

# Black Sheep Handspinners Guild Newsletter

October 2010

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<http://www.blacksheephandspinnersguild.org>

The Black Sheep meet from 11am-3pm on the second Saturday of the month at the All Saints Church, Route 34b in Lansing.

We are meeting at the All Saint's Church in Lansing, across from the Lansing Schools, from 11AM to 3PM, October 9, 2010.

## President's Message

*Jim Johnson*

The Roc Day committee has started meeting, but could use more participation from members. The next meetings are Wed Oct 6 and Oct 20 at 5:30. The meetings are going to be held at CTB in the Triphammer Mall. A good start was made, but there is much more to be done before we can have the best Roc Day celebration ever on Jan 8, 2011.

Program for this month is a spin in, with a show and tell of all the wonderful things we have made over the summer, and a dish to pass.

Remember, the November meeting is going to be MEMBER MADE, where we all can bring in parts of our lives that we wish to share with each other.

The last time we did this it was wonderful to see the variety of things we do besides spinning and knitting.

Agenda; I would like to have a discussion of the various things we have done and can do for outreach to the greater Ithaca community.

## Program for the October Meeting

*Susan Sarabasha*

Our October 9th meeting is a simple spin in - a chance to relax, spin, and see what everyone else is working on.

Please bring your summer projects for show and tell plus a dish to pass.

## From the Stella Maris Retreat

Carol LaBorie



## Winner's Photos from the State Fair!

Anne Furman



## Spinning at the Scottish Games in Stewart Park

*Wayne Harbert*

First of all, we must set the record straight. This year's Ithaca Scottish Games and Celtic Festival did NOT feature a "sheep toss," as was reported in a local newspaper. (Yes, they actually wrote that. Oddly, their erroneous report doesn't seem to have brought down a storm of protest on the event). What was being tossed was in fact SHEAVES—bags stuffed with straw, which burly men (and a few women) were attempting to toss over a high bar with pitchforks.

The starting point of all Gaelic athletic events seems to be "Hey, I bet I can throw this [fill in your favorite massive object] higher/farther than you!" The event was held in Stewart Park this year, for the first time, and on the same day as the Dragon Boat Races in Cass Park. There was a bit of cross fertilization between the events; the button I bought said "Loch Ness Dragon on the Waterfront". It was a splendid venue, and a fitting one, we thought; since the House of Stuart never made it back to the Highlands after their ouster, it seemed right somehow that all these expatriate Highlanders should come together to Stewart Park.

Eight of us Blacksheep convened in our own pavilion, right next to the athletic and parade field, and spent a day demonstrating spinning to a bunch of very interested passers-by. Happily, I can confirm that none of us was tossed, though a few of the questions we were asked threw us for a loop. Sharon was asked by one little girl if she had goats. "No," Sharon replied. "They're too smart", whereupon the girl inquired: "Can they do your homework?"

Mary Lester, a traditional Celtic harpist and singer from Hemlock New York, shared our tent for a couple of hours, entertaining us with traditional Scottish songs, accompanied on many of them by our own Ruth, who not only has a lovely voice but knew all the lyrics. The music in our tent and the skirling of bagpipes from every direction provided the perfect score to an idyllic day of spinning.

Oh, and we learned how caber tosses are scored. A caber is essentially a telephone pole thrown around for recreational purposes, and it turns out not to be how far they fly that matters, but how straight they land. There were sheep too, in the paddock next door to us, for the shearing demonstration, along with a couple of very very new lambs. Some of us tried spinning a bit of the freshly shorn locks in the grease after the shearer was done, with middling success. The experiment was enough to convince me, though, of the virtues of a nicely washed and carded rolag.

## Editor's Notes

Marianne Pelletier

October snuck up on me! I was picking Japanese indigo at Wayne Harbert's this evening when he reminded me that this Saturday, October 9, is the second Saturday of the month. So, this newsletter is a week late and I'll be scrambling from the meeting over to the book fair to find more fiber books.

What is your favorite fiber book? I bought a lovely book on the patterns of Scottish clans a few years ago, and now can weave my mother's two tartans, should I ever be home long enough.

*Sneak peek!* Ruth is working up another interesting article on an exotic fiber, so stay tuned. Meanwhile, wish me luck getting this indigo into my cormo and not in my clothes or all over my kitchen..

**Deadline for entries to the November newsletter is Wednesday, November 3.**

## Upcoming Events

*Marianne thanks Knitter's Review for most of these listings. Oh, and for including Roc Day in their listings. Please forward events you know of to Marianne at fudger28@yahoo.com for inclusion on this list.*

## From Interweave Press

Dear Guild Members,

We are pleased to announce that it's time for the Interweave Annual Guild Subscription Program! If you act NOW, you can get a full year of any of our 15 magazines for \*only \$19.95 each!\* We have extended this offer to include the entire Interweave family of magazines. Click here to download the order form

<http://e3.interweave.com/t?r=1893&c=2220043&l=171033&ctl=324E19B:2777FD566A15EDB047AF99A0D261B6D8A8A08A1C4125C7AD&>

## Wine Trail Handspinners

Wine Trail Handspinners meet one Sunday a month 1:30 to 4:30 pm at Graceful Arts Fiber Studio, 4760 State Route 414, Burdett 14818. This is an informal group with no dues, membership or leadership. Meeting dates vary – anyone who wishes to be notified of meeting times (generally decided at the previous meeting) should send their email address to Karey Solomon at [threads@empacc.net](mailto:threads@empacc.net).

## New Hampshire Wool Arts Tour

October 9-10, 2010. A cool tour of farms and stuff on the NH back roads.

<http://www.woolartstournh.com/>

### **Nordic Knitting Conference**

October 15-17, 2010, Seattle, WA. <http://www.nordicmuseum.org/events.aspx>

### **New York Sheep and Wool Festival**

Dutchess County Fairgrounds, Rhinebeck, NY. October 16-17. <http://www.sheepandwool.com/>

### **SOAR: Spin Off Annual Retreat**

October 24-31, Lake Lawn Resort, Delavan, WI.

<http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=75fa002b-c93a-493d-9633-ece9365ff290>

### **Northeast Handspinners Conference**

November 5 to 7 at the Grand Summit  
Resort, Mt. Snow, VT. Submitted by Nancy  
Morey -- thanks!



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**Christine Johnson**  
[johnson.chris123@yahoo.com](mailto:johnson.chris123@yahoo.com)

### To place an ad

A check for \$5.00 made to BSHG for an ad to run three times (a year is \$15) should be sent to the current treasurer, Sharon Gombas, 177 Salmon Creek Rd. Lansing, NY 14882. Send the ad to the newsletter editor, Marianne Pelletier, at: [fudger28@yahoo.com](mailto:fudger28@yahoo.com). If you have a question for her or others, you can email us through the links at the top of the newsletter.

## SpinningBunny



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### Stash Bins FOR SALE

I have 44+ unfinished wooden bins that were hanging on the wall of my shop (we have changed to shelving). Their only use was to store fiber. They are stackable as well as hangable.

I purchased them at AC Moore. The retail price is \$9.99. I am selling them for \$2.50 each. Purchase 1 or as many as you choose. Dimensions are 14" wide x 15.5" deep x 9.5" high.

These are perfect for organizing your stash or even for children's toys or clothing.

Please contact me  
([susan@spinningbunny.com](mailto:susan@spinningbunny.com)) for more info and directions to my shop to pick them up.

In the picture, the top row is screwed into the wall on its end, while the rows below are in stackable formation.

