

LOCO News

CONVERGENCE ROUNDUP

What did you do?

Bring your pictures, projects and stories from Convergence to share with everyone at the guild meeting Tuesday Aug. 8.

It will be at 7:30 p.m. at the Carlisle Visitor Center on Diagonal Road south of Elyria. Katie Farr will be loaded with good tales from her experience at the annual spinner's conference which was held in Michigan this year.

Bring any souvenirs -- programs, class notes, booth advertisements, etc.—that will add to the display for those so unlucky they missed the experience.

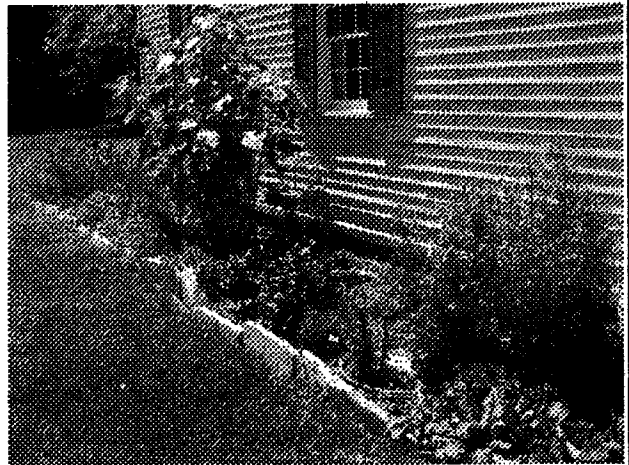
Reminder to those selling raffle tickets for the Memory Shawl: we will draw the winner at the meeting. Bring money and stubs.

August events

The **basket workshop** will be Thursday Aug. 17 at the Agricultural center on Russia Road 9 am to 3 p.m. to make the triangle basket on round feet. Bring ruler, pencil, awl (if you have one) scissors and a luncheon dish to share.

Sunday Aug. 27 is our **annual demonstration** at the Lorain County Fair in Wellington. This is one of our paid demos and showcases our guild to the entire county. It's also where spinner/weaver hopefuls find us. Put it on your 'Must 'list. Demo is 11-3 p.m.

There will be time to stroll around at the fair.



The garden at Mill Hollow

These are pictures of our memorial dye garden at the Mill Hollow Park in Vermilion, outside the Bacon home. It features an assortment of plants used for natural dyes.

The garden is a way to remember our deceased members, particularly Laddie Rubright, who died of breast cancer this spring. Be sure to visit while the summer lasts.



Books in the Library

Our library is easily visited anytime you are in Oberlin in space at the rear of the Ginko Gallery.

You can also donate your used books and magazines on spinning and weaving.

Mary Louis VanDyke, librarian

More reminders...

If you can receive your **newsletter by e-mail**, please notify Pat Geisler (spin9r@aol.com). Our guild is growing and mailing is going up.

It's cheaper for the guild, you get to see any graphics or pictures in color and best of all—your newsletter will come quicker.

The following dates are still open for those willing to do a little **weeding** of our memorial dye Garden at the Mill Hollow Park, according to Laura Bentz: August 21 and August 28.

If you can drop by for a couple hours any time during those weeks, let Laura know. To contact her: lbentz@oberlin.net

Spinning at the Huntington Township Hall is cancelled this month so guild members can demonstrate at the Lorain County fair.

Sign up now for one or more of our spinning and fiber **demonstrations** if you haven't already done so. We have one in August at the county fair, September at Mill Hollow Park and October at the Birmingham Antique Festival.

Calendar

Aug. 8: LOCO meeting

Aug. 11: Sheep to Shawl demonstration, at Cuyahoga County Fair, Berea.

Aug. 13: Nuno felting workshop 1-4 pm, Holden Arboretum. 1 to 4 p.m. Information: Arboretum Education Dept. 440-946-4400.

Aug. 17: LOCO basket workshop at Agricultural Extension office, Russia Road, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Aug. 21-27: Lorain County Fair.

Aug. 22: No spinning at Beth Hines home.

Aug. 27: LOCO demonstration at the Lorain County Fair

Aug. 27: LOCO spinning at Huntington Township Hall is **CANCELLED** this month.

Through Aug. 29: Peninsula Art Academy Fiber Show and sale at the Peninsula Library 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday.

Sept. 9-10: Pioneer Days LOCO demo at Mill Hollow Park, Vermilion.

Sept. 11: Demo for school groups at Mill Hollow Park, Vermilion.

Sept. 12: LOCO meeting

Through Oct. 2, Spirals & Ellipses, Clothing the Body Three-Dimensionally at the Kent State University Clothing Museum.

Oct. 7-8: Birmingham Antique Festival LOCO demo.

Oct. 13-15: Algonquin Mill Festival at historic Mill farm, 4 mi. south of Carrollton on SR 332.

Q: Why shouldn't you tell a secret near a clock?

A: Because time will tell.

Want ads

For sale: Raw white Suri Alpaca fiber at small northeast Ohio farm. Contact Tracy Gilmartin Animaland Suri Alpaca Farm, Animaland99@aol.com

For sale: Rose Peters, Virginia DiPietro's daughter, is offering a 60-inch Glimakra Standard Loom. 10 harnesses, 12 treadles, bench, tie up cord, homemade bobbin rack and extra heddles. Used seldom, simply too big for her. Asking \$3,000. Contact her at: newfielover@zoominternet.net or call 419-962-4640 or 419-651-9595 leave a message and she will get back to you.

For sale: Knitting machines: Passap Electronic 6000, Brother 940 Electronic, Passap Vario, non-electronic and Silver Reed, non-electronic, for bulky knitting. Owner primarily a weaver so machines were used very little.

Passap E 6000 includes stand, 4 color changer, U1200 and video instruction tape. \$3,315. Passap Vario, \$400. Brother KH940, includes KG93, PPD110, table and cable (electronic) \$2,688. Silver Reed, \$50.

Contact Karen Boyd, 1006 Lake Ave., NE, Massillon, OH 44646. Ph: 330-830-6339

For sale: 45 inch Nilus Leclerc counterbalance floor loom, 4 shafts. Breast and back beams removable so weaver can sit inside loom to thread heddles. Excellent condition, quiet to work on. \$500. Lou Soles, 330-308-5547 after 5 p.m. weekdays or anytime weekends or email louesoles@yahoo.com



Adopt-a-sheep

An Icelandic sheep farm in Indiana has begun a program to enable spinners and fiber artists to "adopt" a sheep for a year, learn about its care and raising and receive the fleece of the animal for their own use.

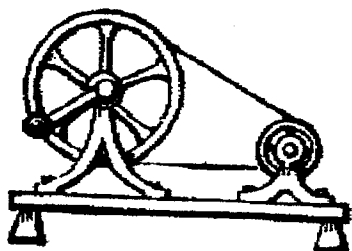
The Schacht family farm near Bloomington, Indiana is one of a number of small farms around the nation which have begun such programs to educate the public while establishing a market for their fleece.

Program participants receive an illustrated book written by the shepherd of the flock explaining

the attributes of Icelandic sheep and the products they produce.

They also receive quarterly letters describing the activities of "their" sheep along with pictures of it and homemade sheep milk soap. Visits to the farm are welcomed.

For more information, contact Matt and Mandy Corry at 812-824-6425, or email schachtfleecefarm@yahoo.com (Please include "adopt-a-sheep" in the subject line).



LOCO Officers

President: Betsy Bruce 440-775-8519

betsy.bruce@oberlin.edu

Vice Pres: Katie Farr, 419-652-3257,

katv006@earthlink.net

Treasurer: Donna Uhl 440-322-4728

new2ewe@comcast.net

Secretary: Kathy Wilson 440-926-9955

topknot@starband.net

Workshops: Beth Hines 440-458-5049

Hinessheep@aol.com

Programs: Katie Farr

Library: Mary Louise VanDyke 440-775-3437

MARY.LOUISE.VANDYKE@oberlin.edu

Demos: Kay Griggs, 440-949-7908

Newsletter: Pat Geisler 440-748-2623

spin9r@aol.com

Samples: Beth Hines

Refreshments: Dee Martin, 440-282-3740

Deelmartin@aol.com

Sunshine: Etta Rowe 440-774-3210

Erowe132@aol.com

Guild Equip: Holly Hines, 440-322-4728

ewehaul@comcast.net



Knit-Out and Crochet, Too!

The Mid Ohio Knitters Guild will hold its annual bash Sept. 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Columbus City Center Mall, Level 3 Board Room. Everything is free. Everyone welcome.

There will be classes in learning to knit, free kits for new knitters, a knitting doctor on call, an opportunity to join the guild, learn to crochet and information on area yarn shops and vendors. Door prizes will be awarded and a cap contest is planned.

Anyone is welcome to submit any number of hand-knitted or crocheted hats for the competition. They will be modeled by Knit-Out visitors and the judges will be chosen from those present. Judging will begin at 3 p.m. and prizes will be awarded at 3:45 p.m. Winners must be present to receive a prize.

Donor of the most hats will also receive a prize.

All the hats will be donated to the Homeless Families Foundation. Those who wish to donate caps without attending can email yarnscols@aol.com to make arrangements.

Columbus City Center Mall is 111 South Third St., Columbus across from the Mont Blanc store. For more information, email patmadigan@wideopenwest.com

The Gathering

The annual celebration of National Spinning Week will be held at the Malabar Farm State Park Oct. 7, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Gathering has been sponsored for the past 9 years by the Malabar Farm Spinning and Weaving Guild at the farm, former home of late playwright Louis Bromfield.

There will be tours of the Big House where Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall were married.

The Gathering itself will be held in the Big Barn across from the gift shop. Goodies and hot drinks provided by the guild but bring your own lunch, spinning wheel and favorite chair. The barn is dry but not warm so dress accordingly. Overnight accommodations are available at the hostel on the farm for a modest fee.

To get to Malabar Farm take I-71 south to Mansfield exit 169 (Rt. 13) and follow the signs to the farm. It is off Rt. 603 on Pleasant Valley Road.

Information and reservations contact Sally Rickel, 419-589-2321 or email srickel@webtv.net or Donna Ardito Gower at 330-279-2079.

Storm damage

July storms damaged the work area of the Malabar Farm Spinning and Weaving Guild near Mansfield. The storms that hit the area near the farm and Mohican State Park tore off half the roof of the Louis Bromfield Sustainable Library Building where members meet, causing water damage to the building and the guild's work areas in the basement.

Much of the equipment was salvaged and the guild will meet at the Pugh cabin at Malabar Farm through September.



A winner

LOCO President Betsy Bruce shows off her handwoven vest.

Fiber show and sale

The Peninsula Art Academy's Fiber Café will hold its third annual Fiber Arts Show and sale at the Peninsula Library and Historical Society, 6105 Riverview Road, Peninsula, through August 26.

The library will be open Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The show will include fine art, clothing, accessories and household items in an array of fiber techniques. Many of the items will be for sale.

Information: www.peninsulaartacademy.com
Or www.explorepenninsula.com

Fiber arts Videos and DVDs

How-to programs on traditional contemporary textile techniques are available through the Yarn Barn of Kansas Catalog.

The programs include felt making, fiber preparation and color blending techniques, Navajo weaving, bead necklace instructions, knitted trims and demonstrations on spinning exotic and novelty yarns.

To obtain a catalog call 1-800-848-0284 or go to www.victorianvid.com. You can also write Yarn Barn of Kansas, PO Box 334, Lawrence, KS 66044.



LOCO Guild Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2006

President: Betsy Bruce called the June meeting of the Lorain County Spinners & Weavers Guild, at the Lorain County Metro Parks Carlisle Nature Center on NicklePlate Diagonal Road, to order at 7:30 pm with 27 members and guests present.

Programs: Peggy Strang of French Creek Fiber Arts presented the July Program on pin tension knitting. Everyone gathered around her in groups to learn this fascinating technique. Peggy's shop is in Avon, OH. You may visit her website at www.frenchcreekfiber.com. She has a wonderful selection of products, resources and classes.

August – Convergence Report by Katie Farr

September – Dye Day Projects – Display what you made from Dye Day

October – Fashion Show

November – open

December – Christmas party and ornament exchange

Treasurer: Dee Martin has accepted the duties of treasurer.

Workshops: Beth Hines, The Basket Workshop will be at the Extension Office on Thursday, August 17, 2006. The triangle corner wastebasket project will take about four hours. A vote was taken for time preference and 9:00 am was the chosen time to begin. The cost is \$30.00. There will be a potluck lunch.

Dye Day will be Saturday July 29, 2006 in Norwalk at Ronnie Rosbert's. There will be a fire ring. We'll need dye pots. Bring up to 10 skeins/ 50 yards to dye, dyeing supplies (rubber gloves, plastic bags, clothing protecting) potluck and table service. Please, no small children.

Newsletter: Pat Geisler, reminded everyone to please get information to her for the newsletter ASAP. All contributions are appreciated.

Sunshine: Etta Rowe sent five Sunshine Cards in June.

Refreshments: Thanks to Nancy Kuhar and Cindy Bush for furnishing the delicious snacks for July's meeting.

Demos: Kay Griggs The demonstrations scheduled are:
August 11, 2006 7:00 – 9:00 Cuyahoga County Fair
August 27, 2006 10:00 – 3:00 Lorain County Fair
September 9 and 10 10:00 – 5:00 Pioneer Days
September 11 Pioneer Days for school children
October 7 & 8 9:00 – 4:30 Saturday and
11:00 – 4:30 Sunday Birmingham
October TBD Lake Ridge Academy Colonial
Reenactment
Sign-up sheets were passed around.

Guild Equipment: Betsy suggested keeping a list of what items are available and also to track who borrows them. Also, there are about one dozen drop spindles in storage. These would be a great tool for teaching at the demos. Anyone who knows the whereabouts, please email Betsy.

Old business Karen long is plying the yarn for the Shawl Project and needs more yarn to ply. She has roving available.

Betty Roll has yarn for the wild scarf project.

Weavers for the Shawl Project are: Betsy Bruce and Dee Martin

Knitters for the shawls are Kay Mangione, Dee Martin, Beth Hines & Etta Rowe.

Anne Hauser reminded everyone that the Huntington Hall spinning will be the LAST Sunday of each month.

The Dyers Garden is beautiful and was not damaged by the flooding. If you signed up to help take care of it, please do so. Betsy expressed thanks to everyone who has helped with this project

New Business There will be a reception Sunday July 16 1:00 – 4:00 at the Ginko Gallery by the late artist Evelyn Svec Ward.

Spinning and Weaving Week will be celebrated October 2 – 8, 2006. There was discussion on a window display in Oberlin.

Welcome Visitors: Willow Featheringham,
Aliza Weidenbaum, Aleen Joy Lane, Nancy Brown

Show/Tell: There were 7 entries in the book for June.

Kay Griggs – Prairie Dress & Apron and a wallaby sweater

Peggy Strang – modular vest, in process

Sara Twining - iris curtains, pieced & quilted

Katie Farr – skein of bunny yarn, buffalo roving

Etta Rowe – Alpaca/wool/silk shawl for the cancer research raffle, Knitted by Etta and spun by Katie Farr

Betsy Bruce – woven cotton/rayon scarves

Meg Featheringham – knitted pants & tank top, modeled by daughter Willow

The next LOCO meeting will
be August 08, 2006.

Secretary Kathy Wilson

Needed

The guild needs an equipment chairman who can keep track of who is using the various items for spinning and weaving that the guild owns.

We have a loom, spinning wheels, carder and more. If you can serve PLEASE speak up.

Flax use is growing...

Flax acreage across the US has been increasing in recent years, but primarily to grow oil seed. Western Canada and the Dakotas produce much of the world's supply.

Now there is a strong move on to use the plant fibers for linen.

Alvin Ulrich, a researcher and businessman, would like to see Americans challenge the European dominance of the linen industry. He hopes to sell the valuable flax straw from the plant's waste material which is currently burned. Chinese textile mills are buying all they can find in order to fill market orders for natural cloth to replace and supplement cotton.

The flax plant is too tough to chop so most producers just let it drop behind the combine when the oil seed is harvested. But it is so durable it must be burned in the autumn to make way for the following year's planting. The problem is the fiber which makes linen. Flax stems have plenty of it but it is held together in round bundles by a waxy glue.

Traditionally, fibers were separated by allowing the plant to rot in the fields in a process called "retting." But generations of farmers who dealt with the 'waste' begged plant scientists to develop shorter varieties. Today, American flax is only 40 % the height of European flax, although the plants produce double the seed yield in a much shorter growing season of only 85 days.

Ulrich, president of Biolin, which is studying ways to produce the fiber from the plant wastes, says demand is growing faster than the supply. Cottonized flax fibers, separated from their waxy bonds, are selling for \$300 to \$5,000 a ton, depending on the quality of the fiber (strength, length and diameter).



Warm autumn weather which will allow the field retting is lacking in the northern U.S. where much of the flax is grown but Ulrich hopes to find areas which will accommodate the technique. He sees a profitable market going begging.

Not all of the fiber is suitable for textiles but non-woven fiber products such as disposable diapers and vacuum cleaner bags are also ideal for lesser quality flax. Ulrich says, "We have the raw material. We have the markets. We just have to build some of the stuff in between."

Material adapted from an article by Mike Raine in *The Furrow*, contributed by Beth Hines.

Demo request

A demonstrator is being sought for an alpaca pen sale Oct. 14 at Western Reserve Alpaca Farm. Seminars are being planned for ways to use alpaca fiber. If you can demonstrate spinning or felting and would like to share your skills, contact Steph White at lwhite63@centureytel.net