

Williamsburg Spinners & Weavers Guild

P.O. Box 2086
Williamsburg, VA 23187
<http://Williamsburgspinweave.org>

March 2009

March Meeting Monday 3/16/09

10:00 am (9:30 a.m. social time) to 1:00 p.m.
Room C, James City County Recreation Center
5301 Longhill Road, Williamsburg

Program

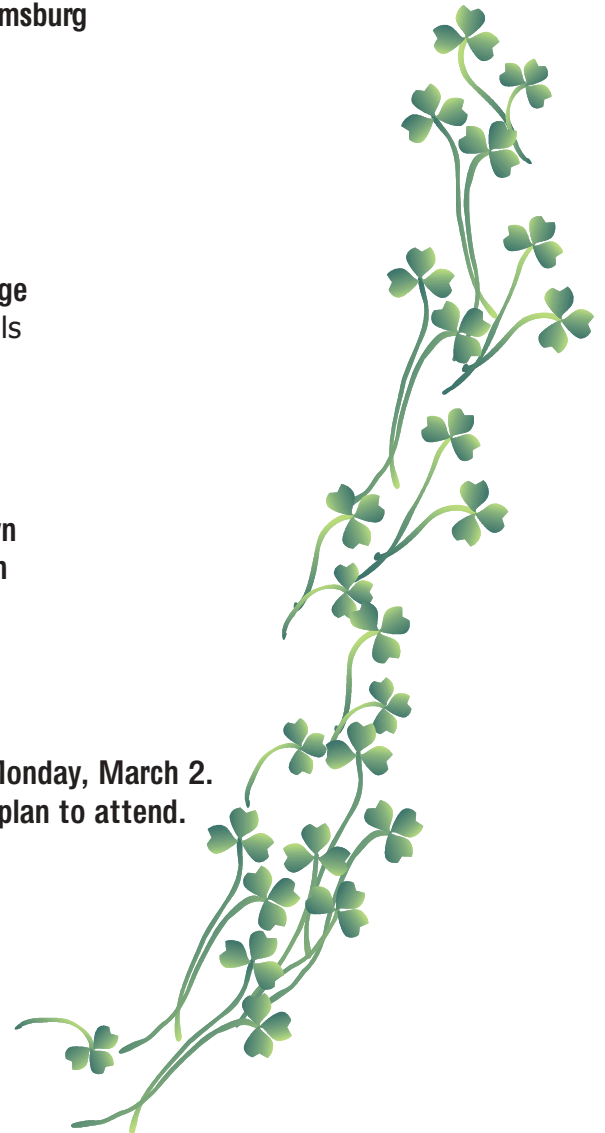
Stash Swap
&
Bag Exchange Challenge
See Minutes for details

Refreshments

Savory - Rosalie Brown
Sweet - Birdie Burton

Bash

Birdie Burton will host the bash on Monday, March 2.
Call her at 757- 564-8846 if you plan to attend.



Minutes February 16, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Vice President Judy Mooers. Janice Roe, a guest of Julie Colby's and the owner of a new-to-her loom, was introduced.

The minutes of the January meeting were corrected to show that Bernadette Marquez will be the new historian. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Our current bank balance is \$3,353.27.

The March bash will be hosted by Birdie Burton.

Upcoming events include:

Mid-Atlantic Quilt Festival: Feb. 26-Mar. 1, Hampton Convention Center.

Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival: May 2-3, West Friendship, MD.

MAFA workshops: July 31 - August 1, Gettysburg, PA.

Newsletter — Barbara Frey provided copies of the new Guild brochure and business cards.

Library report — Shawn Clarke brought books on weaving jewelry and on alternative types of loom.

Membership — Ingrid is working on membership cards.

Program — Judy Mooers reviewed plans for programs planned for 2009. In March we will do a stash swap and bag challenge. In April Max Hamrick or Carrie McDougall from Colonial Williamsburg will talk about natural dyeing.

In May Rosalie Brown will host a natural dyeing workshop at her home in Mathews. The June meeting will either be on plying and fringe twisting or on weaving software. The July meeting will be on weaving basics, and especially on warping. Members who would like to have help preparing looms for the August workshop may bring their looms to this meeting. The August meeting will feature Elaine Bradley and will be followed by a 2 1/2 day workshop "Introduction to Summer and Winter."

Snacks

March: Birdie Burton (sweet) and Rosalie Brown (savory)

April: Barbara Frey (sweet) and Bob Hecker (savory)

May: Ingrid Kross (sweet) and Marsha Rehkamp (savory)

Old Business

Mid-Atlantic Quilt Show — The show will be held at the Hampton Coliseum February 25 through March 1. We will need to set up the afternoon of the 25th. We will need someone to "watch our stuff" on Thursday the 26th. We will need various folks to

demonstrate and talk with the crowds on Friday and Saturday, the 27th and 28th. We will take down our display on Saturday evening. Ingrid passed around a sign-up sheet for those volunteering their time and equipment.

Program for Next Month

Bring surplus items for a stash swap. The format will be a silent auction. Forms for the auction will be available at the meeting. For those who wish to complete the forms prior to the meeting, a file can be downloaded from the Guild website. Sellers may specify a minimum bid. A motion was made by Jerry that the guild would receive a 10% commission on items sold in the auction. The motion was seconded and passed.

The next meeting will also be the beginning of a bag exchange challenge. Members who wish to participate should bring a bag with materials for a small project to the next meeting. The bags will be exchanged and the product made from the exchange will be presented at the November meeting. The materials should be taken from stash (leftovers from previous projects or materials that just haven't "spoken" to the owner are ideal). The bag should contain enough material to complete a small project (e.g., a bag, a hat, a scarf, a towel, etc.). In making the product, other materials can be added. The product will belong to the recipient. Separate exchanges will be conducted for spinners and weavers. Members may participate in both, if they wish. Extra bags could be a popular item for the stash exchange.

New Business

Ingrid suggested that it would be convenient to have a debit card for purchases and workshop costs. Jerry made a motion that we apply for a debit card. Sandi seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Ingrid also said that we need to update the signature card for our checking account.

Alice provided photographs of the loom table that she is offering for sale.

Bernadette asked if a table loom reed might fit in her floor loom for narrow items. Judy offered to bring a reed for a trial.

Show and Tell:

Judy: a woven sample (using an original draft for 16 shafts), and four skeins of handspun yarn.

Alice: a shawl that she converted to a shrug and a bag crocheted with plastic bags.

Minutes continued

Bernadette: rag rugs made from odds and ends
Sandi: two wall-hangings using Theo Moorman technique and photographs of the Norris bridge wall-hanging that sold before she could bring it in for show and tell. Sandi is also seeking a rag rug shuttle and a set of lease sticks.

Julie: two shawls in her trademark open weave and two coasters with designs that are unconventional for Julie

Jerry: rug woven with shaft-switching techniques

Ingrid: needle-felted squirrel

Beverly: in-progress sweater made from naturally colored cotton

Micki: woven hearts

Program

Micki Decker presented an excellent workshop on making needle-woven necklaces. The program was very well-organized, informative, and inspirational.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Mooers and Bernadette Marquez

Members in Attendance: Bob Hecker, Jeff Cleveland, Virginia Banks, Dave Banks, Alice Noyes, Bernadette Marquez, Sandi Petty, Julie Colby, Mary Lou Birns, Birdie Burton, Jerry Smith, Ingrid Kross, Barbara Frey, Beverly Robinson, Jane Gustafson, Mick Decker, Judy Mooers.

Guest: Janice Roe.

F.Y.I — Keep the Fleece Contest

The following is from knitting.about.com.

"2009 is officially the International Year of Natural Fibers, so declared by the United Nations. The idea is to spotlight industries that represent a \$40 billion market around the world, with about 25 million tons of cotton and 2.2 million tons of wool produced annually, not to mention other natural fibers. The year will officially kick off later in January and will focus on promoting natural fibers as a green alternative, promoting more eco-friendly production such as through the use of integrated pest management, improving the conditions for poor fiber workers by opening up new markets, and providing research funding for projects like more drought-resistant fiber plants."

For more detailed information see <http://www.keepthefleece.org/>.

The following is from the Keep the Fleece website.

"To help celebrate the United Nations' Year of Natural Fibers, which I told you about a few weeks ago, Wild Fibers magazine is sponsoring the Keep the Fleece contest to spotlight designs made by fiber artists using natural fibers.

"The contest is open to professional designers and amateurs alike from around the world, and includes a dozen fun categories such as projects made with baby animal fiber, hats made from the wool of endangered British sheep, projects made with at least 20 percent angora and patterns that combine at least three types of natural fibers.

"Entries must be received by August 15 and will be

judged by anonymous judges online before the finalists are judged in person at the New York Sheep and Wool Festival in October. Entries will be judged on originality, usability, use of color, degree of difficulty and the description of your project."

Contest Categories

1. Like a Virgin - Any fiber from a young animal for example kid mohair or baby alpaca
2. Eats, Shoots, and Leaves - Plant fibers including but not limited to cotton, hemp, jute, and coconut.
3. Camelot - Camelid fibers: guanaco, vicuña, alpaca, llama, and camel
4. GI Joe - Any item made by a man
5. Climb Every Mountain - Goat Fibers: One hundred percent cashmere or mohair
6. Inch by Inch - One hundred percent pure or recycled silk
7. Island Life - Any fiber from a plant or animal that originates from an island such as Icelandic wool, or sheep native to North Ronaldsay, St. Kilda's, etc.
8. Treks and Tracks - Any combination of yak, bison, or muskox fiber
9. Off with your Hat! - A hat made from any endangered breed of British sheep
10. What's up Doc? - Any item made of at least twenty percent angora fiber; the remaining content must be all natural
11. Pro-create! - Any natural fiber garment made by a professional designer (A professional designer is anyone who has had more than five designs published in a craft or fiber trade publication.)
12. Triple Sundae - Any combination of up to three natural fibers - preferably your three favorites!

