

February 2013
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THE WOOLPACK WATCH

A NEWSLETTER OF THE WASATCH WOOLPACK HANDSPINNERS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

3-20 Dye Exchange
PCH

3-30 – High Desert
Wool Growers Fiber
Market Day in Oregon

4-17 Learn about Flax
PCH

5-4, Saturday
Notlwonk Wool Trek
Cornish Utah

7-25 to 28
Park City Retreat

President's Message

March is such an exciting time of year for me. It means we can look forward to warmer weather and melting snow and spring. Birds are coming back home, flowers will start to pop up and lots of baby animals will be around. It also means the guild meeting for this month is the annual Dye Exchange. I look forward to this activity every year and can't wait to see what everyone is going to bring. I am so excited about my contribution. My dyed roving turned out even better than I hoped and the color is so amazing, I almost don't want to give it away. But, of course, there will be some for everyone who wants it and I did some extra too for me. As you are getting things ready to share, please remember to create a label with your name, type of fiber (if known), and just a bit about why it is your favorite to go with your fiber. I plan on bringing 2.5 lbs (in 1 oz packages of course) to trade just to be safe because I know our group is bigger now than last year. I hope everyone who can, will participate.

Even though you are gearing up for the fiber exchange, are you remembering our other challenge? Those who want to participate are working on spinning a non-animal fiber and creating something with it to share in the May meeting. I admit I am a bit behind myself and need to start plying and find a pattern. March is a good opportunity to catch up before the weather gets so nice you can't stay inside. There are lots of non-animal options out there and I have already heard some creative ideas of what some are going to do. I admit this challenge may be a bit difficult, but it has the potential to produce some amazing stuff.

We have lots of fun things in store for the rest of the year as well. Don't miss our meeting in April where Christine Briscoe will be teaching us all about flax. May's meeting will be all about the challenge reveal and I am pretty sure there will be prizes for participation, creativity and such. Something new we started last month at our meeting is the drop and swap table. We will continue to have it at our meetings for any destashing you may want to do. Bring the fiber related stuff you want to get rid of and take home some new stuff. If your stuff is not taken by anyone, it will be donated.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the following dates:

March 30th – High Desert Wool Growers Fiber Market Day in Oregon

April 20th – 10:00am – 4:00pm Spinning Saturday at the Thanksgiving Point Lamb & Wool Festival

Please let me know if you are interested in attending so I can give them a headcount.

May 4th – Notlwonk Wool trek in Cornish, UT – more details to come

May 18-19th – Snake River Fiber Arts Festival at EITC in Idaho Falls, ID. For more information, go to <http://srfiberarts.org.p9.hostingprod.com/home> and click on Fiber Arts Fair 2013 or see them on Facebook.

July 25-28th – Park City Retreat – more details to come

July 25-28th is also The Intermountain Weavers Conference at Fort Lewis College in Durango, CO www.intermountainweavers.org

August 9-11th – Natural Dyeing Workshop with Carol Lee in Encampment, WY – more details to come

So many fun things to do – can't wait!! Happy spinning! Jill

February Meeting Notes

20 people in attendance!

Announcements:

- PayPal on website will be fixed soon
- 28th Helper retreat starts. There will be Dyeing - contact Michelle. There is train service down to Helper that is a really pretty ride, but you have to leave really early in the morning.
- Dye exchange next month! Theme is "your favorite..." Package your dyed fiber in one ounce bundles (please do not cut the fiber, pull it apart instead). Label who you are, how you dyed it and why it's your favorite.
- Lamb and wool festival at Thanksgiving Point on 4/20. Come Demo and get Free admission.
- Save the Date! Out annual PC spinning retreat is July 25-28.
- Field trip: Aug 9-11 To Carol Lee's in Wyoming for a natural dyeing class \$25
- Black Sheep Wool is going out of business at the end of March. Great sales. The business is available for purchase.
- There is a new shop - Knitin' Pretty 9000S between 1300 and 1500W

Visitors:

Mimi came with Sonya. They know each other from the Weaving Guild.

Kim, who is taking spinning classes next week from Amy at Unravelled Sheep. Kim knits now and asked about different wheels in the room and got great advice (of course).

Today's meeting: spinning for a purpose.

Have pattern, now what? By Danielle Jones

If you find the pattern first. Look at the yarn requirements, the yardage and weight. Try to match it with something you have. Danielle has collected yarn samples and uses that as a reference before spinning and then she stops frequently when spinning to check against the sample. She still often has to alter the pattern, usually by changing the needle size. She suggests making swatches until you match the pattern or sometimes she just recalculates the pattern based on her sample.

Danielle also notes that due to the often uneven nature of handspun, gauge swatches often lie... She suggests you pick an area of your handspun that is consistent to measure.

Discussion: Robin recommend using small weaving bobbins and randomly pairing them up for plying. Luli added that the more you wind and unwind the single the more the spin evens out. David read that a true 3ply is more consistent especially when created from one bobbin.

Lulu saw clear plastic grid stickers for gauge checking for sale.

If you have the fiber and you are deciding what to spin it for (what is it going to grow up to be) by Danielle Jones

Handspun shines in a high contrast/simple pattern

Wavy long wool spins up denser than crimpier wool so you'll have more weight for the same yardage and it won't go as far.

Spreadsheets are handy for adjusting patterns. Danielle also figures out how many stitches she can do with a yard of her fiber by wrapping it around a knitting needle. She likes to pick patterns where the ending spot is negotiable. It helps her with yarn usage and sizing. Danielle generously offered to help anyone with the spreadsheet programs.

Sweater Wizard, is one spreadsheet program that is available on the Internet.

My Son's Amazing Sweater by Cheryl Stratton

Cheryl found an amazing pattern, and then saw a merino fleece in CA that she thought would be great for it. Her son watched the movie The Vow (chick flick) and wanted a sweater just like the one the guy wore in the movie!! (what a kid). Cheryl tested different plying methods and swatched them. She found the 3 ply gave her the closest match to the correct gauge. She recommends you figure out how much yarn you think you are going to need and then add 10 oz. She washed all her skeins before knitting with them. Fulling the yarn by thwacking it heartily (a great stress reliever).

A Beautiful Sweater by Robin Bromley

Robin found a beautiful BFL/mohair mix and made a 2 lbs impulse purchase (like that's never happened to any of us). Then she found a pattern that took dk weight. She spun and then used a 3-ply for a round yarn. The sweater is more stretchy than she expected because of the moss stitch she used, but it went for a trip in the dryer and now it's wonderful.

My Scarf by Laurel

Laurel found that if she crocheted the scarf the long way, that she didn't have to worry as much about yarn quantity.

Show and Tell: Carolyn Greenwood's pigtails from the fractal spinning demo last month (and more). Many spinners spun their pigtails by splitting their skein in half and spinning one side as is and then splitting the other half into 4 sections and spinning those in the same direction. Then plying the resulting two singles together.

Others used alternate methods:

Jill Tew split her skein in half. To one half she split it and spun one part while splitting the other.. She did this four times before plying to the first split. She really liked this method because it makes the colors even.

Jill also showed her finished fingerless gloves, her first cable project. Jill Tew cleaned a raw fleece once... She found a pretty fleece at Knowltons but cleaning it put her in the hospital! 2 years later she was willing to pick it up again. She had been asked by family members to make hats like the ones in the show Firefly (see Jayne Hat on Ravelry). She spun the yarn into tiny skeins, then dyed it and spun it up. Very fun.

Cyndi Marshall showed off her Duffers. She's made so many she's not doing it any more!

Clinton Tew displayed his triangle loom. He is on his second triangle. He's making a shawl for his mom. She is going to be so surprised!

Danielle Jones has tendonitis in both wrists!! She showed an unfinished hat. She's so ready to knit again....

Robin Bromley used 4oz of fiber she had at home. She split and then made pencil rovings out of one half (no idea how many) then knit up a beautiful hat (the Lotus Hat pattern a freebie on Ravelry)

Cheryl Stratton added more fiber of the same she had at home and made a beautiful tiny shawl.

Sonya Campana used two pigtails. She split one and four, some two ply and some three ply

Laurel Split one and four, like my center ball ply

Barbara split one and four

Judy Jackson shaker rug project hot pink and grey

Wendy Reiersen picked three pigtails that all had some green in them. She split each (one and four) and then mixed them during the plying giving a beautifully varied yarn. She also showed off fingerless mitts she just made.

Rebecca brought her husband with her. When she plied her singles she ended up with one really long stretch of color that she likes.

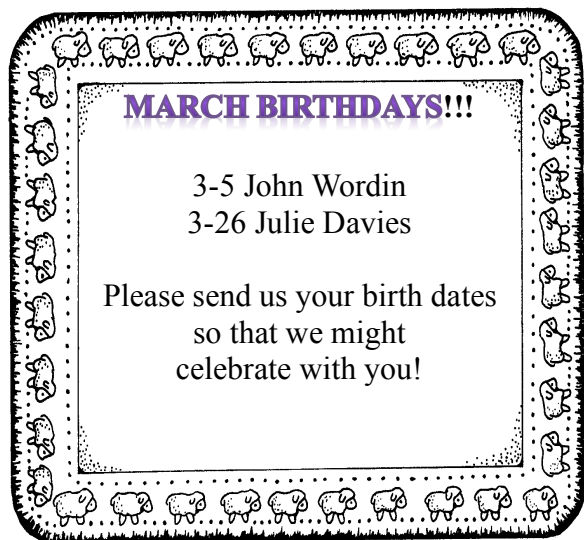
David fractal spun fiber he already had and then knit a cowl. He then fractal spun the pigtail into a cool coaster that is partially felted.

Angela Learned how to locker hook from Judy Gunn. She decided to start small (for once). She is making pot holders then she'll move up to a seat cushion soon.

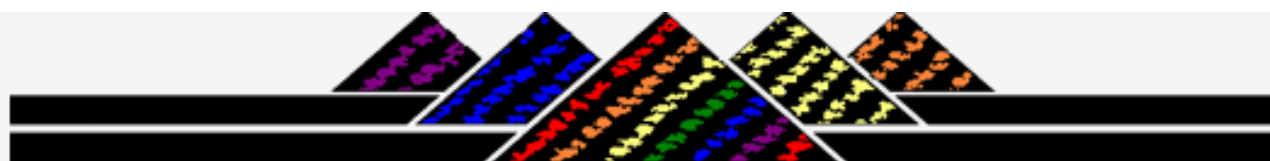
Dian Looked up fractal spinning on the Internet since she missed the meeting and did it with a larger skein she had at home.

In closing, David Keller won the door prize this month: 4oz of Three Wishes BFL and a box of chocolate.

Happy Dyeing - See you all next month! Kathleen Fisher



Cliffhanger: Will Danielle's new scarf pattern make the April newsletter??? Just in time for the dye exchange wool???



Good afternoon. As you have probably read, registration is now open for the IWC conference in Durango this July.

Would it be possible to include the below information in your next couple of newsletters? If there is a charge, please let me know and I will have our treasurer pay the invoice.

And, if you are not the correct person for this request, could you please forward it on to the appropriate contact?

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at cafweave@gmail.com.

Thanks so much!!

Cindy Fowler
IWC Publicity Chair

Intermountain Weavers Conference

IWC will celebrate its 30th anniversary, July 25 - 28, 2013, at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado! Mark your calendars so you will not miss this wonderful event with 3-day workshops, exhibits, vendor market, fashion show and raffle.

The conference will open with Anita Mayer, keynote speaker, followed by our 30th anniversary celebration. At your request, on Friday evening we will bring back "Shop 'til you Drop" giving you an opportunity to visit the vendor market, view the exhibits and catch up with friends. Saturday night will feature the fashion show, raffle, and announcement of awards.

For registration and information on the workshops, visit our website www.intermountainweavers.org

See you in Durango!



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