

August  
2014

ROVINS

## A Message from the President

Greetings all,

After all my urgings to you to enter the competitions at the State Fair, guess who missed the entry deadline? So much for putting it in the mailbox at the end of the driveway (and for procrastinating). The silver lining to this cloud: I have ever so much more time for weeding and reading now that I am not pushing to finish that sweater.

We have not had an in-depth show and tell session in a long time, and I miss seeing what everyone is up to. So come prepared to wow us with projects both completed and in the works, techniques, fair entries, inventions and so on. I want to see it all!

Will see you on the 9th,

Sharon

August 9

## Show and Tell!

Bring your projects,  
inventions, fair  
entries, or  
experiments to share!

President [Sharon Gombas](#)  
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**P. 2 FIBERY EVENTS, SPINNERS  
INVITED, FLAX**

**P. 3. KATHY HALTON'S SPINNING  
JOURNEY**

**P. 4. REMEMBERING JEAN WARHOLIC**

**P. 5 PICTURE GALLERY**

**P. 6 BETH SMITH WORKSHOP**

**PP. 7-8 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.

## Last Chance!

The folks at the Finger Lakes Fiber Festival, aka Hemlock, remind us that August 1 is the deadline for registering for guild space at the fair taking place September 20 (10-5) and 21 (10 to 4). We would need to have most of those hours covered, so would need several volunteers to make it work. If interested, contact Sharon by Friday morning.

## Spinners invited!

•Southworth Homestead Harvest Festival, Dryden, Sept 20, 12:00-6:00 is looking for spinners. If interested, contact Wayne.

•I am contacting you with the hopes that some of the members would like to come to Cabin View Alpacas during National alpaca farm days. We are located on Congress St. Ext. In Trumansburg. It will be of no cost to the guild or the members. We would just like it if some of the members can do a few demonstrations, such as spinning on a wheel and/or felting(maybe a children's project) It will be held on September 27 and 28 2014. Please contact us either if interested or can not attend.

Thank you, Robin Marie Houseworth, Cabin View Alpacas  
[www.cabinviewalpacas.com](http://www.cabinviewalpacas.com)

## Fibery Events

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



The Flax Patch  
 Chronicles

My flax is shading from green to gold, richly jeweled by now with festoons of the striking tiny globes in which the seeds take shape. The hue of these ornaments would turn from celadon to chestnut in time if I let them ripen, but I plan to pull the crop by week's end, lest the flax become too coarse. One pulls, not cuts, since the fiber goes all the way down into the root. The next step is retting—placing the stalks into a tub of water for a week, or spreading them on a wet lawn for a month, to let the perishable parts rot away and free the fiber. No hurry. If you wish, you can just bundle it all and set it aside for a more convenient time. Some folks in fact put retting off till Spring. We should all ret ours soon, though, so it'll be retted and dried in time for a flax processing workshop this Fall—Wayne

## My Spinning Journey—by Kathy Halton



I wanted to add my voice to the older spinners accounts of how they got into this craft.

In 1971 when I was 26 years old, I got some money for my birthday from my family (\$50) and spent it on an Ashford Saxony spinning wheel, which came not assembled. I had seen someone spin and realized that I wanted to do that very very much. So it came to my apartment in

Buffalo, NY, and I didn't even know if they thread that wrapped around the wheel and the bobbin was the spun thread. That's how new I was.

Later, in 1972 I moved to south of Buffalo, south of Gowanda, and lived on an experimental communal farm with some friends, and one of them helped me learn a little bit about spinning, and she and I also stripped the wool off of a dead sheep's body. (Oh boy, yum yum). But I still didn't know really how to do it.

I worked and went to school at night, so the spinning got left behind. When I moved to northern Illinois for more school, I took the wheel with me, but didn't have much time to learn. I came to Ithaca in 1978, and I later met with someone who suggested that I learn from Dora Swart, but it wasn't until 1986 that I did that. She was wonderful, although very stern about how to do things. She made me go back and learn how to drop spin, for which I am eternally grateful, since it is my best love in spinning. I saw her only about five times, and then she suggested that I go to the Black Sheep Guild meetings. From there, I met people who were learning to spin and also already good at it, and went to a few workshops and learned more.

I have also been volunteering at Bill Ralph's Home Tool and Textile museum, and have learned a great deal from some of the regular volunteers there. My mentor there is Esther Weldon, who can do anything, as far as I can tell, on a spinning wheel. Now I can't imagine not spinning. I have tried to pass on this skill as much as possible, and I am so encouraged by the new people in the guild. In my opinion, that's the purpose of a guild.

## A Tribute to Jean Warholic—by Ellie

**Jean Warholic** was one of the founding members of the guild, and the first newsletter editor. A fledgling organization needs a great newsletter. We got one.

She wrote an informative, witty, friendly letter. Her enthusiasm for all aspects of spinning was very clear. When mine arrived I set it aside to read with a cup of tea in a quiet moment. It was just a pleasure to read. She was a pleasure to know. She had an infectious laugh, a big smile and time for anyone. It was hard for me to keep up with her boundless energy.



She was a master indigo dyer and demonstrated far and wide. Her husband Don died young and she handled his illness and widowhood with the same positive outlook she had on life.

Jean loved Merry Go Rounds. My husband and I owned the Stewart Park Merry Go Round. She was the only employee we ever had that rode every ride on a horse. She never tired of riding. She spread her enthusiasm to the grandparents who thought they were too old to ride.

She teased me a lot about my “traditional” marriage. You wait on him too much. She teased me when I called home to check up, left him meals etc. Don could take care of himself. She had very long hair. It took days to dry when she washed it. When Don died she cut it off. She said he did not want her to cut it. I laughed and laughed and then we both laughed. Monte would never nor would I let him tell me what to do with my hair.

It was with great sorrow we watched her succumb to dementia.

May she rest in peace. —Ellie

There will be an informal time of remembrance on Sunday, August 10, from 2:00 to 4:00 at the home of Monty and Ellie May, 1360 Slaterville Road. Contributions in Jean's memory may be made to

Home Textile Museum  
P.O. Box 153, Rome, PA 18837

SPCA  
1640 Hanshaw Road, Ithaca, NY 14850

History Center of Tompkins County  
401 E. State Street, Ithaca NY 14850

Hospicare  
172 East King Road, Ithaca, NY 14850



## Picture Gallery

Ellie modeling the first shawl she wove



Ellie, Jean and Joan—three of our early members



Laurie showing us a dryer ball



Renata showing off her latest shawl



Bill with a rainbow scarf



Alison with the shawl she made for her mother

## **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** \_\_\_\_\_

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newsletter editor,

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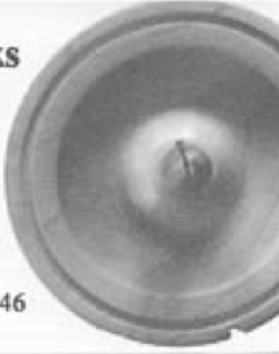


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