

PIEDMONT FIBER GUILD

**PFG Board,
2018-2019:**

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Upcoming meetings:

Jan. 20 - Sue Clover: Fiber Adventures in Egypt

Feb. 17 - charity work meeting (same weekend as Carolina Alpaca Celebration)

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

Apr. 28 - basket maker Nancy Duffie

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

June, July, and August - open

Message from the President:

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Ah, yes, it's that wonderful time of year when we all make resolutions with the best of intentions. Mine always seem to revolve around my yarn stash, more specifically reducing my yarn stash. I usually hold out until the first good yarn sale, even if it's an "out with the old - in with the new" sale in January. Repurposing has helped, taking old yarn and plying it with other old yarns or over-dyeing. Yet my stash keeps growing...

One thing I hope we will all do is make better use of the guild and everything it has to offer. We have a great library, our website keeps getting better, and we can share questions and ideas readily in our chat group. We're meeting year 'round, too.

If you have ideas for the summer, do let the board members know. And need I mention the newsletter?! It's a great place to mention *for-sale* or *in-search-of* items.

We're so much more than a place to meet once a month.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year.

May all your fiber fantasies come true! - Sue

Minutes from last month's meeting: There are none, since December was our guild party, held at Sue Helmken's home, where those attending had a lovely time.

Hospitality Announcements for the January 21 guild meeting:

The following people have signed up to bring items for this Sunday's guild meeting:

Food: Susie N. and Ursula B.

Drinks: Gail B.

Opportunity: Dick K.

Please remember, if you find you cannot attend and bring your refreshment, drink, or opportunity item, you need to contact the Hospitality Chairperson, Peggy H., and let her know so other arrangements can be made. Thanks!

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, Feb. 16, and Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019 - Carolina Alpaca Celebration, held at the Cabarrus Arena. Please let Gail Boyles know if you will be participating in demonstrating fiber crafts at this event. More information about this later in the newsletter.

Ongoing: Fiber Phun every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Historic Polk Homesite in Pineville, led by Laura Bain.

Weavers' Study Group:

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 23, 2019 from 1-3 p.m. at Maurice and Ursula's. This will be the first meeting about our new study project for the year, Summer and Winter.

Carolina Handspinners:

In early November 2017, several members of the handspinners were fortunate to take a plant tour of a Pharr Yarns plant in Lowell, NC. Keith Henry, Quality Engineer in Dye Technology, gave us a wonderful tour of the facility. To thank Mr. Henry for his time, those who had been on the tour purchased a lovely scarf in masculine colors woven by our own Sue H. According to Chris, Mr. Henry was absolutely delighted when she and Bill presented the scarf to him in mid-December.

Carolina Handspinners meets from 2-4 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at the Lowell Community Center in Lowell, NC. Meetings are open to the public.

Book request for the library: A member has requested the purchase of a book Saltwater Mittens, published by Boulder Books out of Canada. Two ladies from Newfoundland have found that many of the traditional patterns were not written down, and were in danger of being lost. They have been collecting old mittens and figuring out the patterns and how they were made. There are some mittens that were made for specific outdoor activities, such as 'trigger mitts' so a hunter could use his gun while wearing the mittens. Lots of history as well.

An Article from Genie G. about her experience with Navajo Weaving last summer:

We love the Southwest, and Taos, New Mexico seemed a great place to take a Navajo weaving workshop. Eleven other people and I spent almost a week this past July learning the basics of warping and weaving, and also gained some insight into the Navajo culture.

The first day was spent building portable frames with warp and shed stick inserts to tie onto the looms later. Our instructor, Pearl, demonstrated how to tie down the rods, then in groups of two, we helped each other tie down rods onto a horizontal frame. Then we wound the warp between them with a cross in the center, ending with a set-up that allowed for a 20 X 11 inch four-selvedge weaving. We then tied the set-up, rods and all, to the loom we would be using the next day. (So glad I took detailed notes and drawings for future use.)

Next day we picked our colors and after a demonstration started weaving our own creations. The traditional Navajo weaving techniques are identical to what we use--weft interlock, warp interlock, and the slit weave which is rarely used. Two differences in the actual weaving process is that the wefts are all laid in from right to left, and each row is woven in one direction. Also, loose ends are never left flapping in the back. The two weft ends are feathered, then laid in the same shed.

Our last day, we rolled up our unfinished weavings with the rods and warp sticks tied in, and bought any more yarn we wanted to take home.

The yarn provided was Navajo Churro, but unnaturally dyed in bright colors, which is what many people do find inspiring. I myself would be reluctant to share my own naturally hand dyed yarn. Pearl herself handspun all the yarn at the workshop, and even demonstrated on a long Navajo spindle. The looms, as well as the frame rods and shed sticks, were made by her two grandsons.. Her daughter assisted during the workshop, and is quite a weaver in her own right.

This was more than just a weaving workshop. First thing each morning we sat in a circle on the grounds of the old hotel we were at, while Pearl set a quiet focus time to start the day. Being a story teller, she recalled stories of her early life, and things their parents taught them. Then she would sing a song in Navaho while playing a small drum. Also, she encouraged each of us to share about one thing or another.

After-class activities were planned. We all went out to dinner one night, called "Dinner with Pearl", including the twelve of us from the class, five husbands, and Pearl and her family. All sat at one big table, and it felt so much like we were a huge family all together. Another night we visited the Millicent Rogers Museum, which houses a few very well done examples of Navajo weaving as well as some very 'early-in-history' attempts. We also visited the San Franciscan del Assis Church, casually referred to as "O' Keefe's Church" as Georgia O'Keefe featured it in her art.

Pearl Sunrise herself is very warm, enthusiastic, a patient teacher, and is world renowned for her own weaving, with many other accolades to her name. Please check out her website "<http://taosartschool.org/pearl/pearltaos.htm>".

An Article from Gail B. about the Carolina Alpaca Celebration:

Get your spinning wheels, needles, hooks and looms ready, it's time again for the Carolina Alpaca Celebration! The Piedmont Fiber Guild has participated in this show for many years. It's a great opportunity for the guild to show off awesome fiber talents and enjoy fellowship not only with visitors to the event but also with many of the regional alpaca breeders.

This year, the show is Saturday, February 16, 9am-5pm, and Sunday, February 17, 9am-4pm. If you plan to come, here are a few reminders:

- This is a drop in event. Come when you want, leave when you want. However, I need to know if you are coming so I can register you with the volunteer coordinator. There will be sign ups at January's meeting or send me an email: gboyles44@gmail.com if you plan to attend. Let me know which day you're coming and if you'll be there morning, afternoon or both.
- You will need to bring your own chair.
- There is food(hamburgers, fries etc) available or you can bring your own food and drink.
- I am checking on the temperature in the arena. Up until last year, it was about 60 degrees for the alpacas. This past year, the arena temperature was normal. I will inform those who are coming what the temperature will be so you can dress appropriately
- Bring fibers items with you to show off. Although the show is all about alpaca, you can bring items made out of other fibers.

Along with our demonstrating, vendors and the alpacas, there are other events going on you might be interested in:

- On Saturday, there will be a Fleece to Shawl competition. Already 3 teams have formed that include guild members. Come and cheer on these teams and see how this type of competition works.
- There is also a fiber arts contest. In past years, members have entered this contest and won ribbons for spun skeins and handmade fiber items. It's a bit tricky to work the registration on their website but I'm here to help you get through it. It's a great contest to show off any skill level. To register, go to this link : <http://carolinaalpacacelebration.com/skein-fiber-arts/>
- Stoney Meadows Alpacas is a vendor again this year. Usually on Saturday right after the show, they will have a free class on using their hand looms. This is a fun time to learn or hone your looming skills, and also hang out with other fiber enthusiasts.

For more information, visit: <http://carolinaalpacacelebration.com/>

Greetings From The Triangle Weavers Guild: The Triangle Weavers Guild would like to offer your Guild the opportunity to participate in our educational program.

Wedge Weaving with Connie Lippert, Friday to Sunday, March 1-3: 9am to 4pm, at the Triangle Fiber Arts Center, 3717 Murphy School Road, Durham, NC 27705

Cost: \$275 for members (membership costs \$40), \$315 for non-members.

Registration starts on 1/21/19 for non-members.

The complete class description, registration form, and future class schedule can be found on our website www.Triangleweavers.org.

Should you have any questions please email me, Dan Galligan, at galligandan0@gmail.com.

More information about the instructor can be found at connielippert.com.

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	
Dorothy 12-shaft Table Loom	contact Vivian	

Piedmont Fiber Guild meets at the **REMOUNT EXECUTIVE CENTER**, LOCATED AT **2020 REMOUNT RD., GASTONIA, NC 28054**. Meetings are on the third Sunday of the month from 2-4 p.m. Occasionally this changes due to a conflict with a major holiday.

This 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.



Winter Knitting Workshop

Please join the Charlotte Knitting Guild
for a

Winter Knitting Workshop

with Master Knitter

Heather Storta

Finishing School

(seaming, picking up stitches and
more!)

and

Mosaic Knitting

Saturday, January 26, 2019

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Sharon Towers Craft Room

5100 Sharon Road, Charlotte, NC

\$75 for current member

\$95 for non - member

(includes Guild Membership through July 2019)

Registration fee includes lunch and both classes. Limit 20
attendees.

Cancellation policy: full refund up to 1/5/19, 50% refund
up to 1/19/19 and no refund after 1/19/19

Materials List

- Homework Swatches for Finishing School - 5 small swatches, blocked.
Homework PDF: <https://tinyurl.com/yc5fduhv>
- Two contrasting colors of Worsted weight cotton yarn for Mosaic class. About 100 yards of each.
- Working needles in size US7 or similar for Mosaic knitting class.
- Circular needle in size US7 (or dpns) for Finishing School.
- Waste yarn in contrasting color from Homework swatches.
- Ruler/tape measure.
- Stitch markers.
- Tapestry needle.
- Scissors.

Have questions or need more
information? Email:

charlotteknittingguild@gmail.com

Dyer Straits

Are any of you out there interested in starting a dye study group? We could work on natural dyes, acid dyes, fiber-reactive dyes. We could try dyeing fleeces, yarn, warps, cloth. I'm happy to offer the studio for meeting, but I'm open to other ideas, places closer to where the majority of us live. Please contact me or talk with me at the meeting.

Sue Helmken barefootweaver@earthlink.net

703-944-4488

