



# Peterborough Handweavers' And Spinners' Guild

P.O. Box 781, Peterborough, Ontario K9H 6X8

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May/June

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the final bulletin for another year of the Peterborough Handweavers' and Spinners'.

I am thrilled to let our membership know that since the beginning of 2006 our Guild has welcomed four new people. We are delighted that these new members share our interests and have made the decision to participate in our meetings, workshops and demonstration. (As it is late in our current year our new members information is published in this newsletter rather than circulating an updated membership list.)

Our Annual General Meeting and Pot Luck will be held at the home of Pauline Fanning this year. Please mark your calendar for **Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm**. In addition to bringing completed "Colour Challenge" items, each member is asked to bring a contribution to the meal, \$2.00 for refreshments and her own cutlery, cup and plate. Thanks to Pauline for hosting! This is also a time when we will have draw prizes for people who have participated in the Show and Share throughout the year. If you wish to be eligible for a prize bring an item of interest to Show and Share at the May meeting.

The Annual General Meeting, held each year in June, is a time to sum up our accomplishments. Members of the Executive are requested to submit their reports to Pauline Fanning by the end of May so that a hard copy can be printed for distribution at the meeting. This meeting is also an opportunity to vote on proposed amendments to our constitution. Anyone who may have a proposal for an amendment has an obligation to consider the proposal in advance of casting a ballot. In this newsletter, there is a written proposal about meeting dates and times. As some of our members are unable to attend evening meetings, the executive made a decision to have the proposal published for the consideration of all members. Anyone who cannot attend the AGM but who would like to share their opinion on this proposal is invited to contact me by telephone (745-7699) or email ([southern@canada.com](mailto:southern@canada.com)).

In April those PHS members who attended Doris Huffman's workshop to learn how to do felting on silk had a wonderful learning experience. Doris is an excellent and exacting teacher! This event also spawned the beginnings of our display for this year's Central Region Seminar. We hope to be able to show our "creative selves" at the

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Ontario Science Centre in October, by making a display that is a blend of Doris' workshop and this year's colour challenge. (Large hint: FINISH YOUR COLOUR CHALLENGE!!!)

It has been an extreme pleasure to serve as your president for the better part of the past three years. I am truly fortunate to work with a group of committed individuals who have often "shared the load" to make things happen in our guild. As the search committee continues to fill the slate for the new executives I urge all members to consider making a small contribution of time and energy that will result in good programs, workshops, sales, demonstration and sharing of information for the betterment of our art and craft.

Since this is the last bulletin before the summer, I would also encourage everyone to get their creativity flowing and look ahead to our annual sale in November. Your finished items will be most welcome for next year's Autumn Treasures event. In the event that our paths don't cross in May or June may I wish you a pleasant, happy and safe summer. See you in September.

Donna Mae Southern



Donna chose a piece of silk to felt with fantastic results.



Doris Huffman, silk tie instructor  
*extraordinaire!*

## NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following new members:

- WSDB Mary Charles, 618 Rogers Street, PTBO, K9H 1X9.  
705-755-1182, [marycharles@cogeco.ca](mailto:marycharles@cogeco.ca)
- WDBO Krystyna Perron, 108 Haden Avenue, Peterborough, K9H 1P6  
705-741-1472, [dandk@sympatico.ca](mailto:dandk@sympatico.ca)
- WSDB Carla Pike, 529 Downie Street, PTBO, K9H 4S7  
705-742-6912, [carladpike@yahoo.ca](mailto:carladpike@yahoo.ca)
- WSD Sylvia Stoddart, 1315 Zion Road, R.R. 2, Little Britain, K0M 2C0  
705-786-7705, [organic\\_farmer@hotmail.ca](mailto:organic_farmer@hotmail.ca)



New member Carla Pike working on felted silk tie.

## Program Notes

### *May Meeting*

*Waulking* – I hope members will try to get their 18-24" woven in good time. We still have warp left so if anyone wants to do anymore please let Jo know ASAP. The final section should be woven by Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at which point I will remove the warp from the loom and prepare for the meeting.

### *June Meeting*

Our year-end will be a potluck dinner held at Pauline's home on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Refreshments begin at 6:00 pm and dinner at 7:00 pm. Non-alcoholic punch and wine will be served. Cost is \$2.00. Don't forget your plate, cup and cutlery.

## GUILD PROJECTS FOR AUTUMN TREASURES

We will be holding two meetings to work on these projects.

The first one will be on May 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am at the home of Jo Mills (same meeting as the rep weave study group). At this meeting we will give out the scraps of handwovens that have been donated to make chequebook pouches, Kleenex holders or camera/cell phone cases. You will be given dimensions and/or patterns so that you can go home and cut out what you feel will make the best use of the fabric, using as much of it as you can.

The second meeting will be May 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am at the Guild Room. Bring your cut pieces and we will sew up the finished items. Instructions, lining, interfacing, buttons, irons, sewing machines will be provided. Bring miscellaneous sewing needs like scissors, pins, tape measure, etc., as well as the patterns you used to cut out the pieces. Bring a bag lunch in case we take a little longer than planned.


Thanks in advance for all your help. We hope to sell these items for \$5 to \$10 at Autumn Treasures. More donations of handwovens are welcome. The dimensions for the fabric for the projects are: Kleenex holder – 6.5" X 10.5"; chequebook pouch – 9" X 16"; camera case – 5.5" X 19"; cell phone case – 4.5" X 19".

Spinners and knitters can also prepare felted items to these guidelines using leftover scraps of commercial and handspun yarns. Other suggestions would be small shoulder/evening bags felted with funky eyelash or metallic yarns, knitting needle holders, eyeglass cases or other small items that can sell in the \$5 to \$10 range. Non-felted items would require the use of handspun only.

## Group Activities

- Guild Meetings** 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at Kawartha Artists' Gallery, 729 Park St. S. Library and Store open at 7:00 pm and meetings start at 7:30 pm. Next meetings: May 15, June 12 at Pauline's
- Executive** June 5<sup>th</sup> at Donna's.
- Spinning Group** 1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays: June 1<sup>st</sup> – Maria Tryba. *We will be cooking up the lichen dye made by Rosemary and Jo-bring sample yarns/fleece to experiment with the different colours we will try to achieve.*  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays: May 18<sup>th</sup> at Lois Carter's.
- Dye Group** See note for Spinning Group for June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Since summer is a great time to dye we will continue with workshops at a variety of venues-Pat, Deb, Maria, Rosemary and Jo's homes. Jo will contact members when plans have been made for a dye day.
- Weaving Study Group** Next meeting is May 5<sup>th</sup> at Jo Mills'.
- Autumn Treasures Workshop** Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at the Guild premises at 9:30 am

**Kawartha Eclectics**



**SHOW  
SALE & WORKSHOPS**

Come and visit us at Notably Natural Studios on Buckhorn Lake, Ontario, to view basketry, pottery, hard-shelled gourds...and more!

This year we are offering two half day workshops:

*Embellishing gourd pins*  
*Cords from natural Materials*

Cost: \$15.00—includes materials  
Pre-register by contacting Sandi McNeil

**Dates: October 7 and 8, 2006**  
**Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Kawartha Hideaway Rd.  
R.R. #1  
Peterborough ON  
K9J 6X2

Phone: (705) 657-1026  
Email: sandi.mcneil@sympatico.ca

**Kawartha Eclectics:**  
Sandi McNeil –basketry  
Janet McDougall-pottery  
Donna Southern-gourds



*Something to talk about...*The Gathering, Port Hope Spin-in April 2006

## LIBRARY

We have had two new acquisitions since the last newsletter:

*The Cinderella Effect* is a reprint, in a duotang folder, of three articles by Laura Frey from the Guild of Canadian Weavers Bulletin. These articles are on the wet finishing of handwoven wool yardage, complete with before and after samples. The samples show the dramatic difference finishing makes – which we will see happen in front of our eyes at the “waulking bee” at our next meeting. Thank you to Pauline for donating this valuable material to our library.

*A Nova Scotia Workbasket* was published in 1976 by the Nova Scotia Museum. This 113 page book has articles and instructions on traditional Nova Scotia textiles. There are sections on knitting, weaving, rug making, quilting, crochet and needlework. Thanks to Jo Mills for donating this book.

I would also like to remind members that books taken out at the June meet may be kept until the September meeting. Call me if you wish to take a specific book out and I will arrange to bring it to Pauline's year-end dinner. The Guild is also open all summer for member access to the library and equipment.

Don't forget that you can renew books by phoning me (652-5077) if you cannot get to a meeting to return them on time. This really helps to reassure the librarian that a book has not been lost or forgotten.

## Calendar of Events

- To May 14<sup>th</sup> Textile Museum of Canada, Toronto. *A Terrible Beauty*. Jennifer Angus has created a site-specific installation composed of thousands of insects pinned directly to the gallery wall in intricate repeating patterns based on textile and wallpaper designs. *Highly rated by Lois Watson... "a must see"*.
- June 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> WASOON 2006, Northern College, Timmins. Registration from January 15 to March 15. \$130 (incl meals).
- July 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> Lakefield Fair.
- August 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Peterborough Fair
- September 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> International Plowing Match, Keene, Ontario
- September 30<sup>th</sup> Doors Open, Peterborough.
- October 3<sup>rd</sup> Spin-in, Warkworth Weavers & Spinners, Campbellford, Ontario
- October 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Kawartha Eclectics Show, Sale & Workshops (see ad following)
- October 21<sup>st</sup> Central Region Seminar. *Stone Soup*. OHS and Central Region at the Ontario Science Centre, 9am-5pm. Contact Carolyn Franke at [carolynfranke@rogers.com](mailto:carolynfranke@rogers.com)

## FOR SALE

45" Fanny Loom. \$500.00 includes 5 reeds, lease sticks, 2 boat shuttles, 12 plastic bobbins, 1 reed hook, 1 warping board, 1 bobbin rack, 2 baskets for wool, 1 beater (metal w/wooden handle), book "New Key to Weaving" by Mary E. Black. Contact Karla Von Ravenstein at 705-657-3088.

Ashford Spinning Wheel, Lazy Kate and 4 bobbins. \$250.00; Drum Carder, \$200.00; Umbrella Swift, \$25.00; Carved-back Hand Carders, \$20.00; 2 Louet Mini Combs (new) \$40.00 each. Contact Mary Johnston @ 705-742-0676.

## The Niddy Noddy Column

Don't be shy. Share your thoughts, ideas and experiences.

If you have some interesting experiences to share in the September or October newsletter please contact me by August 1st.



### *A Day at the Ring* by Jo Mills

*"Suzy Q has a light straight step and well shaped legs, while her body shows good proportion. She exhibits a lovely long neck, strong jawline and a classic head. Overall she represents the best of her type."*

No, we are not talking about Canada's Next Top Model – this is Suzy Q of Cedar Ridge, winner of the Juvenile Huacaya Female Black/Fancy Alpaca class.

The outing Deb and I made to Orangeville for the Alpaca Ontario Show was not quite what we expected. There were fewer goods for sale, namely prepared or raw fleece, but over 40 breeders were there including Nancy Carr of Silver Cloud and Kathleen Holmes of Salem Alpacas, both who have been guest speakers at our Guild. Breeders came from the USA, Quebec, Nova Scotia and the Prairies.

We spent much of our time in the stands watching the judging – 39 classes in total and we watched about 20. The judge was very comprehensive and had the top 3 in each division march around the ring separately while she gave a commentary on why that particular Alpaca won or placed. Although we couldn't get to feel the fleece the information was detailed enough that Deb and I began our own judging, discussing head triangulation, bowed hocks, classic neck, deep chest (male), and wide hips (female...naturally) helping us to often get 2 out of 3 winners. At one point, with an older adult class, the audience was invited into the ring to talk to the trainers and pat the alpacas. Outside of the ring we had a chance to meet and talk to owners who were walking around with their animals prior to their judging class. They happy to let us pat their alpaca and sink our arms into their fleece, an experience that is hard to describe as your hand disappears into a soft cloud of white, honey, brown, or other natural colour.

So, did we buy anything? Well, they really pushed the fact that you can build up a lucrative business with these lovely critters, although they did not talk about the feeding, mucking, vet bills, shearing, etc. And at \$8,000 and up per animal we found ourselves a bit short in the wallet. However Nancy Carr was very accommodating and we found ourselves walking out to the car with a nice package each of Alpaca rovings – a variegated blue for Deb and a lovely warm honey colour piece of Nicandro for me.

Somehow we will fit our new fleeces into The Plan.

*Other Happenings* by Jo Mills

Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> saw quite a few members of Peterborough head down to "The Gathering", the annual spin-in held in Port Hope. As usual there was a good showing with members of Kingston, Warkworth, Treadle Trompers, Port Hope and the hosts, Pine Ridge, meeting and greeting and catching up. Lots of goodies were for sale and our crowd was not shy about spending. Meg carpooled with Deb and I and we thought we might need a roof rack for her stuff on the return trip! Kidding Meg! Taking part at the event was Maria, Helga, Marilyn Kerr, Meg, Deb, Mary J, Janet and Lynn (with her booth).

Saturday, April 29, 2006 was a day of surprises. Doris Huffman held her Felted Tie workshop in the morning and it turned out to be far more physical than any of us expected. Three minutes of pressure with heel of hand took its toll. Then came the rolling, pressing, squeezing (and wheezing). At this point we were informed we were only half way through! Once we unravelled our pieces, expecting to see something wonderful, we were informed that we had to do more physical work. Now it was palms, finger tips, "whatever and rub hard". This for 20 minutes! Lots of soapy water while rubbing makes your handles awfully clean. It also makes them awfully wrinkled. Numbness sets in after about 15 minutes. In the end we still had more work to do and so we all went home with 'homework'. **TO ALL IN ATTENDANCE.....YOU ARE REQUIRED TO BRING PRODUCT-FINISHED OR UNFINISHED-TO NEXT MEETING FOR SHOW AND TELL.**

THE PLAN is going along nicely thank you. I carded some mo (with Romney), and then some Shetland. Now I am down to 2 lbs Mo, ½ lb Romney, 1 lb Shetland, 2 lbs brown mix, and 2 lbs Cotswold, to either wash or card. Sounds like a lot but at least I now have it on a list. (I love lists and have lots of them but that's another column.)

## Keeping in Touch

If anyone does not want to receive their newsletter by e-mail or would prefer to have a paper copy mailed as well please advise Jo.



To make sure articles get into the newsletter on time, submission dates should be the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month of the next issue. Submissions can be sent to Jo Mills at 210 Carlisle Avenue, Peterborough, K9H 1J6, or you can e-mail your article to [jomillsjo@hotmail.com](mailto:jomillsjo@hotmail.com). You can also telephone Jo at 705-749-3323.

Our newsletter can be viewed at [www.aymgael.com/PBO\\_handweaving\\_spinning/default.html](http://www.aymgael.com/PBO_handweaving_spinning/default.html)

E-mail can be sent to [weaver@aym-gael.com](mailto:weaver@aym-gael.com).

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## Proposal to Change Some Meetings to Saturdays

This proposal is meant to deal with two aspects of our Guild. The proposal will be open for discussion at our May meeting and be voted on at our June meeting.

The first concern is members who cannot make Monday meetings on a regular basis. These members work and/or live out-of-town making it difficult to attend a Monday night meeting, especially on winter nights or in adverse weather conditions.

The second concern is co-ordination of programs and workshops. By coordinating a program with a follow-up workshop we can cover more material and give a better understanding of the subject to our members.

My suggestion is that we continue to hold Monday meetings most months but combine a few meetings with workshops on a Saturday. The Monday meeting allows Program Committee to present a subject and prepare for the next month's workshop on a Saturday.

For example:	September	Monday	1st meeting/mini program
	October	Saturday	workshop
	November	Monday	mini program/speaker
	December		Xmas get-together/mini program
	January	Saturday	workshop
	February	Monday	long program/guest speaker
	March	Saturday	workshop
	April	Monday	meeting/mini program
	May	Monday	meeting
	June		year-end get-together/Challenge

This example shows only 3 Saturdays set aside for a meeting/workshop, leaving 5 Mondays and two special occasions days.

There are some members who could not attend a Saturday meeting/workshop but we have opened the door for those other members who we rarely see at our Monday meetings. Depending on the timing of the Saturday meeting we could try to accommodate some of our Monday members. This will take planning and advance notice on the part of both Program Committee and Newsletter persons.

There will always be members who cannot attend some meetings, or attend any except special events (Xmas, year-end luncheon). But I think it is important to recognize that among our membership we have a diverse group of people and everyone needs to take part in the decisions made by the group that affect the group as a whole.

In the interest of keeping our Guild growing and encouraging members to participate in the running of the Guild we need to make sure that all members have the chance to connect and take part in Guild activities.