Dear Friends:

We're on the right side of the equinox at last, and almost at the end of a March that’s been more lionish than lambish from end to end. It did feature one warm and brilliant highlight, though—our guild’s first-ever March Roc Day. A splendid event! Yvonne, of course, deserves special praise for keeping us on a steady course since way back in the fall, but everyone—organizers, volunteers, demonstrators, workshop leaders, vendors, cooks, competitors and judges in the hat contest, donors and bidders in the raffle, and the many visitors and friends who joined us in the spinning circle—helped to make it a resounding success by infusing it with prodigious quantities of positive energy, creativity, good will, resilience and efficiency. Many hands and hearts went into making it come together so well. We are an amazing creative community, and I am proud and grateful to be a part of it.

We’ll devote our April meeting to relaxing a bit, reveling in the faint promise of spring, spinning and chatting, but it will also be a chance to get a start on spring cleaning. Feel free to pack up the bags of fiber and fiber-related equipment that have been lying unused in your back room and bring them to our garage sale. Hope to see you there.

Wayne

Next meeting is on April 14th from 11am-2pm, and we’ll have our Garage Sale.

President Wayne Harbert
Vice President Sue Quick
Secretary Angelika St. Laurent
Treasurer Louise Henrie
Newsletter Angelika St. Laurent
Workshops Marjorie Inana
Webmaster Rosane Mordt
Roc-Day Coordinator Yvonne LaMontagne

P.1 President’s Message
P.2-3 Workshops and Fiber Events
P.3 Book Recommendation
P.4-6 Roc-Day Photos
P.7 Membership Photos
P.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!
Workshops and Farm Visits

Open House Leyard Farms on Saturday, April 7th

Anna Jesionowski, who manages the flock of Jacob Sheep at Leyard Farms in King Ferry, invites local spinning groups to come visit our farm on Saturday, April 7, 2018, from 10am to 2pm to meet the flock and enjoy the frolicking lambs. Light refreshments will be provided. There will also have raw fleeces available.

Feel free to call (1-646-549-0217) or email (wildflight@gmail.com) with any questions or to RSVP.

All are welcome!

Workshop: Preparing Wool Fiber for Lock Spinning in Schoharie NY

Virginia Scholomitti teaches a morning workshop on Saturday April 7th, 10am-1:00pm on what to look for, when purchasing a fleece. Then she will take you through the entire process of skirting, washing, picking and carding the fiber. She will also demonstrate different techniques to spin locks into yarn keeping the curls intact. There will be wool of different breeds to try spinning. The cost of the course is $45.

Virginia Scholomitti raises Wensleydale and Teeswater sheep and is co-author of ‘Ideas & Patterns for Art Yarns: A Guide to Using Textured Handspun Yarn’

To register for the class email ceceswool@gmail.com or call (518) 779-9985.

The Jacob flock at Leyard Farms.
Wool Grading Class offered by the Vermont Sheep and Goat Association (VSGA)

The Vermont Sheep and Goat Association 2 1/2 day class on wool grading from Friday June 2nd, 8am, to Sunday June 4th at the Vermont Technical College in Randolph Center, Vermont. Teacher of the class will be Dr. Lisa Surber, ASI Director of Raw Wool Services. The cost will be $250 for VSGA members and $275 for non-members. The focus of the school is to help train producers, wool industry and interested people about wool quality and classing. In addition, to assist in improving the quality of the domestic wool clip, which is imperative to American wool being more competitive and available in the international as well as domestic markets. Topics to be covered include wool fiber growth, development and production, objective measurement of wool and hands-on wool grading.

Lodging is available on campus for a minimal fee TBD. Respond to efortin@comcast.net if that interests you. You would have to bring sheets or a sleeping bag and there is no cafeteria open during the summer.

Maps, directions, course outline, and registration are at http://vtsheepandgoat.org/register-asi-wool-classing-course/.

Book Recommendation

Anne Furman recommends: Cræft, by Alexander Langlands (Norton). A pressing question lies at the heart of this exploration of pottery-making, yarn-spinning, hedge-pleaching, roof-thatching, plowing with oxen, and other traditional crafts: Was it wise of us to abandon skills honed over millennia? Langlands thinks not, and, drawing on his own crafting experiences, offers both a how-to manual and a challenge to the idea that industrialized production, with its reliance on cheap fossil fuels, is necessarily the way of the future. Arguing that the search for sustainability may make costly, labor-intensive methods newly attractive, he also makes a case for the psychological benefits of working with one’s hands. “Crafts are a vehicle,” he writes, “through which we can be.”
Roc Day Respun

March 10th 2018

Lunch at the spinning circle

One of the goat kids from Erica Mc Carthy’s Mini Minions

The proud winners of the hat-competition wearing their winning hats, in the middle Wendy Caffee, 1st place.

To the left Marguerite Hickernell 2nd place and

To the right Louise Henry, 3rd place

At the spinning circle
The Chinese Auction table

Lois demonstrating her electric spinner

Majorie demonstrating Kumihimo

Wayne on the great wheel
The Chakra workshop led by Kathy, Glenna and Tammy

The felting workshop with Laurie Ament

Photos: Susan Verberg, Wayne Harbert, and Simon St. Laurent
Name__________________________________________________________

Address:________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

Preferred email: PRINT NEATLY ____________________________________________________________________________

Phone # __________________________________________________________

This information will be shared with registered guild members. If you wish to remain anonymous, please let Louise Henrie know.

Please list your wheel(s) ____________________________________________

Do you spindle spin?  Yes  or No (circle)

Do you Knit? Weave? Crochet? Dye? (Natural or Chemical?):

Would you be willing to share your skills with other members (ie: teach beginners, present a meeting topic, demo to the public, etc?)

If you raise fiber animals, please list them here ________________________________

We need your help on committee(s). If you would like to volunteer, let our president, Wayne Harbert, know!!!

Roc Day
 Programming
 Newsletter
 Membership
 Website
 Outreach
 Treasurer

Our newsletter is distributed electronically. If this is a problem, please contact Angelika St.Laurent. Please fill this out and either bring it to a meeting or mail it with your check for $20 to: Louise Henrie, 417 2nd Street, Ithaca, NY 14850
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, Louise Henrie, 417 2nd Street, Ithaca, NY 14850. Send the ad in digital form to the newsletter editor, angelika@simonstl.com. Black & white business cards are published free for current members.