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NEWSLETTER
THE MOUNTAIN SPINNERS AND WEAVERS GUILD
VOLUME XXXIV NUMBER 9 May, 2011
P. O. BOX 1820 PRESCOTT, AZ 86302

President's Letter

What a great workshop with Bobbie Irwin last month. I just wove off the second sampler. The clasped wefts idea could be used to depict our spring winds in a weaving; wouldn't that be cool?

My three looms have all had their share of exercise lately: stretching as the warps are tensioned; upper loom, beater bar to the breast beam, thousands of reps; lower loom, treadle dancing a fanciful jive, sometimes a slow waltz. Can you tell I'm a fan of "Dancing with the Stars"?!

Happy spinning and weaving,

Anne Marston

May Membership Meeting
Saturday, May 21, 2011
American Lutheran Church
1085 Scott Dr., Prescott

9:00 AM – Business meeting

10:30 AM – Mary Walker, "Care and Conservation of Navajo Rugs"

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

June: Kathy Kelly, textile history

July: Annual Picnic and Tailgate Sale

August: TBD

September: Vanessa Martin, "How to Enter Your Items for Competition"

October: "How to Price Your Items for Sale"

Announcements

Two Easy Clicks!

The money from the Amazon.com link on our web site is starting to roll in. Who knew you could donate to the guild by making your usual purchases? And it just takes two mouse clicks!

1 – go to the MSWG website: <http://www.mtnspinweave.org>

2 – click on the "Search Amazon" link on the main page

You will be taken to the Amazon.com home page.

Any purchases you make as a result of that link generate money for MSWG. While the rebate ranges from 4% to 15% of total purchases, it looks like we will be getting about 6%.

The guild does receive a list of items ordered through the link, but there is no identifying information on the purchaser, just the date, cost, and the amount of the rebate to the guild. If you ever wish to be completely discrete about a purchase, you can always buy it directly from Amazon.com.

Let the shopping begin. Remember--it is for a good cause!

IWC – July 21-24, 2011

IWC entry forms are available on the MSWG website.

History, Lore, and Other Arcana

History of the Navajo-Churro Sheep – "Livestock, including sheep, came in 1494 when Spain established colonies in the Caribbean and then in Mexico. Colonization expanded gradually into Nuevo España which is now the Southwest of the United States. In 1540, following the initial expedition of Cortez in 1538, Coronado searched for the Cities of Gold expending 5,000 head of sheep on the journey. The few left in New Mexico

were not heard of again. Don Juan de Oñate, in 1598, brought settlers and 2,900 sheep that formed the initial colonization of the Southwest. Spanish ranches prospered in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona with flocks numbering in the thousands. Many sheep were trailed back to Mexico to feed mining towns and they supplied the growing population of the Southwest. In 1849 when gold was discovered in California, churros were trailed west to feed the Gold Fever.

During this period of Spanish colonization, Pueblo Indians were hired and enslaved to herd livestock and to weave textiles. The Dine' (the Navajo people), living on the edge of Spanish occupation, acquired a few sheep and horses by trades and by raids on outlying settlements. Following the turmoil of 1680 when the Pueblos revolted against Spanish oppression, the Navajos acquired more sheep, as did the Apaches. The Apaches ate the sheep they took but the Navajos nurtured their acquisitions and expanded their flocks.

As European settlers came west and the demand arose for fine wool in the American textile industry, the churros were "graded up" by crossing with Merino and English longwools. However, some churros remained in the remote Hispanic villages, among the isolated Navajos and on the West Coast. These isolated flocks eventually formed the landrace sheep, the Navajo-Churro, named to recognize Spanish and Navajo influence.

Because the Navajos resisted the settlers who were encroaching on Dine' homelands, the U.S. government ordered military actions led by Kit Carson and John Carlton with instructions to destroy Navajo orchards and flocks. There was much bloodshed and in 1865 approximately 9,000 Navajos were forced on the Long Walk of 300 miles to an interment camp at Bosque Redondo, New Mexico. Terrible conditions here caused the death of many people and their livestock. Some Navajos escaped capture and hid with their sheep in remote canyons of New Mexico and Arizona. After three years, the Navajo were returned to their homeland and were issued two "native" sheep per person from Hispanic flocks.

The Navajo were such good weavers and shepherds that their mixed flocks grew to 574,821 sheep by 1930. The large number of sheep, goats, horses and cattle was problematic for the severe drought conditions of the 1930's, so the U.S. government conducted a stock reduction. Some stock was purchased for \$1-1.50 but the reduction progressed so slowly that roughly 30% of each household's sheep, goats and horses were slaughtered by government agents and thrown into arroyos or burned. This terrifying Stock Reduction is still vivid in Navajo memory." – Navajo-Churro Sheep Association, <http://www.navajo-churrosheep.com/sheep.html>

Workshops

Color Blending on the Drum Carder will be offered by Kathy Kelly on June 16, 17, and 1/2 day June 18, 2011 (after the meeting) at Kathy's house. Cost will be \$50.00 plus materials. Contact Barbara Albeck to sign up.

Steaks! by Diane Braun. July 9, 2011 in Prescott at Barb Albeck's home. Don't be afraid to cut your knitting—learn how to steak.

Make It Fit by Kristen Hansen. September 17, 2011 (after the meeting). We won't be doing any knitting during the class, just a lot of measuring and calculating. Kristen provides patterns for a shell, crewneck pullover, and cardigan. Students fill in their personal numbers for each pattern. She will also provide a pattern for each that has "standard" numbers and measurements (although we all know no one is "standard"). Cost: \$35.00.

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 or call 520-831-3242. 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.

June NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – May 28.

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

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

Historian-----Marilyn Smith
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

May Birthdays

May 7 – Caralee Roberts
May 8 – Shelly Leichter
May 16 – Mary Anne Davidson
May 17 – Diane Knebel

Mountain Spinners and Weavers Guild
Minutes of the General Meeting April 16, 2011

The meeting was called to order by: President Anne Marston at 9:00 a.m.

There were no guests or visitors attending today.

Minutes: March's minutes were approved: M/S/V, Barb Kiger/Mary Kelly/All.

Treasurer: Debbie Allen: Reported the current finances as of 04/04/2011. In March we received \$30 from Amazon.com for purchases our members made using their link on our MSWG website. Yavapai College does not have a weaving teacher, so monies have not gone out for scholarships. We will be hosting the Weaving COE (Certificate of Excellence) for HGA (Handweaver's Guild of America) in 2012, and monies will go towards some of those expenses. Monies will also be going toward the upcoming Holiday Sale so expect to see some decline in the savings.

1st VP: Laura Miner: Today's program is "Twined Rugs" with Bobbie Irwin.

(1) May will be "Care and Conservation of Navajo Rugs" with Mary Walker. She will do free rug appraisals during the program's allotted time. After the program she will charge \$10 per rug or 3 for \$25.

(2) June will be a historical weaving program with Kathy Kelly

(3) July - The annual picnic and tailgate sale is scheduled for July 16.

(4) August is TBD.

(5) September's program, "How to Enter Your Items for Competition," will be by Vanessa Martin.

(6) Tentative for October: A program on "How to Price Your Items for Sale."

~ Laura has started a new business, and she has donated some of her products for today's raffle.

2nd VP: Kathy Kelly: Following events are: the Plaza Sale & Demonstrations, May 7 & 8, 2011 and again in August (Kathy needs a volunteer to chair the May Sale). There is no charge to participate at the Plaza Sales. The guild will take 22% of the sale price; Mary Bricker has volunteered to chair the Folk Art Faire, June 4 & 5, 2011 at the Sharlot Hall museum. You need to dress in period clothing for this event; the annual potluck/picnic and tailgate sale is July 16 and the County Fair is late September (Sept. 29 – Oct. 2). Kathy has volunteered to chair the Prescott Public Library display in November.

Workshop Chair: Barbara Albeck: We had a great 2-day workshop (April 14 & 15) with Bobbie Irwin.

(1) May 14 - Diane Braun will teach a "2-Color, 2-Handed Knitting" workshop. Cost is \$20. The workshop will be Saturday from 1:00 – 4:00 PM at Diane's home.

(2) June 16 thru 18 – Kathy Kelly will offer a 2 ½-day workshop on "Color Blending Using a Drum Carder." Cost is \$50 plus materials.

(3) July 9 - Diane Braun will give a "steek knitting" workshop in Prescott at Barb Albeck's home.

(4) September 17 - Kristin Hansen will do a 3-hour knitting tutorial class entitled "Make It Fit." (No knitting will be done in this class). Cost is \$30.

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

Sunshine: Mary Bricker – Jeanne Zinda and Gretchen Mummert were both back after medical issues and attending today. Shelly Leichter thanked everyone for their kind thoughts and condolences. It was good to see all of them back.

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) Surface Design Association is having a show in Minneapolis in June. (3) Mountain Campus Arts & Crafts Fair at NAU (Northern Arizona University) in November. (4) Thumb Butte Quilters Guild is having a show in November. (5) The guild received a friendship note from Lois Longfield. (6) Diane Braun announced she has started a new medical billing business and is offering seminars on understanding health insurance. (7) A lady contacted Anne seeking a spinner who would be interested in spinning dog fur. (8) Debbie Allen has a Baby Wolf weaving loom, with accessories, for sale. (9) Jeanne Zinda brought lemons and said she has some home care equipment she could loan for short-term use. (10) Sandy Evans will be teaching a "Free Form Knitting" class at A Good Yarn.

Hospitality: Sandy Evans and Susan Swiggers are our hospitality hostesses. Today's refreshments were provided by Jean Brugger, Jo Manginelli, and Jeanne Zinda.

Historian: Marilyn Smith – Has the "Thank You" note and photos from the "Adopt-A-Native-Elder" program.

Librarian: Janice Masson – Was unable to bring library books in today, but she is accepting returned books at a table in back. She is working on enhancing some of the library book categories. If you have a recommendation for a special book please let her know. She and Donna Meyer are administrators for our Facebook page, so please sign up with Facebook, and join our group.

Membership: Caralee Roberts – We now have 90 members.

Newsletter: Diane Braun – As a regular reminder all inputs for the newsletter are due the Saturday following the Guild meeting.

Parliamentarian: Debbie Allen – Nothing to report.

Publicity: Nancy Ricketts – not present

Ways and Means: Carma Koester – Today's raffle is a table-top weaving loom (15 inches with 6 harnesses). (The loom was donated, to the Guild by Carma.) We also have sweatshirts, Tee-shirts, tote bags, cookbooks, and more for sale. Carma needs a volunteer to be a back-up for next month.

Old Business: Anne Marston – May 28 has been set aside for a day trip to visit Candiss Cole's Studio in Sedona. (2) Carma reminded folks about the Arizona Federation Conference next year. It will be at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in Phoenix from April 19-22, 2012. They are presently seeking teachers. Proposals need to be turned in by May. See Carma for information.

Holiday Sale: Yvonne Johnson and Diane Braun are co-chairs for the Holiday Sale on November 12, 2011. Today they are seeking to fill two positions. One person is needed to co-chair Publicity with Sharon McFeely. Another person is needed to co-ordinate the raffles. Please consider donating finished items for the raffles.

New Business: Anne Marston – A nominating committee has been formed for next year's board. Marion Patterson is leading the committee. They are in full swing, so please consider giving back to the guild by giving of your time.

Show & Tell: April 14 & 15 was a workshop on iridescence weaving. The following ladies attended the workshop, and all had woven items to share: Anne Marston, Marilyn Smith, Sandy Evans, Pat Anna, Mary Bricker, and Janice Masson; Carma Koester used hand-dyed, handspun yarn for an iridescence woven scarf; Sandy Evans – 2 Nuno felted chiffon and silk scarves, some handwoven towels, and a beaded knitted scarf; Brenda Behrens – 6 handwoven hand towels; Mary Kelly – Men's knitted socks, a diagonal knitted scarf from hand-dyed yarn, 2 handwoven kitchen towels, 2 handwoven scarves, a short Butterfly jacket, and a knitted wheel chair caddy bag; Diane Braun – 2 handwoven cotton Scottish tartan scarves; Susan Swiggers – a handmade lace-weight drop spindle and handspun, hand-dyed (cake coloring dye) knitted men's kilt hose; Debbie Allen – 2 Fair Isle knitted hats; Wilda Postel – 2 handwoven, handmade jackets. Each jacket had a large inlay in center back. The inlaid panels were excess silk yardage used to make Japanese kimonos. The panels had been hand painted and hand dyed. (These silk panels can be purchased via the internet); Annemarie Bellem – a whimsical child's felted bag (large fish) and a knitted/lined spinning bag; Michelle Veatch – a large basket made of plastic mesh dry vegetable bags with hand top stitch; Mary Bricker – a 2nd small woven sampler, from the workshop, but with a different weave structure.

Motion to close meeting: M/S/V, Kathy Kelly/Jo Manginelli/All.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Secretary: Marion Patterson

Today's program: "Twined Rugs" with Bobbie Irwin.

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Now we have our new classroom laptop and printer, let us help you with your weaving projects from drawdown to color selections to calculations.

We still have openings for Overshot in May, Color Gamp in June, Tips and Tricks in July, Twill Gamp in August, Doubleweave in September, and Holiday Projects in October.

Beginning Weaving and Spinning are ongoing.

The Knitting Nanny is here on Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:00. There is no charge. Susan Jeffers is here on the last Friday of the month, and there is a charge for this class.

Conne and Patti

Mountain Spinners & Weaver Guild
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