



THE WOOLPACK WATCH

A Newsletter of the Wasatch Woolpack Handspinners

April 2014
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2012-2013

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NEXT MEETING

April 16, 2014, 7:00
p.m. (mingling at 6:30)

Thimbles & Threads
12215 South 900 East
Draper, UT

Directions: take the
12300 South exit from
I-15 and head east to
900 East. Turn left and
the store is on your
right hand side before
the street turns left.

Spinning Saturdays

Contact

Kira.spins@gmail.com

if you are willing to
host one for us.

President's Message

Happy April to all spinners! I know there are a few of you who are working like crazy to get their projects done in time for next months challenge reveal. That's right, it's sneaking up on you. I have two or three packets left if you still want to participate. Just let me know and I will bring them to the April meeting. I still need to finish mine too, so don't stress if it's taking you some time to finish up.

April's meeting will be all about blending fibers on a blending board. Anyone who has a board is invited to bring them so we can demonstrate and maybe even give people a chance to try it out. It's a great way to use up some of your dye exchange bits and pieces.

April is also the month where we take nominations for Leadership positions in our guild, with the vote occurring in May. Cheryl Stratton will be our President next year and she is going to need some great help. I hope you have been considering how you can contribute. We will need to nominate a Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, and Assistant Newsletter editor. I already have two people who wish to nominate themselves, so we're off to a great start.

Happy Spinning!

Jill T.

March Meeting

Dye Exchange!

We had a fabulous time at Thimbles & Threads last month! There were many inspiring and beautiful colorways created for the National Parks theme. Following are some pictures of the bountiful beauty, courtesy of Karen Huston.





Coming Up:

April 12th Lamb & Wool Festival at Thansksgiving Point 10am - 4pm

May 3rd Visit to Knowlton's Farm - more info to come at April meeting

May 16th-18th Snake River Fiber Fair - Eastern Idaho Technical College in Idaho Falls, ID

July 31st-Aug 3rd Retreat in Park City

August 22nd-23rd Great Basin Fiber Arts Fair at Salt Lake County Equestrian Park



Dye Exchange 2014
 "Capital Reef"
 Dye



Grand Prismatic Spring, Yellowstone
 Corriedale Wool Top,
 Jacquard Dyes 631 - Teal, 627-B
 Used roasting pan method in oven.



Bryce
 National Park

 Dharma Trading acid dyes in
 Peace, Tangelo & Espresso bean
 hand painted & steamed
 Kathleen Fisher
 2014

Natalie Stratton dye exchange 2014: My fa
 Zion. I used wool from a local Shepherd ai
 method. Colors: Aztec gold mixed with ve
 blue, and yellow sun.



Fine wool blend wool dyed with Washfas
 a pot just adding citric acid to the water
 pool/water/acid. Simmered for a half an h



A Look At Wool Preparation Prior To The Industrial Revolution

By Carolyn Leigh Bennion Ferro

I have always found the history of people to be fascinating. The progression of humans from one area to another over time, how they adapted their thinking and their lives to meet the challenge of new circumstances, always intrigues me. However, my interest in textiles, and textile production was superficial, until I became a spinner.

Recently I had the opportunity to tour Old Sturbridge Village, a living museum in Sturbridge, Massachusetts. Sturbridge Village depicts life as it was in rural New England in the late 1700's through the 1830's.

One of my favorite exhibits was the carding mill.

Carding mills were introduced in the late 1700's. Most communities had one. Carding mills were not factories; their purpose was not to manufacture a product for purchase. They were used as a service to the local families. As one can imagine, these mills were a boon to families with regards to the time saved in wool preparation. For a modest fee, a mill could card one pound of wool in 10-30 minutes. It would take a woman about ten hours to do the same, typically using a type of hand carder made from Fuller's Teasel. Teasel is a tall, flowering plant with prickly stems and leaves. After the flowers drop off, a spiny seed pod is left behind. These seed pods would be lashed on wood boards then used to card wool prior to spinning. They were also used to brush the nap on woven cloth.

Carding mills worked of the same premise as grist mills of the time. Water from a mill pond traveled through a large wheel on the outside of the building.



From there the water flowed down a flume on the inside of the building into a wooden tub. The tub contained the water, directing it over a horizontal water wheel. As the falling water struck the curved blades set in the wheel, the wheel then turned a vertical shaft near the ceiling between the cellar and the main floor, which housed the carding machines.

Iron beveled gears transmitted the power to a horizontal shaft connected to pulleys and leather belts, which then passed through the ceiling to the main floor.

The leather belts turned a series of revolving cylinders, which picked up the scoured, picked wool placed on the belt by an operator at the front of the carder.

After traversing through the carder, the wool rolled off the rear belt, and was collected in a large basket.

There were two types of carders in use during this time. One produced a roving for spinning. The other processed the wool into batts, which were used in quilts.

Community carding mills flourished as long as farm families continued to spin and weave at home. However, by the late 1820's, with the expansion of the textile market in Britain and the United States, carding mills started to disappear, and became obsolete in a relatively short period of time.

As industrialization advanced, mechanized factories could produce large quantities of inexpensive cloth. Rural families soon came to prefer machine made cloth to that of homespun. Thus, as households gave up their spinning wheels and looms, the need for community carding mills disappeared.

Back home, as I sit and type this in my spinning room, I too am surrounded by baskets of wool, waiting to spun. I glance over at my drum carders, both powered and hand crank, and various hand carders. I am reminded of the quote from French author Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr, "The more things change, the more they stay the same." And I marvel at how the Slow Cloth movement brings me full circle, providing not only an enjoyable way to spend my free time, but most poignantly, connects me to the past.





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Alpaca Fiber
Products
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(Round and Triangle Looms)

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Fine dyed fibers for handspinners
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Judy Ede Jackson
7642 South 2880 West
West Jordan, Utah 84084-3721
<http://wasatchwatercolours.etsy.com>

Judy's Novelty Wool



Judy Gunn
1035 N. Main,
Centerville, UT 84014
801-298-1356

Basic beginning spinning classes,
Sell: dyed wool roving, home grown wool
fleeces,
Howard Handcards/Drumcarders, spindles,
Miscellaneous spinning tools,
and Crystal Palace Yarns
woolone@aol.com

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.wasatchwoolpack.org

It was requested that Danielle Jones
be given credit as the formatter of
Newsletters this year.



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