

July  
2018

ROVING

## Message from the President

My flax is now wispy and tall as the corn, and already sporting one tiny blossom the same color as this morning's rare clear sky. I've learned something interesting about Japanese indigo; the ones I planted in pots on the patio are much bigger and more robust than the ones I planted in the dyers garden, and I don't have to weed them, so I think they'll be patio plants from now on.

I'm sorry to report that I won't be able to join you for the guild meeting on July 14. I'll be out of town. I do hope you'll party on without me. I wanted to remind you that here on the brink of a heat wave, some of us are looking ahead to our Roc Day celebration in the dead of winter. We've voted to reserve a few of our vendor slots for newcomers. If you or others you know folks sell fiber or fiber-related items and would be interested in a booth, send a note to Yvonne by August 31 to reserve a slot in the drawing. Also, we are in the process of compiling a list of local people with fiber to sell, which we will publish in the newsletter when complete. If you or others you know are interested in being listed, please let us know.

--Wayne



July 2018

Next meeting is on July 14<sup>th</sup>  
from 11am-2pm, and we'll

## A Great Time Spinning

|                |                                      |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| President      | <a href="#">Wayne Harbert</a>        |
| Vice President | <a href="#">Sue Quick</a>            |
| Secretary      | <a href="#">Angelika St. Laurent</a> |
| Treasurer      | <a href="#">Louise Henrie</a>        |
| Newsletter     | <a href="#">Angelika St. Laurent</a> |
| Workshops      | <a href="#">Marjorie Inana</a>       |
| Webmaster      | <a href="#">Rosane Mordt</a>         |
| Roc-Day        |                                      |
| Coordinator    | <a href="#">Yvonne LaMontagne</a>    |

- P.1 President's Message**
- P.2-3 Fiber Fairs and Events**
- P.4 Dorset Buttons**
- P.5-6 4x4 Gradient Dyeing**
- P.7 Membership Form**
- P.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. Exceptions are possible-see location changes in the latest newsletter!

## Roc Day Vendors Sought

Our Guild is boundlessly grateful for the energy, talent, and interest our vendors have brought to our annual Roc Day celebration and never more so than this year; the grace, understanding, flexibility and efficiency with which this year's vendors met the unusual circumstances surrounding the rescheduling of our celebration contributed immensely to making it an especially memorable one, in spite of the obstacles.

For a number of years, our Guild has been pondering the question of how to open up opportunities for new prospective vendors to become a part of our Roc Day activities, while maintaining our valued relationship with those who have participated over the years. We have decided to offer seven of the ten available slots for the 2019 Roc Day to old-timers, but to reserve the three remaining slots for new vendors. In both cases, allotment of slots will be awarded by drawing among those who have expressed an interest.

If you or people you know have fiber or fiber processing tools that they would like to offer for sale on Roc Day, and who have not done so over the past few years, we encourage you to let us know by August 31 by sending a note to Yvonne LaMontagne (by clicking the link beside her name on page 1 of this newsletter), providing the name of your business and a brief description of the articles you would be offering. In the event that not all of the slots reserved for newcomers are filled, any vacancies will be offered to others on our list of long-time participants.

## Wool Day at the Troy Fair

Troy (PA) Fair Wool Day will be held on Wednesday July 25 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. it is a fun event for handspunners, knitters, and families, with vendors, a fleece to shawl contest, spinning contests, yarn judging, a spinning circle, and wonderful fair food. Troy Fair is only an hour and 15 minutes south of Ithaca and is worth the trip. Some of us have been attending Wool Day for many years.

For details, see:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/255170538365594/?ti=icl>. You don't have to be a Facebook member to view this event.

Carol LaBorie

## Fiber News

### Upcoming BSHG Meetings:

**July 14<sup>th</sup>, 11am-2pm**

August 11<sup>th</sup>, 11am-2pm

September 8<sup>th</sup>, 11am-2pm

### Fiber Events and Craft Fairs:

#### Home Textile Tool Museum

Every Saturday, 10am-4pm

Home Textile Tool Museum ,

1819 Orwell Hill Road ,

Rome, PA 18837

<http://www.hometextiletoolmuseum.org>

#### Tour de Fleece

Saturday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, to Sunday July 29<sup>th</sup>.

Online on Ravelry.com

<https://www.ravelry.com>

#### Meet the Shepherdess

Karen Stern from Windsong Farm

Tuesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 6pm

Tompkins County Public Library

101 East Green Street,

Ithaca, New York 14850

<https://www.facebook.com/localfiber.ny/>

#### Wool Day at Troy Fair

Wednesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 10am-4pm

436 Gate 1 Lane,

Alparon Park ,

Troy, PA, 16947

<https://www.facebook.com/events/255170538365594/>

#### Finger Lakes Cheese Festival

Saturday, July 28th, 10am-5:00pm

SUNSET VIEW CREAMERY

4970 County Road 14

Odessa, NY 14869

<http://www.flxcheese.com/2018-festival.html>

## Tour de Fleece

Every year during the Tour de France, spinners in the online community of [Ravelry.com](http://Ravelry.com) join in a 'spinning race' called 'Tour de Fleece'. Members join one or more teams for the event and set their own goals (or follow the team goals) and post regularly on the teams forum threads about their progress. A lot of fun and positive energy comes from sharing one's progress and cheering on the progress of everyone else in the team. Tour de Fleece is a fun way to stay motivated to spin for a larger project. The supportive online community is very good at helping sustain the spinning enthusiasm.

How to join? Go to the [Ravelry Website](http://Ravelry.com). If you don't already have an account, you can get one immediately. There is no cost. Once on Ravelry.com search for the group 'Tour de Fleece'. Join that group and you are ready to pick your team(s).

## Request to Spin Golden Doodle Fur

Dear guild members, I am the owner of a beautiful golden doodle dog and have been collecting his hair for several years hoping to find someone to spend it into yarn. Is there anyone in your guild willing to do this for a fee?

Thank you

Nicole Carrier-Titti

([nicoletonique4@gmail.com](mailto:nicoletonique4@gmail.com))

607-379-4828



### 2018 Lancaster Fiber Festival

Thursday and Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am to 5:30pm, and Saturday August 18<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am-4pm.

Lancaster Convention Center & Marriott Hotel

25 South Queen Street,

Lancaster, PA 17603

<http://lancasterfiberfestival.com>

### 24th Annual Finger Lakes Fiber Arts Festival

Saturday, September 15th, 10:00am—5:00pm, and Sunday, September 16th, 10:00am—4:00pm.

Hemlock Fairgrounds,

Hemlock, NY 14466

<http://www.gvhg.org/fiber-fest>

## *Dorset Buttons*

*Renata Brenner*

A couple of months ago, while recovering from surgery, I accidentally completely felted a cloche that I had intended to pleat, without sewing in pleats part way through. The extra length that the pleating would have taken up made the cloche too long. I decided to turn the brim up but decided that a flower wouldn't work with that shape. I needed a button, a large button, in a pleasing color. I don't think I need to tell you that finding good buttons in this area is getting more and more difficult.



I remembered seeing some pictures of buttons made with thread, and thought that I might be able to make a button in any color of yarn that I desired. I did some research and found instructions for making Dorset buttons, and made a simple Dorset button out of the same yarn and added a crocheted scalloped border. Problem solved! I made another Dorset button for another hat. Now I have a new "problem." I've fallen down a Dorset button rabbit hole.



What's a Dorset button? It is a one of the oldest English method of making buttons. It originated in the 1600s in Dorset England using a ring or disc of rams horn and wrapping it with yarn or thread. Dorset Buttony was a cottage trade that supported entire villages, until the industrial revolution and the invention of button making machines.

Here are a couple links to more in-depth history.

<http://dorset-ancestors.com/?p=694>

<http://henrysbuttons.co.uk/history.html>



There are four main types of Dorset Buttons, Wheels, Hightops & Knobs, Birds Eyes & Mites, and Singletons. Wheels are the most popular types made today. Here is a link to a Dorset Wheel Button tutorial. <http://henrysbuttons.co.uk/worksheets-and-tutorials.html>

Modern Dorset Buttons are often more decorative than functional. They can be a canvas for embroidery, and needle weaving techniques. I was inspired to try my hand at making a few nontraditional Dorset Buttons to sew onto hats, but quickly decided to make them into brooches so they could be pinned onto any garment. I brought a few, including this one with sheep to the last guild meeting and was asked to write an article for the newsletter.



If there is sufficient interest I would be happy to do a workshop on making a basic Dorset Wheel button.



## Ontario Handspinning Seminar

Western University, London, Ontario

June 8-10, 2018

Jean Currie

For many, many years, Anne Furman and Jean Currie have attended the Ontario Handspinning Seminar and as usual, there were old friends, wonderful workshops, gorgeous handspun and woven items, and a ton of inspiration.

We took a little detour on the way to visit the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton. Too much to see in one visit, but we admired their new rose garden which has interesting companion plantings to help keep various pests off the roses. We were intrigued with the medicinal garden and some of the plants that could supposedly cure diseases that we now know could not be cured that way.

Both Anne and I took a workshop on cabled yarns. These are yarns that have at least four plies so they can be time consuming, but they provide a round, long wearing yarn giving excellent stitch definition. With some interesting fibres, we learned that fibre (Canadian spelling!) preparation, spinning variations and plying methods can give the some wonderful results. As we discovered, the way the plies pop into the cable in the final ply is magical!



Variations on the Theme: Four different cabled yarns with knitted swatches from the same fiber base. (Photos: Anne Furman)

On Sunday morning, we watched a fashion show in which the items in the display room were worn – what a difference it makes to see some things actually on a moving body! There were many shawls this year that were more interesting than it sounds – several were designed with a landscape in mind such as a lakeshore or mountains. One set of shawl, scarves, hat, and gloves was all done from 500 grams of fibre spun on a spindle! All very inspiring. Then we were all entertained by having to divide into groups to create something from a box of very weird stuff that would represent our group name: space, beach, jungle etc. etc. These were then presented with appropriate stories. Those Canadians are very creative!

And of course, there was shopping. Lots of lovely things to buy, especially fleeces, from vendors but we dithered too long and missed a beautiful black lamb fleece! This seminar is always full of surprises and great Canadian hospitality which keeps us coming back.



Left: Elizabeth McConaghy, outgoing board member of the Ontario Handspinners Guild modelling a modular knit jacket her mother Berta made for her.



Right: Berta in her own modular knit jacket



Large selection of braids for sale.



## Membership Form

*Please type or print*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### DUES Record:

|      |      |
|------|------|
| 2018 | 2021 |
| 2019 | 2022 |
| 2020 | 2023 |

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Preferred email: PRINT NEATLY \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

This information will be shared with registered guild members. If you wish to remain anonymous, please let Louise Henrie 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 our president, Wayne Harbert, know!!!

Roc Day

Programming

Newsletter

Membership

Website

Outreach

Treasurer

Our newsletter is distributed electronically. If this is a problem, please contact Angelika St.Laurent. Please fill this out and either bring it to a meeting or mail it with your check for \$20 to: Louise Henrie, 417 2nd Street, Ithaca, NY 14850



## Handmade Glass Whorls Buttons, Pins & Beads by Isinglass Design



glass whorls for  
medieval & viking  
inspired spindles

Beads, felted puppets and  
scarves now at Ithacemade

[www.glassbead.etsy.com](http://www.glassbead.etsy.com)  
[facebook.com/glassbeadstudio](https://facebook.com/glassbeadstudio)



## spinning Bunny

Hand Dyed Fiber & Yarn  
Hand Crafted Spindles & Stools  
Patterns, Kits, Accessories

[www.spinningbunny.com](http://www.spinningbunny.com)

[www.etsy.com/shop/spinningbunny](http://www.etsy.com/shop/spinningbunny)

607-227-1216

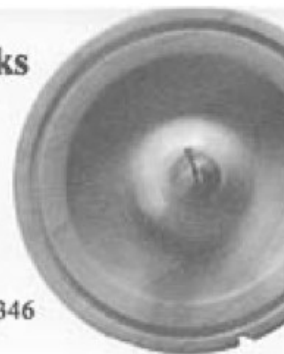
311B Tupper Rd, W. Danby, NY 14883

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

Margaret G. Flowers Matthew W. Dietert  
Aurora, NY 13026  
[www.trinityfarm.net](http://www.trinityfarm.net)  
315-246-1178 [mflowers@wells.edu](mailto:mflowers@wells.edu)

## 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>



Lady Llama Fiber Co.  
Fine Fiber Arts Products

Kelli Terwilliger

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

(716) 673-5050

[ladyllamafiberco@gmail.com](mailto:ladyllamafiberco@gmail.com)

Shop: [www.ladyllamafiberco.etsy.com](http://www.ladyllamafiberco.etsy.com)

UNDENIABLY

Loopy

Award-Winning Design & Instruction

MARCIA WEINERT

knitting | handspinning | felting | crochet

585 872 4267 | [undeniablyloopy@gmail.com](mailto:undeniablyloopy@gmail.com) | [www.undeniablyloopy.com](http://www.undeniablyloopy.com)

Felted  
Flora

Hand Knit & Felted Designs  
by Renata Brenner

[FeltedFlora@stny.rr.com](mailto:FeltedFlora@stny.rr.com)

[www.etsy.com/shop/FeltedFlora](http://www.etsy.com/shop/FeltedFlora)

CHEMUNG VALLEY FIBER  
ARTS GUILD



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

<http://chemungvalleyguild.wordpress.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, Louise Henrie, 417 2nd Street, Ithaca, NY 14850. Send the ad in digital form to the newsletter editor, [angelika@simonstl.com](mailto:angelika@simonstl.com). Business cards are published free for current members.