



A Message from the President

The lingering cold postponed shearing here, so lamb pens were erected around the shearing table as shearing and lambing proceeded simultaneously. It was quite crowded, and noisy, by the time the last ewe sported her warm-weather look. Unfortunately I cannot help with shearing without saving at least one fleece that needs turning into some essential item, which means that the stash has just increased.

This brings to mind some ancient guild history, credited to Shelly Marino, who says that "It was a trip to Celia Radke's that gave me the idea to do them, as her basement and closets were so copiously stuffed." Her comments to the newsletter on this and other stashes were memorably amusing.

I recently went through my stash in preparation for the sale, and was feeling quite proud of myself for reducing it by 4 large tubs. This does, however, leave me with 4 tubs of fleece (not counting whatever lurks in the greenhouse), 13 tubs of yarn, both handspun and commercial, 25 tubs of batts and roving, and 2 tubs of handspun waiting for their intended large project. I am designating a fiber executor in my will. For now though, will make another pass through my treasures with the aim of bringing along more to the garage sale on the 12th. It will be at 10:30 on Saturday. Please come early to set up.

Baaa, and I hope to see you there! —Sharon

Flax packets

Wayne will have a few more fiber flax seed packets to hand out to those who are interested in growing a small patch.

Dues are Due!

Membership fees of \$20 are due for 2014. You may bring this to the meeting, or send to Vickie Marsted, 29 Lincoln Avenue, Cortland NY 13045. Checks should be made out to BSHG.

April 12

Garage sale! Bring your surplus fiber-related stuff to sell! Buy other people's stuff!

President [Sharon Gombas](#)
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P.2 MINUTE, MESSAGE FROM NANCY

P. 3. AN APPRECIATIVE HUSBAND

P. 4. PICTURE GALLERY

PP.5 BETH SMITH WORKSHOP

PP.6-7 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.

Tee Shirts Available

The guild tee shirts will be available at the April meeting; \$12 each, cash or checks made out to Black Sheep when the shirts are delivered. Thanks very much —Sue

Minutes of the March meeting

- The April meeting will include a members' garage sale. All items "loosely" related to spinning, fiber, etc are welcome!
- Classified ads may be submitted to be placed at the end of the newsletter or on our Facebook page. Contact Ayne Sheldon at ayne99@yahoo.com
- Please get your dues to Vicky Marsted by March 15 or you will be taken off of the newsletter list
- Wayne gave away fiber flax seed at the meeting to those who would like to try it. It was proposed that all that took seed and grew it could get together at the end of the summer for a workshop on processing flax.
- Sue Quick mentioned that the Black Sheep t-shirt order has been sent in and those who ordered a shirt should get their money (\$12) to her ASAP. She will have the shirts at the April meeting for members to pick up.
- The fall spinning workshop will be on Nov 1-2. The cost will be \$55 for the workshop and \$65 for materials. The workshop will entail spinning wool from many different breeds of sheep.
- This month's meeting was short due to the great program offered by Lisa Merian of Spinning Hill Fibers. She talked about the theory of color families and the process of blending colored fibers to make new colors and produce different effects by the amount of blending and amount of each color used. She brought fiber in many colors, and members were able to choose any combination of colors to blend by drum or hand carders. Participants agreed to spin up their creations and display them at the April meeting. Respectfully submitted, Lynne Anguish

A note from Nancy Morey

As most of you know, I am the Superintendent for the Witter Ag Museum at the NYS Fair, a wonderful oasis nestled amongst all the food and the Midway. This year, I am planning to have a Linsey Woolsey demonstration, and am looking for spinners - and weavers, too! - to demonstrate. The museum will supply all the fibers, as well as entry and parking permits for the days you would demonstrate. If you would like to demonstrate spinning at other times (and are not doing so at the Wool Center) and would like to at the Ag Museum, I have some open dates. I also could use someone demonstrating weaving on the barn loom; it will be set up with cotton carpet warp.

If you know of anyone in the Syracuse area who would like a job during the Fair, I am looking for Door Attendants (for the Ag and Carriage Museums) as well as someone to staff sales at the General Store. The Door Attendants welcome Fairgoers to the Museums and ensure that no one brings food or uncovered drinks into the Museums. The General Store person handles the sales of the Fair posters and Fair pins, sales of the tops made by the Woodworkers, and sales of any other products from the Museum. The salary is minimum wage (\$8/hour), you may knit or crochet or spindle while working, and the Museum is open from 10 am to 8 pm each day (although the shifts would not necessarily be that whole time or for all the days).

With spring weather, we may meet again soon! Hope lambing is going well for everyone - we have 12 lambs, with it being the year of the ewe (9 of the 12).

Fibery Events

May 3 & 4, 2014 - MD Sheep & Wool Festival, West Friendship, MD
www.sheepandwool.com

May 10 & 11, 2014 - Bethel Woods Fiber Festival, Bethel Woods Center for the Arts (site of Woodstock in 1969), Bethel, NY
www.bethelwoodscenter.org

June 14 & 15, 2014 - CNY Fiber Festival, Butternut Hill Campground, Rte 20, Bouckville, NY
www.cnyfiber.org

July 28-Aug 3 Madison, WI. A biannual event. Discounts if booking by May.
midwestfeltingsymposium.com

Sept. 6 & 7, 2014 - Pennsylvania Endless Mountains Fiber Festival, Harford Fairgrounds.
www.pafiberfestival.com

Oct. 11 & 12, 2014 - Little York Fall Fiber Arts Festival, Little York Pavilion, Preble, NY www.cortlandrep.org

**BETH SMITH BREED
STUDY WORKSHOP**

Nov 1 & 2

Editor's Corner: An Appreciative Husband

The Reverend Roderick MacDonald had a long and illustrious history as a clergyman in the Outer Hebrides during the 19th century. He started out as the minister of Harris in 1847, and went on to serve another church on South Uist until 1900. He was also a Gaelic poet and songsmith of some repute, and, on top of that, a husband who appreciated the contributions of his wife Marion to the prosperity of the household. One of the people in my Gaelic reading groups, Joyce Campbell, turns out to be a distant relative of his, and connected to him in other ways. Reverend MacDonald officiated at the wedding of her great grandfather. Joyce has taken on the task of translating some of his songs into English. In one of these, “Òran a’ Chlà” (‘Song of the Cloth’), the Reverend sings of Marion’s superlative skills at the spinning wheel and the exceptional quality of the cloth she made. Think of it! A love song that starts, “My wife/ is good at combing wool”! Now there was a man who truly understood the relative importance of things! Joyce has kindly allowed me to share the English translation with you all. —Wayne

“The Song of the Cloth”, by Reverend Roderick MacDonald

Refrain: My wife

Is good at combing wool.
Although she is very refined
There is little pride in her.

Verse 1:

My wife who is in Scarasta,
She makes cloth that is not clumsy.
There is red and black in it.
This cloth will be famous.

Refrain

Verse 2:

There will not be a fisherman or hunter
Who will not seek a bargain for it,
Among those who travel the rugged land
And hunt the stag of the antlers.

Refrain

Verse 3:

Even if they were to crawl,
And to go on their loins with it,
There would not be a hole or tear in it,
So good is the spinning in the cloth.

Refrain

Verse 4:

When winter comes and we’re cold
I will go around Uist with it,
And everyone will say “He is one of us,
Mr. Ruaraidh with his cloth.”

Refrain

Verse 5:

When Summer and May come,
I will go to Edinburgh,
And when the clergy assembles
I will sell the cloth.

Refrain

Verse 5:

And when I return to Scarasta,
It is my wife who will be formally dressed
In all the finery that can be bought,
With the money from the cloth.

Refrain

Picture Gallery



Lisa showing us how to blend colors



The shawl



Kathy giving advice to a first-time spinner



**BREED STUDY WORKSHOP
WITH BETH SMITH**

Beth Smith is so obsessed with fiber that she has fleece in every room of her house, including her bathroom. She teaches the whys and how-tos of preparing and spinning as many breeds as a spinner can in her classes taught all over the world and in articles written for Spin Off, Knittyspin and Entangled magazines. She also writes for Ply Magazine and serves as a member of the editorial advisory board. She is the previous owner of the world famous online shop ,The Spinning Loft, renowned for its selection of raw wool, including rare breeds of sheep , available by the ounce (or more) for studying, sampling or just stashing. Her book, The Spinner's Book of Fleece: A Breed-by-Breed Guide to Choosing and Spinning will be available in July 2014.

WORKSHOP: The workshop will demystify the what, why, and how of sheep breeds. We will spin 18 different breeds of sheep over 2 days. We will review the sheep breeds and their categories. We will wash raw wool to maintain lock structure in both small batches as well as washing lock by lock. We will try a variety of hand processing tools and learn what methods work best for particular breeds. We will spin using different techniques to create yarns for specific types of knitting.

EQUIPMENT TO BRING: Spinning wheel in good working order, pen, one empty bobbin, small plastic bags and paper for notes and labeling. If you have hand cards, a flicker and or hand held combs please bring. If you don't have them, some will be available for you to use .

WHEN: Saturday, Nov1 and Sunday Nov.2

WHERE: Country Inn and Suites, route 281, Cortland, New York

WORKSHOP TIME: 9 am to noon and 1pm to 4pm each day

COST: Guild Members \$55 for two days. Non Guild individuals \$125

NOTE: A \$60 MATERIAL FEE IS DUE TO THE INSTRUCTOR AT THE TIME OF THE WORKSHOP

SING ME UP FOR THE BETH SMITH WORKSHOP

NAME_____

PHONE_____

ADDRESS_____

Send your check to Marjorie Inana 41 W. Court St. Cortland, New York 13045 and make check out to Black Sheep Handspinners.

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Shelly Marino is selling her walking wheel, which she purchased years ago from Bill Ralph. The wheel dates from about 1810. She is asking \$400. The wheel may be viewed at the April garage sale.

Spinning Great Wheels


- hand crafted solid oak

R Collins
197 Walsh Rd
Wellsburg, NY 14894
607-733-9880




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, Vickie Marsted, 29 Lincoln Ave,
Cortland, NY 13045. Send the ad in digital form to the
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