

March
2019

ROVING

Message from the President

In like a lion indeed! Still, as the sun reclaims some of its ability to warm even on these sub-freezing days, we venture to imagine the possibility of spring. And with that, of course, our thoughts turn to spring cleaning. Luckily, our March meeting will feature a timely garage sale, so you'll have an opportunity to bring all of that stuff you've decided you're ready to pass on to new custody. We'll also be talking about programming ideas for the upcoming season, and elections for guild offices. We'll be voting for new officers in May, and it would be good to have a partial slate of candidates in place by our April meeting. We're eagerly seeking nominations, including self-nominations, and encouraging you to imagine yourselves in one of the elected or volunteer roles so crucial to the abiding success of our guild.

Hope to see you all on the 9th of March.

—Wayne

March 2019

Next meeting is on March 9th
from 11am-2pm, we'll have a

Garage Sale!

President	Wayne Harbert
Vice President	Sue Quick
Secretary	Angelika St. Laurent
Treasurer	Louise Henrie
Newsletter	Angelika St. Laurent
Workshops	Marcia Weinert
Webmaster	Rosane Mordt
Roc-Day	
Coordinator	Yvonne LaMontagne

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The Black Sheep meet from 11 am - 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

Next Year's Spinning Competition:

Anne Furman and Allison Morris put forward an idea for the spinning competition: Competitors will be giving 3 ounces of Corriedale top to be spun in whatever way and either knitted or crocheted into a neck warmer. No dyeing allowed, as colors can distract from the spinning. In order to give enough time for busy participants to finish, fiber will be given out starting in August.

Other guild members asked the following amendments: Beside the popular vote, members would love judging by a skilled fiber artist. Some members felt that a Corriedale neck warmer might be too scratchy for people with sensitive skin and suggested to pick a softer alternative.

As alternative a combospin (a combination of various dyed tops for a yarn) was suggested,

Roc Day:

Great thanks to Yvonne La Montagne for organizing everything.

Potential Changes and Improvements for Next Time:

Room Layout: The entrance way was a bit crowded. This was mostly due to the new structures and statues in the hallway that made the display of the paper bag raffle items more challenging. As a potential solution it was discussed to invite less vendors and display the raffle items in the main rooms by the windows opening towards 34B.

The spinning circle boasted many empty chairs with a spinning wheel standing in front of them, while the owners of the wheels were attending workshops, volunteering etc. This put a physical distance between spinners big enough to interfere with socializing. It was suggested we create a spinning wheel parking lot, for spinner to store their wheels, if they leave the spinning circle for extended periods of time.

We need better photos/mappings of the table and chair lay-out, before we set up for Roc Day, so it will be easier to put everything back in order after the event is over. Also there were a lot of chairs that needed to be hauled out of the way and then back into the hall.

Fiber News

Upcoming BSHG Meetings:

March 9th, 11am-2pm Garage Sale

April 13th, 11am-2pm

May 11th, 11am-2pm

Fiber Events and Craft Fairs:

15th Pittsburgh Creative Arts Festival

Friday, March 15th, 12pm-7pm,
Saturday, March 16th, 10am-6pm
Sunday March 17th, 10:30am-3:30pm

Doubletree Green Tree
500 Mansfield Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

<https://pghknitandcrochet.com>

Felting Workshop

Friday, March 29th,—Sunday, March 31st,
9am-4pm

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

http://www.schweinfurthartcenter.org/classes_studio.cfm

23rd Annual Sheep Shearing Festival

Saturday, April 27th, 10am –5pm

52 Gore Street
Waltham, MA 02453

<https://goreplace.org/sheepshearing-festival/>

Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival

Saturday, May 4th, 8:30am-6pm, and Sun-
day, May 5th, 8:30am-5pm.

Howard County Fairgrounds
2210 Fairgrounds Road
West Friendship, MD 21794

<https://www.sheepandwool.org>

Guild News continued

Vendors: Vendors reported to have made less sells than on previous Roc Days. When trying to attract new vendors last summer, there seemed to be less interest to sell at Roc Day. Formerly, vendor fees have been crucial to pay our rent. However, in recent years the proceeds of the paper bag raffle have covered our rent. It seems time reevaluate the role of vendors at Roc Day. We need input both from vendors and guild members and if possible not BSHG affiliated attendees to find out to find out how best to proceed. It was suggested to do a survey (maybe tied to a little gift) at the greeting table next year. Rosane Mordt offered to talk to visitors from other guilds during the next Roc Day.

Kitchen: Anne Furman reported, that the dish to pass supper was a bit short on main dishes. While everybody got fed, it would be nice to have more main dishes. Also some people felt it would be nice to bring recipes along for people to photograph or copy. Labelling of ingredients would be helpful, so people with food allergies have an easier way around.

Dish washing after the lunch is a lot of work. However due to environmental concerns, the use of paper plates is not seen as a viable alternative. We do need more kitchen volunteers to share the dish washing load.

Guests from Other Guilds: We enjoy having guests from other guilds and from the community at large. We would enjoy to get to know our guests better. It was suggested to have a guest book at the greeting table. Maybe also color coded nametags.

It would be fun to have some friendly competitions/games involving members of other guilds and newcomers at Roc Day. Suggestions were longest spun thread in a set time or a uncarded wool to yarn competition.

Paper Bag Raffle: A microphone would be helpful to announce the winners of the paper bag raffle. Some names on tickets were unreadable, a couple of winners need to be phoned. Some people coming late were disappointed to find that the Paper Bag Raffle already closed. Putting a schedule on our posters might help dis-appointments in future.



Fiber Events and Craft Fairs continued:

Central Pennsylvania Fiber Festival

Saturday, May 18th, 10am-5pm, and Sunday May 19th, 10am-4pm

Lycoming County Fairgrounds

Larabee Building

1 East Park Street,

Hughesville, PA 17737

<https://centralpennfiberfest.com/>

CNY Fiber Arts Festival

Saturday and Sunday, June 8th and 9th, 10am-4pm.

Butternut Hill Campground

6893 Route 20

Bouckville, NY 13310

www.cnyfiberarts.org

Workshops:

Our new workshop coordinator, Marcia Weinert, found in Allison Wilcox a potential teacher. There was considerable interest in having her come and teach a workshop. We still have to find the best combination of dates and costs for our guild. At this point, no date for a potential workshop has been set.

For the summer, we are thinking about a natural dye workshop, involving local plants and the Japanese indigo guild members grew last year..

It was also requested we try and invite Sarah Lamb to teach a workshop.

There is also interest in a wet-felting workshop. Anne Furman and Jean Currie have already started to prepare for a potential wet-felting workshop.

Address List:

In order to ease member to member communication, we want to put together an address list for members who are interested in having and being on such a list. The list is to contain members names, telephone numbers, and email addresses. Member s also might choose to provide their physical addresses. Since we want to respect members' privacy, this Address list is OPT-IN. Members who wish to be on that list, let [Angelika St.Laurent](#) know. Members who do not opt in won't be featured on the list and will also not receive a copy of it.

Dorset Button Workshop:

At the end of our long meeting, Renata taught us how to make Dorset Buttons:



Spinning Retreat to Casowasco Retreat Center February 22nd to February 24th

This years spinning retreat went to the beautiful Casowasco Retreat Center at the Shores of Owasco Lake. Kat Thomas shouldered the work of organization. Many thanks for her efforts. We were in house Galilee, which is the closest to the lake. The view out of the windows was stunning. Some of us were even so lucky to have even their bedroom windows open to the lake.



House Galilee

The first retreaters arrived just after noon and kindly set up the large room for everyone.

By evening, everyone had arrived and we enjoyed our traditional Friday night dish to pass dinner. We could have easily fed a group twice our size, so there were plenty of leftovers for Sunday lunch and snacking between meals.

We spent the evening talking and spinning, knitting, eating, laughing, and sampling our way through several bottles of wine.



Owasco Lake



The Large Room

Retreat continued

On Saturday, it was time to explore not just the beautiful outdoors, but also hidden talents:



Samba between spinning wheels.



Our lovely host Nairobi lead us in a few songs. We could not tempt her to eat our cookies, but she did learn to spin.



Allison on the grand piano in



Explaining the mysteries of brioche knitting



Sandy changing a bobbin.



The knitting machine that had us defeated.



Some of Rosanne's beautiful spindles.

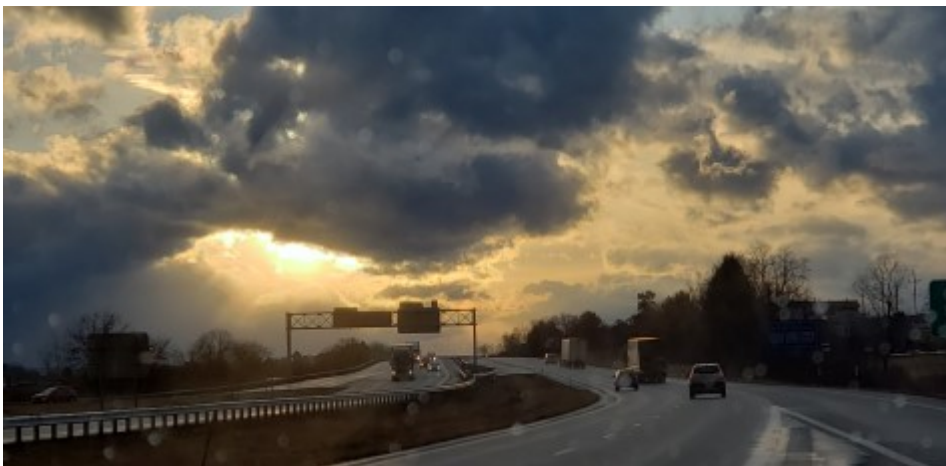


Rosanne on her foldable wheel.

Retreat continued

Sunday started with storm and rain. We spun some more, but then had to leave. Despite of the weather, we all made it home.

We will be back. In fact, we already secured house Galilee of the Casowasco Retreat Center for February 21-23, 2020.



Photos: Susan Sarabasha, Sandra Berry, Renata Brenner, Celia Morgan.

Shave ‘Em to Save ‘Em

The Livestock Conservancy started a challenge for fiber artist to use the fiber from 22 sheep breeds on the Livestock Conservancy’s priority list. Simply put, during the next three years (from January 1, 2019 until December 31, 2021) fiber artists are challenged to complete 5, 10 or 15 projects using at least 4 ounces of wool per project purchased from breeders enrolled in the program. There are prizes for the completion of 5, 10 or 15 projects.

How does it work? Interested fiber artists can sign up on the [Livestock Conservancy website](#) and will receive a passport in the mail. Participation costs \$15. Breeders of the priority breeds also sign up with the Livestock Conservancy. Breeders will receive stickers for the passport. Whenever a fiber artist purchases wool, they receive a sticker from the breeder for their passport verified that indeed wool from the rare sheep is used. The fiber artist finished his or her project and posts either on the [Shave ‘Em to Save ‘Em forum on Ravelry](#) or on the [Shave ‘Em to Save ‘Em facebook](#) page. Once they have posted five projects, they should receive prizes (Coupons, Wool wash, more wool).

The rules allow to use wool in form of raw wool, processed spinning fiber, and yarn. The wool used for the project has to be purchased from a participating breeder during the time of the challenge. The fiber/yarn may be dyed, but must not be blended with other fiber. It is however permitted to make projects that combine wool from several breeds of the Livestock Conservancy’s priority list.

The 22 breeds on the priority list are [Florida Cracker](#), [Gulf Coast Native](#), [Hog Island](#), [Santa Cruz](#), [Black Welsh Mountain](#), [Clun Forest](#), [Cotswold](#), [Dorset Horn](#), [American Jacob](#), [American Karakul](#), [Leicester Longwool](#), [Lincoln](#), [Navajo Churro](#), [Romeldale/CVM](#), [St.Croix](#), [Barbados Blackbelly](#), [Oxford](#), [Shropshire](#), [Tunis](#), [Wiltshire Horn](#), [Shetland](#), and [Southdown](#) (not Babydoll).—Breeders of these breeds still can enroll to participate in the challenge.



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

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Gently used Ashford Traditional with four bobbins, complete bulky setup, swift and set of hand cards for sale

can be seen at the March meeting \$400.00 for all.


Sue Quick

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. Business cards are published free for current members.



CHEMUNG VALLEY FIBER ARTS GUILD



Dedicated to Preserving & Teaching the Art of Handspinning and other Fiber Arts.
<http://chemungvalleyguild.wordpress.com/>