



Mayflower Chapter Newsletter November 2013

Fiber Arts Presentation by Rose Ann Hunter

The Mayflower Chapter welcomed Rose Ann Hunter to our November meeting. She's originally from Ohio and she began her journey as a fiber artist early by learning to knit in Junior High School. Rose Ann told us she started with rag rugs, showing her blue crocheted rag rug as an example. She's been a textile structuralist for 37 years now and recalls going to the mills in New England where she found fabric she could knit with, stating, "you need to gauge your needles to the fabric." She recycles fabrics that are sewn, knitted or crocheted into unusual and creative works of folk art.

Due to necessity, earlier times focused on recycling materials and this history was quite interesting. Rose Ann explained much of the history including the early bed rugs and the use of rugs in homes. She was very fortunate to be chosen in 2005 as craftperson-in-residence at Old Sturbridge Village in traditional rugmaking 1790 to 1850. This time period was chosen because after this time the Industrial Revolution took hold and many hand processes were converted to machine processes. Rose Ann lectures at museums, conferences and guilds throughout New England and the US.



As part of her talk, Rose Ann showed us examples of many unusual techniques, including the Shaker Confetti Rug where fabric strips are knitted and the result looks like proddy. She explained one method of transferring patterns which involved the use of oil cloth where a needle was used to prick a design onto the backing and embers were then pushed through the holes to make the design visible. Another interesting technique was the beaded wool rug with standing wool on its edge, looking similar to quilling. She spoke of yarn sewing, reed stitches, caterpillar stitches, and the Shaker washboard technique. Rose Ann has created many many unique pieces, even knitting one-of-a-kind jewelry and quilly bracelets that look like flowers.

Rose Ann is considering retiring from the Inn and inn keeping so that she can spend her time teaching, doing workshops and lectures, as well as writing books that will describe these lost techniques and how she has brought them forward to the present day.

We greatly enjoyed her workshop which consisted of creating a sheep ornament using her unique techniques and we thank her for her time.

Examples of Rose Ann's work:



Donna Allen displays her finished sheep



Rose Ann's Sheep Samples:



Show and Tell

Robyn Hodges shows off her craft trunk, complete with unique fiber appliqués



A unique use of plaid colors by Barbara Churchill



Beautiful scene by Dot Bickford



An autumn rug by Ginny Shannon



An owl by Sharon Clarke



Upcoming Board Vacancies

Dot Woodle, Hospitality and Sandra Porter, Programs have generously contributed their time over the past several years and would like to step down after this year. If you are interested in contributing in one of these positions, please contact one of them or Jenna Sleeper.

The 2014 Mayflower Challenge!

The vote has been tallied and the winning idea for 2014 is **NAME TAG**. We look forward to seeing the creative creations that our members will come up with regarding this new challenge.

Mayflower Calendar

- **December 14th**
 - Ravishing Red Hospitality Team (Leader: Jane Sittnick) POTLUCK
 - Event: Christmas Celebration
 - This year, instead of the Yankee Swap and Wool Exchange, we will be exchanging a wool piece (hooked, felted, etc), approximately 9 x 9" in size that you make. Please gift wrap your piece, and don't forget to sign your name on the back. This will be a wonderful chance for everyone to share handmade pieces with each other.
 - We will also be engaging in a separate more traditional gift swap (value \$15-\$20).
 - Members are welcome to participate in either or both exchanges.

- **January 18th**
 - Board Members Hospitality Team

- Event: Home Bee, downstairs at the church
- **February 15th**
 - Gorgeous Green Hospitality Team (Leader: Happy DiFranza)
 - Event: Big Bee
- **March 15th**
 - Yowza Yellow Hospitality Team (Leader: Jeanie Crockett)
 - Rug Journey – Sandra Porter and Jenna Sleeper
- **April 12th**
 - Bodacious Blue Hospitality Team (Leader; Maggie Cowell)
 - Guest Speaker: Susie Stephenson, Primitives
- **May 17th:**
 - Ravishing Red Hospitality Team (Leader; Jane Sittnick)
 - Lois Dugal, Embellishments

- **June:** Strawberry Festival, date & location TBD

Upcoming External Events

Fiber Arts Exhibit

This exhibit features 60 years of designing and making items of Traditional Rug Hooking by Jeanne Fallier of Westford.

Sundays, from noon to 2 pm for the month of November at the Parish Arts Center, Boston Rd and Lincoln Street, Westford, MA.

Region 1 Hook In – Sat, March 22, 2014

This annual event will take place in Westford, so don't forget to mark your calendars.

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Editor's Notes:

Please send your rug pictures to Susan Russo to post on the website.

If you are interested in hosting this year's Strawberry Festival, please contact one of the board members.