



## May Program

May 27, 1 pm

\*\*\*\* Daytime Meeting \*\*\*\*

The Tale of the Little Grey Sheep, Chapter Two

Margaret B. Russell

at the Fiber Loft, Harvard, MA

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In 2001 there was a devastating outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease in England and the loss was overwhelming. It is one of the most infectious diseases known to "animal kind". Particularly affected was a little grey sheep known as the Herdwick. As this breed was (and still is) highly concentrated in one area of England, the Lake District, concern over the possible demise of the entire breed was legitimate. Unfortunately too many sheep lost their lives but fortunately not enough to terminate the breed. However, the overall loss delivered the numbing reality that the Herdwick was (and still is) too geographically isolated for the promise of a secure future.

Three women breeders, one in the UK and two in the USA, are working together to bring the Herdwick to the United States. If successful, this will provide a reserve population in the event the breed is involved in another calamity. Margaret will share the fascinating story about the sheep that has been described as having fleece similar to - a brillo pad. Once you have been introduced to this captivating little grey sheep, she is certain you will want to put the finishing touches on a piece woven from its wool.

Margaret B. Russell is a hand weaver with over 30 years of experience and a lifetime appreciation of this ancient art. She grew up listening to tales of ancestral weavers and textile workers from Ireland and England. Margaret takes pride in her connection with these past fiber artisans and her hand-woven pieces reflect a desire to uphold familial tradition.

All pieces are woven exclusively of natural fibers with a focus on the timeless beauty of simple functional design. Margaret's specialty is primitive, rare, and threatened British sheep breeds. She works to promote awareness of their fragile future through research, articles, and presentations. She is weaving an ever-growing, sizable personal collection of "Preservation Wraps" from the wools of these storied breeds.



## June 24 – Annual Meeting, Guild Challenge, Potluck Supper and Yankee Swap

The annual meeting and potluck supper will be held at Dorothy Solbrig's house on June 24 at 6:30. Please bring the following:

- a dish to share
- a place setting
- your guild challenge items
- a new fiber related item (\$10-\$15) for a Yankee Swap

## DUES ARE DUE!

It's that time of year again. Dues remain at \$25. Checks should be made payable to NVWG. Laura Busky will collect at the May and June meetings, or you can mail directly to her at 96 South St, Berlin MA 01503. Anyone who doesn't renew by the October meeting will miss out on official guild mailings.

## CONVERGENCE, ANYONE?

You've probably heard that Convergence is being held in July, in Providence RI. Is anyone interested in a field trip to see the exhibits? The vendors and exhibits are open July 16-19. If we have enough interest, we will pick a day and carpool down. Contact Laura Busky ([laura@northbrookalpacas.com](mailto:laura@northbrookalpacas.com) or 978-838-7391) with preferred date(s). For more information on the conference, <http://www.weavespindye.org/convergence2014>

## Treasurer Needed

The guild has position open as treasurer. This is a two year position and involves collecting membership dues, maintaining the membership list and banking for the guild. Please contact Laura Busky for more details.

## Wanted: Program Ideas

Do you have an idea for a program? Input from members is always welcomed. If you have an idea about a program you would like to see presented to the guild please speak with Carol Vales.

## Used Looms and Equipment

### Loom:

Eugenie Smith, [eugeniesmith@charter.net](mailto:eugeniesmith@charter.net) has a loom for sale: Harrisville 36" 4H with bench (purchased 2001), Warping mill, Tensioning device, 4 cone stand, Bobbin Winder, Shuttles, Variety of yarn, Extra heddles added. Loom is in great condition. Please contact her for more information.

### For sale:

100+ year old, 2 shaft, 30" Hammett Floor Loom. Includes heddles & 6-dent reed. No raddle. In great shape for a 100 year old loom! Asking \$350. Pick up only. Contact by email at: [ericasalpacas@hotmail.com](mailto:ericasalpacas@hotmail.com), or phone: 413-896-7759.

## Events

### New Hampshire Sheep and Wool- May 10 and 11, 2014

<http://www.nhswga.com/index.php/sheep-and-wool-festival>

### Massachusetts Sheep and Wool- May 24 and 25, 2014

<http://masheepwool.org/>

### Pleasant Mountain Fiber Arts Workshop- June 20-22

Once again we are pleased to present a three day instructional fiber arts event June 20-22 in Brownfield, Maine. We're really excited about the selection of workshops this year. The program consists of 37 wonderful, full- and half-day workshops and includes spinning, knitting, rigid heddle weaving, tapestry weaving, a wide variety of felting techniques, Dorset buttons, wool applique, quilting, Amigurumi crochet, working with angora and angora rabbit care, proddy rug technique, book binding, punch needle and more!

Full details about the workshops and registration information can be found on our website: [www.pleasantmtfiber.com](http://www.pleasantmtfiber.com). As you browse through the workshop descriptions on the website you'll see some instructors from previous years, as well as, many new ones.

### Lexington Chamber of Commerce's Autumn Arts & Crafts Festival- September 20<sup>th</sup> – now accepting applications.

The Lexington Chamber of Commerce invites you to submit an application to its 21st annual Autumn Arts and Crafts Festival on the lawn of the Lexington Visitors Center (1875 Massachusetts Ave., Lexington) on Saturday, September 20th (10am-4pm). This popular annual tradition features nearly 100 exhibiting artisans from the region whose hand-crafted items include: Ceramics, Jewelry, Woodwork, Paintings, Photography, Fiber Arts, Glass, Wax, and more. Fall in New England can be experienced in this lovely setting, directly opposite the Lexington Minuteman statue, Lexington Battle Green, and

historic Buckman Tavern. Free admission and handicap-accessible. ("Raindate" is 9/21/14). For more information: [events@lexingtonchamber.org](mailto:events@lexingtonchamber.org)

## **Heddles & Treadles 2014 – Calling all Weavers: Ready, Set, Weave!!!**

The dates are set for the Weavers of Western Mass Guild (WWM) third juried fiber arts show, ***Heddles and Treadles***. The show will open with the Eastworks Friday night Gallery walk on **October 10<sup>th</sup>** and will be on exhibit through the end of that month. WWM invites and encourages all weavers to participate, from beginners to advanced. Weavers will also be able to have un-juried items for sale during the show dates. Downloadable entry forms and further instructions/submission dates/entry information & fees will be on our website, [www.weaversofwesternmass.org](http://www.weaversofwesternmass.org) around May 1, 2014. Entries will be due to WWM by September 12<sup>th</sup> – exact details will be on the entry form and website. For more information, contact coordinator, Lynn Foster (413)498-2278 or email [foster.lynn@gmail.com](mailto:foster.lynn@gmail.com) and check our website, [www.weaversofwesternmass.org](http://www.weaversofwesternmass.org)

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### **NVWG Officers**

At Large	Reba Maisel
Historian	Dorothy Solbrig
Hospitality	Carol Vales
Librarian	Kathy Tappan
NEWS Rep	Susan Targove
Treasurer	Laura Busky
Webmaster	Penny Lacroix
Co-Chair	Penny Lacroix
At Large	Lisa White
Co-Chair	Laura Busky
NEWS Rep	Kathy Tappan
Newsletter	Krista Hampsch
Program Director	
Publicist	Arlette Stawasz
Secretary	Judith Shangold

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### **Guild Library**

A listing of the books and magazines owned by the guild is located at:

<http://www.nvwg.org/library.html>