

April Spinning Sample by Heidi Bates



The spinning sample for April was one of my first attempts at long draw in the fashion that Norman Kennedy taught at his spinning workshop last year. Norman mentioned that he favored Romney sheep fleece for his projects and I wanted to give it a try. I searched one of my favorite groups on Ravelry, a social networking website for knitters, crocheters, spinners, dyers, and weavers, for some possibilities in hand-dyed Romney fiber. That led me to the popular website Etsy, which allows the general public a medium in which to sell handmade items. I found this lovely blend of lilac, purples, and grey that I used to spin while trying out my newly learned skills. I learned quite a bit while spinning these 4 ounces about the long draw technique. I'm still practicing too. Wool I'm finding out does act quite a bit different than other fibers for spinning long draw. I plan to use the yarn to make some nice mittens.

President's Notes by Susan Bowman

Isn't the title for Colorado Weavers Day: *Connections*, apropos? The Handweavers Guild of Boulder "hopes that everyone who attends will connect with fiber, other weavers, and spinners from across the state, as well as those who have gone before us and those who will carry on." The word "connections" can have a warm fuzzy feel or it can evoke thoughts of technology which isn't always warm and fuzzy!

I knew we were a "connected" guild but didn't realize just how connected until recently looking at an email folder for PPWG on my computer. I was astounded to find over 1100 emails for this guild year! Certainly this is a sign of the energy and activity levels within PPWG, probably one of the more energetic guilds that I have belonged to in my 25+ years of weaving. This got me to thinking about how things have changed in the last 25 years. PPWG members are among the many contemporary weavers that have become very savvy about technology. We use computers and software to design textiles, drive our looms, subscribe to electronic newsletters/magazines, listen to speakers via podcast, communicate globally via email and web sites, and transact all manner of e-commerce related to our craft. It's exciting to think about what the next 25 years might bring.

Still and all, technology only provides tools that help us do things more effectively and efficiently. Technology won't (yet) design our textiles, warp our looms, or throw the shuttle. Thankfully, that still takes the creativity, eye and hand of the craftsperson and artist, which I imagine is why weaving continues to captivate us as much today as it did weavers throughout history.

I'm looking forward to the April 9th program, hearing Helen Summers speak and show us her wonderful handwoven fashions!