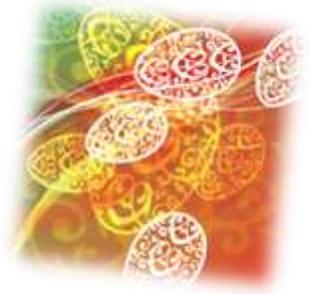




# FIBER TO FINISH GUILD NEWSLETTER

April 2014



## *From the weaver's bench:*

Recently we had a fire at my place. The neighbor was burning weeds in his field when the fire spread to our property. We lost 36 pecan trees and 3 plum trees. It was heartbreaking. In the process of replanting the orchard, we found the auger was nonfunctional. It was not used last growing season and didn't get its required lubrication! So a neighbor helped us auger holes for replanting.

The care and maintenance of equipment is something I've spent a great deal of time thinking about. The



equipment we use for our various fiber art activities need regular maintenance as well. If you use a spinning wheel, you know the importance of oiling and dusting the wheel. Even drop spindles may need repair as a result of multiple "drops."

As a weaver, the numerous tools I use require lubricating, cleaning, adjusting and sometimes replacing. Even needle work requires the replacement of needle threaders, needles and threads. Knitters and crocheters frequently replace bent or broken hooks and needles. It is all a part of our creative lives. Who doesn't want that "perfect" tool that feels good to the hand and makes your work go more smoothly?

Each of us also has come to the conclusion that we must maintain our equipment in order to continue to create. Having good tools always makes a task easier and more enjoyable. Although I don't advocate having the "very best of everything," I think you should have the best that you can afford. When it comes to tools for creating there is little discussion at my house. So it is worth acquiring decent tools and taking good care of them.

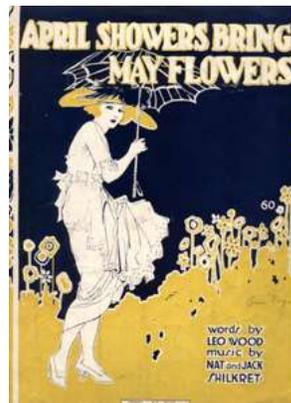
## April 19 Guild Meeting

**Belen Public Library - 10:30 a.m.**

Remember the change in time and place!!



*The April Program:* Chip Kimball will share textiles from her travels with us. Refreshments will be served at 10:45 with the program at 11:15. A brief business meeting will follow. We have reserved the room until 2:30 so feel free to bring a project to work on or your felted and embellished batt!



In 1557 a gentleman by the name of Thomas Tusser compiled a collection of writings he called A Hundred Good Points of Husbandry. In the April Husbandry section he wrote:

Sweet April showers  
Do spring May flowers

I'm reminded of how much fun I had recently carding wool for our felting program. It was such fun to use a wool carder that worked well. It continued to work well when I frequently stopped to clean it. I enjoyed the workings of the carder and the great results I got. It was worth all of the time and effort I spent! This tool was enjoyable and easy to use. It is certainly worth maintaining to have the pleasure of its use!

Keep your hands in fiber!  
Myra

**May 17th meeting:** at Belen Public Library at 10:30 a.m. Program to be announced.

**Proposed June 21 meeting:** Picnic in the great outdoors— Would you like to volunteer your home for our gathering? Contact Myra

### Questions?

Ask your officers or any member. If we don't know—we'll find out.

#### **2013 Executive Board**

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Send all correspondence to :  
**Valencia County Fiber to Finish Guild**  
**P. O. Box 1613 Belen, NM 87002-1613**

**FIBER TO FINISH IS ON THE WEB** Check out the guild's home on the web at [www.fibertofinish.org](http://www.fibertofinish.org) . You'll be able to see the newsletters on line – the minutes from each month's meeting are in the newsletter as well. There's also photos and notes posted from some of the classes and presentations the guild has given.



### Classified Advertisements:

**From Wendy Jacobs' estate:** Rambouillet-Cormo-Merino cross yarn in light gold, happy pink, dark and light natural colors \$17.00 each;  
40 inch Schacht wolf with stroller. 4 shaft. 6 treadle with bench and saddle bags; Reeds 12 and 8 dent reeds with cardboard packing leash sticks, stick and 6 boat shuttles, Swedish wooden swift, Horizontal Warping mill. 1 yard around, bobbin winder, and cone holder. \$2,000 or best offer.  
Handwoven magazines—many complete years \$1.50 each  
Contact Myra at [mchangt@yahoo.com](mailto:mchangt@yahoo.com) or 864-0876

**46" LeClerc maple loom** , 4 shaft 6 treadle, bench with storage included. A high castle shelf is perfect for mounting a lamp or draft. It is a sturdy loom perfect for rugs, tapestries as well as fine weaving. \$800 or best offer. Must sell to make room! Contact Myra @ [mchangt@yahoo.com](mailto:mchangt@yahoo.com) or 864-0876.



**Majacraft Little Gem Spinning Wheel** – Beautiful wheel, from New Zealand. With Woolee Winder and 2 extra woolee bobbins, 6 regular bobbins, wheeled tote, lazy kate. Breaks down for travel. \$800. Contact Mary at [mary@fourpinesalpacas.com](mailto:mary@fourpinesalpacas.com) or 505-379-4534.

*Do you have something to sell? Do you want to advertise a class or workshop? Send your ad to Mary Curik! [mary@fourpinesalpacas.com](mailto:mary@fourpinesalpacas.com) 505-379-4534*

### Upcoming events:

**Native American Weaving 1860-1880:** through April 13 at the Wheelwright Museum in Santa Fe. The display is from Ft. Lewis College in Durango, CO.

**Sandy Voss New Handwoven rugs:** March 14-April 30 at Marigold Arts, Canyon Rd., Santa Fe, NM.

## Progression by Terri Greenlee



When I first started spinning I was handed a blue toy-wheel spindle, a bit of wool, and the book *Hands On Spinning* by Lee Raven, and told, “Go for it!” In the beginning I did not enjoy the spinning experience and decided I could do without spindle spinning completely. I’ve heard similar stories from many other spinners. This lack of early success is one of the most discouraging situations for all new spinners. This is just Step 1 though.



I had a small flock of Angora goats to keep the grass mowed, but they required biennial shearing, and that mohair was piling up at my house. Turning it into yarn seemed preferable to throwing it away. There was tons of misinformation available on the Internet, such as using wool for garden mulch. What they don’t tell you is how long it takes to break down in the garden – years, or even never! Thankfully, I did not succumb to that method of using the wool/mohair, and saved myself a lot of unpleasant garden clean-up time. I did sell a little of the mohair and gave some away, but learning to spin and turning it into yarn was a necessity.



The local farming/spinning/crafting community is a wonderful resource and I soon met my first wheel, a Jensen Tina II. She is a lovely wheel, can spin anything, and is still my favorite. I learned to spin real yarn on that wheel. It took a few months of perseverance but eventually real spinning (by which I mean drafting, not just twisting a glob of wool) happened. That first yarn



was “interesting”. Other new spinners came along and we shared more experiences and lessons learned, namely give it time and it will eventually click. That was Step 2.

There were several of us in the Beginning Spinner phase and we started looking for spinning lessons from experienced teachers. I think our first teacher was Sue Phelps, a member of our guild and a mentor in the Las Arañas guild. We spent a couple of weekends learning whatever Sue wanted to teach us: techniques, fibers, tools and techniques. I remember opening silk hankies and drum carding wool.

After that we gathered often for spinning demonstrations at schools (the old blue spindle came in handy for the kids to use), public events, the Valencia County and Bosque Farms Fairs, Harvey House, you name it we were up for it.



I acquired more spinning wheels (Terri’s Law: You can never have too many tools) – a Lendrum that was later re-homed to Deanna Baca, a small and portable but fast Majacraft Little Gem, the Jensen Saxony my mom picked up for me in Paso Robles, CA, and very recently the Lois B antique flax wheel (see last month’s newsletter). The yarn I made was still not what I envisioned, but this was a time of Practice Practice Practice, Step 3.

Over the next few years we all took even more classes. Our teachers were experts with wide and varied experience. Joann Powers shared a wealth of knowledge about spinning and we gained some wonderful new tools such as the brass hook for test plying and the 3x5 card for sampling and recording specifics of the yarn under development.



Abby Franquemont came to Albuquerque and to the Taos Wool Festival in 2012, two events within the same year, where one of the things we learned was techniques for speeding up our spinning – making better yarn faster. Abby is especially well known for her spindle spinning classes like All Spindles All Day and whether we wanted to or not we practiced spindle spinning. My spindle spinning was getting better but by no means was it comfortable. I acquired quite a few more drop spindles thinking a better tool would make me a better spinner. Of course, that's not really how it works. Practice Practice Practice.



Joan Ruane brought us her cotton spinning class in 2012. Joan is a fun teacher and we learned more new techniques and acquired more tools; long draw and supported spinning with a tahkli spindle. Practice Practice Practice. Hey, we're spending a lot of time on Step 3 here!



Ann Szklarz went to IWC and took a 3 day intensive spinning class from Maggie Casey. Chip Kimball went to SOAR last year (2013) and took several classes. Each of us tries to bring back some new or reinforced knowledge from classes to share with the rest of us "Beginning Spinners". One of the questions Abby asked was, "What level of spinner are you?" and many of us answered beginner, even though we had been spinning for more than a couple of years by that time and producing acceptable yarn. Acceptable yarn is a subjective judgment, but for me it is yarn I can make something out of, in whatever size – sock yarn or sweater yarn and consistency – thick/thin or smooth, and repeatability – I can do it again. This is Step 4 and includes lots more Practice Practice Practice.



So here we are in 2014 and something interesting has happened: spindle spinning is fun. It is no longer a hated torturous process for ruining wool. I can pick up a spindle, draft unsupported, add the right amount of twist, and make yarn. This is the progression I am alluding to in the title. I've come full circle, and after lots of practice and many lessons from many different teachers, a spindle is now a tool I can use to make the kind of yarn I want. Eventually I want to be able to make more yarn faster, but for now experimenting with techniques to make specific types of yarn is challenging and I am enjoying the process.

