

# Loose in the Foothills

by Bob Ring

## Another Kind of Tea Party

That's nineteen, twenty, twenty one ... and eight more in the mail from eBay ... Excuse me; I'm counting teapots that Pat has bought in the last few weeks. Why is Pat buying so many teapots? Well, as "they" say, it's for a good cause.

Pat belongs to the Tucson Handweavers and Spinners Guild which is having its biennial Tea and Fashion Show next March 10, 2011 at the Holiday Inn at 4550 South Palo Verde Road. Selected Guild members will model their best fiber creations – sweaters, jackets, scarves, dresses and the like – for other Guild members and the ticket-buying public. Boutique items will be sold and baskets filled with goodies will be raffled. Proceeds will be used to sponsor educational events for Guild members, like paying for visiting expert teachers or sending people to conferences and shows, and for teaching and demonstrations in local schools and at public events. The last Fashion Show in 2009 drew 270 people.

The original table decoration idea for the 2011 Tea and Fashion Show was to make tea cozies (decorative teapot covers to help keep the tea warm) and stuff them with paper to stand up on each table. After trying to start making a tea cozy, Pat and other Guild members soon realized that to make a tea cozy, you really need a specific teapot that the cozy would be designed for.

Pat volunteered to get the ball rolling by securing a first group of teapots. Enthusiastically, other Guild members began to buy and/or donate additional teapots. Someone estimated that they might need 100 of them!

So for weeks now Pat and her teapot friends have been scouring tea shops, antique shops, gift stores, eBay, and of all places, Bookmans, for teapots. On a recent vacation trip, Pat and I even found a teapot in an old ice-cream store, near Ruidoso, New Mexico.

Now that the teapots are rapidly accumulating, work is starting on the matching tea cozies. Pat is providing color photographs of the teapots to the first cozy-making volunteers to aid in their selection process. This has turned out to be a great opportunity for creativity and imagination. Cozy makers are creating covers specifically designed for individual teapots – with personality.

You wouldn't believe the traffic in teapots I've been monitoring, as teapots come in, and then go out to their adopted cozy makers. On September 22<sup>nd</sup> the current group of teapots was presented at the Guild's general meeting, and offered to potential cozy-makers. The plan is for all the teapots and cozies to be sold at the Fashion Show.

The Guild's new Afternoon Tea Cozy Club is now meeting monthly at Kiwi Knitting at 2540 E. Sixth Street to create cozies, share ideas, and coordinate progress. This will continue until the Tea and Fashion Show next March.

Details on the Fashion Show and how to get tickets are available on Guild's Web site at [thsg.org](http://thsg.org).

As Pat says, "This is too much fun!" Tea anyone?



*Guild members are selecting teapots to make tea cozy covers as table decorations for their Tea and Fashion Show. (Courtesy of Bob Ring)*



*Anne Fletcher made this unique spider and spider-web tea cozy out of beads.  
(Courtesy of Bob Ring)*



*Pat Wood knit this tea cozy that she calls "Nectar."  
(Courtesy of Pat Wood)*