

Cabin Talk

*The Newsletter for the Malabar Spinning and Weaving Guild
Year 16 – Issue 1 – January 2006*

- President:** Gloria Ault
4515 Laser Rd.
Shelby, Ohio 44875
419-347-9957
lault@neo.rr.com
- Editor:** Marianne Privette
10 Cambridge Ct.
Lexington, Ohio 44904
419-884-3532
R46821@aol.com
- Contact Person:** Sally Rickel
1217 Michael Drive
Mansfield, Ohio 44905
419-589-2321
- Contact Person:** Betsy Rush
3954 Bromfield
Lucas, Ohio 44843
419-892-2055

The President's Corner

The Christmas dinner was well attended and there was lots of good food. Winnie and Bob played carols and we had a short sing along. Jack did a great job preparing the ham. Twelve poinsettias were given as door prizes.

There will be no Guild Meeting in January but instead we will celebrate Rock Day on the 7th.

January Rock Day

Rock Day will be held on January 7th at the United Methodist Church on the corner of St. Rt. 13 (Main Street) and St. Rt. 42 (Lexington Avenue) from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm. This church is located at the point where St. Rt. 13 and St. Rt. 42 meet in Mansfield, Ohio. The entrance is on Main Street. You must park in the lots across the street and **NOT** in back of the church. You may unload behind the church but then go park across the street.

Bring a covered dish to share, your own table service and whatever fiber art you are working on. Drinks will be provided. In case of bad weather, the event will be held the following Saturday. It is always a fun day and a great time for visiting with friends and sharing your talents with others.

The term "Rock Day" comes from the old German "Rocken". The events of the day have been written up in the history of many countries, particularly European. Rock Day was after 12th Night, when the maids would go back to spinning. The line in one poem said, "the plowboys would fire the tow". You have to remember that the maids were spinning flax tow; traditionally it was only the older women, the grandmothers, who would spin the long line flax. The tow is the short fibers after the flax has been hackled. This coarser flax was spun to be used when weaving coarse towels, feed sacks and even candle wicks. (So that is where you get the blond-headed child being called a towhead!!). The plowboys did not have to go back to their field work until the following week so they would tease the maids by "Firing the tow" – setting fire to the flax material the maids were trying to spin! (And flax is VERY flammable.) This sounds rather dangerous but the maids would have buckets of water ready and often the plowboys got a drenching before the tow was ever ignited!

Nancy Ganyard

Spinning Group

The Spinning Group will meet on January 8th from 1:30 to 4:00.

