

AUGUST
2025

ROVINGS



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Fiber-y Events and Opportunities

Our August 9th meeting will be 11-3pm at 347 Ridge Rd in Lansing.

New York State Fair

August 20-September 1
NYS Fairgrounds, Syracuse NY



Elizabeth Gossner's Stillmeadow Finnsheep grazing the back yard and receiving Staghorn Sumac branches, one of their favorite treats

Message from the President

Dear Fellow Spinners,

It looks like the nice part of the summer is starting now. From the fiber side of things, August has a lot to offer. There is our guild meeting on August 9th , from 11am-3pm, in the Parish Hall of the All Saints Catholic Church in Lansing (347 Ridge Road).

Then on Saturday, August 16 th , there is a Natural Dye Workshop at Julia Gray's house in Ellis Hollow. Julia is providing her expertise, all the dyes and pots. Participants bring their own fiber and \$20 to make it worthwhile for Julia. As I'm writing this, there are still 14 spaces for people to fill. If you are interested in participating, please email Julia at juliagrayphoto@gmail.com. This is not an opportunity that comes around frequently.

Later this month, there is the State Fair in Syracuse from 8-20-25 to 9-1-25. The wool-center is still looking for volunteers and working on consolidating the volunteer schedule. If you have already volunteered or are interested in volunteering, please contact Linda at RAFF1957@yahoo.com.

Upcoming in September is the election of our guild officers. We are presently short a vice president. If you are interested in holding a guild office, please, step forward.

Our Roc-Day challenge is out. I used the rainy day for some stash diving in the attic (it's rather hot there, when the sun shines), to get my project started. I'm really excited about this challenge and can't wait to see what you will create come January. Check in the back of the newsletter for more details.

Hope to see you soon,
Angelika



Guild News

Guild Meeting

The next Guild meeting will be on **Saturday, August 9th, 11-3 PM**, in the Parish Hall of the All Saint's Church

Address: 347 Ridge Rd, Lansing

New Members

If you know of folks who would like to join, please have them contact Louise Henrie and pay dues at: henrielm6@aol.com.

Address List

We put together a list of names, email addresses, and telephone numbers for guild members. This list is available in printed form at guild meetings or by request to Secretary, Roberta Sibley at robertainez@yahoo.com.

Guild Dues

For all members who have not yet paid dues, they are \$25 for the year of 2025. Please pay at a meeting, send your check for \$25 to: Louise Henrie, 417 2nd Street, Ithaca, NY 14850, or now you may send money via Venmo to Black-Sheep-NY

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: rschnir@gmail.com

Guild Officers

President	Angelika St. Laurent	Newsletter	Ruby Schnirman
Vice President	OPEN	Workshops	Marianne Pelletier
Secretary	Roberta Sibley	Webmaster	Rosane Mordt
Treasurer	Louise Henrie	Roc Day Coordinator	Yvonne LaMontagne



Roc Day 2026 Competition

Angelika St. Laurent

Objective: Create a scarf inspired by the photo of Taughannock Fall in Winter*.

Rules: All yarn and thread used in the project has to be handspun by the person submitting the project, this includes warp yarn, sewing thread etc. The scarf may be constructed with any fiber art technique known to humankind. Any fiber or blend may be used. If you want color, you may either dye your own fiber at any state of the process or resort to commercially dyed fiber. The finished object has to be submitted latest at Roc Day 2026, January 10 th , by 10:30am. With the submission add a note about which fibers and techniques you used in the creation of the scarf and how they relate to the photo-inspiration.

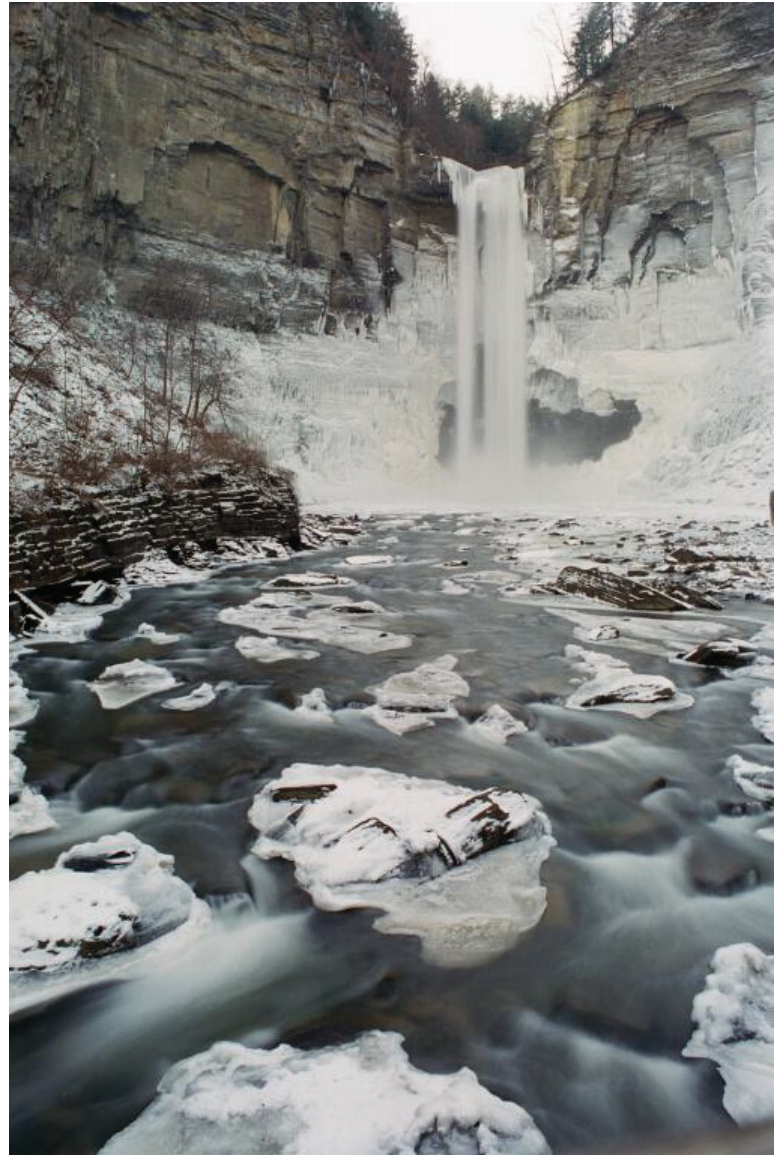
All submitted scarfs will be judged in three categories: Most Beautiful, Best Interpretation of the Photo (both by public vote), and Best Technique (by a team of judges).

The guild has a limited number of 8-ounce bags of white Finn 2 wool available for members, who do not feel they have suitable fiber in their stash for the project.

With any questions contact Angelika St.Laurent, angelika@simonstl.com, 607-277-8105 or 607-793-4215.

*Photo credit: Susan Verberg

**Sheep raised by Elizabeth Kinne Gossner.



Member Ads and Announcements

Request for spinning

Nancy Munkenbeck has a friend-of-a-friend who has a small amount of alpaca fiber (enough to knit a hat). She is looking for someone who can spin it into yarn for her. Please contact Nancy at nwm1@cornell.edu or 608-351-0113 if you are interested.

Flax spinning supplies to give away

Kathy Halton would like to pass on her flax spinning material:

"I have grown, processed and spun with flax for a long time, and did demonstrations at the Ag Museum for years. But I'm getting too old for that and have very little space to store things in, so I want to pass on the equipment I have to someone who is interested in learning. I would also be interested in sharing my knowledge of flax spinning with anyone who wants to learn. I would like to have someone take it all together (no money). You can call me at 607-262-2373, and I would meet you at the Guild meeting sometime. Here's what I have: "

Simple stick distaff with a base

Flax combs

Homemade distaff with ribbon (funnel shaped)

Various samples of flax: un-spun, some with spun samples.

A strick of my home grown flax, prepared and ready to spin

Two hunks of beautiful line flax

Handspun linen fiber to use for weaving

Old copies of flax spinning information from the BSHG

Two classic books on flax spinning (Linen Heirlooms, Linen Handspinning and Weaving)

2026 Indonesian Textile Tour

The Guild received this ad for a textile tour from Sue Richardson, suerichtextiles@gmail.com
"We've decided to run [textile tours in Indonesia] again in 2026, but adding one extra day on the boat to give us time to visit yet another island. The tour is 15 nights long, with 8 spent on the boat and 7 in hotels (4 nights before the cruise and 3 nights after). We will visit weavers and dyers on a total of eight different islands."



From the Archives

From the August 1977 newsletter-- if anybody attempts this sock pattern please send in a review!

Black Sheep Handspinners Guild - Newsletter #11

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KNITTERS' DELIGHT! The following poem, titled "A Stocking in Rhyme," comes from Jean Nowack and one of her grandmother's housekeeping books (c. late 1800's). It will knit you up a pair of socks very nicely -- get your needles and yarn and start reading...

To knit a stocking, needles four,
Cast on three needles and no more;
Each needle stitches eight and twenty,
Then one for seam stitch will be plenty.
For twenty rounds your stitch must be
Two plain, to purl alternately,
Except the seam stitch which you do
Once purl, once plain, the whole way through.
A finger plain you next must knit,
Ere you begin to narrow it;
But if you like the stocking long,
Two fingers' length will not be wrong.
And then the narrowings to make,
Two stitches you together take
Each side the seam; then eight rounds plain,
Before you narrow it again.
Ten narrowings you'll surely find
Will shape the stocking to your mind;
Then twenty rounds knit plain must be,
And stitches sixty-five you'll see.
These just in half you must divide,
With thirty-two on either side;
But on one needle there must be
Seam stitch in middle, thirty-three.
One half on needles two you place,
And leave alone a little space;
The other with the seam in middle,
To manage right is now my riddle.
Backward and forward you must knit,
And always purl the backward bit;
But seam stitch, purl and plain you know,
And slip the first stitch every row.
When thirty rows you thus have done,
Each side the seam knit two in one
Each third row, until sure you feel
That forty rows are in your heel.
You then begin the heel to close;
For this, choose one of the plain rows;
Knit plain to seam, then two in one,
One plain stitch more must still be done.
Then turn your work, purl as before
The seam stitch—two in one, one more;
Then turn again, knit till you see
Where first you turned, a gap will be.
Across it knit together two,
And don't forget one plain to do;
Then turn again, purl as before,
And sew till there's a gap no more.

The seam stitch you no longer mind,
That, with the heel, is left behind.
When all the heel is quite closed in,
To knit a plain row you begin,
And at the end you turn no more,
But round and round knit as before.
For this, on a side needle take
The loops the first slip-stitches make;
With your heel needle—knit them plain,
To meet the old front half again.
This on one needle knit should be,
And then you'll have a needle free
To take up loops the other side,
And knit round plain, and to divide
The back parts evenly in two;
Off the heel needle some are due;
Be careful that you count the same.
On each back needle, knit round plain;
But as the foot is much too wide,
Take two together at each side,
On the back needle where they meet
The front to make a seam quite neat.
Each time between knit one plain round,
Till stitches sixty-four are found;
And the front needle does not lack
As many as on both the back.
You next knit fifty-six rounds plain,
But do not narrow it again;
'Twill then be long enough, and so
Begin to narrow for the toe.
Your long front row knit plainly through,
But at its end knit stitches two
Together, and together catch
Two first in the next row to match;
Then to the other side knit plain
Half round, and do the same again;
That is, two last together catch,
Two first in the front row to match.
At first knit four plain rounds between,
Then two, then one, until 'tis seen
You've knit enough to close the toe;
And then decrease in every row,
Until to stitches eight you're brought,
Then break the thread off—not too short—
And as these stitches eight you do,
Each time your end of thread pull through;
Then draw up all to close it tight,
And with a darning needle bright,
Your end of thread securely run,
And then, hurrah! the stocking's done!



Guild Vendors

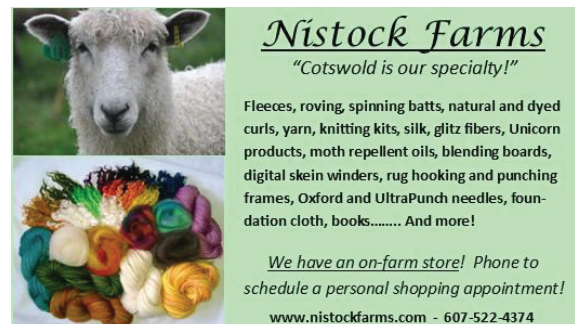
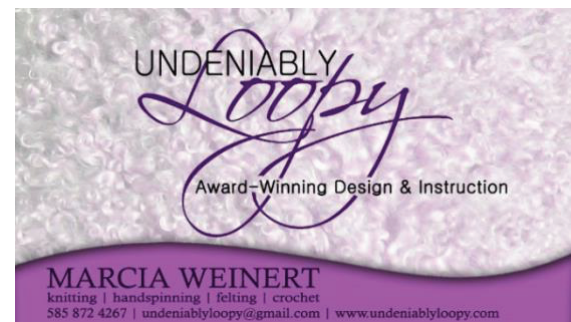
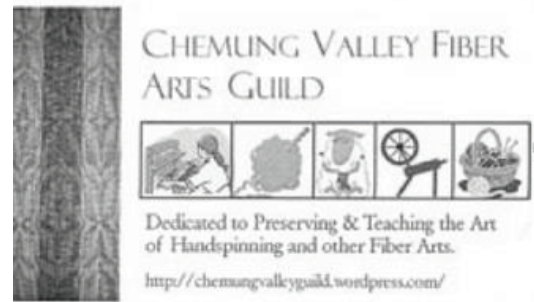


Handmade Glass Whorls
Buttons, Pins & Beads
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New Member's Form

Name _____
Address _____

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, Angelika St. Laurent know.

Roc Day Programming

Newsletter

Membership

Website

Outreach

Treasurer

Our newsletter is distributed electronically. If this is a problem, please contact Ruby Schnirman (401)-486-7237. Please fill this out and either bring it to a meeting, mail it with your check for \$25 to: Louise Henrie, 417 2nd Street, Ithaca, NY 14850, or send via Venmo to Black-Sheep-NY.

