

Random Threads



Editor: Birthe Miller
birthe_miller@telus.net

Prince George Fibre Arts Guild
2880 - 15th Ave., Prince George, B.C. V2M 1T1

July & August 2019
Volume 417

Monthly Gathering

**September 10th
at 7:00 pm.**

Show & Tell

**Join us for
Drop-Ins on
Tuesdays**

6:00 to 9:00pm

Thursdays

1:00 to 4:00pm

6:00 to 8:00pm

Saturdays

**10:00am to
1:00pm**

**Please bring
a snack
to share.**

**Our Fibre
Arts Guild
hosted
the 2019
Association of
Northwest
Weavers' Guilds
Conference**

President's Corner

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart." – Elizabeth Andrews

We did it.

We hosted an inspiring ANWG Conference, with rave reviews from the more than 200 delegates who attended. We had people from across North America gather to Prince George, and it was a pleasure to hear all the laughter and excitement in our community over those four days.

It would not have been so successful without the tireless volunteers from our guild – lead by the Conference Co-Chairs Laura and Birthe. The time and dedication they put into the Conference was evident, as they and their team executed the event seamlessly. So many of our guild members generously donated their time and ideas throughout the course of the event, and I cannot express what those efforts mean to us.

Thank-you to everyone who volunteered. You represented our Guild and our northern community of fibre artists with grace and enthusiasm.

A few weeks have now passed since the conference, but I am still feeling inspired by all of our instructors and delegates (and let's be honest – that Fashion Show!). What I would like to do in the next two months of summer is to start planning for the fall and winter programming for the Guild. Several ideas were shared during the conference, and I've recorded those to be included – but I want more.

What instructors would you like to see come back? We have been in contact with a few.

Did you buy new equipment, and need some help mastering it?

Put your thinking caps on. Then put pen to paper (or fingers to a keyboard) and let me know. We will coordinate a winter-programming planning meeting, in which all ideas will be discussed and strategize on how to secure some funding to help us out. Otherwise – enjoy July! We may be away on holidays, but feel free to share your progress on our social media (Facebook and Instagram!), using our Guild hashtag #pgfibrearts!

Best,
Serena



‘Back to the Basics’ Movie Night ~ September 24th at 7:00pm
How to Card Wool: Four Spinners, Four Techniques (0:55 minutes)

Carding is the first step toward consistent, easy-to-spin woolen yarns, and hand cards are the most accessible tool for achieving them. But how to produce those fluffy, lofty, spinnable rolags? There are many schools of thought. In this DVD, you’ll see four master spinners share their techniques and tricks, ranging from deeply traditional to somewhat eccentric. They all work. You’ll also enjoy bonus content with Andrea Mielke Schroer and Narcissa Venigas Perez, a spinner in the Oaxacan highlands. Much of this is basic lore, but there are also surprises:

- How much fiber should you load onto your cards? It depends.
- Should you start carding from the top of the card, or from the lip? It depends.
- What’s better than forming one rolag from a single carding? Forming three!
- Are those brand-new cards ready to go? Maybe not.
- Should you rest your passive card on your thigh? How about waving it in the air?
- Is changing hands a heresy?



Oh, there’s more, so much more. Whatever your own methods, if you’ve developed any, you will find food for thought and tricks to try.

NOTE: We will be washing fleeces in August, so you will get a chance to card after the video.

Guild Volunteers Needed

July 20th & 21st 12:30 to 3:30pm ~ Penny Days at the Railway Museum to demonstrate fibre arts. Bring your spinning, weaving or knitting.

August 15th to 18th ~ BC Northern Exhibition to demonstrate fibre arts in our own Guild house on Heritage Lane.



We need volunteers to showcase what our Guild does by demonstrating spinning, weaving, carding, felting, knitting, or anything fibre arts related.

If you would like to volunteer please email Birthe at birthe_miller@telus.net before August 6th so she can arrange for passes. The schedule is below. We need a few people for each time slot.

Wednesday, August 14th to load and set-up display, time to be determined by volunteers.

There are 2 shifts per day Thursday, August 15th to Sunday August 18th 10:00-2:00pm, 2:00-6:00pm and Sunday, 6:00-7:00pm to take down the display.

BCNE Home Arts and Horticulture Prize Book <http://bcne.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/H&H%20Prize%20Book%202019.pdf>

Enter to win in spinning, weaving and felting, quilting, needlework, knitting, crocheting and other categories. Please bring your completed Entry Form to the BCNE office on or before the closing date: **4:00pm, Tuesday July 30th, 2019**. Drop off your items Tuesday August 13th, between 10am-3pm.



**The Prince George Fibre Arts Guild hosted the
2019 Association of Northwest Weavers’ Guilds Conference
June 11th to 16th, 2019**

Check out the photos at <http://www.anwgconference2019.com/gallery>

A Big Thank You to our wonderful Guild Volunteers.

What will be Happening in the Guild Room?

In August we plan on a day of washing fleeces that were donated to the Guild. If interested contact Birthe.

September to October we will be 4H youth in the Guild Room Saturday afternoons. They have raised sheep and would like to learn Fleece Washing, Carding, Spinning & more.

In October we will be busy getting ready for Studio Fair. We will have a work bee to put together felting kits.

Guild member Sue Perron is offering us her 2 seminars she did for the Conference [Fibres on the Wild Side](#) and [Ceinture Fleche: a Brief Walk Through History](#). Dates to be announced.

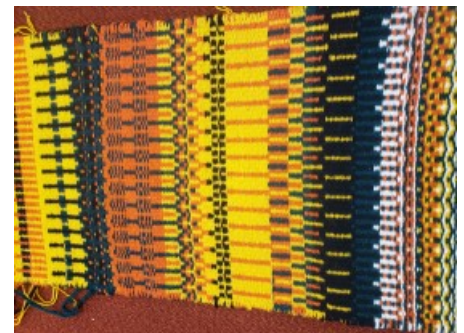
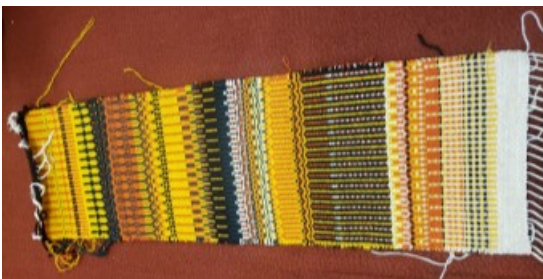
In January, Mary Lessman will be teaching a Natural Dyeing Workshop. Some of us are busy collecting marigold and Calendula petals and other vegetation. More info to come.

Early Spring we are planning a Beginner's Spinning Workshop for our new spinners and those to want to brush up on their techniques. We will use some of the fleeces we washed. More info to come.



Congratulations Elizabeth!

Elizabeth won 2nd prize in the 2018-9 Olds Fibre Week Mystery Box completion. You purchase a mystery box that contains some fibre and return your finished item the following year for judging. The box contained some brown Shetland wool and some raw tussah silk. Elizabeth created a "Cocoon Nest" for 3 silk cocoons to keep them warm and safe. She spun the Shetland wool with some of her dog's softest hair and used it for the nest lining. Made the inner nest using the silk and an acrylic matte medium and an outer nest with the same materials but incorporating some Shetland with it. She wove a mat using the last of the Shetland and an existing warp. She added mountain ash berries for colour and "food". Looking forward to seeing what she creates with her new mystery box for next year's Olds Fibre Week .



More of Elizabeth's colourful creations just off the loom.

Sheep Jokes

Q: Why does a milking stool have only 3 legs?

A: Because the sheep has the udder.

Q: Where can you find free wool?

A: On the baa-baa shop floor.

Q: Why was the sheep eating again?

A: Because he cud.

Q: What did the polite sheep say while holding the barn door?

A: After ewe.

Q: Why don't sheep remember things you tell them?

A: Because everything goes in one ear and out the udder.

Q: What do you get when you cross an angry sheep with a grumpy cow?

A: An animal that's in a baaaaaaaad moooooood.

'Back to Basics' Guild Meetings and Events 2019/20

The main focus of 'Back to the Basics' this year will be starting at the beginning.

Upcoming Workshops

August ~ Fleece Washing

September to October ~ 4H Fleece Washing, Carding, Spinning & more

January ~ Natural Dyeing Workshop

Early Spring ~ Beginner's Spinning Workshop

Upcoming Events

August 15th to 18th ~ BC Northern Exhibition

November 1st to 3rd ~ Studio Fair

Upcoming 2019/20 Guild Meetings

Guild meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of each month. No meetings held in July and August.

September 10th ~ AGM

'Back to Basics' Movie Nights

The last Tuesday Drop-In of each month. Learn from the Masters.

Workshop videos will be shown on carding, spinning, plying, design, natural dyeing, felting, wheel mechanics and much more so join us for an informative evening. Upcoming videos will be listed in the newsletter.



Learn to Spin, Knit, Crochet and Finish your Project Drop-In

Saturdays 10:00am ~ 1:00pm

Tuesdays 6:00 ~ 9:00pm

Thursdays 1:00 ~ 4:00pm and 6:00 ~ 8:00pm

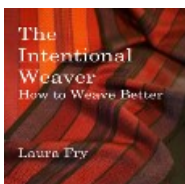
in our Guild Room, bring a snack.

Free to members and a \$5.00 drop-in fee for non-members.



Buy & Sell

For Sale ~ Spinning wheels, carders and other fibre arts related equipment. Check them out in the Guild Room.



For Sale ~ The Intentional Weaver; How to Weave Better by Laura Fry.
<http://www.blurb.ca/my/store> or search for the title on the [blurb.ca](http://www.blurb.ca) website.

For Sale ~ Magic in the Water: wet finishing handwovens by Laura Fry.
<http://www.blurb.ca/b/8516297-magic-in-the-water>

For Sale ~ Barely used, fab felter by "Sewing with Nancy". Holds 5 needles, has tool compartment, and comes with wheeled storage/ travelling suitcase. \$75.00 Contact: Gail by texting 250-617-3397 or email gail_stevenson@telus.net

Dual Purpose Sheep: East Friesian & Targhee



The East Friesian is a breed of dairy sheep originating from East Frisia in northern Germany. It is one of the best sheep breeds in terms of milk yield per ewe. In 1994, Canada introduced the East Friesian to the United States as purebreds and the breed quickly caught on in local dairy operations. The East Friesian sheep breed is the highest milk producing breed of sheep and as a result the East Friesian tends to be the breed of choice for every sheep dairy, though some farmers do cross in polled Dorset to produce a slightly larger-framed animal. The East Friesian tends to be mid to large in size and relatively docile - a desirable trait in any dairy livestock. Their faces are white and open, making the breed easy to manage and Friesian sheep wool is

of a decent length and quality considering that the wool is typically an afterthought for those raising Friesian sheep. Micron 29-33 and staple length of 10-15cm (4-6"). NOTE: Grace and Birthe obtained some local fleeces from Carolyn Gerrie who also raises alpacas. Grace describes the East Friesian yarn as "springy".



The Targhee was developed at the Dubois, Idaho experimental station starting in 1926 in response to a demand for a western range sheep with improved meat characteristics. The Targhee is an easy keeper, long lived, lambs on pasture and produces an excellent fleece. The Targhee sheep breed is a combination of the Columbia, Corriedale and Rambouillet - all white-faced sheep breeds known for their production. Targhee sheep are commonly used for meat production as well as wool production in Canada and the US. They have thick, high quality fleece, open faces and are a hardy, adaptable breed. They are popular among the northern ranchers who prefer their ratio of fine-long wool and their hardiness in what can be harsh

weather conditions. Micron 21-25 and staple length of 10-15cm (7.5-12.5"). NOTE: Grace and Birthe have both spun Targhee. It is a soft wool with lots of resilience, is lofty and elastic. Sweaters with lots of memory, cowls, next to skin garments. There will be some Targhee fibre available for the **Beginner's Spinning Workshop**.