

Heritage Textile Arts Guild

Spring report

The Heritage Textile Arts guild meets the second Saturday of the month all year long. Summers are also rich with activities and workshops for various dyeing, botanical printing, felting, pine needle basket making, spinning and weaving instruction. We have a 'home base' meeting space at one members' barn, but try to meet quite often at other members' homes as the focus of activity changes. We frequently meet at a members' home to help with warping or setting up a loom. Much instruction is given to all members on various warping techniques by demonstrating on a new loom. We also have two sales each year: December and August, which take the place of that months' meeting. Sales include demonstrations and customer participation.

The October meeting was held at a members' home with instruction and demonstrating how to warp and set up her new loom followed by a short business meeting and show/tell..

The November meeting was held at another members' home for a 'spin in'. Several members brought their spinning wheels and drop spindles along with samples of wool they had spun. Prepared wool was used to demonstrate how to spin using various wheels and drop spindles. Everyone got to try their hand at the process using different wheels and different ways to combine colors and textures. A discussion was held on planning for the December sale and set up.

The December meeting was actually the annual Christmas sale at Coos History Museum. Many members brought items to sell and assisted with set up, sales, and demonstrations. Everyone enjoyed the very successful event.

January found us at yet a different members' home to discuss color and how we all choose colors for our work. We began with a review of color by watching a DVD from our library. We also have several new members and decided that our challenge for the next meeting was to create a name tag that reflected our own fiber and color interests.

February we returned to our 'home' in the barn with tables set up and ready for Pine Needle Baskets, take 2. We had to crowd a bit but everyone managed to make a basket. Amazing how different they all turned out! The name tags also helped us learn all the names of the new members. One member set up a blog for guild members to showcase our home studios and various projects.

As you all know, all activities during March and April have been cancelled due to the Corona Virus. Coos County has been mostly spared from this virus so far, for which we are all grateful. In the meantime we can communicate via electronics to keep in touch and continue to create waiting for the next time we can physically meet, which should result in massive sharing and exclaiming at our collective efforts!