President’s Message

It is already July and the summer is here in full force. All too soon it will be State Fair time and our chance to spin up there as a demonstrating guild. Let Sharon G know of your interest to do so as she is coordinating our efforts again this year. Also, the Troy fair is coming this month and I would encourage any of you who can come to join me there and cheer on our Sheep Thrills fleece to shawl team as they enter their first competition. This is also a nice friendly place to exhibit your spinning talents with contests, games and awards for both finished items and skeins of yarn.

Remember the Celia Quinn workshop upcoming this fall. There are still a few places available for both days. Jim

Agenda

Reports from:
- T-shirt Committee
- Community Outreach
- Celia Quinn workshop
- Fleece to shawl group
- Business Card ads for members.

The State Fair Wool Booth Exhibition Spinning.

Letter to the Editor

Just so you know the real truth,..... Sheep have superior eyesight and their pupils are not round, but go from side to side in a rectangular shape which allows them to see about 340 degrees. Just try to sneak up on one from behind and you will understand. Eyesight is their only defense against predation and it allows them time to take flight.

The other correction to your facts is Sheep prefer to drink from still water, not running water. Pull out a bible and go to Psalm 23. Continued on p 3

July’s Program

A rather simple one of a Spin-In plus a Dessert Dish-to-pass.

Summertime meetings tend to be smaller than average so we have postponed the Gradient Dyeing Workshop to September in order to have a larger pool of participants.

More info next month.
JUNE MEETING MINUTES submitted by Audrey L

Vice President Sue Quick officiated as President Jim Johnson was attending the CNY Fiber Festival.

The following reports were sought:

**T Shirts** - Mary Miller was not present so a report was not given.

*Oak Hill Manor* - Audrey Lowes asked for volunteers for the next spin-in there - June 27th.

*Celia Quinn Workshops* - Marjorie Inana reported that there were 2 Spinning to Specification places available and 6 Novelty Yarns spots left.

*Fleece-to-Shawl Team* - one member has a meeting to attend the day of the Troy Fair Wool Day so another member for the team is needed (Carol LaBorie's sister will spin with us). Wool Day is the last Wednesday of July. The warp (wool donated by Christine Johnson's Romneys) is spun; Bill Bartlett will be preparing the loom shortly (Ellie May has loaned her Baby Wolf loom for the competition). The team's name is "Sheep Thrills". The Team will need name tags, Ayne Sheldon offered to help.

*State Fair Wool Booth* - The Arts and Home Center also is a place to volunteer. We need to pick a day from the 25th - Labor Day. Hours of service would be 10-2, or 2-5:30. Free parking permit and fair admission are given for the day you volunteer.

*State Fair Entries* - Sharon Gombas suggested that we read the instructions very carefully before entering. Points are lost because of that simple error. She has copies of the entry forms if you wish to contact her. Or you can simply go to the New York State Fair website and download your own.

*Membership Committee* - Charlotte Sharkey is working on updating the membership list and also expanding it to include members’ resources, such as items to sell or things members make. That way the list could also be used to identify our members’ strengths for teaching and/or helping each other. She hopes to add member’s photos as well.

*Program Committee* - Marjorie Inana is the person to help identify programs for guild workshops and off site seminars. Charlotte and Sharon are the go-to people for monthly meeting programs.

Marjorie shared bags of washed Hog Island sheep fleece. This is a feral sheep that lives on an island off the coast of Virginia. We were delighted to have something new to spin.

Cont’d p3

Program Calendar 2011 - 2012

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<td>Wheel Maintenance (get ready for the CQ workshop)</td>
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<td>11-Feb</td>
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Black Sheep Handspinners ONLINE

Remember, you can find the Blacksheep Handspinner’s Guild on Facebook:


Use it to find the latest info, post information on events or items for sale, add photos of your most beloved creations, and ask for help or info, and more.

Just this week Char posted an ad she found on Craigslist for a Louet wheel with 8 bobbins & a lazy kate that was for sale for $225!! Needless to say, it went quickly. You just never know what’s going to happen next on FB. So please join our page--become a fan and visit often.

Ayne Sheldon will be happy to provide a tutorial on getting around on FB at one of our meetings.

Another new addition is a BSHG Ravelry group. We’ve already had several people that are new to spinning or Ithaca find the group this way. I encourage you to come join in the conversation! The super-creative name of the group is "black sheep handspinners guild".

T. Porri

Cont’d from p1

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside the still waters, he restores my soul…” I am pretty sure the reason the sheep prefer still water is that movement of any sort which is unfamiliar to them triggers their alarm system for self defense. It’s all part of being sheepish and being sheepish is why they are able to form a bond with the trustworthy person they know as their shepherd.

Keep up the good work with our newsletter. I do like the way you chose to use the pictures too.

Elizabeth H. Kinne Gossner
Stillmeadow Finnsheep
www.stillmeadowfinnsheep.com

Spinner’s Study Group from Teresa Porri

As anyone who knows me knows, I’m a supernerd with my spinning, and I really enjoy learning more about different technical aspects, and seeing all the different things that can be done with the same piece of fiber. As such, I thought it would be fun to do a spinner’s study with other members of the guild.

The general idea would be that people would sign up to participate, and we would purchase enough fiber for each participant to have 1-4 ounces. I think it’d be fun to try something a little different—a breed, prep, dyer, etc. that would be new and fun for both new and experienced spinners. The goal for everyone: to try something new, and report back to the group on what you learned. We’d meet again after 1 or 2 months with sample skeins to pass around for show and tell, and then again another 1 or 2 months later with a finished project.

I’d be happy to lead this, and make it more like a workshop/class, or less, depending on how people feel about it. Come find me at the July meeting or send me an email if you are interested in participating.

Minutes cont’d

Audrey made a batch of Strawberry Daiquiris (no liquor) and asked everyone present to join her in toasting her mother who had passed away earlier in the month.

Respectfully submitted, Audrey Lowes, Sec’y
Spinning At Dryden Dairy Days
from Ruth Allen and Wayne Harbert

On Saturday, June 11, we played hooky from the guild meeting to demonstrate spinning on a great wheel during Dryden Dairy Days. (Jean Tyler, who had hoped to spin with us, was unable to do so.) We were there at the invitation of the Dryden Historical Society, and spinning on a fine old wheel made by a Dryden wheelmaker in the middle of the nineteenth century. Jean Warholic recently donated the wheel to the Historical Society, and they have done an admirable job of researching it and situating it in its historical context. The signage gives interesting detail about its maker, Richard Townley, who was an exceptional figure in the history of the town, a superb craftsman who built furniture as well as spinning wheels, and a visionary who set up a steam turning mill in an era in which most mills were still operated by waterpower. His craftsmanship was perfectly exemplified by the fine, solid, ornately turned wheel that we were privileged to spin on. While there, we also enjoyed some reminiscences with an old friend of our guild, Linda Olds, who was active in it back in the early seventies, when it was just starting out. Among our audience were older folks who remembered seeing spinning by their grandmothers when they were children, and also children who were fascinated by the process and eager to learn about it. We were happy to share with both of them our message that spinning is not only a craft with a rich history and tradition, but still very much alive.

Ontario Handspinners Seminar

The weekend of June 10th, 11th, and 12th found Jean Currie, Ellie May, and Anne Furman in Guelph, Ontario for the annual seminar. We met up with our good Canadian friend who always knows how to find the best restaurant in any town and make a reservation for us. The topic was silk this year. Karen Selk of Treenway Silks, http://www.treenwaysilks.com/, was the speaker on Saturday morning. She is vastly knowledgeable on the different kinds of silk production in the world. And on Sunday morning she led us through a project using dyed silk cocoons, by products of silk production and beads. The end product was a flower.

From Anne Furman

Dyed silk cocoons and by products
Interesting Cotton Facts

From Char S

• A standard bale of cotton weighs 480 lbs.
• Last year the world produced 114 mil. bales.
• The top five cotton-producing countries:
  1. China (26% of total)
  2. India (23% of total)
  3. United States (16% of total)
  4. Pakistan (8% of total)
  5. Brazil (7% of total).

Egypt ranks number 15 among cotton-producing countries and produces only .0005% of the total amount. That is one-twentieth of one percent. If Egypt is such a tiny dot on the cotton growing map, why is Egyptian cotton so prevalent? Why is there so much Egyptian cotton clothing, bed sheets, towels, and thread? The truth is, there isn’t. The label may say Egyptian cotton but the contents are not completely or even mostly Egyptian. Whether it is due to false advertising, misunderstanding, or ignorance on the part of seller, the fact remains that it is incorrect. There is not enough Egyptian cotton in existence to produce all the products labeled as Egyptian cotton. It would be safe to say that there is 10,000 times more Egyptian cotton sold than grown.

Does it really matter? Those who know cotton quality obviously understand that it does matter. Otherwise, many companies would not be falsely claiming that their cotton is 'Egyptian Cotton' when in fact, it is not. There is something about the climate, soil, water, and minerals in Egypt that is ideal to grow the highest-grade cotton. It is not possible to tell the origin of cotton fibers by examining them.

Types of Cotton
There are more than 30 types of cotton plants, ranging from small shrubs less than one foot (30 cm) tall to trees more than 10 feet (3 m) high. Some of the better-known types are described below.

**Sea Island Cotton**, with a staple of 1 3/8 to 2 1/2 inches (3.5–6.4 cm), has the highest quality fiber but its susceptibility to insect attack makes commercial production impractical. It is named for the Sea Islands (off the coast of the southeastern United States), where it was grown until the boll weevil halted production in the 1920’s.

**Egyptian Cotton** has yellowish fibers that are only slightly shorter than those of Sea Island cotton—1 1/2 to 1 3/4 inches (3.8–4.4 cm) long. This cotton is used in making thread, raincoats, underwear, and hosiery. An American type of Egyptian cotton, called American Pima, is grown in the southwestern Cotton Belt under irrigation.

**Upland Cotton** is the main type grown in the United States. It is also grown all over the rest of the cotton-producing world. The fibers are white, 3/4 to 1 1/2 inches (1.9–3.8 cm) long. The plant is 2 1/2 to 4 feet (75–120 cm) tall. It is native to Mexico and Central America.

**Asiatic Cotton** has fibers less than one inch (2.5 cm) long and rather coarse in texture. It is grown mostly in India, Iran, China, and Russia.

Other Cottons of commercial importance include Peruvian cotton, with fuzzy, almost wool-like fibers, and Brazilian cotton, a perennial cotton with long, silky fibers. Levant, Mexican, and Jamaica cottons are wild varieties that may have been the early relatives of some modern varieties. Some agricultural experimenters have produced colored cotton, but cloth woven from it tends to fade in strong sunlight.
10% Savings at JoAnn Fabrics all the time.

Pay your dues, come to a meeting and receive your very own Black Sheep Handspinner’s Guild Membership Card.

Once you have this card you can register at JoAnn Fabrics for their organization member discount.

1. Go to http://www.joannfabrics.com
2. Scroll all the way down to the bottom of the page. In the 3rd column, 6th item down, you will see Discount Cards.
3. Click on those words then on the info page click on Enroll Now.
4. Fill out the form with the asked for information. Then click once more on Enroll Now.
5. You should be sent your discount card within 1-2 weeks.
6. To take advantage of the discount you will be asked to present BOTH cards at check-

WebMistress Update

I've gotten a number of requests about updating the look and content of the website recently. For some time now, I have also wanted to clean up the parts of the website you don’t see, to make it easier to make cosmetic and structural changes in the future. (Think of the current setup as an overly full stash closet with an uncloseable door -- it's hard to get at the good stuff with so much junk in the way!) I've finally had the chance to make my desired updates in all the hidden parts, and should be rolling out the new website shortly after the next guild meeting.

One new section that I've put together is a list of links to guilds and fiber festivals in the region, and I'd also like to include the websites for any guild members who would like to share them. If you have a website you'd like other guild members to see, please contact me, Teresa, with your name and url and I'll add it!

FIBERY EVENTS

Mid Atlantic Fiber Assoc. Conf.
July 7-10, Gettysburg, PA
Workshops in weaving, spinning, dyeing, felting, jewelry.

Wool Day at the Troy Fair
July 27, 9-4, Troy, PA
Vendors, + spinning, sheep to shawl, yarn & project contests

Finger Lakes Fiber Festival
September 17 & 18, Hemlock, NY
Vendors, workshops, contests, demos and more.

Southern Adirondack Fiber Festival
September 24 & 25
Washington County Fairgrounds
Greenwich, NY

Eastern Great Lakes Fiber Conference
October 7-9, Chautauqua, NY
Workshops, classes, vendors

Know of any other fairs/events we all might want to attend? Please send the info, with a link, to Susan.
If you have not already filled this membership form out, please print it, do so and return it at a guild meeting or to Charlotte Sharkey, 5080 Perry City Road, Trumansburg, NY 14885. Thank you.

**Membership Form**

*Please type or print*

Date: ___________

Name: ________________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________

____________________________________________________

preferred email: ____________________________________________

preferred phone # _______________________________ birthday month (opt) ______

Please list your wheel(s)

__________________________________________________________________________

We welcome spinners of all skill levels.
How long have you been spinning? ______

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

Which of your skills might you be willing to share with a member or the group? 
ie: teach beginning spindling or spinning or dyeing; teach a spinning / knitting / crocheting skill, etc

__________________________________________________________________________

If you raise any fiber animals, please list them here _______________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Which committee(s) are you interested in joining?

- Roc Day
- Membership
- Programming
- Charity Works
- Outreach including Events & Activities Schedule for non guild members
- Newsletter - advisory & review
- None

Library
Education
Website
Nominating Committee *(occasional)*

Would you be interested in chairing or co-chairing one of these groups? If yes, which one(s)?
**CElia Quinn Workshop**

**Sponsored by**

**When:** Saturday, Oct 29 and Sunday, Oct 30, 2011

**Where:** Hampton Inn and Suites, Cortland, NY

**Time:** 9am – 4 pm

**Fee:** 1 Day $80  or  2 Days $155

**Oct 29 - Spinning to Specification**

Learn to monitor the diameter and twist of your yarns in simple ways to develop greater consistency. Practice expanding your skills by spinning yarns of widely different sizes and twists. Exercises include making a successful singles warp yarn, a balanced 2 ply, a gossamer yarn, spinning for a specific knitting gauge, and discussing margin of error between skeins in the same project.

**Oct 30 - Novelty Yarns**

Expand your repertoire of handspun yarns by learning to produce various novelties that are attractive complements to simpler yarns. At day’s end, your bobbins will hold an intriguing array of colorful, textured, looped, fuzzy and flecked yarns. Our sampling includes boucle, seed yarn knickerbocker yarn, mohair halo yarn, eyelash yarn, Navajo 3 ply, and garneted yarn.

**Members Only Registration**

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**Make check out to:** Black Sheep Handspinners’ Guild

**Mail check to:** Marjorie Inana, 41 W. Court St., Cortland, NY 13045

Registration is non refundable and due by June 11.

We have 2 spaces still available on Saturday and 6 on Sunday.

Non-member fees are:

- $90 for one day
- $180 for both

Please use this registration for non-members too.
Harrisville 45"Rock Maple Standard Floor Loom
(54.25" wide, 50.5" deep, 46"high. 32"deep when folded. 4 harness, 6 treadle, 800 inserted-eye heddles.
Features of this loom include: friction brake on the warp beam and ratchet brake on the cloth beam, removable breast and back beams for access during threading, foldable warp assembly to allow passage through a standard doorway even with a warp in place, snap chains for quick tie-ups.
EXTRAS:
2 stainless steel reeds, bench, yarns, shuttles, warping board, bobbins warping tools, winder, how to books, videos
This loom sells for $2750.00 without the extras
We are selling for $2000. WITH ALL THE EXTRAS!!
Contact: Carol Scileppi
<carolscileppi@yahoo.com

Convert your Baynes hook flyer to a SLIDING PINCH HOOK FLYER for $32.00 including rebalancing. See Jim Johnson at a meeting or call 607-564-7178 or email hilltoppaddles@earthlink.net.

Salt City Fiber Works
Yarn & Fiber Mill
Full-service custom processing of your Wool – Alpaca – Exotics
saltcityfiberworks.com
Therese & Charlie Bishop, Proprietors
829 State Fair Blvd. • Syracuse NY 13209 • 315.314.6458
June Program Highlights

The program at June meeting was tons of fun: Charlotte brought her carders and lots of wild fibers and invited us to see what we could come up with. Some of us purposely chose fibers and colors we would not normally combine, or perhaps even like, and experimented. The batts I made were carded once; at home I spun half as-is, then carded the remaining half a second time. I will bring them along to the next meeting for show and tell. It whetted my appetite for more experimenting with carding, and some new ideas for state fair competitions.

From Sharon G

To place an ad A check for $5.00 made to BSHG for an ad to run three times for members; $5/month for non members should be sent to the current treasurer: Vickie Marsted, 219 Lincoln Ave, Cortland, NY 13045. Send the ad to the newsletter editor, Susan S, sarabasha@earthlink.net If you have a question for her or others, you can email us through the links on page 1.