If your workplace has been assessed and determined to be at a low level of risk, the following method is recommended to ensure no one can see your passwords or what you're typing: cont’d on page 3

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I sit writing this, it is snowing again, the stove is burning and the weather is early March. I don't know about you, but I am ready for May and its normal weather. Our meeting this month is at Sharon Gombas' house. There we will have a greenhouse to meet in if the weather is still not cooperating, but I hope for MAY weather. After this meeting we will be going back to our regular schedule and meeting place.

We have an invitation from the Dundee Scottish Festival in September to demonstrate spinning there. Before that there are other opportunities to demonstrate coming up and I hope many of us take the time to do this at some venue. Also, remember the State Fair, we will have the chance to have entries critiqued and advice on entries from our own Ellie May. She has kindly volunteered to do that as part of the program in May, many thanks to her.

See you at Sharon's

Jim

May 12 Meeting

AT SHARON GOMBAS' HOME

Sharon has a wonderful set of gardens, greenhouses, patio and tents for us to sit, knit, spin, crochet & just have fun.

Dish-to-pass requested. 11-3

Ellie May will be helping us with State Fair submission guidance. Bring any hand spun yarn you might want to enter.

Sharon will be showing how to skirt a fleece.

President- Jim Johnson
Vice President - Sue Quick
Secretary - Audrey Lowes
Treasurer - Vickie Marsted
Newsletter Editor - Susan Sarabasha
Membership - Wayne Harbert
Programming - Sharon G & Marjorie I
Web Mistress - Teresa Porri

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Invitation

from the Interlaken Historical Society for participation in their Plowing Day on 9/22. I have gone as a demonstrator in past years and it is a lot of fun and very interesting. The barn on the Brook Farm is a wonder!!

Interested? Contact Jean Currie
President Jim Johnson opened the meeting by asking for a 'Once Around.'

Jim Johnson - spinning a Romney and Blue Face Leicester of Christine Johnson's (no relation).
Aziza B is preparing strips of dyed yarn for a scarf.
Kelly T is spinning Targee.
Wayne H has taken the Member-Made theme farther and is proposing to collect 40 years of memories for the guild. He had a dye sample book from earlier years of the guild. The Dryden Historical Society also has one. Wayne has been adding information to a computer file.
Julia G showed us five skeins she produced using plant dyes and mixing for colors.
Mary M showed us 4 oz skeins made by plying three ply Southern Frost Hello Yarn with a 2 ply merino silk from Into the World.
Teresa P had made mittens too small for her child - but was a good use of small amounts of yarn.
Sharon S (new member) was spinning Finn.
Terri W was wearing a Mountain Color yarn jacket, neckwear and socks (we asked not to see her underwear - just in case she had knit that too!)
Colleen used grey and brown Finn wool (from two different sheep) and made a three ply yarn that she dyed with rhubarb root.
Carol F sported a Noro yarn knitted triangular scarf.
Margaret F was working on an Icelandic lamb fleece. The thiel from the fleece is being used to make a bowtie scarf. She has four new ram lambs.
Sue W is spinning some gold Corriedale fiber.
Nina B showed us new fingerless mittens.
Cathy C reminded us that she will be teaching how to adapt handspun to a commercial pattern shortly after the meeting.
Susan S reported losing her live links on her computer, Cathy Chestnut has been instrumental in helping her regain her lost ground. Currently, Susan is plying a singles Christine Johnson's Romney/Alpaca with 2 plies of her own bfl/silk.
Ayne S is slowly spinning from her stash.
Bill showed us two knit shawls he recently completed. One was sold before he left that day. And he is busily working on a third.
Carol L is spinning Blue Face Leicester blended with silk.
Sharon G is spinning bamboo and silk and is working on a date for the guild to work at the State Fair. She is also working on programs for our meetings and has asked Eleanor May to give us tips for State Fair competition as well as how to skirt a fleece at the May meeting.
Eleanor M showed us her handspun handknit sweater that she has worn for years. It is an unusual pattern, knitted on the diagonal and has certainly worn beautifully over the years. If anyone is interested she will seek permission to make copies of 'Threads Magazine' June-July 1998 issue.
Jean C has been systematically performing a projects cleanup in her home and is currently completing a crewel embroidery she "found."
Marie B reports her recent lambing produced 14 lambs. Some of her unfinished projects that REALLY annoyed her are now insulation in her home.
Wayne advised us that the Scottish Games will be held on June 30 and July 1 at Stewart Park.

Teresa suggested inquiries might be best placed on the guild's website.
Sharon Gombas asked if anyone would like to like to present an introduction to spinning to the public - there was little interest.

There is a workshop on the 28th addressing colors and fibers and blending for further color.
Respectfully submitted,
Audrey Lowes, Secretary
The very latest in security knitting.
A new business opportunity.

For a moderate level of risk, this method ensures no one can see your passwords, what you're typing, or which website you're visiting.....

For a high level of risk, this method ensures ultimate security:

Be safe out there people!

from Susan's cousin, Helen in Belgium.
I recently found myself spinning a yak-merino blend. The fiber was lovely stuff, very soft, but I was getting frustrated by the spinning process. The brown yak down was slippery and had a pretty short staple, 1.5 inches or so, and the white merino had a longer staple, about 4 inches. The two fibers were so different that while spinning, it was difficult to keep the two fibers to stay blended. The first few makes would be very light in color, being mostly the stickier, longer Merino fibers, which would cling to themselves, leaving a lump of yak fiber towards the end of a piece of fiber. The yarn coming out of the last bit of fiber would be very dark and require significantly more twist to hold together.

I hadn’t seen this sort of behavior in a blend before. The variability in twist and color and texture bothered me. The yarn would drift apart when I hit a yak-heavy section and wasn’t paying attention.

I was getting nowhere slowly.

I’m sure you’ve had the experience of having your mind wander to interesting places while spinning, and of making unexpected connections between things you hadn’t considered together before. In spite of the frustratingness of the fiber, the rhythm of spinning still put me in that meditative frame of mind. The fiber I had was a mix of two things, and the process of spinning them was causing the two components to separate. This is something I’ve done in the chemistry lab dozens of times! I was doing chromatography.

Chromatography is the process of taking a mixture and splitting it into its component parts. If you ever put a dot of marker on a coffee filter, dipped the end of the filter into water, and watched the colors split up, you’ve done chromatography, splitting the different dyes in the marker up so that you could see them individually. Chemists do this all the time when they’ve synthesized a complex mixture and need to figure out what they made, or purify their desired product. Biologists do it too, when they’re trying to get one important piece of information out of a sample of tissue. The funny thing was, I was going about this yak chromatography all backwards

from the way I’d want to do it in the lab. While spinning, I wanted to keep the mixture as mixed up as possible. I didn’t want neat little stripes of merino and yak, I wanted a blended effect. Perhaps if I took the rules I already knew about chromatography and applied them to this spinning, but backwards, I’d get what I wanted. So I thought a little bit, and tried some things that worked.

First off, a good chromatographic column—the thing that holds the liquid and mixed-up sample, whether or not it’s actually shaped like a column—helps the separation to occur. Some types slow down the small stuff and keep the big stuff going faster, or others are designed so that oily molecules just love sticking to the column material, while letting their chemical neighbors slip through. You choose the best column to assist with the separation. My hands, in this case, were the column. They were letting the merino pass through more quickly than the yak. Perhaps I could change the conditions of the “column”—my hands—to reduce the amount of separation that was happening.

When I’m not thinking much about it, I have a medium-length draw, keeping my hands a few inches apart. From that position, I was in the perfect place to grab the merino, but my hands were too far apart to get to the yak. I was acting like a good column, but to keep the colors mixed, I needed to act like a bad one. Hands closer together. When I did a shorter draw with my hands closer together, the difference was immediately apparent. There was still more merino at the beginning, more yak at the end, but it was way better.

Secondly, I considered sample size. In chromatography, when you’re trying to maximize separation, you try to arrange it such that the whole sample starts at exactly the same time (or as close to that as possible). If it dribbles in slowly, then the fast moving stuff that comes in later might never catch up with the slow-moving stuff that started at the beginning. So you try to get a small, high-concentration sample into the column all at once. The fiber equivalent would be grabbing one staple length from the full width of a piece of top and spinning that all together. Which is exactly what I do when spindle spinning. I needed to arrange it so that I introduced fiber more slowly, so that there was some merino still way in the back while I was spinning the yak in the front.

I did this by stripping the top down into 4-6 thinner pieces, and taking 4-5 staple lengths at a go. That way, there would probably be a little merino in reserve way at the end of the fiber, and I wouldn’t be pulling out every little bit of it right at the beginning, with it all hanging out in front together. This seemed to be effective, too, though I still had a small wad of yak in my hand at the end of every piece of fiber.

The last lesson in chromatography that I considered is this: sometimes you’re doing it for analytical purposes, to see what you have in your sample. But sometimes you’re just trying to get at the good stuff, and can toss any garbage left at the end.

That little wad of yak fiber in my hand? Was garbage. I hate wasting fiber, but here wasn’t more than a few grams anyway, and life’s too short.

Even with all these modifications, it wasn’t the most pleasurable fiber I’ve ever spun, but I saw considerable improvement after I started thinking of it as fiber chromatography. And oh heck, I actually really liked the resulting yarn.

195 yards, 2.3 ounces, 3-ply, fingering weight.

Perhaps a drapey, loose cowl.


Please fill this out and either bring it to a meeting or mail it with your check for $20 to:
Vickie Marsted,
29 Lincoln St,
Cortland, NY 13045

Membership Form

Please type or print

Date: __________

Name: __________________________________________

Address: ________________________________________

preferred email: PRINT NEATLY please __________________________

preferred phone # __________________________ birthday month (opt.) ______

This info will be made available to the guild membership. If you wish to remain anonymous please let Char know.

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

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

Newsletters are sent via email. If you would prefer to get yours via snail mail please give 12 SASE envelopes to Sharon Gombas. Postage should be $2 per envelope.
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.

For Sale:
36 inch 4 harness Leclerc Fanny Loom : includes bench, wire heddles, # 6,8,10,12,15, inch Reeds, Beam Sticks, Bobbin rack, Holds all, Raddle, Boat Shuttles, Flat Shuttles, many bobbins and weaving books.
Would prefer to sell as package for $1000.00, but would consider selling individual items. Price list for these items new can be found on the Leclerc web site.

Contact Kay Ross
607-319-0899
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