

fiber forum 2015

Bimonthly e-Newsletter July 2013 Issue 08

www.sefiberforum.org/



Cotton

Cotton is a soft, fluffy staple fiber that grows in a boll, or protective capsule, around the seeds of cotton plants of the genus *Gossypium*. The fiber is almost pure cellulose. Under natural condition, the cotton balls will tend to increase the dispersion of the seeds.

The plant is a shrub native to tropical and subtropical regions around the world, including the Americas, Africa, and India. The greatest diversity of wild cotton species is found in Mexico, followed by Australia and Africa.[1] Cotton was independently domesticated in the Old and New Worlds. The English name derives from the Arabic (*al*) *qutn* which began to be used circa 1400 CE.

The fiber is most often spun into yarn or thread and used to make a soft, breathable textile. The use of cotton for fabric is known to date to prehistoric times; fragments of cotton fabric dated from 5000 BCE have been excavated in Mexico and the Indus Valley Civilization. Although cultivated since antiquity, the cotton gin invention so lowered the cost of production that led to its widespread use. Today it is the most widely used natural fiber cloth in clothing.

from Wikipedia

President's Note

“Do not be angry with the rain; it simply does not know how to fall upwards.”

- Vladimir Nabokov

I welcomed the first few days of rain with the excitement of any fiber artist who has three days off work with a good excuse not to do her garden chores. I could wash some fleece, spin or drum card and I did all of that, with joy, for two and a half days. On the 3rd day I was tricked by a few hours of sun to start a new durable felt project outside. That soggy piece is still outside, patiently waiting for the next break in the clouds.

It's been raining in Atlanta for two weeks now and although I'm grateful I don't have to water my plants, enough is enough. A little sunshine would be good.

On this rainy morning I'm searching online for my next fiber adventure but it looks like the next event isn't until September! Can this be true? Surely there's something sooner! Once found, even in the rain, I'll go, and fall in love with the smell of wet sheep all over again. Can you help me?

If you know of any upcoming fiber events in the southeast region (ok, just about anywhere!) please e-mail me: chairman@sefiberforum.org

And here's a question for you: Why don't sheep felt in the rain?

Send us your answer and we'll post the funniest in our next newsletter.

Until then, enjoy your summer and spend time doing your favorite fiber projects, rain or shine.

Take care,
Kristen

New Mailing Address!

Southeast Fiber Forum Association (or SFFA)
PO Box 241243
Memphis, TN 38124-1243

Chair Notes

Instructor applications are already coming in for Fiber Forum 2015! But, if you'd like to apply to teach a 2-1/2 day workshop, there is still time! Applications are due by July 15th and you can complete and submit the Instructor Application Form one of two ways:

Online: Complete the form and upload the required attachments online by visiting [this link](#) using any device with a web browser.

Offline: Or, download a [PDF version](#) of the Instructor Application Form, fill it in offline at your convenience, and click the Submit button at the bottom of the form when you have finished entering your information. If you choose this option, you will have to submit the required attachments by email to: info@fiberartsalliance.org or by mail to: SEFAA, 1705 Commerce Dr. NW, Atlanta, GA 31014, Attn: SFFA 2015.

Please note that separate applications must be completed for each proposed workshop. And, please do not hesitate to email info@fiberartsalliance.org or to telephone 678-235-4328 if you have any questions about Fiber Forum, the Instructor Application or the required attachments.

It's exciting to see the proposals coming in, and it's going to be VERY difficult to narrow down the field. You can be sure, though, that we'll choose a diverse, interesting, and well-balanced slate of workshops that include both new techniques and basic instruction so that everyone will find workshops that intrigue and challenge them.

Suzi Gough
Fiber Forum 2015 Chair

Southeast Fiber Forum Association Bi-Annual Conference

April 16 - 19, 2015

Registration begins:

October 1 2014 for members

October 15, 2014 for non-members

website: www.sefiberforum.org for information and download forms

Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts

556 Parkway, Gatlinburg, TN 37738

<http://www.arrowmont.org/>

865-436-5860

Contact Arrowmont directly later in 2014 for room reservations

SFFA Scholarships 2015

Scholarships will be available! Please be sure to also complete an application for classes and send with the scholarship form.

This is an exciting and rich opportunity for any student in the Fiber Arts. Ten scholarships for class tuition, room and board and Fiber Forum membership will be awarded.

Questions? contact Micheala Macintosh at michaela9749@att.net

Southeast Fiber Forum Association 2013-2015 Board of Directors

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chairman@sefiberforum.org

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sgough@bellsouth.net

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webster@sefiberforum.org

Editor's Notes and Call for Articles

This month I included a nice fluffy cotton boll and a little blurb about cotton, replacing the animal fiber related images on the front page. Since the early development of my benches, cotton has been the fiber of choice for 99.9% of my pieces. A few customers has requested Tencel. Along the way, I have tried other cord but always I come running back to cotton for the cord. It is easier on my hands as I weave a seat or back.

I am playing with tapestry and rug techniques thanks to Tommye Scalin at the 2011 SFFA class and discussions with Jason Collingwood and his students at the 2013 SFFA. So wool and linen are being considered for more 'artistic' benches in the future. Then there is hemp and other fibers to think about also.

As we are well over a year away from the 2015 forum at Arrowmont, I would like to request articles from you members sharing some aspects concerning the 'growing', 'harvesting', processing, spinning, and using of various plant and animal fibers. Along the way, possibly others may get the 'bug' to expand their world of fiber. A page or two is all that you need to think about. I can help edit if you wish. Images can be used also.

I try to get the newsletter out every two months with a deadline of the 25th of the previous month. (i.e. June 25th for the July issue)

-Walt Turpening, editor (walt.turpening@att.net)

SFFA Website

After being the Webmaster for SFFA 2013, I had originally decided to step down with the completion of Piedmont Fiber Guild's work on SFFA 2013. However later in April, withdrawal symptoms started to set in and I decided to continue as Webmaster, but with the intention of completely redesigning the Website. If you have checked the website recently <http://sefiberforum.org/> you will see that it now looks different. I still have some more changes to make, but they will be along similar lines. I hope that you like the new format. If you have any comments or suggestion, please e-mail me at webster@sefiberforum.org.

While I can check the layout and format with a number of different browsers, it's always possible that it may look different on your viewer of choice. If there are any problems please let me know.

At SFFA2013, I requested that you send me pictures you had taken while you were there, so that I could post them on the website. So far the response has been underwhelming! Other than pictures from our own Guild members, I have only had one other response so far. At the present time, I have only used SFFA pictures in the slide show on the "Home" page, but in due course I will also put them on the Gallery page.

Maurice Blackburn
SFFA Webmaster

Upcoming Events in the Region

Arkansas

Diamond State Fiber Festival

Greenwood, AR

October 4-5, 2013

diamondsheepfarm.com/diamond-state-fiber-festival.php

Arkansas Fiber Arts Extravaganza

Hot Springs, AR

December 6-7, 2013

arfiberartsextravaganza.com

Florida

Florida Fiber In

Orlando, FL

September 20-22, 2013

floridafiberin.org

Georgia

Georgia Alpaca Fest

Pine Mountain, GA

September 13-15, 2013

gafiberfest.com

Kentucky

Kentucky Wool Festival

Frankfort, KY

October 5-7, 2013

kywoolfest.org

North Carolina

Craft Fair of Southern Highlands

Asheville, NC

July 18-21 & October 17-20

southernhighlandguild.org

Everything Fiber Yard Sale

Black Mountain, NC

August 24, 2013

nicethreadsgallery.com

Southeast Animal Fiber Fair

October 25-27, 2013

July 15 workshop registration opens

Asheville, NC,

saffsite.org

Knit & Crochet Show

Charlotte, NC

October 2-6, 2013

knitandcrochetshow.com

Texas

Kid 'n Ewe & Lamas Too

Boerne, TX

November 8-10, 2013

kidnewe.com

Virginia

Fall Fiber Festival

Montpelier, VA

October 5-6, 2013

fallfiberfestival.org

Shenandoah Valley Fiber Festival

Boyce, VA

September 28-29, 2013

shenandoahvalleyfiberfestival.com/

West Virginia

West Virginia Fiber Festival

Reedsville, WV

September 7-8, 2013

wvfiberfest.com/

This seminar has been canceled

The instructor has sent us notification that it may be rescheduled at a future time.

HERITAGE SKILLS WEAVING SEMINAR

Co-sponsored by: The Tennessee Family and Community Education Council
and The University of Tennessee Extension

Monday, September 30–Thursday, October 3, 2013

Clyde M. York Training Center, Crossville, TN 38572

Instructor, Ellen Dorosh