



November
2023



NEWSLETTER

November 2023

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Message from the President

Dear Fellow Spinners,

The leaves are mostly on the ground now. I'm knitting on my sweater, hoping to be finished before it gets cold enough for me to wear it. It's kind of funny how every year the weather goes from 'it's way too hot to even think of hats and mittens' to 'Oh, if I wanted to gift a pair of mittens for the holidays, I should have started working on them three weeks ago' in just a few days. At least the weather is now at the point, where the motivation for spinning and knitting comes easily from just sticking the nose out of the door and breathing in the crispy air.

Our next meeting will be indoors again on November 11, 11am-3pm, in the Parish Hall of the All Saints Catholic Church in Lansing (346 Ridge Road). The congregation has become more conscientious about saving energy. Please, use the main entrance and do not prop doors open.

We have a few items on our Agenda. There is still some Roc Day planning to do. As I'm writing this, there are four bags of fleece left for our Roc-Day challenge. If you are interested in participating, please speak up, soon. We need to discuss, where we want to go with our defunct Web-site. And of course, there is show and tell to do, since last meeting we didn't get around to it.

A big thanks to Marcia Weinert, who held wonderful workshop for us on the last Friday of October. She definitively got us to push our boundaries, both on the fine and on the thick end of yarn. I for sure span my thinnest yarn ever.

The LocalFiber group has set up their annual 'pop-up' shop in down town Ithaca. They are in the Press Bay Alley, open Wednesdays-Sundays, 11am-6pm. It certainly is worth a visit.

Hope to see you on Saturday,
Angelika



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Guild News

Guild Meeting

The next Guild meeting will be Saturday, November 11, 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 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 Update

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.

We currently have 18 people registered. If you are interest4ed and have not let us know please do so right away. 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.



2024 Roc Day Planning

Hello Black Sheep Handspinners,

ROC Day 2024 is just 2 months away. Many volunteer slots are filled, but more are needed! Please check the volunteer sheet to see if there is a space for you.

We will be holding the raffle again this year and count on donations of raffle items to make it a success. Please consider donating something "fibery". Donations can be brought to the November and December meetings or dropped off at Debbie Benzer's home.

We hope to have many vendors selling their wares and many tasty dishes to share at the dish to pass lunch. Please be sure to bring a card with the ingredients of your dish, label your dishes and utensils with your name, and take back home what does not get consumed (for your lunch the next day). And of course there will be workshops, demos, the competition voting, and the spinning circle. Contact Angelika about entering the competition. Posters will be available at the December meeting for posting. Looking forward to good weather and a wonderful day! And please pass the word to you friends and neighbors!

Yvonne and all the coordinators for ROC Day 2024

Elli May Raffle

Just a note to beg for Roc day Elli May raffle items! Any items related to fiber arts, equipment (knitting/Crocheting, spinning, weaving any equipment used to craft fiber), books-magazines with patterns or techniques, kits, completed items, any fiber-in any form, or any art/item that depicts fiber arts or sheep.

My house (Debbie Benzer) is centrally located in Ithaca – 714 N. Cayuga St. I've put a covered bin on my porch of which you can drop off items for the raffle anytime!

If you have something large I would be willing to come get it, if necessary. Contact me DPBenzer@twcny.rr.com

Contributions can be delivered at the next guild meetings. I will not be at the November meeting but Roberta Sibley will collect the items! We're hoping to get all donations by the December meeting!

Last resort, the items can be delivered to All Saints on January 12th at 4:30 when we set up the raffle. The Raffle is a major source of revenue for the Spinning guild, it allows us to have low cost workshops for the guild members and pay the monthly rent for meetings.

Thanks for contributing!
Debbie



2024 Roc Day Challenge

Our 2024 Roc Day Challenge goes from raw fleece to finished objects. Participants receive eight ounces of raw Lincoln wool, four ounces white, four ounces brown*. The challenge is to make a bag out of this wool – and only out of this wool. The finished bag needs to be sturdy and tight enough to hold a cup of marbles. Participants may use any fiber art to create and adorn their bag. Felting, knitting, crocheting, weaving, nalbinding, embroidery and any combination of these are all allowed (so are fiber arts not on the list). Participants are free to dye the wool. However, dyeing is not required. No other fiber, thread, fabric, or notions (buttons, zippers etc.) may be used in the making of the bag. E.g., if the bag is constructed sewing together woven fabric, the sewing thread also has to be spun from the wool provided.



Carolann Darling of Darling Woolens in Groton provided the fleeces for this year's challenge. Here is Carolann with her four Lincoln ewes.

Finished bags should be submitted latest on Roc Day 1-13-24 by 10 am. We ask participants, to add an index card listing the crafts used for their project. Judging will be by public vote. The categories will be 'Most Beautiful', 'Most Creative', and 'Most Practical'.

Ziploc bags with the wool will be available at the November. At this point, there are still four bags of fiber available. If you'd like to participate, but can't make it to a meeting, please contact Angelika angelika@simon-stl.com.

*A little note on weight loss with washing. You are receiving raw wool, which contains a fair amount of grease, dirt and sweat. When washing the wool expect to lose 25-30% of total weight. After washing, you'll have six ounces or a little bit less of clean fiber to work with.

There are two different articles on fleece washing for beginners at the end of the newsletter, from Angelika and Ellen.



Workshop Wrap-up: Spinning for Fineness and Consistency

Marcia Weinart sends her thanks to BSHG for welcoming her to teach "Spinning for Fineness and Consistency" class on Friday, October 27. The food was great, and her students were all terrifically brave and made great strides in such a short time. Hooray for you!

In return, BSHG would like to say a big thank-you to Marcia for hosting such a wonderful class. In addition, if you would find the information useful, Marcia has sent along her "Spinner's Data Sheet" for keeping track of data about wool, wheels, and skeins. Feel free to duplicate and use the sheet, as long as you keep her name on it. This sheet will be attached at the end of the newsletter.

There's also some updates to issue. I checked on something I told the "Spinning for Fineness and Consistency" class, and I want to correct my error! Margaret Stove is from New Zealand, not Australia--and she is famed for her ultra-fine handspinning. Everyone will enjoy hearing her marvelous accent (and watching her spin without any pinch at all of her forward hand!!) in the 4-minute video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YAGNTPt-Nf70>. The baby shawl she knitted was for Prince William, not his son; Princess Diana carried her little boy wrapped in this exquisite work of art. The shawl was an original design by Stove, but she never wrote down the pattern! <https://margaretstove.nz/portfolio/bush-bouquet-prince-williams-shawl/> She believes (as do I) that everyone should embrace their own inner designer: make things up, try things out, do something entirely original!

For Sale In The Guild

Fiber From Kat Doxater

Kat Doxtater has fiber for sale, as she is trying to move. She says:

I'm still here in Cortland, although we had hoped to be in VA by now. I've got some beautiful roving that needs to find a few new homes. For any club member that is interested I would like to offer it to you at a special price. Normally I offer it for sale at \$4 per oz but for club members it will be sold at \$3 per oz. The mohair is white, and the alpaca is a blend of white and beige. Very pretty stuff. If interested, please contact me. I'm retired, so I'm free most days to meet up or for pick up.

Email: katiris2@yahoo.com



Nano 2 from Carol L

A nearly new Nano 2 electric spinner with all accessories and a battery (\$125 new plus the battery is about \$20 new). I love it, especially for spinning fine singles. I'm selling it only because my sister talked me into buying the 6.0 and I don't really need to have 2 e-spinners. There is excellent online support for this product including parts, tutorials, and a Facebook group. Maurice will personally answer emails if you need assistance. Link below the website. Great portable wheel for taking to guild meetings, spinning on trips and in the car (if someone else drives!). Will sell it for \$100 with the free battery.

Email: tusweca_winan@yahoo.com
Nano website: dreamingrobots.com

Crafting Group For Charity

Susan Sarabasha is starting a charitable crafting group, if any guild members are interested. She says:

I am looking to start a knitting/crocheting group specifically for charitable items. St John's Episcopal Church (Loaves & Fishes, Laundry Love) takes them, as well as OAR and Catholic Charities. And more that I don't know of specifically yet, but others might.

I am wondering if anyone wants to meet once every other week or once a month to craft together and feel a bit more able to help others.

We could meet at Mama Said on rt 96 or at Panera's. Please contact me if you are interested.

Email: sarabasha@earthlink.net



A Quick Guide to Washing Wool

Written by Angelika

The idea of washing wool can be intimidating. Wool can felt and no spinner wants that to happen to their precious spinning fiber. Luckily, wool needs a combination of heat and agitation to felt. Heat alone, without agitation, will not result into felting. When washing wool keep two rules in mind:

(1) Never move wool from hot or warm water into cold water. The fiber contracting in the newly colder environment can provide the agitation necessary to felt. Taking wool out of a hot bath and letting it cool off in the air, does not result into felting, because air is a so much worse heat conductor than water.

(2) Always fill the washing container first with water and heat the water to the desired temperature, before adding the wool. Running water or bubbles forming from heating the water can agitate the wool into felting.

Here is a quick recipe that I use to wash raw wool:

- 1) Cold soak. I fill a container with cold water and submerge the wool in it and let it sit for an hour or two, or even overnight. Wool tends to contain a lot of easily water-soluble dirt, like the sheep's sweat or plain old dust that can easily rinsed out that way. The first rinsing water often becomes reddish brown and almost opaque. It makes for excellent plant watering. I tend to give two or three cold rinses, until the rinsing water looks reasonably clear.
- 2) Scouring. This step is to remove the lanoline and waxes from the wool fiber. I bring a pot of water with about a cup of dish detergent to at least 180F. I then submerge my wool and let it sit for 20 min. I pour out the scouring water and let the hot water drip off of the wool.
- 3) Second scouring. I repeat step #2.
- 4) Hot rinse. I bring detergent free water to 160-180F and submerge the wool again. This step mostly serves to remove the left-over detergent from the wool.
- 5) Drip off and drying. I let the wet wool drip off for a while, then I gently roll it in a towel to extract some of the moisture (be careful not to agitate the wool too much while rolling it up) Then I lay it out on a fresh dry towel to dry.

Things that make washing wool easier: Putting wool into a lingerie bag for washing, makes it much easier to move it in and out of the baths. Sturdy rubber or nitril gloves can protect the hands while handling hot liquids. An old salad spinner can be useful to spin water out of the washed wool and facilitate faster drying.

How much time does washing raw wool add to a project compared to starting from washed wool? Two to five days. Washing the wool with all the cold soaks takes about one day. How long it takes to dry the wool after the wash depends a bit on the weather. In dry early spring outdoors or once indoors heating has substantially reduced the air humidity, drying takes a full day. Under more humid conditions it might take up to three days. As a rule of thumb, when the cat elects to sleep in the wool, it's dry.

FINNSHEEP FLEECE WASHING

by Elizabeth H. Kinne Gossner

Prized by handspinners, purebred Finnsheep grow some of the most luxurious soft wools and are a source of creative inspiration throughout the year. The transition from raw fleece to pristinely clean fiber can be accomplished in several ways. For processing in bulk there are carding mills which will efficiently clean and combine large volumes of fleece into a well-blended presentation.

However, for those who prefer to remain connected to individual fleeces, hand processing may be the better choice. Basic “scouring” is quite simple. As fleece grows and during shearing it is helpful to prevent contamination from burdock, hay chaff, etc. For cleaning, first skirt the fleece (remove undesirable areas such as manure, 2nd cuts, & VM), then divide into smaller sections which will conveniently fit into soaking pots.

Fill a large vessel with very hot water and then add about 1/3 cup of liquid dishwashing detergent (ex: Joy liquid). Stir. Gently place handfuls of raw fleece into the vessel and push beneath the surface. You may crowd the fleece for this first soaking which will help retain heat. Cover if possible and allow to soak without stirring for about an hour. While still warm prepare 2-3 pots of clear rinse water. They should approximate the temperature of the soaking bath to avoid shocking the wool. Next, simply take a handful of damp wool from the initial bath, squeeze out, and swoosh through clear water. Repeat this step with each successive rinse vessel. If lock tips are muddy they can be manipulated gently in the rinse process. Renew rinse waters as needed. When the entire amount of fleece is rinsed it can be placed into a top loading washing machine which has a **spin only cycle** to further drain out the water. Hang the wet wool on a clothesline or drying rack and if the day is sunny with a breeze, you may have beautiful dry fleece which is ready to use in a couple of hours.

This hands-on approach has the advantage of retaining individual lock character as well as color definition in patterned fleeces. An awareness of the individual sheep providing its wool can be a certain pleasure as we spin the precious fiber into our yarns.

Whether the preference is for glistening white wool or any one of the natural colors that our Finnsheep have to offer, this simple approach to washing fleeces gives us the ultimate creative opportunity.





Current Roc Day Volunteer Schedule

Volunteer Schedule for 13 January, 2024

<p>Set-up Friday 4:30 - 6pm - Yvonne L.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Louise Henrie 2. Angelika St Laurent 3. Debbie Benzer 4. Kay Stickene 5. Roberta Sibley 6. Mary Nichols <p>Raffle Set-Up</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Lynne Anguish 8. Sue quick 9. 	<p>Welcome Table - Kathy Halton</p> <p>9:45-10:45 Kathy Halton</p> <p>10:45-11:45 Amy Glaser</p> <p>11:45-12:45 Louise Henrie</p> <p>12:45-1:45</p> <p>1:45-2:45</p> <p>2:45-3:45</p>
<p>Spinning Circle - (Need Point Person)</p> <p>10-11 Zoe Gras</p> <p>11-12 Mary White</p> <p>12-1 Suzanne Schwartz</p> <p>1-2</p> <p>2-3 Ronda Porras</p>	<p>Raffle 10am - 1pm - Deb Benzer Roberta Sibley</p> <p>10-11 Beth Varieur</p> <p>10-11 Lynne Anguish</p> <p>11-12 Christianne White</p> <p>11-12</p> <p>12-1</p> <p>12-1</p> <p>1-2 Ronda Porras</p> <p>1-2 Lynne Anguish</p>
<p>Kitchen - Jean Currie</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ruby Schnirman 2. Marianne Pelletier 3. Sue Quick (9-11:00) 4. Christianne White (12-1:00) 5. Sarah Davis 6. 	<p>Floaters - Yvonne LaMontagne</p> <p>10-11</p> <p>11-12</p> <p>12-1 Amy Glaser</p> <p>1-2</p> <p>2-3</p> <p>3-4 Kylie Spooner</p>
<p>Competition - Angelika St. Laurent</p> <p>Competition Table</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 	<p>Clean-Up 4 - 6:30 pm - Yvonne LaMontagne</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Angelika St Laurent 2. Jean Currie 3. Kylie Spooner 4. Sarah Davis 5.

SPINNING DATA SHEET

(c) 2020 by Marcia Weinert - UndeniablyLoopy@gmail.com

FIBER TYPE:	START DATE:	<u>PLYING:</u>
BREED/BLEND (note %):	<u>TIME LOGGED:</u>	Wheel used:
Microns/Bradford:	prep details (OVER)	Wheel ratio used:
Staple length:	blending notes	Number of plies:
Superwash? <input type="radio"/>		Ply draft length:
PUT-UP at purchase:	washing/carding time	Treadles per ply draft:
PURCHASED FROM:		Plyes per inch:
SOURCE (for vendor):	spinning time	Angle of ply:
VENDOR:		Wraps per inch (plied):
COST:	Plying time:	Yards per pound (plied):
QUANTITY:	<u>SINGLES:</u>	Finished yardage:
COLOR:	Wheel used:	Finishing procedure:
DATE OF PURCHASE:	Wheel ratio used:	COMPLETION DATE:
LOCATION of purchase:	Draft length:	<u>SAMPLES:</u>
NAME OF ANIMAL(s):	Draft type:	as purchased/
INTENDED PROJECT:	Treadles per draft:	singles/plied/swatched
COMMENTS:	Singles twist per inch:	blends as applicable
	Angle of twist (singles):	
	Singles wraps per inch:	
	Yards per pound (singles)	



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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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