NW Section Meeting of December 7, 2012 . . . a personal message about our presentation from one of our guests, Marsha Hahn.

A view of our presentation shared by guest, Marsh Hahn.
“The guest speaker was Kathy Hattori from Botanical Colors (www.botanicalcolors.com).
Kathy talked about using natural dyes for manufacturing. Sustainability is a growing issue and she is being asked about it more and more. She is experimenting with modern techniques and natural dyes to create dyes that will pass testing and create a sustainable industry.
There are Fashion businesses like Eileen Fisher, Dosa, Levis and J. Crew using natural dyes in part of their lines.
The market for organic cotton is a growing market. See “Dirt to Shirt” for organic cotton grown and knit into Tee shirts in North Carolina.
There are new sustainability programs at schools such as Parsons, FIT, RISD and CCA in Oakland. This is creating a new group of Eco Designers.
Ploughboy Organics uses agricultural waste to make dyes. These dyes are used in tinting denim as well as other items. Since some of this came from tobacco farms, it was tested for nicotine but the results were negative.
Hammond Walnuts are a large producer of black walnuts and the hulls are used as a dyestuff. This is using a byproduct of the walnut industry.
Have created a non-vatted Indigo dyestuff. Using alum for a mordant but looking for a non-alum mordant.
Natural protein fiber dyes are being used by several knitting companies through Botanical Colors: Skacel, Swan Island, and a Verb for Keeping Warm.”