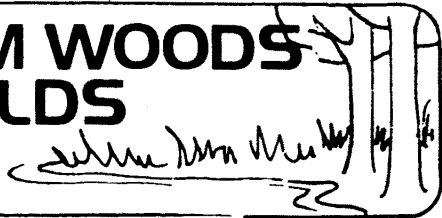


FROM WOODS & FIELDS



Connie Magoffin

Summertime is holiday time for natural dyers and this issue is my last chance to communicate a few thoughts on this summer's potential dyeing activities:

I. Lichen dyeing. The lichen dyeing workshop held April 28 at the Guild was offered to acquaint you with the great dyeing possibilities of lichens. Tiny plants often overlooked by most of us, lichens offer several advantages for dyers. Lichens are found world-wide, they can be collected any time of year, no washing or mordanting of wool is necessary, they can be easily dried and stored, little equipment is needed and therefore you can do the dyeing almost anywhere, and the aroma and appearance of the wool after it has been dyed is wonderful. If you missed the workshop, you can learn about lichens from three books available in the Guild library.

II. Dyeing tips and recipes. Don't be afraid this summer to experiment with any plant, identified or not, as a potential dye source. Simmer a small amount with a few butterflies of mordanted yarn to check colors before doing large quantities. If you are reluctant to experiment, the Guild has several dyebooks which include tried recipes. (See Minnesota Weaver Feb. 76 for a list of the books.) Also check past "From Woods and Fields" columns for dye information: black walnut and sumac (Threadbender, Dec.-Jan. 74-75), birch bark (Threadbender, Feb. 75), willow, plantain, milkweed, chokecherries and dandelion (Minnesota Weaver, Oct. 75), coreopsis, gloriosa

daisy, hollyhock, pearly everlasting, bracken fern, pineapple weed, mock orange and motherwort (Minnesota Weaver, Sept. 76). Paul O'Connor pointed out an error in that column: a brown is obtained from motherwort by adding acid to a Ph of 1. The recent May issue of Minnesota Weaver includes experiments with spinach, leafy spurge, strawberry, tea, buckthorn, clover, coffee, cranberries, dock, goldenrod with sodium dichromate as mordant, onion skin with tea as mordant, purple iris, pinecones, and rhubarb seeds. Don't forget to send me some dye samples to pass on to other dyers.

Several people have asked me about how to do light tests. Check the Minnesota Weaver, Sept. 75 and March, 76. I feel this is an especially important part of natural dyeing and if you have never done any light tests before, try some this summer.

Remember to dry some dyeplants for your winter dye pot. See the Threadbender, June 75 for different drying techniques.

III. Group collecting and dyeing sessions. Betty Olson has kindly offered the woods and fields where her mother lives as a spot for a dyeplant collecting expedition. She says it is about 30 miles from the Guild on the Rum River. If anyone is interested, contact Betty or me, the date we go is up to your responses.

Mary Temple offered an excellent suggestion of having some one-day dyeing get-togethers where we bring dyes and mordanted yarns and have fun dyeing. Anyone interested?

Have a great summer of growing, collecting, and dyeing!

look for the opening of

NEEDLES GALORE

around July 1st in

Diamond Head Mall

230 W. Burnsville Pkwy.

Lavonne Horner and Randy Stritch