

Open Sheds

Volume XIV Issue I
July 2017



Cochineal Dyeing Workshop

When: Sunday July 23, 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Where: Private residence in Toney, Alabama.

You'll receive directions when you pre-register.

To pre-register, contact the Huntsville Fiber Guild by July 21. You'll be welcome if you don't pre-register, but there might not be enough supplies.

Cochineal is a small scale insect. The cochineal bug produces a crimson color which has been highly sought after for thousands of years. The bug lives on the prickly pear cactus found in Mexico and along the Mexican American border. The female is the producer of the red dye.

Cochineal can dye various colors depending on the quality of the produce. We will be using exhaust dye from *24 Ways to Dye with Cochineal Workshop* taught at the *Middle Tennessee Fiber Festival*. We will use the dye material and can add additional ground cochineal if needed.

Wool without mordant, mordanted with alum (potassium aluminum sulfate) and cream of tartar, tin (stannous chloride), or chrome (potassium dichromate) produce a variety of red-red/purple-purple color. Tin and potassium dichromate are not friendly chemicals. Unmordanted wool or wool mordanted with alum and cream of tartar are recommended so you can see what affect the others have from the class samples.

Please bring in washed unmordanted or wool mordanted with alum and cream of tartar. There will be a pot of mordant available at the workshop. Mordanting and how to prepare the dye pot will be explained during the workshop. To receive information on washing your fiber before the workshop, contact the guild.

Ammonia and vinegar will be provided to change color after the dye bath.

Bring one skein or up to one pound of wool for dyeing. Be considerate of others wanting to dye.

Silk dyes beautifully, but cotton, linen, bamboo, ramie, etc. do not dye.

Dyeing is messy, so bring an apron and wear old clothes. Bring plastic bags to take home wet fiber.

Weaving Study Group

During the summer months, the *Weaving Study Group* will meet the fourth Tuesday of the month. On Tuesday July 25 at 6:45 p.m., we'll meet in the Cooper House at Central Presbyterian Church. The *Weaving Study Group* is for people of all skill levels. Everyone is welcome to come when your schedule permits. All guild members are welcome, not just weavers. If you want to work on a project or talk about fiber, join us. Bring your fiber questions!

The next summer meeting will be Tuesday August 22. Suggest a topic you want to discuss at the meetings.

We now have a private facebook group for those who attend this group. Contact the guild to be invited to join. Questions: contact the guild.

Help with Main Library Display in August

The Huntsville Fiber Guild has reserved a display case at the Main Library in August. What do you want to see in the display case? Let us know.

Tour de Fleece

Spinner's get ready – It's time for Tour de Fleece! For those of you who are unfamiliar with this event, it was started by Ravelry as a fun way to spend a little time celebrating spinning while the Tour De France is "spinning". This event is very informal and relaxed. The only rules are to try to spin every day of the Tour De France (July 1-23 with the exception of rest days) and to set your own challenge! Your challenge can be simple – i.e. spin for 15 minutes per day, or ambitious – i.e. try a new technique, or type of fiber or try for a speed record! Everyone's goals will be different. There are multiple local teams as well as general groups – join as many as you'd like and have fun egging each other on! For more information see <http://www.ravelry.com/groups/tour-de-fleece>.

Contacting the Huntsville Fiber Guild

The website is www.HuntsvilleFiberArts.com. The telephone number is **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. Find the Huntsville Fiber Guild on Facebook and Revelry.

Your Guild Needs You

We need nominations for officers for the 2017-2018 year. Are you willing to step up and make the guild grow? Would you consider sharing an office? Do you know someone who would be a good officer? If you're nominating another person, ask them if they're willing to serve *before* nominating them.

At the September annual membership event, we'll elect officers for the 2017-2018 year.

Basket Making in July

Weave a Tote/Purse Basket @ Bailey Cove

On Saturday July 29, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., *Weave a Tote/Purse Basket* at Bailey Cove Library. Weave a 4.5" x 9" x 8" tall tote/purse basket. Learn how to handle reed, fill in the bottom and shape a basket. Dyed reed will be available for decorating your basket.

No basket making experience is required. Basket making is wet work, so wear old clothes and bring a towel. The leader will bring all the tools and other supplies you'll need to use during the workshop.

There is a \$14 supply fee due at the beginning of the workshop. This workshop is open to adults and youth ages 14 and up. Pre-register at the Bailey Cove Library front desk, or by email to **WeavingBasics@yahoo.com**.

Weave a Round Basket @ Peinhardt Living History Farm

On Saturday July 22, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., *Weave a Round Basket* at Peinhardt Living History Farm in Cullman. In this workshop, you'll make a round basket. You'll learn how to handle basket reed, how to start a round basket, and how to shape a basket. The finished baskets will be about 6 inches tall with a 5-inch diameter base. You can use beads to decorate your baskets. No basket making experience is required.

Basket making is wet work, so wear old clothes and bring a towel. The instructors will bring all the tools and other supplies you'll need to use during the workshop. Bring a sack lunch.

See WeavingBasics.tumblr.com/CullmanPeinhardtFiber for *driving directions* to Peinhardt Living History Farm. It is about one hour from southeast Huntsville. There is an \$8 supply fee due at the beginning of the workshop. This workshop is open to adults and youth ages 14 and up. Pre-register by email to **WeavingBasics@yahoo.com**.

Changes to Bobbin Lace Classes

Constitution Village Lacers has a new meeting place and a new time. Please join us every second Monday of the month from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church in Madison, Alabama, Classroom H216. The next meetings will be July 10 and August 14.

The church is located at 980 Hughes Road, Madison, Alabama, on the corner of Gillespie and Hughes. Park at the rear of the church and enter through the red doors of the "Joy" building. The church receptionist will direct you to the room. If the receptionist is not available, turn right and meander to "HOPE" building. (You will not exit the building.) If you need the elevator, **LOOK UP** for the sign. The elevator is in a small alcove on the right. If you do not need the elevator, the stairs will be on your left. At the top of the stairs, take a left out the door. Classroom "**H216**" is at the end of the hall on the right.

Contact WorleySu @bellsouth.net for more information and to confirm that there will be adequate equipment for beginners.

Membership in the Huntsville Fiber Guild

The Huntsville Fiber Guild membership year is October 1 – September 30. Dues are delinquent after September 30.

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 the membership fee. Payment can be made with Paypal, for a small convenience fee, by sending email to **Hsvfiber@gmail.com**; or send check 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.

Crochet for Beginners @ Main in August

On Wednesday August 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2017, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., *Crochet for Beginners* will be taught at the Huntsville-Madison County Main Library, on the second floor. There is no supply fee. This class is open to adults and youth ages 14 and up. Pre-register by e-mail to WeavingBasics@yahoo.com by August 4.

Learn to crochet from the beginning. You'll learn the crochet stitches and how to read a pattern. Homework is required. Bring a size I (5.5 mm) or size H (5.0 mm) crochet hook and firm, light-colored worsted weight yarn to the first class. Do not bring soft, fuzzy yarns or novelty yarns to the first class. You will be able to choose from a selection of class projects. No crochet experience is required.

If these times are not convenient for you, or you want classes for youth under 14, let me know.

E-mail WeavingBasics@yahoo.com to pre-register and for more information.

World Wide Knit In Public Day

Thanks to *Sparkle Studio (Crochetville)* at Lowe Mill and *Hook-A-Frog* in Madison for *World Wide Knit In Public Day*. Huntsville Fiber Guild members took advantage of both of these events.

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.

Local Spinning Groups

Huntsville Spinners @ Fiber Artwork

Check Facebook for dates
Fiber Artwork
87B Regal Drive Huntsville

Huntsville Spinners @ Hook A Frog

Check Facebook for dates
Hook A Frog
105C Church Street Madison

Local Crochet Groups

Murphy Library Crocheters

Wednesdays 10:00-12:00
Murphy Public Library
7910 Charlotte Drive
APhillips@hmcpl.org/256-881-5620

Chain Reaction

2nd Wednesdays - July 12, 6:30
West End Grill
6610 Old Madison Pike
Facebook

Huntsville Madison County Senior Center

Basket Classes
Tuesdays 11:00
Ceramics Room
256-880-7080

Weaving Classes

Mondays 9:00-1:00
Wednesdays 9:00-11:30
Weaving Room
qranks@knology.net/256-539-9319

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.

Learning Opportunities in the Community

Does anyone know of other non-profit spinning, weaving, 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.

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 that are not commercial members 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.)

Cullman News

The Cullman Fiber Guild has disbanded. At *Peinhardt Living History Farm*, two of the study groups will continue to meet, the *Basket Study Group* and the *Tatting Study Group*, and we hope there will be occasional workshops at *Peinhardt Living History Farm*.

On Saturday July 22, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., there will be a *Weave a Round Basket Workshop*. In this workshop, you'll make a round basket. You'll learn how to handle basket reed, how to start a round basket, and how to

shape a basket. The finished baskets will be about 6 inches tall with a 5-inch diameter base. You can use beads to decorate your baskets. No basket making experience is required. Basket making is wet work, so wear old clothes and bring a towel. The instructors will bring all the tools and other supplies you'll need to use during the workshop. Bring a sack lunch. There will be an \$8 supply fee, to be paid to the leader at the beginning of the workshop.

E-mail **WeavingBasics @yahoo.com** for location and driving directions, and to pre-register.

The *Basket Study Group* usually meets on the second Sunday of the month. The next meeting is Sunday July 9, 2:00 – 4:00. You can finish your last basket, or start a new basket.

We will weave a pocket basket for small tools, mail or “weeds,” about 8 inches wide x 7 inches tall x 2 inches deep with a handle on one side to hang on the wall, your spinning wheel or loom. Learn how to handle reed, and how to shape a basket. No basket making experience is required.

Bring your basket tool kit: water bucket for reed, garden clippers (sturdy scissors or bypass pruners), tape measure, clothes pins, awl or screw driver, needle nose pliers, and towel. If you don't have a tool kit yet, there will be some tools to share. If you want colored reed, bring Rid Dye and zip-lock plastic bag or container that will not be used for food afterward. Wear comfortable clothes.

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 **WeavingBasics @yahoo.com**.

See **WeavingBasics.tumblr.com** for workshop details, and for the workshops as they are planned. These workshops usually meet at the Peinhardt Living History Farm in Cullman, Alabama.

Nearby Events Coming Up

Here are some events coming up that might be of interest:

R&M Yarns Weaving Workshop: Beginners & Beyond September 25-27 –

www.rmyarns.com/Beginning_Weaving.html

Heritage Skills Seminars October 2-5 - <https://extension.tennessee.edu/eastern/pages/heritage-skills-seminars.aspx>

Fiber in the 'Boro October 21 - <https://www.fiberintheboro.com/>

Newsletter Deadline

Tuesday July 25, 5:00 p.m., is the deadline for contributions to the August 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 personal contact information, contact the guild.

Upcoming Huntsville Fiber Guild Events

July 1-23	Tour de Fleece
Sun July 23, 1–6	Cochineal Dyeing Workshop
Tue July 25, 6:45	Weaving Study Group, Cooper House at Central Presbyterian Church
Tue July 25	Deadline for contributions to August newsletter
August	Guild has Main Huntsville Public Library display case
Tue August 22, 6:45	Weaving Study Group, Cooper House at Central Presbyterian Church

Huntsville Fiber Guild and the

Huntsville Madison County Public Libraries

These beginner fiber workshops are open to adults and youth 14 and up. See WeavingBasics.tumblr.com for details, or e-mail WeavingBasics@yahoo.com.

Crochet a Necklace @ Murphy

Thursday July 6, 10:00-12:00

Make a Gourd Shekere @ Main

Tuesday July 11, 6:30- 8:30

Crochet a Necklace @ Madison

Friday July 28, 10:00-12:00

Weave a Tote/Purse Basket @ Bailey Cove

Saturday July 29, 10:00– 4:00

Sew a Dinner Roll Rose @ Murphy

Thursday August 3, 10:00-12:00

Needle Felted Carl the Cactus @ Main

Tuesday August 8, 6:30-8:30

Crochet for Beginners @ Main

Wednesday August 9, 16, 23 and 30, 1:00–3:00

Weave a Tote/Purse Basket @ Madison

Friday August 25, 9:00-3:00

Introduction to Hairpin Lace @ Murphy

Thursday September 7, 10:00-12:00

Hand-Stitched Applique @ Main

Tuesday September 12, 6:30-8:30

Foundation Piecing a Quilt Block @ Madison

Friday September 22, 10:00-12:00

Bias Weaving on the Rectangle Loom @ Bailey Cove

Saturday September 30, 10:00– 4:00

Weave a Scarf on Soda Straws @ Murphy

Thursday October 5, 10:00-12:00

Paint a Gourd Birdhouse @ Main

Tuesday October 10, 6:30-8:30

Weave a Melon/Egg Basket @ Madison

Friday October 27, 9:00-3:00