A Message from the President

Greetings!
The clock is ticking--Lois, our new editor, needs a president's message, and I can think of nothing to say. Abby is here working on the purl stitch; until today her knitting vocabulary consisted of just one word: knit. She mastered the yarn overs in 5 minutes, so the right side of her shawl, complete with markers and yarn overs, she sails right through. The back, purled side will require more practice so we will teach her mom (also a one-word knitter I think) to purl as well. The yarn in use is some she dyed here last Friday, in a rainbow of colors, with a shawl in mind. I can't tell you how many times I have found inspiration in her color selection for dyeing and carding; she appears free of the hesitance and dictates that can, and sometimes do, make these activities stressful and time-consuming for me. "Just try it," she says.

So when she stepped off the school bus and asked "When are you going to show me how to knit a shawl?" the answer could only be "Now." Maybe I did have something to say.....

Sharon

PS: ask Abby to show you her shawl!

Officer Election Results
May 2015

Elected Officers:
President—Sharon Gombas
Vice President—Sue Quick
Secretary/archivist—Angelika St. Laurent
Treasurer—Vicki Marsted
Newsletter Editor—Lois Swales

Our June meeting offers TWO choices (choose one):
A Demo at the Ithaca Celtic Festival in Stewart Park, Ithaca NY & demo’s of waulking and spinning, includes free admission for BSHG demo-ers.
OR
For those who want to simply 'do the usual’ in Lansing, meet at the Church at 11AM. See Page 6 for complete details.

President Sharon Gombas
Vice President Sue Quick
Secretary Angelika St. Laurent
Treasurer Vicki Marsted
Newsletter Lois Swales
Membership Marjorie Inana
Programming Audrey Lowes *
* Audrey prefers phone contact Marjorie Inana
Webmaster Rosane Mordt
Roc Day Coordinator Sharon Gombas

p.1 Pres. Message/Election results
p.2-3 Show & Tell Spinnstub’n
p.4-5 BSHG Online choices
p.6 June 13 Meeting details
pp.7-8 ads

The Black Sheep meet from 11am - 3pm on the 2nd Saturday of each month at All Saints Church Parish Hall, Route 34B, in Lansing, NY. Exceptions are possible-see location changes in the latest newsletter!
Show and tell in the Spinnstub’n how swiftly the wheels turn around!

Wondering what you missed at the May Show and Tell?

We gathered into our traditional (and ancient!!!) spinning circle to share our spinning triumphs and tribulations, one by one. There was much to learn in the Spinnstub’n (ie spinning room).

Sharon G: she’s way ahead of the curve preparing her entries for the NY State Fair competitions. She ran out of time to finishing her entries for LAST year- if she can find the project instructions, that is.

Abby: in honor of Mother’s Day, she created framed needlefelled pictures as gifts. Her picture called ‘Horse” was particularly delightful. Sharon admires the horse’s eye.

Renata: Periwinkle Blue wool filled her spinning wheel bobbin. Renata loves Kimber Baldwin FiberOptic gradient merino/silk wool. She is spinning an incredibly subtle midnight gradient laceweight yarn from that dyer.

Angelika: working on a long term gradient project. She also showed a handspun Black Corriedale wool hat (fiber from Beth Smith workshop) with cabled section.

Audrey: was proud to report progress on her Headstart and Pre-Headstart mitten and hat sets to donate. She also noted problems with yarns marked “worsted” that turned out to be too thin for the “worsted” size designation.

June 13 BSHG MEETING LOCATION CHANGE
At the Ithaca Celtic Festival on Sat, June 13, at Stewart Park, Ithaca NY. Contact Wayne OR regular Lansing location 11am See Pg 6 for details.

JULY 11 BSHG MEETING LOCATION CHANGE. We will carpool 10AM from Wegmans Ithaca to the Home Textile Tool Museum in Orwell, PA. Arriving about 11 AM. www.hometextiletoolmuseum.org. Contact Wayne

Troy Fair Wool Day
Wed, July 29th. Troy, PA
Welcome to spin for the day or bring a sheep-to-shawl team.
Contact Eve Harrington
www.troyfair.com

NY State Fair. Syracuse, NY.
Aug 27-Sept 7, 2015
http://www.nysfair.org

Pennsylvania Endless Mountains Fiber Festival
www.pafiberfestival.com

Finger Lakes Fiber Festival
Sept 19 & 20. Hemlock Fairgrounds, Hemlock NY.
www.gvhg.org/fiber-fest

NYS Sheep & Wool Festival
Oct 17 &18. Rhinebeck, NY
http://www.sheepandwool.com
Kay S: She wasn’t sure of the stash fiber she was spinning but very soft – perhaps silk, fine wool and ?Yak? It spun up gossamer fine on a new handspindle with a top hook.

Vicki: as Treasurer she is interested in More Memberships!

Susan: spinning Corriedale Finn Rambouillet

Alison: created Navaho plied yarn over a core and crocheted a circle rug. She also made her own hand-carved wooden lucet tool to make handspun cords.

Mary: Holds her beautiful handspun shawl in Greys and Greens- BLF Leicester - Pattern ‘Hansel Hapshawl’ by Gudrun Johnston on Ravelry.

Anne: will be going to the Ontario Handspinners Seminar in Canada next month.

Bill: still spinning on his Sleeping Beauty spinning wheel.

Wayne: had packets of fiber flax seed to share. Also, at the Celtic Festival June 13th, there will be a Waulking demo at 1 PM (and Gaelic work song singing) to full a piece of hand woven wool. The length of cloth is 6’ X 20” and woven on a barn frame loom

Laurie: drop spindle spinning turquoise wool fiber from BSHG Garage Sale.

Kathy: Lace knitting an endless narrow lace edging in handspun cotton. She is moving and needs mindless knitting to keep her hands occupied thru many distractions.

Sue Q: working on Robin Nistock’s Cotswold wool.

Lynn A: Spinning wool batts from Alison’s color mix.
Going back a century or 20, a Spinster needed a spindle, distaff and/or spinning wheel, fiber and another more experienced spinster to demonstrate how to make thread or yarn. Simple. Basic. Limited Choices.

However, the Internet Era has arrived, even for simple Spinsters. Many of you have succumbed. Some of you refuse to succumb. Because the Internet has some Pros and it has some Cons. Below, the Newsletter Editor details the Black Sheep Handspinner Guilds’ locations on the Internet.

**BSHG Website**
(type into your browser: http://blacksheephandspinnersguild.org/)
OR
Google search term: Black Sheep Handspinners Guild ‘cause you can’t remember the URL exactly…..
Anyone who has a browser can see our website-no special signup.
Maintained by Rosane Mordt, our Webminister, and Sharon Gombas, our President

**Pros:**
Well-organized layout
PDF’s of more recent newsletters; Scans of our historical Newsletters back to 1976
Non-members can locate the more recent newsletters to ‘find’ us and discover when/where our meetings are.
Fabulous Historical scan collection of our program meeting notes and other library items from the past.
Links to other area guilds and Fiber events.
The Website is an excellent repository for all electronic archived materials.

**Cons:** Websites are not usually immediately updated with the most recent changes.
Other than the Webminister and the President, updates cannot be done by anyone else.

**BSHG Facebook**
140 ‘likes’ – many of these people are local and/or BSHG members
What if You are Not on Facebook: You’ll arrive at the general Facebook page--ignore ‘signup’ boxes, type ”Black Sheep Handspinners Guild” in search box. This should take you to BSHG page.

If you already are a member of Facebook, then search for ”Black Sheep Handspinners Guild” in search box and ‘like’ the group.

Our Facebook Guild site is maintained/monitored by member Ayne Sheldon.
Facebook (con’t)

**Pros:** Postings are close to immediate. This means that a meeting update or cancellation is visible to all, if they are logged into Facebook. Facebook also has an Event calendar option, which Ayne has setup. This lets all those who ‘liked’ the BSHG page to indicate they want to come to the Event and have it listed on their own online calendar. Also, anyone who likes the Facebook page can post, I believe. This means that members and non-members communicate by questions about joining, meeting locations, spinning wheels etc. Ayne has been posting inspiring links to projects of interest to members, such as the wonderful lace garden fence.

**Cons:**
Facebook is quirky as to what it ‘shows’ to those who are Facebook members. It is possible to miss a post due to this quirk. It is also hard to search for posts you’d like to revisit. Not a tidy, organized solution for long term searches. Hard to organize. Members of Facebook have to learn and be aware of privacy settings that limit contacts with people/institutions/sellers who are unwanted contacts. I personally have not experienced any trouble after several years.

**BSHG on Ravelry Forums**
100 Ravelry members follow our Forum. Many I recognize as either members or local Ithaca area residents.
Signing up for Ravelry is free and you’d need to do so to ‘enter’ from the URL at http://www.ravelry.com.

**Pros:** I find the free Ravelry patterns very exciting. I love to compare the ‘real people’ made patterns with the original designer offering. Example: I have a pear shaped body. I look for all those real-people made objects to see how they’d look on my body shape. It has saved me many hours of making wrong pattern choices!!!! Ravelry groups and forums are also wonderful resources for questions on spinning equipment, historical usage, how-to’s, etc.
Not a Member? If you are seeking a pattern, such as Mary’s Show and Tell “Hansel Hapshawl”, try typing it into a Google search browser – it will guide you to the Ravelry pattern online.

**Cons:** You need to join Ravelry to ‘see’ and post to the Forum. Yet another online group to remember the password to. Millions of members and many patterns, groups and forums. Vast temptations to buy / own more stash and spinning wheels and spindles.

Submitted by Lois Swales
The Ithaca Celtic Festival Demo/Meeting  
OR regular Lansing meetup  
Black Sheep Handspinners Guild

CHOICE ONE: you choose to Demo for Free at:  
The Ithaca Celtic Festival- it is only one day this year, and since it falls  
on our regular meeting day, June 13, many of us will be spinning there  
instead of at All Saints. The organizers are looking forward to a lot of  
spinning, and we hope that many of you will be willing to join us in the  
park.  

Some of us will be setting up in Stewart Park early (before the 8:00am  
opening time). If you come later, you should be prepared to park at the  
high school and take the shuttle bus, as parking in the park will be in  
high demand.  
If you tell them at the gate that you are demonstrating spinning, they will let you in for free.  
You should bring a chair.  
The organizers are setting up a demonstration area for us, in the hope that we  
will give demonstrations on various processes in wool  
processing. Please bring any equipment you think would be useful. This  
is a great opportunity for outreach.  
Wayne plans on setting up madder dye pot. We will have a smallish pavilion, but if any of you has an extra  
awning or small pop-up pavilion you could bring, in case of rain, that  
would be great (Tammy is planning on a second easy-up).

Jean Currie has asked if the Black Sheep might help to staff the History  
Center tent next to our own, and I assured her that we could.  
The traditional waulking of the tweed will take place at 1:00.  
It’s always a lot of fun.

You do not need a costume, BTW.

For more information about the Celtic Festival, including the program, see  

http://www.ithacacelticfestival.com


CHOICE TWO: For those who would rather be indoors, or who don’t like  
crowds, You want to go to the Lansing Church as usual at 11 AM and  
Spin with President Sharon Gombas. (All Saints Church Parish Hall,  
Route 34B, in Lansing, NY).
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

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 woollee winder, two bobbins and kate for sale. Contact Karey Solomon at hreads@empacc.net.

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 sabberger@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.