



April 2011

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TODAY'S SPINNER

By Etta Rowe

Eleven-year-old Dria Zenda shows LOCO members how well she can spin on her child's great wheel. This 3/4-sized wheel, made of reclaimed chestnut, was designed and created for her by her grandfather, Ed Rowe. Ed also taught Dria how to spin.



Photo by Lynne Morgan

How to Get Ready for Dye Day By Karen Long

What to Wear: Old clothes that can get stained with dye including shoes.

What to Dye: You can dye animal fiber - wool, alpaca, silk, angora, mohair, or plant fiber - cotton, tencel, linen, and maybe a few rayons, bamboo or soysilk. *But no acrylic or polyester.*

What To Bring: Latex gloves to protect your hands, rubber bands for tie-dyeing, plastic bags to carry home your dyed yarn and other items, and old newspapers for helping cover the tables to protect them. If you have an extra roll of paper towels, please bring them to help clean up spills - it's better to have too many than too few.

When To Arrive: Karen Long will be arriving at 6:30 to begin setting up - the sooner we're set up, the sooner we can start, so if you can come early to help, please do.

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A special thanks to Trina for all the information she shared about her experience with Dye Gardens! Hopefully her enthusiasm will inspire someone to chair OUR Dye Garden Committee that has a number of members ready to help.

March Minutes submitted by Sara Twining

President Elizabeth Yasaki opened the March 8, 2011 meeting at 7PM. She asked for any guests or new members. Eddie Miller from Oberlin wants to raise sheep and wants spinner(s) to create yarn to sell. Nancy Zak wants to join us for our Dye Day. Holly Whiteside is a knitter; Carlee Mahajan wants to weave and Dria Zenda showed her small version of a great wheel that her grandfather, Ed Row, made for her. Trina Parrish was a guest who will present the evening's program on Day Gardening.

Next months program will be our Dye Evening. Set up will be at 6:30; so come help if you can. Karen gave instructions for preparing your fibers for Dye Evening. See newsletter article on page 4.

We hope to have Peggy Strang for a program on tapestry or Navajo plying or inkle weaving.

There was no treasurer's report.

Under Public Relations, Donna Holmes is willing to set up a face book page for the guild and will set up a page of HELPS.

Sunshine, Etta Rowe had sent six birthday cards and one get well card. Katie Farr attended the meeting. Good to see you Katie!

Mary Carmosino is now doing the guild newsletter and asks that all information to go into the new letter gets to her a week or so after the March meeting so it will be possible to post the newsletter on time. Anything late will have to wait until the next month. Thanks Mary.

Refreshments, Sheryl asked for more volunteers

to sign up. Sign up sheet was passed for work on the Dye Garden. Patty McAndrews reminded us she would order LOCO Logo bags, shirts etc if you contact her.

The Brown Bag Swap was accomplished tonight. Your project is due back in November.

Demonstration time will start soon. Katie Farr announced that Birmingham Old Fashion Days would like us to commit spinners now so they can plan.

Show and tell included the following:

- Betsy Bruce - one set of hand dyed, hand woven scarves.
- Sheryl Billmen - scarves from the weaving workshop last fall.
- Dria Zenda - Spinning on her new wheel
- Sally V. - Dish towels
- Lynne Morgan - Colinette throw
- Carlee Mahajan - hand woven silk and wool lengths of material.
- Holly Whiteside - fine lace "Queen Sylvia"
- Donna Holmes - Navajo plied Romney

All enjoyed an enlightening program by Trina Parrish.

Respectfully submitted by Sara Twining and Linda Koch

The Dye Garden History by Betsy Bruce

The Dye Garden was installed in late May 2006 as a memorial garden for LOCO members who passed while current members. That winter we had lost Laddie Rubright to breast cancer. Laddie lived in Amherst and was an active member/officer of the Guild who served as our first website person, initiated our first attempt at an electronic newsletter and demonstrated weaving.

The garden is located at Mill Hollow (a.k.a. Vermilion River Reservation of the Lorain County Metro Parks - the first park in the system) off of Vermilion and North Ridge Roads in the northwest corner of Lorain County. Specifically, the dye garden complements the herb garden (planted and maintained by a gardening group out of Amherst): both are located in front of the Bacon House at the park.

The Bacon House is an 1845 house used as a museum featuring themes of daily living and puts an emphasis on the community life in Brownhelm, including the profound effect the railroad had on the economy and on people's lives (from www.metroparks.cc/resevation-vermilion-river.php). FYI: There is a walking wheel in the house.

The garden plot is approximately 30 feet long by 6 feet deep, edged in local sandstone. That first year we had perhaps ten or so people volunteer an hour and a half on a Saturday morning as we tilled, spaded in manure from members' flocks, built the sandstone edging and placed sandstone pavers for footing while weeding prior to planting followed by a wonderful social lunch on site. We planted (too) many varieties of dye plants some of which we have used as dye-stuffs while demonstrating during the Pioneer Days or Pioneer Craftsmen

Experience each September. I have since laid a drip hose for irrigation. Stakes to identify plants have been helpful but need replacing periodically.

It is now time to roto-till again and re-start the garden since some of our plants (primarily the black eyed susan) have become a bit invasive--

For simplicity's sake, I recommend the following (most of which we have used in the past and are fairly easy to grow in that location)- perennials: coreopsis (tickseed), bronze fennel, madder, tansy, black eyed susan, hollyhocks (for height) with a row of marigolds (annuals) in the front. Other plants have been grown with mixed results in that location are yellow bedstraw, broom sedge, hopi black dye sunflower, goldenrod, weld, zinnias, St. John Wort, dyer's broom, purple basil, yarrow, dahlias, Japanese indigo, golden marguerites, marjoram and woad. (Some are perennials requiring less labor while others are not). Seeds or plants can be found at local nurseries or ordered online if necessary.

Once planted, we'll need help overseeing the garden during the summer on a weekly (or so) basis: volunteers to drop by, weed a bit and water (connecting hose and turning on and off) if the weather hasn't cooperated. Harvesting is usually done in late August or early September.

The next project would be to have someone photograph the plants and design and produce an informative display to put in the Bacon House kitchen for educational purposes. We certainly have samples of dyed yarn that could supplement the display board.

Dye Day should get us in the spirit!

How to Get Ready for Dye Day

Continued from page 1

How to prepare: Tie your yarn or warp chains loosely to avoid a tangled mess, but not so tightly that the dye cannot penetrate the fiber underneath. Otherwise, you will have white stripes where the too tightly tied tie was. If you are dyeing loose fiber you may want to put it in a mesh bag that can be dyed. Although I usually do not do this, it will help to contain the fiber. If you are dyeing roving or top, you don't need to do anything. I have braided it loosely on occasion for a variegated effect. Wash and rinse your fiber or other items such as socks, shirts, hankies, etc. thoroughly. If you are dyeing animal fiber soak it overnight in water with a healthy glug of white vinegar. If you are dyeing plant fiber soak it overnight in plain water. If you are dyeing silk, you can treat it as animal fiber [vinegar and water], or plant fiber [water only]. Wring out thoroughly and bring to the meeting.

To the Alpaca Owners in the LOCO Guild

Did you know that each alpaca owner, new or established, can take one free seminar at Magical Farms each year? There are a couple of fiber seminars on the schedule this year that look like they will be fun. The seminar is free but may lead you to another fiber or crafting addiction!

Check out Magical Farms' website www.alpacafarm.com and click on the News and Seminars tab for more information.

New Memberships for March... Welcome!

Carlee Mahajan
Business: Center Back Pads
10691 Deer Run Dr
Grafton, OH 44044
H [440 748-1701](tel:4407481701) W/C [440 669-0202](tel:4406690202)
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Holly Whiteside
24 North Park St
Oberlin, OH 44074
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knit, lace making, sewing, weave

2011 Lorain Co. Senior Fair

Demonstrators are needed for the May 6th Sr. Fair at the (Wellington) Lorain Co. Fairgrounds, Time to set up is before 9:30 am, open from 10 am till 2 pm. Anyone interested in this Demo contact Chris Streckely ([330-416-8195](tel:3304168195)) or Marybeth Derikito ([440-647-2590](tel:4406472590)).

We have a LibraryThing account!!!

<http://www.librarything.com/>

name: LOCOLibrary password: l0c0library (Those are zeroes)

Our book collection is still in the process of being added to LibraryThing. Keep in mind that the site will only let you know whether the guild OWNS an item, not whether it is available to be borrowed.



2011 Upcoming Events

LOCO Guild Meetings held the second Tuesday of the month 7 PM
Carlisle Reservation 12882 Diagonal Road, LaGrange, Ohio 44050

Please send event information you would like to have posted here.
If I have too much for one page then I'll only post the near future events.

4/9 to 5/31 at Ginko Gallery - In The Minds Eye - An exhibition of work by
Britt Friedman

4/12 - **LOCO Dye Day** - Carlisle Reservation 6:30 to set up
7 to join the fun.

5/6 - Lorain County Senior Fair - (Wellington) Lorain Co. Fairgrounds,
Open from 10 am till 2 pm.

5/6-8 38th Annual Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival at 2210 Fairground Rd.,
West Friendship MD / Howard County Fairgrounds,
www.sheepandwool.org

7/7-10 MAFA Conference, Gettysburg, PA, www.mafafiber.org

8/4-7 The Crooked River Fiber Fling in Peninsula, website:
www.fibercafe.wordpress.com

8/7-9 EGLFC Conference, website: www.eglfc.org/

8/20-21 Mid-Ohio Fiber Fair in Newark, website:
www.midohiofiberfair.weebly.com

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(814)440-1090 mmmcarmo@gmail.com

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Refreshments: Sheryl Billman
(440)926-3114 sheran8@msn.com

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(440)365-9835 sllingler@yahoo.com

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