

THE GOSSIP WHEEL

ZUMBRO RIVER FIBER ARTS GUILD

August, 2016



August 24, 2016: Potluck and Dyepot

12:00 Noon, Everson Park, Zumbrota

***Weavers' Study Group Meets at Nancy Ellison's at 11:00 AM.
New Members Always Welcome.***

Bring: Dish to pass, and your own utensils; cotton fabric or T-shirt for dyepot.

We will gather at noon and start our dyepot. Leslie Hall will first instruct us on mushroom dyeing. After the dye is prepared, we will enjoy our potluck lunch. We will also do discharge dyeing. If you wish to try your hand at that, bring a 100% cotton cloth in a dark color. (This can be a T-shirt.) Bleach will be used for the discharge. The fabric needs to be all cotton, with absolutely no wool in the content. Polyester will not take the discharge.

Just a reminder: Everson Park is located one mile west of Zumbrota on Hwy. 60, next to Lands Lutheran Church. Nancy Ellison's farm is just west down the road from Everson Park. There is a sheep sign at the end of her driveway which is on the north side of the road.

September Meeting

Wednesday, September 28, 1 PM, at the Oronoco Community Center. A new year begins for the guild as we elect officers, pay our yearly dues, etc. Along with the business meeting, we will view a fiber arts video (which one is still to be determined—if you have a suggestion, contact Carolyn). **Treats:** Elizabeth Bourman, Loren Bushman, and Chris LaPlante.

Still Time to Sign Up for Art Splash—And Plenty of Time to Shop

If you would like to be part of the guild group at Art Splash this year, contact Marit Lomen as soon as possible. This 11th annual event will be held Saturday, September 17, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and offers an opportunity for guild members to show or sell their work. The guild will exhibit/demonstrate in the Zumbrota City Hall space again this year, and **there is no charge for you to participate**. For details, call Marit at 507-732-7386, on her cell at 507-202-5521, or email her at maritlomen@yahoo.com. Even if you choose not to participate, be sure to mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend. In addition to fabulous fiber arts (this is you!), there will be jewelry and clothing, painting, photography, and more. The Art Splash always brings delights (and serves treats) to those who attend.



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Minutes July 27, 2016

Member Leslie Hall gave an interesting presentation on the history of natural dyes and the plants used for those dyes as they changed throughout the years and in the different areas of the world. She then took us to the dye garden at the Olmsted History Center, explained the different plants and showed one method of dyeing using a silk scarf, petals from the flowers in the garden, and a mixture of water and alum. Since it takes more processing she will bring the finished product to our next meeting.

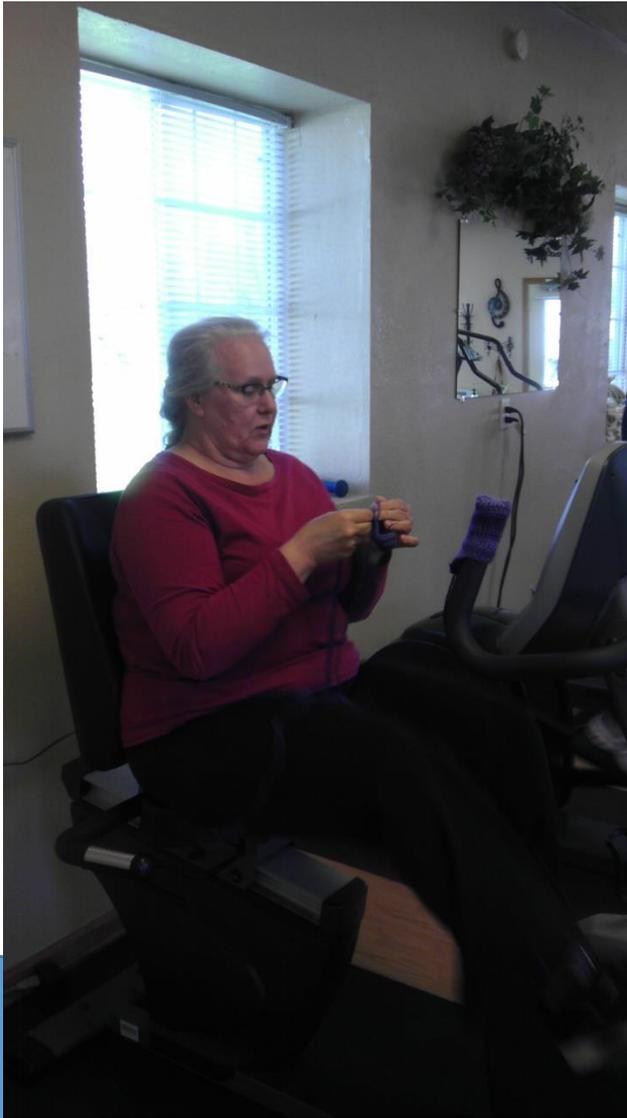
Next meeting will be at Land's Church picnic area. If you wish you can bring a piece of colored cotton and Leslie will show everyone how to do a process called discharged bleach dyeing.

The business part of the meeting was short. The Olmsted County fair is going on this week. Next year they are going to have a "dye" category.

Announcements of up-coming events were made.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Simon, Secretary



Who Says Exercise Can't Be Fun?

Terry Erredge, owner of Terry's Fitness Friends in Zumbrota, knits while she bikes. She might have the only exercise bike in the world that could have a sign on it saying "only beautiful things have been knit on this". Go, Terry! Not enough time in the day for your fiber art? Take it to Terry's, where this kind of multitasking will find kindred spirits. And thanks to Marit Lomen for the photo.

Join Our New Facebook Group

If you haven't joined the guild's Facebook page yet, you just need to click on the 'join group' button in the header and then either Jonya Pacey or Laurice Johnson will be notified to accept you into the group. You'll then receive notice that you are in. So easy! Here is a link to the page, but also it can be found by searching for Zumbro River Fiber Arts Guild: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1656219207971338/>. Questions? Please let Jonya or Laurice know how they can help.

Sett in My Ways

Last month I made a trip to the Lehigh Valley of eastern Pennsylvania where my husband was attending the Dixon Muzzleloading Gunmakers Fair. Oh boy, eh? Actually, the event, besides being staged in a beautiful river valley setting, turned out to be of interest to me, too, because many of the exhibitors at the fair were selling goods appropriate for Revolutionary War era reenactments, and that, of course, included fiber goods. In fact, the first thing I saw as I was walking up the hill toward the vendors' tents was a spinning wheel.

The wheel was owned, and being used by, an Amish woman who was spinning linen. She wound the yarn off and wrapped five-yard lengths around small pieces of scrap cardboard, and these she sold to people who wanted a period-correct yarn/thread for sewing garments, equipment bags, etc. She was also selling tow linen in the fluff, which is stuffed down the barrel of a muzzleloader because it's highly flammable and so helps to ignite the powder after metal strikes flint to make the initial spark.

Throughout the fair, booths contained tables covered with antique coverlets (to give a period look to the handmade/antique muzzleloaders lying on them), and I even found a coverlet for sale. I purchased a segment of a reproduction jacquard coverlet from the Family Heirloom Traditional Weavers in Red Lion, PA. You can check out some of their wares on their Facebook page (familyheirloomweaversfacebook) or check out their website:

www.familyheirloomweavers.com. They have forty industrial-type looms, all vintage, all considered worthless by most of the rest of the world, on which they recreate vintage textiles for wholesale, retail, movie décor, museums, etc. I hope they can make a go of carrying on their wonderful work.

All in all, The Dixon Fair was like taking a step back in time to the period I wrote about when I researched my *Gairden Trilogy* back in the 90s. I told my husband that we came to the fair 30 years too late, long after I wove with handspun fibers and wrote about coverlets. Still, the event piqued my interest in weaving again, reminded me of the beauty and integrity of handwoven fabrics—and even may have caused the purchase of a dozen rag balls at a flea market last weekend. Who knows? I may have a rug or two left in me yet if not a whole coverlet.

Oh—and one more thing: The Wind Whisper West Gallery in Wabasha was the subject of a nice feature article in the *Star Tribune* a few days back. In case you want to access it, try pasting this your browser:

<http://e.startribune.com/Olive/ODN/StarTribune/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=MST%2F2016%2F08%2F04&entity=Ar03302>

--Coleen Johnston

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1st Annual WOOL CONFERENCE OCTOBER 7th 10-4pm UM/Metro area!

THE RESEARCH IS COMPLETED! Application of the research regarding the emerging consumer driven market for local, natural, sustainable fiber will be provided during the conference for all small and large sheep farmers, fiber business and wool advocates! This market provides an opportunity for increasing revenues of all players.

Learn more at the conference and the next two days, for a 2 day self driving SHEEP & FIBER FARM TOUR near the Metro area! ~ tour of farms, fiber animals, yarns, roving, pelts, lamb FOOD TRUCK, the famous FARIBAULT WOOLEN MILL~their beautiful woollen products and a conservation workshop on how the sheep/wool contribute to the planet we want to live on and the one we want to leave behind. **MORE DETAILS COMING!**

THE COMPLETED AND A SUMMARY OF AUSTIN'S RESEARCH IS AVAILABLE AT THE NATURAL FIBER WEB SITE under **Research**: Please allow time for the download of the full report/research to be completed. Thank you!

<http://www.naturalfiberalliance.com>

Upcoming Events of Interest (Submitted by Members)

Salem Glen Winery 2nd Annual Fiber Art Fair, August 27 & 28. Information can be found at

salemglenvineyard.com. (Note from Carolyn: Leslie Hall and Norrie MacIraith will be there, but I am not aware of any other guild members so far.)

Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival, Jefferson Co. Fairgrounds – Sept 8-11.

www.wisconsinwheepandwoolfestival.com

Art Splash, Zumbrota, Saturday September 17, 10:00-4:00 p.m. See Marit Lomen to participate.

www.zaac.org/art-2/art_splash

North Country Fiber Fair, Watertown, SD – 3rd weekend in Sept., www.NorthCountryFiberFair.org

North Star Farm Tour – Oct 1 & 2, www.northstarfarmtour.com

Fosston Fiber Festival – First full weekend in October, www.fosstonfiberfestival.com

Upper Midwest Fall Festival – Hopkins, MN, Nov. 5, www.fallfiberfestival.com

Vogue Knitting LIVE, Minneapolis Convention Center, Nov. 4-6, www.vogueknittinglive.com

Newsletter: Contact Coleen Johnston if you have news you would like to share in the newsletter.
coleenlou@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.zumbroriverfiberartsguild.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1656219207971338/>

Meeting Site and Time: Meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of most months (a combined November/December meeting is held the first Wednesday in December, for example). All meetings are in the Oronoco Community Center, 115 2nd Street N.W, Oronoco, MN, 55960, lower level, unless otherwise noted. Dues are \$20 per year. New members are always welcome!