

Southeast Fiber Forum Newsletter

Spring 2008

Lake Junaluska 2009!

Letter from the President

Cheryl McWilliams

We are fast approaching the 2009 Conference to be held in Lake Junaluska, NC April 17-19, 2009. This conference is hosted by Western North Carolina Fiber/Handweavers Guild and from the reports I've seen this proves to be a very interesting conference. The location is lovely and the facility is outstanding. Be sure to look for your registration brochure to arrive sometime in Fall 2008 and plan to attend.

We will need to establish a nominating committee soon to present a couple of officers to serve in the coming years at our 2009 membership meeting. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please let me know (cherylmcw@mindspring.com). This nomination committee will communicate via email or telephone.

The Board members meet once a year after the general membership meeting at conference and in off years of conferences, we meet for a weekend at conference site. The Board is reimbursed any travel expenses from the general funds during these off year meetings. At

that time, we visit the conference site, we have a tour of the facility and enjoy meeting with the hosts of the following year conference. These meetings usually take place during the spring of even years. This spring the SFFA board will meet with Western North Carolina Fiber/Handweavers Guild on Saturday, April 26, 2008 at Lake Junaluska. Any SFFA member is more than welcome to join us on site and attend the meeting.

We are truly thankful for the volunteers who serve on the board. They are giving of their time and energy to bring the members the best organization for the South East region. We would like to see SFFA continue on this path so consider donating a little of yourself to make this possible. Please let us know if you are willing to serve as a SFFA board member.

I reside in Houston, Texas during the winter months and there is always an opportunity to view incredible fiber work of all techniques. On exhibit at the Holocaust Museum is a wonderful display of needlework ***Through the Eye of the Needle: Fabric Art of Esther Nisenthal Krinitz***. This exhibition features the work of Esther Nisenthal Krinitz, a survivor from Poland who, at age 50, began creating works of fabric art to

tell her story. Trained as a dressmaker but untrained in art, she created a collection of 36 fabric pictures of strong, vivid colors and striking details with a sense of folk-like realism. Meticulously stitched words beneath the pictures provide a narrative.

Before we took the self-guided tour, we saw a short film with narrative by Esther and her sister and a short talk by one of the Holocaust Museum volunteers, who herself was a survivor. Her story in itself was intriguing and fascinating.

This spring, Houston Center for Contemporary Craft is honored to present ***Craft in America: Expanding Traditions***, a multi-faceted journey into the origin and continuation of craft traditions. Beginning with the Industrial Revolution, this ground-breaking exhibition explores the many cultures and movements that have contributed to the development and refinement of American craft during the last two centuries. Integrating the various media of handcrafted furniture, ceramics, fiber and textiles, basketry, glass, wood, jewelry and metal, the exhibition represents a broad base of craft makers, including traditional craft makers, designer craftsmen of the Arts & Crafts Movement, the artists of the Work Progress Administration programs of the 1930s, post-World-War-II studio-craft pioneers and contemporary studio-craft artists. *Craft in America: Expanding Traditions* celebrates these skilled artists and recognizes their works as important pieces of history linking us to the

very soul and essence of American culture.

Comprising a three-part PBS television series, a touring museum exhibition, an illustrated book and [a comprehensive Web site](#), *Craft in America: Expanding Traditions* is a national phenomenon. Check the website for other information.

Your area might not feature a major exhibit, but you can bet the local galleries will be happy to host a fiber exhibit for your guild or organization. Check to see what is in your region and enjoy the warmth of textiles.

398 And Counting!

“The good news is that it’s only 398 days until the Southeastern Fiber Forum takes place. The bad news is that you have only 398 days to complete all of your plans, clear your calendar, and arrange travel to attend the meeting.”

This is the opinion of Marjorie Warren, co-chair of the 2009 event, sponsored by the Western North Carolina Fibers/Handweavers Guild. The actual date of our meeting is April 17-19, 2009. Check it out on the web: <http://www.sefiberforum.org> The theme of our gathering is “Natural Fiber,” in keeping with the United Nations’ designation of 2009 as “the year of natural fiber.” Our Forum will consist of twelve workshops, a fashion show, vendors, and representatives from Penland School of Crafts, John C. Campbell Folk School, Arrowmont School of Crafts and Haywood Community College’s Production Weaving Department.

Workshops include:

- *Weaving as an Expression of Nature (frame loom/tapestry),*
 - *Inkle Woven Doll with Character,*
 - *Knitting with Silk Hankies*
 - *Cotton and the Charkha,*
- and
- *Spinning with Friendly Eco - Fibers.*

And, of course there will be workshops in dyeing, felting, spinning and surface design. "We are fortunate to have an exceptional faculty," said Betsy Goodnight, the other co-chair. "They are among the finest teachers in Western North Carolina." Instructors and leaders include: Chad Hagen, Suzanne Gernandt, Eileen Hallman, and Kathie Roig.

The forum will be held at the Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center, located in the Smoky Mountains of Western North Carolina just twenty miles west of Asheville. The center is surrounded by lovely mountains and overlooks a 200-acre lake. At one end of the lake is Shackford Hall where our classes and exhibits will be housed. At the other end of the lake is Lambuth Inn (listed on the National Registry of Historic Buildings) where our members will be housed and fed. And, to transport us from one place to the other, a charming trolley is available and will run at times when we need to get from one setting to the other.

Check out the Lake Junaluska Website: www.lakejunaluska.com

Marjorie, a native Scot who specializes in researching, designing and weaving tartans, said, "If you want to experience natural fiber in a setting reminiscent of 'Brigadoon,' then you'll not want to miss the 2009 meeting of our Fiber Forum. You've only got 398 days to make your plans, to arrange carpooling with your friends, and to join other fiber-philes for what promises to be a marvelous weekend."

Membership Reminders

From Nancy Kahrs

We currently have 38 member guilds. Contact information is needed for the following guilds:

Pioneer Quilters – GA
Potomac Craftsmen – VA
Tennessee Valley Handspinners – TN

Please send current address to SFFA, 7534 Sheringham Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70808-5759 .

There are 778 members on the active roster and another 409 members whose address is unknown, as mail to them has been returned.

Please keep your membership address updated. Send corrections to the address listed above.

Scholarships Available!

Scholarships for \$200 toward the 2009 Fiber Forum are available for SFFA members. There have been years when these are not used which is a shame since the money is available. The application process is not difficult but needs to be done prior to August 15, 2008. It must be postmarked by that date and the winners (2) will be announced in September 2008. The applications are coded so that no one on the committee knows the name of the applicant until after the decision has been made.

If you are interested in applying for a scholarship, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to SFFA Scholarship Committee, 7534 Sheringham Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70808- 5759. Please allow time for mail delivery both ways.

The scholarship application is also available for download from the Website in two forms:
www.sefiberforum.org/schlrshp.html
or
www.sefiberforum.org/schlrshp.pdf

Florida happenings...

And a report from treasurer Gloria Corbet

Here in Florida we have a busy year ahead of us. The Florida Tropical Weaver's Guild will have its annual conference the last weekend of March. It will be a bit abbreviated this year and offer only local teachers with mini classes for four days. It is held at Lake Yale Baptist

Retreat and is relatively cheap. You have to be a member of FTWG to attend, but it's worth it. Google FTWG for more information

The FTWG conference is shorter this year since Tampa Florida is the site of the every-two- year Convergence sponsored by the Handweaver's Guild of America. It is huge and expensive but definitely something to look forward to attending. Hey, world ranked teachers and a huge auditorium full of national vendors can't be a bad place to spend a few days! Convergence will have multi-day classes in many fiber related subjects. It will be in late June. Go to the HGA site : www.weavespindye.org for more information. You have to be a member of HGA to attend.

Florida also has a local Fiber-In that can be attended with mini classes/demonstrations offered over the course of an evening, the following day, and maybe the next morning, usually in August. I attended last year and taught a mini-class on Kumihimo and attended a great session on "How to get yourself published" offered by a crocheter. Look into the Fiber-In Chat room on Yahoo to connect.

As the Treasurer, may I remind everyone that the \$5.00 membership fee you paid once cannot possibly cover all costs incurred by the Southeast Fiber Forum. It depends on the every-two-year Forum being a money making proposition. The association offers start-up money to any guild that sponsors a forum. That money is paid back when the

forum is over and the sponsoring guild and the Southeast Fiber Forum Association split the profits. The association has a bit over \$4K in the bank from which all costs are paid. It also has contingency funds to help a guild that has a disastrous forum and loses money. Are you and your guild ready to sponsor the next forum in 2011 or even 2013? If I can find others in Florida who would join with me to sponsor the forum here, I may try to put in a bid. With the Florida Tropical Weaver's Guild annual conference, there is little interest in a regional conference.

Plan to come to the 2009 Forum! Every forum I have attended has been very worthwhile.

Going On in Georgia...

Kim Wall reports

Silk Workshop

The Peachtree Handspinners Guild (based in Atlanta) had a Silk Workshop with Robin Russo in February. We had a wonderful time learning about silk, including reeling it from cocoons, stretching cocoons to make mawatas, spinning different forms of silk and even embroidering with our own handspun silk threads! I can highly recommend Robin as a workshop leader.

Textile Exhibit at the DeKalb County Library

For the past few years the downtown Decatur library branch has been displaying textiles inspired by books. You can display an item inspired from a favorite book or if you already

have an item that reminds you of a book, use it. Both children and adult books can be used. There has been a wide variety of items displayed, ranging from knitted/crocheted shawls to felted jewelry to tatted flowers to needlepointed and embroidered dolls. It's fun to see the book with the textile item, so if possible, bring the book too. This exhibit is open to anyone. The exhibit will start on May 1st and run for a little over one month. The display cases are not large so smaller items are better. For more information, contact Paula Vester at mpjvester@earthlink.net.

Georgia National Fair

The Georgia National Fair in Perry has a Spinning and Weaving competition as a part of the Fine Arts Division. If you are a resident of Georgia, you can enter your handspun yarns, knit or crocheted articles out of handspun yarn, woven items (handspun or commercial yarns), hand-felted items, etc. There are Youth, Apprentice, Journeyman and Master levels so you can compete with people at your skill level.

Cash prizes range from \$15 - \$45 for the top three items in each class (type of article). After the fair you will receive a judging sheet with comments about your item. It's a good way to see where you're doing well and where you could use some improvement.

This year the fair will run from October 2 - 12. Entries must be submitted for judging in early

September. For more information go to:

http://georgianationalfair.com/fairresults/georgia_living_program.htm.

Even if you don't enter anything, it's worth going to the fair just to see the entries!

And Turning to Tennessee...

From Jan Quarles

Middle Tennessee Sheep, Wool and Fiber Festival

The second annual Middle Tennessee Sheep, Wool and Fiber Festival will be held in Dickson, Tennessee, at the Dickson County Fairgrounds about 1 hour west of Nashville along I-40, on May 23-24, 2008. Show hours are Friday 1 p.m. - 6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Workshops will be held on both Friday and Saturday, and include both full and half day workshops on "Taking Spinning back to Basics, Rag Rug weaving, Dyeing Variegated Yarn, Weaving on a Triangle Loom, The Shepherd's Rug, The Art of Felting: Scarves of Silk and Wool, Introduction to Naalbinding, Beginning Felting: Felt a Mug Rug and others TBA in quilting, knitting and crochet. Great vendors will be present and "Skein" and "Fiber Arts" competitions will be held. You can find more information at www.tnfiberfestival.com or email tnfiberfestival@yahoo.com. Three Creeks Farm near Dickson is the primary sponsor of the event.

A Middle Tennessee Fall fiber festival is always held in late October at historic Cannonsburgh in Murfreesboro. Check the website above later this summer for more

information on the fall festival.

Tennessee has a great State Fair with fiber activities, too, in late September.

Denise Haley will be teaching a six-week course in Beginning Spinning with a drop spindle in April and May 2008 at the Willow Oak Center for Arts and Learning in Robertson County. The classes will take place in Springfield, TN. For more information, check the website at www.willowoakarts.org/index.html

Laura Artates teaches feltmaking classes in Middle Tennessee and maintains a calendar of felt-related activity at her blog at www.foundationsinfelt.com

We've got guilds and meetings

I'll be gathering information on the other areas of the state, but I can tell you now about several guilds and meetings held regularly in my area, Middle Tennessee:

Middle Tennessee Spinners meet every second Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. In the odd numbered months, they meet at the Second Presbyterian Church in Nashville and in the even numbered months, they meet at historic Rockcastle in Hendersonville. We have a dye day once at year. For more information, contact elmwilliams@yahoo.com

"Knitting at the Library" happens the second Monday of every month from 12 noon until about 2 at the downtown Nashville public library. For more information, contact Susan.Poulter@nashville.gov

The Shelbyville Fiber Arts Guild meets every second Monday at the FLY in Shelbyville. Email judythelen@bellsouth.net

Website update

From Jo Earl

www.sefiberforum.org

'We are always working to improve the SFFA website. If you have information that you think should be there, contact the webmistress, Jo Earl, at info@sefiberforum.org or JoOwl@BellSouth.net. Visit the website frequently in order to see what's new. Note that we don't put up those silly "Construction in Progress" signs - we are *always* in progress. If you have questions or suggestions for improvement, please let me know.

More news: A new yahoo group just for southeastern fiber people! Go to groups.yahoo.com and search for s_spin_weave. Click on the button, Join This Group.

Visit us soon at
www.sefiberforum.org

NEWLETTER UPDATES

This is the first newsletter edited by Jan Quarles, a member from Middle Tennessee. Look for changes in the newsletters ahead as we work on a logo and a newsletter template, and be sure to email jquarles@mtsu or jan37129@yahoo.com (large files or photos) with all your fiber news!

LET'S THANK KARLA FOR ALL THAT GOOD WORK!

Karla's "Swan Song"

From Karla Barricklow

For years I have been a SFFA member,
With good food, good friends, good fiber, I remember.

I have visited lots of new southeast places,
With new things to see, new friends to meet with fiber as a basis.

The last couple of years I have been a member of the board,
To plan forums, contact members and not be bored.

I have been the editor of the SFFA newsletter
Now with Jan at the helm, it should be better.

There have been great food, great friends, great times
And lots of problems with my rhymes.

I will be coming to all the future meetings as a member,
To have great food, good friends and good fiber to remember.

Thanks for letting me sit on the SFFA board,
Now, as a member, I will attend conferences and get fiber to hoard.

I live out in the country, so I can sit knit and spin in peace,
And my angora rabbits keep me knee deep in fleece.

By now it is time for me to step aside.

I thank you all for a fantastic ride!