

December 2011 program

Quilter, knitter, spinner, dyer, beginner weaver, Kathleen Cook has been fascinated by fiber in all its forms since the day her grandmother taught her to sew when she was eight years old. After a thirty-year teaching career, she is delighted to be able to play with fiber full time and concentrate on learning about textile history.



Program description:

Do you routinely examine textiles closely to see how they were made? Are you curious about how our ancestors were able to craft lovely yet utilitarian household items using simple tools and looms? If so, December's

program will answer some of your questions and perhaps raise more of them. Kathleen Cook, recipient of a PPWG grant to study Acadian weaving at the John C. Campbell Folk School, will share a few of the fascinating stories and historical tidbits she learned there about early North American textiles. Come touch the textiles, hear the songs, see the landscapes that inspired our seventeenth and eighteenth century pioneers.

December Spinning Sample by Judy Gearhart

Source: Shetland sheep I purchased from Weldon Walker 2½ years ago. I cleaned the fleece; carded, spun, and plied the yarn. I plan to knit a cardigan so I have many more skeins to spin and knit to reach my goal.



In Memory of Judy Ditmore by Sandy Hutton

Members of the fiber community are saddened to learn of the death of Judy Ditmore, former owner of Just Dyelightful and former Vice-President of the Pikes Peak Weavers Guild of Colorado Springs. Judy was very instrumental in early fiber arts festivals and fashion shows sponsored by PPWG. Many weavers in Colorado and elsewhere learned to weave, spin, dye, and knit from Judy. Since closing her store and moving to New Mexico, the colors and liveliness of Just Dyelightful has been missed by many. Judy died November 16, 2011 of cancer she had fought several times during the past. The last time I saw Judy was at her Interlacements vendor's booth at Convergence in 2010 at which time she shared with me that she was probably going to die. She said she was ready--that she had done everything. She led me over to the AVL booth and said to me, "But if I beat this, I'm going to buy this loom and weave what I've always wanted to weave." It was AVL's Jacquard loom. I'm sorry to lose a good friend and talented fiber artist and teacher.