

Kenning Points



AS XLVIII (October 2013)

Dyeing in the Barony this fall

By Nest Verch Tangwistle

We have held two dye days this fall. The first one had 15 participants and a great deal of fun was had by all. We started the day out applying mordant to the skeins of wool that everyone brought. We limited the mordant to alum this year. Alum is a very common mordant that has been used for millenium. You can think of the mordant as being the glue that holds the dye onto the fiber.

Over the last couple of years I have been collecting wool from various primitive breeds of sheep. This

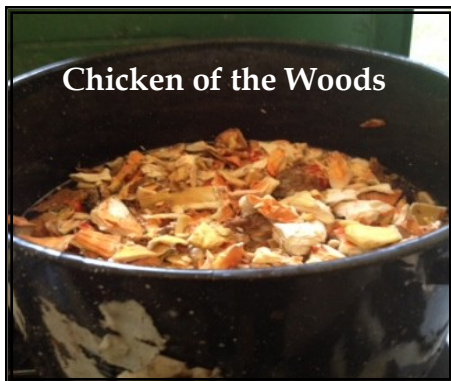


year I wanted to compare the fleeces from as many of those as possible to the different dyes to see if the breed of sheep made a big difference in the depth of color. We had wool from Icelandic, Jacob, Cotswald, North Ronaldsay, the modern breed Blue Faced Leicester and some mixed breeds. During the second dyeing day we also had Finn, and Merino.

Ivan is helping out with the "mushing" of the walnuts

After we applied the mordant we started putting the fiber into the dye pots. Most of the dyes we used this year were added to pots of water and heated to a simmer that day. This year we mostly focused on mushrooms as dyes. There is not much information about the use of mushrooms for dye in the periods covered by the SCA. There has actually been very little information about mushroom dyeing at all. We had spent a lot of time wandering around in the woods this year looking for mushrooms, and trying to identify them. As new mushrooms hunters, identification was often the hard part, but we had gotten some

Tender Nesting Polypores, Chicken of the Woods, Dyer's Polypore, Blewits and some unidentified Hynellums.





We also had one lichen, the Rock Tripe. Three months earlier I had collected the lichen off the forest floor beneath the rocks they were growing on. Lichens grow very slowly and therefore we picked up one that had broken off naturally. The rock tripe had to ferment in ammonia for three months before it was in full color.

I fermented it in a glass jar and watched the color develop from a brick red to the bright fuschia we used on dyeing day. Along with the mushroom we also had an indigo vat, onion skins, black walnuts, weld, butternuts and cochineal.

Close up look of the fermented rock tripe

Over the next four hours we soaked and heated many skeins of wool to get some really great colors. We had colors from the palest yellow from the weld to dark brown from the black walnuts. The rock tripe gave a great bright fuschia and the tender nesting polypore a light violet. Indigo dyes a beautiful blue color most often seen in modern blue jeans. As always a couple of the dyes pots did not work out as we had expected them to. The butternuts this year did not seem to result in the usual dark reddish brown we have seen in previous years, and the blewit only produced a pale beige.



So in the end, I did not see a big difference between the various wools with most of the dyes. However, the cochineal and dyer's polypore had a variety of shades, though it was not the same breed of sheep that was lightest in both. We did get lots of great colors, and everyone went home with a rainbow of wool.

Demo at "Queset Gardens, behind the Ames Free Library in Easton, MA September 14, 2013.

By Lady Belina

This was a very successful event!

We had a good size A & S Display and some Demo fighting as well. We did get a lot of interested people that are thinking of getting involved or getting to know more about the SCA. Ames Free Library opened this up to us in the future as well so we can to have a Demo there every year in order to help gain more members within the area.



Related article written by the "Easton Journal" can be downloaded by following this link:
<http://www.wickedlocal.com/easton/features/x882689518/Middle-Ages-revisited#ixzz2jWUy9ns>

Heraldry day event!



On October 6th, Heraldry Day was hosted by Yosef, Aceline and Amy.

We had a productive day, conflict-checking, designing and organizing the paperwork for two new personal devices. We also researched the different spellings of two names, and organized the paperwork to make the two name changes.

We are planning a banner-making workshop sometime in the spring.

Fracta Modi



Smocking Rock's own minstrel group is busy practicing music for upcoming Yule and Twelfth Night events which will be held throughout the kingdom during his coming holiday season.

Rehearsals are held regularly every Tuesday and Thursday night Rufus Bowe's home.



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Meeting Minutes of the October 6th 2013 Barony of Smoking Rocks Business Meeting

This is an abridged version of the minutes. For the full version, please visit the Barony of Smoking Rocks yahoo group.

Officer Reports:

Arts & Sciences:

A natural dye day was held on a rainy but pleasant Sunday at our Baronesses home in Rochester MA. Much work was accomplished and great fun was had.

Pursuivant: Heraldry workshop with a focus on filling out device forms was held at Amys' house.

Knight Marshall: No fight practices until site is available. There is archery practice every Friday in Fall River same location.

Chronicler: Molly Blythe will be stepping down as chronicler and Marguerite is taking on this position. Need articles or ideas for newsletters!

Old Business:

Investiture: Site is ready so is the chef menu will be posted asap ACCEPS site is open taking reservations.

Demo at the Easton Library: There was a great turn out, fighters were very popular, Mali will invite attendees to upcoming investiture.

Baronial Pavillion, Poles use as well as moving of the Baronial shed was discussed: Tentative date for moving shed is set for September 26th or 27th 2013.

New Business:

Ice Weasel: Lady Belina Autocrat and Lord Andris Feastocrat with parental support from lady Molly.

Baronial Birthday: Autocrat will have to be found, Lady Solk-sinn offered to Feastocrat the event. Possible location for birthday is the Elks Club in North Attleboro.

Baroness Time— no report was given

Seneschale Time — Future board meeting dates and times discussed and no change made yet. Looking for new deputy Seneshal. Website is being updated with current officers.

Next meeting:

November 3rd @ Belina@ Andris's home in Easton MA

Yours in Service,
Lady Marguerite von Elfenau, Chronicler

Announcements

Congratulations !

To Smoking Rock's new Baron and Baroness :

Lord Caewling Alredding &
Lady Molly Blythe !
Investiture November 9th 2013.

Seeking

The Barony is taking applications for the office of Chatelaine as this position was recently vacated by William Spicer.

If you are interested please contact
Lady Elaine Howes of Morningthorpe.
edennehy12@comcast.net

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we bid farewell to two great members of our society. Our collective heartfelt condolences go out to their loved ones.

"The passing of a gentle giant"

Master El of the Two Knives and one of the founders of the east Kingdom passed away on October 1st 2013 after a long illness.

David of Powerstock suddenly left this world on October 8th 2013. He was a past Baronial A&S champion and very talented artist.

Thank You !

Baroness Nest Verch Tangwistle

For your commitment , dedication & hard work in your service during your reign as Baroness and always !

The members of the Barony of Smoking Rocks!

VIVAT VIVAT VIVAT !

SCA Social Media Policy Updates

The Society Social Media Policy has been approved by the Board of Directors and is now available for download at:
www.sca.org/docs/pdf/SCASocialMediaPolicy.pdf.

The Society has recently debuted its official presences on Facebook at:
<http://www.facebook.com/currentmiddleages> &
on Twitter @SCAsocial

We encourage you to visit and subscribe to those presences to see news and information from across the Known World.

Please note, the Announcements list from sca.org will continue to be the official distribution list for announcements from the Board of Directors.

You can subscribe to it at:
<http://lists.sca.org/listinfo/announcements>.

With any questions concerning the use of Social Media in the SCA, please contact Lord Tobias Morgan, Deputy Society Seneschal for Social Media, at socialmedia@sca.org.

REGNUM

Baroness

Nest Verch Tangwistel (Tanya Sanders)
508-763-4666 / eastarch@yahoo.com

Chancellor of the Exchequer:

Solskinn (Liz Gerald)
508-295-3734 / solskinn23@yahoo.com

Chancellor Minor:

Alys Attewater (Ann Carpenter)

Chatelain:

Open position

Chronicler:

Marguerite von Elfenau (Ruth Bechtold)
508-362-6131 / ruthbechtold@gmail.com

Knight Marshall:

Richard Leviathan (Fred Carpenter)
vargaliss@comcast.net

Leviathan Pursuivant (Herald):

Amy ferch Rychard (Amy Jump)
amy.jump@hotmail.com

Minister of Arts & Sciences:

Sunnifa Heinreksdottir (Heidi Dougherty)
Acerridge@yahoo.com

Mistress of the Lists: (MOL)

Nejla Hatice Saime Dogan (Amelia Dogan)

Seneschal:

Elaina Howys of Morningthorpe (Elaine Dennehy)
508-222-7325 / edenney12@comcast.net

Webmaster:

Seonaid MacPhie (Sherry Bishop)
Eastarchr1@gmail.com

Marguerite von Elfenau (Ruth Bechtold)
Chronicler, Barony of Smoking Rocks
169 Main Street, West Barnstable, MA 02668