A Message from the President

The President on vacation and is taking a break from issuing a Guild Message. She’ll return for our Guild Trip to the Home Textile Tool Museum on July 11th, however and looks forward to seeing many of you there!

July 11 BSHG HTTM Field Trip
The Details

WHERE: Home Textile Tool Museum, Orwell PA; website
http://www.hometextiletoolmuseum.org

HOW and WHEN
You can drive yourself there directly to arrive at ~ 11:00 AM. Check website above or the right hand sidebar, (this page) for directions

OR you can car pool with those gathering at Wegman’s Parking Lot (near the stream/water side) at 10:00 AM. In order to assure that everyone who wants a ride will have one, people should contact Wayne at wayneharbert@gmail.com or 564-9328 if they need a ride, or can offer someone a ride. Wayne would be willing to offer some rides himself, and to take on the job of matching cars with riders. People should also be encouraged to bring a picnic lunch. There’s nowhere to get food at the museum, but they do have picnic tables.

Our July 11 meeting is a trip to the Home Textile Tool Museum in Orwell, PA.
Museum is located in Northeastern Pennsylvania, in Bradford County, in the village of Orwell. Our location address for your GPS is 1819 Orwell Hill Road Orwell, PA (please note this is not the museum mailing address)
Two miles off Rt. 187, between North Orwell and Rome, on State Route 1036. *12 miles south of Exit 62 to Nichols, N.Y., on Route 17 in New York.

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

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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!
What happened at the Celtic Festival Demo?
Spinning, Shearing, Waulking and Gaelic Work Song Singing in Baile Cloimhe (Wool Town)

Wondering what you missed at the Celtic Festival Demo?

We had a wonderful time interacting with the Curious Public. We were lucky in the weather; no rain; no tornados. Just a lot of downed tree parts to navigate around. We had shade from two easy-ups. We had treadle wheels, a walking wheel and drop spindles. We had WOOL, both processed, dyed and raw to card and spin. Two historical spinsters and several modern spinsters brought a wide variety of equipment for the Public to test out and ponder.

We had a shearer (Nancy Munkenbeck) rush in from another demo and shear sheep she’d never met before (unknown breed.) in front of a big crowd.

We joined the Waulking. And sang Celtic Work Songs. Waulking was fun and Public-friendly throughout the day. Wayne Walked the Great Wheel Walk as well as led the singing with Gaelic cheat cards for every one.

BTW, Nancy Munkenbeck took her OWN sheep to exhibit at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival in May and came home with a Best Fleece for Breed award (natural colored-medium). Woooo Hoo Nancy!!!!!


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.

YIKES, Entry paperwork DUE JULY 7th-See Website

Pennsylvania Endless Mountains Fiber Festival

Finger Lakes Fiber Festival

NYS Sheep & Wool Festival
Good Ideas of the Month
1. Training wheels

Rose H. from Sayre PA easily demos on a hardwood, STURDY, treadle wheel with wheels applied to the back frame. Leaving is so easy!!!

2. Spinning wheel
Cliff Notes

Mary N. from Elmira clips a note card on her tension knob to record the size and type of wool, etc. she is filling the bobbin with. Along with handy grist guide. Lest she forget.

3. Bring your own Spinning Wheel Floor

Shelley M solves the Rocking-on-uneven-ground Demo problem with a Plywood panel.

More about Waulking

Along with Sheep Shearing at the Celtic Festival, the Waulking Tent was a Big Draw.

The organizer / lead singer for the tweed waulking is Kate Cushing. (Her daughter, Mary Bishop, organizes the festival, and her husband, Mark Cushing, is the Pipe Major of the Finger Lakes Bagpipe Band.) She doesn’t do the waulking under the auspices of any organization as such, but we have referred to ourselves as the Ithaca Waulking Group. Kate is a kilt maker and musician who plays the accordion, cello, bagpipes, viola da gamba and harp, an emerita member of the Black Sheep Guild, and one of the people in my Gaelic Breakfast Club, which has met on Saturdays at my house for the past eight years to study Gaelic. Kate decided a couple of years ago that we should do some Gaelic waulking songs at the Celtic Festival, so we’ve done it for the past three years. (There’s a writeup about waulking in the June 2013 newsletter [LINK].) We’ll be taking the show on the road this summer; the Home Textile Tool Museum has asked us to give a waulking demonstration in Orwell on August 29. We’ll be using the same cloth there that we used this time. The cloth was woven on a barn loom by Bill Cournoyer of Connecticut, who usually shears sheep at the Festival. He couldn’t be here this summer because one of his daughters was graduating. Submitted by Wayne Harbert
Twisted BSHG members in Action Last Month

What is that liquid on the Waulking Table, exactly? Not the historically correct Old Urine, but diluted Ammonia is substituted to full the Tweed. Wayne leads the Work song singing. PS: The visitor in the blue shirt isn’t standing on anything. He is 6’ 8” tall. And a Scot.

Sue W. from Elmira traveled light by bringing her Turkish drop spindle. That triangle shawl, with tails tied behind her is a Beautiful Handspun Object made from a lofty, soft 2 ply. Yum.

Angora Goats as Kid Magnets.

The Historical Spinners demonstrated how to step back in time – Wayne H with his recalcitrant Great Wheel assisted by a small helper.
Lois S, BSHG Newsletter Editor dressed like a 18th century Scot, Caught in the act of carding Marie’s Romney wool
Many thanks to Wayne, Angelika, Anne and Me for all the Pixs.

The Ontario Handspinning Seminar was held June 12-14 this year in Toronto, Canada. [Website here](http://example.com). This is one of the Big Handspinning Conferences. Anne loves going. Here’s why, in her own words.

I always have a great time at the Seminar. This year there were workshops on fibers from all over the world. Alpaca and angora appealed to me, so I learned some new techniques and had a chance to play with unusual fiber. The highlights for me were two presentations of fiber arts from distant parts of the world. Knitting from Estonia where we saw and touched fine (30 stitches to the inch) examples. And from Southeastern Asia, examples of weaving which included weft dyed pieces. Such an amazing opportunity to see close up and touch such fine spinning, knitting, and weaving.

Two years ago one of the fun activities at the seminar had us spinning up fine yarn. The excess yarn was collected, knit, and turned into a throw. It was raffled off this year with the proceeds going to the library of a children's hospital.

The Ontario Handspinners awarded a scholarship of $150 to Jules Hojnowski who plans a trip to New Zealand to study Maori dyeing methods.
Anne sent some pixs from the Ontario Handspinning Seminar for your enjoyment.

Anne Furman suggested adding some commentary to the list of local fiber fairs and events nearby for those who want to travel and be inspired not-too-far-from-home.

There is a partial list of such events on page 2 of this newsletter.

Here is Anne’s take on what you might experience with some of these listings.

**Troy Fair 140th Troy Fair-July 27 to Aug 1 | troyfair.com**  Sheep and Wool Day this year is Wednesday, July 29th
This fair has a "Wool Day" during the week of the fair. Showing sheep, selling fleeces and fiber related things, there is a sheep to shawl competition. But it is more an example of what county fairs were like in the past than an opportunity to buy for spinning, knitting, etc.

Often events are known by the place where they are held rather than the name, ie: Hemlock for the fairgrounds where the Finger Lakes Fiber Festival event is held and Rheinbeck for the place where the Duchess County Sheep and Wool Festival is held. These places should have web sites.

The MAFA 2015 Workshop Weekend
July 16-19, 2015
Millersville University, Millersville, Pennsylvania, 17551-1800
afa-conference-2015.org/index.php
The public (aka you didn’t sign up for the (expensive) workshops back in January) can get in to the vendor and display areas for free. See website for exact details. This is a big workshop experience with more than handspinning featured.

NY State Fair. Syracuse, NY.
Aug 27-Sept 7, 2015
http://www.nysfair.org
A chance to both compete (WARNING, Entry deadline due July 7th ……… Yikes. ) and to participate as guild demonstrators or in the sheep to shawl, if you can find a team. Of course, this is a Big Fair, and you can see all sorts of fiber animals as well. The displays of competition handspinning and assorted textile arts is quite inspiring. Easy day trip, but a lot of walking.

Pennsylvania Endless Mountains Fiber Festival
www.pafiberfestival.com
(comment from Lois Swales – a simple fair very much out in the country, but I enjoyed the slow pace and friendliness – I meet up with a spinning guru there and had a quick lesson on ‘in the hand spinning’ which was very helpful. They have merchants and classes during the day, too. You never know what you might run into.)

“Hemlock”
Finger Lakes Fiber Festival
Anne’s comments: Hemlock is a day trip with friends. Lois’ comments: I think of this as a nice regional Handspinning event. Lots of merchants, some nice classes, local wool fleece judged and to purchase, a lot of alpaca, used textile tools and wheels, and inspiring displays. The only drawback is that there is a Fingerlake in the way of getting there from Ithaca.

392 Old Schylerville Road, Greenwich, NY 12834
http://www.adkfiber.com
One I have not been to but which has been recommended to me by 3 different people is the Southern Adirondack Fiber Festival, usually just called Adirondack. North of Albany and east of Saratoga Springs. Here's the link. Maybe this year.

“Rhinebeck”
NYS Sheep & Wool Festival
Oct 17 &18. Rhinebeck, NY
http://www.sheepandwool.com
Anne says: Rheinbeck, in my opinion, is best done with an overnight stay which has to be organized about 6 months in advance to find a reasonably priced motel room. One time we spent an extra day in the area going to the Roosevelt house and Vanderbilt Mansion. Another time we went to Storm King Art Center, and the Dia is also nearby. It depends on who you are traveling with and shared interests.

Lois comments: I day trip this with friends from Ithaca, but we leave very early and get back very late. It is a Big Major Event and super fun. Lots of yarn already spun. I go to the fleece sale for rarities and bargains. And to see the Latest Things in textile tools. The Spinning Wheel auction is legendary. There are displays and Sheep to Shawls. Sheepy food of all sorts. Lovely fun. The workshops are also legendary and have Big Names. Early competitive signups for them.

Last but not Least
I need your help.

I need to fill the Newsletter pages with articles and pixs of interest so we are not Bored. Toward this goal, I’m asking for your input:

1. Good Ideas of the Month feature. I need a pix.
2. Bad Ideas of the Month feature. I need a pix.
3. I want to interview Spinning Wheels. Mostly at regular meetings. Approach me if your wheel is quirky, elderly, newest thing, makes friends with other wheels or does special stuff.
4. Did you make something cool from a pattern the rest of us could link to? I would like a pix and a link if possible to the pattern.
5. Handspinning Disasters. Don’t tell me it always goes well. I’ve been spinning 40 years and I don’t believe you.
6. Did you go somewhere Handspinnerly and it was cool? Tell us about it; with pixs.
Black & white business cards are published free for current members.

**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 threads@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

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**Spindles & Whorls from Lois & Laurie**

handmade medieval & viking inspired drop spindles with interchangeable artisan glass or pottery whorls

www.missingspindle.etsy.com

www.glassbead.etsy.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.