Hi, All:

On the cusp of summer, I can once again start reckoning the passage of time by the progress of my flax patch. Just a bright green carpet at this point, as you can see. By this time in August, I’ll be pulling and bundling it, and setting it aside to dry. I still have some seed packets to give away at our June meeting. Not too late to plant a patch. It’s a very pretty plant, in all its stages. I hope you’ll all be able to take a break from the arduous chores of the season on the 9th of June, and join us for a pleasant day of spinning and conversation.  ---Wayne
Minutes from the Meeting on May 12th

Facebook - Page: Members who are on Facebook enjoy the postings on our Facebook page. Big Thanks to Anne Sheldon for keeping the site.

We had requests from local fiber producers to advertise on our Facebook page. However, we felt it was better to keep the site free of sales and rather refer people trying to sell or buy fiber to the Local Fiber NY site.

Local Fiber NY: We would like to invite one (or both) of the founders of Local Fiber NY to present during one of our guild meetings.

List of Local Fiber Vendors: There was some interest for an inventory of local fiber sources to be published in our newsletter. Sharon Gombas volunteered to spearhead the effort.

Changes to Rock Day Vendors: We love our regular Roc Day vendors, but would enjoy to see something new as well. We decided that Roc Day 2019 seven of the ten available vendor spots will go to returning vendors, three spaces will go to new incoming vendors. There will be two lotteries, one for the returning vendors, one for the new incoming vendors. Should we not find three new vendors, the open vendor spaces may be taken by returning vendors. Application deadline is August 1st 2018.

There was some discussion about expanding Roc Day. However, experiences from the last few years suggest, that we do not have the necessary people power to pull of a larger event. It is also important to us to maintain the social aspect of Roc Day.

Use of Guild Money: Presently we have a fair amount of money ($3,350.86) on our account. Potential uses were discussed.

One idea was renting a bus to go to the New York Sheep and Wool Festival in Rhinebeck on October 20th. Suzanne Schwartz is collecting information, how many members are interested in such a trip.

Another idea was putting money towards scholarships for our annual retreat or a workshop.

Workshops: Sarah Gotowka from the Luna Fiber Studio offered a workshop on dyeing with Hopi Sunflower seeds. However we felt that we would be much more interested in a more comprehensive workshop featuring a variety of natural dyes.

Another idea was to invite Wendy Caffe, the winner of our hat contest, to hold a flax workshop.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Angelika St.Laurent
Tour de Fleece

Every year during the Tour de France, spinners in the online community of Ravelry.com join in a ‘spinning race’ called ‘Tour de Fleece’. Members join one or more teams for the event and set their own goals (or follow the team goals) and post regularly on the teams forum threads about their progress. A lot of fun and positive energy comes from sharing one’s progress and cheering on the progress of everyone else in the team. Tour de Fleece is a fun way to stay motivated to spin for a larger project. The supportive online community is very good at helping sustain the spinning enthusiasm.

How to join? Go to the Ravelry Website. If you don’t already have an account, you can get one immediately. There is no cost. Once on Ravelry.com search for the group ‘Tour de Fleece’. Join that group and you are ready to pick your team(s).

Finger Lakes Cheese Festival
Saturday, July 28th, 10am-5:00pm
SUNSET VIEW CREAMERY
4970 County Road 14
Odessa, NY 14869

2018 Lancaster Fiber Festival
Thursday and Friday, August 16th and 17th, 9:30am to 5:30pm, and Saturday August 18th, 9:30am-4pm.
Lancaster Convention Center & Marriott Hotel
25 South Queen Street,
Lancaster, PA 17603
http://lancasterfiberfestival.com

24th Annual Finger Lakes Fiber Arts Festival
Saturday, September 15th, 10:00am—5:00pm, and Sunday, September 16th, 10:00am—4:00pm.
Hemlock Fairgrounds,
Hemlock, NY 14466
http://www.gvhg.org/fiber-fest
Report from the MidAtlantic Fiber Association (MAFA) Representative Assembly

By Shelly Marino

I attended the MAFA Representatives’ Assembly held at 4pm on Saturday, May 5, at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival, representing the Weavers’ Guild of Rochester and the Black Sheep Handspinners’ Guild.

Let me preface my report by saying that under ordinary circumstances I would rather clean toilet bowls than attend meetings, but this meeting was so well-organized and the presentations so concise that I’m glad I left my rubber gloves at home.

We began by introducing ourselves. Then the October 2017 minutes were approved.

President’s remarks (Karen Miller): We are half way through the 2-yr officer terms, and are seeking 1-2 more people for the nominating committee; and next year we will be looking for new officers. Most of the work is done via email/ online. Opportunity is knocking - heed the call.

Treasurer’s report (Marla Campbell): [If you’d like to see the 4/30 balance sheet let me know - it may be too big to attach to this message.] This is not a conference year, so there is less activity than last year. The 75k invested in a CD is doing well.

VP of Communications (Charlene Marietti): We’re in the middle of development of 2 new websites. The main site is nearly done, and the conference site should be ready in June/July. Note that the company doing the development is No Sleep for Sheep.

Conference Chair (Theresa Hill): We are looking for 1-2 volunteers for each of the following fun tasks, some of which would make good guild projects:

  Goody bags: Ask all the guilds to contribute whatever they choose, bring their stuff to MS&W next year (or mail it); divide it up and stuff 400 bags. Making something for the bags would be a good guild project.

  Coordinate the prizes from the vendors; work with Carol Steuer [sp?]! Who is in charge of the vendors.

  Book signings: Set up table, chairs, etc.

  Spinning games organizer

  Signage for campus

Note that the cafeteria used last time will be closed next year but they will set up another cafeteria just for us.

Report continues on page 5
Grants Chair (Mary Strouse): They’re trying to have 2-yr terms on the grants committee with no one on for more than 3-4 yrs, so some new folks will be needed. Mary defined the two types of awards as follows:

— Grants are awarded to guilds or other groups. The 2019 grant application period runs from Sept 1-Nov 1 this year. The grant year will begin Jan 1, 2019, with reports due by the end of the year.

— Fellowships are awarded to individuals to do public outreach using what they learned at the conference. The fellowship application period will begin when the conference registration opens. An individual must be registered for a MAFA class in order to apply. The application must include a recommendation from the individual’s guild or teacher. Reports will be due during the fall, post-conference, after which the fellowship holder will receive reimbursement for their MAFA tuition. The reimbursement does not include room and board.

Membership Chair (Margaret Briggs): All guilds need to keep Margaret updated on changes in officers and/or guild reps.

An io group is starting so that guilds can enter their programs and activities into a searchable database. Margaret will be sending info about this to all MAFA reps. The io group will also have discussion and chat features, a perfect place for guilds to post queries such as, “We’re looking to bring in [famous teacher]. Do you want to share expenses?” or “We have 2 spots open in our upcoming workshop on [hot topic]?”

MAFA currently has 44 member guilds and 58 associates.

The rest of the meeting was spent going over the role and responsibilities of guild reps. I will attach a pic (see next page)
Role of the Rep

GUILD REPRESENTATIVES

Guild representatives (reps) are responsible for electing MAFA officers to two-year terms, as defined in the MAFA bylaws. While the officers run the day-to-day activities of MAFA, the guild representatives are the two-way communication link between MAFA and the representative’s local guild. They are asked to:

- share MAFA activities and opportunities with their local guild members, and
- inform MAFA about guild activities so that information can be shared among the region’s guilds.

Each guild is entitled to one voting representative. A representative may represent more than one guild. Due to the size of the Mid-Atlantic region, which limits the feasibility of physical meetings, most MAFA business is conducted electronically.

Representative assemblies are held two or three times a year. They consist of:

- A teleconference in September or October
- A physical meeting at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival in May
- A meeting at the biennial conference, at which officers are elected

Responsibilities of the MAFA Representative

- Attend representatives’ meetings, or if unable to attend, arrange for alternate representative to be present;
- Keep the local guild informed about MAFA activities and opportunities;
- Encourage guild participation in MAFA’s biennial conference;
- Provide information about the local guild to the MAFA Membership Coordinator;
- Provide information about guild programs and activities to MAFA; and
- Supply current membership list to Membership Coordinator by October 1 along with dues payment in even numbered years.

Term of Office

Per MAFA’s bylaws, representatives shall serve for two-year terms, beginning on October 1 of even-numbered years.

Convergence: wants regional meet & greet
4x4 Gradient Dyeing

After a Workshop from CJ Marchant in 1999

Handout preserved by Anne Furman

The aim of 4x4 gradient dyeing is to produce a gradient between two colors over sixteen different shades.

Materials Needed:

- Seven ounces of wool yarn or roving divided into 16 equal length (0.4 ounces/about 12 gram each)
- One ounce each of two different colors of One Shot Dye or Landscape Dye.
- 4 gallon sized Ziploc freezer bags
- Optionally: 8 Table Spoons (TS) of Vinegar

Tools Needed: (none of these tool should be used for food preparation after dyeing)

- Large canner sized pot
- Stirring stick (e.g. chop stick)
- Two 3x5 index cards
- Measuring spoons, small sized (teaspoon and smaller)
- Measuring cup (large size)
- Protective gloves

Read all instructions before beginning!

1. Loosely tie roving or yarn into bundles of four. Soak the bundles in water with a dash of soap for at least 20min (ideally over night).

2. Using the first color, place the following amounts of dye in the empty Ziploc bags: 1/32 of a Teaspoon (tsp), 1/8 tsp, 1/2 tsp, 2 tsp. Use the index card to level the powder in the measuring spoon, scraping the excess back into the dye container. If no spoon small enough to measure the smaller amounts is available, use the corner of the card to divide the amount in the smallest available teaspoon evenly, scraping the excesses back into the dye container. Optional: Add 1 TS of Vinegar into each Ziploc bag.

3. Pour 6 cups of water into each bag, stirring briefly to ensure the dye is dissolved. Place one bundle of fiber into each bag, press out as much air as possible, and seal.

4. Fill about 8 cups of water in the bottom of the large pot. Put the filled plastic bags into the water. Heat the water to a boil. Hold at a simmer for 30 minutes. Periodically open the bags to allow hot air to escape and gently stir the fiber to ensure even dyeing.
Dyeing instructions continued

5. Remove the fiber from the bag. Discard the exhausted dye bathes. Rinse the fiber well. To avoid felting, either wait for the fiber to fully cool down. Before rinsing with cold water, or rinse with water as warm as the dye bath.

6. Untie each bundle of fiber and rearrange the fiber into four bundles containing one each of the four shades dyed.

7. Using the second color repeat steps 1-5. Make sure that all measuring spoons are well rinsed, before measuring out the second color. You have now 16 different but related colors of roving/yarn.

Notes on Selecting dyes:

- 4x4 gradient dyeing works best if the colors chosen are separated at least by a third of the color wheel. Mixing complementary colors will result in the most striking contrasts. Colors very close to each other will result in a very subtle gradients, with difficult to distinguish colors.

- If one of the chosen colors if much darker than the other, dye with the lighter color first. Also reduce the amount of dye in the fourth bag of the darker color to 1 1/2 tsp (instead of 2tsp).

Safety Precautions:

- Dye in a well ventilated area separate from food preparation.

- Do not use any of the utensils (measuring tools, stirring sticks, Ziploc bags. or pots) used for dyeing for food preparation or to store food.

- Wear heavy protective gloves when handling fiber in hot water.

- Store dyes in original containers out of the reach of children.

Two examples of 4x4 gradients:

Color combination to the left: Soft Pink and Sage Green

Color combination to the right: Cherry Red and Pistachio

Photo: Anne Furman
Name__________________________________________________________________________
Address:____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
Preferred email: PRINT NEATLY ___________________________________________________
Phone # ____________________________________________________
This information will be shared with registered guild members. If you wish to remain anonymous, please let Louise Henrie know.
Please list your wheel(s) ________________________________________________
Do you spindle spin? Yes or No (circle)
Do you Knit? Weave? Crochet? Dye? (Natural or Chemical?):
Would you be willing to share your skills with other members (ie: teach beginners, present a meeting topic, demo to the public, etc?)
If you raise fiber animals, please list them here____________________________________
We need your help on committee(s). If you would like to volunteer, let our president, Wayne Harbert, know!!!
Roc Day
Programming
Newsletter
Membership
Website
Outreach
Treasurer

Our newsletter is distributed electronically. If this is a problem, please contact Angelika St.Laurent. Please fill this out and either bring it to a meeting or mail it with your check for $20 to: Louise Henrie, 417 2nd Street, Ithaca, NY 14850
To place an ad

The cost for ads is $5.00 per month for non-members. Current members may submit one business-card sized classified ad per month for free. Send a check made out to BSHG to our treasurer, Louise Henrie, 417 2nd Street, Ithaca, NY 14850. Send the ad in digital form to the newsletter editor, angelika@simonstl.com. Business cards are published free for current members.