

Rock Ledge Ranch Demo by Peggy Doney

Clippers, wheels and looms, dye pots and sheep, and PPWG volunteers came together on Rock Ledge Ranch's Sheep Shearing Demonstration on June 4th! Many people were educated in the processes that have to take place to be able to use the freshly shorn Merino wool. Shearing happened outside the old blacksmith building, was skirted, and underwent transformation in natural and rainbow dye pots. Examples of dyed skeins, fiber, dyes, and books were on display for attendees to handle. From there it was up into the barn loft where picking and carding, spinning, and weaving were happening. There were many comments about this being an eye-opener because they had no idea what the processes were going from sheep to shawl. One volunteer wrote "that directing the people to see the process from carding to spinning to weaving was a success. They seemed to get more out of learning the process rather than just wandering from one thing to another."

Some of the rabbit brush, walnut, and wattle-dyed fleece was over-dyed with indigo another day, giving some rich colors to be blended with the neutrals. The rainbow dyed fiber was taken to the Spring Too Fibers mill in Kiowa for washing and processing for future spinning. The difficulty with these fleeces is not just the heavy lanolin content but the enormous amount of vegetable matter throughout. It is a challenge to create the handspun yarn to have the handwoven and knited items on display from the previous year's clip. We have talked about the desire to expand on our set-up and what we did in order to improve for next year's event.

Volunteers are the backbone of any demonstration and to Sarah, Judy, WW, Maria, Doreen, Judi, Deb, Julie, Catie, Cheryl, and Kathleen who were able to come and share their infectious love of fiber, I want to say THANK-YOU again !

MEGA STUDIO SALE!

weaving/knitting yarns, books/magazines, tools, dyes, hand dyed & woven fabrics, dyed tees, wearable art, felting/spinning fibers, antique & modern spinning wheels, handwoven rugs/bags, yard goods, batiks, beads, buttons, quilting fabrics, handmade pottery, handspun yarns

14 artists: Judi Arndt, Claudia Birdsall, Susan Bowman, Barb Byerly, Edna Devai, Anne Evans, Sandy Hutton, Emily Jones, Jane Rock, Debra Scott, Linda Shaffer, Cozy Swickard, Beverly Weaver, Dottie Weir.

Saturday September 24, 2011 8 am - 4 pm rain or shine
at Susan Bowman's home, southwest Colo. Spgs.

6025 Hardwick Drive Colo. Spgs. CO 80906

more info: susbowman@aol.com 719 649-7601

(cash or check only please)