

LOCO News

Special yarn the easy way

Navajo plying

We all have seen those glorious space-dyed rovings; brought them home, spun and plied them, only to find out the colors have gotten lost or just plain muddy. What you need is Navajo plying. It's the way to take a single yarn and turn it into a three-ply one perfect for knitting.

We'll learn how to do it at the April 8 LOCO meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Carlisle Visitor Center on Nickel Plate/Diagonal Road off Rt. 301 south of Elyria.

Join Karen Long, Betty Roll and Elizabeth Yasaki as they help us master the trick of it.

Bring your wheel (or spindle, if you prefer) and a bobbin or ball of singles (in a center-draw pull) to use. You will also need an empty bobbin

. You may want your yarn to have two or more colors as this sometimes helps to actually see the plying, but remember, this is just your practice skein, so save that fabulous silk for your second Navajo-plied skein! }

Be sure to join us for this excellent program.

We had hoped to have Fae Evans as our teacher but her husband is back in the hospital, getting ready for more heart surgery.

Karen Long and Betsy Bruce will provide refreshments for the evening.



Knitted boobs

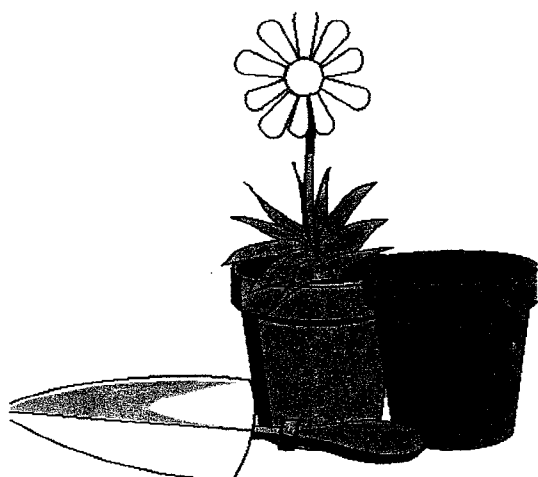
Sara Cookson, of the British Breastfeeding Network, with one of the knitted breasts that volunteers make to help teach new mothers how to feed their babies. Story on page 3.

Beth opens studio

Beth Hines has opened Ewe and Beth Studio Fiber Options at 10735 LaGrange Rd., Elyria. She's featuring farm-raised wool, hand-dyed yarns, spinning, weaving and basket-making instructions, lessons and supplies.

Craft Day is every Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The first Tuesday of each month will be for weaving from 7-10 p.m. On the 4th Tuesday of the month she will hold spinning from 7-10 p.m.

For more information call her at 440-458-4049 or HinesSheep@aol.com. Her cell is 440-865-6744.



Calendar

April 12, 8, 15, 22, 29: Spinning at Beth Hines home, 9-4

April 8: LOCO meeting, 7:30 pm

April 12: Mid Ohio Valley Fiber Festival in Marietta, sponsored by the Betsey Mills Club. An array of fiber related displays and vendors. G ground-level building with adjacent parking. Food and drink will be available. Info: www.betseymills.org

April 27: LOCO spinning at Huntington Twp. Hall, at the southeast corner of the intersection of Rts. 58 & 162. 1:30 p.m.

May 13: LOCO meeting, 7:30 p.m.

May 16-18: Spring Retreat by North Coast Knitting Guild at Rivers Edge in Cleveland. \$120, weekend includes meals. Saturday only, \$25. Info: marydavis1131@yahoo.com or 216-291-1072.

May 16: Textile Art Alliance reception on Focus Fiber 2008 at Cleveland State Univ. Art Gallery, 2307 Chester Ave. 5-8 p.m. Juried regional exhibit of contemporary fiber art to continue through June 21.

May 24, 25: Great Lakes Fiber Show, Wayne County Fairgrounds, Wooster. Fiber related supplies and fiber arts; workshops; fleece show and sale; Angora Goat show; sheep show and sale. Linda Reichert, (330)264-9665 or e-mail don47linda@valkyrie.net. www.greatlakesfibershow.com

May 25: LOCO spinning, Huntington Twp. Hall, 1:30 p.m.

June 10: LOCO meeting, 7:30 p.m.

June 25-28: Tampa, Fla. Biennial Convergence conference sponsored by Handweavers Guild of America. Registration and information: www.weavespindye.org

June 26-29: Woolfest, Lake Farm Park, Geauga County.

June 29: LOCO spinning, Huntington Twp. Hall, 1:30 p.m.

July 10: LOCO meeting, 7:30 p.m.

July 18-20: Midwest Fiber & Folk Art Fair at McHenry County College, Crystal Lake, IL. Info: www.fiberandfolk.com

Aug. 12: LOCO meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Aug. 13: LOCO basket workshop

September: Pioneer Days canceled

October 4-5: LOCO demo at Birmingham Antique Festival

October 2009: Eastern Great Lakes Fiber Conference.

June 25-27, 2009: Midwest Weavers Conference, Grinnell, Iowa.

Women knit false boobs

They are the latest vital assets for an expectant mom looking to give her little darling the best start in life – knitted boobs.

A Lancashire, England, knitting group has eschewed their usual sweaters and blankets in favor of creating the woolen mammarys.

The knitted breasts – which come in different shapes, sizes and colours – are being used in practical demonstrations to give new mothers information on breastfeeding.

Members of Chorley and South Ribble Knit and Natter Group have knitted and crocheted hundreds of clothes and blankets for charity over the past couple of years. But recently they've been turning their skills to making the unusual creations – which are being used by new moms attending weekly drop-in sessions run by the Chorley and South Ribble branch of the Breastfeeding Network (BfN).

BfN helper Sara Cookson said that while the knitted boobs seem quite funny at first glance, they're actually one of their most important tools, and they would be lost without them. ""The knitted breasts allow us to demonstrate feeding in a hands-off way that people are comfortable with," she said.

"Many mothers stop breastfeeding their babies in the first few weeks after birth. If we can help them get through this period, they can go on to successfully breastfeed."

The groups use the breasts with life-size baby dolls to show techniques including the hand expressing of milk and the best way to help a baby grasp the breast for feeding.

It's a chance for new moms to socialize with other new mothers as well as seeking advice

and help on feeding their babies.

Kate Green, secretary of the Chorley and South Ribble Knit and Natter Group, which has more than 30 members aged from their 20s to 80s, said: "Our members have been really enjoying knitting the breasts.

"We are always on the look out for worthwhile things to knit. The breasts are something a bit different to the blankets and jumpers our knitters usually make."

Lace group

Buckeye Bobbins Lace Guild interested in history and techniques meets monthly on the second Sunday 1-4:30 p.m. at the Cuyahoga Valley Art Center. Information: Ginny Berringer at 330-724-9860 or vb@uakron.edu

Fiber Arts show

Peninsula Art Academy's Fiber Café will hold its fifth annual Juried Fiber Arts Show at the Peninsula Library July 26 - August 23.

Artists are invited to enter their work in the show. There will be categories for both functional and non-functional works. Prizes will be awarded.

There is a \$25 entry fee for members (\$30 for non-members) for up to three works per artist. Entry fees need to be received no later than July 23. Art works should be delivered to The Peninsula Library between the hours of 10 am and 7 pm beginning July 16.

For information and an Entry Form call: 330-657-2681.

An opening reception will be held from 2-5 p.m. on July 26. The show will end Saturday Aug 23 with a party from noon-2 pm. Art items can be taken home after 2pm.

Fiber donations needed

The Malabar Farm Guild is planning a workshop clean-up project to help people in an area of Kentucky still recovering from floods and job loss. Members hope other guild members may help, too.

Cranks Creek in southern Harlan County, Kentucky was hit with devastating flooding in the mid 70s. People lost all they had, including health and medical papers that would document births and work records. Those would have made some of them eligible for medical treatment of Black Lung Disease and other problems related to working in the mostly defunct coal mines there.

The mines are starting up again to fuel electric power plants, but the jobs pay low wages and many younger, more capable worker, have left the area for better jobs elsewhere. The area is now one of the poorest in the nation.

A non-profit group there distributes help at Christmas and tries to help residents learn skills that will improve their lives. Volunteers come from Columbus, Dayton and Ashland areas of Ohio as well.

Ashland volunteers alone provided more than 500 blankets in the last two years. Residents are desperate for the raw materials to make more blankets themselves. They would love to have knitting needles and yarn for winter hats and scarves. If looms were available, they could do crafts to earn money. Reusable fabrics and other fiber materials would be of great help.

Katie Farr is in touch with the volunteers and will take any contributions that the Cranks Creek people can use. For more information, contact Katie at Katy006@earthlink.net or 419/652-3257.



LOCO officers

President: Katie Farr, 419/652-3257
Katy006@earthlink.net

Vice Pres: Karen Long, 440-775-0201
Karen@oberlin.net

Treasurer: Dee Martin, 440-282-3740
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Secretary: Elizabeth Yasaki, 440-801-1734
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Workshops: Beth Hines 440-458-4049
Hinessheep@aol.com

Programs: Mary Beth Derikito, 440-647-2590

Library: Rachel Stowers, 440-355-5826
jstowers@windstream.net

Demos: Betsy Bruce, 440-775-8504
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Historian: Ann Hauser, 440-647-7195
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Newsletter: Pat Geisler, 440-748-2623
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Samples: Beth Hines, 440-458-4049
Hinessheep@aol.com

Sunshine: Etta Rowe, 440-774-3210
Erowe132@aol.com

Guild Equipment: Julie Bragg, 440-647-2355
jbragg@nordson.com

Refreshments: Audrey Kolb, 440-774-4914
Aykolb@netzero.net



At the Library

Librarian Rachel Stowers, who is doing a cleaning and renovation of our space, has appealed to guild members to donate some handwoven baskets and a rug to showcase guild talent. "We need 2 good size baskets, one for the "retuned books" and one for "new materials," she said.

Guild President Katy Farr commented on the old magazine holders, which are badly soiled and suggested a donation of about 20 new plastic ones would be appreciated.

Contact Rachel at jstowers@windstream.net or Etta Rowe at Erowel132@aol.com

What to do with yarn leftovers

Katie Farr suggests saving them in a plastic bag and use for cat balls or to stuff dolls and knitted toys. It's a particularly good way to get rid of those odds and ends of ugly colors. Wool washes readily and will not harm a cat, dog or child who chews on the item.

Pat Geisler saves all bits of handspun to use as ties for skeins of yarn. When the skein is later made into a ball for knitting or weaving, the ties can go back into the stash for the next wool off the wheel.

Any scraps that are too small to be used as ties she cuts up and saves in a bag and eventually they will become potpourri yarn. This is spun from fleece carded together with the small bits

Ohio want ads

For Sale: Drum Carder; Patrick Green "Deb's Delicate Deluxe," hand crank, like new condition. \$450. Karen Pounkous (217) 787-6589.

For sale: Weaving equipment from late wife of Robert Bellshaw in South Russell. He has a large assortment of looms and a huge quantity of loopers. Included are a 6' LeClerc 4 shaft floor loom, 4' LeClerc 4 shaft floor loom, Union Rug Loom, warp board, tension box and of course, those loopers! Call him at: 440-338-1836 home or 216-650-1428.

Wanted: Fine handspun yarns and finished goods from local artists by Time Farm's Fiber Arts Studio in Westfield Twp near Medina. Contact Karen Burke, 330-948-5396 or placesintimefarm@aol.com

For sale: Baby Wolf loom with stroller, extra heddles, warping reel, warping board, yarn. \$800. Call Mary Paulin, 440-257-7723

Free: Iron-Rite Mangle in working order, original manual. Must pick up. Contact Susan Conover, 440-548-3491 or szconoer@conoverowkshops.com

Workshops

The Lacemaker in Cortland, OH is offering a workshop with Roderick Owen, April 26-27 on kumihimo. He is an expert on the Japanese braiding and is from England. Register online at www.lacemakerusa.com or call 330-637-0067.

Kenyon College has summer art retreats in knitting, weaving, spinning, bookmaking, stained glass and clay. Website is www.craftsmanhillretreats.com



LOCO minutes March 11, 2008

President, Katie Farr opened the meeting. She said that at the last board meeting they decided to start some committees for:

- 1) Dye Garden
- 2) Heifer Committee-to discuss projects; how many, what kind of fiber, etc. and the handling of tickets. This way it can be planned over the year instead of the last few months.
- 3) Bylaws Committee
- 4) Membership Committee to do the directory and to connect people.
- 5) Group projects-to decide on small projects to exchange. This month is wash clothes that will be exchanged next month. It was suggested people use the sample of cotton spun and ecospun yarn we are getting this month.
- 6) Service projects-small projects that people could make and contribute to worthy causes such as chemo caps, maritime gifts, etc.

Katie welcomed our visitor and guest speaker, Stacia Thompson.

Program Chair Karen Long and Mary Beth Derikito said the April program would be by Faye Evans. She will teach Navajo plying, which makes a 3 ply yarn from a single bobbin. Bring singles on a bobbin or in a ball and a wheel or drop spindle.

Treasurer, Dee Martin, said LOCO had a beginning balance of \$2,608.83 and a current balance of \$2,718.36, of which \$5.10 is Heifer money. She suggested the guild consider having dues paid in June instead of December. 1) December is a busy month and financially demanding. 2) Heifer ticket money is already due in December. 3) Everyone could pay \$10 in June 2008 to cover to June 2009. She also handed out corrections and updates to memberships. There was no vote.

Demo chairman Betsy Bruce, said the Senior Fair will be held on May 2 at the Lorain Fair grounds from 10am-2pm. It will be composed of 3 buildings filled with things of interest to seniors.

Historian, Ann Hauser, passed around the Oberlin Tribune newspaper article on Mary Louise VanDyke's weaving for her church and the County Living magazine article about Katie Farr's weaving business. She also asked members to take pictures at events and demonstrations. Mary Beth Derikito suggested disposable cameras. It was pointed out that those pictures could

go in our history files but would need special equipment to get in the newsletter.

Librarian, Rachel Stowers said she will reorganize and relabel the library.

Newsletter, Pat Geisler said she has all the old copies of newsletters in her computer. If it was in the newsletter, it has been kept. She would like more pictures to be e-mailed to her and all contributions are gratefully accepted. If you have problems getting the newsletter, by snail mail or by e-mail let Pat know REPEATEDLY.

Refreshment chairman Audrey Kolb passed around the sign up sheet for refreshments. Beth Hines and Karen Morgan provided this month's refreshments. Next month contributors will be Karen Long and Betsy Bruce. Audrey will get the list to Pat Geisler to be put in the newsletter.

Beth Hines, workshops and samples chair, had yarn samples of ecospun and natural cotton from the Little Barn. Next month she is planning on bamboo and rayon. She said she is working on a Heather Winslow weaving workshop.

Cathy Kaltenbach is working on a yarn dying workshop, yarn and dye provided. The yarn is a sock yarn, mostly wool, 100 grams and 306 yards, enough to make a pair of socks. She is already doing this workshop at her shop but could also set up a time for guild members. She suggested the last Sunday at Huntington because it is a regular meeting already. No date was determined. The cost would be \$15.

Sunshine chair Etta Rowe said she sent out 15 cards,

Equipment chair Julie Bragg, said she will be checking on equipment currently checked out.

Show and Tell: Betsy Bruce-6 woven scarves, the Yarn to Garment VII notebook and 6 yards of hand dyed tencel; Mary Beth Derikito-green knit sweater; Julie Bragg-1 cotton knit scarf and 1 hand spun and knit scarf;

Dee Martin-woven towels with an inlay tree motif and a woven portfolio cover with bead ornamentation; Rachel Stowers-1 small woven pillow; Etta Rowe-2 baskets and said she made 7 baskets for Easter; Ed Rowe- a fully functioning Pendulum wheel found in Clyde and patented in 1806.

Pat Geisler-Icelandic horsehair sample and tools; Kay Mangione-Aran shawl from the pattern in the book, "Maggie's Ireland," a matching knit sweater set, tube socks that don't require a heel and tams; Patti McAndrew-A knit sweater, her first finished sweater! Also a cable scarf which is when she learned how to cable and socks knit on 2 sets of circular needles.

Elizabeth Yasaki-A handwoven alpaca blanket with a hand spun weft made by the Exotic fiber group as a house warming gift; Katie Farr-a skein of Gotlund wool and sewing machine embroidery; Karen Morgan-quilt squares-a work in progress; Lori Summerville-her first attempt at drafting and Betty Roll-a beaded bracelet used to count knit rows that she made at the Vermilion knitting retreat. She also told about one of the raffled Heifer shawls.