



NEWSLETTER

May 2023

Contents

- 2 Message from the President
- 3 Guild News
- 5 General News
- 5 Ontario Handspinners Seminar
- 6 Adventures in Lock Spinning
- 8 IN-voluntary reflex
- 9 Vendors
- 10 New Member's Form





July
2023



Message from the President

Dear Fellow Spinners,

It's summer. It finally rains again and the Canadian forest fire smoke is washed out of the air for now. This makes it a good time to spin outdoors under a roof. We will have our next meeting this Saturday, July 8th, from 11am - 3pm, at the Brooktondale Farmers' Market behind the Brooktondale Community Center, 524 Valley Road. Last time, the live music was excellent (Thanks, Suzanne and band!) and the baked goods were very tempting.

I'm wishing you all a fun meeting,
Angelika

Our newsletter from the Mid-Atlantic Fiber Association is available here:

<https://mafafiber.org/wp-content/uploads/MAFA-News-2023-07-08.pdf>



July
2023



Guild News

Guild Meeting

The next Guild meeting will be Saturday, July 8, 11-3 PM. We will meet outside the Brooktondale Community Center. We are under an awning in back of the building; not the pavillion where we met last year.

Address: 524 Valley Rd., Brooktondale

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 2023. 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

Guild Meeting Location

All members are asked to be on the lookout for a new guild meeting location in a reasonable price range. It must have adequate parking.

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.

2024 Retreat Announcement

Summer is here! As we enjoy the warm weather and all that it brings, we also need to start thinking about the 2024 Black Sheep Annual Retreat. The retreat will be the weekend of February 23 through 25 at Casowasco Retreat Center. Those who have gone in past years can tell you what a great time this is. With a minimum of 18 people registered, it will cost \$159 per person. This fee includes lodging (the entire Galilee Lodge for our group) and meals Saturday and breakfast Sunday.

If you are planning on attending, please get us your deposit of \$100 by November 15th. You can: mail a check written out to Black Sheep spinning guild to: Sarah Davis 26 Curtis Road, Ithaca NY 14850, or you can Venmo to "Black-Sheep-NY". If you Venmo, please put "retreat" in the comment.

We will accept payments toward the retreat at any time if you want to spread it out. Final payment is due to Casowasco on February 5th. Please contact Kylie Spooner, Sarah Davis or Anna Murray-Bartels with any questions.



General News

Ontario Handspinner's Seminar

The Ontario Handspinners Seminar this year was on blending. There were workshops on blending fibers for spinning and other workshops on blending colors. Here are two examples of a workshop I did with Beth Showalter on blending for color effects. An invitation to bring in interesting wheels resulted in this 100 plus year old double treadle wheel which had an interesting history. The current owner says it was used as a house decoration for 60 years but not used during that time, so it remained in remarkably good condition and spins well.

-Anne Furman





Adventures in Lock-Spinning

A story from Rachael Skye

After the 2022 Roc Day challenge taught us to ply locks into yarn, I've had a lot of fun experimenting with the technique. I enjoyed the fuzzy halo it gives, as well as the chance to incorporate tons of color.

For my first experiment, I had some white singles with no plans for them, so I used the practice locks that Angelika dyed for an ill-fated 2020 workshop. I sorted them by color into a loose rainbow and then started experimenting with how to spin them. I used 2 spun singles and an unspun lock. I found a few general rules:

1. Keeping the lock tight in its original shape will create a neat, barber-pole stripe, usually with the ends flicked out for some texture.
2. Pulling the lock apart and not smoothing it back down will create a large halo, and if the lock is big enough it can obscure the underlying plies entirely.
3. Holding the lock at a large angle relative to the two plies will lead to it wrapping around the plies and maybe obscuring them
4. Holding the lock parallel to one of the plies will let it wrap around that ply and then get trapped under the second, leading to a barber-pole effect where one plie is neat and smooth while the other is fluffy and textured.

I decided that I like the look of pulling apart a lock and then holding it parallel to one ply, creating the look of fluffy, colorful texture peaking out from the background.

My first set ended up pretty; I think of it as a candy-colored rainbow. However, the dyed locks were not the highest quality and the texture was a little harsh. I sent it off to a friend for them to crochet with.



Adventures in Lock-Spinning



Then, I wanted to work with colors that were a little more suited to me and cleaner locks. I used some Finnsheep wool for the singles and Windsong Farms locks for my second try, and focused on getting textured but well-wrapped plies using my preferred technique from the first experiment. For this, I used 8 oz of Finnsheep and 2 oz of locks. That works out to the unspun lock “ply” being 1/2 the weight of each spun ply, future planning.





IN-voluntary Reflex

An article from Marillee Williams on the value of demonstrations

Most of us enjoy the opportunity to spin in public, demonstrating and sharing the joys of our craft. We are fortunate to have a number of venues to practice our art, whether at festivals, fairs or spin-ins. It's a chance to bring new spinners into the fold or to possibly learn something new from the folks who come to watch. The State Fair Wool Center is one such place and considering the sheer number of fairgoers, it may be the greatest opportunity we have to interact with the public.

I have enjoyed several years of volunteering at the Wool Center and there always seems to be an interesting person or two to brighten and enlighten my day. I particularly like to share the process of making yarn with youngsters and watch their eyes light up when they experience the cloud-soft touch of fluffy carded wool and then to watch as it turns into yarn so strong they can't break a strand. One little fellow stands out in my memory because my "message" really seemed to strike home. He was perhaps 6 or 7 years old, just tall enough to see over the picket fence separating demonstrators from on-lookers. Since we are right across the way from the sheep barn, I usually end my spiel by asking if the child has been to the barn to see the sheep yet. If not, I ask them to please say "thank-you" to the sheep for me because without their wonderful wool, I wouldn't be able to make my yarn.

Well this particular young fellow must have taken my suggestion to heart because when my volunteer shift was over and I was carting my stuff to the parking lot, he ran up to me from out of the crowd and proudly announced "I said thank-you to the sheep!" with a huge grin on his face! I still get the warm fuzzies and tears in my eyes when I retell that story! A future shepherd perhaps? At the least he may now connect those wonderful animals with his favorite mittens or sweater.

This year was no different for meeting interesting folks at the Wool Center. I was sitting with my friend Janet, up close to the picket fence so that visitors could see the rug hooking Janet was creating and the Zoom Loom weaving I worked on. Two ladies from Kingston, Ontario, who were visiting the fair with their three teenage daughters, watched us for a bit and we quickly struck up a conversation.



I asked if they came to the fair every year. They said no, they had never been there before but they had just toured Old Forge with their daughters and asked the kids where else they wanted to visit. When the girls announced that they'd like to see New York City, their moms nixed that idea and offered a trip to Syracuse instead.

Come to find out, these ladies are partners in a craft business teaching various fiber arts in Kingston, so of course they were knowledgeable about what we were demonstrating. Then one of the women, Rhonda, asked Janet if she had ever suffered breathing difficulties as a result of her rug hooking. When Janet said she hadn't, Rhonda warned her of the dangers of cutting the wool strips, and related the story that she and her partner had been cutting a large amount of fabric for classes when Rhonda suddenly couldn't catch her breath. She ended up in the hospital and required steroids to help her breathe again. The tiny wool fibers from the cut strips had lodged in her lungs and will remain there forever.

Janet and I had never heard of this issue, but apparently it is a common health risk for textile workers. It then occurred to Janet that occasionally she would feel like she was catching a cold after cutting strips, but she had never really connected the two things. From now on though, Janet will be sure to cut wool strips only in a well-ventilated space and will even wear a dust mask for good measure.

As we continued to chat, I asked Rhonda if she had sheep. She said no, that she and her husband raise cattle, but the largest sheepdog herding event in Canada is held near her farm. As a member of the Northeast Border Collie Association, I don't participate in trials, but I am aware of them through the NEBCA newsletter. I asked if that was the trial at Amanda Milliken's farm, Amanda being one of the pre-eminent handlers in the sheepdog trialing world. Surprised, Rhonda answered "yes, Amanda's farm backs up to ours". The world shrinks once again.



Another visitor that same day at the fair was watching my weaving for a while before we starting chatting. Neither a spinner nor a knitter, she said she desperately wants to get sheep and she is trying to convince her reluctant dairy farmer husband of the joys of shepherding. She doesn't want just any old breed of sheep though; she wants a very specific breed which I had never heard of. It took her a minute or two on her smartphone to come up with the picture of her heart's desire: Valais Blacknose Sheep, or in German, Walliser Schwarznasenschaf.

They originated in the Valais region of Switzerland and their heritage may be traced to the 15th Century, but it was only in 1962 that they were recognized as a distinct breed. Raised both for their meat and their curly long locks of "coarse" wool, they are considered a dual-purpose breed. I would prefer to call them "triple-purpose sheep" and add "pasture-candy" to their attributes, since they are among the absolute cutest creatures ever created! It appears they are currently only found in Switzerland and the U.K., but it sure would be grand to have some imported to the U.S. Anyone interested in the opportunity for a starter flock?

Since I wrote article this article in 2017, Valais Blacknose Sheep have been imported into the U.S. and they were present at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival this year. They're even cuter in person than their photos!

And if you are at all interested in demonstrating at the NY State Fair, contact Linda at 315-440-6049 or linda@rainbowacrefiberfarm.com



A Valais Blacknose from Wikipedia



ROVINGS

July
2023



Vendors

TRINITY FARM
Registered Shetland and Icelandic Sheep
Handspun Yarns, Carbs Roving, Well-Skirted fleece

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




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

**Handmade Glass Whorls
Buttons, Pins & Beads
by Isinglass Design**




glass whorls for
medieval & viking
inspired spindles

Beads, felted puppets and
scarves now at lthacamadé www.glassbead.etsy.com
[facebook.com/glassbeadstudio](https://www.facebook.com/glassbeadstudio)



**CHEMUNG VALLEY FIBER
ARTS GUILD**



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

9



Lady Llama Fiber Co.
Fine Fiber Arts Products

Kelli Terwilliger
(716) 673-5050
ladyllamafiberco@gmail.com
Shop: www.ladyllamafiberco.etsy.com

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

**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@stovr.com
www.etsy.com/shop/FeltedFlora



Nistock Farms
"Cotswold is our specialty!"

Fleeces, roving, spinning batts, natural and dyed
curls, yarn, knitting kits, silk, glitz fibers, Unicorn
products, moth repellent oils, blending boards,
digital skein winders, rug hooking and punching
frames, Oxford and UltraPunch needles, found-
ation cloth, books..... And more!

*We have an on-farm store! Phone to
schedule a personal shopping appointment!*
www.nistockfarms.com - 607-522-4374



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.

10