

# DYE DAY AT JUDITH JONES HOME

On a beautiful October morning , members of the NPSOT-Amarillo Chapter and the Palo Duro Hand-weaver's Guild , with native plants in hand, gathered to see the magic of dyeing yarn with native plants.



To prepare the wool for dyeing , it is treated with a mordant to help fix the dyes. This can be done before the dye bath, during or even afterwards. There are many kinds of mordants , but today alum was used. First , the dye material is covered with water and boiled until the desired color is obtained, one part plant material to two parts water. The dye bath is then strained through cheese cloth and then returned to the fire. The wool is then added and simmers until it is the right color, moist wool is usually darker than the finished product



Here you see Judy taking the dyed yarn from the dyeing pan.

Janice is admiring the rainbow of colors produced.

Cota and marigold flowers produced a beautiful yellow color, and Honey Locust seeds an almost blond color. In addition , we had a pot with dried Cochineal beetles and a crock with fermented Prickly Pear tunas.



Submitted by: Judith Jones

Next May another 'dye day' is planned so start reading about dyeing with native plants and bring your camp stove and dye pot and join us.