

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

December 2013

Presidents' Letter – The arrival of our December Loop comes in the pause between holiday celebrations, allowing a moment to reflect on what an exciting year this has been of accomplishments and memories of creative and informative gatherings. We learned hooking history, mushroom magic, made a hen house full of chickens, learned that even a devastating event like a hurricane can be transcended by creating a rug; and far exceeded our hopes and expectations with our fabulous Festival. We welcomed and provided support for a record number of new members due to all the efforts throughout the year to demonstrate and showcase our beloved craft. We continue to generously provided encouragement and support for each other's creative work, and express concern and interest in times of need. And share a bounty of recipes. Our Guild is a gift for all seasons.

Our December holiday pot luck gathering will begin an hour later at 11:00. As always the request for recipes will be numerous as we share another aspect of members creativity. "Thank You" to our Hospitality Committee who always makes the banquet a seasonal delight. We will have a short meeting, Show & Tell and a special raffle to add an additional monetary donation to our gifts of much needed clothing to "SAFE". This effort was very appreciated last year and the raffle item is well worth the \$2 "chance"; and then enjoy our time to socialize, eat, laugh and hook. Cindy & Therese

December Meeting – Friday, December 13, 2013 -- Our December meeting will be at our normal location – the Administration Building (Building #1), which is part of the Hunterdon County Complex, on Rt. 12 outside of Flemington. The street address of the Complex is 314 State Highway 12, Flemington, NJ 08822 although that does not appear on the road. **Please note that the meeting begins an hour later than usual at 11:00.** Guests are always welcome.

Guild Program – The December meeting is the time of our highly anticipated holiday potluck luncheon. As in the past, the menu is not planned. Each member is asked to bring her/his favorite dish – salad, appetizer, hot dish, cold dish, dessert or whatever. HCRAG members are not only renowned rug hookers, but great cooks as well! This is a meeting not to be missed. (The recipes of favorite dishes can be shared in future issues of The Loop.)

Show & Tell – Our theme for December is appropriately rugs featuring snow scenes or some element of winter. Works in progress are always welcome.

Those who bring a rug for S & T are eligible for a door prize. Our winners from last month are shown below.

Joyce Combs – Christmas ornament
Karl Gimber – Christmas ornament
Lydia Lewis – Herb book
Betsy Warner – Measuring spoons

Aggie Wooden – Halloween ornament
Sue Woodworth – Hand dyed wool

Hospitality – We salute and thank all the Guild members who prepared refreshments for our meetings throughout the year. Your snacks and treats helped make our gatherings more enjoyable.

December Birthdays – Birthday wishes go to members celebrating their special day this month -- Barbie Beck-Wilczek (12/15), Helen Buchanan (12/21), Karl Gimber (12/19), Patty Mahaffey (12/8), Paula Patti (12/28), Nancy Sears (12/16), Agnes Wooden (12/2), and Karen Worthington (12/13). We wish them all the happiest birthdays.

Membership – We welcome Amanda Benson, Camille Buchanan, Sarah Gerdling and Chris Pape to our Guild. Their contact information is shown below. We had a chance to meet Amanda, Camille, Sarah and Chris at our last meeting and to introduce them to our mentoring program intended for those new to rug hooking or new to the area.

Amanda Benson
6 Blue Spruce Drive
Pennington, NJ 08534
amandabenson@verizon.net

Sarah Gerdling
345 Park Ave.
Chalfont, PA 18914
215-822-9695
sagerding@gmail.com

Camille Buchanan
10 Marriott Drive
Lumberton, NJ 08048
609-267-5634
buchannanj@earthlink.net

Chris Pape
243 Patriot Hill Drive
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
908-285-2360
chrispape@optonline.net

We look forward to seeing them at future meetings.

Sunshine – We sadly report that Sue Woodworth’s sister passed away last month. Our heartfelt condolences are extended to Sue and her family.

Margaret Lutz is still at the Hunterdon Care Center (Room 112, Section C) and is in good spirits.

Virginia Sutton has moved to a care center in Pennsylvania near her sister and is much happier.

Patty Mahaffey is now home. She is not in a position to have visitors but cards and notes are appreciated.

Inform our Sunshine Chair, Gail Ferdinando (908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com), of any member who is ill or in need of a note of cheer.

Guild News & Events

Guild to Collect “SAFE” Holiday Donations at December Meeting -- Our Guild is again supporting the holiday clothing drive coordinated by The Consignment Shop in Flemington that donates their surplus wool garments to the Guild.

All proceeds from the Consignment Shop go to support "SAFE" (Stop Abuse for Everyone) in Hunterdon County. SAFE provides a series of programs and services for individuals and families touched by domestic violence and sexual assault. For more information on SAFE and its services, go to its website -- www.safeinhunterdon.org or call 908-788-7666.

SAFE is requesting help from the community by donating new unwrapped gifts. They have suggested our Guild collect flannel pajama bottoms, slippers, socks and sweat pants. Many who seek refuge at their safe house arrive without these basic items for themselves and their children.

We will be collecting donated items at the December meeting. (Tax receipts will be available.) Sharon Ballard will be bringing a "wool object" that will offered for \$2 raffle tickets with the proceeds going to SAFE.

Just a Few Days Remain -- Nominations for the Brightbill Camp Scholarship Due by December 2, 2013 -- The Brightbill Scholarship Fund provides a full scholarship to allow a deserving member to attend the HCRAG summer rug hooking camp. This is awarded by our Scholarship Committee based on nominations and recommendations received from our members. The guidelines for granting the prize are quite broad: it could be used to

- say thanks to a member who has made an important contribution to the Guild;
- recognize a long-time member;
- welcome a new member;
- acknowledge someone who has shown a real commitment to rug hooking; or
- for any other purpose that seems appropriate.

If you would like to nominate someone for this award, or if you would like to be considered yourself, please contact Cindy or Therese by December 2, 2013. The scholarship recipient will be announced at the December meeting. One position in each teacher's workshop is being left open until the Scholarship is awarded so the winner can select the teacher of her/his choice.

Weezie Huntington's Craft Open House – December 15, 2013 -- Weezie is having an open house on December 15, 2013 from 2:00 to 5:00, for the purpose of showcasing Oaxacan traditional crafts. Her sister is on the Board of Directors of Friends of Oaxacan Folk Art (FOFA), which supports the preservation and promotion of the folk art traditions of Oaxaca, Mexico. These traditions are endangered by economic challenges in the region that significantly impact the folk art community.

FOFA's projects are designed to provide public exposure (both in Mexico and the US), to raise awareness, appreciation and marketability of these art forms; and encouragement to young Mexican folk artists to pursue and refine their crafts—in view of their uncertainty about folk art as a viable livelihood and their attraction to modernization that promotes migration—in order to preserve folk art traditions for generations to come.

There will be hundreds of items for sale priced from \$10-300--something for every budget--wood carvings, jewelry, ceramics, hand-woven textiles; one of a kind gifts. All proceeds go to support FOFA projects, and credit cards are accepted.

Weezie lives at 1 The King's Path, Hopewell, NJ 08525. If more information is needed, you can reach Weezie at 609-477-4339.

Bus Trip To Barnes Foundation Museum Set for May 9, 2014 -- The Guild is sponsoring a bus trip to the Barnes Foundation Museum in Philadelphia on the day of our May meeting. The cost of the bus rental and driver gratuity will be paid by the Guild. Members participating need only to pay the museum admission fee (\$30), which includes an audio tour cassette.

After departing from the Hunterdon County Library parking lot, the first stop will be Philadelphia's historic Reading Terminal Market where members will have an exhilarating choice of luncheon selections. The Market has often been called a "gastronomic bazaar" with more than 80 merchants. Go to www.readingterminalmarket.org for more information.

After lunch, the group will proceed to the Barnes Foundation Museum. The Barnes Foundation was established in 1922 to "promote the advancement of education and the appreciation of the fine arts and horticulture." The Barnes holds one of the finest collections of Post-Impressionist and early Modern paintings, Old Master paintings, important examples of African sculpture and Native American ceramics, jewelry and textiles, American paintings and decorative arts and antiquities from the Mediterranean region and Asia. Visit its website -- www.barnesfoundations.org more information.

The bus can accommodate 55 people. Cindy Boults is maintaining the signup list. A lottery drawing will be used if more than 55 members wish to participate. Information on the registration process will be available early next year.

Guild "Worm Basket" Created -- Ellen DiClemente has come up with a practical way to use those few strips of wool that are left over after we finish hooking a rug no matter how well we plan. Ellen will be keeping a "community" worm basket" where we can donate our left over worms and where we can pull some out for current projects. She will bring the basket to each meeting to accept donations and to provide free wool strips to those who need a certain color for their project. Ellen requests that the strips donated be at least 6 inches long to avoid collecting lots of short snippets.

Thank you Ellen for this clever and practical idea!

Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill Approved for 2015 -- The Alice Beatty and Lamb Yankees ATHA Chapters have enthusiastically agreed to again join with our Guild to hold the 2nd Hooked Rug Festival at historic Prallsville Mills in October 2015. The Wool Whispers ATHA Chapter will also be participating in 2015. The success of our first Festival made everyone comfortable in coming to the decision to do this again. We will build on what we learned with the 1st Festival.

Rug Hooking Program to be Provided for Hunterdon County 4-H Club – Our Guild has been approached by the Hunterdon County 4-H Consumer Sciences Club, “Creative Kids”, to conduct an introduction to rug hooking workshop. Members of the club are familiar with our Guild since they display their projects in the same building where we demonstrate during the Hunterdon County 4-H and Agricultural Fair. Ellen DiClemente, Cheryl Halliday and Martha Thieling have volunteered to pursue the request.

Lamb Yankees Dye Book Available -- Kathleen Murray-Boyda, President of Lamb Yankees ATHA Chapter, wants HCRAAG members to know that the guild's dye book is still available for purchase at \$15.00 each. If interested, please contact Sue Schulz at dragonfly@icloud.com or Kathleen at kathmb@hotmail.com. The dye book makes an ideal holiday gift!

Jen Lavoie Featured in Rug Hooking Magazine --One of the Guild’s favorite past camp instructors, Jen Lavoie, is featured in the November/December 2013 issue of Rug Hooking Magazine. Her unique wool dyeing technique inspired several of the most creative rugs hooked by Guild members. It is a thrill just to say “We know Jen Lavoie!”

“Hooked in the Mountains” Has a New Venue -- The popular hooked rug exhibition sponsored by the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild is moving from the Shelburne Museum to the Champlain Valley Exposition, in Essex Junction, Vermont beginning with the October 2014 event. You can check their website – www.gmrhg.org – for more information

2014 Retreat Fully Booked – Waiting List Established -- Our popular rug hooking retreat will be held next month at the Hampton Inn in Flemington, NJ following our meeting on January 10, 2014. After our monthly meeting, participants will move over to the Hampton Inn where we will hunker down for a weekend of hooking and fun from Friday afternoon until Sunday. We usually end late Sunday afternoon, but could stay until 10 PM, if we choose to. Participants can commute or stay overnight. Participation in the retreat is limited to members.

The fee for the entire weekend is only \$35 which is nonrefundable unless there is a replacement from the waiting list or from your efforts. Right now the retreat is fully booked and a waiting list has been established. Let Weezie Huntington know if you want to be placed on the list.

A discounted room rate of \$119 is available to those who will be staying over. Just call the Hampton In at 908-284-9427 and mention our Guild.

A gourmet pizza night is planned for Saturday dinner for those who want to participate. Let Weezie know of ideas you may have for adding to the fun of the weekend.

Extra Workshop Added to Spring Fling – The two workshops initially scheduled by Norma Batastini (Heart in Hand Studio) and Betsy Reed (Heavens to Betsy) on Friday March 28 to Sunday March 30, 2014 will augmented by a second workshop by Betsy Reed on Monday March 31 and April 1, 2-14. These

exciting Spring Fling workshops will be held at the Flemington Hampton Inn. An opening has developed in Norma's workshop.

Norma's Workshop -- Exploring Color, A Hands-On Approach -- The workshop will be an in-depth look at color theory. We will explore two color wheels and the many color harmonies that are possible. With this knowledge, students will color plan a small pattern and begin hooking. Each student will have a kit of materials to work with (Cost about \$55) that will include dyed color swatches, pattern and other tools. Wool for the pattern will be extra. Students may purchase wool or bring some from home. There will be three pattern choices: fish decoy, pineapple or owl. Students will be contacted before class for pattern selection and other supplies to bring to class.

Betsy's Workshop – Betsy will be offering a workshop on "ripped" wool...as wide as it gets! Many saw her examples at the Festival. This class for torn strips will be using a simple styled motif pattern. You can draw your own pattern or use a pattern from another designer. Betsy will have a variety of patterns available ranging in price from \$20.00 and up. She will have designs in hearts, cats, pumpkins, crows, horses and geometrics. Pictures of patterns will be available after the holidays. You should bring wools you think you would like to use up. Betsy will also be bringing wool for you.

Registration Process – Because of past and growing interest in the Spring Fling Workshops, the registration process is intended to first determine if there is sufficient interest to engage the instructors and then to provide a fair approach for signing up.

- Those at the October meeting had an opportunity to “express interest in attending”. This was not a commitment to attend, just an expression of interest.
- Members not at the October meeting should inform Cindy Boults by November 15 if they have “interest in attending.” Again, this is not a commitment, just an expression of interest.
- If there is sufficient interest in the workshops to contract with the teachers, those who have “expressed interest” will be given the opportunity to register.
- Upon seeing the workshop descriptions and cost you can request to withdraw your name.
- If more want to register than can be accommodated, the selection of participants will be made by lottery and announced at the December meeting.
- A waiting list will be maintained in the event of cancellations.

The registration fee is \$150 for members and \$175 for nonmembers. A \$25 deposit will be needed with the balance due at the February meeting. Participants can commute or stay overnight. A discounted room rate of \$119 is available to those who will be staying over. Just call the Hampton Inn at 908-284-9427 and mention our Guild. Cindy Boults is the Event Coordinator and is handling registration.

2014 Camp – Fourth Teacher Added – Carrie Martin has been added to the roster of instructors for our 18th annual rug hooking camp (August 11-15, 2014). Carrie

Martin will be joining Jayne Hester, Liz Marino and Anita White for what promises to be a stimulating week of rug hooking.

After the Brightbill Scholarship is awarded later this month, the openings that have been held in abeyance will be filled from the waiting list. At the present time there is one opening with Carrie. The other workshops are currently full. HOWEVER, our past experience has shown that cancellations develop between now and August, so anyone who hopes to attend should get on the waiting list by contacting Eleanor Dunker, Camp Co-Director.

Details on the workshops and the registration process can be found on the Guild's website (www.hcrag.com).

Questions should be directed to Camp Directors Anndee Byers (856-829-7179 or Anndee@hookandhistory.com) or Eleanor Dunker (609-267-8704 or eldunker@hotmail.com).

Attend Camp Free -- Members who provide housing for a camp instructor attend camp free. All that is required is to provide housing, breakfast and dinner for the week. Lunch is provided by the Guild. You are not expected to entertain the instructors. They are tired at the end of the day and need time to relax, reflect on the day and prepare for the next day.

Housing is needed for Carrie Martin and Anita White. If you have interest in providing housing, let Camp Directors Anndee Byers or Eleanor Dunker know and attend camp free.

Guild Demonstrates at the Last Thanksgiving in the Country – After 40 years, Thanksgiving in the Country was held for the last time last month. Our Guild supported the event as it has for many years by demonstrating at the Prallsville Mills Complex in Stockton, NJ. Proceeds from the event go to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia-Facial Reconstruction Unit.

Martha Thieling served as the Guild Coordinator and reported that it “was a very pleasant weekend with lots of people coming through and lots of interest in our work and the Guild. We actually ran out of brochures!” Martha was joined by Joyce Combs, Tracey Fetzer, Lynda Kling, Lydia Lewis, Gisele Meader and Marion Michel. We thank them all for supporting this important community service event.

HCRAG Library Continues to Grow – We wish to thank Marion Michel for the following generous donations to the HCRAG library:

Anne Ashworth's Green Mountain Colors, 41 Formulas for Hooked Rugs
Sheila Betterton's Rugs From the American Museum in Britain
Francois Delmare's Colors The Story of Dyes and Pigments
Debra Maltzman Grayson's The Pattern Library Rugs and Wall Hangings
John Hinchcliffe's Rugs From Rags
Dorothy Lawless's Rug Hooking and Braiding for pleasure and profit
Dorothy Parks Putnam's Beautiful Braiding
Search Press's Needle Crafts #10 Rag Rugs

An assortment of Rug Hooker News and Views from 1972 through 1979

Also, a “Thank You” to Therese Shick for her donation of Donna Lovelady's Rug Hooking for the First Time.

The library has also added the following items:

Colors of Life Dyeing to the Bitter End compiled by the Lamb Yankees ATHA Chapter

A notebook containing patterns from Rug Hooking Magazine, dyeing information and general hints, articles and information on rug hooking.

Catalogs from Fredericksburg Rugs (2002), Woolen Memories and R.E.O. Designs.

Kathy Donovan, our Librarian, will bring these additions to the December meeting. If there are other books you want from our library, contact her by 12:00 noon on the day before our meeting and she will bring it to the meeting. Kathy can be reached at 908-755-1670 or freyja2@verizon.net. The listing of the items available to members can be found on the Guild's website (www.hcrag.com).

Members who borrow books are reminded that they need to be returned in a timely manner, so that the books will be available for other members.

Featured Member – Cathy Heilferty – Cathy Heilferty and her husband, John, were on vacation in 2000 when they visited a small town in Nova Scotia named Cheticamp. Her introduction to rug hooking occurred when they went to the local hooking museum named after Elizabeth LaForte. The museum had lots of old hooked pieces and a card table that had been modified by removing the top and rug backing fastened to the base with carpet tacks. “It was the coolest thing I have ever seen”, Cathy recalls. Many of the shops in Cheticamp had items for sale that were hooked by local artisans.

Shortly after returning home, Cathy found an old issue of Rug Hooking Magazine. At that point in time, the magazine still had several pages in the back each month that described rug hooking techniques. “I used those pages to figure out the basics and hooked several chair pads as my first project”, Cathy notes.

The magazine also provided a way for Cathy to learn of other resources. One was a workshop in Vermont which focused on hooking with a punch- needle. At the time her father-in-law, who lived in New England, was ill, so Cathy was able to visit him and go to the workshop on the same trip north. She was impressed by the beautiful yarn available at the workshop and began to seriously work using the punch- needle technique. “I did a lot of punch-needle in those days.”

Gail Dufresne's studio in Lambertville, NJ was another resource Cathy discovered from RHM. In 2004 she started to attend the open studio sessions that Gail held on Saturdays. She attended for several years and got to know other local rug hookers. The Goat Hill ATHA Chapter (now Lamb Yankees Chapter) formed from the friendships established at those Saturday open studio sessions.

Cathy had a preference for hooking with wide cuts (mostly #6 & #8) right from the beginning. She did experience hooking with narrow cuts of wool in a Highlands' workshop with Norma Batastini where they worked on hooking purses. “I was determined to learn, but do not have the

eye for narrow cut hooking”, Cathy observes.

When it comes to rug patterns, Cathy prefers to design her own. Most of her rugs are given to family members and friends, so the patterns often reflect some life event such as graduations, weddings and birthdays. “My patterns depend on the occasion. It is easier for me to create a pattern with someone in mind. The rugs help me feel connected with family members who live far away.” Her design process starts on paper where she records what she sees in her head. Cathy normally draws freehand or uses a ruler for geometric patterns. Drawing directly on the linen backing first does not work for her. Cathy has a hooking notebook/ journal where she keeps her sketches. The “Grounds for Sculpture” in Hamilton, NJ is “a real treasure” according to Cathy and a place she goes for inspiration. She records the date and location of her sketches for future reference.

Rug hooking camps often conflict with Cathy’s work schedule so she is not able to attend as many as she would like. Hook-ins like the one sponsored by the Brandywine Guild and the HCRAAG Retreat work better for her. Cathy likes the feeling of togetherness and being connected that are found at hooking camps, hook-ins and retreats. “You learn from the others too”, she notes.

Even though Cathy has not be able to attend many camps, she has been exposed to some of the best local talent -- Gail Dufresne (open studio session), Norma Batastini (Highlands workshop), Janet Williams (Lamb Yankees program), and Sandra Brown (HCRAAG Camp). In addition, Patty Mahaffey kept her apprised of what she was learning at her McGown certification training. “Patty is generous with her time and shares so much.” In the past Cathy did counted cross stitch and knitting but found rug hooking to be so much more refreshing. She recalls that Gail “Gave me freedom, not a lot of rules, no ‘must does’. Cross stitch and knitting are nothing but rules! Norma and Sandra gave me structure and guidance when needed.”

Cathy hooks with both new and recycled wool. She attributes Guild members for introducing her to the benefits of working with recycled wool. Janet Williams was instrumental in encouraging her to try dyeing light and natural colored wool, which she now enjoys doing. If a lot of one color is needed for a project, Cathy will dye it herself and mix it with recycled wool.

Hooking every night, whenever possible, is important to Cathy. “I am like a big baby and act crabby and angry if I cannot hook at night”, she jokes. “It allows me to relax and chill out from work. I find hooking to have a meditation quality that appeals to my Quaker upbringing.”

Being active in the local guilds is also an important part of Cathy’s rug hooking regimen. She is a founding member of the Lamb Yankees (formerly Goat Hill) ATHA Chapter. Cathy learned about the Hunterdon Guild from members who also attended the Saturday sessions at Gail Dufresne’s Studio. She likes the camaraderie and being with people “who talk rug hooking; we speak the same language”. She finds rug hooking guilds to be welcoming communities who eagerly share.

Cathy and her husband, John, live in Yardley, PA with their three children –Brian, Sean and Lydia – their two dogs, Rocket and Percy, and an assortment of turtles and salamanders. Brian who is the oldest (age 21) attends Gannon University, Sean (age 19) is a sophomore at Penn State, and Lydia is in 8th Grade. John is a biologist and herpetologist (“You need to check the dictionary”, Cathy teases.) for the State of New Jersey. For 19 years Cathy was a nurse working at the Children’s Hospital in Philadelphia. In 2007 she decided to teach nursing and returned to Villanova University to earn a master’s degree and PHD in nursing. She now teaches

undergraduate and graduate nursing students at Holy Family University in northeast Philadelphia. “I love teaching and the students”, Cathy beams.

As Cathy reflects on her journey as a developing rug hooking artisan, she observes that “Rug hooking is like singing. I never felt like an artist when I did counted cross stitch and knitting. I followed the rules and made useful things, but it was not art. Hooking makes me feel like an artist. I am creating a rug that no one else has done before.” Looking ahead, she wants “to be more goal oriented and have two or three rugs lined up in my mind. I tend to go from project to project and almost always finish a rug before another one is started.”

Cathy was a member of the Hooked Rug Festival Planning Committee and was responsible for creating the beautiful decorations at the Mill. Her experience working on the Festival cemented the warm feelings she shares with the local rug hooking community. “The Festival was a lot of work, but it was done with no hassle, no nastiness. It felt wonderful to be part of it.”

Visit the Guild’s website (www.hcrag.com) to see some of Cathy’s rugs.

Hooking Information & Techniques

From Nina's Notebook -- This year Thanksgiving and Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, come at the same time. Imagine a bountiful table set with glowing candles and plates of our favorite foods of the season, family and friends all around. That is truly a happy holiday.

Last year my family spent the holidays in a warm, sunny place with calm azure waters, swaying palm trees and balmy breezes. This year we will pack our warmest coats for our walks on the beach with the frigid Atlantic blowing Arctic breezes our way. We will huddle by the fireplace and drink hot tea and chocolate to stay warm. Best of all, we will enjoy each other's company and give thanks for a good year and a wish for the coming one. Whatever the weather, it is a happy holiday.

Hopefully there will be time to hook a few loops and to plan for some projects in the coming year. There is still time for snowflakes and winter scenes as well as those memories of the palm trees; time for remembering the holidays past and the special ones who are no longer with us.

This year on All Saints Day, a friend gathered the pictures of her ancestors and introduced them to her young children. She told them stories about those special people in her life. Some of my most cherished mats are of my grandmother, Nanny, which I share with my grandchildren as I tell them stories about her. Hopefully this mat will remind them of her when I am no longer able to tell them the stories. Our hooked mats are the legacy which we leave for future generations along with the stories they tell. Think about the special times you spend with your family and friends this holiday and make a mat to remember that occasion...a legacy for future generations.

Happy Holidays and good wishes for a joyous, happy new year filled with mats, hook-ins, and all the good things that come with being a rug artisan! Nina Seaman

Ideas from Kathleen Murray-Boyda’s Dye Pot – Sand in My Bathing Suit -- I have lots memories of going to “the Beach” (I grew up in Delaware) and going “down the

Shore” (now that I live in NJ ...there is a clear distinction between the two!). Playing in the sand alongside my parents and two brothers was great, but not as much fun as swimming and floating on my raft for hours.

My brothers wore swim trunks and being the only girl, I wore the traditional one piece stretchy bathing suit. It was evident early on that the boys didn't suffer from the scourge of sand in their bathing suits, but I did...a cold, wet, heavy, and gravelly load! The only way to clear it out of the bottom of my suit was to head back into the ocean and stretch it out, while submerged, in order to empty the contents. And it never fully cleared resulting in aggravation, chafing, and walking kinda funny. Let me tell you ...there is a *big* difference in beach sands...Rehobeth's sand is comparable to landscapers' stones vs. Cape May's more refined sand. I became somewhat of a "sand connoisseur" with each vacation.

At a guild meeting in 2012, Lamb Yankees members were "one-upping" each other with one-off dye names and, for the record, we had a blast! Hence, the genesis of the recipe entitled "Sand in My Bathing Suit" (as published in ATHA Chapter Lamb Yankees "Colors of Life: Dyeing to the Bitter End" dye book).

I was happy with the color at the end of the dyeing experience as opposed to the soggy, sandy memories of my childhood! The resulting color has a lovely, worn vintage hue...much like my thighs did from the sand's chafing. ☺

Here is the "Sand in My Bathing Suit" formula for dyeing a half yard of wool using Pro Chem dyes:

1/16 tsp	Chocolate Brown	#502
1/16 tsp	Bright Orange	#233
1/32 tsp	Leaf Green	#728
1/8 tsp	Chestnut	#506
1/64 tsp	Brilliant Blue	#490
1/16 tsp	+ 1/32 tsp Black	#672
1/32 tsp	+ 1/16 tsp Plum	#822

Method: spot dye, with each color in its own ½ cup of boiling water. Process: Roasting pan in the oven, covered & steamed @ 300 degrees for 35 minutes.

Tips From Heloise – Gail Ferdinando shared with Heloise a tip for hooking shrubs that she learned at the HCRAAG camp last August when she worked with teacher Sarah Guiliani. You hook with three different greens at the same time. Sarah demonstrated hooking with three strips of #4 cut at the same time. One of the strips can even be a flower color. This technique fills the area quickly and looks good too! Thank you Gail and Sarah!

Recipes – Teri Dabrowski's Apple Cake was enjoyed by those at the November meeting. The full name of recipe is **Game, Set & Match Apple Cake**. Teri has graciously shared her recipe with us.

Ingredients:

3 c. flour

Topping:

1 c. brown sugar

¼ t. salt	¼ c. milk
3 eggs	1 stick of butter or margarine
1 ½ c. oil	
3 c. chopped apples	
2 t. vanilla	
1 t. baking soda	
1 t. cinnamon	
2 c. sugar	

- Beat eggs, oil and sugar for 3 minutes
- Mix together dry ingredients and add to above
- Fold in apples and vanilla
- Spread in 13 x 9 ½ x 2” pan
- Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour

When cake is done, mix together the topping ingredients and boil for 3 minutes
Pour this mixture over the cake while it is still warm.

Teri notes that she sometimes adds nuts to the ingredients.

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

2014 Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village -- August 12 – 16, 2014 -- Retreats, workshops, exhibits and vendors are all part of the experience of Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village in Archbold, Ohio. This is one of the largest rug hooking events in the country. Call 800-590-9735 or go to www.saudervillage.org for details.

Hooked in the Mountains XVII – October 15-19, 2014 – An exhibition of hooked rugs and fiber arts sponsored by the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild will be held on October 15-19, 2014 at their new location, the Champlain Valley Exposition, Essex Junction, VT. For details visit the guild’s website –www.gmrhg.org.

Alice Beatty ATHA Chapter normally meets the first Wednesday of each month (September to June) at the Vermeule Center, 614 Greenbrook Road, North Plainfield, NJ at 10:00 a.m. For more information contact Janet Santaniello at 908-754-6787 or flowjans@hotmail.com.

Lamb Yankees ATHA Chapter normally meets the first Saturday of the month (October to June) at the South Branch Reformed Church, Hillsborough, NJ. For more information or to verify meeting dates, contact Kathleen Murray-Boyda at 908-442-0995 or kathmb@hotmail.com. Visit the Lamb Yankees website at www.lambyankees.weebly.com.

Mercer Hookers meet on the first Thursday of every month from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Mercer County Library in Pennington, NJ. It would be a good idea to contact Weezie Huntington (weezie711@gmail.com) if you are coming for the first time. The hook-in is open to anyone sharing an interest in rug hooking. Bring your lunch.

Spring Lake ATHA Chapter meets the second Monday of every month from September through May at St Andrews Methodist Church, 907 Fourth Ave., Spring Lake, NJ 07762 from 10 to 2. For more information visit its website – www.springlakenjatha.org – or contact Barbara Kimbrough at 908-309-3881 or beedkay@gmail.com.

A “Gathering” of rug hookers meet at Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel, NJ every Tuesday from 10-3. The hook-in is open to rug hookers of all levels. For more information, call the Farm at 732-946-3758.

HCRAAG Calendar of Events

December 13, 2013 – Monthly Meeting – Holiday Luncheon *
January 10, 2014 – Monthly Meeting -- Auction & White Elephant Sale *
January 10-12, 2014 – Rug Hooking Retreat, Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ
February 14, 2014 – Monthly Meeting – Creating & Hooking Redware Pattern (Sharon Ballard, Jan Cole & Karl Gimber) *
March 14, 2014 – Monthly Meeting -- Rugs That Tell a Story *
March 28-30, 2014 – Spring Fling, Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ
April 11, 2014-- Monthly Meeting – Round Robin (Members with rug hooking businesses) *
May 9, 2014 –Monthly Meeting – Bus Trip to Barnes Foundation Museum, Philadelphia
June 13, 2014 – Monthly Meeting – Guild Picnic *
August 11-15, 2014 – Rug Hooking Camp – ESC School, West Amwell, NJ
August 12, 2014 – Beginner’s Workshop – ESC School, West Amwell, NJ
September 12, 2014 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD *
October 10, 2014 – Monthly Meeting – Hunterdon County 300th Celebration *
December 12, 2014 – Monthly Meeting – Holiday Luncheon *

*Unless otherwise noted, our meetings run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Assembly Room B in the County Administration Building, which is part of the Hunterdon County Complex on Route 12, Flemington, NJ. As you turn off Route 12 onto the road leading into the Complex, make the first right into the parking lot. The meeting is in the first building on the right. The street address for the Complex is 314 State Highway 12, although that does not appear on the road.

** Meeting will be at our alternate site – The Court Room within the Police Station at the Raritan Township Municipal Complex. The Complex is by the Rt. 12 and Rt. 523 traffic circle just outside Flemington. The address, which does not appear on the road, is 1 Municipal Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822-3446.

Guild Officers/Chairs -- Our officers and committee chairs are anxious to hear from you on ideas and suggestions on how we can make the Guild responsive to your needs. Feel free to contact them with your thoughts.

Co-Presidents – Cindy Boult – 908-730-0146 or cboults@gmail.com.

Therese Shick – 908-735-7985 or etshick@gmail.com.

Vice President – Membership – Debbie Walsh – 908- 272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.com

Director -- Communications -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net

Camp Directors – Anndee Byers -- 856-829-7179 or anndee@hookandhistory.com

Eleanor Dunker -- 609-267-8704 or eldunker@hotmail.com

Historian – Sonia Force – 908-782-5716 or sojon@comcast.net

Hospitality – Deanna Kinney – 908-832-7587 or deakinn@yahoo.com

Librarian – Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or freyja2@verizon.net

Mentoring – Donna Kolznak – 610-681-6357 or dmkl7@ptd.net

Programs – Sharon Ballard – 908-236-7410 or stancot@comcast.net

Barbara Boyko – 267-544-0371 or boykobarbara@yahoo.com
Ellen DiClemente – 908-284-9570 or ergot53@embarqmail.com

Secretary – Sue Woodworth – 908-273-3198 or srw0717@aol.com
Lynda Kling – 610-847-5468 or lkling@epix.net

Special Events – Open

Sunshine – Gail Ferdinando – 908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.

Treasurer – Weezie Huntington – 609-477-4339 or weezie711@gmail.com
Jean Laurence – 610-287-9278 or j_laurence@verizon.net

Guild’s Email List Policy - The HCRAE Email list is not for commercial purposes, internally, or externally. The Guild does not make the list available to vendors outside the Guild, and asks that vendors within the guild not solicit the membership as a whole.

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The Loop is the newsletter of the Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAE). It is published monthly (September through June). Articles, suggestions or ideas for the newsletter can be submitted to Karl Gimber, P. O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913 or karlg12@verizon.net by the 20th of the month.