossoms and bolls. Looks like I can continue harvesting until the first frost!

Now, what to do with all these cotton bolls? I began "ginning" by hand. These brown cotton seeds are fairly smooth, so they are not too difficult to pull from the bolls. It's very time consuming extracting each seed by hand but can be very therapeutic. I did give a try to the pasta maker ginning process. While this is a much quicker way to separate seeds from the fiber, some seeds became crushed and the fiber compressed a bit. I'm back to removing seeds by hand.

I am looking forward to ginning, carding and spinning my home-grown cotton this winter.



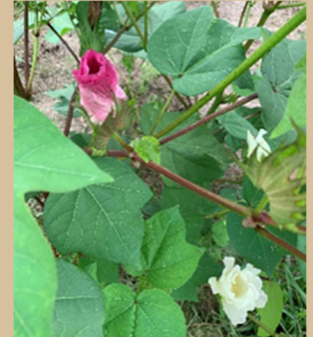
Processing Cotton

Photo Timeline

Early June Cotton Plants



Early July Cotton Blossoms



Late July Cotton Bolls



Mid-August Cotton



Post Ida Cotton Plants



Workshop Junkie

"Y'all know what a weaving workshop junkie I am. After retirement and before Covid, I probably took three or four workshops each year. I love gathering with like-minded fiber friends to focus a few days on learning something new. I'm always baffled when folks start packing up during the morning of our last day together. I'm usually the last one to leave the room!"

- Beth Palmer

Online Hands-on Workshop

Look for online workshops where the instructor is available on zoom while you weave or spin. This hands-on guidance mimics an in-person classroom experience and works great.

Hybrid Model Workshop

In person workshops have the advantage of interacting and learning from other students as well as getting to touch and feel any samples the teacher brings. Having a hybrid approach with some zoom attendees as well is a good option for those who can't attend but can cause the instructor's attention to be too divided.

Observations from a Workshop Junkie

Submitted by Beth Palmer

Y'all know what a weaving workshop junkie I am. The pandemic placed a temporary hold on in-person workshops, so I pivoted to online workshops!

Last spring I had the opportunity to take an online workshop in deflected double weave with Natalie Drummond. I had never done deflected double weave previously. We used a Facebook group to share photos of our yarn and to get feedback from the instructor.

We were able to access instructions and PowerPoint slides via

Dropbox. We gathered on Zoom about two weeks before the workshop to meet other participants and to ensure we all knew how to use Zoom. I should note that this workshop included only about eight participants.

Before the actual workshop we dressed our looms using the online instructions for the draft we selected. We were asked to complete a test weave to ensure our threading was correct. We gathered on Zoom on the morning of the first day of the two-day workshop for an introductory presentation. Then we were dispatched to begin weaving on our own looms in our own homes. To my shock and delight, the instructor told us that she would have her camera on the entire day so that we could ask questions at any time. She also texted each one of us during that first day to see if we had any questions. By the end of the first day we were to complete several prescribed samples, cut them off and wet finish them, then photograph them and save the photographs in Dropbox. On the morning of the second day the instructor offered feedback on each of our samples. It was great!

In October I had the opportunity to repeat the same workshop with Natalie Drummond. Except this time we were in person on the Outer Banks of NC. Along with about eight other participants at the in-person workshop, there were three additional participants on Zoom. This workshop lasted five days and I chose an eight-shaft pattern to explore (vs. the four-shaft pattern I used earlier).



There were pluses and minuses of the in-person workshop. It was great to be on the beach for a week and in the company of other weavers, sharing ideas, problems, and supplies. I also appreciated the opportunity to see Natalie's samples in person, to touch and feel them. To be able to see others' color choices as we designed our warps was also a great advantage.

The only real drawback was the challenge of incorporating participants on Zoom with in-person participants. The Zoom participants could not really see what we were doing and sometimes they were ahead of us; sometimes behind. Sometimes it felt like we were competing for the instructor's attention.

So what's the answer for a workshop junkie like me? The answer is both online and in-person workshops are great and can lead to real fiber learning. I prefer meeting other participants in person while I rejoice in the greater workshop opportunities afforded by online offerings. It's all good!

Meeting Minutes from CWSG Guild Meeting on October 16, 2021

Submitted by Jeanne Marie Peet

The October meeting of the CWSG was called to order by President Nancy Hester on Saturday, October 16, 2021, at 10 a.m. on Zoom video conference. A quorum was determined with 10 members present. Marcy Petrini moved that the agenda be accepted. Debbie Stringer seconded, and the motion was approved. The minutes of the September 2021 meeting, as printed in the CWSG October newsletter, were approved upon a motion by Lynn Watkins and second by Marcy Petrini.

Due to Covid restrictions, meetings for the remainder of 2021 will continue to be held remotely on Zoom. Plans for a membership drive will be postponed until the guild is actively meeting in-person again, but producing an inexpensive brochure, to be available at the craft center, is being considered.

Jeanne Marie Peet moved that the Christmas Party be held on the afternoon of Sunday, December 12 by Zoom. The exact time will be later determined. Lynn Watkins seconded. Motion passed. President Nancy Hester called for a volunteer to coordinate the gift exchange. Interested members are asked to contact Nancy by email.

A small version of ROC Day will be held at the William Waller Craft Center on January 8, 2022. This was presented and passed upon a motion from Lynn Watkins and a second by Nancy Landrum. Members also discussed some ideas for workshops to be held in 2022.

After a brief show and tell, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Debbie Stringer. Members then enjoyed a previously recorded Textiles and Tea HGA presentation by fiber artist Helena Hernmarck.

About Chimneyville Weavers & Spinners Guild

CWSG brings together people who enjoy and want to learn more about weaving and spinning. Our guild is based in the Jackson, Mississippi, area.

Officers

Each officer serves a two-year term on the CWSG board.

President: Nancy Hester

Vice President: Debra Sue Pate

Secretary: Jeanne Marie Peet

Treasurer: Jane Klinck

Librarian/Historian: Janet Lee

Past President: Beth Palmer

Membership

Membership is open to anyone with like interests. The annual membership fee is \$25. A membership form is available at <http://cvillewsg.com/> and click on "membership." CWSG members may also join the CWSG Co-op, which is a member of the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi and provides opportunities to sell original handwoven and handspun work through CGM's shows and gallery.

Meetings/Events

CWSG normally meets on the third Saturday of the month, September through May. Meetings include a business session, program, and show-and-tell. We begin at 10 a.m. at the Bill Waller Sr. Craft Center in Ridgeland, Miss., unless otherwise noted. During the pandemic, however, meetings are being conducted online via Zoom. We also conduct public outreach activities such as weaving and spinning demonstrations at the Chimneyville Arts Festival and a springtime demonstration day known as Sheep to Shawl.

Newsletter

Please email newsletter content submissions to newsletter editor Janet Lee (jlemasters100@yahoo.com) by the first day of the month of publication. If you are sending a photo, please include caption information.