



THE WOOLPACK WATCH

A Newsletter of the Wasatch Woolpack Handspinners

June 2014
Volume 33, Issue 4

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2012-2013

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NEXT MEETING

June 18, 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.

Hello All,

Is it just me or does it seem like this month/year is flying by? Don't look now, but the summer is going to fly by too. With the craziness of school being out and temperatures outside going up and our "to do" lists growing by the minute, wouldn't it be nice to just relax and spin for a while? I encourage you to set aside some time to pamper yourself and have some spinning time maybe even outside under a shady tree. Let your creative juices flow and see what happens.

While you are spinning remember the Salt Lake County Fair and the State Fair are coming up fast as well as Great Basin. Did you know you can enter handspun yarn and finished objects made with handspun or other fibers and could even win prizes? I would like to see a lot more participation from our guild this year at every event so please consider entering all three. For more information please see:

Salt Lake County Fair - Aug 6-9 go to the creative arts section at
<http://www.saltpalace.com/epec/fair/exhibits/exhibits.html>

Great Basin Fiber Arts Fair - Aug 22-23 go to competitions &
judges at
http://www.greatbasinfiberartsfair.org/index_files/Page3579.html

Utah State Fair - Sept 4-14 go to the Exhibitors tab and click on
Creative Arts and Home Arts at www.utahstatefair.com

The June meeting on June 18th is going to be a good one so you won't want to miss it. Carolyn Chen will share her ideas and pattern resources for garments made from rectangular shapes. If you are a weaver or need some uncomplicated social knitting projects, come be inspired by garments made with straight seams. Carolyn will also discuss construction techniques and project planning. Hope to see you there!

Happy spinning, Jill T.

Upcoming Spinning Saturdays:

June 28th: Kathleen Fisher, 465 Woodland Dr.,
Park City, UT, phone: 435-513-0363

Spinning Guild Meeting Minutes 5/21/14

tonight is the challenge reveal.....

Announcements

- We talked about Knowlton's fiber trek and Snake River Fiber Fair that happened this last weekend. It was a fun time for everyone who attended.
- Next Saturday is Spinning Saturday May 31st at Jenny Ferguson's house from 10 am to 2 pm. The address is on the newsletter. She lives in Bluffdale.
- other upcoming.....Retreat for members is July 31st to August 3rd in Park City.
- Great Basin Fiber Arts Festival will be August 22-23 at the South Jordan Equestrian Park. See www.greatbasinfiberartsfair.org for more information. We are bringing in an instructor from Corvallis, Montana, Joan Contreman, to teach silk spinning, tapestry woven bag. We will also have Tabitha teach us how to photograph our yarn and our projects similar to what she did for the guild. We will have awesome classes and reasonable prices for the Great Basin this year....come take classes!!!!
- Helper, Utah Arts Festival is August 15-17. See www.helperartsfest.com for more information
- 2nd Thursday at Fashion Place Mall is a get together in the food court. Contact Annie Toy for more information.
- June 28th Spinning Saturday is at Kathleen Fisher's home.... she will start at 10 am and you can stay until you are done...we will have a kitchen sink salad.
- Jill Tew has acquired a knitting machine....it is in good working condition with all the parts. She will let it go to the highest bidder with the money going to the Woolpack. If you are interested in it, please contact her. Bids will close next Saturday, May 31st, at noon. The starting bid will be \$50.00.

New amendments to the bylaws voting

1. it was proposed that the membership dues be due by September, and each month your payment is late, it will be a \$5.00 fee (so if you're three months late, the fee will be \$15). Meetings are always open to the public but membership has its perks... it passed as a majority
2. it was proposed that we add a family membership for \$45 a year.....this also carried
3. it was proposed that the leadership will not have to pay membership dues....this passed

The updated by laws will be in effect starting in september

Voting for next year's officers

Vice President.....Jenny Ferguson was voted in
Treasurer.....Angela Shelby was the winner
Newsletter Editor.....Cindy Marshall was the only volunteer so she is in.....Jill Tew will be the
Assistant Newsletter Editor

Challenge Reveal/Show and Tell....

Challenge participants received a bag of miscellaneous gray wool and mohair that was the same and we showed what we did with the fiber..

- Jill Tew.... she added a little purple and she made a felted project bag with her very first I-cord ever. The bag is a Fiber Trends pattern. She also talked about the spinning class she took at Snake River Fiber Fair with Lynn Ruggles on Spinning Shetland for Lace. She says she was able to spin smaller than she ever has. She came away with some beautiful samples.
- Wendy Riersen showed her handspun yarn from the challenge fiber.
- Cindy Marshall made a Danish tie shawl for the challenge.....adding a little yellow of her handspun
- Louise Mecham is our spinning supporter and is crocheting a baby blanket for a baby born today.
- Edna is a new member and got her first newsletter!
- Kathleen Fisher taught her work friend to spin and ply on a spindle. The friend has now ordered her own spindle. She can't find her challenge fiber.
- Carolyn Ferro made yarn in 15 minute increments on bus rides. She added to the given fiber because she found that the fiber didn't felt well so she added a little bit of merino to it.. She made a beret. Carolyn also won queen of the Snake River Fiber Fair this last weekend.
- Aubrey made a bag from the Knitters Book of Yarn
- Melinda Allen made rolags on the blending board last month and spun and knit a beautiful cowl from just an ounce of fiber
- Janice spun up a beautiful huge skein of yarn from stash.
- Molly spun up her yarn with a little mohair to make a halo and added a rolag
- Angela, our new treasurer, spun up her yarn and decided to become a better crocheter and made granny squares in a blanket and included some of her first handspun as well.. She was determined to finish a project on time.
- Carolyn Chen spun a thick yarn and made a hat that was shaped like a baseball cap. The pattern is the super fast and easy unisex brim hat.

Everyone who participated in the challenge got their name in the bowl for prizes. The winners were: Wendy R, Janice, Carolyn F and Angela

At a glance:

June 13-14	Scottish Festival at Thanksgiving Point
June 28	Spinning Saturday at Kathleen Fisher's
July 31-Aug 3	Retreat in Park City
August 6-9	Salt Lake County Fair
August 15-17	Helper Arts Festival (in Helper, UT)
August 22-23	Great Basin Fiber Arts Fair at Salt Lake County Equestrian Park
September 4-14	Utah State Fair

NATURAL DYEING—SOLAR STYLE

By Carolyn Leigh Ferro

Warm sunny days, natural dyes, and a suitcase full of wool and silk.

In my book, that's a great foundation to dabble in a couple of my favorite pursuits.

Add to that some spinning at the beach and under the redwoods, making resist felted handbags and nuno felted scarves, and a menagerie of needle felted animals.

Recently, I spent ten days on a sustainable farm in Northern California. I had been asked to lead a series of classes, bringing the concept of "slow cloth" to students in a relaxed, low key atmosphere. One where, rather than rigidly structured classes, we explored many ideas of textile creation. Food was prepared communally from the on site organic garden, and as much time was devoted to friendship and laughter, as was spent on exploring new skills. The main focus for the week was dyeing fiber and yarn with natural plants and extracts, using solar power to set the dye.

Here is glimpse into the fun, and surprises, that occurred.

Prior to the start of the classes, back home I pre-mordanted skeins of superwash/wool/nylon blend sock yarn, two ounce divided portions of loosely braided wool top, silk top, and Ramie 'China Grass' cellulose top. I used a standard measurement of Alum and Cream of Tartar for the mordant, then dried fiber and yarn without rinsing.

The first dye bath we made was from cutch extract. Cutch extract is made from the heartwood of the Acacia Catechu tree, which grows in tropical areas, such as Southeast Asia and the East Indies. Heartwood chips are boiled, the liquid reduced significantly, and poured into a pan where it hardens into solid chunks. After it dries completely, it is ground into a powder and sold as cutch extract. Cutch is high in tannins, and is particularly suited to dyeing plant/cellulose fibers, and can be successfully dyed without



premordanting, due to the presence of tannic acid. Cutch produces dyed fiber in a range of khaki to burnt orange, depending on pre/post mordant choices.

For this dye bath we used an aluminum kettle, in which we placed the braided wool tops, after re-wetting for an hour in tepid water. We used a fold out wing style solar oven—interestingly enough, the same oven we used to cook a delicious persimmon nut bread the previous evening. At the end of the afternoon, the oven temperature had reached only 195 degrees, with the dye bath only 145 degrees. We left it to cool slowly in the dye bath overnight. Cutch, like many natural dyes, can be dyed successfully using either a hot or cold bath method. When using a cool bath, or one that does not reach a simmering temperature, for best color, leave in dye bath for a day or two.



Next morning, we rinsed the excess dye from the fiber and hung on the clothesline to dry.

For our second batch with cutch, looking at how much color was left in the dye bath, we added more wool top, assuming we would get a few shades lighter with the second exhaust bath. We also used a kettle that we spray painted black, hoping to get a higher temperature bath. The second batch was nearly identical to the first in depth of shade, with still dye left in the pot.

The next dye was Quebracho Red. Quebracho Red comes from a very hard wood found in South America. The name is derived from quebrar hacha, meaning “axe-breaker”. As with cutch, Quebracho is also high in tannins. In fact, in the mid 1800’s, the tanning properties from this tree were discovered by a French tanner, and Quebracho became a prime vegetal tannic agent for leather goods.

We dyed both the Superwash/nylon sock yarn and the braided top. True to form, the Superwash took the dye the deepest, and next day we had a gorgeous deep rust.

We did a second exhaust bath, and had dye left over. Next time for cutch and Quebracho Red, I would use 6-8% weight to goods instead of recommended 10%.

Our third dye stock was madder. Colors range from gold to orange to brick red, depending on mordant. The real fun, however, came when we altered the PH of the dye bath. Our first pot of madder yielded orange/coral. For the exhaust batch we sprinkled some soda ash across the bath. Before our eyes, the dye bath changed to a



deep maroon/purple. Chemistry in action! Simply altering the PH from 6 to 12 yielded an entirely different color. There were other surprises with the altered PH madder dye. The first batch we did I was concerned about leaving the silk in the alkaline bath too long. It was a lovely deep rose shade after rinsing. However, when I put it in the last slightly acidic rinse, the color changed back to the original coral. More chemistry in action!.

I tossed it back in the dye, where it percolated with the rest of the fiber several more hours. Though not as deep crimson as the other fibers, this time, it held it's shade.

In conclusion, there are many ways to harness the sun's power to do your work for you in the summer. And the great characteristic of many natural plant dyes, is they do not require the more precise simmering temperatures that acid based dyes do.



Retreat

of the Wasatch Woolpack Handspinners

July 31st - August 3rd

From Judy Jackson:

Hi Everyone! It's that happy time of year again! Sorry for being so late in getting this out. I am back to work again and that sure ruins my free time!

As always, I need volunteers for this year.

****I need 3 more chefs** (these wonderful people plan 3 meals for one day and will have plenty of helpers to put the meals on the table, they receive a budget amount for shopping plus getting your retreat fees paid in full except for the Sunday brunch which is one meal with some of your fees covered)

****one person to coordinate the 2014 retreat exchange**

- **one person to round up people for any classes given on Thursday and Friday
- **one or two people for the welcome tent to give out name tags and other things
- **several people who will slosh the porta-potties (this involves rocking the units -without anyone in them- until the contents are well covered with the liquid
- **one or two prize tent princesses

I have one chef, Shirley for Thursday

I have our usual prize tent queen, Cathie Delewski

And woohoo, Cheryl volunteered her husband to haul the retreat equipment to Park City this year!

<happy dancing going on here I tell ya>

Info for newbies: 4 days of glorious time to spin, knit, visit, make new friends or take up where you left off last year, camp or bring your RV (only if you park them up where the air moves though to avoid CO poisoning for the campers at the bottom of the parking area), there are several camping



Photo from "The Woolpack Watch," Vol 19, Issue 2, Aug 2007

spots from near the creek on the side of the trail, and secluded areas by the house and behind the barn area.

- **Bring at least one prize but more if you would like to.
- **There will be classes! Make beaded rings, learn how to inkle weave and make toothbrush rugs.
- **See amazing things or show your amazing things at the show and tell on Saturday right after lunch.
- **Join the exchange to receive fiber for you to make something for someone at next years retreat.
- **Come a bit early and set up on Wednesday afternoon. You will have to feed yourself. :>) Some of us go out to dinner after we are set up.
- **Ask about bringing your canopies for shade and possible mother nature disfunctions.

There will be new information and a signed-up list later on. I will send out a check-list of possible

good things to bring at a later date.

The fees are \$85 for the weekend (4 days)

\$30 for Saturday only

Please tell me if you are vegetarian, we do try to have balanced meals for both omnivores and vegetarians. If you have other culinary challenges, you will have to provide your own dietary needs. We will post a menu and probably send a menu out to all registrants before the weekend.

Send to judyspinning@yahoo.com if you use PayPal

Send checks made out to Judy Jackson to:

Judy Jackson

7642 S 2880 W

West Jordan UT 84084-3721

questions? 801-561-8855

Also needed:

Two gopher position volunteers.

People to teach classes. There are three classes already. If you would like to teach, contact Judy J.



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Judy Ede Jackson
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West Jordan, Utah 84084-3721
<http://wasatchwatercolours.etsy.com>

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Judy Gunn
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Centerville, UT 84014
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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.