

PIEDMONT FIBER GUILD

PFGB BOARD MEMBERS:

- President - Sue Helmken
- Past President - Gail Boyles
- Treasurer - Maurice Blackburn
- Secretary - Julie Hogan
- Programs - Chris Dunlap
- Workshops - Shirley Young
- Charity - Julia Roskamp
- Webmaster - Maria Derner
- Membership - Dick Kistler
- Marketing/Events/Booth - Gail Boyles
- Social Media - Lori Smith
- Library - Susan Haney
- Equipment Manager - Vivian Brenner
- Newsletter - Sallie Olson
- Hospitality - Peggy Hood

MEETING DATES remaining for 2017/2018:

April 15, 2018

May 20, 2018

All meetings at Arts on Main, 212 West Main Ave., Gastonia, NC, from 2-4 pm, except holiday party.

Please watch out for an important announcement about access to the Arts on Main Building for our meeting this coming Sunday. The announcement will be posted on the chat list later in the week.

- The following people are signed up for hospitality this Sunday:
- Food - Chris Dunlap and Dawn Brown
- Drinks - Dick Kistler
- Opportunity - Julia Roskamp
- Many thanks to all who provide a nice snack for our meetings!

April's program: [Lace...In All It's Many Forms.](#)

This is a member led discussion and presentation about the many forms of handmade lace in the textile world. From woven lace to knitted lace to bobbin lace; all these forms and more will be presented and discussed. If you have special pieces you'd like to share and describe, please bring these along. The more samples we have to look at, the more interesting this discussion will be.

Remember, our May meeting is devoted to Board Elections and our Car Boot Fiber Sale. No formal program is planned.

Lastly, I will need to step down from this position after the May meeting. Please contact Gail Boyles(gboyles44@gmail.com) or Sue Helmken (barefootweaver@earthlink.net) if you are interested in taking over this position.

Guild Board Elections

It's time to get in your nominations for the 2018/2019 Piedmont Fiber Guild.

Sue Helmken and Gail Boyles are your contacts if you want to nominate yourself or another member who might be a good candidate for a position. We will be voting at May's meeting so it's important to let Sue or Gail know very soon. Please send your nomination information to either gboyles44@gmail.com or barefootweaver@earthlink.net.

Being on the board is a great opportunity for a member to get to know the workings of the guild and be a part of helping shape the guild for the future. Many of the current board members started their board positions shortly after becoming active members.

All job descriptions are listed on the Yahoo Chat Group page or you can contact a current board member to see what their position entails. One really good thing about the board is that you get a lot of help from other board members.

Below are the current 2017/2018 positions - if you're interested in a position, please contact the current position holder and ask them about the duties. Some of these board members are stepping down - an update will be given at our April 15 meeting. We need to fill the open spaces by May's meeting.

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Upcoming Events

- April 21, 2018- Catawba River Artisans' Show
 - 10am – 4pm Cramerton, NC.
 - Coordinator of this event: Chris Dunlap (chrisdmom98@gmail.com)
 - The Catawba River Artisans have invited PFG members to demonstrate in downtown Cramerton. The guild participated at their 2017 Christmas show – it was a great time getting to know these very talented artisans.
 - More information: <http://www.catawbariverartisans.com/upcoming-events.html>
- April 28, 2018 - Belmont Historical Society Living History Day
 - 9am – 3pm. 40 Catawba St Belmont, NC.
 - Coordinator for this event: Gail Boyles (gboyles44@gmail.com)
 - PFG has participated in this event for many years. Although this is a historical event, you can wear your regular clothes.
 - You can bring your own lunch or purchase one from a restaurant in downtown Belmont.

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Upcoming events, continued:

- June 9, 2018 - World Wide Knit in Public Day - Sponsored by the Charlotte Knitters' Guild
 - Coordinator for this event: Gail Boyles (gboyles44@gmail.com)
 - Mint Museum Uptown 11am - 4pm
 - Admission will be free to the museum for fiber enthusiasts!
 - This is a drop in event.
 - Bring your own chair. Also, you can buy lunch downtown or pack your own.
 - The Mint is hosting the fiber artist Tanya Aguiniga as their artist-in-residence this summer, and there will be some neat happenings going on for this year's WWKiP Day! (Details are still being worked out, so we'll keep you posted on those as we learn them.)
 - <http://www.mintmuseum.org/happenings/1660/worldwide-knit-in-public-day-featuring-tanya-aguiniga/>
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- October 13 & 14, 2018 - Cotton Ginning Days Dallas, NC
 - Coordinator for this event: Gail Boyles (gboyles44@gmail.com)
 - Biggerstaff Park Dallas, NC
 - This is a drop in event - more information to follow

****Just a reminder to check your Yahoo Chat Group emails this week. There may be a change in the way we enter and exit Arts on Main for our April meeting.**



Did you know PFG has a spinning group? Carolina Handspinners meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month 2-4pm at Lowell Community Center, 501 West First St, Lowell, NC. We DO meet over the summer and see many folks who are employed in education and thus have the summer months off. Come join us and bring a fiber-interested friend!

Happy Spinning!

Christine Dunlap chrismom98@gmail.com, Coordinator, Carolina Handspinners

Weaving Study Group

The weaving study group met at the Blackburn's on March 28th. There were 15 weavers present including two new members – Vivian Brenner and Shirley Young,

The group is planning a weaving workshop in September. As it is a 2 ½ day workshop, Arts on Main appeared to be an appropriate location. However, because of the ongoing uncertainty about the Guild's continued presence there, we decided that we needed to consider alternative locations. The length of the workshop and the need to store our equipment overnight at the workshop location presents a problem. Rosalie Nast said that if it was not vital to have all the looms in one room, she would have sufficient space in her house for the workshop. It was agreed that we should look at her house to judge how we would fit in and then contact Teena Tuenge, the workshop leader, to discuss this proposal.

Alice Harrill was one of the month's designated weavers and she showed a Rep Weave towel that she had woven. To create a pattern in warped face Rep Weave alternate colored warp ends are required. Alice wanted to tie onto an existing warp and in addition use a space dyed already chained warp which she had. She used a layering technique

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Weaving Study Group, continued:

to add a contrasting color. She opened a tabby shed on the loom and held it open by inserting spare shuttles between the open shafts; she then tied the pre-dyed warp onto the upper layer of threads and the contrasting yarn onto the lower layer. She used 5/2 cotton yarn in the warp with three ends per dent in a 10 dent reed.

After running samples she settled on the thick weft being four ends of peach colored cotton (to match one of the warp layers) and a light green sewing thread for the thin weft. She remarked that with this sett, the shed was difficult to open cleanly and she had to use the side of a stick shuttle on which the thick weft was wound to fully open up the shed. She also used a dowel to open the thread after the thin weft which was wound on a boat shuttle.

Sue Helmken, the second designated weaver, showed several samples using multicolor warp yarns (10/2) and a variety of thick wefts. Her initial samples had a sett of 64 ends per inch (8 ends per dent in a 8 dent reed); re-sleying the warp she produced further samples with 48 and 32 ends per inch. These samples show the wide range of fabrics which could be produced with these variations. Sue confirmed that with these higher setts it was necessary to use an assist to obtain a clean open shed.

We had a general discussion about profile and block weaves. Sue said she had some classes scheduled and listed on her website (<https://barefootweaver.com/>).

Maurice showed a runner he had recently woven – an echo weave advancing twill as well as an overshot fabric he had taken off the loom at Rural Hill.

Nancy Neely showed a tea towel she had woven using 10/2 cotton in a honeycomb pattern.

The next meeting will be on May 23rd at Jeanne Smith’s house. The designated weavers are Carol Wertz, Kathy Marlow and myself.

submitted by Maurice Blackburn

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• **As a follow up to the weavers study group meeting, here's some info on my drafting classes:**

• I'm offering two classes on **profile and block drafting** on

• Dates: Saturday, April 14th or Wednesday, May 9th.

• Hours: 10-2

• Location: my studio at 530 Calabash Rd in Clover, SC

• Cost: \$40, guild members \$35 (with 6 or more students I can adjust rates further)

• For those who want a better understanding of **basic pattern drafting**, I have 2 classes:

• Dates: Saturday, April 7th or Wednesday, May 2nd

• Hours: 10-2

• Location: my studio

• Cost: \$40, guild members \$35, with adjustable rates as stated above.

• No looms are needed for these classes. I'll have plenty of notes for you, and we'll do hands-on lessons on the computer. IF you have a program, please do bring your computer. Please let me know asap if you are interested so I can let everyone know the adjusted cost. As always, don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

• My goal with these classes is to give you a sound understanding of drafting so you can modify existing drafts and create your own patterns.

• Sue Helmken, The Barefoot Weaver

• www.barefootweaver.com

• 703-944-4488

A FEW MORE EVENTS TO CONSIDER:

Saturday April 21: **Local Yarn Shop Day**: The Fibre Studio will be open on this day. For more information about this event, here's a link: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1897862770237817>. This Local Yarn Store Day has been created by TNNA as a means to show appreciation for the brick-and-mortar establishments that stock all the goodies we so love.

Saturday May 5, 10am - 4pm: **Spinning Saturday** at The Fibre Studio at Yarns to Dye For on Griffith Rd, in Charlotte, NC. Here's a link to their site for more information: <https://thefibrestudio.com/pages/events>.

Tuesday, May 8, 2-4 pm, **Carolina Handspinners** at Lowell Community Center, 501 West First Street, Lowell, NC. This meeting is open to the public so please invite all fiber-interested friends to attend. Contact: Chris Dunlap.

Weekly **Fiber and Phun** meetings at the James K. Polk Historic Site in Pineville, NC. Group meets 11am - 1pm each Wednesday and the last Thursday of each month 6 - 8pm. These meetings take place within the museum area and often include school groups or public visits. Some group members may be doing talks/discussions with these groups. You are welcome to participate in this but it is not required. No RSVP is required for these meetings.

June 1 and 2, the **Blue Ridge Fiber Fest** will be held at the Alleghany County Fairgrounds, located at 1375 US Highway 21N, Sparta, NC. More information at <https://www.blueridgefiberfest.com/>

Saturday, June 9th, 2018, 10am - 2pm: **All Things Fiber Yard Sale**, held at Warren Wilson College, DeVries Gymnasium in Swannanoa, NC. Lots of equipment and fiber supplies available to new homes at great prices. Here's a link to their site for more information: <http://www.nicethreadsgallery.com/afs.html>.

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Shearing Day at Awesome Alpacas, April 7th, 2018 by Chris Dunlap

While there were only 2 PFG members at this event, this Alpaca Shearing Day certainly lived up to the name of this gorgeous farm. In 8 hours, 1 shearer and his assistant, with the help of many extra hands helping with bagging fleeces and moving animals, sheared over 60 alpacas and 2 guard llamas. And gorgeous alpacas and fleeces certainly were plentiful. With very careful breeding choices, Joe and Lenell Porter have several award-winning animals and fleeces to their credit. They are breeding now for beautiful grey fleece as well as the finest of micron counts. Although it was rainy and cold, shearing day must go on and we put out samples and entertained visitors by spinning alpaca and weaving inkles. For a dreary, rainy day, we sure did have a fun fiber adventure!



Weaving equipment for sale:

Chris has been contacted by a Joanne Halls who is selling items from her deceased mother's weaving studio. The daughter lives down toward Wilmington. If interested, please contact Ms. Halls directly (hallsj@uncw.edu). She sent this information:

Inkle loom (base 30" long), **warping board** (29x38 in), **bobbin winder** (all made by Schacht) and a **hand (frame) loom**.

Schacht 45" 4 harness maple high castle loom includes 10 treadles, 8 and 12 dent reeds, 800 wire heddles and accessories including a raddle, lease sticks, shuttles, lamp, 2 rolls corrugated cardboard, and many bobbins. Replacement value is \$2800 and willing to sell for \$1000. Must be willing to pick loom up.

I also have other accessories such as beaters, tapestry bobbin, hook, etc.

Also have many books, magazines and yarn. Will take pictures if you are interested.

(Editor's note: I was unable to get the photos associated with this ad to load into the newsletter. There was also a discrepancy about the prices for the smaller items, so I did not include that information, preferring to let the seller give you the correct info.)

Fiber equipment for sale:

Shirley has been contacted by a friend of hers who has the following for sale:

Bernina Artista 180 retailed \$1600; price \$600.

Iron and board. Price \$70.

Bernina Deco 600. Price \$250.

Also have 2 pleaters, will sell \$50-60 ea.

If interested, contact Anne Schenk at 704-718-6190, or via e-mail 'annefschenk@gmail.com'.

Remember our 'BOOT SALE' to be held at the May meeting. Our own little fiber yard sale!