

Jacksonville Weavers' Guild

www.JaxWeaversGuild.org

March 2015 Issue

Judi Leatherberry, Editor

President's Message SHEEP AND POSSUMS

Anticipating my trip to New Zealand I envisioned pasture after pasture of grazing sheep and yarn shops everywhere with lots of skeins of wool for sale. In fact I even promised my children that I would NOT buy even an ounce of yarn no matter what happened. So when we left the big city of Auckland (where I had found only one sorry little yarn shop) and headed across country to see the glow worm caves I sat by the window just knowing that I would see lots of sheep in the pastures. No such luck! But the bus stopped at a center (tourist trap) where we were informed that if we were interested in purchasing great merino/possum garments, this was the place to buy it. Merino and Possum? Sheep wool yes, but certainly not that little creature with a prehensile tail that steals my oranges! Not the same possum - much larger with a big bushy tail brought to New Zealand from Australia for the fur trade back in the 1800's and now a big nuisance. Thus began an industry of blending merino wool with the fur of the possum, and it is absolutely luxurious! And no, I did not buy any garments!

Eventually I did see pastures of sheep and even visited a sheep station, but our travels did not include yarns shops. I actually found a wonderful store in Queenstown and it only took one - I broke my promise and purchased one -just one- skein of merino and possum and one very small skein of merino/possum/silk.

Judy

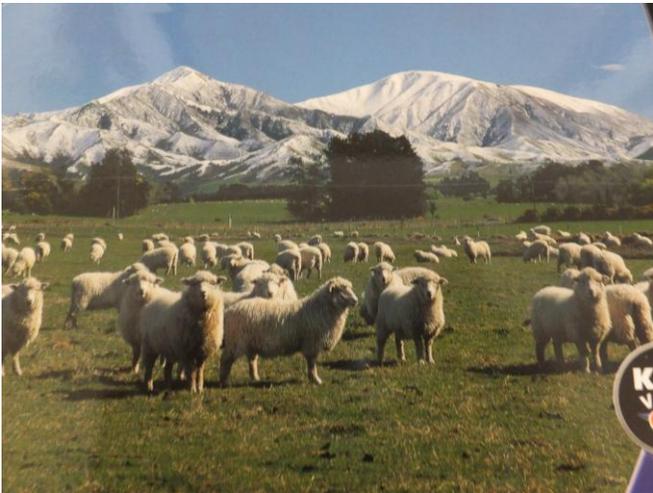


NEW ZEALAND PASTURES - A CHANGING SCENE

New Zealand, once a country where the national beast was sheep with a flock of over 70 million, the country now only raises approximately 30 million sheep. But those 30 million sheep produce more meat (where the \$ are) than the 70 million due to better breeding, feeding, and other management practices. Many of those acres of former sheep pastures are now being used to raise dairy cows and beef cattle - especially dairy. New Zealand ice cream is pure and absolutely wonderful as is the butter!

So as we traversed the North and South Islands of New Zealand I became accustomed to seeing a sheep pastures and dairy or beef cattle side by side. But what really surprised me were the herds of deer being raised in pastures for their meat. Big red deer are considered to be a pest in the wild, so are now rounded up and raised for the emerging lean meat market. Wish somebody would round up all the whitetail deer that eat my plants!!

Judy Jull



March Program -- Tapestry

Sidsel Moreb, president of the Gainesville Weaver's Guild and national winner of several HGA awards will present the March program - Beginning Tapestry. The program will take several hours so come with a brown bag lunch, a bent tip tapestry needle, a small pair of scissors, some scrap yarns, and lots of creativity.

Sidsel will bring pre-warped looms and simple designs for us to use. We will have a short business meeting first with show and tell, refreshments, and then begin our tapestry adventure with Sidsel. Hope you will enjoy!!

---Submitted by Judy Jull

From around the internet...Submitted by Susan Wallace

Erin Riley (<http://erinmriley.com/home.html>) translates "selfies" into large tapestries. She may be the only weaver to ever be covered by Playboy magazine: <http://www.playboy.com/articles/dream-weaver>



The clothing studio The Unseen has a collection of unusual color changing clothing. Chameleon-like pieces change appearance in reaction to environmental factors like wind, UV rays, and moisture. There is also a brainwave crystal headpiece and a jacket that reads human magnetism and reacts to the wearer's brain waves. See <http://tinyurl.com/ndgdjx2>



Looking backward in time, a Japanese Island specializes in "dorozome," or "mud-dyeing," a kimono dyeing and weaving technique: <http://tinyurl.com/kfmjzh7>

Information from Susan Wallace...about the Nametag Holders.

Hello, Guild members,

At the February meeting, I was asked to resend information about making nametag holders for the FTWG March 2016 conference.

Basic inside dimensions: 3 1/8" x 4 1/4". The finished inside width needs to be such that a 3" x 5" card can be easily inserted. Cord length = ~34-36" plus whatever is used for the attachment. We do not have an estimate of how many we will need, but probably 150-200.

(Please see your email for more information, including pictures.)

For your Pleasure...from our February Meeting!



Picture from the February Program - Weave a Picture by Susan Wallace...showing the front on the left, and the back on the right.

Using a variation of the Theo Moorman method (via Daryl Lancaster) and a simple pick up technique, weave strips of a picture printed on fabric (demonstrated on a four-shaft loom).

Beautiful, isn't it? Thanks, Susan!

**March is National Craft Month!
What will you be crafting?**



Show and Tell from our February Meeting



Gorgeous, aren't they?



We have so many talented weavers in the Guild!