

Black Sheep Handspinners Guild Newsletter

July/August 2008

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<http://www.blacksheephandspinnersguild.org>

The Black Sheep meet from 11am-3pm on the second Saturday of the month at the Varna Community Center Route 366 in Varna, New York. Exceptions are the months of December, June, July, and August when we meet in member's homes.

July 12 from 11 AM to 3 PM

July 12th will be at Wayne Harbert's house at 107 Burdge Hill Road in Newfield.

To get there from the North/ East go south out of Ithaca on Route 13, past Lower Treman Park, Eddydale and the former Turbacks. Stay on 13 past the intersection with 34/96, and go up the hill for another mile past that intersection. Turn right on Millard Hill Road--the first right after the 34/96 intersection. Landstrom Gravel Company is at the base of the hill just before Millard Hill Road. (Millard Hill Road is the paved road that goes straight up the hill--not the dirt road off to the right.) Go up Millard Hill Road for a mile, and turn on Burdge Hill Road, the first left off Millard Hill Road. Go up Burdge Hill Road for another 1.1 miles or so. It's uphill all the way. If you find yourself going downhill again you have probably passed us. 107 Burdge Hill Road is on the left side of the road--the one with the long driveway.

To get there from the South/ West go north on Route 13 past Newfield, heading toward Ithaca. Pass the Route 13/ Trumbulls Corners Road intersection which is the main point of entry to Newfield. (Zippy's car wash is just before that intersection.) Continue north on Route 13 for just under a mile. You will pass Protts Hill Road on the left. Burdge Hill Road is the next one. It a steep road intersecting Route 13 on the left. Turn left on Burdge Hill Road and go up the hill for about half a mile. It's uphill all the way. If you find yourself going downhill again you have probably passed us. 107 Burdge Hill Road is at the first long driveway on the right hand side.

The street number at the top of our long driveway. Our phone number is 564-9328, in case you get lost.

August 9 from 11 AM to 3 PM

August 9th will be at Farm City Day held this year at Angel Tree Alpaca Farm. 554 Scofield Road Groton, New York 608 533 3608

The organizer, Debbie Teeter, has ordered a tent, chairs, and tables for our use. Bring examples of your spinning or other fiber displays you have for visitors. Expect to talk with visitors more than with each other. We are a gabby lot, and this is a good opportunity for outreach from the guild.

Driving directions can be found on their web site: <http://www.angeltreefarm.com/>.

From Ithaca turn left to go north on route 34 or North Triphammer Road. Turn right when it intersects route 34B/Peruville Road. Turn left into Scofield Road.

From Cortland take route 222 and bear left at West Road, route 281, go 1.2 miles. Turn right on County Road 120, McLean Road and continue to County Road 107, Peruville Road. Go 4.8 miles and turn right on Scofield Road.

Find more information on the New York State Fair Competition in the May newsletter and at:

www.nysfair.org/docs/entry/Arts-Crafts-Rules-Classes.pdf

JULY 14	ENTRY FORM DEADLINE (Monday)
AUGUST 7, 8 & 9	RECEIVING DAYS - (9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.) (Thursday, Friday & Saturday)
AUGUST 8	MAIL IN ARTICLES ARE DUE (Friday)

Ontario Handspinning Seminar, June 2008 from Jean Currie

Ellie May, Anne Furman, and I set off for Barrie, Ontario on a hot Friday morning for the OHS held at Georgian College, Barrie, Ont. On the way, we stopped for lunch in the Niagara Park near the General Brock monument. We must have passed this massive stone edifice a zillion times but never noticed it before! Major General Sir Isaac Brock was Governor of Upper Canada and in the War of 1812 died while defending the Canadian borders from invading Americans. After the best quiche ever and a great view of the Niagara River, we set off on yet another highway in the 400 series of Ontario, or is it in the whole of Canada?

After a short rest on arrival in Barrie, we spent some money in the Seminar Sales Room on alpaca - at varying times and unknown to each other, we each bought the same thing in pink (Ellie), Mauve (Anne), and green (Jean). I also was intrigued with a kit of Habu yarns that included viscose/paper/linen and silk wrapped stainless steel. We needed Canadian money, gas, and food in that order so took a trip to the closest beach front of Barrie which was having a noisy Friday night out on a very hot evening!

The introductory seminar program was an interesting video called *Basho to Stainless Steel* on Japanese spinning and weaving. It began with very intensive handwork in somewhat primitive conditions producing wonderful plant fibre fabrics from a national treasure spinner and weaver through more modern techniques using silk and cotton, and on to very fine metal yarns (stainless steel, copper, gold etc.) for weaving or knitting (see stainless above). BTW, Basho is a tree-like plant related to the banana.

We each went to a different workshop for the rest of the day. I attended Work Less – Get More with Dorothy Hinchcliffe. It was a great mélange of topics that gave a mix of novice and expert spinners lots of great tips and tricks. We learned how to measure the yarn needed and how to measure a potential project after you have already spun it the yarn - as I never have a project in mind, this was great for me! We learned how to deal with various disasters including unspinning a bad yarn – actually practicing this was a great exercise. We learned that you should get rid of fibre, yarn, or a project that is not retrievable:

Give me the serenity to throw out fibre that is beyond redemption,
The courage to say NO to an idea.
And the wisdom to know my limits!

We learned that is it just fine to spin and knit singles but you must block well using a circular blocker (like a warping reel). Wind the skein on it, then wash the skein, then put the skein back on the blocker to dry. We learned how to recycle bits, thrums, balls of yarn, garments, etc. by cutting them up, carding a little or a lot, and then respinning. What great stuff will come from these combinations. We learned that you should do an inventory of your stash annually, store it properly and label everything, and then use it up. Having the largest stash when you die does not make you the best – just leaves a mess for someone else to deal with! We learned in casual conversation that putting cut up lemons in the path of ants will make them go away!

By the evening we had found a corkscrew, so we had some Finger Lakes wine, enjoyed a banquet, and then a fashion show of work done during the past year. There were many lovely, lacey scarves and shawls, a beautiful cabled man's sweater by a novice spinner, and several interestingly designed jackets.

The final program on Sunday was a show and tell about a fibre related trip to Thailand by several of the Ontario spinners – they had visited several villages and fair trade places to investigate and practice spinning and weaving cotton and silk on equipment that is very different from ours. These very expert

Canadian spinners and weavers had great trouble but got lots of help and laughter from the patient villagers. Then the awards with our own Linda Helms doing well as usual.

Handy hint: Going to Canada on Friday afternoon and returning to the US on Sunday evening are the right times to cross the border – the lines are very short. If you do the reverse, then plan to be in lines of hundreds of cars each!! Next year's seminar will be in Kingston and we are planning it already!!



Ever wonder what an exceptional hand made sweater costs?

This sweater was in the window of Three Bags Full in their San Francisco store. Probably knit on #4 needles. It had a price tag of \$495. To see other exquisite original hand made sweaters from them go to:

<http://www.threebagsfull.com/>

Upcoming

Guild meetings

July 12th at Wayne Harbert's home

August 9th at Farm City Day
Angel Tree Alpaca Farm

Quilt and Fiber Art Festival

July 12 and 13, 10-5
Highbanks Recreation Area
Mt. Morris entrance of Letchworth State Park
fabric, fiber, yarn, fiber animals, demos, quilt show, food

Troy Fair

Wool Day, July 23
Troy, PA
<http://troyfair.com>

New York State Fair

August 21 to September 1, 2008
Syracuse, NY
<http://www.nysfair.org/fair>

Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival

September 6 & 7, 2008
Champlain Valley Expo, Essex Jct., VT
<http://www.vermontsheep.org/festival.html>

Finger Lakes Fiber Arts and Crafts Festival

September 20 & 21
Hemlock Fairgrounds, Hemlock, NY
<http://www.gvhq.org/fest.html>

Fiber Fallout

Johsonburg, NJ
September 26th to 28th, 2008
<http://www.northcountryspinners.org/retreat.html>

New York State Sheep and Wool Festival

Rheinbeck, New York
October 18th and 19th
<http://www.sheepandwool.com>

Thanks to Jean Currie for her report on adventures at the Ontario Handspinners' Seminar. If you have blogs to recommend, photos, news, web sites, jokes, information, etc. for the newsletter please send it to Anne Furman at ahf@zoom-dsl.com



1-866-504-7236, 607-564-7178

311B Tupper Rd, W. Danby, NY

www.spinningbunny.com

WHEELS, ACCESSORIES, SPINDLES, PATTERNS

To place an ad

A check for \$5.00 made to BSHG for an ad to run three times (a year is \$15) should be sent to the current treasurer, Eleanor May, 1360 Slaterville Road, Ithaca, NY. 14850. Send the ad to the newsletter editor, Anne Furman at: ahf@fltg.net. If you have a question for her or others, you can email us through the links at the top of the newsletter.

To see what Susan Sarabasha is up to, the great Open House, an amazing photo of a double rainbow, and other neat things go to her blog at:

<http://asthebunnyspins.blogspot.com/>



Finger Lakes Fibers Yarn Store

Specializing in luxurious yarns, natural fibers, and quality hand knitting supplies. Featuring locally spun and dyed yarns; and unique fibers from around the world.

Receive 20% your first yarn purchase of \$50 or more with this ad!

See a class schedule; or get store hours and directions on our website: www.fingerlakesfibers.com

129 E. 4th St. (NYS Rte 414 No. - one block off Franklin St.)

Watkins Glen, NY 14891

607 535 9710