



Myrtleholt
of The Kingdom An Tir

THE LEAFLETTE

The official newsletter of the Shire of Myrtle Holt • DECEMBER 2014 (AS XLVIII)

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CALL FOR CONTENT

Lords and Ladies,

You are hereby invited to submit ideas, songs, recipes, stories, pictures, drawings, and any manner of content you wish to share with your fellow inhabitants of the Myrtle Holt.

Remember, this is YOUR Newsletter!

Dyeing Wool—With Fungus!

By *HL David de Rosier-Blanc*

To fill out the Thanksgiving weekend, I decided to hold a workshop to teach anybody who was interested in the art of dyeing wool using different kinds of mushrooms. Using botanical materials is the oldest forms of pigmenting fiber, and using mushrooms is likely one way that people in period had available.

Believe it or not, every color of the rainbow can be created using different kinds of mushrooms, and colors that are produced can be different based on a number of factors, such as pH, or the preparation of the fiber using a mordant.

So, to keep things more simplified, only two kinds of mushrooms were used for the workshop: Lobster mushrooms, and Dyer's Polypore. While the polypores are quite common around here, I haven't ever found Lobster mushrooms locally.



While out on the coast a couple weeks ago, I was very lucky to be catching the end of the blooming season and I found a good solid 12 lbs or more.

Lobster mushrooms are very fun to dye with. They can produce colors from light pink, through coral, to dark orange-pink, and even purple.

Dyer's Polypore can produce colors more in the range of yellow, orange, brown, and even olive green. However, I decided to try to focus on getting coral and purple from the coral mushrooms, and yellow, orange and brown from the polypore.

To get this array of colors, skeins of the wool were prepared with different agents which help the fiber to take up pigment, and turn different colors. These agents are called mordants.

For the workshop, four different mordants were used: Alum, iron, chrome, and tin. A general plan was to have wool of two different mordants in the lobster mushroom dyepot, and three in the dyer's polypore dyepot.

(continued....)

Dyeing with Fungus (continued)

Well, as is oft the case with using botanicals to dye fiber, it is easier than one hopes to end up without over estimating how much fiber you'll be able to dye to the desired color. There's less than optimal predictability of how much pigment is in the botanicals, in this case, the mushrooms.

A general ratio of 1:1 weight of dry mushrooms to wool is purported as a good rule of thumb. Unfortunately, the mushrooms we were using weren't dry and the total percentage of water in mushrooms is quite high (perhaps up to 90%).

As a result, it was hoped that there were enough mushrooms to dye about 6 oz of wool in each of the dye baths. In the Lobster bath, really much less pigment than expected resulted in only getting a light lavender color rather the desired purple.

In the polypore bath, the wool was added in two skeins at a time, so the first two skeins (about 3 oz) ended up being a lovely golden yellow expected. However, they mostly depleted pigment, so the second two skeins (prepared with a different mordant) ended up being very much more pale in color than hoped.



While having desired results is optimal, in the end, one can learn more when the results aren't optimal. In this case, the lessons are not to over-estimate the pigment in a botanical dyebath, and that if you wish to have lots of fiber the same color, expect that perhaps you'll end up with a lighter color on all of it, and perhaps you'll need to over-dye the batch again with more mushrooms to

get the deepness of color desired.

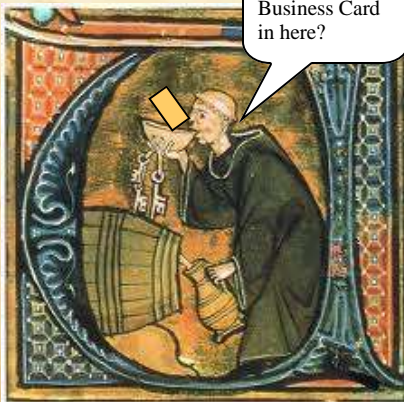
Alternatively, one can add smaller batches of fiber at a time, and have a set of batches that slowly exhaust the dyebath and perhaps the first is fully the color one wanted, and the later batches might be much lighter, but, again, can be dyed again at a later time.

The fun part is that material found in nature can produce wonderful colors, sometimes the experimenting can yield up very exciting results.

Don't be afraid to try dyeing fiber with mushrooms...



Myrtle Holt Business Cards
Now Available!
Ask your Seneschal



Hey...!
Who put a
Business Card
in here?

Leaf-Raking for Hogmanay....



Kerby Park (next to the Belt building) we use for the highland games, and they are hoping that we can assist with fall clean up (as our annual contribution as a Park Charter membe

As the Shire's annual contribution as a Park Charter Member at Kerby Park, it was cleanup day for Hogmanay. The highland games area was taken over by oak leaves! A hearty thanks are offered to [Bjolan Bjornson](#) and Little Hart, [Blayne Kitching](#), [David Bianco](#) and [Janet MacLachlan Bianco](#).

Janet's No-Cook Fudge

Recipe contributed by Viscountess Jennet MacLachlan of Loch Fyne

*1 can 14oz condensed milk
3 cups of semi sweet chocolate chips
4 table spoons of butter
1/4 teaspoon of salt
1 teaspoon of vanilla essence*

In a large glass bowl put the three cups of chocolate chips, the butter and the can of condensed milk. Microwave for one and a half minutes on high. Using a spatula mix the contents until totally blended. Add the salt and vanilla essence and mix it in properly. Place on a foil lined 7" pan and put it in the refrigerator. Once cold remove from the refrigerator and remove the foil. Cut into squares and enjoy. Hope you enjoy them, I certainly did.



Hogmanay's Highlander Cowl Class

Keep warm this winter with an outlander inspired cowl. Both a knitting version and a crochet version of this quick-to-complete Highlander Cowl will be offered as a class at Hogmanay. Other classes will include: Incense Making, Lucette, Period patterning and fitting. Site address: Kerby Belt Building, 24311 Redwood Highway, Kerby, OR 97531. Site opens at 9:00 am Saturday January 3rd, 2014 and closes at 10:30 pm. Feast will begin at 6:00 pm. Site Fee: Adults: \$15.00 (over 17), Children 12-17 yrs: \$10.00, younger: free

More information at: http://www.antir.sca.org/Upcoming/?Event_ID=3637

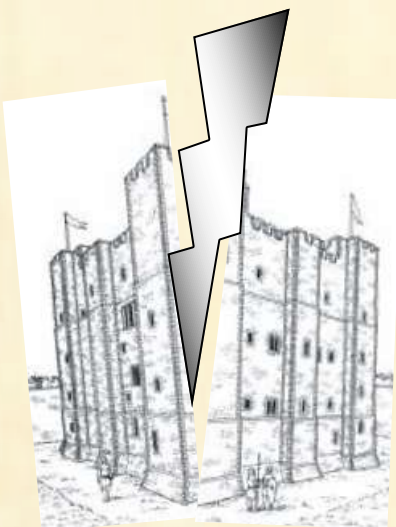
Dayshade Challenge—Battle of the Biancos

The Gull-Wing Party

Vicountess Jennet MacLachlan of Loch Fyne

Her Excellency proposes to raise funds to replace the current pavilion with a completely new gull-wing structure utilizing wooden support posts.

Progress to date:
\$40.20



The It's-Not-Dead-Yet Party

His Lordship David de Rosier-Blanc

His Lordship, the Minister of Arts & Sciences, proposes to replace the support posts of the current pavilion, keep it, and recondition it.

Progress to date:
\$56.85



The Fallen: Corina Kay Cowan Coots

Shared By Viscountess Jennet MacLachlan of Loch Fyne

1951-2013



This is the story of the life of Corina Kay Cowan Coots - one of Myrtle Holt's fallen. We were very sad to lose Corina on October 8, 2013. Though she had not been with us for too many years, we came to love but not fully understand the life and trials that one of our own had had to endure. This dedication is written in honor of Corina and to share her story so that those of you who knew her but never quite understood her, can now fully understand the wonderful person that she was.

Corina was born Robert Michael Cowan on January 22nd, 1951. She was one of nature's "accidents". You see Corina was born a hermaphrodite (i.e. she was born with both sets of sexual organs) In the 1950s this was still a very misunderstood problem. The doctors, together with Corina's parents, decided that the easiest cure for the "problem" was to just stitch her up and call her a boy. Thus Robert Michael Cowan was thrown into life in a somewhat cruel way. When Robert reached puberty, strange things began to happen to him and he got very ill.

It was his female hormones that had started to create some very obvious problems which threatened his well being and health to a very large degree. Corina was desperate to get out of this "male" body she had been forced into and which was very obviously the wrong one chosen for her.

During this time Corina's parents had gone their separate ways and Corina's step father had taken to calling her "the freak". Corina tried to fit in however she could but her desire to be a woman was so strong that she could not deny it.

Corina decided to join the Navy in 1969 but by 1970 life for her had become unbearable and she took a dishonorable discharge. At this time she decided to take matters into her own hands and approached the courts to have herself legally declared a woman. Thus Robert Michael became Corina Kay. Corina's life was never easy and her health was a constant problem.

Corina met and fell in love with Stephan Coots and they moved in together. This is when we as Myrtle Holtians were first introduced to Corina. We were fortunate enough to have her with us from the beginning of 2010 until her death on October 8, 2013. On August 9th, 2013 Corina and Stephan were married in a beautiful ceremony officiated by HL Dawnhella of BriarOak. Corina and Stephan agreed to take each others names and she thus became Corina Kay Cowan Coots.



Corina was very ill by this time and as a sufferer of Hepatitis C she was hanging on by a very fine thread until she lost the battle on October 8th, 2013.

The moment that is most precious to me, personally, was the hour that Corina managed to come and spend at Coronet in September 2013. She was at the event right at the time that Aaron Duncan won the coronet which allowed me to become the Princess of the Summits. Corina was so very happy for me and said that all she wanted in life was to be able to be one of my Ladies in Waiting. Corina never got that chance but at least she knew it was a possibility and that made her very happy.

Till we meet again Corina, rest in peace and know that to



us you were as beautiful as a princess. We have lost a good soul and a much loved Myrtle Holtian.



We'll be taking a moment each month to remember those who have Fallen, whose names are read every year as part of our Ancestral Remembrance Celebration.

If you have stories and photos to share, please send them to your Chronicler or Viscountess Jennet MacLachlan of Loch Fyne.

Crocheted Scots Bonnet with Straight Cables

Pattern adapted and presented by Petronella Lockeheart

This easy-to-intermediate pattern creates a cute straight-cabled cap. Shape/drape it to form a Scots bonnet, French beret, or English flat cap. Perfect for Hogamany!

Uses one skein (approx.. 170-190 yards) of soft, worsted-weight (level 4) yarn.
I use Lion's Brand Wool-Ease in Worsted Weight.

- Size: 22" head (adult woman size or slightly smaller than man's standard size)
- US – I/5.5 mm hook (Use a J/6.0mm for larger size hat)
- Stitches used: magic circle, ch, sc, dc, fpdc, dc2tog, sl
- Gauge: 5" across after Round 5
- Time: 2-4 hrs

Tips:

- *This is worked in rows/rounds, not in a continuous spiral. Finish each row with a slip stitch (sl st) in the FIRST STITCH (a dc or fpdc) of the round. Do NOT turn.*
- *Do not count the chains up as the first stitch. Do the first fpdc in the first stitch, not the second. This will make the cables stack on each other. If you find yourself offset, you accidentally started in stitch 2. Check, stretch, and smooth the hat between each round.*
- *The hat band (last 6 rows of sc may be done) in a spiral for smoothness. Just go straight from the last sc of one row to the first sc of the next without the sl-and-ch.*

Instructions:

Round 1: Start with a magic circle. Ch 2 (does not count as a st) and make 12 dc in the ring. Join to the first dc with a sl st. (12 sts)

Round 2: Ch 2, make a fpdc and then a dc in each st around [fpdc + dc]. Join to first fpdc with a sl st. (24 sts)

Round 3: Ch 2, *fpdc in the 1st st, 2 dc in the next st. Repeat from * to end. Join to first fpdc with a sl st. (36 sts) *Note: the fpdc stitches always stack on each other.*

Round 4: Ch 2, *fpdc in the 1st st, dc in next st, [fpdc +dc] in 3rd st. Repeat from * to end. Join to first fpdc with a sl st. (48 sts)

Round 5: Ch 2, *fpdc in the 1st st, dc in the next st, 2 fpdc in the next st, dc in the next st. Repeat from * to end. Join to first fpdc with a sl st. (60 sts) *Check gauge. At this point the circle should be ~5" across. Cinch the magic circle tight and secure the end inside the hat. Then draw the end up through the hat along the seam line to act as a bookmark for the end of your rounds. When done the hat, draw the end back inside the hat and trim/work in the end.*

Crocheted Scots Bonnet (continued)

Round 6: Ch 2, *fpdc in the 1st st, dc in the next st, [fpdc + dc] in the next st, fpdc in the next st, dc in the next st. Repeat from * to end. Join to first fpdc with a sl st. (72 sts)

Round 7: Ch 2, *fpdc in the 1st st, dc in the next st, fpdc in the next st, 2 dc in the next st, fpdc in the next st, dc in the next st. Repeat from * to end. Join to first fpdc with a sl st. (84 sts)

Round 8: Ch 2, *fpdc in the 1st st, dc in the next st, fpdc in the next st, 2 dc in the next st, dc in the next st, fpdc in the next st, dc in the next st. Repeat from * to end. Join to first fpdc with a sl st. (96 sts)

Round 9: Ch 2, *fpdc in the 1st st, dc in the next st, fpdc in the next st, 2 dc in the next st, dc in next 2 st, fpdc in the next st, dc in the next st. Repeat from * to end. Join to first fpdc with a sl st. (108 sts)

Round 10: Ch 2, *fpdc in the 1st st, dc in the next st, fpdc in the next st, dc in the next 2 sts, [fpdc + dc] in the next st, dc in the next st, fpdc in the next st, dc in the next st. Repeat from * to end. Join to first fpdc with a sl st. (120 sts)

Round 11 – 13: Ch 2, *fpdc in the 1st st, dc in the next st, fpdc in the next st, dc in the next 2 sts, fpdc in the next st, dc in the next 2 sts, fpdc in the next st, dc in the next st. Repeat from * to end. Join to first fpdc with a sl st. (120 sts) *Note: This creates a flatter hat. For more “poof,” add 1-2 extra rows here, same pattern.*

Round 14: Ch 2, *fpdc in the 1st st, skip next st, fpdc in the next st, dc2tog, fpdc in next st, dc2tog, fpdc in next st, skip next st. Repeat from * to end. Join to first fpdc with a sl st. (72 sts)

Round 15: Ch 1, *sc in the first 11 sts, skip the next st. Repeat from * to end. Join to first sc with a sl st. (66 sts)

Rounds 16-21: Ch 1, sc in every st. Join to first sc with a sl st. (66 sts) *Note: May be done in a spiral. Keep tension firm here. Always end with a sl st for smoothness.*

Finishing and wear:

Secure ends of yarn and work into hat, or leave free inside (trimmed) to act as a “tag.” There is no front or back to the hat, but I like to place the seam in back.

Drape and embellish as desired for your “look.” There are lots of images online for inspiration. For Scots bonnet: wear straight on the brow with “poof” draped slightly over one ear. Add button/feather/ribbon embellishment to brim over temple/ear, if desired. For French beret: wear slightly cocked on the head, with poof draped forward or back. For English flat cap: wear straight on head, with poof flattened, straight or slightly forward.



Last Call

Hogmanay Help Needed

Signups needed for Setup, Littles Duty, Gate Duty, and Take Down. Silent Auction Items needed. Bonny Knees needed.

Baronial Update

Scheduled for January Board Meeting

Next Business Meeting

Due to scheduling conflicts, January & February's meetings will be combined **into one meeting held on January 18**



Officer Excerpts

Chatelaine: This position is still open/accepting applications

Seneschal: Training offered Jan 30-Feb 1 with Kingdom exchequer audit, Kerby Belt Building

Marshall: Weather is affecting practices. Anyone have a lead on an indoor facility? Palmerton and Riverside parks have winterized and shut down facilities.

MoAS: Weaving, mushroom dyeing, largess bag assembly. Nothing scheduled until after Hogmanay.

Equestrian: Planning to add mythical creatures to the next ARC. Look for some Mongolian archery to come.

FAC: New game boards are being crafted and older ones will be forward to Principalities as templates.

Chronicler: Submissions needed, deadline is 1st weekend of the month.
December's meeting minutes have been posted online.



Looking Forward

Hogmanay January 2015

Autocrat Team: Visc Jennet MacLachlan and Katarine

Feast Team: Christiana and HL Felicia of the Truelane (Flea)

St Egberts April 2015

Autocrat Team: HL David de Rosier-Blanc. Co-autocrats of Squee and Crystal Butler

Feast Team: Needed!

ARC October 2015

Autocrat Team: Needed!

Feast Team: Needed!

Investiture December 11-12, 2015

Autocrat Team: Visc Jennet, Christiana, Squee, Loree, Morris

Feast Team: Monique and Aelfrich, Feastocrat in training: Edward Tanner (Benjamin)

December 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 <i>BizMtg 11a</i> <i>Abby's Pizza</i>	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 <i>Fighter Practice</i> <i>Riverside Park</i>	15	16	17 <i>Release of The Hobbit 3</i> <i>Attend in Garb!</i>	18	19	20
21 <i>Fighter Practice</i> <i>Palmerton Park</i>	22	23	24	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26	27
28 <i>Fighter Practice</i> <i>Riverside Park</i>	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>			

Fighter Practice times and locations may be cancelled due to weather.

January 2015

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1	2	3 <i>Hogmanay Kerby Belt Bld</i>
4 <i>Fighter Practice</i>	5	6	7	8	9 <i>AnTir's 12th Night</i>	10 <i>AnTir's 12th Night</i>
11 <i>AnTir's 12th Night</i> <i>Fighter Practice</i>	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 <i>BizMtg 11a Abby's Pizza</i> <i>Combined No mtg in Feb</i>	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 <i>Fighter Practice</i>	26	27	28	29	30 <i>Exchequer / Seneschal Trng</i>	31 <i>Exchequer / Seneschal Trng</i>

Fighter Practice times and locations may be cancelled due to weather.

Shire Officers



SENECHAL
Lady Brynhildr Smidsdottir
(Megan Blattel)



ARTS & SCIENCES
HL David de Rosier-Blanc
(David Bianco)



GOLD KEY
Constance Campbell
(Christina Hager)



CHIURGEON
Pending



SCRIBE
Lord Torfi
(David Fadley)



HERALD
Lord Bjolan Bjornson
(Rev. James A. Otto Sr.)



HEAVY MARSHAL
Bowen Doyle
(Albert Wessels)



WEBMINISTER
Lord Thorlof Anarson
(Josh Plater)



EXCCHOUER
HL Rathyen de Bures of Acton
(Sharon Chism)



CHRONICLER
Sarah Givens



DEPUTY GOLD KEY
Alina MacMurrich
(Amanda C. Cowin)



DEPUTY CHIRURGEON



CHATELAINE
Accepting Applications



HERALD IN TRAINING
Eric Liefson
(Glenn Allen)



TARGET ARCHERY MARSHAL
Visc Jennet MacLachlan of Loch Fyne
(Janet Bianco)



EQUESTRIAN MARSHAL
HL Robert Buffle
(Robert Chism)

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