



NEWSLETTER

May 2023

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One Eventual

*after fifty years of spinning
I learn standing still
is another way to danc*

Written by Rosemary Trommer
Sent in by Shelly Marino



June
2023



Message from the President

Dear Fellow Spinner,

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, 6-10-23, from 11am-3pm, at the Brooktondale Community Center. We will be meeting under the roof built on to the main Community Center building, not in the pavilion. The pavilion will be reserved for the vendors of the farmers market happening at the same time. I hope they'll have some strawberries for sale.

This weekend is also the Central NY Fiber Festival in Bouckville, NY. Several of us have expressed interest to attend the festival on Sunday. If you are interested in going and carpooling, please make your voice heard, either in person at our meeting or via email.

Hope to see you soon,
Angelika



June
2023



Guild News

Guild Meeting

The next Guild meeting will be Saturday, June 10, 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.

General News

A Message from Bob Morena

I want to express my appreciation to the Ithaca Guild for their support given to me and to Marie after her passing. Marie's wish was that all of her spinning wheels and spinning and knitting equipment would be given away to good homes. This has been done with multiple Guild members adopting all of her wheels, knitting machines, wool winders, wool carders, etc.,etc.

This past Sunday was the Celebration of Marie's Life at our farm south of Corning. I want to acknowledge the several Guild members who attended, as well as the several who had to cancel because of last minute circumstances. Marie would have loved to have been present in person to greet the Guild members, but I'm sure her spirit was full of joy at their presence. Again thanks to the Guild for making a very difficult situation much more tolerable and manageable.



Steamboat Landing Spin-Ins

This summer, Shelly is hosting spin-in weekly at Steamboat Landing, as she did last year. Thank you, Shelly! They will be Wednesdays at 2 PM. Steamboat Landing is the pavillion where the Ithaca Farmer's Market is held.

Lost Hand Carders

Since I haven't been able to find the hand carders I haven't used for years, I'm hoping that I loaned them to someone who has forgotten where she got them! Two sets of hand carders, one set with coarse wire, one with finer wire. And I also had a small drum carder, which is also missing. I'm about to teach someone to spin ! So if you read this and are excited that you finally found where you got your carders, let me know! Thanks!

Joan Johnston, jej3@cornell.edu, 607-220-9757

Local Fiber Day Postponed

Sarah Davis got in touch to tell me that this summer's planned Local Fiber Day has been postponed, so keep an eye out for the rescheduled date.

Fiber Events

Several exciting fiber-related events are coming up! A few you might be interested in:

World Wide Knit In Public Day: Fittingly, this June 10th is dedicated to knitting in public and spreading the passion for our craft. Our Guild meeting will already be in public, at the Brooktondale Farmer's Market, so we're excited to see you there!

CNY Fiber Festival: The weekend of our meeting is also the first day of the Central New York fiber festival. Several Guild members are planning on going on Sunday; get in touch with Roberta (obertainez@yahoo.com) for information about carpools.





NY State Fair Wool Center Demonstrations

The Wool Center at the New York State Fair has started summer activities! See the request for volunteers from Linda below.

Hi all my fiber friends,

The wool center will start its usual summer activities on Sundays. Going thru fleeces picking fiber to be carded washing and dyeing wool.

June 4 and 11 ,12:30-4pm

June 18 ,12 noon to 4pm

July 2, 9, 23, 30 ,12 noon to 4pm

August 6. 12noon to 4pm

August 13 and 20 ,11am -4pm clean up building and set up for fair.

Also I'm looking to fill my demonstrator slots for each day. Fair dates are August 23 thru September 4. Please contact me by texting or calling my cell phone if possible leave message with you name if I don't pick up. 315-440-6049. Or my email linda@rainbowacrefiberfarm.com. Adding photo of sign up sheet.

Just a reminder of open and youth fleece competition, fleece to shawl competition last Sunday and the spinning contest on Labor Day last day of fair.

Also every night of the fair I plan on having knit nights where we will welcome knitters to come in and sit work on there own knitting or one of our already started charities projects.

Demonstration slots at the Fair include spinning, weaving, dying, carding, knitting/crocheting, fly tying, wet felting, needle felting, rug hooking, and any other activity you'd like to present.



Sustainable Fiber

Thank you to Marilee Williams for sending in this article and comment. (The article is on the next page)

From Marilee:

I found the attached article interesting and encouraging.

As handspinners and fiber enthusiasts, shepherds or goatherds, demonstrating and sharing our skills and enthusiasm for natural, sustainable fibers, we are on the front line to educate consumers about their apparel and home goods choices. I like to say "lower your carbon footprint: wear wool socks!" and I encourage people to consider how many synthetic fabrics are petroleum based.

I also attended the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival again this year, that wonderful two day celebration of all things sheepish and woolly. But for the first time that I have seen, there was a truck parked along one of the roads by the fairgrounds with an LED sign on the back "SHEEP SUFFER FOR WOOL WEAR VEGAN".

My suspicion was that these were animal rights activists who know nothing about good animal husbandry or the sustainability and benefits of a renewable fiber like wool, much less how sheep suffer if they AREN'T shorn. Unfortunately, my friends would not stop the car to let me out so I could have a chat with the folks in the truck! I would have shared the story of Shrek, the Merino wether who wandered from his station in New Zealand and avoided capture for six years. In that time he grew a 60# fleece so cumbersome that he had difficulty grazing and walking. I'd have told the signmakers that sheep can suffer with wool, but usually not for wool. I daresay they probably had not entered the fairgrounds and sheep barns to see how well cared for and contented the sheep were. Let's correct misinformation and continue to spread the word about the marvelous qualities and sustainability of our ovine friends' fleece!



Can Sheep Help Save the Planet?

Judith D. Schwartz, author of *Cows Save the Planet* and *Water in Plain Sight*, believes so. “Not only is wool unusually cozy and durable, but its creators (the sheep) can also help regenerate the world’s drying, fire-prone landscapes,” she writes in an article on [Craftsmanship.net](https://www.craftsmanship.net).

Schwartz explains that when managed wisely, livestock can regenerate infertile land and aid germination of native plant seeds lying dormant in the soil. “Those plants can then pull carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and bury the carbon in the ground where it belongs. This approach can also help to keep wildfires from spreading at the speed and scale that are devastating southern California. When sheep and other grazing animals are absent, landscapes tend to degrade—a story being written across the world’s prairies, steppes, pampas, and savannas. The good news: a wool revival seems to be underway.”

Schwartz spotlights Rebecca Burgess, natural-fiber enthusiast and Chair of the Board for Carbon Cycle Institute, who recently launched a wool certification system called Climate Beneficial Wool. “Sheep ranchers, and the companies that use their wool, earn this certification by adopting an approach to ranching that puts land health first,” she explains. “As Burgess forges ahead with her campaign for a more regenerative approach to rangeland management, she’s partnered with [outerwear company] The North Face to create the world’s first woolen product certified to be climate positive. It’s called the Cali Wool Beanie, and it’s made of wool from [California farmer] Lani Estill’s Bare Ranch. To revive her ranch, Estill has begun composting, changing irrigation processes, and cover cropping. Once all these practices are in place, the ranch expects to offset the CO₂ equivalent of emissions from 850 cars, some 4,000 metric tons a year.”

The combined consciousness of wool’s value and its farming practices are just beginning to spread, but the future is bright. Schwartz says, “When local wool operations are revived, that tends to rejuvenate a local economy—and the culture of craftsmanship that can surround it.”

Learn more about Climate Beneficial Wool at [FiberShed.com](https://www.fibershed.com).





ROVINGS

June
2023



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.

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