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NEWSLETTER
THE MOUNTAIN SPINNERS AND WEAVERS GUILD
VOLUME XXXIV NUMBER 7 March, 2011
P. O. BOX 1820 PRESCOTT, AZ 86302

President's Letter

Are you ready for spring? Ready for the chance of snow to be gone and consistently warm days the norm? I love the change of seasons; I like a cloudy day after days and days of clear blue skies--and, of course, a sparkling sunny day after gray, rainy days.

It is all about contrast, and that applies to our fiber arts, as well. The contrast between warm and cool colors, darks and lights, intense versus low chroma colors, textured and smooth surfaces, the contrasts that bring interest to our work. And a little sparkle never hurts!

Happy spinning and weaving,

Anne Marston

March Membership Meeting
Saturday, March 19, 2011
American Lutheran Church
1085 Scott Dr., Prescott

9:00 AM – Business meeting

10:30 AM – Silent Auction

Special Interest Groups

Mondays – Spinning 10 am -2 pm at Sharlot Hall Museum.

Tuesdays – UFO (UnFinished Objects) 1:00 pm, Annemarie Bellem's or Anne Marston's, call first, 445-5564

Wednesdays – Bead Weaving, Wilda Postel's, call first, 776-4481

Fridays – Sewing Handwovens, 4th Friday of each month, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m., Wilda Postel's (note change of time)

Future Programs

April: Bobbie Irwin, "Twined Rag Rugs"

May: Mary Walker, "Care and Conservation of Navajo Rugs"

June: Kathy Kelly, textile history

July: Annual Picnic and Tailgate Sale

Announcements

"Fiber Arts Gathering" of the Southwest Fiber Arts Guild

Saturday, March 26, 2011, 10:30 am - 2:30 pm at the Hotel St. Michael Ballroom, 205 W. Gurley St., Prescott, AZ. "Join us to Sit 'n' Knit, Crochet and Spin. Shop the fiber arts vendors, and commune with other fiber enthusiasts." SFAG will hold a meeting from 9:30 – 10:30 am. All are welcome. For more information: dbrunner@southwestfiberfestival.com, (520) 625-8788, www.southwestfiberartsguild.com.

"Testing the Waters"

The last week in June 2011, Sally Hall, of Tucson, and Sharon McFeely are looking into bringing Martien van Zuilen to Tucson for a special week of felting workshops. Martien is from Australia, originally from Amsterdam, and teaches felting classes internationally. Sally and Martien met on a trip to Mongolia some years ago. (Some of us saw a power point presentation of that trip when Sally came to the Guild a couple of years ago.) We would hold these classes at Sally's fiber studio in Tucson: a three day class on felted jewelry making and another three day class on felted mandalas. Each class would probably be around \$200.00 plus materials. We are testing the waters, so to speak, to see what the interest would be. Sally's studio can hold up to 12 students for each class. Check out Martien's web site, www.martienvanzuilen.com, and let Sharon know if you would possibly interested: sharmc17@yahoo.com.

History, Lore, and Other Arcana

Cochineal (*Dactylopius coccus*) – "Cochineal is a traditional red dye of pre-Hispanic Mexico. This precious dyestuff was obtained not from a plant, but from an insect that lives its life sucking on a plant. The host plants are the flattened stems (pads or cladodes) of certain prickly pear cacti (platyopuntias, *Opuntia*), especially the species called nopales. The animal is a scale insect that manufactures a deep maroon pigment and stores this pigment in body fluids and tissues. Early Mixtec Indians required dyestuffs because the color of daily attire was carefully codified to signal social status. They required fast colors, i.e., those that would not fade, and Mixtecs heavily used indigo, derived from native legumes, for blues and cochineal for various shades of red.... Mixtecs and their successors in southern Mexico farmed cochineal with great skill. They reproduced the plant by planting pads already inoculated with scale; they fertilized the cactus with wood ashes and garbage; they removed competing plants from around the cactus; they kept domesticated animals away by building walls and hedges; they lit fires on cold nights to prevent the insects from freezing; and they even built temporary shelters to shield the insects from heavy rains. Through this process, they also selected for a domesticated form of the scale insect, a form that produce the best dye but was also more susceptible to stress from cold and rain than the wild form." -- <http://www.botgard.ucla.edu/html/botanytextbooks/economicbotany/Cochineal/index.html>

IWC – July 21-24, 2011

IWC entry forms are available on the MSWG website.

Book Review

Crochet Master Class by Jean Leinhauser and Rita Weiss. New York: Potter Craft, 2010.

This inspiring book features 18 master crocheters, each showcasing a different specialty in crochet. Each chapter tells their personal story, shows examples of their work, how to do the technique with tips from the master, and a project--all of which are beautiful. I am primarily a knitter but found this to be a fascinating, inspiring read, and I'm trying out a few new things! By Janet Lambert

Workshops

Spinning Faux Bouclé from Mohair Locks by Ruth Greenspan. March 19, 2011, right after our meeting. Ruth Greenspan has rescheduled her canceled November workshop. **There are still openings for this workshop.**

Iridescence Weaving by Bobbi Erwin. April 14 & 15, 2011 from 9:00 – 4:00 at the Mountain Arts Gallery. 2-day workshop. Emphasis on color interaction more than structure, so it's appropriate for beginners as well as experienced weavers. Bring a bag lunch.

The April 14 & 15 class on Iridescence Weaving is now full. Final cost is \$75.00 Most of you have paid \$50.00. Please send the balance to Barbara Albeck ASAP.

2-Color, 2-Handed Knitting will be offered again in May by Diane Braun. Cost will be \$20.00. Exact date to be determined. Please contact Barbara Albeck to sign up.

Color Blending on the Drum Carder will be offered by Kathy Kelly on June 16, 17, and 1/2 day June 18 (after the meeting) at Kathy's house. Cost will be \$50.00 plus materials. Contact Barbara Albeck to sign up.

Please let Barbara Albeck know what workshops you would like to see given in the future. If you have a special talent, perhaps you'd like to offer a workshop. Barbara wants to know what you, as members, would like to learn - or teach. Please e-mail her at Barbalbeck@msn.com. Thank you.

If a workshop is \$20.00 or less, you need to pay for it in full when you sign up. If the workshop is over \$20.00, you need to give a 50% deposit to hold your space in that workshop. Please make checks payable to MSWG.

April NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – March 26.

Send articles to Diane Braun, highlander1@highcastlecrafts.com.

Send address corrections/updates to Anne Marston at anne@annemarston.com or info@mtnspinweave.org.

MSW 2010-11 Officers and Staff

President-----Anne Marston
First VP-----Laura Miner
Second VP-----Kathy Kelly
Secretary-----Marion Patterson
Treasurer-----Debbie Allen
Workshops-----Barbara Albeck

Support Staff

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Hospitality-----Sandy Evans/
Susan Swiggers
Librarian-----Janice Masson
Membership-----Caralee Roberts
Newsletter Editor-----Diane Braun
Web Mistress-----Donna Meyer
Parliamentarian-----Debbie Allen
Publicity-----Nancy Ricketts
Ways & Means-----Carma Koester

March Birthdays

March 3 – Elaine Wager
March 11 – Sharon Richards
Mary Bricker
March 12 – Janet Lambert
March 17 – Rebecca Bass
March 24 – Barbara Albeck
Jean Brugger
March 30 – Nancy Millet

Directory Updates

Lauster, Kay

Turbyfill, Mary

Robbins, Kathy

Weiss, Sue

Sellers, Jeanne

Willcox, Gale

Mountain Spinners and Weavers Guild
Minutes of the General Meeting February 19, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Anne Marston at 9:05 a.m.

Visitors attending today: We had four new members plus one guest.

Minutes: The January minutes were approved with the provision that the date is revised from 2010 to 2011: M/S/V, Kathy Kelly / Sandy Evans / All.

Treasurer: Each year we participate in the "Adopt-A-Native-Elder" program. In January we made a donation of "5 Yarn Bundles". This will allow the participants to create 5 rugs. Debbie is also the Registrar for the 2012 Handwoven COE (Certificate of Excellence). She said that she is starting to receive registrations for the event.

1st VP: Laura Miner: Today's program will be: "Natural Dyes: A Tapestry Weaver's Approach to a Full Color Palette" with Jane Hoffmann, a tapestry weaver from the White Mountains.

(1) March is the Silent Auction.

(2) April's weaving program will be "Twined Rugs" by Bobbie Irwin.

(3) May is TBD

(4) June will be a historical program with Kathy Kelly.

(5) July will be the annual picnic and a tailgate sale.

August and September are TBD.

2nd VP: Kathy Kelly: Our next event will be the Silent Auction in March. Tom Veatch will run the auction. Sales from books and magazines will go into the library fund. Subsequent events are: the Plaza Sale & Demonstrations in May and August (no entry charge to the members, but 20% of sales will go to the MSWG for their participation); the Folk Art Faire is in June. Kathy will have an "interest" sign-up sheet for a "day trip" to Candiss Cole's Studio in Sedona. She will check on Candiss's availability for late March or April. Kathy also needs someone to chair the Plaza Sale Mother's Day week-end. They will need help with set-up and tear-down, so we need assistance from someone with a truck.

Workshop Chair: Barbara Albeck:

(1) February 24 – "Free Form Knitting" with Sandy Evans. She will also demonstrate a technique of adding beads. The cost is \$25. (9 am to 3 pm at Sandy's home).

(2) March 19 - "Spinning Faux Bouclé from Mohair Locks" with Ruth Greenspan.

(3) April 14 & 15 - Bobbie Irwin on "Iridescence Weaving".

(4) May - Diane Braun will give a "2-Color, 2-Handed Knitting" workshop. Date is TBD. Cost is \$20.

(5) June 16 - 18 – Kathy Kelly will do a 2 ½ day workshop on "Carding for Color Blending". Date and cost are TBD. You will need a drum carder.

Special Interest Groups: Spinning (Monday), UFO's (Un-Finished Objects) (Tuesday), Beading (Wednesday), Lace Knitting (bi-monthly/Thursday) and Sewing Handwovens (4th Friday).

Sunshine: Mary Bricker – Jeanne Zinda is home and recovering from surgery.

Announcements & Mail: Anne – (1) The collection cup will be passed around. If you forgot your name tag, you need to put in a quarter (\$.25). (2) She covered the recent mail, e-mails, and upcoming local events. (3) Convergence for 2012 (July 15-21) will be in Long Beach, CA. (4) Diane Braun has a contact in Congress, AZ who has wool for sale.

Hospitality: Sandy Evans and Susan Swiggers are hospitality hostesses. Today's refreshments were provided by Debbie Allen, Barb Gray, and Marion Patterson.

Historian: Marilyn Smith – Nothing to report.

Librarian: Janice Masson – She is adding more detailed descriptions of the MSWG Library books on the website. She offered to create a Facebook page for our guild. She also has a page on Raverly.com and will revise it to become a Guild page.

Membership: Caralee Roberts – We have four new members this month, and the membership total is 85.

Newsletter: Diane Braun – As a regular reminder all inputs for the newsletter are due the Saturday following the Guild meeting. New members need to provide Diane with their birthdate. Your name will be listed in the newsletter, and you will receive a free raffle ticket for your birthday month. Anne mentioned there was a typo for Mary Turbyfill's apartment number., and a correction will appear in the March newsletter.

Parliamentarian: Debbie Allen – Nothing to report.

Publicity: Nancy Ricketts – Nothing to report.

Ways and Means: Carma Koester – Today's raffle items are related to the batik dyeing technique. We also have totes, Tee shirts, sweatshirts, cookbooks, and other items.

Old Business: Anne Marston – (1) Yvonne Johnson and Diane Braun will co-chair the Holiday Sale, November 12, 2011. They need people to start looking for display materials. (2) Jeanne Zinda is chairing the VA "lap robes/throws" holiday project. The items need to be washable, have no fringe, and measure approximately 35" x 55". (3) Donna Meyer indicated that the Guild received a small amount last month for items purchased from the Amazon website.

New Business: Anne Marston – Nothing to report.

Other Discussions: Carma Koester, our Guild representative, recently attended the Arizona Federation Conference general meeting in Phoenix. They have begun planning the April 19-22, 2012 Federation Conference. It will be at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel in Phoenix. They need instructors for classes and workshops (1 to 2 ½ days). (See Anne for the instructor form.) Our Guild's shared assignment is making favors for the event. We will be making 40 Pin-Cushion-Baskets. (See Carma if you are a basket weaver.) The Federation is excited about having our Guild rejoin their membership, and they think we will make a wonderful contribution.

Show & Tell:

Anne shared a triangle shawl knitted from handspun yarn by Jeanne Zinda (Jeanne is home recovering); Rebecca Bass – A long handwoven shawl from painted warp; Mary Kelly – a knitted sweater; Yvonne Johnson – A handspun knitted hat, 3 skeins (merino, alpaca, and rayon with beads) of hand dyed, handspun yarn; Kathy Kelly – a knitted scarf from novelty yarn, 6 skeins of hand dyed, handspun yarn; Mary Jane Hopf – Mug rugs from Levi denim material, a knitted afghan; Sandy Evans – 1 handwoven shawl and 1 handwoven scarf; Marilyn Smith – 3 roving bundles of "crock pot" dyed merino wool; Barb Kiger – a handwoven 8/2 tencel scarf; Debbie Allen – Received a communication from Handwoven magazine. An article she wrote in 1987, "Designing and Drafting Summer & Winter," will appear in an upcoming electronic publication issue and later in hard copy. Shelly Leichter – Kumihimo braid made into a pendent-style necklace, a crocheted scarf from a novelty yarn, and a crocheted scarf from left-over sock yarn; Caralee Roberts – a handwoven rug; Mary Bricker – 2 handwoven rugs and a small rug sampler.

Motion to close meeting: M/S/V, Barb Albeck / Yvonne Johnson / All.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Secretary: Marion Patterson

Today's program: "Natural Dyes: A Tapestry Weaver's Approach to a Full Color Palette" with Jane Hoffmann, a tapestry weaver from the White Mountains.

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<http://www.studiothreeaz.com>

Our new class schedules are out. We posted them on our web site at [studiothreeaz.com](http://www.studiothreeaz.com). We will be offering the usual classes in Beginning Weaving and Beyond Beginning Weaving, as well as Spinning and Rigid Heddle Weaving. We have Intermediate Weaving classes with the special topics. These will include Name Drafting in February, Huck Lace Sampler in March, Overshot in May, Color Gamp in June, Tips and Tricks in July, Twill Gamp in August, Doubleweave in September, and Holiday Projects in October. Thank you for all of your great suggestions. We can only take four students in class at one time, so contact us soon!

Kristin the Knitting Nanny is here on Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:00. The sessions are free.

Susan Jeffers for crochet will be here the last Friday of the month, and there is a charge for this class.

Conne and Patti

Mountain Spinners & Weaver Guild
PO Box 1820
Prescott, AZ 86303
www.mtnspinweave.org