

Meeting Minutes October 2014

PRESENTATION

Our meeting began with a delightful presentation by Barbara Parry, creator of Foxfire Fibers. Barbara used stunning slides to tell her story of the yearly cycle of life on her sheep farm in Shelburn Ma. Starting out as a fiber enthusiast with little experience in raising sheep, she and her husband purchased a 200+ acre farm and jumped into the life of sheep farmers. In 17 years she has become a very knowledgeable and passionate caretaker of both her land and her sheep. Her love and respect for her animals, including her guard llama Crackerjack was very obvious.

Barbara brought along yarn and books that many of us found hard to resist.

OLD BUSINESS

The idea of having a group theme for us all was reintroduced. The theme is 'Weaving a Dream' and the idea is for all of us to make something for next April's meeting and for the summer NEWS display. Four examples of plans were presented – see if you can guess whose plans each was. 1. To weave light, airy, turquoise curtains as a reminder of relaxed years in the Caribbean. 2. To create the family tartan of Cape Breton in honor of a grandmother. 3. To weave an apron resembling one on a statue and in honor of a mother. 4. To make a cowl with a white ring from wool of an old favorite alpaca who had a white ring around his neck.

NEW BUSINESS

Vicki, Terri and Martha won ribbons at the fair!!!!

Melissa showed us a special Japanese bag that she will be teaching us all to make in a February workshop. We will all need to bring a lightweight fabric (handmade or not) and coordinating thread. The fabric should measure 13 x 36”.

NEWS has chosen its teachers and courses for next summer. It has a Facebook page that we were encouraged to 'friend'. Grants are available for certain classes – see the Facebook page for more details.

The idea of having special Study Groups was raised and a sign up sheet was passed to put down ideas for topics.

TIP JAR

Eileen demonstrated for all of us how to use the McMorran Yarn Balance apparatus. It is a great but simple tool in determining how many yards per pound there are in some of the yarns we pick up through swaps, at flea markets etc.

Margaret introduced us all to an English publication she has come to really enjoy. The magazine is "Yarn Maker: handspinning from fiber to textile" has all kinds of stories, tips and ideas on weaving as well as spinning. The magazine can be purchased using Pay Pay for 40 British pounds for the 6 yearly issues. (roughly \$50). If interested you can locate it on the internet at yarnmaker.co.uk

NEXT MEETING

THERE WILL BE NO NOVEMBER MEETING. WE WILL HAVE OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY POT LUCK, YANKEE SWAP ON DECEMBER 4.

Bring a fiber related swap gift of \$10 or under if you want to participate in the swap.