

Open Sheds

Volume XII Issue VI
December 2015



December Lunch and Gift Swap

Saturday December 12, 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Blue Plate Cafe

(7540 Memorial Parkway SW Suite E Huntsville, near Rosie's)

Join us for lunch and a fiber item gift swap. We have a reservation at the new location of *Blue Plate Cafe* in their meeting room. See <http://blueplatecafe.com/lunch-dinner.php> for their menu.

RSVP to the guild by December 8 so we can tell the restaurant an approximate number. If you won't know until the last minute, come on and join us anyway.

The gift exchange is a wrapped or bagged fiber item for exchange. The item can be handmade or purchased (\$5 range), can be new or used, does not have to be holiday themed. Bring something that you as a fiber artist would want. We will try a different way to exchange gifts this year.

Show and tell is always welcome.

Contacting the Huntsville Fiber Guild

The website is www.HuntsvilleFiberArts.com. The telephone number, 256-384-5515! Please leave a message, and an officer will reply to your message. So, in the remainder of this newsletter, when you see, "... *contact the guild* ...," you have the option of sending an e-mail to HsvFiber@gmail.com or using your telephone.

Christmas Tree at Library

On Tuesday December 1, 1:00 p.m., we need help decorating the guild tree in the Main Library. We have a great spot on the first floor. We need new handmade fiber ornaments. If we have a lot help, we should be finished in an hour.

Roc Day: Your Help Needed

On Saturday January 9, 12:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m., the Huntsville Fiber Guild will celebrate *Roc Day* at *Lowe Mill Arts and Entertainment* in the second floor classroom. We have big plans: demonstrations of spinning, weaving, crocheting and knitting; door prizes; and an opportunity to find about local classes. You will have to be present to win a door prize.

We need your help to make this a big celebration. Plan to demonstrate your favorite fiber art. Bring examples to show guests.

There is a flyer attached to this newsletter for you to share and help spread the word. You are encouraged to print the flyer and post (with permission) where you know there are fiber artists. If you can't print the flyer, contact the guild and we'll mail flyers to you.

President's Message

I am excited about our plans for *Roc Day* this year. We are joining with several of the fiber shops in the area to have a fun day at Lowe Mill. Please plan to come, bring friends and have a grand time spinning and doing other fiber arts. There will be some good door prizes, too.

The officers are still working hard on workshops for the new year. Be sure to watch for more details and developments. We have tentatively lined up Kathrin Weber (<http://blazingshuttles.com/>) and Gina Levesque (<https://www.facebook.com/Across-Generations-270816136264937/>) for workshops next May. We have many details to work out so look for updates and registration information soon. Our biggest problem is finding locations we can afford for the workshops. If anyone knows of a place where we can host a 3-day workshop (Friday – Sunday), please let us know. Discounts off the workshop fee may be available.

Consider attending the Handweavers Guild of America (HGA) Convergence next summer. Registration starts in December, just in time for gift giving. They have changed the charges for the event, and it seems a little more affordable, depending on your choices. See www.weavespindye.org/convergence for details.

Enjoy the holidays. I hope everyone finds time to complete all their fiber projects before the end of the year.

HGA Welcomes You to Convergence 2016 in Milwaukee

July 30 – August 6, 2016, HGA will present *Convergence* in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

From their website: “Welcome to the ultimate international fiber art experience, HGA’s Convergence® conference where you can meet people face to face and touch real cloth, not just exchange texts or look at images. Immerse yourself in the inspiration and stimulation of exhibits, classes, textile tours, and shopping – all in the vibrant arts community of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.”

General registration opens December 15.

See www.weavespindye.org/convergence for more information.

Current Guild Members Discounted Yarn Orders

If you are interested in participating in discounted yarn orders, contact the Huntsville Fiber Guild. Current Huntsville Fiber Guild Members may place an order to receive a discount on certain yarns from *Handmade Saori Studio*. If you want to see the sample cards, go to *Handmade Saori Studio* in Lowe Mill. The guild will handle the orders and payments.

Spinning Study Group on Breeds

The Huntsville Fiber Guild has a *Spinning Study Group* on how to spin wool from different breeds of sheep. There will be breed study kits for sale: \$20 for members and \$40 for non-members. The kits will include eight ounces of Corriedale, Romney and Lincoln, four ounces of Border Leicester, and two ounces of Shetland, Cotswold and Icelandic wool. The *Huntsville Spinners'* meetings are a place to get advice on preparation and spinning techniques. The *Huntsville Spinners* meet on the second and fourth Thursdays at Books-a-Million on University Drive at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting is on December 10.

At *Roc Day* on January 9, 2016, we will share our samples. We will also create a binder for Huntsville Fiber Guild displays which will include raw clean fleece, a couple of samples of spun yarn, woven and/or knitted samples of the hand spun. We will add pictures of completed projects as they are finished. Extra fleece will be for sale at *Roc Day* or later in the spring. For more information contact the guild.

Weaving Study Group

Come join us at *Weaving Study Group*. People of all skill levels are having fun talking about their weaving projects. Bring finished projects, pictures of projects in progress on your looms, and projects in the planning stages. Some of us bring a project to work on (table looms are welcome) and some just sit and talk. Everyone is welcome to come when your schedule permits.

We found a great place to meet, the Central Presbyterian Church, in the Cooper House. We hope to meet the second and fourth Tuesday nights of each month. Due to the upcoming holidays, the next meetings will be December 1, January 12 and 26. Questions: contact the guild.

Directions: Central Presbyterian Church is at 405 Randolph Avenue, Huntsville, AL 35801. It is two blocks down from the town square, but directions are very different depending on where you're coming from, so it would be best to use Google. The Cooper House is across the street. Park in the parking lot across the street from the church, and enter the building through the front door of the Cooper House.

Huntsville Fiber Guild Presents Fiber Classes at Libraries

Will you volunteer to teach rug hooking, spinning on a drop spindle or needle felting at one of the libraries? Do you have other skills you would be willing to teach? If so, e-mail **WeavingBasics@yahoo.com** to learn the details for scheduling a workshop at the libraries. The libraries are eager to offer programs that bring patrons through their front doors.

The Huntsville-Madison County Public Library system graciously provides places to meet and advertises fiber classes that other generous people and I have been teaching for several years now. These have been opportunities to share skills and spread the word about the Huntsville Fiber Guild. Learn about these workshops as they are scheduled at **WeavingBasics.tumblr.com**. Help this outreach effort by attending classes, volunteering to teach a class and spreading the word about these workshops. We need to “grow” new members.

The January through April 2016 workshops have already been scheduled at four libraries. On Thursday January 7, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., learn to make a tumbling blocks quilt block with English paper piecing at Murphy Library. No sewing experience is required. Bring a thimble if you need one.

On Tuesday January 12, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., at Main Library, and Friday January 22, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., at Madison Library, learn to crochet a mobius cowl/scarf without seams. After you learn how to make a couple of crochet stitches, you'll quickly finish the project. Bring a size Q crochet hook and extra bulky (code 6) or bulky (code 5) yarn.

See **WeavingBasics.tumblr.com** for more workshops.

These classes are open to adults and youth ages 14 and up. The pre-registration deadlines are one week before the class dates. See **WeavingBasics.tumblr.com** or e-mail **WeavingBasics@yahoo.com** to pre-register and for more information.

Local Spinning and Crocheting Groups

The local spinning group is called *Huntsville Spinners* and meets on the second and fourth Thursdays at Books-a-Million on University Drive at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting is on December 10. The group has a facebook page (search for “Huntsville Spinners”) which is closed to the public but anyone can request to join. With the holidays coming up, check the meeting times.

The local crocheting group is called *Chain Reaction* and meets on the second Wednesdays at *West End Grill* at 6:30 p.m. The *West End Grill* is located at the intersection of Old Madison Pike and Research Park Boulevard, 6610 Old Madison Pike. The next meeting is December 9. The group has a facebook

page, facebook.com/groups/ chainreactionhsv. Again, with the holidays coming up, check the meeting times.

Does anyone know of other non-profit spinning, knitting and crocheting groups that meet in the Huntsville area? If so, send the details to **HsvFiber @gmail.com**. The Huntsville Fiber Guild wants to spread the word about fiber activities in the community.

Bobbin Lace Classes

Constitution Village Lacers meet in the Grapple Room at the Summit Crossing Church facility located at 7200 Governor's West. We meet on the second Monday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

On Monday, December 14 we will meet from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Grapple Room at Summit Crossing Community Church facility. The December meeting will be Monday, January 11.

We always welcome new lacers. We share books, patterns and help if needed. If you have questions e-mail marygeier2 @gmail.com. If you are new, please call ahead to confirm so that we can bring loaner equipment for you to practice on.

November Meeting Notes

Thanks to those who represented the Huntsville Fiber Guild at the Main Libraries' Arts and Crafts Expo. We enjoyed meeting and talking with other "crafty" people. The November meeting and the Expo were at the same time.

The Library had been holding this event in January, but thought November would be a better time. We hope next year you can join us showing off our work and enjoying the day with other like minded craft people.

Dues for 2015-16 Membership Were Due September 30, 2015

Have you forgotten? The Huntsville Fiber Guild membership year is October 1 – September 30. Dues are delinquent after September 30. There is still time to renew your membership now.

Both *Personal* and *Commercial Memberships* are available in the Huntsville Fiber Guild. The individual membership fee is \$20 per year, and the family membership fee is \$30 per year. We are pleased to give members over 80 years of age free membership. Individual and family members are entitled to one brief classified advertisement up to 40 words long in each monthly newsletter. This is provided as a service to individual and family members who want to sell or buy fiber equipment and supplies for their personal use. Each classified advertisement is subject to approval by the newsletter editor.

The *commercial membership* fee is \$50 per year. Commercial members are entitled to one quarter page advertisement 3.5" wide x 4.5" long or 7.5" wide x 2.25" long in each monthly newsletter. The advertisement must be submitted "camera ready" in a format which can be included in a Word document. Each commercial advertisement is subject to approval by the newsletter editor.

Send the attached *Membership Form* and *Fiber Arts Interest Survey*, along with membership fee checks payable to Huntsville Fiber Guild to P.O. Box 1562 Huntsville, AL 35807. Contact the guild if you cannot remember whether or not you have paid your dues. At this time, let us know if you do not want your address, phone or e-mail shared in the directory which will be sent to members only.

Benefits of HFG Membership

The benefits of HFG membership include: yarn and equipment discounts for current guild members with local vendors. discount on fees for classes, early class sign-up window, access to HFG resources such as books and equipment, access to Handweavers Guild of America (<http://www.weavespindye.org>) video

and kit rental through the HFG membership in HGA, discounts on magazine subscriptions from Interweave Press (usually offered in time for holiday gift giving), not to mention the friendship and mentoring available at every meeting.

HFG Privacy Policy

The Huntsville Fiber Guild is committed to protecting the privacy of our members online. We also have the policy of not posting personal information on our website or facebook page. The board agreed that we should ask permission at each meeting before taking pictures. No pictures will be posted on line with individuals identified or "tagged." We ask your cooperation in not "tagging" people in our pictures.

HFG Online

The Huntsville Fiber Guild is on Ravelry and Facebook! If you are on Ravelry, please join the group "Huntsville Fiber Guild" to stay connected! Be a part of the conversation on Facebook at: **facebook.com/HuntsvilleFiberGuild**. Find Guild and area fiber organization events listings, community discussion, and related posts of interest.

Stay up-to-date with the *Weaving Study Group* by joining the Facebook group: **facebook.com/groups/HuntsvilleHandweavers/**.

Paint a Gourd Ornament

On Tuesday December 8, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., the Main Library will present *How to Do Things: Paint a Gourd Ornament*. A member of the Huntsville Gourd Patch will present the workshop. No painting or gourd experience is required. Pre-register in Adult Services or Reference on the Main Library second floor, or with asprogramming @hmcpl.org.

Cullman Fiber Guild

The Cullman Fiber Guild does not have workshops during the months of October through December. Workshops will resume in January 2016.

On Sunday December 13, 2:00 – 4:00, the *Basket Study Group* meets. Basket makers can make a basket with the group or use the time to work on their own projects. No basket making experience is required to participate in the *Basket Study Group*. Pre-register for the *Basket Study Group* by e-mail to **CullmanFiber@yahoo.com**.

See **CullmanFiber.weebly.com** for workshop details, and for the workshops as they are planned. These workshops will meet at the Peinhardt Living History Farm in Cullman, Alabama. To receive the complete Cullman Fiber Guild newsletter and to pre-register for workshops, send e-mail to **CullmanFiber@yahoo.com**. See the Cullman Fiber Guild web site **CullmanFiber.weebly.com** for driving directions to Peinhardt Living History Farm in Cullman, Alabama.

Learning Opportunities in the Community

Please let us know if you're teaching any kind of fiber class or workshop, or know of other learning opportunities in the community. Non-profit classes, workshops and conferences will be advertised in the newsletter as a service to members. For-profit classes or workshops will be advertised for commercial members. As a service to the community, local fiber businesses may advertise one class in the newsletter per year (subject to approval by guild). Local fiber businesses are welcome to post any of their classes/workshops on the guild's facebook page or ravelry group. (If you do not know how, contact the guild to post it for you.)

On Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m., *Basket Classes* continue at the *Huntsville Madison County Senior Center*. The classes meet in the Ceramics Room.

On Mondays, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., and Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., **Weaving Classes** continue at the *Huntsville Madison County Senior Center*, meeting in the Weaving Room. Sign up at **qranks@knology.net**.

Newsletter Deadline

Tuesday December 29, 5:00 p.m., is the deadline for contributions to the January newsletter. Send contributions by e-mail to **HsvFiber@gmail.com**.

Permission to Copy

The Huntsville Fiber Guild grants permission to copy articles from this newsletter as long as the source of the article is included, and as long as no personal names or personal contact information is included. To receive a version of the newsletter without personal names and contact information, contact the guild.

Upcoming Huntsville Fiber Guild Events

Tue Dec 1, 6:45	Weaving Study Group, Central Presbyterian Church, Cooper House
Sat Dec 12, 12:30-2:00	Guild Lunch and Gift Swap, Blue Plate Café on Memorial Parkway
Tue Dec 29	January newsletter deadline

2016 Events

Sat Jan 9, 12:00-5:30	Roc Day, Lowe Mill
Tue Jan 12, 6:45	Weaving Study Group, Central Presbyterian Church, Cooper House
Tue Jan 26, 6:45	Weaving Study Group, Central Presbyterian Church, Cooper House
Fri-Sun May 20-22	Kathrin Weber Dyeing/Weaving Workshop
Mon May 30	Gina Levesque Natural Dyeing Workshop

Huntsville Library Fiber Workshops

2016 Events

Thu Jan 7, 10:00-12:00	Make Tumbling Blocks Quilt Block @ Murphy
Tue Jan 12, 6:30-8:30	Crochet a Mobius Cowl/Scarf Without Seams @ Main
Fri Jan 22, 10:00-12:00	Crochet a Mobius Cowl/Scarf Without Seams @ Madison
Thu Feb 4, 10:00-12:00	Redwork Embroidery @ Murphy
Tue Feb 9, 6:30-8:30	Knit a Scarf With Your Arms – No Needles! @ Main
Sat Feb 13, 10:00-4:00	Introduction to Painting a Floor Cloth @ Bailey Cove
Fri Feb 26, 9:00-3:00	Weave a Round Basket @ Madison
Thu Mar 3, 10, 17, 31, 10:00-12:00	Crochet for Beginners @ Murphy
Tue Mar 8, 6:30-8:30	Simple Bookbinding @ Main
Sat Mar 12, 10:00-4:00	Weave a Melon/Egg Basket @ Bailey Cove
Fri Mar 25, 10:00-12:00	Simple Bookbinding @ Madison
Thu Apr 7, 10:00-12:00	Simple bookbinding @ Murphy
Tue Apr 12, 6:30-8:30	Make a Grandmother's Flower Garden Quilt Block @ Main
Fri Apr 22, 9:00-3:00	Introduction to Painting a Floor Cloth @ Madison

Other Fiber Group Events

Wed Dec 9, 6:30	Chain Reaction (crochet), West End Grill
Thu Dec 10, 7:00	Huntsville Spinners, Books-A-Million
Mon Dec 14, 10:00-2:00	Constitution Village (Bobbin) Lacers, Summit Crossing Church