



## A Message from the President

Greetings!

The grass and weeds are growing, and time available for spinning is shrinking accordingly. This has not prevented me from pressing on with intended entries for the state fair, however. The number of entries there continues to be low; is anyone interested in meeting to work towards completing items? We do want to see our craft continue to be presented and acknowledged, yes?

Please bring along some project to show, in particular some technique/breed etc new to you. I learn so much from seeing what others have done. See you on the 10th! —Sharon

## Coming Up THIS MONTH

Spring Country Faire, May 10th, Enfield Elementary School. 11am to 3 pm. Spinners needed. Contact Sue Thompson sdt1@cornell.edu 607-273-8256

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

May 24 and 25. I spin @ Springside Alpacas shearing festival, 10 am—4 pm. Fabius, northeast of Cortland. Spinners needed. Contact Jean Tyler @ [jean.tyler@ymail.com](mailto:jean.tyler@ymail.com) if interested.

**May 10**

**Audrey will be presenting "Thoughts on preparing for a Fiber Festival". She will have handouts and will be asking for input and further suggestions.**

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## P.2 FIBERY EVENTS, APRIL MINUTES

P. 3. SPINNING IN THE SPINDRIFT

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.

**Don't forget to plant your flax!**

## A Field Trip in June!

The June 14th (Flag Day) meeting will be at Sharon's home in Salmon Creek - not far from the church. We will meet there and for those wishing to go, we will carpool to visit the Fingerlakes Woolen Mill (we will be leaving Sharon's for the mill around 12:45). The meeting will continue and those wishing to stay at Sharon's are welcome. The mill has goodies for sale and maybe even some fresh Hog Island fleeces. If you like to spin by breed - this may be one you cannot miss!

## The July meeting will be our "Return to the Fold" meeting

We will be inviting former members/ emerita members of the Guild to come, spin and share memories with us at the July 12 meeting. If you know any of them, please tell them about this event, and invite them to join us.

## A link to a cute kids' hat idea from Mary M.

<http://www.purlbee.com/the-purl-bee/2014/1/23/lauras-loop-garter-ear-flap-hat.html>

## Fibery Events

June 14 & 15, 2014 - CNY Fiber Festival, Butternut Hill Campground, Rte 20, Bouckville, NY  
[www.cnyfiber.org](http://www.cnyfiber.org)

JUNE 28-29 Ithaca Celtic Festival, Stewart Park, is looking for spinners. Contact Wayne  
[www.ithacacelticfestival.com](http://www.ithacacelticfestival.com)

July 28-Aug 3 Madison, WI. Biannual event. Discounts if booking by May.  
[midwestfeltingsymposium.com](http://midwestfeltingsymposium.com)

Sept. 6 & 7. Penn. Endless Mountains Fiber Festival, Harford Fairgrounds.  
[www.pafiberfestival.com](http://www.pafiberfestival.com)

Sept. 27 & 28. Alpaca farm days at Cabin View Alpacas. Spinners invited to sell goods and to demonstrate fiber arts. No cost. Table etc. will be provided. Contact Robin M. Houseworth  
[robinmhouseworth@gmail.com](mailto:robinmhouseworth@gmail.com)

Oct. 11 & 12, 2014 - Little York Fall Fiber Arts Festival, Little York Pavilion, Preble, NY [www.cortlandrep.org](http://www.cortlandrep.org)

BETH SMITH BREED  
STUDY WORKSHOP

Nov 1 & 2

Details p. 5

## Editor's Corner: Spinning in the Spindrift

“Spindrift” is windblown sea spray. Perhaps you didn’t know that. I didn’t, landlubber that I am, until I started digging around for a clever title for this essay. Having grown up in the dry, flat eastern expanses of Colorado, I’m not only ignorant of seafaring but more than a bit wary of the whole idea. The thought of embarking on a cruise ship in particular has always seemed a bit horrifying to me, combining, as it does, my basic distrust of traveling on the sea with certain vague agoraphobic and claustrophobic impulses. Not to mention recollections of discouraging news stories I’ve read. And in the ads, pictures of cruise ships, with windows above windows above windows, have always reminded me somewhat too much of prisons. That being said, I was intrigued one morning to hear advertised on the radio an opportunity to book a reservation on a “Knitting Cruise”. Following up on this novel vacation idea, I have discovered that it is actually an established and very popular form of getaway. There are, it turns out, theme cruises for almost everything imaginable. You can even take a Chocolate Connoisseur’s Cruise, for goodness sake! And for the crafty among us, there are cruises organized around the themes of beading, Christmas crafts, and crocheting, among others. Knitting cruises seem to be the most popular by far. An online search for the term turned up over 600,000 hits. They will take you to all sorts of exotic destinations, with daily instruction from world-class teachers and regular stops for fiber shopping along the way. One that I found personally appealing is the Ireland knitting cruise, starting in Amsterdam, with yarn shopping layovers in Holland, Dublin, the Western Isles of Scotland, Norway, and even a stop in Waterford Ireland to shop for crystal. Another, to Burgundy and Provence, includes a “Parisian Yarn Crawl”. You have to admire (or at least wonder about) anyone who would spend her time in Paris seeking out yarn. Another cruise takes you to Antarctica by way of South America. No mention of an Antarctic Yarn Crawl, though. Yet another, through the Panama Canal, promises classes on “Travelogue Knitting” and “Eight Empowering Edges,” on the way to a field trip encounter with traditional Peruvian textiles. Cruises for handspINNERS are fewer, but they do have them. Recent ones have gone to Hawaii, which gives you, amid the snorkeling outings, a chance to dye wool at the Hawaiian Homegrown Wool Company. (Do they really wear wool in Hawaii?). The handspinning cruise from Seattle to Alaska, promises “yarn and fiber shopping opportunities at every port”. Even the appeal of all of that is not quite enough to tempt me out to sea. But if I ever did set sail, it would be on a spinning cruise. After all, one might as well depart from *terra firma* in the company of people who would know how to make ropes, nets, sails and other survival necessities if things went south and you all ended up stranded on a lifeboat or a desert island. Spinners and knitters would make good survivalists. Knowing them as I do, in fact, I think they’d probably find a way to make a contest out of gathering fiber and spinning it into spinnakers and such. “Ship-to-Sail competition,” anyone?

—Wayne



## Picture Gallery



Marjorie modeling a hat felted by Renata



Some of the articles made from fiber blended at Lisa Merian's April color blending workshop



The garage sale



Bill's latest project

## **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

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**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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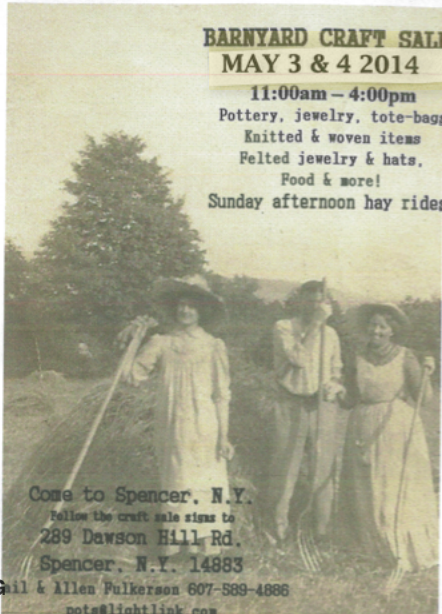
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Sat/Sun 11-3 or by appt.

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.



**BARNYARD CRAFT SALE**  
**MAY 3 & 4 2014**  
11:00am - 4:00pm  
Pottery, jewelry, tote-bags  
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### *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 newsletter editor,

[newsletter@blacksheephandspinnersguild.com](mailto:newsletter@blacksheephandspinnersguild.com). Black & white business cards are published free for current members.





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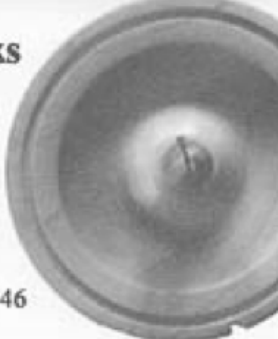


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