

November
2014

ROVINGS

A Message from the President

It is October 25 and it feels like spring, sort of. I love kicking leaves, fresh apples, and harvesting the winter squashes, and putting the garden to bed means more time for spinning, right? To date I have managed to refrain from spinning the lovely prize-winning Romney x fleece that Alison and I purchased at Hemlock, thinking that the Beth Smith workshop will provide insight on how best to show off its qualities. More on that after the event—just one more week to wait.

Our December holiday get-together will feature a gift exchange (for those interested, bring a fiber related gift in the \$10 range), holiday food, and a fashion show. Let's show off the lovely wearables we made this year, finished or not.

Roc Day plans are proceeding nicely; find a list of vendors in this issue to whet your appetite and get your creative juices flowing. We have two craftspeople new to Roc Day this year in addition to many old favorites. I already have my wish list made up! Information on the skein competition is also here. Back problems prevented me from going to Rhinebeck, so I consoled myself with going through the stash for the perfect fibers to spin for this, and I believe I have found them.

I am thankful for such a supportive and friendly fiber community as I have found in our group. Thank you all. —Sharon

Louise's Scribble Lace Shawl



Louise made a shawl that attracted a great deal of interest at the last meeting, and she was kind enough to forward the address where we can find the pattern.

<http://www.lindamade.com/wordpress/2011/08/fo-free-knitting-pattern-fiesta-scribble-shawl/>

November 8

A sheepdog visit and information session!

(Membership dues for 2015 will be accepted at the meeting.)

President	Sharon Gombas
Vice President	Sue Quick
Secretary	Lynne Anguish
Treasurer	Vickie Marsted
Newsletter	Wayne Harbert
Membership	Marjorie Inana
Programming	Audrey Lowes
&	Marjorie Inana
Webmaster	Rosane Mordt

**P. 2 FIBERY EVENTS, VENDORS,
CALL FOR ROC DAY VOLUNTEERS**

P. 3 FLAX WORKSHOP PICTURES

P. 4 WHAT WE LEARNED

P. 5 SKEIN COMPETITION GUIDELINES

PP. 6 - 7 ADS

The Black Sheep meet from 11am - 3pm on the 2nd Saturday of each month at All Saints Church Parish Hall, Route

How to help out with Roc Day...

Volunteer to help run the event! Contact Audrey.

Volunteer to demonstrate! Spinners welcome, especially those who spin on unusual equipment or with unusual techniques, but we are also interested in those who can teach us about other, perhaps less familiar fiber-related crafts or skills. Contact Wayne.

Make items for the auction! Give them to Sharon or Ellie.

2015 Roc Day Vendors

Mary Miller/DearMary Handspun and Handwoven: Hand-woven and hand-spun towels, scarves, and placemats as well as hand-knit socks from my hand-spun yarns. Hand-spun skeins, from cobweb to chunky weight, from dyers such as Hello Yarn, Southern Cross, and Spunky Eclectic.

mmiller18@twcny.rr.com

Laurie Ament, glassmaker: Handmade drop spindles with glass whorls, other tools incorporating glass. isinglassdesign@yahoo.com

Karey Solomon/Graceful Arts Fiber Studio: Dyed roving, hand-dyed sock yarns, knitting, crocheting and tatting supplies. threads@empace.net www.Gracefulartsfiberstudio.com

Holly Partridge: Teesdale fleeces and locks, other breeds to include Wensleydale.

Susan Sarabasha/Susan's Spinning Bunny: Hand-dyed fibers and yarns, wheels, patterns, kits, accessories and felting supplies. susan@spinningbunny.com www.spinningbunny.com

Jim Johnson/Hilltop Woodworking: Hand-turned spindles, folding spinning stools, Spin'n Rides, wheels and other spinning accessories. hilltoppaddles@earthlink.net

Elizabeth Kinne-Gossner/Stillmeadow Finn Sheep: Finn and Romney fibers, yarn, finished items, yarn bowls and pottery. stillmeadowfinnsheep@frontiernet.com www.stillmeadowfinnsheep.com

Lisa Merian/Spinner's Hill: Hand-dyed roving, fiber blends, batts and yarns. Also fiber arts supplies. www.spinnershill.com

Margaret Flowers/Trinity Farm: Icelandic fibers, hand-made soaps, other spinning-related products.

Kelly Terwilliger/Llady Llama Fiber Co.: Hand-painted yarn and carded fiber batts, hand-turned drop spindles, niddy-noddies, diz and threader sets, orifice hooks and shawl pins. Project totes and needle cases. www.lladyllamafiberco.esty.com

Robin Nistock/Nistock Farms: Roving, dyed locks, dyed sliver. Dop spindle kits, sheepskins. sheepmom@empace.net www.nistockfarms.com

Fibery Events

The 2015 retreat at Stella Maris is scheduled for the last weekend in February. Arrive Friday, February 27th and leave March 1st. Contact ahfurman@yahoo.com to reserve a place.

The Flax Workshop



Breaking



Skutching



Spinning tow



Hackling

Sharing a joke



The whole crew



Conferring

Flax workshop: what we learned.

The flax processing workshop in Wayne's (actually, Diane's) carport was well attended, especially considering that it was head-to-head with the Sheep and Wool Festival at Rhinebeck. A number of participants brought flax from their own flax patches to experiment with, some useable, some less so. Some—notably, Kathy, Ellie, Sue and Lois—brought much-needed expertise. In the end, the workshop produced perhaps more experience and insight than fiber—an ideal outcome.

Among the lessons we learned were:

1. It is important to harvest flax promptly. The flax from a batch left standing into late Fall was noticeably coarser than flax harvested three months after planting.
2. Flax is a lovely plant. Processing it is by turns smelly, messy and laborious, but there is something almost magic about seeing beautiful bundles of fiber emerge from the hackle in the end, and that is more than sufficient reward for all the effort.
3. Retting is a particularly tricky business, and we all need to learn more about it. Too little and the fiber doesn't come loose. Too much and the fiber themselves start to break down. And, after retting, it is important to dry the flax promptly. A batch left bundled after removing it from the water continues to ret and turn moldy, which weakens the flax fibers and makes them liable to break. (Wayne has first-hand experience with this mistake!)
4. The flax must be very dry before it can be broken. You can't work with damp stalks.
5. A very thorough job of breaking saves lots of work in subsequent skutching and hackling.
6. Hackling flax should involve a gentle flicking motion. The fiber ought not to go so deeply into the hackle teeth so that it needs to be pulled free with force.
7. Flax hackles made from stainless steel dog combs embedded in double rows in a block of wood work just as well for small batches as antique hackles, whose rusty iron spikes are rather scary. Look for combs whose back has a square, rather than a round, cross-section, since these can be fixed more securely in grooves in the wooden block.
8. Above all, the experience reminded us how valuable it can be to meet now and then for small workshops focusing on special skill sets, in addition to our regular monthly meetings. Pooling our knowledge, serving both as learners and as teachers to each other, sharing our skills, our questions, and our mistakes, really brought us close to the heart of what guilds are good for, not to mention giving us a chance to get to know some of our fellow spinners better than we might in large group meetings. Informal workshops like this were a central part of guild activities in earlier decades, and we came away convinced that it is a practice well worth reviving.

Skein Competition Guidelines, Roc Day 2015

We look forward to receiving your entries for this event. You may submit 5 entries, which should be received by no later than 11 o'clock the day of the event. This year we will take one class at a time for judging, leaving the other entries on display, and return each class to the display table once judging for that class is complete. Awards will be presented at 3 o'clock. Participants may pick up their entries at this time.

There are no restrictions on the number of entries in any class, for a total of 5 entries.

Attach to each entry an envelope. The outside of the envelope should show the class, and information on the fiber, preparation and intended use. Your name and guild affiliation go on the inside please.

Classes are as follows:

- 1) Proficiency of spin: a two ounce skein 100% wool
- 2) Proficiency of spin: a two ounce skein blend or other fiber
- 3) Novelty yarn: 2 ounce skein, spun using any technique or fiber
- 4) Novice yarn: 2 ounce of yarn spun by a person new to spinning in the last year
- 5) Project basket: in a basket or container of your choice, artfully presented, provide the following:

The pattern for which the fiber is intended

At least 4 ounces of fiber spun for the project

A sample of the fiber unseen

A knitted, crocheted woven, etc., sample demonstrating the pattern.

PLEASE NOTE: For all classes, entries made on a drop spindle or charka may be submitted at weights half of those stated. Hence, for classes 1 through 4, one-ounce skeins will be accepted, and for the project basket 2 ounces will suffice. Be sure to identify these skeins, please.

We will be asking attendees to participate in our viewers'-choice selection. Vote on the submission you most like, for whatever reason. The entry with the most votes will be awarded a prize.

Yarn Culture™

NEW YORK

Open for retail beginning October 30, 2013

Hours: W - Sa 12p -6p

Open every day online at www.yarnculture.com

Guild members get 10% off for in-store purchases.

Find us at 1367 Fairport Rd. , Suite 885; Fairport, NY
(behind the AMF Fairview Lanes in the Fairport Office Park)
585.678.4894

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.

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

Wheels for sale. Contact Cathy Chesnut for more info if interested. 607-745-3163 – cchesnut@frontiernet.net
All wheels in great working order.

Ashford ST Traditional – older – dark finish – Scotch Tension 4 bobbins – Lazy Kate - \$325.00. 3rd owner.

Ashford ST Joy – 3 bobbins – original model – Scotch Tension - \$450.00 – new to me

Ashford DT Joy 2 – 3 bobbins – Scotch Tension - \$565.00 – new to me

Ashford Kiwi – original model – mended reg. flyer - 3 bobbins – Scotch Tension lace whorl – jumbo flyer with 1 bobbin - \$450.00 – 2nd owner

FRICKE S-160-F-DT – 4 bobbins – Kate – 2 new drive bands – Scotch Tension delta orifice – spring clip flyer - \$425.

LADY BUG – DT – Scotch Tension – Can be Set up for double drive band – 4 bobbins – onboard Kate – new to me - \$575

CPW – original - maker unknown – 30 inch wheel – restored by William Ralph – Complete with 3 bobbins – Double Drive

In an effort to reduce my personal stash, I'd like to sell cotton warp, loop mohair, rug wools, fine wools, rayon and rayon chenille and other interesting stuff at prices ranging from low to ridiculous. I also have a Hansen e-spinner with woolee winder, two bobbins and kate for sale. Contact Karey Solomon at threads@empacc.net.



Spinning Great Wheels

-hand crafted solid oak

R Collins

197 Walsh Rd

Wellsburg, NY 14894

607-733-9880



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




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@blacksheephandspinnerguild.com. Black & white business cards are published free for current members.



CHEMUNG VALLEY FIBER
ARTS GUILD



Dedicated to Preserving & Teaching the Art
of Handspinning and other Fiber Arts.

<http://chemungvalleyguild.wordpress.com/>


Spinning Bunny

Hand Dyed Fiber & Yarn
Hand Spun Yarn, Patterns
Baynes Spinning Wheels, Spindles
Needles, Kits, Accessories

www.spinningbunny.com
607-564-7178, toll free #1-866-504-7236
usance@spinningbunny.com
<http://asthebunnyspins.blogspot.com>
311B Tupper Rd. W. Danby, NY

Coasters to Coverlets
WILLIAM E. BARTLETT

152 HART ROAD
DRYDEN, NY 13053-9524
Phone: 607-844-8042
Wmbartlett@aol.com
Wmbartlett@frontier.com



TRINITY FARM
Registered Shetland and Icelandic Sheep

hand-spun Yarns, Carbed Kevlar, Well-Shirred fleece

Margaret G. Flowers Matthew W. Dietert
Aurora, NY 13024
www.trinityfarm.net
315-246-1178 mflowers@wells.edu

Jim's Woodworks

Wheels & Spindles
Skeinwinders
Orifice Hooks
Folding Spinning Stools
Yarn Measurers
Wheel Repairs



607/564-7178 or 607/227-1346
<http://www.spinningbunny.com>

Stillmeadow E. Kinne
Finnsheep Pottery
since 1994



Elizabeth H. Kinne Grossner
5883 Randall Hill Road, DeRuyter, NY 13052
Ph: 315.852.3344 www.stillmeadowfinnsheep.com



Lady Llama Fiber Co.
Fine Fiber Arts Products

Kelli Terwilliger

Handpainted Yarn
Handspun Yarn
Spinning Fibers
Knitting Accessories
...and more

(716) 673-5050
ladyllamafiberco@gmail.com
Shop: www.ladyllamafiberco.etsy.com

yarn farm

Shannon Berndt

607-279-7148
PO Box 4123
Ithaca, NY 14852
<http://theyarnfarm.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/shannonsyarnfarm>
shannonsyarnfarm@gmail.com

*Felted
Flora*

Hand Knit & Felted Designs
by Renata Brenner

FeltedFlora@yahoo.com
www.etsy.com/shop/FeltedFlora

alpaca Place LLC

2427 Richardson Hill Road Moravia, NY 13118
Phone: 315-224-9827 Ask for Gerry or Dawn
Email: Info@alpacaplace.com

Stop and Visit In Person or on the Web
www.alpacaplace.com

