

April
2019

ROVING 

Message from the President

For those of us who've been around long enough to remember, our March meeting turned out, unexpectedly, to be a return to our roots. A last-minute conflict required us to look beyond our usual venue, and—thanks to quick action by Angelika—we were able to convene in the Varna Community Center, which had been our home for a couple of decades prior to our migration to All Saints. Our return to Varna came very close to coinciding with the tenth anniversary of that move, in fact, and it felt very much like a homecoming.

It seems as if a couple more moveable-feast experiences might be in the offing over the next few months. We have discussed holding a natural dyeing workshop sometime after the weather warms. We need to stage it someplace other than the church, since the Japanese indigo fermentation vat we're planning has to be kept perking and tended for a couple of days. I'd be happy to host it at my house. There has been some talk of doing that in September. Most of us will be back from our summer wanderings by then, and putting it off until early fall would mean that we would have a chance to grow another crop of Japanese indigo to throw into the vat. I'll be passing out packets of seed and instructions at this month's meeting, for those who'd like to take part in the experiment. We had also been pondering the idea of having a field trip to the Home Textile Tool Museum, just across the border in Orwell PA. Margaret has graciously suggested that we could hold our meeting in their recently opened grange building. The museum features fascinating exhibits, workshops, and demos, as well as picnic tables, and we could make a pleasant and instructive day of it. August 10 is one of the days we are contemplating. We can talk more about these ideas at this month's meeting.

Hope to see you there.

-Wayne

April 2019

Next meeting is on April 13th
from 11am-2pm, we'll

Spin!

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

P.1	President's Message
P.2-3	Fiber Fairs and Events
P.2-3	Guild News
P.4-6	Sock Machine
P.7	Dorset Horn Sock
P.8	Membership Form
P.9	Ads.

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

Guild Meeting Location: For the last ten years, our guild meetings have happened in the Parish Hall of the All Saints Catholic Church in Lansing. We have paid \$600 a year rent to use the facilities. This summer, our rent will double to \$1200 a year. In the past, the income from our paper bag raffle at Roc Day has been enough to pay all or at least a large chunk of the rent. A doubled rent will likely not be (mostly) covered with the paperbag raffle alone.

We have about 50 paying members, and some money in savings, so we can afford the higher rent. However, members have been encouraged to check out other locations for suitability and pricing. It was also suggested to raise the membership fee by \$5 a year, so we have money available for other expenses beyond our rent.

Margaret Boritz offered meeting space at the Home Textile Tool Museum in Orwell PA for free. However due to heating difficulties the space in the museum is only available from April through November.

New Guild Officers: We will need a new guild president, a new newsletter coordinator, and a new guild secretary. We had volunteers for guild president and newsletter editor. We are still looking for a new secretary. The outgoing newsletter editor/secretary, Angelika St.Laurent, suggested that these two offices go well together. However, they can be held by two different persons. Sharon Gombas volunteered to head the nominating efforts.

Our other guild officers graciously agreed to continue for another year.

Workshops: We are planning to hold a natural dye workshop with a focus on indigo at Wayne's house end of this summer, potentially on September 14th. However the exact date of the workshop is still up for discussion.

Marcia Weinert will continue to look into inviting teachers for workshops from outside the guild.

Home Textile Tool Museum: Margaret Boritz, who is active in the group running the Home Textile Tool Museum in Orwell PA, invited us to an informal guild meeting at the museum on June 29th, from 10am-4pm. At this day members from several regional fiber guilds will congregate. This is a great opportunity to meet people from other guilds.

Additionally, we are hoping to make a guild trip to the museum on August 10th. We will discuss this further during the next meeting.

This year, the opening day for the museum is on Saturday, May 18th. Sue Quick and Kathy Halton will be demonstrating linen spinning.

Fiber News

Upcoming BSHG Meetings:

April 13th, 11am-2pm

May 11th, 11am-2pm

June 8th, 11am-2pm

Fiber Events and Craft Fairs:

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 Sunday, May 5th, 8:30am-5pm.

Howard County Fairgrounds
2210 Fairgrounds Road
West Friendship, MD 21794

<https://www.sheepandwool.org>

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/>

Opening Day Home Textile Tool Museum

Saturday, May 18th, 10am-4pm

1819 Orwell Hill Road,
Rome, PA 18837

<https://www.hometextiletoolmuseum.org>

Guild News continued

On June 22nd, Tammy Fazzi and Suzanne Schwartz will be teaching charkha spinning.

On August 24th, Wayne Harbert and other guild members will engage in wool waulking.

For the full summer schedule of the Home Textile Tool Museum check out their Website: [Home Textile Tool Museum](#)

MAFA Conference: The MidAtlantic Fiber Association holds their biannual conference from June 27th - June 30th in Millersville PA. Registration is still possible, even though a late fee applies and there are still spots in workshops available. The Black Sheep Handspinners Guild is member of MAFA. For more information see: [MAFA Website](#).

Address List: we are putting together a OPT-IN memberlist, featuring members names, telephone numbers, and email addresses. At this point, many members have already opted in to be on the list. We hope to have the list ready by next guild meeting. If you wish to be on the list, and haven't told us yet, please contact [Angelika St.Laurent](#). Members who do not opt in won't be featured on the list and will also not receive a copy of it.

Teaching Request at Cornell

Michael Thonney, Director of the Cornell Sheep Program, asks handspinners to help with his course: This spring of 2019 there are 62 students in ANSC 3800 – Sheep (offered in odd numbered years). We have two lab sections; one Wednesday starting at 2 pm (31 students) and one Friday starting at 1:25 pm (31 students). The wool processing lab will be held on Wednesday 24 April and Friday 26 April in rooms near the South Entrance of Morrison Hall. The lab sections will be divided into 4 groups and rotated through the following stations, with about 20 minutes at each station:

Carding, Spinning, Dyeing, Felting

In the past, local handspinners have graciously volunteered to teach our ANSC 3800 Sheep students the rudiments of spinning using their own spinning wheels. The students really enjoy it. We would be grateful for any of you who could help again this year on either (or both) Wednesday 24 April and Friday 26 April.

If interested to help, email mlt2@cornell.edu

Fiber Events and Craft Fairs continued:

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

Informal Guild Meet at the Home Textile Tool Museum

Saturday, June 29th, 10am-4pm

1819 Orwell Hill Road,

Rome, PA 18837

<https://www.hometextiletoolmuseum.org>

MAFA Conference: United in Fiber

Thursday June 27th to Sunday June 30th

Millersville University,

101 Shenks Lane,

Millersville, PA 17551

<https://mafafiber.org/conferences/mafa2019>

How a Sock Knitting Machine (CSM*) Reduced My Stash

By Lois Swales

To increase happiness during a very loooong winter in 2010, I purchased 2 pounds of Summer Hill wool batts in a lot of colors. I intended to make handknit socks from my 2 ply yarn. I am an emotional spinner. This meant that the yarns I made were, uh, varied in size. I didn't knit any socks. Yarn stash.

In 2014, I discovered that Sock Knitting Machines were really fast at making socks. A lot faster than handknitting – proficient CSM knitters could make a pair of socks in 2 hours. That contrasted with my handknit sock rate of three weeks per pair. I also discovered CSMs were really picky about what yarn was cranked thru them. I stuck with commercial sock yarn after a few attempts with my handspun yarn.



Fig. 1. Erlbacher Gearhart Sock machine knitting tubes of commercial yarn with a 64 slot cylinder.

In 2018, the Black Sheep Handspinners Guild announced a competition for those whose stash contained unfinished projects. My sock yarn qualified but had to become real socks. By this time my CSM skills had increased so that I could knit entire socks in pairs.

* CSM= Circular Sock Machine

I quickly learned THERE WERE RULES in cranking handspun 2 ply sock yarn thru these machines. Size rules. In my 2 ply handspun, using our spinning terminology:

Too big: anything over 13 wraps per inch: hand knit only

Reluctant: 14-15 WPI : Tubes only (54-60 cylinder sizes) and the cranking will be hard. All finishing of toes, heels and top ribbing must be done by hand (“Afterthought”).

Denser knit fabric: 17-18 WPI and can use 60 cylinder to finish heels and toes on machine.

Lighter knits: 19-21 WPI. Works well on 64 slot cylinder and probably 72 slots (untested).

NOTE: lace weight yarns also work well for socks; the cylinder I used was 80-84 slots.

Examples of socks from my 2 ply handspun sock yarn stash:

Fig 2.

64 cyl.

Heels, toes, hemmed top finished on CSM.



Fig 3-4.

60 cyl.

Heels, toes, ribbed top all added as after-thoughts off CSM machine



More about what a sock machine can do for you

Sock machines can easily produce a long length of stockinette tubing. For a video “Getting started on the Circular Sock Machine by Jamie Mayfield of Erlbacher Gearhart Co.: <https://youtu.be/mq2HOYYWsdC>

For handspinners, the CSM saves at least 2.5 weeks of knitting the tube part of a sock. Afterthought ribbing, heels and toes added to those tubes by hand is portable, fast and allows for fitting perfection. The two tubes are exactly alike. If the tubes aren't the right size, it is easy to unknit them and run them thru the CSM again at a looser or tighter setting.



Running sock yarn thru a CSM will reveal the pattern in dyed sock yarns and also whether the knitted tube has enough yarn to finish two socks for a pair or not. Rows can be counted to predict whether two or more different yarns can make a pair of socks.

CSM tubes can be turned into other accessories: hat bands, headbands, mitts, mittens, scarves, leg warmers, to name a few. Much appreciated accessories are chemo caps in soft washable acrylic as well as newborn hats for hospitals. Long strips of tubes can be joined for larger objects such as vests and afghans. Stuffed dolls and other toys can be created.

Fig. 5. Handspun 2 ply yarn (15 WPI) that is not enough to make a pair of socks. Will be unknit and more sock yarn made to match grist of yarn for a pair of striped socks.

Note: Each tube unravels at the toe end. They don't unravel easily from the top. Top stitches are picked up and knitted upwards to make the ribbing. The toe is unraveled to reach the little toe and then hand knitted downward to finish the toe cap.

Long sock tubes and hemmed sock tubes

A single tube

Fig. 1 (see page 4) shows the simplest method of cranking: a single sock tube that will be divided at the middle and afterthought knitted to finish the pair.



Fig. 6. Tube off machine with the orange waste yarn in place at each end.



Fig. 7. Circular needle (magic loop) inserted in sock top to knit ribbing. Sock tested on foot for checking fit at instep and leg top. Heel will be afterthought and then toe finished to length by hand.

Long sock tubes and hemmed sock tubes, con't

Two hemmed top sock tubes

The CSM can easily create a stockinette hemmed top on the machine, even when knitting the heel on the machine might be too difficult.



Fig. 8. Thirty rows of stockinette tube being hooked over the last row knitted to form a knitted-in hem top on the CSM. Orange waste yarn.



Fig. 9. Finished knitted-in hem top on a single sock length tube. Orange waste yarn removed. Only the afterthought heel and toe need to be hand knitted. Two of these hem tops will make a pair of socks, of course.



Fig. 10. The knitted-in hem top being test for fit at leg top and in-step. NOTE: Hem tops are very desirable for wearers who need a 'soft top'. Most commercial socks are too tight at the top for many people. A big benefit for the custom CSM sock.



Fig. 11. Comparison of single tube of a pair of socks and one hem top sock blank.

Submitted by Lois Swales. If you would like to be a sock tube guinea pig, you can contact me to see what happens when your yarn runs thru my CSM.

By email: Lois.swales at gmail dot com. Who knows what will happen!

Spinning up a sample of a rare breed -Horned Dorset

by Lois Swales

At our February meeting Marcia Weinart handed out 2 ounce samples of pin-drafted roving from a flock of Horned Dorset sheep. I was curious about this crimpy, medium-fibered Down breed. So I made a sock. Hope to make another when I get more fiber from Marcia,



Here is the 2 oz. single sock made from the Horned Dorset sample. These pictures show 2 ply 17 WPI yarn knit (“cranked”) on a 60 cylinder Gearhart CSM*, the black greasy sock just off the machine and the finished sock. I used long draw on the roving to achieve a wooly yarn that is medium rather than soft and fine. This went thru the 60 slot CSM cylinder very well and I was able to complete heel and toe on the machine, closing the toe by hand. The black grease from cranking gave me some trouble – I used dishwashing soap and then laundry stain remover. Need to clean my machine! This sock is quite warm – the down sheep breeds are known for this warm wooley-ness. In general with these hand-spun socks. I find that they are warmer than the commercial 75/25 percent wool/nylon sock yarn blends.



Sock fresh from being ‘cranked’ on sock machine. Toe has orange waste yarn in place.



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
facebook.com/glassbeadstudio



spinning Bunny

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

www.spinningbunny.com

www.etsy.com/shop/spinningbunny

607-227-1216

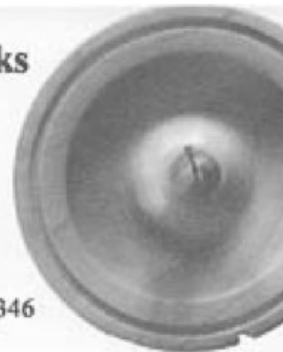
311B Tupper Rd, W. Danby, NY 14883

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

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

(716)673-5050

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

ladyllamafiberco@gmail.com

Shop: www.ladyllamafiberco.etsy.com

UNDENIABLY

Loopy

Award-Winning Design & Instruction

MARCIA WEINERT

knitting | handspinning | felting | crochet
585 872 4267 | undeniablyloopy@gmail.com | www.undeniablyloopy.com

Felted Flora

Hand Knit & Felted Designs
by Renata Brenner

FeltedFlora@stny.rr.com
www.etsy.com/shop/FeltedFlora

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/>