

Black Sheep Handspinners Guild Newsletter

July/August 2010

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<http://www.blacksheephandspinnersguild.org>

The Black Sheep meet from 11am-3pm on the second Saturday of the month at the All Saints Church, Route 34b in Lansing.

We are meeting at the All Saint's Church in Lansing, across from the Lansing Schools, from 11AM to 3PM, July 10, 2010.

The August meeting will be held Saturday, August 14, 2010, at the All Saints Church

President's Message

Jim Johnson

I am happy to announce that Aziza had her babies. A girl and a boy, both over 7 pounds. Best wishes and congratulations are in order.

This is the start of the hot season and for some of us this limits the amount of spinning that we do. For myself, when the fiber starts to stick to my hands I stop. If anybody has suggestions to alleviate this problem please share them at the meeting. I will not be there to hear in person, but I hope to hear reports of any suggestions. Since this is also the week of the Celtic Games where some of our members will be the program of round robin wheels has been put on hold.

People are encouraged to let me know if they are interested in taking part in the Roc Day planning committee. Also, the newcomers group could use some extra people. Taking part in these or other ongoing programs is a good way to get more involved with the guild.

Scottish Games!

The Ithaca Scottish Games will be held on Saturday, July 10, 2010, in Stewart Park (first field, by the main pavilion), and they are eager to have spinners come and demonstrate. This date unfortunately conflicts once again with our guild meeting, but I plan on being there with my great wheel, and hope that some of the rest of you will be able to join us with other sorts of equipment. I will be putting up a small tent for us, and have been told that we can start setting up at 7:00am. The event opens at 8:00. If we get there early, Mary Bishop, the organizer of the

event, says we should be able to park very close to where we will be demonstrating. If you are interested in spinning at the games, or if you have questions, please let me know by email at weh2@cornell.edu or by phone at 607-564-9328. The website for the event can be seen at <http://www.ithacascottishgames.com/>.

How to Keep Your Wheel Singing

Jim Johnson

[Jim presented at our June meeting on how to maintain one's wheel. Here is the recap of his comments.] --Ed.

First, whenever you sit down to spin, listen to the sound of your wheel. It should be emitting a happy sound, not squeaks. If it squeaks, look and listen for where it's coming from, and then oil that spot, even if it's not a spot that you normally oil. If that doesn't work, oil spots near it until the squeak goes away. Listen for rubbing sounds and see if your wheel needs alignment. Sometimes wheel parts come loose and need the bolt or screw tightened. If anything is wobbling on the frame, tighten the bolts, nuts or screws holding the wheel together.

Whenever you sit down to spin, oil the wheel's parts that turn or spin. Leather bearings should be oiled so much that they are black. Use Neet's foot oil (from Agway) for leather bearings, and light mineral oil for all other oiled parts. Oil the spindle as well so that the bobbin turns smoothly.

Oil all points where wood moves against metal with a light mineral oil or oil suggested by the manufacturer. Check your strings and tension (you'll change the tension as you fill up the bobbin), and then enjoy spinning.

Once a year, give your wheel a complete tune up. Take apart enough pieces that you can clean out all the fibers that have stuck to moving parts, especially the bearings. Fiber will wear down the metal or wood. Use a damp rag and Murphy's Oil Soap if the wheel has a factory finish or Turpentine (not mineral spirits) if it has an oil finish.

Wax with a good furniture polish will complete its spa treatment. Tighten the bolts or screws. If you have a Kromski, you may also want to untie and retie the leathers that hold your footmen to the pedals.

Editor's Notes

Marianne Pelletier

Minutes from the June Meeting:

- The Guild's carders are ready to be borrowed again. Get in touch with Ruth Allen (Ruthmumsie@wildblue.net) if you'd like to arrange borrowing one.
- Sharon Gombas has the Guild's table loom. She's holding it in her greenhouse, and it's too damp in there for the loom, so please borrow it for a while. You must bring it back before Roc Day.
- Jim asks again that members stay after the meetings to help put the room back together. Feel free to show up early, instead, to help set up.

Other Notes

Jean Warholic was honored on May 29 at the Home Textile Tool Museum in Orwell, PA, as part of the Museum's 2010 Opening Day celebration. Jean donated a variety of tools to the Museum for this year, and her collection was on display in her honor. --Thanks to Wayne Harbert for sending me the clip from the *Ithaca Advantage*.

Here is a blog entry on spinning in China (from my charkha spinning listserv):
http://habetrot.typepad.com/habetrot/2007/04/spinning_in_chi.html

Upcoming Events

Marianne thanks Knitter's Review for most of these listings. Oh, and for including Roc Day in their listings. Please forward events you know of to Marianne at fudger28@yahoo.com for inclusion on this list.

EZ100

In 1910, Elizabeth Zimmermann was born. It's been 100 years and she will be celebrated as a mother, grandmother and great grandmother in August of 2010. The rest of the world will also celebrate her; as some have kindly named her... "The Godmother of Knitting". In honor of this celebration a challenge was created on Ravelry.

Can we knit 100 OR MORE ABC-SJ's to be donated in the memory of EZ to the Ottawa Reservation, Family Services? ABC-SJ's are adult, baby or child sized surprise jackets. Susan Sarabasha (564-7178) is collecting the Ithaca area donations. They must be postmarked by July 10th so must be to Susan by July 7th. WE know this announcement to the guild is late but are hoping you might have a few hours to knit one up. The moderator will be printing out all completed pictures of sweaters to go on a clothes line to be presented to Meg in July 2010. Susan will photograph all donations to send for the clothesline pics.

Meg Swanson's Knitting Camp

July 1-5, Marshfield, WI. In case you hated your other summer camps.
<http://www.schoolhousepress.com/camp.htm>

Focus on Fiber

July 9-11, Madison County Fair. They are looking for exhibitors. They say, " The fairgrounds are in Brookfield, which is located about 30 minutes south of Utica. " They did not leave a web page, but the note came from Pam Haendle, pamela.haendle@bnymellon.com.

Maine Fiber Arts Retreat

August 1-7, Medomak Retreat Center, Washington, ME.
<http://www.medomakcamp.com/knittersretreat.php>

UK Knit Camp

August 9-13, University of Stirling, Stirling, Scotland. Leave your bagpipes and take up your needles.
<http://www.britishyarn.org.uk/knitcampintro.html>

Fiber Arts Festival & Workshops

August 19-21, Gibson's Landing, BC, Canada.

I Knit Weekend

September 10-11, Royal Horticultural Halls & Conference Centre, 80 Vincent Square, London, UK. My birthday! I wanna' go! <http://www.iknit.org.uk/iknitweekender2010.html>

North Country Spinners

September 24-26, 2010
Johnsonburg Presbyterian Center, Johnsonburg, NJ, Warren County.
<http://www.northcountryspinners.org/retreat.htm>

Interlaken Historical Society Country Fair and Plowing Day

The Interlaken Historical Society will again hold their Country Fair and Plowing Day at Brook Farm on **Saturday, September 25th, 2010, 10am - 4pm**. They invite the BSHG to bring your spinning wheels and provide spinning demonstrations during the day. The barn at Brook Farm (right on Rt89 in Interlaken) is a 1903 Wells post and beam barn, quite astonishing in its size and great condition. There will be other old fashioned crafts, animals etc. and the vintage plowing demos are interesting and fun. You will be inside the barn so weather is no problem. Contact Jean at ejeancurrie@gmail.com or one of the organizers, Allan and Ann Buddle at orchardland@zoom-dsl.com if you can come.

Northeast Handspinners Conference

November 5 to 7 at the Grand Summit Resort, Mt. Snow, VT. Submitted by Nancy Morey -- thanks!

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2009: "Reserve Grand Champion" Natural Colored Fleece
Finger Lakes Fiber Arts Festival
Hemlock, N.Y.

Christine Johnson
johnson.chris123@yahoo.com

Sale of Celia Radke's stash

At her untimely death, Celia Radke had the winning stash. On June 19, 2010 from 10am - 2pm it will all go on sale at the house of Jean Currie, County Rd 153, Interlaken. Most of the sale is yarns with a few spinnable fibers. Celia had great taste in fiber, so this is high quality at great prices. If you want a heads-up about what you might see and will want to buy, go to:

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, Sharon Gombas, 177 Salmon Creek Rd. Lansing, NY 14882. Send the ad to the newsletter editor, Marianne Pelletier, at: fudger28@yahoo.com. If you have a question for her or others, you can email us through the links at the top of the newsletter.

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