

# PIEDMONT FIBER GUILD

## PFG BOARD, 2018-2019

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Please join us for our regular guild meeting this coming Sunday, November 18, 2018 at the Remount Executive Center, **REMOUNT EXECUTIVE CENTER, LOCATED AT 2020 REMOUNT RD., GASTONIA, NC 28054.**

The new location is easily accessible from the Cox Rd. exit off I-85. Go North at the Cox Rd. exit (away from Franklin Blvd, Mary Jo's, Target, etc.), then go left at the first left onto Aberdeen. Follow Aberdeen to the intersection with Remount Rd, and turn left. Immediately turn into the first drive after the turn, and you will have reached Remount Executive Center.

Enter through the front door. We will be meeting in the conference room down the hall on the right. Due to security requirements, the front door will be locked when the meeting starts. There will be information posted on the door as to how to contact someone to let you in if you arrive late.

If you are bringing refreshments they must go in the kitchen right next to the conference room. Food and drink are not allowed in the conference room.

The following people signed up for **refreshments** for the upcoming meeting:

**Food:** Sue C. and Jeff B.

**Drinks:** Julia R.

**Opportunity:** Peggy H.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS 2018-2019:

**Nov. 18** - charity work day for chemo caps

**Dec. 16** - Christmas party and potluck and gift exchange

**Jan. 20** - Sue C.: Fiber Adventures in Egypt

**Feb. 17** - charity work meeting

**Mar. 17** - Carol W.: Journey to Master Weaver 1 and Beyond

**Apr. 28** - pending

**May 19** - "Boot Sale" (Fiber Yard Sale)

**Minutes, Piedmont Fiber Guild General Meeting, 10/21/2018:**

The PFG general meeting was called to order shortly after 2 p.m. It had previously been decided to have the business meeting first, followed by a big Show and Tell.

November's meeting will be a charity work day to make chemo hats for cancer patients. Hats may be knit or crocheted. Cotton or acrylic yarn is best. Carol W. has asked Sue C. to put some free patterns on the PFG website. Scarves are a possibility to make as well.

Snacks were provided today by Vivian B., and drinks provided by Pam P.

A discussion was held regarding the remaining quilts from Ann Brinkhous and the Quilts for Kids project. Shirley Y. suggested putting photos on the website and restarting bids that way.

Maurice B. presented the budget report.

A short discussion occurred regarding the suggestion for the guild to meet year round. A motion was made by Sallie to do this, and it was seconded by Beth N. The motion passed and the By-Laws will be updated to reflect this change.

The Christmas party is to be at Sue H.'s house on Sunday, December 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please bring a dish to share and a fiber-related gift to exchange, as well as whatever you want to work on during the day.

Our webmaster, Sue C., announced that the new website is up. There is a link there to the food train for Sara M. and her family. Alice T. (Sara's mother and a guild member) died yesterday. Please contact Sue C. if you need something added to the site. Also, the guild is now active with the guild rewards programs for Halcyon Yarn and The Woolery. The guild can get 5% back on members' purchases through these Reward Programs. There is a rewards link on the guild's website that you follow to get to the correct page for this.

Newsletter - no news.

Membership lists - members should check the list to make sure they are paid for the year. People who prepaid \$25 for this year are asked to pitch in the extra \$10 to cover the increase in dues.

Hospitality - Peggy H. not here.

Workshops - Sue H. has four upcoming workshops: 2 for weaving, hyperbolic crochet, and indigo dye. Shirley Y. will offer some sewing classes which have not yet been scheduled.

Publicity - Kristin Q. not here.

Earlier in October, Sue H. demonstrated at Curtin Farm Fest. Several people demonstrated at Cotton Ginning Days in Dallas; Saturday was busy, Sunday was slow.

Equipment: Sue H. has donated a small Schacht tapestry loom to the guild. The picker has been rented several times in the past year.

The meeting adjourned, followed by a break, and a BIG Show and Tell.

Submitted by Sallie O.

**President's Message:**

Another month has flown by, and it's time for the November meeting. It's been a dreary week, but we've planned a fun day of socializing while we make hats for chemo patients. I'm bringing lots of yarn, and I hope you will, too, so we can mix and match and make lots and lots of hats.

If you haven't checked out our website and chatter group lately, you should! It's a great way to find out what's going on or to discuss what you'd like to do. Want to teach a workshop? Want the guild to sponsor a workshop? Let us know. We only meet once a month, but we can share ideas any time.

Now that the guild will be meeting all year long, let us know if you have ideas for any additional programs. We can have speakers or perhaps break into interest groups for spinning, weaving, knitting and more. Put on your thinking caps!

See you Sunday,  
Sue

**Carolina Handspinners:**

The next regular meeting of Carolina Handspinners will take place on Tuesday December 11<sup>th</sup> 2-4 pm 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.

Our December meeting always features our Holiday Celebration. We didn't have enough folks at the meeting today to make plans for this event. In the past we've had Potluck Lunch beginning about 12:30 pm and did a gift exchange. Please share if you have new ideas to make this a fun day for everyone. Please contact Chris D. if interested in participating.

The next Bimonthly Saturday meeting will take place on Saturday November 17<sup>th</sup> 10am-4pm at the home of Linda P. Please contact Linda directly if you would like to take part in this meeting and be sure to tell Linda what you will bring to share for Potluck Lunch. We thank Linda for once again hosting this meeting that allows those who can't make our weekday meetings to enjoy the fun of Carolina Handspinners.

**Weavers' Study Group:**

The next meeting of the study group will be Wednesday, Nov. 28, from 1-3 p.m. at the home of Carol W. Please let her know if you plan to attend. We will be finishing up this year's presentations on repp/warp-faced weave. Next year's weave structure will be Summer and Winter.

The Crackle class with Teena Teunge in September was very well attended and enjoyed. The new facilities at Remount Executive Center worked very well for the workshop.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- Saturday, Nov. 17, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Saturday Spinning with Carolina Handspinners at Linda P's. Please bring a dish to share for lunch, and a project to work on.
- Sunday, Nov. 18, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. - Piedmont Fiber Guild monthly meeting. We will make chemo hats.
- Wednesday, Nov. 28, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. - Weavers' Study Group at Carol W's.
- Saturday, Dec. 1, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Spinning Saturday at The Fibre Studio at Yarns to Dye For. (open spin) Please bring your lunch.
- Tuesday, Dec. 11, 12:30 p.m. - 4 p.m. - Carolina Handspinners Holiday Celebration. Please bring something to share for a potluck lunch and a gift to exchange, as well as your spinning.
- Sunday, Dec. 16, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Piedmont Fiber Guild Christmas party at Sue H's. Please bring a dish to share for potluck lunch, something fiber related for the gift exchange, and something to work on.
- Saturday, Feb. 16, and Sunday, Feb. 17 - Save the Date(s) for the Carolina Alpaca Celebration.
- Ongoing: Fiber Phun every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Historic Polk Homesite in Pineville, led by Laura Bain.

### **Retreat Fun**

This past September I went to the Into the Wool Retreat in Crossville, TN. I don't do retreats because I had a particularly bad experience at a retreat about 5 years ago, but I thought about it over a year's time and decided I would try again. I reviewed different retreats and picked this one.

This retreat was awesome if you like camping. The setting is very much a campground type. This retreat is very affordable, so for my \$340.00, I got a 3 night stay, 8 meals, all the snacks I could want or wish for, some attendee instruction classes, a T-shirt and a seriously good goodie bag (including yarn, a matching project bag, multiple small skeins, stickers, stitch markers, etc. There are also awesome door prizes.

This retreat has been going for only 5 years but is noted to be the friendliest retreat in the Southeast. I can personally verify that. I went not knowing anyone and by the end of the retreat I have 98 new friends.

Dana who owns Unwind Yarn Company, and Tiffany (The Project Bag on Etsy) were the retreat organizers and they have this down to a science. One of the best things is there is no pressure, you attend events if you want; but if you just want to do your own thing you can. There are plenty of swaps, including fiber, yarn, mini-skein, mugs, smashed penny, and stitch markers. There are classes to attend that are lead by an attendee and meant to be only an hour.

There is so much more to say. If you'd like any additional information ask me, or refer to the Into the Wool Retreat in Ravelry or Instagram.

## **Master Weaver Level 2**

I have just returned from another intensive week of study thru Olds College Canada. The class was hosted by the Yadkin Valley Fiber Center in Elkin, NC. I successfully passed Master Weaver Level 1 last year and was eligible to continue the course of study.

The atmosphere in Level 2 was completely different than Level 1. Everyone knew that they had made it through the intensity of Level 1 and was more confident in their skills. Level 2 had a different teacher, Lynn Ivany-McEarchern, who is herself going through the program. She is in Level 5 right now.

In Level 2, we worked on the mystery of Double Weave. I still do not understand it and think the guild might need to have a proper workshop on it. We had a table loom set up with a narrow sample on it and we each wove on the one loom. I did successfully weave a small piece of fabric that could open to double width and a series of tubes and pockets.

While taking turns on the double weave loom, we all set up looms upstairs in the studio for the rest of the week. We wound warp, threaded and wove a twill gamp. These could either be in multiple colors or one color. I chose the rainbow, just to see the color interaction. The pale yellow was not a success against the white warp, as you could not see the difference in the yarns for the twill pattern to “pop” at you. There was one square in each row that was woven to square. This was the square that had the threading and the treadling match each other.

After weaving 2/2 and 3/1 twill gamps, we learned about overshot weaving. While it is a traditional weave structure, untraditional colors can really modernize this weave. We learned about star structure and diagonal lines and rose treadling and blocks. Again, we only touched on the tip of the iceberg during the class. Once you picked a pattern and threaded your loom, then the structure began to make a bit more sense.

In part of the planning for the overshot weaving, we learned about the block placement (using the twill circle) and the treadling rules. We were provided threading, but we had to work out the treadling. While we were treadling “As Drawn In”, it is not as simple as just repeating the threading. Once we wove our overshot samples per our pattern, we revised them to Rose treadling and then Monk’s Belt and Swivel. Additionally, overshot requires a tabby pick between each pattern pick. Needless to say, there was lots of juggling of shuttles happening.

We sharpened our skills of hem stitching on many samples and learned the ladder hem stitch and the trellis hem stitch. Both are beautiful ways to finish a woven piece. After we took the work from the loom, we wet finished the pieces in hot water with a bit of Dawn dishwashing detergent and a hot water rinse. They were left to drip dry overnight.

But wait, there was more! We were given a little piece of fabric and instructed to prepare a fabric analysis. We used linen testers (an inch square magnifying glass) to count the number of threads in an inch and determine the over and under sequence of the weave. Once we did this, we were able to chart the structure and prepare a drawdown of the fabric and determine the threading and treadling. Thankfully it was a simple twill that we were given to analyze.

In order to complete Level 2, I have a large assignment of homework to complete, both written and woven. I will write a research paper on a simple loom (I am choosing the inkle loom) and weave a small sample from that loom. There is also expanded work on double weave, twill and overshot to complete and a final project. All of this needs to be done by next August to be able to attend the October 2019 session of Level 3. Wish me luck.

submitted by Carol W.

**Hart Square:**

Every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in October, Hart Square occurs. What is Hart Square?? Glad you asked – it's the largest display of early American homes in the US. Once a year, over 300 artisans congregate to demonstrate to visitors how life was during the 1700s in Back Country North Carolina. In its 33<sup>rd</sup> year, Hart Square has become a worldwide known destination for those who are interested in historical interpretations of early America.

As has happened for many years, Piedmont Fiber Guild members were present to demonstrate many different fiber arts that included: drop spinning, wheel spinning, weaving and flax preparation. Guild members there this year included: Pam R., Rosalie N., Maurice B., Ursula B., Sue H., Linda E., Genie G., Shirley Y., Ellen M. and Gail B.. Many of us have been demonstrating at Hart Square for a long time and it's a greatly anticipated event for us. Although muddy this year from torrential rains the day before, the number of visitors who came was still amazing. Visitors are always in awe of our fiber skills and we usually spark an interest in some to learn more about the fiber arts.

For more information on Hart Square – visit <https://hartsquare.com/the-festival/>

Photo of Gail B., Shirley Y., and Ellen M. at Hart Square

Submitted by Gail B.

**Photos from Chris D. from Carolina Handspinners trip to Pharr Yarns. (Article follows on next page.)**



**The Yarn We Love .... Made in a Modern Way**

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, a group of intrepid Handspinners found their way to Pharr Yarn's Saxony Lane location in Lowell, NC. We were met by Keith Henry, Quality Engineer in the Dye Technology lab at this plant who had kindly agreed to take us on a tour of this facility. Suited up for safety with vests and ear protection, Keith began our tour by explaining that all the yarns at this plant are made from polyester which starts as pellets. The yarns they make all become carpet yarns for various home, industrial and automotive applications.



Above left, we are looking at the silos that contain the polyester pellets that begin the yarn-making process.

Above right, one of the machines that space-dyes the fibers.

Yarns are created by melting the pellets, at the same time adding approximately 4% dye pellets by weight to add color to solid yarns. These are mixed and melted, extra moisture is removed, and continuous monofilament is created by extrusion. Newly formed monofilament is cooled very quickly. Many of these filaments come together to make a "singles" yarn which is coned, wrapped, and stored for later twisting.

Keith is responsible for monitoring and maintaining the quality and repeatability of the colors created on these yarns. His lab is lit with daylight bulbs and much computerized testing and record keeping is involved in making sure the yarns that are created remain true to color.

While many of the yarns created at this facility are one color, some are space-dyed using computerized pigments before being twisted. Up to 8 different hues can appear in these space-dyed yarns. These yarns add dimension and texture to the carpets created with them. 2 different color singles can also be twisted together forming a barber pole yarn. Once the "singles" have been colored and prepared, several singles are spun, or plied, together.

After the singles have been twisted, this twist must be set either with dry heat or with steam. Each of these methods results in a different surface texture in the final yarns. These yarns must cool and then are coned, wrapped and ready for shipment.

This facility does a great deal of recycling. There is yarn waste due to machine set-up or malfunction. This material is melted and re-pelleted for use in later yarns. Unprocessed pellets are bright white and will not affect later coloration of the fiber. After recycling, this material has a light blue-grey color that will affect lighter colors. This material will thus be used for darker colors. All cardboard is used as many times as possible and then palletized and sold for recycling.

submitted by Chris D.

### Terms for Guild Equipment Rental, 2018-2019

From our Equipment Manager, Vivian B.

The Guild has equipment to rent to members in good standing (dues paid for at least one year). If you would like to rent any of this equipment on a month-to-month basis, please contact the Equipment Manager, Vivian B. There is a brief contract you will sign at the time of the rental. Deposit plus first month's rent is due when the equipment is rented. If the equipment is kept over one month, additional rental fees are due.

If you have any fiber equipment you would like to donate, please contact Vivian or the Guild President.

<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Rental Fee</u>	<u>Security Deposit</u>
Drum Carder	\$30/month	\$50
Cotton Cards	\$5/month	\$20
Elbee Picker	\$30/month	\$100
Warping Board	\$5/month	\$25
Clemes & Clemes Spinning Wheel	\$25/month	\$100
Ashford Spinning Wheel	\$25/month	\$100
Sabina 32 in. 4-Shaft Folding Floor Loom	\$50/month	\$100
Harrisville 4-Shaft Floor Loom	\$50/month	\$100
LeClerc 2-Shaft Table Loom	contact Vivian	
small Schacht Tapestry Loom	contact Vivian	

*Best Wishes to all  
for a Happy Thanksgiving!*