

# PIEDMONT FIBER GUILD

## Executive Board 2018-2019

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Kristin Quackenbush

Equipment Manager  
Vivian Brenner

## UPCOMING MEETINGS:

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

Apr. 28 - basket maker Nancy Duffie

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

June, July, and August - open

## HOSPITALITY:

The following people have signed up to bring things for the March meeting:

Food: Kay B.

Nobody else has signed up for anything, so folks, please don't leave it all on Kay. If you would like to help out, please contact Kay so you can coordinate. Usually we have two people to bring food, somebody brings drinks, and somebody brings an opportunity item. Thanks.

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!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

As cold as it is while I'm writing this, I know spring is just around the corner, and I can't wait for it! I'm so ready to ditch the cold, gray days of winter and enjoy a bit of spring fever. Should we all wear green to the meeting? Happy St. Patty's Day!

There are plenty of spring and summer events coming up: The Loch Norman Games in April, the Catawba River Artisans' Show in Cramerton and Sheep Shearing at Brattonsville Plantation in May, the Blue Ridge Fiber Festival in June... The list goes on.

Some of these events allow us to sell our wares as well as demonstrate our skills, and this could be a way to raise money for the guild. We're discussing having a guild sales table with a percentage of the sales going to the guild. Please think it over and let Gail or me know if you'd be interested in participating. It's always a fun day when we get together for these events!

Guild Elections: In May we will be electing officers and committee chairs for the guild. At the meeting, we will have a list of the positions needing to be filled. If you haven't served on the board in a while, please consider what you can do to help the group. We all enjoy the meetings, but there is work to be done, too. The more people participating, the less work for everyone involved.

- Sue H.

**MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING:**

There are no minutes since only three people showed up for the charity work day. Many other guild members were involved with the Carolina Alpaca Celebration in Concord NC that weekend. More on that later in the newsletter.

**Historic Brattonsville Sheep Shearing Event**

Saturday, May 11, 2019

Jayne Benton has asked if we could demonstrate spinning, weaving and/or dyeing at this year's Sheep Shearing event. Participants do NOT have to be in costume as they want visitors to know this isn't just a thing of the past. Lunch will be provided.

They will also have textile activities every Saturday in May and would welcome any participation for that. Please contact Sue H. soon if you'd like to participate so we/they can make plans. You're welcome to rendezvous at Sue's studio and carpool over if you'd like.

- Sue H

**NOTES FROM CAROLINA HANDSPINNERS, by Chris D.:**

The next regular meeting of Carolina Handspinners will take place on Tuesday March 12<sup>th</sup> 2-4pm at Lowell Community Center, 501 West First Street, Lowell, NC. This meeting is open to the public so please invite fiber-interested friends to attend.

The next Bimonthly Saturday meeting will take place on Saturday March 16<sup>th</sup> 10am-4pm at the home of Pam R. Please contact Pam directly if you would like to attend this meeting. Please be sure to tell Pam what you will bring to share for Potluck Lunch. Thanks to Pam for again opening her home to this meeting that allows those who can't make our weekday meetings to enjoy the fun of Carolina Handspinners.

At the March 16 Bimonthly Saturday meeting, Mary Bare of Cranberry Creek Farm, Monroe, NC will be talking to us about 'Shear Them 2 Save Them', an initiative of the Livestock Conservancy which encourages spinners to seek out and support farmers who raise rare breed sheep in order to support these farmers and preserve these sheep breeds. Here is a link for more information about this program: <https://livestockconservancy.org/index.php/involved/internal/SE2>. Mary raises several rare breeds and will have fiber as well as the needed documents to take part in this project.

Of note, two teams from our group competed in the Fiber to Shawl Competition at Carolina Alpaca Celebration and finished 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>! Both teams produced gorgeous shawls which were sold at an auction event and brought in good money for both teams as well as the show organizers. Be sure to congratulate Sue C., Dawn B., and Burgl P. of Weave Been Fleeced and Sue H., Gail B., and Chris D. of Twisted Trio for all their work and for their accomplishments.



**WEAVERS' STUDY GROUP:**

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 27, from 1-3 p.m., at Linda E.'s home. This year's weave structure is 'Summer and Winter'.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

3/16/2019, Saturday, 10-4, Bimonthly Spin at Pam R.'s.

3/15, 16, 17/2019, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Carolina Fiber Frolic in Sapphire, NC. For more information: <https://carolinafiberfrolic.wordpress.com/>

3/17/2019, Sunday, 2-4 pm, Piedmont Fiber Guild general meeting at Remount Executive Center, Gastonia, NC.

3/22 & 23/2019, Friday and Saturday, Carolina Fiber Fest in Raleigh, NC at the fairgrounds. For more information: <https://www.carolinafiberfest.org/>

3/27/2019, Wednesday, 1-3 pm, Weavers Study Group at Linda E.'s.

4/4-7/2019, Thursday-Sunday, Southeast Fiber Forum in Gatlinburg, TN at Arrowmont School of Craft. For more information: [sefiberforum.org](http://sefiberforum.org)

4/9/2019, Tuesday, 2-4 pm, Carolina Handspinners at Lowell Community Center.

4/13 & 14/2019, Saturday and Sunday, Loch Norman Highland Games at Rural Hill in Huntersville, NC. For more information, please see their Facebook page.

4/28/2019, Sunday, 2-4 pm, Piedmont Fiber Guild general meeting at Remount Executive Center, Gastonia, NC.

5/4/2019, Saturday, Catawba River Artisans Show in Cramerton, NC

5/11/2019, Saturday, Brattonsville Sheep Shearing

5/11/2019, Saturday, Fiber Day at the Asheville Folk Art Center

5/14/2019, Tuesday, 2-4 pm, Carolina Handspinners at Lowell Community Center.

5/19/2019, Sunday, 2-4 pm, Piedmont Fiber Guild general meeting at Remount Executive Center, Gastonia, NC.

5/22/2019, Wednesday, 1-3 pm, Weavers Study Group at Sue C's.

5/31, 6/1 & 2/2019, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Summer/Winter workshop with Sue H.

6/1/2019, Saturday, 9:30 am-1:30 pm, Anything Fiber Yard Sale at Warren Wilson College in DeVries gymnasium.

6/7 & 8/2019, Friday & Saturday, Blue Ridge Fiber Fest, Allegheny County Fairgrounds, 1375 Hwy 21 Bypass, Sparta, NC. For more information [www.blueridgefiberfest.com](http://www.blueridgefiberfest.com).

6/8/2019, Saturday, 10 am - 12 pm, Knitting with the Alpacas at Apple Hill Farm

**More Information about Guild Events from Gail B.:**

\*If you are interested in participating at any of these events, please contact Gail Boyles at [gboyles44@gmail.com](mailto:gboyles44@gmail.com) for more information.

May 4, 2019 - Catawba River Artisans' Show - Cramerton, NC. 10:00am - 4:00pm. This is a well attended outdoor event and features many talented artisans. Not only will be fiber demonstrating event but there is also an option to sell your fiber items with a percentage going to the guild.

May 26, 2019 Murray's Mill, Denver, NC 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm The Historical Association of Catawba County has started a series this year called "Mill Around Sundays". They are featuring different arts and crafts the last Sunday of each month. There is an option to sell your fiber items (with a percentage going to the guild) at this event. <http://www.catawbahistory.org>

June 1, 2019 Alpaca shearing day - Apple Hill Farm, Banner Elk. 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Not only is it a beautiful ride to this farm, it's also a farm with a "million dollar view" of the Blue Ridge Mountains. For the past few years, the guild has been participating at this event. Well attended and a very entertaining shearer is there. <https://applehillfarmnc.com/>

Mark your calendar for these events later in the year:

August 30 - September 3 - Matthews Alive! <https://www.matthewsalive.org/>

October 12 & 13 - Cotton Ginning Days Dallas, NC

\*\*\*\* Gail says: Let me know if you find any area events you think the guild might be interested in participating in and I'll check them out ! \*\*\*\*

**MARCH GUILD MEETING PROGRAM** - information from Debbie S.:

Join us for an enjoyable and informative afternoon with our own Carol Wertz, as she takes us through her presentation, "Journey to Master Weaver and Beyond". No matter what skill level you find yourself as a weaver, or if you've been thinking of delving into the world of weaving for the first time, her presentation promises to be encouraging and interesting. See you then!

**NEW EXHIBIT AT THE GASTON COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART & HISTORY in Dallas, NC:**

The new exhibit entitled "1929 STRIKE: A Community Divided" explores aspects of the famous Loray Mill Strike in 1929. This affected many people living and working in Gaston County. As you know, textiles used to be the predominant industry in this area of North Carolina.

Exhibit runs until August 29, 2020. Museum hours are Monday - Friday: 10 am - 5 pm, and Saturday 10 am - 3 pm. Admission is free.

**UPCOMING SUMMER AND WINTER WEAVING CLASS:**

The weavers sub group is sponsoring a Summer and Winter weaving workshop with Sue Helmken on May 31-June 2. It will be a two and a half day workshop, with set up and opening presentation on Friday. It will be held at the Conference Center Workroom where the Piedmont Fiber Guild meets. The cost is \$175.00 per person, payable to the Piedmont Fiber Guild. It is open to all current members of the Piedmont Fiber Guild. If you are not a current member, please include an additional \$35.00 for membership. Checks should be mailed to Carol W.

The workshop will be limited to 14 people, first to pay, first to receive a spot. You will need a minimum of a 4 shaft loom. The guild does have a couple of looms available to rent. Sue Helmken may also have looms available for rent.

If we do reach 14 people, it will be quite cozy in the workshop, but we are all fiber friends and will make it work. If you sign up and pay and then are unable to attend, you will be responsible for finding your replacement if you need a refund and if there is no waiting list.

There will be an approximately \$15.00 materials fee due to Sue Helmken at the time of the workshop. For workshop logistic information, contact Carol W. via email. For specific questions on Summer and Winter, contact Sue Helmken at [sue.helmken@gmail.com](mailto:sue.helmken@gmail.com).

The threading drafts will come out in sufficient time in advance of the workshop to allow you to prepare your looms.

- Carol W.

**FUN AT THE CAROLINA ALPACA CELEBRATION - from Chris D.**

On February 16-17<sup>th</sup>, members of PFG converged on the Cabarrus Arena and Event Center for the Carolina Alpaca Celebration. Many members came to demonstrate fiber arts.

The guild had two teams that competed in an 'Alpaca Fiber to Shawl' competition. The Twisted Trio team included Gail B., Sue H. and Chris D. The Weave Been Fleeced team included Dawn B., Sue C. and Burgl P.

Both teams started with an alpaca fleece and a loom warped and ready to weave. Each team had two spinners and one weaver. While both teams had challenges, each finished with a beautiful shawl that was later auctioned to benefit each team as well as the show organizers and groups. There was a third team, representatives from the Old Town Fiber Guild, who unfortunately were unable to finish their project.

Thanks to all those members who came out to demonstrate fiber arts to the great crowds that attended both days of the Celebration.

(Editor's note: please see the next page for a photo of Gail B. having a discussion with a stubborn Suri alpaca during set-up on Friday.)







Gail 'wrangling' her friend's alpaca at the Carolina Alpaca Celebration.



Chris' lovely new Ashford 24" Rigid Heddle Loom

### A Dream Come True - article submitted by Chris D.

As some of you know, I have been on the lookout for a used 24" rigid heddle loom for about a year. While we have plenty of multi-shaft looms in our home, sometimes I like the creative simplicity and quick design possibilities of a rigid heddle loom. I have used and really enjoyed my 10" rigid heddle and was often frustrated that I couldn't make wider pieces for garments.

After Christmas, I decided to treat myself to the loom I really wanted, a 24 " Ashford Rigid Heddle Loom. It took a while for her to arrive direct from New Zealand, but she was worth the wait. My sweet husband helped me sand and oil all the parts and put her together. I opted for the stand as well due to her size and I LOVE the shelves on either side.

Now, what should her first project be? I've had a collection of yarns in my favorite colors in a basket next to my chair for months waiting on just the right idea. The first skein was over 500yds of wool/mohair hand dyed by Fleece Artist out of Nova Scotia, Canada. Dyed in the round, this was a perfect skein for keeping the colors in line in the warp.

Using a larger rigid heddle loom for the first time, I was concerned the process would be more challenging. However, using an extra clamp to hold the loom down, and moving the peg a couple times to remain in line with the area being warped, I was able to warp the entire 18" I desired with no problems.

The weaving was a bit challenging as I chose a wool/mohair boucle for my weft yarn. The colors were similar and I loved the texture the boucle added. The warp was quite sticky since it was so hairy. Also, I beat the weft in only very lightly as I wanted to be able to see the warp through the weft and also preserve the textures of both yarns.

Still, the loom worked very well and after I learned a couple tricks, I enjoyed the weaving of this piece. I like how you can still see the warp color sequence through the weft.

I look forward to many more wonderful fiber explorations with my new baby. I hope you enjoyed sharing my journey.

(photo above right)

**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.

**SPINNING WHEELS FOR SALE:**

MaryJo Lanik of the Wool Room in Hendersonville, NC contacted Chris D. recently about the following:

Her group has the following equipment for sale. Please contact her directly: [maryjo@woolroom.com](mailto:maryjo@woolroom.com).

Know of any spinners looking for a second hand wheel? We have a few from people who have too many wheels and are looking to find a new home for these:

1. Ashford Tradional with Lazy Kate and 4 bobbins \$400.
2. Louet S-10 with Lazy Kate and 5 bobbins \$400
3. Lendrum double treadle \$500.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:**

Many thanks to those who have submitted articles and photos for this newsletter. We have certainly been busy, and will continue to do so for the next few months. Fiber season is in full swing!

The newsletter comes out the week before the guild meeting. If you have something you would like included in the newsletter, please send it to me as soon after the first of the month as you can.

Thanks, Sallie