



THE WOOLPACK WATCH

A Newsletter of the Wasatch Woolpack Handspinners

May 2014
Volume 33, Issue 3

OFFICERS

2012-2013

President

Jill Tew
801.897.6318

Vice President

Cheryl Stratton
801.968.1687

Treasurer/Librarian

Julie Davies
801.722.8081

Newsletter Editor

Wendy Reiersen
801.828.8102

Assistant Editor

Carolyn Ferro
707.694.4500

NEXT MEETING

May 21, 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

I am so excited about May because it means the Notlwonk Springs Wool Trek traditionally held the first Saturday in May. It was a great day to visit the sheep, eat yummy food, peruse the garage for it's goodies and scramble for skirtings. For those who attended, I hope you found the fleece you were looking for because I think I got the best one. I'm so excited to see how it will grow up. Thanks to Fred and Jo Knowlton for a great time.

The May meeting is sure to be one you won't want to miss. First, we'll be voting on officers for next year. Check our last month's minutes in this newsletter for the nominees. We will also be voting on the proposed bylaw changes since a survey isn't considered a vote based on our current bylaws. These proposals have been included in this newsletter again in case you missed them in the March newsletter. Most exciting of all, we're going to have the challenge reveal/show and tell. At the beginning of the year, following tradition, I issued a challenge and gave everyone the same fiber and asked them to make a finished product. Now it's time to see the creative results. So please bring whatever you've got. If you chose not to participate that's okay, you can bring whatever show and tell you want to share.

Upcoming Spinning Saturdays:

May 30th: at Jenny Ferguson, 13837 S. 400 W.,
Bluffdale, UT, phone: 801-231-6472

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

Happy Spinning!

Jill T.

April Meeting Minutes

Announcements

Thanks to everyone who demonstrated at the Lamb and Wool Festival at Thanksgiving Point. It was a real success and it seems everyone had a good time and enjoyed a free lunch courtesy of Thanksgiving Point.

Calendar

Wooltrek to Knowlton's farm will be May 3rd. We will send out more information when we get it.

Snake River Fiber Festival in Idaho Falls, ID is May 16-18. Go to www.srfiberartists.org for more information.

Spinning Saturdays

May 30th, at Jenny Ferguson, 13837 S. 400 W., Bluffdale, UT, phone:801-231-6472

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

Park City Retreat July 31st-August 3rd

Great Basin Fiber Festival August 22-23

Nominations

We took nominations for next year's officers and the following people have agreed to be on the ballot.

Vice President - Jenny Ferguson

Treasurer - Angela Shelby and Shawn Clarke

Newsletter - Cyndi Marshall and Jill Tew

We will be voting during the May meeting and new officers will be installed in the August meeting. Absentee ballots can be submitted to Cheryl Stratton as she will conduct the vote as the incoming President.

Survey Results

Jill shared the following results from our recent survey regarding the proposed bylaw changes.

It has been proposed we update a membership entitlement in Article III, number 1a of the bylaws changed from "the newsletter mailed to the member's address" to read "the newsletter emailed to the member's email address". This would be effective immediately upon approval.

Approved 85.37% Not approved 14.63%

According to our bylaws, membership dues for a new year should be paid by September (the start of the guild year) and are considered delinquent after the September meeting date. It has been proposed we add a \$5 penalty per month to membership dues for current members who wish to renew their membership for the new year but have not yet paid (i.e. October = \$30, November = \$35, December = \$40) unless previously approved by the President for a valid reason. This proposal is hoped to encourage members to pay their dues on time so the money is available to benefit the guild and not just have members pay dues right before retreat in order to attend. This would be effective in the 2014-2015 year.

Approved 68.29% Not approved 31.71%

It has been proposed we make an addition to the current membership fee structure and add a family membership for \$45 per year. Family would be defined as immediate members of your family currently living with you. Parents would be expected to use their best judgment when inviting younger children to participate. This would be effective in the 2014-2015 year.

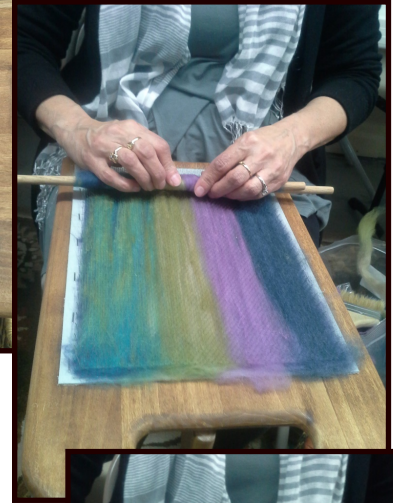
Approved 78.05% Not Approved 21.95%

It has been proposed the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor not be required to pay dues for the years in which they serve as elected volunteers. In addition, the President would receive a thank you gift at the end of their Presidential year. These were proposed as ways we can

Don't forget:

The ***Snake River Fiber Festival*** is next weekend, May 17-18 in Idaho Falls. Go to www.srfiberartists.org for more information.

July 31st-Aug 3rd **Retreat in Park City**
August 22nd-23rd **Great Basin Fiber Arts Fair**
at Salt Lake County Equestrian Park



thank the volunteers for their service and encourage members to volunteer for positions. This would be effective in the 2014-2015 year.

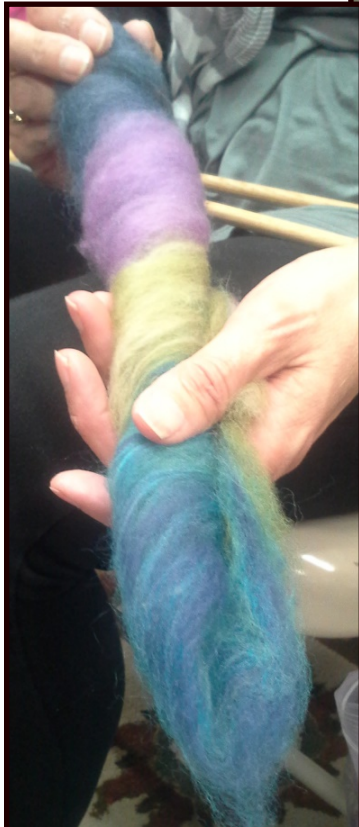
Approved 85.37% Not Approved 14.63%

It was brought to the attention of the group that an online survey does not count as an official vote according to the bylaws. Therefore, we will vote on them again in May.

Blending boards

We talked about blending boards tonight.

Blending boards are another way to blend fibers together, especially if you have a



variety of mixed media to blend that might not work well in a carder. Jill T. had a handout of various ideas and internet websites that

further explain how a blending board can be used. Several companies have them for sale ranging from \$165 to \$280. Some additional tools which may be helpful include paint brushes or other stiff bristle brush to smooth and pack down the fiber and different diameter and length dowels used to make rolags for spinning. A flicker brush would also help in cleaning. Some blending boards come with a rudder on the back which can be used for propping up the board on a table or to hold between your knees on your lap so the board is easier to use.

We are thinking about going in together as a guild to make our own

blending boards. Judy Gunn has a connection with a carding cloth retailer and can purchase cloth in bulk. We would have to consider making at least 40 boards to make it worth the cost and meet the minimum purchase requirement. The carding cloth then would have to be stapled to a solid wood base. Some suggestions made were a cutting board or a wood TV tray as your base. We may be able to get someone to cut boards for us as well. We will discuss more in the future.

Show and tell

Aubrey showed us some cute little sewn vests made for her children for Easter

Brandi - showed some skeins with Onion skins dyeing. She also brought Taro, her daughter, as a show and tell. During her recent trip to Ohio to pick up Taro, she was also able to visit Yarn Barn.

Tess is knitting a swirl sweater

Luli has merino fleeces in white and brown that she would like to sell as well as some combs. See her if you are interested.

Georgiana is making a detachable cowl neck pattern from a black yarn

Cayenne is knitting a sock out of a new yarn base for Intrepid Tulips

Wendy showed a CD that her medieval music group made called Primavera. The guild purchased a copy for the library.

Dave showed a baby beanie that he made from chunky yarn and also has stuff for sale.

Cindy is making a baby blanket for her sister

Someone whose name I don't know was making an Entrelac hat (sorry, I will ask next time)

Robin Bromley showed her dye exchange fiber she had already spun up labeled with the name bands of each dyer so we could see how they spun up

Louise took the Tunisian crochet class at Unraveled Sheep....she was real excited to learn a new technique.



Shearing Sheep: My Life As A Sheepdog

By Carolyn Leigh Bennion Ferro

After ten hours on TRAX, two planes, two buses, a car ride, and a lot of walking, I arrive in the beautiful Capay Valley in California. The Capay Valley is a narrow strip of land between Sacramento and Oakland, and home to Sally Fox of Foxfibre Colorganic organic cotton. On the Viriditas Farm, Sally also grows organic heirloom Sonora wheat and raises Merino and Merino X sheep. All three, cotton, wheat, and sheep, are connected to create a palette of sustainable biodiversity. The wheat nourishes and replenishes the soil, provides



Photo by Carolyn Ferro

fodder for the sheep, who in turn provide their own unique fertilization.

My first day was the mundane part of getting ready. We set up skirting tables, bins to put the skirted fleece in, nothing too strenuous, or interesting. I also learned the recent warm weather had brought out the rattlesnakes. Mental note was made to stay out of the long grass and watch where I put my feet.

That evening I had the place to myself. Having spent the last four years living in suburbia, the silence of being on a farm miles from anyone was unusual, and lovely.

Early next morning, after being woken to the sound of roosters, yipping dogs, and bleating sheep—who do not understand why they have not been fed, let alone what lies in store for them—I venture out. I take the long way out to the road, then cut back, thus avoiding the potentially rattlesnake laden grass.



Photo by Sally Fox

Hearing the whine of a grinder, I first come upon Matt Gilbert of Mendocino Wool and Fiber. Matt has been shearing sheep for decades, is a master of the craft, and is in the process of opening a fiber processing mill in Northern California. After introductions are complete, I head towards the pasture to see what I can do to help Daniel, assistant shearer, maneuver half the sheep into the corral. Now, I know what you are thinking. Isn't that the main job of a sheep dog? Why yes, it is. Except just so happens that Aesop, resident sheep dog, is a bit under the weather. It dawns on me why Sally was so pleased when I told her I was able to come out to help. As I ponder this new information, I find myself wondering how beneficial it is to be able to list "able to herd sheep" on a resume.

After considerable farm style gymnastics, and a new found appreciation for inbred canine attributes, Daniel and I have man handled the first sheep down the chute and into the pen outside the shearing platform. Matt deftly grabs a sheep, flipping it on its side, and in minutes, a shorn, forlorn sheep scrambles off the platform and out into the adjoining pasture, looking embarrassed and a bit, well, sheepish.

In no time at all, the table full of fleece



Photo by Sally Fox

waiting to be skirted is piled high. Mid morning reinforcements arrive as the great folks from A Verb For Keeping Warm join us to cut out cockle burrs and pull off handful after handful of dung tags. I never knew I could have such fun while smelling so bad.

Day two started with a breakfast of farm fresh eggs, the term taking on a new meaning when one can look out the kitchen window and see the chickens that provided the morning meal. At the end of the day, 138 sheep had been sheared, their fleeces skirted and baled, ready for the trip to the mill where it will be carded into roving.

Back home once again, I must turn sideways as I walk down the hallway to enter my spinning room. You see, my front hall is mostly blocked by a huge box full of, you guessed it, several Merino fleece. I smile, close my eyes, inhaling deeply the pungent, earthy smell of sheep. I chuckle to myself, realizing the pleasure I feel looking at a box filled with 20 pounds of sheep's wool.

I also realize I make a much better spinner than I do a sheep dog.



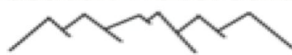
Photo by Sally Fox



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Alpaca Fiber
Products
Roving,
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(Round and Triangle Looms)

www.altamistalpacas.com

Wasatch Watercolours



Fine dyed fibers for handspinners
Take along spinning wheel bags

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.