

Blue Ridge Fiber Guild Meeting Notes
September 21, 2024
Western Watauga Community Center

- 1. Call to Order-** Andrea Vail called the meeting to order.
- 2. Recognize visitors, new members-**There were 14 people in attendance including a visitor, Ira. Three people attended via zoom including President Mona Alderson who is on vacation.
- 3. Cares and Concerns-** Janeene Ross reported that her husband has had some setbacks recently. He flipped his tractor and was injured. He is having further testing done for lung issues. Rita Collie asked that we be aware of the health concerns of her nephew Clay. Vickie Skywark happily announced the upcoming birth of her first great grandchild, Cal Comet.
- 4. Motion to Approve Minutes-**Kelsey Wagner motioned to approve minutes from July meeting. Mary Valante seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 5. Treasurer's Report-**Betty Womack reported a balance of \$2455.11. A donation of \$290 was made by Vicki Skywark from the sale of yarn donated by Unwound.
- 6. Busker's Fest -**The Fest is held on the first Friday of October, and is a sidewalk celebration of the arts. This year's dates are Friday Oct 4 (5-9 pm) and Sat Oct 5 (12-9pm).<https://www.watauga-arts.org/buskersfest>
Karen Dendiu will be selling at the festival and others are encouraged to do so as well. All sales will be directly with the artist, not through the guild. Vicki Skywark encouraged sales or demonstrations by the guild as it is part of our commitment to engage the community in fiber arts. Additionally, member time, travel costs and other expenses can be counted toward totals for the Arts Council grant. Vicki moved that the guild participate in busker's Fest and Jeanne Lawrence seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- 7. Sales Tax-**With very few exceptions, sales of goods in NC are subject to sales tax; this includes handcrafted items.

The vendor must collect the tax and remit it to the State. Vendors must register with the State and file reports at intervals based on the amount of tax collected. The Guild is not registered with the State as a vendor, therefore, each member is responsible for taking care of her sales tax obligations.

- 8. Grant Opportunities-** Watauga Arts Council grant in the amount of \$2700 has been submitted. Mona Alderson, Andrea Vail and Vicki Skywark worked on the submission. The time frame for the grant is July 2024- June 2025. This matching grant could provide funds for community outreach enhancement. Items supplied by the guild such as teaching time, travel time, materials and supplies can all be counted toward the guild's portion of matching "funds".

9. Committee Reports:

Programs- October- Sali Gil- Johnson and Jane Campbell will host a hands-on weaving class at Watauga Arts Council. This class will be open to the public at no charge, although a donation is encouraged. People attending should bring scissors and scraps of yarn. Small woven items will be made.

Sali Gil- Johnson requested that when a hands-on activity, which is open to the public (as in October), is held following a guild meeting, that a designated ending time for the guild meeting be set so that people attending a class can be told what time to arrive.

November- Karen Dendiu will lead a needle felting workshop at the Western Watauga Community Center. Karen would like to know how many plan to attend. Nine people who were present planned to attend.

Membership- Beth Reavis was not in attendance, but reported a membership total of 44 people. Pam Kicklighter passed around a sign up sheet on which members were to list areas of skill and interest.

Exhibits and Shows-The retreat to Wild Acres was enjoyed by all. This event can be annual. Susan Payne (not in attendance)

suggested via Andrea that financial assistance could be considered in the future and that the time frame for the retreat might be extended. Susan created a binder containing artist bios for the Edgewood show. It was shared at the meeting. Folks were asked to generate color copy for the binder to be used at upcoming shows. The guild will not participate in Edgewood in 2025 as groups rotate every other year.

Watauga Arts Council- The guild will show in October. Set up is October 2 at 10 am. Please be on time. Registration is in the jot form online. Two to three items may be shown. The Arts council commission is 30%. Reception will be Oct 18, 5-7 pm. Take down is Oct 31, 10 am. Mona will transport items for artists who wish to participate in the Johnson County show immediately following. Please indicate in jot space if you want your work to be moved to the Johnson county show. The reception for that show is Nov. 1, 4-6 pm.

Ashe county will possibly have a show in the Fall of 2025. All agreed that there was interest in applying for that show.

Resources- Pam Kicklighter shared that MAFA, to which we belong through the guild, will have a big conference in June 2025 in Pennsylvania. Registration opens in February. www.mafafiber.org

Members discussed the purchase of a piece of equipment for a spinning wheel that was acquired for potential use by guild members. Rita Collie requested \$139 for the piece with the intention that the wheel be available for check out and use by the guild. Vicki Skywark said that currently the bylaws read that a purchase of over \$50 be approved by the guild, and Mona Alderson said that purchases be considered by the resource committee. After discussion, the three members of the resource committee present agreed with those requesting the purchase that the funds be spent. Rita then said that she would cover the cost of the item.

Show and Share- Vicki Skywark shared items for the great grand baby. Margie Cassan shared a quilted Christmas pillow.

Adjourn- The meeting was adjourned.

Program- Kelsey Wagner presented a show and tell and power point presentation of her extensive fiber work in Thailand.

Submitted by Margie Cassan September 23, 2024