Fall Spinning Retreat

Saturday, November 17, 2012
9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Black Bear meeting room, Poplar building
Graves Mountain Lodge in Madison County, VA

www.Dog House Yarns.com

Please join us for a relaxing day of spinning with good food, good friends, and lots of creative techniques at the Dog House Yarns 2nd Annual Fall Spinning Retreat at Graves Mountain Lodge on November 17.

This year we will be in the Black Bear meeting room in the Poplar Lodge building which is tucked in the woods in the midst of the Graves Mountain property. Although smaller than the room we usually use in the main building, the room at Poplar Lodge is brighter and has its own kitchenette so it will be easier for us to furnish a variety of refreshments for the morning and during our afternoon break. We will drive over to the main lodge for a hearty, family style meal at lunch time.

Melissa Yoder Ricks from the Wild Hare Fiber Studio in Front Royal will be our featured speaker and the theme this year will be “Building on Tradition: Journey to Creative Spinning”. Although it is helpful if you are already a spinner, you do not have to know how to spin or own a spinning wheel to attend.

MORNING

Registration: 9 to 10 a.m. Check in with us, make some friends, spin, and enjoy the fall morning until the program begins. Note: pre-registration required.

10 a.m. – Melissa will begin the morning with a short history of spinning before she demonstrates the use of a drop spindle. She will also offer some tips on perfecting your spindle spinning. We will have spindles and several helpers available to assist in the afternoon for anyone who would like to practice the techniques.

Melissa will then move on to drafting. She believes that creative yarns are based on solid traditional techniques and not just yarn gone wild. She will go over several drafting techniques including a discussion about what usually works best with which fibers and how the way that a fiber has been prepared and blended can affect the technique you’d want to use.

Next we’ll work on plying our spun fibers into yarns. In addition to providing helpful tips to enhance our basic plying skills, Melissa will spend time teaching us how to Navajo ply, a technique in which a single yarn is plied back onto itself. Although this is a relatively easy technique once it’s been mastered, many spinners find it confusing at first so Melissa is going to make sure that everyone is comfortable with how to do it.

Lunch: We will break for lunch at noon and drive over to the main Lodge where lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. Lou Messa, a well-known Madison County artist, will have some of his original artwork and prints on display in the downstairs lounge. Enjoy the food, browse the artwork, or sit on the porch and enjoy the view of the valley until the afternoon program begins. Melissa will be available to answer individual questions.
**AFTERNOON**

2 p.m. – **Show and tell.** Show off some of the yarns you have spun or items you’ve made from them. We will also talk about the more unique wheels at the retreat.

At the conclusion of Show and Tell, Melissa will wrap up any parts of the morning program that weren’t completed before lunch. She will then move on to **Creative Spinning** and demonstrate some of the techniques that she teaches in her longer classes. These include core spinning, coil spinning, spinning locks, and others if time allows. The purpose of this part of the program is to establish your familiarity with the techniques and not to provide an in-depth, hands-on class although Melissa will be able to help you individually later in the afternoon. We will be offering her longer classes in 2013 at our shop.

Melissa also plans to bring some finished items showing how she has incorporated her creative spinning into her knitted items.

**Sit and spin:** After the program you can sit and spin until we end at 4:30. We will have sample fibers available to spin and Melissa will be there to assist you. We’ll also have several wheels and some drop spindles for use by anyone who doesn’t have their own.

**Overnight accommodations:** If you would like to remain for dinner Saturday night or stay overnight, please make reservations directly with Graves Mountain Lodge: 540-923-4231.

**Vendors:** Due to the smaller room we are using this year, our vendors will be limited to Wild Hare Fiber Studio, our shop, and small displays from several past vendors.

**Registration fee:** $60 includes morning and afternoon sessions, all you can eat Graves Mountain Lodge lunch, morning/afternoon beverages and snacks, door prizes, a selection of sample fibers to spin, and an opportunity to sit and spin with new friends and old.

**Maximum Participants:** The size of the Black Bear meeting room will limit us to no more than 30 registered participants. We hope to return to the larger meeting room next year.

**Directions and Registration Form:** Please visit our website for directions and the form.

**Instructor Information:** **Melissa Yoder Ricks** began her long career in the fiber arts when her great-grandmother taught her to crochet when she was a little girl. By the time she was in seventh grade she had taught herself to knit. A flax wheel that had been in her family for generations filled her with dreams of someday doing her own spinning. Over the years, her pursuit of knowledge about the fiber arts has resulted in her own business, the **Wild Hare Fiber Studio**, in Front Royal.

Melissa sees the process of creating hand-dyed and hand-spun yarn as part of a journey. It begins with the natural fibers that she spins and dyes, and it continues as she and others knit, crochet, or weave them into finished projects. As a teacher, she also passes her knowledge on to new generations of spinners.

Melissa has become well-known in our region as the instructor of a number of creative spinning techniques. She will demonstrate many of them as part of our spinning retreat. She continues her journey as a spinner by constantly exploring how to combine several techniques in creative ways.

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