

Chimneyville Weavers and Spinners Guild

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

Message from the President

From Alma Ellis, President

Dear CWSG Members,

Just around the corner! Earlier in the year, fall was just around the corner. Now Christmas is weeks away. Don't forget our CWSG Christmas get-together next Saturday, December 9, at 10 a.m. But there is one change. We'll be meeting at the Bill Waller Craft Center at 950 Rice Road in Ridgeland. We can't wait to see all of you there and wish you Happy Holidays!

But back to special "just around the corner" activities. Roc Day is on everyone's calendar for Saturday, January 6, 2024. CWSG is hosting

the Gulf Coast Roc Day this year, and we're planning to spin and weave right into the new year away at the Waller Craft Center in Ridgeland with other regional guild members. We're meeting from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. For more information and to register:

<https://www.gulfcoastrocday.com/>.

Join us!

Alma



CWSG Program Schedule

Christmas Party, December 9th

Please join us for our Christmas party at 10:00 am on Saturday, December 9th at the Bill Waller Craft Center located at 950 Rice Road in Ridgeland. We will be in the Harbour View Room (it's upstairs, the large room at the top of the stairs). Anyone who wishes may bring a small appetizer for the potluck celebration. If you are participating in the gift exchange, don't forget to bring your gift.

Note: For the gift exchange, all participants have been notified of their recipient. Please contact Donna Peyton if you have not received an email from her.

Upcoming Events

Jan 6	ROC day co-hosted by CWSG and the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi.
Saturday January 13, 2024, 10 am – 4 pm & January 20, 2024, 2-4 pm	A Four-Shaft Beginning Weaving Class will be taught by Marcy Petrini at the Bill Waller Craft Center. Participants will learn to weave on a shaft floor loom and will prepare a warp, dress the loom, and weave a sash. An information sheet can be found at the end of the newsletter.
Jan 19-20	The 14th Annual Oxford Fiber Festival will be held at the Powerhouse Community Arts Center in Oxford, Mississippi. The event has both a vendor market and classes in many different fiber areas including weaving and dyeing. Registration is open. For more information go to https://www.oxfordfiberfestival.com/
Wednesdays 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm, January 31 to March 13, 2024	"Twill Be" A Scarf Weaving Class taught by Marcy Petrini at the Bill Waller Craft Center. Participants will weave a scarf which will incorporate various twills to study the designs that result from the interaction of threading and treadling. An information sheet can be found at the end of the newsletter.

CWSG Program Schedule

September 16, 2023

How I Did That

Presented by CWSG Members

Moderator Donna Peyton

October 21, 2023

Natural Dyeing with Cochineal

Presented by Marcy Petrini

November 18, 2023

Pendleton Woolen Mills

Presented by Beth Palmer

December 9, 2023

Christmas Party

January 6, 2024

Roc Day Activities

February 17, 2024

Wish I'd Known That

Presented by CWSG Members

Moderator Debbie Stringer

March 16, 2024

Spinning Art Yarns

Presented by Janet Lee

April 20, 2024

Sheep to Shawl (demonstration)

May 18, 2024

History of Textiles

Presented by Donna Peyton

2024 Roc Day Planning Update

Submitted by Marcy Petrini

On January 6, 2024, our guild will host Roc Day and we need everyone to participate! We have around 30 people and 3 vendors signed up, in addition to our guild "destashing table".

Registration Reminder: the registration deadline is December 15th. You can bring your registration form (attached at the end of the newsletter) and check to our Christmas party this coming Saturday. Please fill out the form. The check goes to Heather, our treasurer, the form I keep and I use it to update the database. After the deadline, I will send out updates to those registered.

Door Prize Donations: If you would like to donate door prizes, feel free to bring them on Saturday and give them to Donna. We won't meet as a group till Roc Day and I would like to list our door prizes.

Goodie Bag Donations: Also, if you have items for the goodie bags, Nancy Hester is collecting them. I would say that 75 will be plenty.

Looking forward seeing everyone at the Craft Center for our Christmas party. Bubbly coming up....

Roc Day Tradition

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What We Know about Twelfth Night

In Rome, Italy, where I grew up in the middle ages – ok, in the middle of the last century – we celebrated the Christmas holidays starting December 24 with a big dinner. From then till January 6, Epiphany, there were family, friends, food, wine and games. On January 6, "la Befana" would leave gifts for the good children and coals for the bad ones.

The following day, January 7th, "St. Distaff Day" (not a real saint), it was back to work, school, routine life.

The Distaff

The distaff is a tool that holds unspun fiber to make is easier for the spinner to handle. It is particularly important when spinning flax into linen yarn since the



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

December 5, 2023

Michaela McIntosh

sponsored by Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners

December 12, 2023

Paula Vester

sponsored by Peachtree Handspinners Guild

December 19, 2023

Alan Oliver

sponsored by PLY Spinners Guild

December 26, 2023

No program - Enjoy your holiday!



fibers are very long. The flax is combed for the distaff. The shorter fiber left behind, the tow, is used for rougher fabrics, sacks for grains, for example.

A ribbon holds the fiber on the distaff. The distaff is used with both spindles and wheels.

Flax is grown in cold climates. Belgium linen is legendary for its beauty.

Distaffs range from a simple stick to elaborate examples in some cultures. The distaff was so important in Lithuania, for example, that a fellow wanting to impress a lady for potential marriage would carve her a distaff. The distaff in this picture is a recent one from the Baltics. It is nice that the carving tradition continues.

The distaff is called rock or rocken or roc in German.

The Legend

Probably based on Robert Herrick's poem, the legend is that the women would return to spinning on St. Distaff's day, but the men wouldn't return to their fields until Plough Day, the Monday after Twelfth Night.

*"If the maid's a-spinning go
Burn the flax and Fire the tow."*

There are a few holes in this legend: can you imagine anybody burning flax? Getting the fiber from the plant is an arduous process and I can't imagine that anybody in the 17th century (when the poem was written) would waste precious materials. Spinning get togethers have been documented, but getting to work was serious business, which probably didn't include having to fend ploughmen. Also, Plough Day seems a bit strange in a country where winter snow covers the fields. Other farm chores were done, Twelfth Night or not. But the merrymaking that the poem would have us believe is the basis for our Roc Day.

The Roc Day Tradition

In Colonial times, spinners would get together on St. Distaff's Day, for "Rock Day", to spin together, like a quilting bee.

More recently, in the 70s, Irene Miller, owner of the Niddy Noddy shop in Croton-on-the-Hudson, NY, started a Roc Day as our Colonial foremothers did. Spinners came from near and far to the Niddy Noddy.

Loom for a donation:

Carolyn Hudson says: I have a loom that needs a new home if anyone is interested. I never even put it together, it came from another member of the guild. I am not really sure what exactly it is but I think a Nilus LeClerc Loom, 45" I think? It is big! Anyway, I made a \$150 donation to the Guild when I took ownership and would request that whoever could use this fabulous loom do something similar to benefit our Guild (Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi).

For more information email Carolyn at:
carolyn.l.hudson@gmail.com.



From there, the tradition spread around the county. In the Gulf States, a member of the New Orleans guild visited the

Northeast, learned about Roc Day and started one at home.

More photos, like this one, from our Roc Day are on our website, <https://www.cvillewsg.com/index.php/our-photos/events>.

Sylvia Thorne, "It's Time to Rock" Shuttle Spindle & Dyepot, Winter 1971/2, page 28.

Member Submissions

Submitted by Various Members

Janet Lee: CWSG Co-op members sold their weaving and spinning creations at the 47th annual Chimneyville Arts Festival which was held recently at the Bill Waller Mississippi Craft Center.



CWSG Meeting Minutes from November 18, 2023

Submitted by Jeanne Marie Peet

Chimneyville Weavers and Spinners Guild Meeting November 18, 2023

The November meeting of the CWSG was called to order by President Alma Ellis on Saturday, November 18, 2023, at 10 a.m. at the Madison Public Library in Madison, Mississippi. With 15 members present, the requirement for a 25% quorum (at least eight members) was met. Marcy Petrini moved that the agenda be accepted, and Nancy Hester seconded the motion. The agenda was approved by voice vote. The minutes of the October 21, 2023, meeting, as printed in the CWSG November 2023 newsletter, were presented for approval. Janet Lee moved to accept the minutes as printed and Debbie Stringer seconded. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

Two new members were introduced to the group: Heather Bowser and Morgan Bowser. The Treasurer's Report was given.

Hospitality/Membership Committee Chairman Nancy Hester reported that the Christmas Party Meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on December 9, at the Madison Library. Members will bring potluck food, and those wishing to participate in a gift exchange were asked to sign up with Donna Peyton.

ROC Day information was discussed by Marcy Petrini. Members were encouraged to sign up at the meeting. The registration deadline is December 15. Goody bags, door prizes, and a guild sales table were discussed.

New member Morgan Bowser volunteered to set up and manage an Instagram account for the guild.

Debbie Stringer moved that the meeting be adjourned.

After the business meeting, a brief meeting of the CWSG Co-Op was held to discuss the Chimneyville Crafts Festival booth.

Following a short Show and Tell and break for refreshments, Beth Palmer gave a most interesting power point presentation on Pendleton Mills. Respectfully submitted, Jeanne Marie Peet

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: Alma Ellis

Vice President: Donna Peyton

Secretary: Jeanne Marie Peet

Treasurer: Heather Mitchell

Librarian/Historian: Janet Lee

Past President: Nancy Hester

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 Madison City Library in Madison, Miss., unless otherwise noted. We also conduct public outreach activities such as weaving and spinning demonstrations 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.

Four-Shaft Beginning Weaving Class

Bill Waller Craft Center

The Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi, Inc.

950 Rice Road, Ridgeland, MS 39157

Saturday January 13, 2024, 10 am – 4 pm & January 20, 2024, 2-4 pm

Join us to learn to weave on a shaft floor loom. You will prepare a warp, dress the loom, and weave a sash. All equipment will be provided, including yarn for your project and a 96-page monograph with all the instructions. The project must be completed during the duration of the class to allow preparation for the next class.

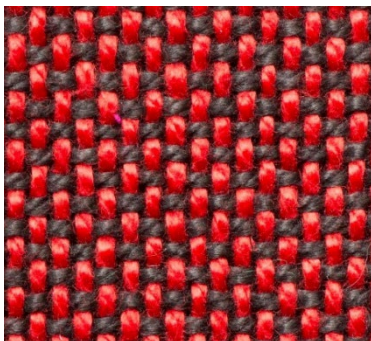


Through this class you will gain an understanding of the terminology, tools and techniques used in weaving. More advanced classes will be offered later.

Classes will be held in the Weaving Loft at the Bill Waller Craft Center.

The class is taught by Craftsmen's Guild Fellow Marcy Petrini who has been teaching at the Craft Center and around the country for many years.

Class cost is \$280.00. Paid registration must be received by Monday, January 8,



2024, so yarn can be procured. The number of participants is limited by the available equipment. To register, contact Sheri Cox at 601-856-7546 and email Marcy so supplies can be brought.

Questions? Marcy (marcypetrini@gmail.com)

“Twill Be” A Scarf Weaving Class

Bill Waller Craft Center

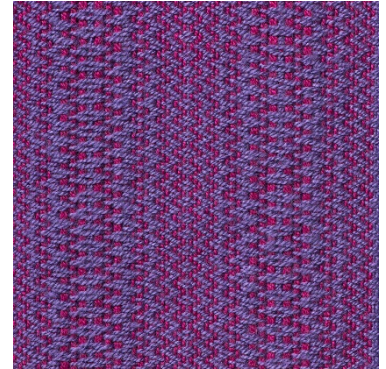
The Craftsmen’s Guild of Mississippi, Inc.

950 Rice Road, Ridgeland, MS 39157

Wednesdays 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm, January 31 to March 13, 2024

Participants will weave a scarf which will incorporate various twills to study the designs that result from the interaction of threading and treadling.

Participants must know how to wind a warp and dress the loom. Directions for the twill scarf will be provided. Weekly discussions will cover the various topics found in the 121-page monograph *Re-Inventing Twills* which is also provided.



All equipment is available to students for the duration of the class during which the projects must be completed.

Participants will provide their own yarns, appropriate for the scarf, 10/2 cotton or 10/2 Tencel which will be discussed in the 1st session.

Classes will be held in the Weaving Loft at the Bill Waller Craft Center.

The class is taught by Craftsmen’s Guild Fellow Marcy Petrini who has been teaching at the Craft Center and around the country for many years.

The class costs \$280.00. The number of participants is limited, so register as soon as possible, but no later than Friday, January 26, 2024. To register, contact Sheri Cox at 601-856-7546, but email Marcy at marcypetrini@gmail.com so enough manographs can be printed. Direct questions to Marcy at the email above.



Please Join Us for Roc Day 2024!

January 6, 2024, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Co-sponsored by the Chimneyville Weavers and Spinners Guild and
The Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi, Inc.

At the Bill Waller, Sr. Craft Center, 950 Rice Road, Ridgeland, Mississippi

Registration fee includes food, beverages, a goodie bag and a chance for a door prize.

Registration (non-refundable):

\$30.00 per person – payment must be received by December 15, 2023

Late Registration (non-refundable):

\$45.00 per person – payment received December 16 through December 30, 2023

Mail your registration form with check made payable to **CWSG** to:

Marcy Petrini 950 Fairfax Circle Jackson, MS 39211 Email: marcypetrini@gmail.com	No additional fee for vendors, but spots are limited, first come, first serve. Please note: ONLY vendors of fiber, yarn, and tools, <i>no table with just finished products</i>
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Your registration will be acknowledged when received.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

EMAIL: _____

Guild Affiliation: _____

Vendor: No ___ Yes ___ What? _____

Please note any dietary specifications: _____