

LOCO News

SUMMER'S HERE!

Rug hooking

It's probably been around since somebody figured out how to make yarn.

Larry and Gloria Ault, who have a rug hooking shop in Shelby, will bring samples of hooked rugs they have made and hooking tools to show how to do it. They will show an antique rug and talk about its history, and bring literature on the history of rug hooking.

Gloria, president of the Malabar Farm Spinning and Weaving Guild, recently traveled to England with other rug hookers to see what is being done there. She will bring a piece she is still working on and will leave plenty of time for guild members to see her displays and ask questions. The couple's web site is:

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

Coming attractions

July: Peggy Strang from French Creek Fiber Arts will teach Pin Tension Knitting.

August: Katie Farr plans to attend Convergence and will tell about that and show pictures.

September: What you made with dye day fiber.



Dye Garden launched

By Betsy Bruce

After too many days of soggy weather and gray skies, Saturday May 20 turned out cool but glorious!

Thanks to all those who showed up ready to work-- and work they did. Within less than an hour and with few verbal directions, the 30 x 6 foot plot was tilled, spaded, supplemented with manure and leaf compost, raked and surrounded with a sandstone border. Wow!

Thanks to all, in no particular order: Anne Hauser (and tiller), Morgan Robinson, Sarah and Ray Twining, Gloria and Bob Hood (with a second tiller), Dee Martin, Megan Almeida-Feather and daughter Willow and Betsy Bruce for the bed preparation and planting.

Thanks to Etta and Ed Rowe who provided a wonderful lunch for the crew and entertainment with Gracie, their two-year-old, incredibly well-tempered granddaughter. Thanks also to Ed for carrying water from the parking lot pump. Thanks to Etta who labeled the plant markers with legible penmanship.

Many thanks to Laura Bentz who coordinated the garden design by ordering the plants and seeds, drawing the plot plan and assisting with the planting. Here's to good growing weather this summer!

There are hoses and a hose hook up for those who will be tending the garden this summer. Ask in the information center for the hose(s) and location of the hook-up if you need to water. We may be setting up a soaker hose if Betsy can extract it from her day lily patch at home.

While the Metroparks crew says they will keep the plot watered (in the absence of rain) we are in need of Guild members to stop by, pull weeds, and generally make sure the garden is looking good. So far, we have commitments from members for the following weeks this summer, as noted below, but still need some help, too.

June 5th --

June 12th --

June 19th -- Dee Martin and Elizabeth Yasaki

July 3rd -- Linda McNulty

July 10th -- Betsy Bruce

July 17th -- Dee Martin

July 24th -- Laura Bentz

July 31st -- Laura Bentz

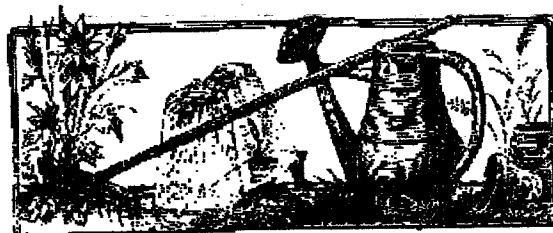
August 7 -- Laura Bentz

August 14 -- Betsy Bruce

August 21 --

August 28 --

To contact Laura Bentz: lbentz@oberlin.net

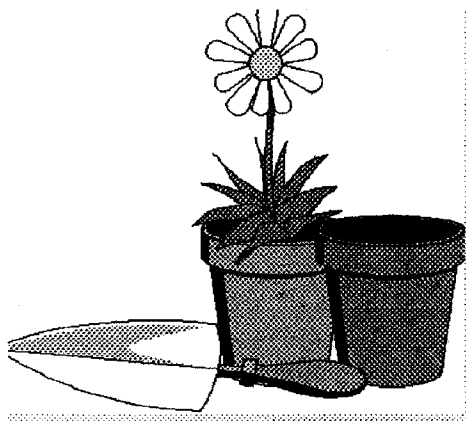


Tips and tricks

When felting items that have been knit with more than one color, throw in a Shout® ColorCatcher™ sheet. It will keep your colors bright and true, without fading or bleeding.

An old electric razor is great for trimming and smoothing felted items — after they are dried, of course

If you're using a long-tail cast on for knitting, allow at least four times the width to be cast on so you won't run out of yarn.



Calendar

June 13: LOCO meeting 7:30 p.m.

June 15-18: Fiber Fest workshops, Lake Farm Park, Kirtland. Information: www.lakemetroparks.com

June 16-18: Fiber Fest, Lake Farm Park, 8800 Chardon Road, Kirtland, OH Information: 440-256-2154 or apasqualie@lakemetroparks.com

June 25: LOCO spinning at Huntington Township Hall, 12 -34 p.m.

June 25-July 1: Convergence 2006 at Grand Rapids, MI. Information: 678-730-0010 or www.weavespindye.org

June 27: LOCO spinning at Beth Hines home.

July 11: LOCO meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Thru July 12 Weavings by Catherine Ellis (author of "*Woven Shibori*") displayed at Ginko Gallery, Oberlin.

July 15: Malabar Farm Spinning & Weaving Guild Fiber Arts Festival, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the big barn at Malabar Farm near Mansfield. Demos and hands-on for adults and children. Free. Information: Carol Ault, 419-347-9957.

July 25: LOCO spinning at Beth Hines home

July 30: LOCO spinning at Huntington Township Hall, noon to 3 p.m.

Aug. 21-27: Lorain County Fair. LOCO spinning demo Aug. 27.

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

Oct. 6-7: Birmingham Antique Festival

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

Want ads

For sale: Unskirted fleeces, \$2 a pound. White Merino and black Merino/Rambouillet crosses. Kendrick Smith, northern Ashland County: 419-281-3101

For sale: Loom, 60 inch, 16-harness, single box fly shuttle, auto advance, Dobby, AVL. has 3 - yard sectional beams, 1- 1/2 yard sectional beam, tension box, and wall warp beam holder. \$6,000. Pick up or buyer can arrange shipping. Also 60 inch, 4-Harness, Leclerc Nilus \$750. Katie Farr, 199 Twp. Rd. 1031, Nova 44859. Ph: 419-652-3257, katy006@earthlink.net

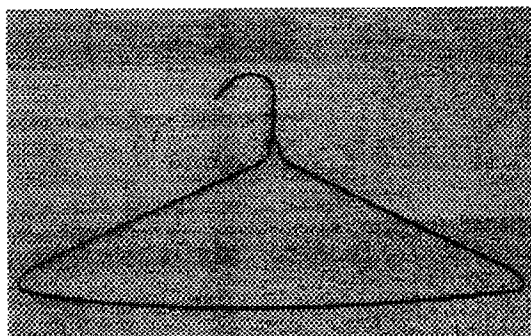
Wanted: Colorful synthetic yarns. The Lorain County Office on Aging's RSVP Program is in need of bright-colored yarn for the volunteers to make hats and scarves to give to children and seniors in our community. If you would like to donate, please drop it off at our office located at 320 N. Gateway Blvd., Elyria, OH Mon - Fri 8 am - 4 pm.

Free: Bags of Samoyed dog hair for spinning. Linda Garrity 440-427-0445

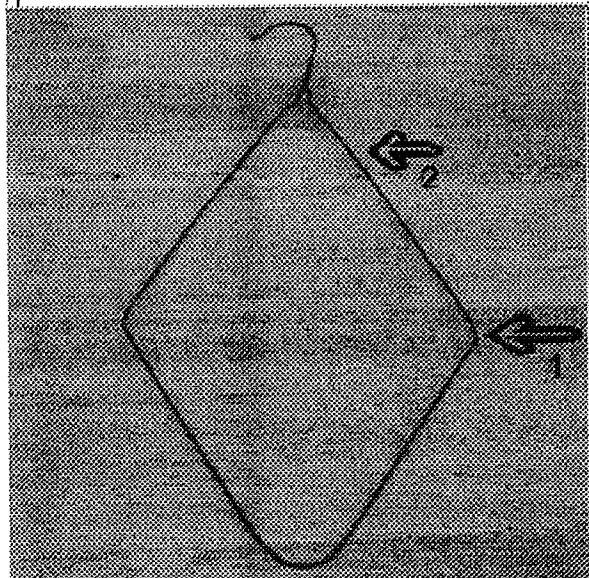
Q: How does the man on the moon get his hair cut?

A: Eclipse it

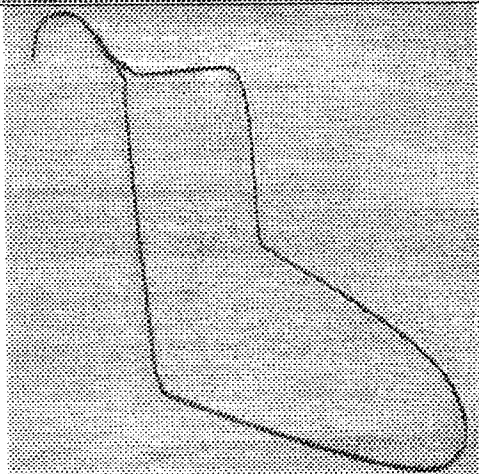
How to make a sock blocker



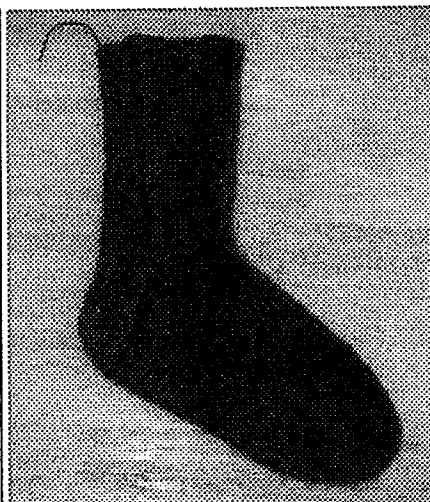
Start with an inexpensive plastic coated hanger from Wal-Mart or other discount store



Grab the center of the hanger and pull it down as shown in the photo.



Look at the picture just above.
Bend #1 like you see in the picture to the left.
Bend #2 up as shown to the left (its about 3" wide).



Put your sock on your new blocker and "tweak" it until it fits just the way you want.

Workshops

Peninsula Art Academy offers these:

Wheel Spinning: Becky Monegan will teach beginning spinning the 4th Tuesday of each month, from 7 to 9 pm. This is a repeating class – you can take it once, or as many times as you wish. Materials provided. Class limited to 4. The fee is \$35 per week, or \$25 for PAA members. For more information, or to register, contact Cris Welch at 330-848-1979, or jerrycriswelch@juno.com

Beginning Weaving: Carol Adams will teach Weaving 1, on Thursday nights, from 7 to 9:30 pm. and on **Wednesday at noon** as well. Learn how to calculate your warp, dress the loom, and weave a sampler, using many different types of 4-harness weaves. The fee per class is \$38 or \$28 for PAA members. For more information, OR to register, contact Carol at 330-657-2681, or caroladams@en.com.

Spindle Spinning: Cris Welch will teach beginning drop spinning the 4th Tuesday of each month, from 7 to 9 pm. Repeating class... Materials provided. Class limited to 4. The fee is \$35 per

week, or \$25 for PAA members. For more information, or to register, contact Cris Welch at 330-848-1979, or jerrycriswelch@juno.com.

Peninsula Art Academy: Phone 330-657-2248 info@peninsulaartacademy.com
1600 West Mill Street, PO Box 171, Peninsula, Ohio 44264

LOCO Officers

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Directory additions

Anne Hauser : 46748 New London Eastern Road.

Audrey Kolb, email: Aykolb@earthlink.net

Dee Martin: 5555 Laura Lane

Cindy Bush: 4711 Linda Lane, Sheffield

Village, OH 44054 or

bushc@lakeridgeacademy.org



LOCO Guild Meeting Minutes

LOCO Guild Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2006

President Betsy Bruce called the April meeting of the Lorain County Spinners & Weavers Guild, at the Lorain County Metro Parks Carlisle Nature Center on NicklePlate Diagonal Road, to order at 7:32 pm.

Vice President Katie Farr said this month's program on Beading would be presented by Darlene Lippert of Olmsted Township. In May it would be knitting and/or finishing techniques, in June - rug hooking and in July - knitting with Peggy Strang of French Creek Fiber Arts.

Treasurer Donna Uhl reported the current amount in the treasury and \$109.50 in the Heifer Project Fund. She also had Year 2006 Membership Directories available for members.

Sample chairman Beth Hines had none today, but is going to Maryland and asked for requests. She will look for something unusual. She also inquired about interest in making a corner basket at a workshop this summer.

Librarian Mary Louise VanDyke said she has purchased a LOCO Stamp, is organizing and alphabetizing the inventory.

Sunshine chairman Etta Rowe said she sent four cards in March.

Refreshment chairman Dee Martin thanked April hostesses; Judy Keske and Sara Twining

Demo chairman Kay Griggs, discussed this year's demonstrations and passed around sign up sheets. Kay also thanked the Guild members who volunteered for the American Girl Party Demonstration. She said Sheep Shearing Day at the Cleveland Metro parks Zoo would be Saturday, April 22, from 10:30am - 4:00 pm. The zoo would like us to demonstrate any craft using wool. Please RSVP by April 15 to Stacey Allen. Her email address is sma@clevelandmetroparks.com

In **Old Business**, Karen Long said she is plying the yarn for the Shawl Project. Weavers for the Shawl Project are Betsy Bruce and Dee Martin. Knitters are: Donna Uhl, Etta Rowe, Kay Griggs and Pat Geisler. Katie Farr is making the raffle tickets.

Betsy said the guild approved proceeding with the Dye Garden, which will be at Mill Hollow Park. It is a Memorial Garden in remembrance of deceased LOCO members. Linda McNulty and Laura Bentz, co-

chairmen, will provide additional information at the next meeting.

In **New Business** Katie Farr announced workshops at Lyme Village and provided pamphlets for those interested

Ed Rowe presented his latest invention – Heddle Bracelets.

Visitors were Darlene Lippert, Beth Barber and Tara Lacinak

In **Show/Tell** there were 7 entries in the book for April. Holly Hines – Roving, dyed; Kay Mangione – sweater, hat, shells, & slippers; Elizabeth Yasaki – socks, toe-up; Kay Griggs – mohair shawl and toe-up socks; Etta Rowe – 5-gal basket & 2 woven rugs; MaryBeth Derikito – vest, sweater & quilt and Kathy Wilson – wild stuff scarf.

The next LOCO meeting will be May 09, 2006.

Kathy Wilson, Secretary

Summer fun

Kent State University Museum will have a display on Crazy Quilts and Early Coverlets beginning June 8.

A class in nuno felting technique will be held Sunday Aug. 13 at the **Holden Arboretum** from 1 to 4 p.m. Jan Gibson will teach how to make the light weight scarf of silk and wool. To register call the Arboretum Education Dept. 440-946-4400. There will be a cost plus a materials fee.

Members of the **Western Reserve Spinners & Weavers** will hold a Fantasy & Function exhibit at the Kirtland Library on Rt. 306 from June 1-30. Wearable art and accessories, woven, felted, stitched and embellished, will be on display.

Ohio State Fair entry forms must be submitted by Tuesday, June 20, to compete in the Family Arts & Crafts Division. Exhibitor's book is online at www.ohioexocenter.com Cost to enter everything in the division is \$10. It includes handspinning, weaving, knitting, crochet, needlework, sewing and an array of other crafts such as rug hooking, quilts or

needlepoint as well. Each item entered will cost an additional \$1. Many first place ribbons pay \$15 or more.

Focus: Fibre 2006, an exhibit by the Textile Art Alliance at the Cleveland Museum of Arts will present an exhibit at the Artists Archives of the Western Reserve, 1834 E. 123rd St., Cleveland, from 10-4 Mon, Thursday and Friday from June 11 through July 28. Saturday hours will be noon to 4 p.m. Information: www.clevelandart.org The show features 54 works by 33 artists from 7 midwest states.



Sock-knitting boot-camp

By Marg Meikle

My right arm is smarting this morning from a weekend of heavy-duty cranking: I just spent 48 hours at Circular Sock Machine (CSM) boot camp. There were 22 women, average age 53 or so, and most brought at least a couple of these archaic hand-cranked machines. Two gals had five each that they would own up to, and there were murmurings of other weird knitting apparatus in garages.

Pardon the pun, but we are hooked.

Circular sock machines are usually made of cast iron with a cylinder of 54, 60, 72 or 80 needles that stick up around the top rim. If all goes well, the yarn is picked up by the needles as you turn the crank, and magically, a tube of knitting is

produced. But there are many obstacles to overcome before you produce an actual sock. With names such as Auto Knitter, Gearhart and P. T. Legare, and slogans such as "Better than 100 hands," many were made in Canada as well as England and the United States. Most of our machines were from around 1880 to 1920, when they were sold for \$3 to \$8 and were touted as a way for a woman to make money outside the home. They must have been patient, long-suffering women.

So there we were at a conference centre on a lake in Lacey, Wash. -- all of us like-minded collectors and obsessives from Virginia to Victoria: It was pure bliss. We could talk yarn sources until 2 in the morning, share successes and failures, and tinker with these confounded machines 'til we dropped.

The gathering (and the resurgence of interest in circular sock machines) is mostly because of the power of the Internet. Many of us belong to one of four Yahoo discussion groups devoted to the topic. Of course there was only one CSM group to start with but you know how things get political and different factions split off. And we're talking about knitting!

My weekend knitting output consisted of a bizarre Dr-Seuss-ish five-metre-long tube of knitting that strings together many projects using ugly apricot waste yarn: five practice heels, many dropped stitches, some lace work, four aborted socks, and two full scarves (scarves are just simple tubes . . . we all secretly wish leg warmers would come fully back into fashion). I'm still working toward my first actual sock; the ribber attachment remains a mystery.

Apparently knitting is hot right now. This is a group of women who mastered hand-knitting long ago, most have licked spinning and weaving too. They don't care much about trends, which is a good thing, because circular

sock machines are so far from hot it is laughable.

But the hot flashes in that room could have heated the whole building. One gal from Maple Ridge, B.C. -- an instructor and incredibly experienced machinist/knitter -- blamed the estrogen-containing motor oil that we constantly drip into these cast-iron beauties to keep them ticking. She switched to synthetic oil and her hot flashes cooled down considerably. Go figure.

So CSMs may be hot-making but they are not wildly popular. That's because they are hard to find, can be fairly expensive, and no one today

(and maybe no one in their right mind) would put up with the finicky, temperamental and idiosyncratic qualities: the tension, yarn choice, and needle set-up all have to be perfect enable you to turn the crank and produce knit fabric, much less fussy heels and toes. But we put up with the general crankiness because these are wonderful antiques with a great history and, when you get it all right, turning that crank is a glorious feeling with a great sound.

Much of life can be broken into two camps containing those who love process and those who love product. While the socks are fabulous, this weekend was definitely about process. It was about the thrill of the chase (finding a working machine; many eBay tales were told,

both good and bad) and the triumphs and failures of coaxing luxurious cashmere or everyday wool socks out of these steel jaws.

If you love product, go to Wal-Mart for your socks, but if you love process, consider a retreat of like minds for knitting, by hand or machine.

Crank on!

Marg Meikle lives in Vancouver, B.C.