

PIEDMONT FIBER GUILD NEWS

April 2020

PFG Board 2019-2020

President: Sue C.
President.PiedmontFiberGuild@gmail.com

Past President: Sue H.

Treasurer: Linda E.
Treasurer.PiedmontFiberGuild@gmail.com

Programs: Pam R. and Sue H.

Secretary: Sallie O.

Newsletter: Bill D.
Newsletter.PiedmontFiberGuild@gmail.com

Charity: Carol W.

Webmaster: Sue C.
Webmaster.PiedmontFiberGuild@gmail.com

Marketing/Events/Booth:
Gail B.

Social Media: Kristen Q.

Membership: Dick K.

Library: Sonia S.

Hospitality: Peggy H. and
Linda E.
Hospitality.PiedmontFiberGuild@gmail.com

Workshops: OPEN
Workshop.PiedmontFiberGuild@gmail.com

Equipment Manager: Tammy D.
Equipment.PiedmontFiberGuild@gmail.com

Contents

Page 2 –Future Programs
Page 3 – From the President
Page 4 – Carolina Handspinners News
Page 5 – Upcoming Events
Page 6 – Entertainment
Page 11 – Weavers Study Group
Page 14 – In Memoriam
Page 15 – Quick Notes
Page 16 – Guild Equipment Rental Policy

Hospitality : The following people have signed up for ---

Food: **There is no meeting this month due to the continuing threat of the spread of the COVID19 virus.**

Drinks: **continuing threat of the spread of the COVID19 virus.**

Opportunities: **With any luck we will meet again soon!**

Stay home and stay safe!

Please remember, if you find you cannot attend and bring your refreshment, drink, or opportunity item, please contact one of the Hospitality Chairpersons Peggy H. or Linda E. and let them know so other arrangements can be made. Thanks!

Upcoming Guild Meetings



- ~~April 19th~~ X X
- May 17th ???
- June 21st ???

Our program for this month as well as possibly future months will be rescheduled.

Remember, our NEW MEETING PLACE - South Tryon Community United Methodist Church, 2516 S Tryon St., Charlotte, NC 28203 (at the intersection of S. Tryon and Remount Rd.)

Future Programs

This would be a great opportunity to suggest that we all think of programs that we would like for future meetings. As the COVID-19 virus continues to make meeting in public places with large groups too threatening (and currently illegal) let's reflect on what we might like to see for programs once we are able to resume meeting in person. Contact Pam R. or Sue H. with your ideas.



Meeting Minutes – March 2020

Well, it seems that our Secretary is getting a bit of a break, at least as far as recording meeting minutes! In February, our meeting was considered to be our participation in the Carolina Alpaca Celebration, and then some bat in China decided to start what would be a world-wide virus outbreak the likes of which we have not seen in modern times, so there was no March meeting and no April meeting. It is unfortunate that we all can not get together but it is much wiser to stay home, and remain safe and well during these times. The situation WILL get better, hopefully sooner rather than later and we will all be able to see each other again. Until then, let's stay in touch using Ravelry, Facebook, email, video chat, phone calls or (gasp!) old-fashioned cards and letters sent via snail mail!

(editor)



From the President

Dear Friends,

Once again we will not be meeting in person. I know this is disappointing, but I'd rather wait to see all of you than have anyone get sick, and of course, there's the small detail of Gov. Cooper's restriction on groups of people meeting.

I am sorry to report that we have lost one of our very special members. Maurice Blackburn passed away on March 29 after a brief battle with cancer. His complete obituary and details about his memorial appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

I am sewing masks, Masks for nurses, grocery clerks, sanitation workers, senior citizens. Anyone who needs them. I wear one, too. At the grocery store, pharmacy, answering my front door. It is a good practice that doesn't hurt anyone and may save someone. If you need a mask let me know. I'll get you one. Sewing masks may not be a big thing in the overall scheme of the pandemic, but it feels good to do something for others, even if it is small, occupies my days, distracts me from binging on the news coverage.

This is a difficult time for most of us, so I want to say, if you need help, just ask! We are an amazing group of people with considerable contacts and resources as a whole. Somebody will be able to help themselves, or know how to get you the assistance you need.

Business wise, the board has been consulting about how to handle the election of members, and we will soon be sending an email to all members about that process and what it will look like under the current circumstances.

As I write this, tomorrow (April 16) is National Wear Pajamas to Work Day, something I expect that some of us have already been doing over the past couple of weeks! If you haven't yet, tomorrow is the perfect day to start!

Other days to look forward to include:

April 18 – National Velociraptor Awareness Day

April 22 – Earth Day AND National Jelly Bean Day

April 28 – National Superhero Day

May 4 – Star Wars Day **May the Fourth be with you!**

May 6 - International No Diet Day

May 9 – National Moscato Day

May 11 – National Eat What You Want Day

Stay safe. This too shall pass.

Sue



Carolina Handspinners

Hi All,

Hope this finds you enjoying the early signs of Spring in your yard and in your fiber arts. Here are some notes from today's meeting:

1. The next regular meeting of Carolina Handspinners scheduled for Tuesday April 14th has been cancelled.
2. Quarterly Saturday meeting has also been cancelled.
3. Exciting News!! Members of our own group have been working diligently behind the scenes to create a fantastic event for local fiber lovers.
 1. What: Southern Comforts Fiber Market
 2. When: August 14-15th
 3. Where: The Soundstage at the River Place, 453 Glynwood, Forest Dr, Fort Mill, South Carolina 2971
 4. What: Fiber vendors galore plus great eats from local Food Truck vendors. Free Parking! Admission: 1 day \$3, 2 day \$5
 5. Website: <https://southerncomfortsfibermarket.com/> for more information.
4. Upcoming Events and Fiber Demonstrations:
 1. June 5-6: Alleghany County Fair Grounds: Blue Ridge Fiber Fest, Sparta, NC has been cancelled
 2. Upcoming Fiber Demonstration Opportunities: If interested in participating, please contact Gail Boyles (gboyles44@gmail.com) for more information.
 - i. May 2, 2020 Belmont, NC Historical Society Living History Day 10am - 2pm40 Catawba St Belmont, NC
 - ii. June 6, 2020: Banner Elk, NC: Apple Hill Farm Alpaca Shearing Day 9am-2pm. Get a break from the heat and enjoy a day with the alpacas as well! (unconfirmed)
 - iii. June 6th: Catawba River Artisans show has been cancelled
 - iv. Mark your calendars:
 1. Matthews Alive!: September 5-7
 2. September 28-29: Murray's Mill Harvest Folk Festival <http://catawbahistory.org/events/48/5268>
 3. Cotton Ginning Days: October 10-11
 3. Please share if you are aware of events or happenings in the area of interest to our group. Also, please contact me (chrismom98@gmail.com) with questions or ideas to make our group even more fun for all.

Happy Spring and Happy Spinning!

Christine Dunlap chrismom98@gmail.com
Coordinator, Carolina Handspinners



Upcoming Events



UPCOMING EVENTS/CANCELLATIONS

The regular meeting of Carolina Handspinners scheduled for Tuesday April 14th has been cancelled.

Likewise, the Quarterly Saturday meeting to take place at the home of Linda Pushee on April 25 is postponed till later in the summer when we can meet in safety

It appears from their Facebook page that all events at The Fibre Studio in Charlotte are being held virtually via Zoom

Belmont's 'Living History Day' scheduled for May has been cancelled

The Catawba River Artisans have cancelled their craft sale to have taken place June 6th in Cramerton

According to their Facebook Page, the Blue Ridge Fiber Fest will be cancelled this June.

Maryland Sheep and Wool festival has also been cancelled

It is unfortunate that I have to report so many cancellations, but hopefully next month we will have better news. This virus will pass, and we will return to normal. We will get through this together. In the meantime, stay inside and stay safe!



Strange But True

I just happened to run across this by accident on Google News.

World's oldest yarn hints that Neanderthals had basic math skills

A tiny scrap of thread stuck to the lower side of a stone flake offers a huge insight into Neanderthal life. The 6.2mm (0.24 inch) long bit of thread, spun from plant fibers, is the oldest example of the material ever found. According to uranium-series dating, the thread came from a layer of sediment between 52,000 and 41,000 years old at a Neanderthal site called Abri du Maras, in France. Its nearest rival for the "oldest string ever" title is a fragment of fiber from a 19,000-year-old site in Israel.

When Kenyon College archaeologist Bruce Hardy and his colleagues looked at the thread under a microscope, the fibers turned out to be from bast: a fibrous layer of tissue just beneath the bark of a tree. These particular fibers had probably come from a conifer like pine, which would have been available nearby, according to pollen and charcoal traces from the site. An ancient craftsperson had twisted fibers together clockwise to make twisted bundles and then twisted three bundles together counterclockwise to make a three-ply cord. The cord was about 0.5mm thick (lace weight, if you're a modern knitter or crocheter).....

This is just a portion of the articleto read it in its entirety, use the following link

<https://arstechnica.com/science/2020/04/neanderthals-made-the-worlds-oldest-thread/>

Fun and Games

Hope this is not taken in any way to be in bad taste. We are having to do a lot of things to take our minds off of the COVID-19 situation. This was found in a newsletter sent to me for the York County Cultural and Heritage Museum Society volunteers as we are still interpreters at Historic Brattonsville.

Thanks to director Windy Cole for allowing me to share these puzzles that she has created herself and published in the volunteer newsletter.

See if you can find these words that have new meanings in our current vocabulary.

Social distancing
Containment zone
Flattening the curve
Lockdown
Working from home

Pandemic
Asymptomatic
Handwashing
Quarantines
Six feet

CDC
Coronavirus
Shelter in place
Viral
Prevention

COVID-19

Find these words that relate to COVID-19

O A F A S Y M P T O M A T I C M R B D L
S L U L N S E N I T N A R A U Q C S C L
B I P X A O M E L I O Q I M J A M H O M
G E H E S T X K U B H W P T X S W E G Z
N N H C C J T M C Z G O C X M Y U L F E
I O V D E H U E N R N R N A N M X T U Q
H Z M J X U Q C N G I K C W Y P W E O X
S T I Y P S G W N I C I H U G T R R G P
A N P L O U N A S K N N Z N Z O L I W R
W E A O H R W C E C A G J W Q M S N F E
D M N C V I S K G X T F T I T A Z P C V
N N D K X V M V Y Q S R Z H E T N L C E
A I E D T A W B T G I O K W E I A A J N
H A M O E N K C I G D M S C F C R C D T
A T I W S O L D M I L H O C X Z U E J I
Q N C N F R A C J F A O R P I W C R Z O
S O I H M O R D W N I M S B S F P U V N
U C U M U C I R J V C E J B U N U N W E
Q H H F G U V A K G O L J S C R N V W S
H N K J P U X V V N S V L B U J S T B W

See if you can help 'flush out' these popular movie titles by replacing Toilet Paper with the two correct words. Pun intended, of course, due to the unnecessary panic and disappearance of toilet paper from the grocery shelves!

Gone With The Toilet Paper _____

Toilet Paper Strikes Back _____

Revenge of Toilet Paper _____

A Toilet Paper in the Neighborhood _____

Close Encounters of the Toilet Paper _____

The Lord of Toilet Paper _____

Toilet Paper the Beast _____

All the Toilet Paper _____

Toilet Paper Hunting _____

Some Like Toilet Paper _____

Saving Toilet Paper _____

When Toilet Met Paper _____

Toilet Paper's Day Off _____

One Flew over the Toilet Paper _____

Toilet Paper Club _____

Singin' in Toilet Paper _____

The Toilet of Paper _____

The Toilet of the Paper _____

It's Toilet Paper Life _____

Gone with Toilet Paper _____

Raiders of the Lost Ark _____

Back to Toilet Paper _____

Toilet Paper Redemption _____

Some interesting videos to pass the time and educate!

Hi All,

Hope this finds you all healthy and safe at home enjoying your fiber arts. Since we can't meet in person this month, I thought we might share any video's or blog posts we have found that are especially interesting.

I'm starting with 2 YouTube videos by Suzy Brown, a fiber artist from New Zealand who works a great deal with controlling color in her spinning using different techniques. She is known as WoolWench and Fiberygoodness. Look both these names up as she offers classes, products on Etsy, lots of videos and a digital magazine.

The first link is rather long (over 40 min) about using a hackle to control color in her spinning. Fascinating stuff as she creates specific patterns for loading her hackle and how these patterns end up in finished knit fabric. Comes with access to a 50 pg workbook which is basically copies of her own sample book with notes and explanations. Thanks so much to Suzy for sharing all this information with us.

<https://www.fiberygoodness.com/2020/04/tiny-hackle-studio-free-workshop/>

This second link is a bit older and show Suzy taking various fibers from the dye pot to finished yarn also using a hackle. While this can be an expensive tool, she refers to using our Blending Boards in a similar way with a bit different results.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vaOiYkDPYLI&feature=emb_rel_end.

I hope these help to feed your love of learning fibery techniques and inspire you to create some of your own yarns. Be sure to share your results with the rest of us!

Happy Spinning!

Christine Dunlap chrisdmom98@gmail.com

Coordinator, Carolina Handspinners

More things to do while you are Quarantined and Bored

Virtual Tours

The Louvre – Paris <https://www.louvre.fr/en/visites-en-ligne#tabs>

The Smithsonian - <https://naturalhistory2.si.edu/vt3/NMNH/>

Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art https://artsandculture.google.com/streetview/metropolitan-museum-of-art/KAFHmsOTE-4Xyw?hl=en&sv_lng=-73.9624786&sv_lat=40.7803959&sv_h=315.0285349959785&sv_p=0.9453475127378823&sv_pid=KeFx8oXHzeuY8L5rfepHaA&sv_z=0.625322263183535

Space Center – Houston <https://spacecenter.org/app/>

Georgia Aquarium - https://www.georgiaaquarium.org/webcam/ocean-voyager/?keyword=georgia%20aquarium&gclid=Cj0KCQjwj7v0BRDOARIsAGh37ioe-MegF3CU8mUmHyY17LC1ivr1AhFK4nSBethugHmNaf_jsP3DqDMaAn0dEALw_wcB

Walt Disney World Rides - <https://www.themeparkprofessor.com/2020/03/virtual-walt-disney-world-and-disneyland-rides/>

LEARN A NEW SKILL

Harvard Univ. Free Online Classes - <https://online-learning.harvard.edu/catalog/free>

Nikon Free Online Photography Classes - <https://www.nikonevents.com/us/live/nikon-school-online/>

Milk Street Cooking Classes - <https://www.177milkstreet.com/school/classes/online-classes>

Class Central – over 400 Ivy League Classes Free - <https://www.freecodecamp.org/news/ivy-league-free-online-courses-a0d7ae675869/>

ENTERTAINMENT

Classical Music Cocerts - <https://www.classicfm.com/music-news/no-audiences-concerts-streamed-to-world/>

Billboard Charts Concerts - <https://www.billboard.com/articles/columns/pop/9335531/coronavirus-quarantine-music-events-online-streams>

And DON'T FORGET to check out our own website , <https://piedmontfiberguild.org> to see what is new there!

Started your garden yet?

With the shortage of almost everything in the grocery stores, what better time to start your own vegetable or herb garden (anybody remember the Victory Gardens of WWII ?) Why not a COVID Garden rather than eat all of those veggies that who knows how many hands have touched! My heirloom tomato plants that I start indoors every year from seed are almost ready and the Almanac says plant beans and root crops this weekend , and tomatoes next weekend. Give it a try ...even just a container or two and enjoy the flavor that you can't get in the grocery stores. Fun project to start with the kids or grandkids, too!



Weavers Study Group

From Sue Helmken ...

We hope to have a face-to-face workshop in the future on Doubleweave, but, of course, it will have to wait until the COVID-19 outbreak subsides.

We may also have an online/zoom workshop on using the PCW weaving program. If you have never used weaving software to help design or visualize drafts, most of the popular software packages are available to download for a free trial. Fiberworks PCW can be downloaded at <http://www.fiberworks-pcw.com/>. The Free Trial lets you play with the software but does not allow you to save or print designs.

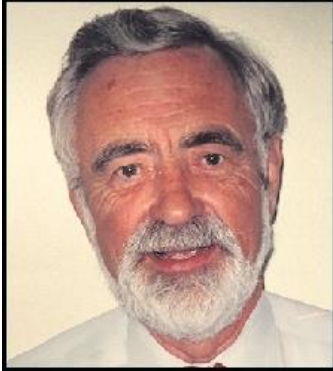
The recent meeting using the Zoom online platform was a great success and we had quite a few attendees

Bill and Chris D. and Sallie O. , along with a couple of others, attended the recent Overshot Workshop at the studio of Sue Helmken, The Barefoot Weaver . She presented multiple variations on overshot weaving. Here, Sallie has shared several pictures of her samples that she wove that day. There were various types of looms used, from 4 shaft table looms to 8 shaft floor looms but all of he patterns demonstrated are capable of being done on a 4 shaft loom.





Remembering our member and dear friend



As most of you know already, we recently lost a dear friend, weaver, dedicated member, past Guild President, Webmaster and Treasurer, mentor and teacher, Maurice Blackburn. I am including the Charlotte Observer obituary below. I personally can't say how many times I was inspired to get back to weaving after a 'dry-spell', by talking with him or just looking at his latest work. He always answered my emails with weaving questions and more than once invited me to his studio to help me understand a technique that I might have had trouble with. We will all miss him terribly. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Ursula and their family.

Maurice Blackburn CHARLOTTE -

n

Charlotte, NC. He was born August 16, 1931, in Northumberland, England to Benjamin and Hilda Blackburn. Maurice attended school at Liverpool University in Liverpool, England where he received a Master's Degree in Science. During his career, he worked in the textile industry in England, emigrated to Canada in 1957, before setting up residence in Charlotte, NC. Maurice was a dedicated employee to the American Barmag Corporation for over 20 years before his retirement. Maurice married Ursula, also known as Motty, in 1956 in Douglas, Isle of Man and was happily married for 63 years. Maurice is survived by his wife, his children Hazel Mengel and husband Don of Lansdale, PA, Nancy Lowery and husband Ron of Charlotte, NC and Jennifer Perry and husband Will also of Charlotte NC, along with his five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Maurice is also survived by his brother Harold Blackburn and wife Jean of Ludlow, England. Maurice was preceded in death by his parents Benjamin and Hilda and a grandchild Tina Mengel. Maurice enjoyed many hobbies including white water canoeing, camping, photography, wood working and weaving. Maurice was a member of many organizations over the years, most recently he was an active member of the Piedmont Fiber Guild as well as the Mecklenburg Historical Society. A memorial service will be held at a future date this summer at Rural Hill, 4431 Neck Road, Huntersville, NC 28078, an historical location that was special to Maurice. In lieu of flowers the family respectfully requests that memorial donations to be made to the organizations he was involved with: Piedmont Fiber Guild - PO Box 2, Gastonia, NC 28053; Latta Plantation - Online at <https://www.lattaplantation.org/> or Rural Hill - P. O. Box 1009, Huntersville, NC 28070.

Published in Charlotte Observer on Apr. 2, 2020

I have been reminded that there is a link on the PFG website for donations to both Latta and PFG, in Maurice's memory.

Quick Notes

PFG Library: We have a wonderful selection of books covering all types of fiber art. The library is open during our meeting. Please take a look at these resources and check-out a book (members only).

Newsletter Contributions: If you have done or seen something fiber related that might be of interest to PFG members, please send it to me for addition to a future newsletter. I would like contributions **by the first week of each month** so that I may send the newsletter out one week prior to our meeting, as a meeting reminder. Don't worry, I'll send out an email reminder a week or two prior to the deadline! Thanks.

Bill D. Newsletter.PiedmontFiberGuild@gmail.com or wdunlap323@gmail.com

Hospitality - For those of you who have not volunteered yet, I am sure that our hospitality chairperson, Peggy H. would appreciate some volunteers for the next few meetings.

For those of you who are new to PFG, the refreshments provided at each meeting are provided by member volunteers. Usually, refreshments are broken down into food and drinks, being provided by different volunteers.

Opportunity items are donated materials, equipment, etc., that are auctioned at each meeting by way of purchasing tickets for \$1 donation to the guild. Peggy is also in charge of recruiting volunteers to donate materials for the drawings that we have at each meeting.

Please contact Peggy H. if you are able to help out with either .



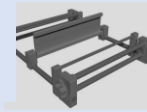
Hope the Easter Bunny was good to you



One more COVID-19 pass-time.. With paper products including dinner napkins, being in such short supply (or being hoarded!) Chris D. decided to weave some cloth napkins for our family. Use up the leftover cones you have lying around. 3/2, 5/2 or even 10/2 cotton work great, and wash up well. You can do some plain weave really quickly, or get creative and try new patterns. What better use for samples..they don't all have to be the same! As many loads of laundry as we do per week, we just throw them in the washer when they are soiled and with 2 or 3 sets, we're always supplied at mealtime.



Terms for Guild Equipment Rental 2019-2020



The Guild has the following equipment available for 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, Tammy D., Equipment.PiedmontFiberGuild@gmail.com. There is a brief contract that 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 for more than one month, additional rental fees are due.

If you have and fiber equipment that you would like to donate to the Guild, please contact Tammy (Equipment.PiedmontFiberGuild@gmail.com) or the Guild President (President.PiedmontFiberGuild@gmail.com).

<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" 4-shaft Folding Floor Loom	\$50 / month	\$100
Harrisville 4-Shaft Floor Loom	\$50 / month	\$100
LeClerc 2-Shaft Table Loom	contact Tammy	
Dorothy 8-Shaft Table Loom	contact Tammy	

Piedmont Fiber Guild meets at South Tryon Community United Methodist Church, 2516 S Tryon St. Charlotte, NC 28203 , at the intersection of South Tryon Street and Remount Road. We meet in the church basement, entering by the side door or the back door down the ramp if needed.

Meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month from 2-4 pm. Occasionally this changes, due to conflicts with major holidays.