

May 2017

ROVING

Message from the President

Greetings to all,

I awakened this morning from a dream that I have to pass on: I was at a guild meeting, with a list of people with whom I needed to speak, when the family of an old friend arrived to visit--imagine a dozen older church ladies, complete with costume jewelry and big purses. Shortly thereafter arrived a friend from VT who I have not seen in 30 years, with other acquaintances from that era. I was a bit overwhelmed, to say the least. I spent some time wondering where this all came from, and have come to the conclusion that it was sent to use as a lead-in to a discussion of a piece of guild business that we must conduct, and soon: guild elections.

The guild is currently looking for someone to take over the jobs of Secretary, Vice President (Sue is willing to stay in that position but is also willing to pass it on to an interested person), someone to do programming, and President. I intend to pop in to the guild meeting* to provide more info on what those jobs involve, or contact me for info. We also need a Roc Day Coordinator. Please find one of these that appeals to you--our guild is only as strong as we make it.

*Due to a scheduling mistake on the part of the Lansing Recreations department, All Saints hall will host both the May guild meeting and the Sarah Anderson workshop. On Sunday the workshop moves to the Lansing Community Center, which is located next to the Lansing library, a stone's throw from the traffic light at the top of East Shore Drive.

Our current president wants to celebrate the inauguration of our new slate of officers, so our June meeting will include voting, an in-depth show and tell, and an ice cream social. I want to see what you've been up to!

Sharon

May 2017

Next meeting is on May 13th from 11am-3pm, and we'll search for

New Guild Officers

President	Sharon Gombas
Vice President	Sue Quick
Secretary	Angelika St. Laurent
Treasurer	Vickie Marsted
Newsletter	Angelika St. Laurent
Membership	Marjorie Inana
Programming	Marjorie Inana
Webmaster	Rosane Mordt

- p.1 President's Message**
- p.2-3 Guild News & Fiber Events**
- p.4 Luna Fiber Studio**
- p.5-6 The Scratch and the Prickle**
- p. 7 Membership Form**
- p.8-9 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. Exceptions are possible--see location changes in the latest newsletter!

Guild News:

Sarah Anderson Workshop:

The Sarah Anderson Workshop is scheduled on the same weekend as our regular guild meetings, May 13th and 14th, from 9am to 4pm. **On Saturday, the drafting workshop will be held at the All Saints Parish Hall in Lansing**, the same building, in which we have our guild meetings. Both workshop and guild meeting will happen parallel to each other.

On Sunday, the plying workshop will be held at Lansing Community Center, 29 Auburn Road, Lansing, NY 14882, which is beside the Lansing Town Library and Town Hall, just up the road from All Saints near the traffic light at the intersection of East Shore Drive and Ridge Road.

Sarah Anderson is a very sought after spinning teacher and author of [The Spinner's Book of Yarn Designs: Techniques for Creating 80 Yarns](#), she published several [spinning videos](#) with interweave. We had to wait for more than a year for her to be able to fit us in her schedule. All available places for the workshop are now filled.

Guild Officers:

This is it--time to step forward to be a guild officer. Check out the list of positions on the front of the newsletter and find one that sounds interesting to you. Current officers please let Sharon know whether you wish to continue in that position. We will have an election of officers at the May meeting. You may feel free to nominate someone you feel is right for the job; they of course may feel differently, but who knows?

Harriet Tubman Mural:

On Thursday, May 4th, from 6-8 pm the Schweinfurth Art Center will celebrate the installation of a 32 ft crocheted mural of Harriet Tubman on the front of the Art Center. Over 150 community volunteers, including several Black Sheep Hands Spinners have created this mural by crocheting 2ft x 2ft squares under the direction of visiting artist, Olek.



Upcoming BSHG Meetings:

May 13th, 11am-3pm

New Officers and Sarah Anderson Workshop

Fiber Events:

Harriet Tubman Mural

Thursday, May 4th, 6-8pm

Schweinfurth Art Center,
205 Genesee Street,
Auburn, NY 13021

Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival

Saturday, May 6th, 8:30am-6pm,
Sunday, May 7th 8:30am—5pm.

Howard County Fairground,
West Friendship, Maryland, 21794

Tenth Annual Shepherd's Wool Market

Saturday, May 13th, 10am-4pm

The Rush United Methodist Church
6200 Rush Lima Road
Rush, NY 14543

Hallockville Museum Farm Fleece and Fiber Fair

Saturday, May 20th, to Sunday May 21st, 10am-4pm.

Hallockville Museum Farm,
6038 Sound Avenue,
Riverhead, NY, 11901

Town of Groton Bicentennial Request for Volunteers

The Town of Groton is celebrating its Bicentennial this year and we are planning an antique event for June 10. We would like to extend an invitation to you to come and demonstrate spinning. I think it would be an interesting addition to the many other antique type things that we have going on. I have attached a flyer for the event. (*This flyer is attached to the same email as your newsletter*) If it is something that some of your group would like to come to, please let me know.

Thank you,

April Scheffler RMC Groton Town Clerk
101 Conger Boulevard, PO Box 36, Groton, NY 13073
Phone: 607-898-5035 Fax: 607-898-3086
Website: www.townofgrotonny.org

Pleasant Mountain Fiber Workshop

The 10th annual, three-day fiber arts program will be held June 23 - 25 at the Denmark Municipal Building, Denmark, Maine.

The website is now updated with this year's schedule of exciting fiber workshops. There are over 30 workshops to choose from. Many of your favorite instructors are returning with some interesting workshop offerings, as well as, several new instructors.

Full details about the workshops and registration information can be found on the website www.pleasantmtfiber.com.

Linda Cortright Guest in Newark Valley Event

The Shuttle and Spindles Fiber Guild of the Newark Valley Historical Society is holding a special meeting on July 8, 2017, 10am - 2pm. The Guild invites everyone to this great event. It is free but bring a dish to pass for lunch.

It is their 20th Anniversary and they have a special guest, Linda Cortright. Linda publishes Wild Fibers Magazine <https://www.wildfibersmagazine.com> She will share stories of her amazing world travel and will bring lots of goodies to show.

Jean Currie has traveled a lot with Linda and can attest to great stories, amazing photographs, and she guarantees you will have a wonderful outing to Newark Valley. The location is the Bement-Billings Farmstead Museum on Rt 38, Newark Valley.

7th Annual CNY Fiber Arts Festival

Staturday and Sunday, June 10th and 11th, 10am-5pm

Butternut Hill Campground
6893 State Highway 20,
Bouckville, NY, 13310

Town of Groton Bicentennial

Saturday, June 10th

(unfortunately the Groton Website was down, when I was putting together this newsletter.)

Tenth Annual Pleasant Mountain Fiber Workshop

Friday, June 23th, to Sunday, June 25th

Denmark Municipal Building,
62 East Main Street,
Denmark, ME 04022

Linda Cortright Presentation

Saturday, July 8th, 10am-2pm

Bement-Billings Farmstead Museum
9241 NY-38,
Newark Valley, NY 13811

The Luna Fiber Studio

By Anne Furman

The Luna Fiber Studio in Trumansburg is in a second floor location at 15 East Main Street. They have weaving and dyeing workshops this spring and summer. At their recent open house, what caught my eye was the natural dyed purple yarn. In real life, the color is a lovely deep, gorgeous, grape juice purple achieved by using locally grown Hopi Sunflower seeds. The owner, Sarah Goto-wka, is using only natural dyes and is dedicated to having a non-toxic studio. As of now the studio is open Wednesday and Saturday from 12 to 5 PM for weavers working independently, but you can email Sarah at lunafiberstudio@gmail.com and ask to visit. Check the calendar for upcoming workshops at www.lunafiberstudio.com.



Weaving Studio. Set up for Open-House Day.



Natural dye samples at the weaving studio.

Photos: Anne Furman

The Scratch and the Prickle

by Angelika St.Laurent

On our last guild garage sale I purchased an alpaca fleece. It was a gorgeous chestnut brown and the fiber was soft as butter. Well, most of it. Somebody, probably a non-spinner, who wanted to be helpful, had stuck in parts of the fleece that were much coarser. Or maybe, the fleece had been packed away, before it was skirted. And then there were those locks, that were mostly fine fiber, with some slightly longer coarser fibers stuck in between. So to the puzzlement of some of my fellow spinners I proceeded to sort through the fleece, producing a pile of coarser fiber for José to use for his rugs. Why was I doing this? What is the problem with a few coarser fibers in a sea of buttery soft chestnut loveliness?

Scratchiness is a well known complaint, when it comes to woolen clothing. Scratch is the unpleasant sensation experienced, when the fiber of the garment resists the movement of the skin against it. The sturdier the fiber, the stronger the resistance against the skin. Most people start feeling uncomfortable, if the garment touching their skin is made from fiber with a fiber diameter upwards of 30 microns. Of course there are people, who are oblivious to scratch, while others might feel uncomfortable even with fine merino wool. Not all parts of the body are similarly sensitive to the scratch. Fiber that makes for comfortable socks or mittens, might be uncomfortable as a neck warmer.

Spinning choices also affect scratchiness: A yarn spun with relatively low twist gives the individual fiber some wriggle room. If rubbed against the skin, the fiber in the low twist yarn can be pushed aside and doesn't resist the skin. Thus a low twist yarn will feel less scratchy than a high twist yarn of the same fiber diameter.

Most fiber animals don't just grow fiber of one particular diameter. There is usually a mix of different fiber diameters. In dual coated sheep breeds the locks consist out of coarser outer coat fibers and often very soft down fibers. In modern breeds wool from the rear end of the sheep is frequently coarser, while neck wool often is the softest. Multicolored sheep, like Jacob and Shetland, sometimes have different fiber diameters coinciding with the different colors. Alpaca fleeces often have soft blankets, but the wool of legs up to the rump and sometimes the shoulders is coarser and straighter. Modern fiber analysis therefore gives not only an average fiber diameter, but also a comfort-factor. The comfort factor gives the percentage of fiber below 30 microns in a given fiber sample. A fiber sample of 25 microns average diameter and comfort factor of 99%, is likely to produce a lovely next to skin comfortable yarn. On the other hand, a fiber sample of the same 25 micron average diameter but a comfort factor of 90% still contains 10% of coarse fiber and would result in a yarn no longer comfortable against sensitive skin.

In case of the chestnut alpaca fleece sorting through it made for two more homogenous sets of fiber. The larger one was fine fiber with a now much higher comfort level for next to skin projects, the second smaller one was coarser fiber for sturdy purposes, like the rugs José weaves.

In dual coated wool and some alpaca the coarser and finer fiber occur in the same locks. If the coarser fiber is longer than the finer, these locks can be separated by simply holding the lock at the bottom with one hand and pulling out the coarser fibers with the other. The remaining softer fiber of the lock will have a much higher comfort factor.



Figure; The alpaca lock to the left has slightly longer coarser fiber sticking out of it, forming the pointy tips. To the right is the same lock after the coarser fiber has been pulled out.

To make things more complicated, scratchiness is not the only unpleasant sensation that can be caused by fiber. There is also prickliness. Prickliness is a function of fiber stiffness. The ends of the fiber poke into the skin causing an itchy or prickly sensation. The most common culprits for prickliness are kemp and guard hair. But also coarser wool fibers can be prickly in their own right. Occasionally, the prickly fibers can be so stiff that they manage to poke through a thin shirt worn under a sweater made from prickly fiber.

Prickliness and scratchiness often can't be well distinguished from each other, since the coarsest fibers often also tend to be the stiffest one, causing scratchy and prickly sensations in the same time. However, occasionally rather fine fibers like the guard hair in angora or even in possum wool can be stiff enough to cause uncomfortable prickliness in sensitive people. Like with scratchiness, sensitivity to prickliness varies substantially between people. Moreover sensitivity to scratchiness and prickliness are not related. Some people might happily allow a sweater made from longwool touch their skin, while suffering agony over a few guard hairs left in a shawl made from luxury fiber., and vice versa.

When spinning and aiming for the least prickly yarn, careful fiber selection is important. Especially, when it comes to luxury fiber, making sure that no guard hairs are left in the fiber will substantially improve the comfort of finished object. A worsted style of drafting, that keeps the tips of the fiber neatly aligned and tucked in, will produce less prickly yarn than a woolen drafting style, because in woolen yarns the tips of the fiber stick out randomly. Finally, the way a yarn is employed to create a garment can affect the prickliness: In knitting and crochet the yarn is bent with every loop, giving the tips plenty of opportunity to stick out of the fabric and into unsuspecting skin. Weaving on the other hand doesn't bend the yarn, giving the tips less opportunity to stick out of the fabric. Thus the same yarn that seems to be to prickly to be used in knitting, might make a still comfortable fabric when woven.



Membership Form

Please type or print

Date: _____

DUES Record:

2016	2019
2017	2020
2018	2021

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, 6 Circle Drive, Cortland, NY 13045

Handmade Glass Whorls Buttons, Pins & Beads by Isinglass Design



glass whorls for
medieval & viking
inspired spindles

Beads, felted puppets and
scarves now at Ithacamide www.glassbead.etsy.com
[facebook.com/glassbeadstudio](https://www.facebook.com/glassbeadstudio)

TRINITY FARM
Registered Shetland and Icelandic Sheep
hand-spun Yarns, Carded Rowing, Well-Skirted fleece


Margaret G. Flowers Matthew W. Dietert
Aurora, NY 13026
www.trinityfarm.net
315-246-1178 mflowers@wells.edu

 **Lady Llama Fiber Co.**
Fine Fiber Arts Products

Kelli Terwilliger
(716) 673-5050
ladyllamafiberco@gmail.com
Shop: www.ladyllamafiberco.etsy.com

Handpainted Yarn
Handspun Yarn
Spinning Fibers
Knitting Accessories
...and more

**CHEMUNG VALLEY FIBER
ARTS GUILD**



Dedicated to Preserving & Teaching the Art
of Handspinning and other Fiber Arts.

<http://chemungvalleyguild.wordpress.com/>

**Felted
Flora**

Hand Knit & Felted Designs
by Renata Brenner
FeltedFlora@stny.rr.com
www.etsy.com/shop/FeltedFlora

**Hand Dyed Fibers & Yarns
Kits, Patterns, Needles
Baynes & Jim's Wheels
Jim's Spindles**

www.SpinningBunny.com
607-564-7178
susan@spinningbunny.com
311B Tupper Road
West Danby, NY
Sat/Sun 11-3 or by appt.

Jim's Woodworks
Wheels & Spindles
Skeinwinders
Orifice Hooks
Folding Spinning Stools
Yarn Measurers
Wheel Repairs

607/564-7178 or 607/227-1346
<http://www.spinningbunny.com>

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, 6 Circle Drive, 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.

The Tenth Annual Shepherd's Wool Market

May 13th, 2017

@ The Rush United Methodist Church
6200 Rush Lima Road
Rush, NY 14543

Time: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Offering for sale from local Fiber Farms:
Fleeces, Roving, Yarns, Sheep Hides,
Finished Goods, Soaps, Lotions, Freezer
Lamb & much more!

Free demonstrations throughout the day

Diane Seely of Acorn Works Fiber Processing will be at the market to pick up your fleeces for processing

For more information:

Amy Klee- stoneedgefibers@gmail.com

Robin Nistock- sheepmom@empacc.net

