

WILLIAMSBURG SPINNERS AND WEAVERS GUILD

P.O. BOX 2086

WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23187

Members.cox.net/wswg

April 2005

NOTICE: we now have a beginning website. Check it out and be sure to send suggestions to our webmaster, Dave, at dfbanks@earthlink.net.

Meeting: Monday, April 18, 10:00 am (9:30 for social time) at the James City County Recreation Center, 5301 Longhill Road, Williamsburg. Treats will be provided by Frankie and Ingrid; Donna and Rosalie in May. We will all bring salads for the June meeting.

Programs, Workshops, Bashes

The next Bash will be held on April 4 from 10 am to 2 pm at Charlotte's house. Bashes are held on the first Mondays of months. Ingrid will be hostess in June.

The March meeting included a challenge to be met by the June meeting: everyone received a different photograph of a sunset (seen from Rosalie's home). We are to produce something based on the photo and its colors—any fiber method is welcome. You can weave, knit, crochet, etc. Use your imagination and show us your results in June.

In April the guild will dye silk hankies on the lawn outside our meeting room.

In May we will start planning a friendship coverlet.

The June program will be a spinning party, with an emphasis on techniques for spinning unusual and exotic fibers.

In July members will be asked to prepare and bring to the meeting examples of rugs made with "found" materials – scraps of fabric, old clothes, odds and ends of yarn, fiber, etc.

Events outside our guild:

Bay School Cultural Arts Center, Mathews, Va. will hold its *4th Annual Rustic Art Show & Sale*, April 1-3. For more information, check www.bayschool-arts.com.

Uncovering the Surface, Surface Design Association Conference, June 2-5, 2005, Kansas City, Missouri. See the SDA website at www surfacedesign.org. Workshops include Shibori, mud cloth, tapestry, lampas weaving, and Turkish felt rug making.

The Mid-Atlantic Fiber Association (MAFA) Conference will be held on July 12 - 17,

2005 at the National Conference Center in Lansdowne, Virginia. Lansdowne is between Leesburg and Dulles airport. More information at: www.mafafiber.org/conference.html

Officers:

President, Mary Ann Philyaw
Vice-President, Rosalie Brown
Secretary, Jerry Smith
Treasurer, Ingrid Kross

April birthdays:

Ann Alderks
Julie Colby

WILLIAMSBURG SPINNERS AND WEAVERS GUILD
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 21, 2005

Mary Ann Philyaw called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and welcomed back Sandy Bauman, who will be attending our guild meetings this spring, while her husband teaches as a visiting professor at William and Mary. Other members in attendance were: Rosalie Brown, Peggy Counce, Charlotte Headley, Beverly Robinson, Phyllis Vinson, Holly Fox, Jerry Smith, Cindy Newcomb, Dolly Gaus, John Janson, Beth Palmer, Virginia Banks, David Banks, Ingrid Kross, Pam Franck, Peggy Nacci, Melinda Hose, Mary Transue, Frances Wyatt.

Mary Ann began with committee reports. Birdie is ill so she wasn't present to report on the Sunshine Committee. Mary Ann suggested members send get well cards to Birdie.

Peggy and Cindy reported for the Library Committee. Peggy said she would bring additional information on the periodicals next month. Cindy brought a sample of some of the interesting books in our collection. Mary Ann suggested that members email Cindy with their recommendations of new books that they think we ought to buy for the library and asked that Cindy bring a list of some suggested books to the next meeting.

Jerry reported on the guild scholarship. No applications had been received by the March 1 deadline and so no scholarship will be awarded this year. Mary Ann said the matter would be referred back to the Board. If members have suggestions as to how to get better responses to the scholarship, they should email Jerry.

Pam reported on membership. There are currently 33 paid members. This number may be revised upward, since several members paid their dues today at the meeting. Everyone who paid their dues should have gotten a new membership card. Pam is working on the new membership packet and on a new roster. She would also like members to email her as to the locations of guild posters so that she can replace them with more up-to-date ones.

Ingrid reported that there was \$3,323.37 in the guild checking account. She also reported that all the tuition fees in arrears had been collected for last year's workshops.

Peggy C. reported on the March bash at her house. There was a very good turnout and everyone was especially pleased that Pam brought her mother along, who was the life of the party. Next month's bash will be held at Cindy's house – a great chance for everyone to check out the guild library first hand.

Mary Ann then moved on to old business. Ingrid reported that the guild demonstrations at the Mid-Atlantic Quilting Festival were a great success. Ingrid, Pam and all the other helpers spun and wove 5-6 scarves, plus some fabric which Ingrid then made into bags, one for each of the helpers!

Mary Ann reported that the guild got a thank you letter from F.I.S.H. for the donation we made from last month's raffle proceeds. She asked that Beverly forward copies of the letter, along with a photo of the raffle winners to the local newspapers and that the originals be given to Jan for inclusion in the guild scrapbook.

Under new business, Mary Ann asked the guild if there were interest in our giving demonstrations at the Newport News Fall Festival Oct. 1 & 2. Members pointed out that these dates were in conflict with a number of other events of interest to members, e.g., the Williamsburg Occasion for the Arts, the Virginia Fall Festival, etc. Rosalie moved that we not accept the invitation. The motion was seconded by Pam and passed by a show of hands.

David reported on the new guild website which he has developed for us and which is up and running. The address is: <http://members.cox.net/wswg/>. Please check out the site and email David with any suggestions you might have. David pointed out that members of the Mid-Atlantic Fiber Alliance are cross listed on the alliance's website and that this would be good exposure for the guild. We do not currently belong to the alliance but may wish to consider rejoining.

Mary Ann said she had copies of the plans for the portable tapestry loom that Jan brought to the last guild meeting, for anyone who was interested.

Show and tell:

Sandy told us about how much she had enjoyed an impromptu visit with Elaine Shirley, the shepherdess at Colonial Williamsburg and that she was looking forward to spinning some of the wool samples Elaine said she would save for her.

Holly was just back from a week in Japan, her first visit, but to judge from her enthusiasm for the country and its cities ("everything clean and modern") and its people ("everyone as friendly as could be") possibly not her last. High point of the trip was her visit to the Nishijin Textile Center where she had opportunities for talks with teachers and students. Again, everyone was extremely hospitable and even sent her away with "small gifts," which she brought to today's show and tell: a reel of beautiful silk and a tiny, antique shuttle. Holly also showed us an ingenious triangular shawl (everything woven on the loom – no sewing) in cotton. Holly said she didn't much like the colors, but Peggy C. did – she took the shawl home with her!

Phyllis showed us some woven name tags she had done in a double weave for the guild in Virginia Beach.

Beverly brought a large and very grand quilt she had recently completed

Charlotte showed us a handspun, hand dyed and hand knitted scarf she had done.

Peggy C. showed us not only the knitted placemat she's been working on for the current challenge, but also the pottery they are to match, pottery which she herself made, "in a former life."

Francis and Mary showed us some very fancy doll dresses they have been crocheting.

Pam showed us a light blanket in Plain Weave with Henry's Attic "Gemini" a 50-50 silk –merino blend. She also did a shawl with the same warp, using assorted wool and alpaca yarns in the weft, in an interesting 2/2 twill – basket weave combination.

Ingrid brought her first 8-harness project on her new Glimakra – a set of cotton dish towels.

Mary Ann showed us some "muppet fir" scarves she's been working on.

After the break, Rosalie introduced the next challenge, due in June. She handed out sunset photos to each of the participating members. Their assignment is to bring something to the guild meeting, woven, knitted, felted, etc. which works with the colors in the photo they received.

Today's challenge was to weave placemats or table runner's to harmonize with a specific piece of pottery or tableware. Pam brought a set of place mat samplers, 8-10 different weaves all done with the same threading (but with all manner of different tie-ups and/or treadlings) Beth brought a table runner in hues of blue and purple. Peggy, as mentioned above, brought some brown and tan placemats she's working on. Charlotte showed us some blue and white overshoot placemats and Rosalie brought two table runners, one in blues, one in bold shades of brown, red and gold.

The Board did not meet today.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Smith, secretary