

September
2016

ROVINOS

A Message from the President

Greetings all!

Fortunately I did not fling myself from the cliffs in despair over the drought which was threatening the garden. I arrived back from my second visit to VT (and my dad) this summer to find that my worries about desiccated plants was not an issue (thanks go to Alison for her help). No, the plants remaining looked pretty good. The issue is that one ewe in particular, and perhaps some followers, took up residence in the garden, with the consequence that I have no peppers, kale, chard, dahlias (they were 4' tall!) phlox, Veronicastrum, my beloved Clematis--she even ate Salvia. She is now sporting some new jewelry: Chuck fitted her with a lovely rope, attached to what looks like an old tractor part. You can hear her coming a mile off, and thus far she has not attempted the jump over the fence. Never a dull moment.

And speaking of that, perhaps I will tell you how I ended in the emergency room in St Johnsbury VT for the second time this summer. Life is good!

See you on the 10th,

Sharon

September 2016

Our September 10th meeting will be in Lansing at All Saints.

We will

Start Thinking about Roc Day

President	Sharon Gombas
Vice President	Sue Quick
Secretary	Angelika St. Laurent
Treasurer	Vickie Marsted
Newsletter	Angelika St. Laurent
Membership	Marjorie Inana
Programming	Audrey Lowes*
	Audrey phone only 607-657-8242
Webmaster	Marjorie Inana Rosane Mordt

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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. Exceptions are possible-see location changes in the latest newsletter!

Agenda for the September 10th Guild Meeting

*Sarah Anderson workshop. We will discuss options re classes, and need to decide on which we want. (See page 3)

*Roc Day. If we are ready to go with an event in line with last year, the discussion will be brief. If you want to see changes, bring your ideas. (See page 4)

Spinning at the State Fair:

Some of the Black Sheep Guild members will be demonstrating on Tuesday the 30th at the wool booth of the State Fair. If you would like to join us, contact Sharon, who has room for one person in her car, at 607-280-8726.

Spinners Sought for Spinning Demonstrations:

Wayne Harbert

We've been invited to demonstrate spinning at two separate events on the same day. I plan on splitting my time between them. Anyone interested in joining me at either should contact me.

The Dryden Historical Society is seeing people to demonstrate spinning for the Homestead Heritage Day Saturday, Sept 24, 10-3 at the Southworth Homestead in Dryden. Period costumes appreciated but not required.

On the same day, the Eight Square Schoolhouse is holding an open house, Saturday September 24, 12:00 to 4:00, and is asking for spinners.

Period costumes appreciated but not required. If interested in taking part in either event, you can contact Wayne (weh2@cornell.edu). Please don't make him spin alone.

We have also been asked to spin at the Ithaca Celtic Festival, October 8. No details yet.

Upcoming BSHG Meetings:

September 10th, from 11am - 3pm
at the All Saints Church Parish
Hall, Route 34B, in Lansing, NY.

NY State Fair

August 25th to September 5th
581 State Fair Blvd, Syracuse, NY
13209

The Finger Lakes Fiber Festival

Sat./Sun. September 17th/18th
Hemlock Fairgrounds, Hemlock
NY

Southern Adirondack Fiber Festival

Sat./Sun September 24th/25th
392 Old Schuylerville Road,
Greenwich, NY 12834

Homestead Heritage Day

Sat. September 24th, 10am-3pm
14 North Street, Dryden NY,
13053

Eight Square Schoolhouse Open Day

Sat. September 24, 12pm-4pm
1750 Hanshaw Road, Ithaca, NY,
14580

Celtic Festival

Sat. October 8th
Stewart Park, Ithaca NY , 14850

New York State Sheep and Wool Festival

Sat/Sun October 15th/16th
Dutchess County Fairgrounds
6550 Spring Brook Avenue
Rhinebeck, NY, 12572

Sarah Anderson Workshop:

Our Guild will host a spinning workshop with the Sarah Anderson on Saturday/Sunday May 13th/14th 2017, the second weekend in May. The workshop will go from 9am to 4 pm on both days, with an hour long lunch break. The workshop will be held at the Lansing Community Center. Course fee will be \$100 for one day and \$200 for both days. We can accommodate up to 18 participants.

Sarah Anderson is a well known and sought after spinning teacher. She is the author of *The Spinner's Book of Yarn Design* (<http://www.interweavestore.com/spinner-s-book-of-yarn-designs>) and recorded several instructional spinning videos. She lives in Washington State and spins since the age of 13. Sarah only travels once a month, thus we were lucky to have secured a workshop date with her.

The topic of the workshop is still open. During the September meeting we will decide on which topics the workshop will cover. We have many options. Sarah offers several one day (6 hour) workshops:

Drafting

Plying techniques

Spinning silk

Effectively using hand cards

Spinning and using active yarns

And a variety of half day (3 hour) workshops mostly featuring specific kind of yarns, which we can combine for one in the morning and one in the afternoon:

Spinning boucle yarns

Spinning soft core yarns

Coils, pigtails and beads

Beehives, cocoons and variations

Success in plying

Bubble crepe yarns

Cable yarns and variations

Majorie Inana, who arranged that workshop for us, will be bringing more detailed descriptions of the workshops to the September meeting, so we can make an informed decision.

To register for the workshop, please send a letter to Majorie Inana, 41 West Court Streey. Cortland, NY 13045, with a check made out to the Black Sheep Handspinners Guild. Fees are \$100 for one day, \$200 for both. Please, note, that if we choose to put together the workshop out of several half day classes, there still will be only the option to sign up for full days.

Roc Day 2017:

ROC DAY 2017 is just around the corner, and the time is upon us to get our ducks in a row. The following are the positions that need to be filled for a festival similar to last year's:

PUBLICATIONS: Get information concerning the event to local newspapers and radio stations.

PRINTINGS: to include posters to hang at the event re demos, schedule, vendors, Black Sheep info sheet. Handout for the event to include same info as on posters.

VOLUNTEER Coordinator: Maintains volunteer sign-up sheet. Also means keeping an eye on schedule during the event and finding substitutes as needed to cover missing workers.

VENDOR Coordinator: Contacts interested vendors. May include holding a lottery if more than 9 vendors are interested in participating. Send out letters re who will participate, rules etc.

KITCHEN Coordinator: Start the coffee by 10. Have lunch items ready to eat, dishes out etc. Some supplies will be purchased in advance (Anne Furman has thorough notes on duties etc.). Clean up after lunch. This position comes with helpers.

SET-UP Coordinator: To set up the hall the evening before the event, to include marking floor plan with tape to show demo and vendor sites, set up spinning circle and entry greeting table, also the auction table. Hang posters etc.

COMPETITION Coordinator: Get info to newsletter and guild meetings re competition rules. Set up and watch competition entries at the event, secure prizes. Find volunteers to judge.

ROC DAY Coordinator: Sees that all these jobs are covered. Keeps an eye on the event to ensure that things move smoothly, covers jobs as necessary.

I am sure that I missed something, but the basics are here. Think about helping by covering one of these areas. Think about how we can streamline the work. Bring your thoughts and suggestions to the September meeting for discussion--it is time to begin work on Roc Day 2017 if we are to hold one!

Report from the Flax Symposium

By Sue Quick

I recently attended a symposium "Flax and Linen: Following the Thread From Past to Present" at Historic Deerfield in Massachusetts. The program was put together by the New England Flax and Linen Study Group in collaboration with Historic Deerfield. Speakers were from the group and professionals who work with flax.

Symposium topics began with flax in the field, including seeds, propagation and harvesting presented by members of the study group and Jeff Silberman of the Fashion Institute of Technology in N.Y.C..

Retting was presented by members of the study group, Cassie Dickson of the John C. Cambell Folk School, and Johannes and Christian Zinzendorf, authors of "The Big Book Of Flax".

Flax processing was presented by Ron Walter, textile and tool collector and author of "Stay at Home and Use Me Well". After the talk, we were able to use the tools to process flax grown and retted by study group members and Historic Deerfield. We used breaks, scutching boards and hetchels to produce some useable fiber ready to spin. Demonstrations of spinning line and tow, weaving linen and a chance to see many wonderful linen items both old and new.

Another session on flax today included talks by Patricia Bishop from Nova Scotia, owner of Taproot Fibre Lab. A local industry producing linen is the goal and the lab has invented several machines for processing flax mechanically so more can be produced.

A session on spinning included a talk by Florence Feldman-Wood of "The Spinning Wheel Sleuth" on flax wheels, spinning basics by Cassie Dickson and distaffs by Becky Ashenden.

Weaving linen was covered by Justin Squizzero of Eaton Hill Industries, weaver of historic recreations for living history museums and Chris Hammel of the Hill Institute discussed finishing techniques.

All of the speakers were excellent and, for me, the weekend was intimidating, awe inspiring, encouraging and educational. Nearly 100 people were in attendance and more on a waiting list.

I started spinning flax to be involved with State fair but I admit that I love this difficult, wonderful, useful fiber.



Membership Form

Please type or print

Date: _____

DUES Record:

2015	2018
2016	2019
2017	2020

Name _____

Address: _____

Preferred email: PRINT NEATLY _____

Phone # _____

This information will be shared with registered guild members. If you wish to remain anonymous, please let Vicki Marsted know.

Please list your wheel(s) _____

Do you spindle spin? Yes or No (circle)

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

Would you be willing to share your skills with other members (ie: teach beginners, present a meeting topic, demo to the public, etc?)

If you raise fiber animals, please list them here _____

We need your help on committee(s). If you would like to volunteer, let Sharon Gombas, our president, know!!!

- Roc Day
- Programming
- Newsletter
- Membership
- Website
- Outreach
- Treasurer

Our newsletter is distributed electronically. If this is a problem, please contact Sharon Gombas. 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

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FOR SALE: 1810 Great Wheel purchased from Bill Ralph. Miner's head, spins beautifully. For further info and/or to give it a spin, please contact shelly@chezmyers.com

In an effort to reduce my personal stash, I'd like to sell cotton warp, loop mohair, rug wools, fine wools, rayon and rayon chenille and other interesting stuff at prices ranging from low to ridiculous. I also have a Hansen e-spinner with woolee winder, two bobbins and kate for sale. Contact Karey Solomon at threads@empacc.net.

For sale from my own happy sheep and rabbits in Trumansburg: Navajo-Churro roving in a variety of natural colors
Angora rabbit wool in white
Contact Sharon Berger @607-592-4649 or



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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, angelika@simonstl.com. Black & white business cards are published free for current members.



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