



NEWSLETTER

August 2024

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The July workshop on Fiber Preparation



August
2024



Message from the President

Dear Fellow Spinners,

I'm writing this from Westensee, a small village in northern Germany. There are plenty of sheep around, since sheep are excellent at keeping the grass short on the dikes and the soil compacted just right. Getting at their wool is a bit harder. I do hope, I might be able to convince one local farmer to send me a fleece, if I can figure out the necessary paperwork.

Luckily, attending our next guild meeting will not require paperwork from you. Simply turn up this Saturday, August 10th, from 11am-3pm, at the Parish Hall of the All Saints Catholic Church in Lansing (347 Ridge Road).

Last meeting, we had a workshop on wool preparation and the tools necessary for it. Many thanks to our workshop coordinator Marianne Pelletier for organizing! Also many thanks to Marcia Weinert, Kay Stickane, Marianne Pelletier, and Lois Swales for bringing in tools and fiber and demonstrating. After that, Lois Swales also demonstrated a very simple, but ingenious loom made out of a branch. - I very much hope, we'll have more workshops like this in future.

Wishing you all a lovely August meeting and hoping to see you again in September,

Angelika



August
2024



Guild News

Guild Meeting

The next Guild meeting will be on Saturday, July 13th, 11-3 PM, in the Parish Hall of the All Saint's Church

Address: 346 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 Officers

President	Angelika St. Laurent
Vice President	Sue Quick
Secretary	Roberta Sibley
Treasurer	Louise Henrie
Newsletter	Rachael Skye
Workshops	Marianne Pelletier
Webmaster	Rosane Mordt
Roc Day Coordinator	Yvonne LaMontagne



Guild Dues

For all members who have not yet paid dues, they are \$25 for the year of 2024. 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: rachael.siems.skye@gmail.com.

Guild Proposal: Fiber Directory:

At the July meeting, we proposed building a fiber directory of members who are also fiber producers, or makers of fiber-related items. We will need to send out a questionnaire to membership to identify and compile this directory. It will then be able to go on the website and be available to identify fiber sources who are Guild-affiliated. Marianne Pelletier volunteered to make the questionnaire. If you have any feedback or suggestions for this proposal, please get in touch with the editor.

The Marie Bryhan Prize

Marie Bryhan was a longtime member and an accomplished spinner and fiber artist. She lived on a sheep farm with her family, and was known in the Guild for her dedication to teaching and wool. After her passing in 2023, her husband, Bob Morena, gifted a prize in her honor to recognize excellence in the guild.

The prize is \$100 to be given to one member every year in memory of Marie Bryhan for the next 10 years. The first competition will be in 2025, to be held in May. The guidelines for entry and voting are on the next page.



1. Every member can submit one finished item a year they have made themselves.
2. Any item can only be submitted once.
3. For the first competition, the item can be made at any time. For subsequent competitions, the item must be finished within the preceding year.
4. The item must contain handspun yarn and sheep's wool. Blending with other fibers is permissible. Commercial yarn may be used in a supportive function, for example as the core in corespun yarn, as warp, carried along with handspun in a knit object, or sewing thread.
5. The yarn should be at least 50% handspun and 50% wool.
6. Along with the item, members should provide a brief description of the steps involved in creating it and what they learned in the process.
7. The winner will be chosen by popular vote, with honorable mention(s).
8. Items should be submitted anonymously for judging.

Guild Retreat 2025

The 2025 retreat will be held March 6-9. For those who want to stay 3 nights, the cost is \$242, and for those wanting to join in Friday, the cost will be \$193. The two night package includes a dinner on Friday night provided by the retreat center. The potluck will take place Thursday night. We have room for 20 participants, and we hope you'll consider joining in! We'll be taking reservations as they roll in, and accepting payment in the month of October. We'll be requiring full payment then, rather than deposits and full payments later as we found that to be too cumbersome last year. Start planning ahead now! We hope to see you in 2025.





For Sale in the Guild

Deborah Lynn:

Lovely Macomber Floor loom for sale.
Working area up to 42" width.
4 harnesses with space for 2 more.
6 pedals, extra heddles.

Selling with large warping board, 4 stick shuttles, 4 boat shuttles and bobbin winder, additional reeds, bench with storage compartment.

Asking \$1400.

Contact: lynn.deborah@gmail.com



NY State Fair Wool Center - Volunteers Needed

It's that time of the year! The New York State Fair is seeking volunteers to demonstrate all stages of fiber work, from wool to product. The Wool Center is a shed in the State Fair that houses examples of many fiber prep tools - wheels, spindles, looms, and more - and offers demonstrations on their usage. Any volunteers are welcome, and you can bring your own projects and tools or use the wool provided by the Wool Center.

Linda, the Wool Center coordinator, is processing the fiber for volunteers every Sunday noon to 4 pm. She appreciates anyone stopping by to help; contact her so she knows you're coming.

The days for the fair this year is August 21 thru September 2. Those volunteering will get a free parking pass and entry ticket. Time slots are 10AM-2PM, 2PM-5:30PM, and 5:30PM-9PM. Contact Linda at 315-440-6049 or linda@rainbowacrefiberfarm.com to schedule a slot. See you there!



July Workshop

Zoe Gras took notes from the July workshop on fiber preparation for the Guild members to use, and she and Angelika took pictures. Thank you!

- *Never be forceful with fiber or you risk breakage*
- *Always be careful with every fiber preparation tool as most of them are sharp and can do damage*
- *There are many ways to do things in fiber preparation since generations of different cultures have taught different ways of doing things; these notes are not an end all be all, simply a summary of the basics of the Black Sheep Hands Spinners Guild's knowledge in this subject*



Picker: separates and opens fiber as well as taking excess vm out

- A picker contains sharp teeth that gently run over the fiber; these teeth are very sharp and can hurt you and damage clothing if you are not careful.
- Before you insert fiber into a picker, make sure there are no dreads in the wool since these will break apart. You can open up these specific fibers by hand or with a flicker before putting them in.
- When you insert the fiber into a swinging picker, insert small amounts at a time like any fiber prep tool, then complete full swings back and forth.
- Pickers can also be used to blend fiber together.
- It should be noted that because of the sharp teeth, fine fiber may rip on this tool

Flicker: a small brush that is used to clean off a drum carder, but can also be used to open wool, specifically locks that are stuck together.



- Put a thick fabric over your thigh and hold the lock on your thigh. Flick the brush on your thigh, opening up the lock.
- You don't specifically need a flicker brush for this, many people use dog brushes or something similar.



Drum Carder: lines fiber up for spinning and gets excess vm out

- Insert fiber under the first smaller roll, called a lick, so it gets taken up by the second bigger roll, called a drum. Don't overstuff the drum, only insert a small amount of fiber at a time and stretch it out thin so you could "read the newspaper through it." On some carders there is a brush attached which is to compact the fiber down to get more fiber on the drum. However, if you can't feel the teeth, there may be too much fiber on the drum and it's time to take it off.
- To take a batt off a drum carder you use a doffer stick, or something similar like a screwdriver, a sturdy knitting needle, or an angel food cake cutter. You will want to repeat the whole process three times so it's ready to spin.
- To clean off the drum, you can use a flicker brush, as well as a vacuum or hairdryer.
- The teeth on drum carders can come in different variations and you will need a specific drum carder depending on what fiber you are preparing. The closer together the teeth are on the drum, the finer the fiber, and vice versa.



Hand Carder: portable and affordable compared to other preparation tools; similar to a drum carder since they line up the fibers to get them ready for spinning and get excess vm out

- Take your fiber and lay it out on a carder, allowing the teeth to grab it; do not overfill. Gently pull the ends of the fiber with the second carder in your dominant hand, making sure the teeth don't touch each other. Your dominant hand should be making a circular motion which is important to lift the fiber from one carder to another. Once all the fiber is on the second carder, pass it back to the first and continue this process.
- To take the wool off a hand carder you use the other one to roll the fiber upwards so it creates a roll, known as a rolag.
- If you are doing this process with cotton, the product is called a puni and the hand carders touch during preparation because cotton has a much shorter staple length.





Combs: separates and opens fibers while taking out vm and shorter pieces of fiber; arranges fibers parallel to each other

- Place ends of fibers on the tines of the comb, making sure not to place too much. Take the second comb in your dominant hand and allow the tines to catch the bottom of the fiber, called lashing on, making sure to work side to side instead of up and down. The tines of the two combs should never touch. Once all of the “good” fiber is on the second comb, take the rest of the fiber off the first comb, this is the “reject” fiber since it has vm in it, are shorter staple lengths, or are locks that are dreaded together.
- Take the second comb in your dominant hand lash onto the first comb. Continue this until all the “good” fiber is on the first comb and remove the “reject” fiber from the second comb. Repeat this process once more and then use a diz or a button to create top that is ready to be spun by pulling half a staple length from the bottom of the fiber, sliding the diz up, and repeating this process.
- Combs create top, as in top of the line, so there is more loss of fiber that comes out of this preparation than others, but the “rejects” can be used in carders.
- If you are using different staple lengths, such as in blending, only the longer staple length will be lashed, so it will not always work as well.
- You can use a flicker to open up the locks before lashing on; lash on the cut ends. You can also use a spray bottle of water to reduce static.

Additional Notes:

- If a fiber is too long to card it, comb it and vice versa. Carders work better for shorter fibers and combs work better for longer fibers.
- Woolen vs worsted spinning: The type of fiber preparation you do will also show how you should spin that fiber. Carders create fiber that is not parallel and instead is spun from a batt or a rolag where fiber can be overlapping in many different directions and should be woolen spun. Combs creates top which is fiber all parallel to each other, and should be worsted spun.





Guild Vendors

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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 Rachael Skye (734) 476-0634. 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.