

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

September 2014

Presidents' Letter – Our September meeting is just around the corner -- it is hard to believe our summer, so anticipated, is almost over. Did you accomplish what you wanted to? You certainly can't use the weather as an excuse, as it was fabulous to say the least.

As we undertake a new Guild year we are thinking about stabilizing the growth achieved in the past few years, and adjusting some of our programs to accommodate more people. We will be planning ways to work our mission statement (to educate people about the art and craft of rug hooking) with more beginner classes. We will be celebrating Hunterdon County's 300th anniversary at our October meeting, we will be lining up for the January retreat, Spring Fling, and Camp 2015. There will be another Festival at the Mill in October 2015 with some differences from the last one, including more vendors. There is a lot being planned, which means a lot of opportunity to volunteer to help the Guild. This is YOUR Guild, after all.

We just finished what we call "Good Camp", with four great instructors. Thank you Anndee and Eleanor for all your hard work. We know that running camp is not easy. You did a great job—all your efforts paid off. We encourage (beg) those who attended to please bring their camp rugs to the September meeting to share them with all of us. Weezie has actually gotten one more petal on "Dolores" (the rose) hooked. Woo-hoo. Bring your dreams for the next year too. Think about what you learned at camp—is there a nugget you could share with us? Here is one from Teacher's Workshop: there is no such thing as a bad color, only bad placement.

Wishing you even loops and beautiful colors. Weezie and Therese

September Meeting – Friday, September 12, 2014 -- Our first meeting of the program year 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 for a GPS is 314 State Highway 12, Flemington, NJ 08822 although there is no street number on the building. The meeting runs from 10-2. Guests are always welcome.

Guild Program – Our September meeting will focus on catching up on what we all did this summer and generating program ideas for the coming year. Come with your "thinking cap" on!

Show & Tell – Bring camp projects, rugs completed during the summer and current projects to share with the Guild. Completed rugs will be shown on our website beginning this month. Those who bring rugs to share will be eligible for a door prize.

Lots of Recycled Wool To Be Available -- Bags and bags of recycled wool clothing will be available most of which is textured wool – herringbone, tweed and checks – including

Harris Tweed, Pendleton and Woolrich. The wool is perfect for those who were in Jayne Hester's Camp Workshop and for those who like to hook primitive style rugs. All will be available for a donation to the Guild.

Hospitality – Sharon Ballard and Cindy Boults have volunteered to bring treats. Several additional volunteers are needed. Our Guild is fortunate to have members who share their baking skills and treats with us whenever we meet at the Library Complex. We thank them all for their contribution to the enjoyment of our monthly meetings.

September Birthdays -- Birthday wishes go to members celebrating their special day this month: Camille Buchanan (9/30), Peggie Cunningham (9/4), Kathy Donovan (9/14), Cathy Edwards (9/29), Lee Hurford, (9/1), Sally Jagoe (9/1), Jean Laurence (9/28), Cyndi Lott (9/23), Helen Nitzsche (9/1), Gail Schmidt (9/25), and Roberta Smith (9/2). We wish them all the happiest birthdays. Enjoy your day!

Membership – Dues (\$20) for the new program year are now payable. The membership renewal form can be found on our website – www.hcrag.com.

We welcome Jeanne Surdi and Linda Woodbury to our Guild. Their contact information is shown below. Jeanne participated in our camp beginners' workshop.

Jeanne Surdi	Linda Woodbury
33 Gridley Circle	3 Clarken Drive
Milford, NJ 08848	West Orange, NJ 07052
908-995-2142	862-253-4343
Jsurdi2013@gmail.com	Linda.woodbury@gmail.com

Weezie Huntington has a new address – 69 Minuteman Circle, Allentown, NJ 08501. Her phone number and email address remain unchanged.

Barbara Kimbrough has a new email address – hookwooldaily@gmail.com.

Cyndy Duade has a new email address – cduade@gmail.com.

Heidi Blair, who served as a Guild President in the early 2000s, sends her regards and congratulations to her HCRAAG friends for our continued success and growth. She recently had to stop hooking because of problems with her hands, but she continues to have interest in our activities. We hope to see Heidi at the next Rug Festival. She can be reached at 732-942-3743 or jenyjump@optonline.net.

An order for Guild name badges will soon be placed. Guild members are encouraged to wear badges at our meetings and events to make it easier to recognize new members and others who we do not see often. To order a name badge, send a check for \$7 made payable to HCRAAG to Debbie Walsh, Membership VP, at 51 Spruce St., Cranford, NJ 07016 or give it to her at the meeting.

Sunshine – Dee Rosebrock underwent successful foot surgery in August. She is also being treated for a blood clot in her arm.

Karl Gimber underwent nine weeks of radiation treatments this summer for prostate cancer.

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

The Wool Studio Open House -- September 11-13, 2014 –Rebecca Erb’s Wool Studio is celebrating its 15th year anniversary with an open house. The special event includes guest vendors, light refreshments and door prizes.

Wool Studio Woolens and Guest Vendors

- The Wool Studio Wool Fabric -- Pick-the-Pile pound goods (including cashmere, scraps, not-so-perfect natural, and odds-and-ends... all sold as-is at \$10/pound) with 15% price/pound drop each day! Half-yards washed and rolled... many vintage woolens. In-stock inventory at regular price.
- Homespun (Kay Leisey) -- Rug kits and patterns, punch needle patterns, needle craft books, pincushions by Barbara Young and Shari Lutz, antique sewing notions and more.
- The Wool'n Gardener (Jan Cole) -- Over-dyed, 100% wool. Colors range from the richest and deepest primitives to the soft and subtle pastels - in between are those marvelous brights.
- Woodcrest Rug Designs (Joanne Gerwig) -- Hooked rug patterns by Joanne Gerwig. Rug patterns on primitive linen, snippet pouches, penny mats and a few other handmade surprises.

The Wool Studio is located at 328 Tulpehocken Ave., West Reading, PA 19611. For more information call 610 678-5448 or email Rebecca at thewoolstudio@comcast.net. The website for the Wool Studio is www.thewoolstudio.com.

Guild’s Hunterdon County 300th Celebration (October 10, 2014) -- Our Guild is participating in Hunterdon County’s yearlong 300th Birthday Celebration at our October 10th meeting with:

- A public day of rug hooking. Members of other guilds are invited to join us along with other rug hookers from the area.
- A workshop for beginners to accommodate the overflow from our camp workshop and others who register. Details are still being finalized and will be announced shortly. Cheryl Halliday will be the instructor.
- Presentation on Early American Tavern Sign Rugs. Guild member Karl Gimber and his wife, Mary Jo, will share their passion for colonial tavern signs with a presentation on “Early American Tavern Signs and the Stories

They Tell.” According to the Gimbbers, tavernkeepers and merchants relied on boldly designed and eye catching images to attract patrons at a time when literacy was relatively low, houses did not have numbers and many streets were still unnamed. Sign painters used religious, political, humorous and patriotic themes among others as a way to attract the attention of their patrons. Political correctness and coded symbols could also be found in the images appearing on signboards.” The Gimbbers have been working on a series of hooked rugs inspired by early American taverns and their signs. They will use their rugs to share the histories, stories and messages associated with the taverns and their signboards.

- A Tavern Sign Rug Challenge. Guild members and other rug hookers are “challenged” to design and hook a tavern sign rug inspired by Hunterdon County. Karl is available to offer suggestions on popular tavern sign shapes, themes, common wording, lettering styles, and rug ideas. Completed challenge rugs will be displayed at our 300th Celebration Meeting, the 2015 Rug Festival, and possibly other venues. Visitors will be able to observe ongoing hooking of tavern sign rugs still in progress.
- Members Hooked Rug Display. Members are encouraged to bring rugs to exhibit at the Open House. While any rugs are welcome, any that depict life in Hunterdon County such as farming, homes, buildings, local flora and fauna would be really appropriate. The County may have display boards available for us to use for exhibiting our rugs.
- The Golden Talents -- Guild member Kay Weeks will be presenting the history of The Golden Talents and our Guild. Kay has the original hooked rug created for this group and will have it available for display.

Our Celebration plans continue to grow; it will be a full day of rug hooking activities. Encourage your family, neighbors and other friends to stop by.

Brandywine Guild’s 9th Annual Autumn Hook-in (October 25, 2014) -- The Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild is hosting its annual autumn hook-in on October 25, 2014 at the Wagontown Fire Hall from 10-4. For more information visit their website at www.brandywinerughookingguild.org.

“Hooked Art 2014” Exhibit (October 25 through November 29, 2014) -- Newtown Hooked Art Shows is presenting the exhibit at The Gallery at the University of Connecticut (One University Place, Stamford, CT 06901). This is billed as “the largest show of innovative contemporary hooked art ever assembled” with 55 works by 18 artists from the United States and Canada. There is an opening reception on Saturday, October 25 from 1-4 that will include artist talks and book signings. For more information call 203-270-8293 or go to newtownhookedartshows.com.

Instructors Announced for 2015 Camp -- The instructors for our 19th Annual Rug hooking camp will be Cyndy Duade, Michele Micarelli and Kris Miller. Please note that

the fee structure and registration process have not yet been determined. The process will assure that all members have the same opportunity to sign up.

Hunterdon County 4-H & Agricultural Fair Ribbon Winners Announced --

Camp instructors Anita White, Liz Marino and Carrie Martin were the judges for the hooked rugs/pieces this year. Judging was done during camp on August 14th.

There were a total of thirty hooked rugs/pieces submitted. We had entries from Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The majority of the rugs submitted were wide cut this year. There were a variety of designs and themes represented in the rugs. Some of the artists were inspired by special moments in their lives, their love of their families, homes and pets and a respect for our country's history. Others celebrated the holidays, the solar system and nature. Many of the submissions were original patterns.

Below are the ribbon winners for the Hooked Rug Division for the 2014 Hunterdon County 4-H & Agricultural Fair:

Narrow Cut

- Best of Show: Cindy Boult "Appledor Island" - Annandale, NJ
- Second Place: Jean Laurence "The Winner" - Harleysville, PA
- Third Place: Gisele Meader "Maple Leaf" - Lambertville, NJ

Wide Cut

- Best of Show: Nellene Beaton "The Sailor's Wife" - Toms River, NJ
- Second Place: Debbie Kolodziej "Up in the Air" - Wyalusing, PA
- Third Place: Barbara Lugg "Lakeside Cottage" - Frenchtown, NJ

Mixed Media/Three Dimensional

- Best of Show: Kathy Donovan "Too Many Cookies" - Watchung, NJ
- Second Place: Jean Laurence "Gears" - Wyalusing, PA
- Third Place: Cindy Boult "Hawaii Totem" - Annandale, NJ

Best of Show Overall

- Best of Show: Cindy Boult "Appledor Island" - Annandale, NJ

Viewer's Choice

- Best of Show: Jean Laurence "The Winner" - Harleysville, PA.

Dee thanks everyone who submitted entries for the exhibit and those who helped with set-up, break-down, demonstration and publicity for the event.

Insights from a First Time Demonstrator -- Eileen Koch demonstrated rug hooking for the first time this summer and she did it with a bang! She traveled from her home in the Poconos to support our efforts at the Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead and again for two days at the Mercer County 4-H Fair. We asked for her thoughts on the experience and she provided us with the following:

"I've always loved going to historic sites and enjoyed the atmosphere of the old days. I volunteered to demo rug hooking, not because I'm an expert, but because I wanted to feel like a part of the historic past and not a walk through.

"Volunteering to demo was very enjoyable on so many levels. The simplicity/complexity of farm life leaves me in awe. We think we're so intelligent today...just lose your electricity and see how far you don't get!!!

“At each of the farm events, I was spending time with Karl, Sharon, Cindy, and Martha. What a great group....funny and so excited when sharing their knowledge about the art of hooking. So many guests stopped to watch the process of creating these beautiful rugs. I believe our Guild recruited quite a few individuals for beginner classes and to come visit our Guild. Some of these people have never done a craft or were craft junkies looking for something new!!!!

“On a more personal note, I got to spend time with people I only knew superficially from Guild meetings. We all have our own world view based on our personal life experiences. Accepting that idea, it was fun and very enriching for me to listen to varied points of view on everything from hooking to everyday life. I got to learn more about Karl, Sharon, Cindy, and Martha, beyond the love of hooking. They are very interesting people.

“If you're looking for a nice day out, doing something you enjoy and making new friends, volunteer for a demo event. Get away from things you have to do and do something you want to do....feed the soul.

“Special thanks to Sharon and Cindy for giving me a place to stay so I could have this great experience.”

Ellen DiClemente’s “Perfect Day” Rug Featured in ATHA Rugger’s

Companion – The story behind the development of Ellen’s rug is featured in the August/September issue of the ATHA Rugger’s Companion Magazine (see pages 38-40). The article illustrates the role our members, Guild programs and camp workshops had in influencing Ellen’s creative juices.

Janet Santaniello Solves the “BJM Mystery” – We learned that the Hunterdon County Historical Society had a hooked rug in their archives that depicts Sergeantsville, NJ, with a date of 1978 and the initials BJM. The Society wanted to know the creator of that rug. When we put the question to the Guild, Janet Santaniello came up with the answer.

Here is what we learned from Janet:

“I believe I know the woman who hooked the rug called "Sergeantsville". She was a student of Alice Beatty's and her name was Beoletta Morris. The rug is of Sergeantsville hooked as she remembered it when she was growing up there.

“I had just started hooking in 1978 and attended the picnic Alice would have each June with all of her students bringing a covered dish and their latest rugs for show and tell before we stopped hooking for the summer. I remember seeing this rug under construction and then again when it was completed. It is a large rug possibly room size and hooked in the wonderful primitive style that brought students from near and far to learn from Alice. As the story goes, in the early 1980’s when Beoletta was moving to smaller quarters in Pennsylvania she offer the rug to the town of Sergeantsville and it was declined. I’ve always wondered what happened to it. Thankfully, this local New Jersey treasure has

resurfaced for all of us to see. I will try to get to the book sale in October just for the chance of seeing it again. It's a wonderful rug and a tribute to both the hooker and her teacher.

“Jessie Turbayne in her book The Big Book of Hooked Rugs refers to “Alice Beatty, as New Jersey’s rug hooking grande dame.” Alice began rug hooking in 1945, and taught primitive rug hooking in the North Plainfield, NJ area for over 35 years. Less we forget... her dedication to her art and her influence in bringing primitive hooking into the art form that it is today. Her spirit lives on in rugs like Beoletta’s Sergeantsville.”

The Hunterdon County Historical Society will be having a book sale at their archive building at 67 River Road, Raritan Township, NJ on October 11 from 10 am to 2 pm and the hooked rug will be on exhibit at that time. Usually the archive building is not open to the public. The Society’s website is www.hunterdonhistory.org. for those who want more information.

Casual Hooking Fridays -- We will be continuing our Casual Hooking Fridays on the first Friday of each month for now. If we decided to join the knitting group on the fourth Friday, we may add that at a later point. So come out and hook for a couple hours at the beginning of the month starting on Friday, September 5th at 10:00 AM.

2015 Rug Festival – The Committee Members are very excited about the 2015 Festival! We have met a couple times already and will be meeting in mid September to really kick things off. A special thanks to the Committee Chairs for all their hard work and dedication.

Since we have tackled this event before, we know a lot more than we did last time, but it will still takes lots of work and volunteers. We have some new ideas and you will be learning about the different way the Boutique will be run. We are also pleased to announce that we will have more vendors, offer demonstrations, and have the pleasure of having a couple of rug hooking artisans who will have their work on display. Much more on these things to come.

We have most of the major positions filled at this point, but will be looking for a lot of help. Please, please consider helping out on a committee. Maybe you and a friend could join a committee together. Our goal with the last Festival was to raise awareness in the general community about rug hooking and hopefully add some new hookers. We achieved that with great success. Let’s keep the momentum going!

Fall Demonstration Schedule – Volunteers are needed to support our Guild’s active demonstration schedule this fall when we will be demonstrating at the:

- The Garden State Sheep Festival (September 6 & 7, 2014) – The Festival will be at the Hunterdon County Fair Grounds in Ringoes, NJ. This popular event draws large crowds of people interested in fiber arts. We need demonstrators for both days. Cindy Boults is our event coordinator. Let her know if you can help out with this fabulous event.

- 7th Annual Historical Fall Festival & Open House (Historical Society of Hilltown Township) – September 20, 2014 – The Festival is held at the Hartzel-Strassburger Homestead (407 Keystone Dr. & Bethlehem Pike, Sellersville, PA 18960) from 10-4 and includes tours, local artisans, and historical demonstrations. Free admission. Wares will be for sale as well as antiques and collectibles and refreshments. Contact Karl Gimber, our event coordinator, at karlg12@verizon.net or 215-297-0803 with questions or to volunteer for this event.

Mentoring Program Available -- With a new program year beginning we want to remind members, especially new members, that the Guild's Mentoring Program was created as a way to facilitate a new member's introduction to our Guild. Under the program a member is hooked up with a mentor who can provide advice and suggestions on hooking issues or help explain Guild programs, events or activities. For example, longer term members know what our January Hooking Retreat is all about. Someone new may not. A mentor can also be of assistance to an established rug hooker who is new to the area and not familiar with the resources available in the area such as open studios, suppliers, local teachers etc.

Anyone interested in having a mentor just needs to let Donna Kolznak know. Her contact information can be found under the Officer/ Chair listing at the end of the newsletter.

Directors Report on HCRAAG's Hooking Camp – HCRAAG's 18th annual rug hooking camp was held at the ESC School outside of Lambertville, NJ during the week of August 11, 2014. Our camp co-directors, Anndee Byers and Eleanor Dunker, did an excellent job organizing and running their first camp. They provided the following summary and report:

“Liz Marino, Jayne Hester, Anita White and Carrie Martin certainly made this a successful camp for all the attendees.

“The rugs that were being worked on in Liz's fine hooking class were amazing and everyone was awed by Liz's rugs. She told us that Hunterdon had some absolutely fantastic talent. Liz was very impressed. Carrie's class loved their private room and she certainly filled it with her wool and rug samples. Her students not only hooked up a storm, but she had them working on several wool related crafts. All went home with a beautiful pin and a hooked red bird. From the sounds coming from Jayne's side of the room, it was evident that they had lots of fun. They seemed to make great progress with their wide-cuts and beautiful subtle wools. Anita's class accommodated a wide range of styles and she was able to help everyone with their unique projects. She was filled with advice and also taught several ways to finish your rugs.

“The giveaways were plentiful and generous this year. We are so grateful for the generosity of all who donated. Thanks to everyone for helping to make this camp a success. We had delicious goodies to eat all week. Some complained that they may have gained a pound or two during camp. Also, those who helped unpack and repack the teacher's materials were very efficient. Agnes Wooden's husband, Tom, and Ann Gagnon's husband, Jean Paul, came and helped with all

kinds of setup chores and the packing up on Friday. Thanks very much to both of you.

“The Beginner’s Class was a huge success. Cheryl Halliday did an amazing job and we hope to get some new members from this or at least have converted some to our wonderful art of hooking. We had a full class of ten and have a waiting list of seven. So, we are working on having another formal beginner’s class this fall.

“Next year’s instructors are Cyndy Duade, Michelle Micarelli and Kris Miller. The signup information will follow at a later date.

“We had big shoes to fill following Gail Ferdinando, Debbie Walsh and Judy Quintman. We hope all of you that attended had another wonderful camp experience.” Anndee and Eleanor

We are grateful to Anndee and Eleanor for all their hard work in making our camp such a success!

Guild Volunteers Support Community Events – A Busy Summer -- Guild members were active this summer supporting the Guild by demonstrating at the Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead’s Hunterdon County 300th Celebration, the Mercer County 4-H Fair and the Hunterdon County 4-H & Agricultural Fair.

On July 27 Cindy Boults, Karl Gimber, Eileen Koch, Gisele Meader and Martha Thieling enjoyed the day at Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead just outside of Lambertville. The Farmstead hosted one of the many special events this year celebrating the County’s 300th Birthday. One of the other demonstrators had an excellent presentation on how flax was grown and processed into linen cloth, a form of which we use as backing for our rugs.

Howell Living Farm was an ideal site for the Mercer County 4- H Fair on August 2 and 3. This year the Guild demonstrated on both days with the support of Sharon Ballard, Annie Edwards, Karl Gimber, Eileen Koch, Gisele Meader, Dee Rosebrock, Doug Sardo, Martha Thieling, and Betsy Warner. Fortunately the rainy forecast did not materialize and the families turned out. The Fair normally attracts over 5,000 visitors.

The Hunterdon County 4-H & Agricultural Fair is one of the largest regional Fairs. As in the past, various Hunterdon County Guilds exhibited their members’ creative skills in glass display cases. Visitors have the opportunity to vote on their favorite viewers’ choice. Guild brochures and flyers for our October meeting celebrating Hunterdon’ s 300th Birthday were eagerly taken by visitors.

The following members provided support with rug collection, set-up, take-down, rug demonstrations and publicity:

Sharon Ballard	Karl Gimber	Mary Passerello
Kathy Donovan	Diana Liberto	Dee Rosebrock
Gail Ferdinando	Gisele Meader	Martha Thieling

Our participation in these events fulfills several Guild objectives. We support our community organizations, spread the word about rug hooking and publicize our Guild and our programs. The exposure normally attracts students for our beginners' workshops and occasionally new members. We are grateful to Dee Rosebrock for coordinating this popular event.

Suggestions for Loop Articles Sought -- As we begin our new program year, the Editor of The Loop is looking for assistance for articles, as follows:

- Heloise Ideas – Do you have tips to share from something you learned at camp or other workshops?
- Dye Pot Articles – Can you share wool dyeing techniques, formulas or tips?
- Featured Articles – Would you like to be a featured member? The process is painless!
- Recipes – Do you have a favorite recipe to share?

If you want to contribute to our newsletter just let Karl Gimber or Mary Passerello know. Their contact information can be found at the end of the newsletter.

Classified Section Added to The Loop -- Beginning this month members will be able to list rug hooking items for sale in The Loop. Here is an opportunity to clean out your stash. If you have upgraded to a new cutter or frame, why not sell the old. Sell those patterns you will never hook; they can be someone's next rug. Remember one hooker's stash can be another hooker's treasure. There is no charge for the ad. See the current ad following the newsletter.

Ads should be submitted to Mary Passerello by the 20th of the prior month. The text can be emailed to her at mpassere@comcast.net or mailed to her at 436 Quakertown Road, Flemington, NJ 08822. The following information should be included with each ad:

- Sale Item
- Description
- Price
- Your name and contact information

The classified section will be refreshed each month. You can always resubmit your ad for the next month.

Guild Library – Our extensive collection of books related to rug hooking and other fiber arts is a valuable benefit to Guild members. The full listing of books in our library can be found on our website (www.hcrag.com). All you need to do to borrow a book is to contact Kathy Donovan, our Librarian, 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 freija2@verizon.net.

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 – Mary Passerello -- Mary has “always loved hooked rugs, especially

those done by my friend Diane Liberto's grandmother." Finally about two years ago Mary and Diane took a beginners class with Margaret Lutz. After the class she "was hooked!" Her interest in rug hooking intensified in 2013 after observing Therese Shick being interviewed about rug hooking on the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce radio show. The interview was part of the PR efforts for the first Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill. Mary was volunteering at the Chamber at the time and was able to talk to Therese about the Guild and rug hooking.

After learning more about the Guild and our meetings, Mary decided to come to a meeting to learn more. At her first meeting, she heard about the classes available at summer camp. Mary and Diane took the beginner's class and in January 2014 they both attended the annual retreat at the Hampton Inn in Flemington. "Since that beginner's workshop I've been having lots of fun making rugs and new friends," Mary notes.

Diane and Mary both decided rug hooking was for them. Diane has joined the Guild and hopes to be more active when she retires. Mary has already jumped in with both feet. She joined the Guild in spring of 2013 and immediately immersed herself in Guild activities. Mary currently assists with our newsletter and is implementing her idea of having classified ads that will begin to appear in The Loop this month. She is also compiling a notebook that will incorporate all our past Featured Member articles. Mary has also joined our Guild volunteers who demonstrate rug hooking at local events such as the Hunterdon County 4-H & Agricultural Fair.

Mary has been drawn to primitive style rugs and has completed three smaller projects; however, she is now working on a large rug. It is a pattern called "Cowardly Lion and Cocky Lamb" that she bought at the 2013 Hooked Rug Festival. "Working on this large rug is a little overwhelming," she reports, "but I love it!"

Hooking in the early morning when the light is good works best for her. Mary's goal is to "get a little done every day. I love deciding which colors to use and hunting for just the right piece of wool."

Thanks to help from Joyce Combs, Mary has already dyed some of her own wool. "I love dyeing the wool and seeing the end results," she beams. "With the dyes available the colors are endless. I'm even starting to plan and design some of my own patterns."

Mary grew up in Hunterdon County and now lives on a farm with her husband, Jim, and their three dogs – Raina, Riley and Miley. Their daughter, Teresa, lives nearby with her husband, Chet, and two dogs. "Living here with family and pets provides me with lots of images to use as rug patterns," Mary observes.

After a long working career in the telecommunications industry, Mary retired two years ago and "loves that I now have more time to do the fun things." She has been quilting and weaving baskets for years but claims that "rug hooking is definitely my priority. I'm looking forward to learning new techniques, maybe hooking fine cuts and wide cuts. I know I'll be taking more classes and trying to learn as much as I can from our experienced Guild members."

Visit our website (www.hcrag.com) to see some of Mary's creations.

Hooking Information & Techniques

From Nina's Notebook -- Can it be September already? Where has the summer gone? For me, a retired school teacher, September will always be the beginning of a new year. There is lots of talk on the local radio station about school supplies -- new notebooks, back packs, crayons, pencils, construction paper, and glue -- all those things you needed to start the year. That got me thinking about a new year of hooking.

What new projects do I want to start? How about some new and different materials to work with like sari ribbon, silk chiffon, and different yarns? The possibilities are endless. This summer I did some sketches of scenes here on the island where I spend the summer. Now I need to develop those sketches and get them on the linen ready for hooking. It will be a long process for me but it is on the calendar. In the meantime there are some of the summer projects to finish and then there are the Christmas gifts...not too soon to be thinking about those!

Yes, it is September and all those ideas, projects, and gifts are rattling around in my brain. In the meantime I will use these last few days of summer to sit back, enjoy the view and have a hook-in with my Nova Scotia friends. Happy hooking. Nina Seaman

Ideas from Kay Leisey's Dye Pot – Salt Shaker Dyeing – Salt shaker dyeing is one of my favorite techniques when hand dyeing wool. It gives the effect of a knitted oatmeal tweed yarn. This look can be lost on textured wool so it is best to start with a solid color.

- Put 2 Tablespoons of non-iodized salt into a salt shaker (I used a larger handled cooking salt shaker) and add 1/16 dye color of choice, mix well.
- Lightly wring out your pre-soaked wool (I ripped my pieces into 6" strips) and lay them out in a casserole pan. Sprinkle your salt shaker over the wool strips. Salt your wool to your own taste!
- You can now stack or roll up your strips if you need more room in your pan.
- Cover with water, add some vinegar, a "glug" will do. Place a cover over all and put in the oven for 30 - 45 minutes, at 300 degrees (medium heat). Watch the water level in your pan - you want to simmer your wool not bake it!!!
- Remove the pan from the oven, let it cool down, rinse and dry.
- This wool almost has a "speckled" appearance which can really give you a nice effect when hooking mittens or a rainbow trout (you can use more than one color on a piece, just keep each color in a separate shaker!!)

As always - please keep in mind any equipment used in your dye kitchen should not be used for your food cooking!

Aren't you just dyeing to get started??? Have fun!!!!

Kay Leisey is the proprietress of Homespun, one of the few shops in this area dedicated to the needs of rug hookers. Homespun is located at 57 Star Road, Hereford, PA 18056. You can reach Kay at 215-541-0565 or homespunhannah@yahoo.com. Visit www.homespunwoolens.com for more information about Homespun.

Tips From Heloise – Storing Rugs in Plastic Bags? -- Heloise reached out to the Guild for thoughts on a question raised – Is it OK to store a rug that has been cleaned to remove moth larva in a sealed plastic bag? The responses were a consistent “No!” Two replies say it well.

- From Cheryl Halliday – “I have an answer to the question from Alma Coia, a McGown teacher for many years. Alma says you need to place the rug in a cover that can breathe. Wrap the rug in either a cotton sheet or a pillow case and place lavender in with the rug. Never close the rug into an airtight container.”
- From Nina Seaman – “The answer is no, wool is organic and needs to breathe. Put in a plastic bag it would generate moisture and become mildewed. The best storage is in an old pillow case. This is the conventional wisdom from the Nova Scotia hookers.”

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

The Country Inn Rug School – September 7 – 12, 2014 – The Woodbound Inn in Rindge, NH is the location for this McGown Rug HookKrafters camp. The instructors this year will be Betty McCentic, Lois Dugal, Gail Walden, and Sarah Guiliani. For more information contact Camp Director Arline Bechtold-Apgar at 908-757-5257 or bechtoldt@comcast.net.

Rugs by the Sea (A Traditional Rug Hooking School) – September 14 -- 19 & September 21--26, 2014 – The popular rug hooking school held at the Chalfonte Hotel in Cape May, NJ will again be held for two weeks in September. The instructors for the first week will be Bev Conway, Chizuka Hayam, Michele Micarelli and Ali Strebel. The second week will feature Cherylyn Brubaker, Cammie Bruce, Diane Stoffel, and Margaret Wanger. For more information contact Norma Batastini at 973-746-2936 or nbatastini@gmail.com or Linda Woodbury at 862-253-4343 or linda.woodbury@gmail.com.

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.

Olde Cape Cod Rug School – November 14- 17, 2014 -- This new rug hooking camp will be held at the Resort and Conference Center at Hyannis, MA. Nancy Blood, Bev Conway, Sarah Guiliani, and Michele Micarelli will be the instructors. For more information, contact Camp Director, Norma McElhenny at 508-896-9283 or oldecapecodrugschool@gmail.com.

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

September 5, 2014 – Casual Hooking Day **

September 12, 2014 – Monthly Meeting – Members Program Workshop *

October 3, 2014 – Casual Hooking Day **

October 10, 2014 – Monthly Meeting – Hunterdon County 300th Celebration *

November 7, 2014 – Casual Hooking Day **

November 14, 2014 – Monthly Meeting – Hooking Through Wool (Kay Leisey) **

December 5, 2014 – Casual Hooking Day **

December 12, 2014 – Monthly Meeting – Holiday Gathering *

January 9, 2015 – Monthly Meeting -- Annual Auction *

January 9-11, 2015 – Annual Hooking Retreat (Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ)

February 13, 2015 – Monthly Meeting – Tavern Rug Design (Karl Gimber) *

March 13, 2015 – Monthly Meeting – Hooking in Woven Fabric (Kay Leisey) *

April 10, 2015 – Monthly Meeting -- (Paul Deluca, ColorQuest) *

May 8, 2015 – Monthly Meeting – TBA *

June 12, 2015 – Monthly Meeting – Picnic or Luncheon *

August 10-14, 2015 – Rug Hooking Camp (ESC School, Lambertville, NJ)

August 11, 2015 – Beginners’ Workshop (ESC School, Lambertville, NJ)

October 3 & 4, 2015 – Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill (Prallsville Mills, Stockton, NJ)

*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 a GPS is 314 State Highway 12, although that does not appear on the building.

** 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 for a GPS is 1Municipal 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 – Weezie Huntington – 609-477-4339 or weezie711@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

Mary Passerello – 908-782-1765 or mpassere@comcast.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 dmk17@ptd.net

Programs -- Ellen DiClemente – 908-284-9570 or ergot53@embarqmail.com

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

Secretary – Sue Woodworth – 908-273-3198 or srw0717@aol.com

Special Events – Open

Spring Fling – Nancy Sears – 410-627-8179 or njsears@ptd.net

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

Treasurer – Jean Laurence – 610-287-9278 or j_laurence@verizon.net

Dee Rosebrock – 609-771-0596 or deeroosebrock@aol.com

Guild’s Email List Policy - The HCRAG 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 group not solicit the membership as a whole.

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The Loop is the newsletter of the Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG). 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.

HCRAG CLASSIFIDES

Skeet Combs floor stand with wheels (for dragging) and tool tray.

well used and loved. (Being replaced by another Skeet Combs stand). Fabulous stand, that allows you to spin and tilt your frame (not included) like you are driving a bus. I attach my cutter and lamp to the tool tray, and there are holes for hooks.

New ones sell for \$350.

Price \$200.

Weezie 609-477-4339

Gruber 14" dia. hoop swivel lap frame. Perfect for rug hooking, punch needle, needlework. Swivels 360 degrees while base remains steady in your lap. Brand new--never used. Asking \$75.00

Sandy Francisco (harryfranc@yahoo.com)

Folding Lap Frame for Rug Hooking for Sale: This is a wonderful tilting lap or tabletop frame for rug hooking. This frame is lightweight and very sturdy yet collapses and easily disassembles for travel. Approximately 14.5 inches x 11.75 inches outside. The inside hooking area is a generous 11.75 inches x 9.25 inches. The frame folds down to a height of only 1.5 inches with the knobs removed. The gripper strips hold your pattern tightly and the underneath is open and unobstructed for your arms. The frame is adjustable to any angle for your complete comfort.

This a wonderful and affordable frame for beginners through advanced rug hookers!

Paid \$114.00, asking \$75.00

I'd be happy to send photos if you would like to see it. Or click the link below:

<http://www.iloverughooking.com/folapfrforru.html>

Call or Email for more information: Karen Gates 267-261-0746

kgfolkart@gmail.com

Universal Craft Floor Stands (Large and Small) hardwood construction, fully adjustable, folds down for easy storage, will easily hold round or oval hoops ~ \$35 for the larger one ~ \$25 for the smaller one.

17" X 15" hooking frame with attached gripper strips all four sides ~ \$45.

Contact Carol Kindt 908-782-7306