**Maine Alpaca Association**

**Members’ Meeting**

American Legion Auxiliary - 15 Lewiston Road, Gray, ME

**Natural Dyeing Presentation**

**March 11, 2018**

The meeting opened at 11:30 AM

Attendees: 30 Members & Guests for Lunch & Presentation

**President**: Anne Gobes gave the welcoming address. She then introduced our member speaker, Marcia MacDonald, of Long Plains, Lanae Plantae

We then moved on to getting our lunch and sat down to listen to the natural dyeing presentation.

Marcia proceeded to tell us how she got into dyeing with natural plants and grasses. She said that she uses a stainless steel 2.5 gal pail which will hold 1 pound of fiber.

* Mordant – salts which create the bond between the dye and fiber. Depending on the mordant used the colors will vary.
* Use color fast materials, i.e., Osage Orange
* Madder is an ancient dye; red to oranges
* Cochineal – gives different color results based on how many times fiber is dipped
* Tannin w/iron – will make greys
* Iron and aluminum are the least toxic of mordants
* Tin – is more so; makes very bright colors
* Copper – Use with just a tad
* Indigo – low oxygen, high alkaline. Do not use mordant with Indigo. Redip to get darker colors. Rinse with vinegar to set color.
* Thiox – takes oxygen out of water
* Yarn should be wet but not soaking wet before dyeing
* Always use masks and gloves when dyeing
* Do not dry yarns in sunlight!

Dyeing rings can be purchased from Hamilton Marine

Madder Root can be purchased from Fedco Seeds

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm

Next meeting will take place at the Fiber Frolic on June 3rd

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Mullins, Secretary