Greetings!
We would like to try something new this month: there will be no business meeting at our July gathering, except to introduce any unfamiliar faces, whether new to the group or returning from a long absence. So please bring along a favorite summer dish if you wish, and be prepared to visit, spin and eat. We hope you like it!

Given that I will not have the opportunity during the meeting, I will remind you here that some of us will be volunteering to help at the Finger Lakes (Hemlock) Fiber Festival. Let me know if you are interested. Also, there are many fun ways to participate in passing along your love of wool at the State Fair, whether demonstrating in the wool booth or in the museum, competing in the wool games, etc, and Linda always needs help carding and dyeing in preparation for demonstrators. For many years now, a group of us has chosen a day to demonstrate; if you want to join us, let me know. And please do enter your handspun items.

I hope to see you on the 12th.
Sharon
The July meeting will be our “Return to the Fold” meeting

At the July meeting (July 12) at the Parish Hall, former/early members of the Guild are being invited to “return to the fold” and spin with us and partake of ‘dish to pass’ refreshments. If you know any folks who used to spin with us, please encourage them to join us.

Ontario Report—Jean, Anne and Eleanor

Jean Currie, Anne Furman and Eleanor May went to the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Ontario Handspinners. This Seminar honored the founders. It was held in Owen Sound, Ontario, on a bay of Lake Huron. It would be a lovely spot for a vacation. Dorothy Kirk and her husband donated their extensive spinning wheel collection to the Grey Roots Museum which is located in Owen Sound. The museum was closed to the public for the day so the attendees could take advantage of the whole museum, including a frontier village. A wide selection of spinning wheels was out on display for us to view. It was a pleasure to see such a wide variety of wheels up close. We had an opportunity to spin on Canadian wheels, charkas and flax wheels which were brought to the museum by the planning committee. Outdoor activities included breaking flax and watching a shearer shear sheep and goats. His commentary and opinions were of more interest to most of us than the actual shearing. The natural dye demonstrator had an interesting hook she used to lift the wool in and out of the water. Jean will have designed one before we do dyeing again. Some of us hand felted small balls of wool to make a necklaces. All in all it was a most interesting day of companionship among like minded people. The next day was devoted to spinning wheels as well. A tribute was made to Edna Blackburn, another of the founders. She had the first seminar at her farm. She was a frequent visitor to Ithaca since she became a good friend of Dora Swart, an early member of the Black Sheep. Edna’s husband made spinning wheels and Ellie has one. He made her demonstrate her spinning skills before he would sell her the wheel.

Fibery Events

July 28-Aug 3 Madison, WI. Biannual event. midwestfeltingsymposium.com


Sept. 27 & 28. Alpaca Farm Days at Cabin View Alpacas. Spinners invited to sell goods and to demonstrate fiber arts. No cost. Tables etc. will be provided. Contact Robin M. Houseworth, robinmhouseworth@gmail.com


Nov 1 & 2—BETH SMITH BREED STUDY WORKSHOP Details p. 5
The Black Sheep once again pitched their tent at the Ithaca Celtic Festival (formerly the Scottish Games), as we have almost every year since it’s been held, and spent the weekend demonstrating spinning and teaching enthusiastic learners how to spin as the skirl of the pipes and an occasional welcome breeze washed over us. A few of us joined in the refrain of Gaelic waulking songs led by Kate Cushing, as we worked and passed from hand to hand a very substantial, six foot wide by twelve yard long piece of tweed specifically hand woven for the event by Bill Cournoyer with wool provided by his own flock.
Field trip to the Fingerlakes Woolen Mill

After a very pleasant beginning to the June Guild meeting in Sharon’s greenhouse, a number of us went on a field trip to the Fingerlakes Woolen Mill, where Jay Ardai and Suzanne O’Hara, the owners, were our welcoming, enthusiastic and expert guides for a tour of their facility. The mill employs a host of imposing and marvelously intricate machines built in the early part of the last century to clean, pick, and card raw wool and spin it into finished yarn. Pictured here are the carding machine and the spinning jenny. Their services include custom processing of fibers (see their card on page 7). They also maintain a flock of rare Hog Island sheep. It was a delightful afternoon, and we all came away with a much richer appreciation of how complex and exacting a task it is to turn fiber into yarn on an industrial scale.

Notes from the flax patch

Two months after planting, my flax is waist-high, blue-eyed and stately. In another month it should be ready to pull. —Wayne
BREED STUDY WORKSHOP
WITH BETH SMITH

Beth Smith is so obsessed with fiber that she has fleece in every room of her house, including her bathroom. She teaches the whys and how-tos of preparing and spinning as many breeds as a spinner can in her classes taught all over the world and in articles written for Spin Off, Knittyspin and Entangled magazines. She also writes for Ply Magazine and serves as a member of the editorial advisory board. She is the previous owner of the world famous online shop, The Spinning Loft, renowned for its selection of raw wool, including rare breeds of sheep, available by the ounce (or more) for studying, sampling or just stashing. Her book, The Spinner’s Book of Fleece: A Breed-by-Breed Guide to Choosing and Spinning will be available in July 2014.

WORKSHOP: The workshop will demystify the what, why, and how of sheep breeds. We will spin 18 different breeds of sheep over 2 days. We will review the sheep breeds and their categories. We will wash raw wool to maintain lock structure in both small batches as well as washing lock by lock. We will try a variety of hand processing tools and learn what methods work best for particular breeds. We will spin using different techniques to create yarns for specific types of knitting.

EQUIPMENT TO BRING: Spinning wheel in good working order, pen, one empty bobbin, small plastic bags and paper for notes and labeling. If you have hand cards, a flicker and or hand held combs please bring. If you don’t have them, some will be available for you to use.

WHEN: Saturday, Nov 1 and Sunday Nov. 2
WHERE: Country Inn and Suites, route 281, Cortland, New York
WORKSHOP TIME: 9 am to noon and 1 pm to 4 pm each day
COST: Guild Members $55 for two days. Non Guild individuals $125

NOTE: A $60 MATERIAL FEE IS DUE TO THE INSTRUCTOR AT THE TIME OF THE WORKSHOP

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SING ME UP FOR THE BETH SMITH WORKSHOP

NAME__________________________________________________
PHONE_________________________________________________
ADDRESS______________________________________________

Send your check to Marjorie Inana 41 W. Court St. Cortland, New York 13045 and make check out to Black Sheep Handspinners.
Convert your Baynes hook flyer to a SLIDING PINCH HOOK FLYER for $32.00 including rebalancing. See Jim Johnson at a meeting or call 607-564-7178 or email hilltoppaddles@earthlink.net.

Weaving loom for sale. Made in Sweden. 39" tall, 30" wide, 33" long. Easily disassembled for transport. $100

Contact Bunny DeMember
1113 Glenwood Heights
Road Ithaca, NY 14850
Cell Phone #607-738-6405

FOR SALE: 1810 Great Wheel purchased from Bill Ralph. Miner's head, spins beautifully. For further info and/or to give it a spin, please contact shelly@chezmyers.com

For sale from my own happy sheep and rabbits in Trumansburg: Navajo-Churro roving in a variety of natural colors. Angora rabbit wool in white Contact Sharon Berger @607-592-4649 or saberger@twcny.rr.com

To place an ad

The cost for ads is $5.00 per month for non-members. Current members may submit one business-card sized classified ad per month for free. Send a check made out to BSHG to our treasurer, Vickie Marsted, 29 Lincoln Ave, Cortland, NY 13045. Send the ad in digital form to the newsletter editor, newsletter@blacksheephandspinnersguild.com. Black & white business cards are published free for current members.