



September
2021



NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2021

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Message from the President

Dear Fellow Spinners,

The temperatures are coming down a little, the garden is full of good things to harvest, and fall is just around the corner. As soon as the temperatures go down, I find my motivation to knit and spin is soaring back up. The sweater that has been languishing in the knitting bag for the summer is pretty quickly growing a new arm. And of course, I’m looking forward to our next guild meeting.

Our September meeting will be held on Saturday 9-11, from 11am-3pm, in the pavilion behind the Brooktondale Community Center, 522-526 Valley Road, Brooktondale, NY 14817. Our meeting coincides with a Farmer’s market that runs till 1pm. There will be produce, garden plants, soap, and wool available for sale. There also will be live music. We will start our ‘official’ part of the meeting shortly after 1pm, when it will be easier to understand each other.

With the colder season coming on, we will have to make plans on how and where to meet during fall and winter. If you are not able to attend the September meeting, but have ideas and opinions on how to move forward, please, let us know via email.

The one thing, we are sure, will happen during winter – one way or another - is our Roc-Day competition. This year, the challenge is to incorporate mohair locks into the yarn during the plying step. Big thanks to Anne Furman and her helpers for getting all the fiber packed-up and ready!

Hope to see you soon,

Angelika



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Guild News

The next meeting will be on Saturday, August 14th, at the Brooktondale Community Center.
522-526, Valley Road, Brooktondale, NY

[location of the Brooktondale Community Center on Google Maps](#)

Guild Dues

Hello, Black Sheep Guild members! Greetings from your treasurer. If you haven't paid your dues of \$25 yet for 2021, now is a good time to catch up. You can send a check made out to Black Sheep Handspinners Guild or BSHG and mail it to me,

Louise Henrie
417 Second Street
Ithaca NY 14850,

or we now have a Venmo account! Be the first to try this! our username is @Black-Sheep-NY

Of course, you can catch me at a guild meeting and pay in person. Checks are fine, or if you want to pay in cash, an envelope with your name on it helps with tracking!

Thanks, spinners!



Roc Day Contest

The Roc Day contest is underway for January 2022! Thank you so much to Anne Furman and her helpers for choosing the contest and packing fiber. Pick up a kit at a meeting to join, or email Anne (ahfurman@yahoo.com) if you can't make it.

Roc Day 2022 Spinning Challenge

Spin the 2.5 ounces of Merino wool roving to create 2 singles. Spinning techniques are your choice – any gauge, any twist, or any ply. Ply the 2 singles together, incorporating the dyed kid mohair locks. These locks should not be carded or otherwise prepped; they should be plied in. An example of one type of this plying is included in the packet. Use **only the fiber provided** with no dyeing or additions of any kind. It is not necessary to use all the fiber. It is necessary to use only the fiber provided.

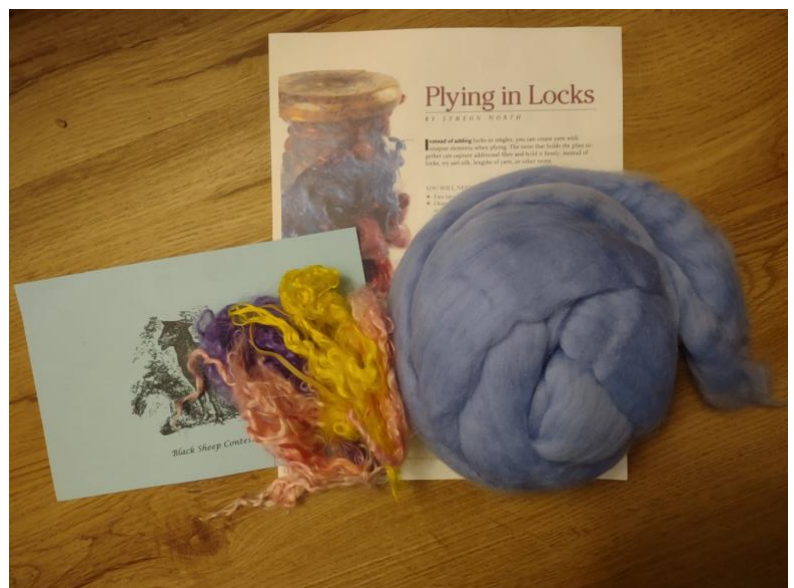
The superfine merino roving is from Outback fibers in Colorado, color Hydrangea:

<https://www.outbackfibers.com/superfine-merino-wool-roving>

The kid mohair locks are from Diane Coon at Coon Hollow Farm in Hamilton, Montana.

Finishing the yarn to set the twist by steaming or washing is recommended. Loosely tying the yarn in 3 places is also suggested. There will be two judgments: one for proficiency, and one by people's choice.

The deadline for turning your yarn in is 10:30 AM on Roc Day.





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Old News

Guild Meeting Location

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

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, Wayne Harbert at weh2@cornell.edu or phone [607-564-9328](tel:607-564-9328).

Guild Officers

President	Angelika St.Laurent
Vice President	Sue Quick
Secretary	Wayne Harbert
Treasurer	Louise Henrie
Newsletter	Rachael Skye
Workshops	Position Open
Webmaster	Rosane Mordt
Roc-Day Coordinator	Yvonne LaMontagne



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General Announcements

Freeville Farmers Market Fiber Festival

The Farmer's Market in Freeville, NY, is planning a mini fiber festival on September 19th! There will be music, food, sheep, and displays.

<https://www.freevillefarmersmarket.org/minifest.html>





Yarn Store Survey

Hello Black Sheep! Barbara Vassallo is opening a fiber craft shop in Corning and is looking for feedback from local spinners! You can take the survey here:

<https://forms.gle/VB3PS732RLjL6C6f9>

She's also looking to interview people about their interests and purchasing habits, so if you are interested in speaking to her about what you would like to see in a local store, contact Angelika to be put in touch! angelika@simonstl.com

A quick blurb about the store:

Rabbit Row Yarns & Haberdashery in Corning, NY will be "...a modern needle crafting shop with a vintage vibe" and feature both a brick and mortar shop in our downtown area, as well as e-commerce. It will stock yarn and a host of haberdashery/sister crafts like embroidery kits, needle felting, darning/mending, macrame, some simple weaving/looms - these will be a curated collection of beautiful materials and tools that, where practical, are sustainable, regional, diverse in ownership, and/or fair trade. The shop will offer instruction in all these areas as well as events/maker experiences.

Weaving Workshop

Jose Buenaventura Gonzalez is having a free (tapestry) weaving workshop on Sept 19 at Trumansburg Conservatory, limited to 8 participants. The frame looms will be provided, along with the warp and weft.

More information here:

<https://www.tburgconservatory.org/sept-19-jose-gonzalez-weaving-workshop>



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Sock Challenge

Lois Swales is running a sock challenge! Here are the details:

At the last meeting, I offered to hand crank a pair of wool socks from any member's handspun wool. I will be using an erlbacher gearhart circular sock machine that is "picky" about the size and regularity of the yarn. I typically spin 4 ounces of washed wool to make my own socks in a yarn similar to fingering size. Note that yardage is two ply. It cannot be thicker than 17 wraps per inch (wrapped as a two ply yarn). 18 or 19 wpi will work. Tightly twisted yarn will not work. Very lightly twisted yarns will wear out quickly. Spinners are welcome to give me a sample to test knit to check for machine compatibility and foot circumference. One pair of socks per person. No charge for cranking that one pair.

Dryden Historical Society Volunteer Event

Call for Volunteers

The Dryden Historical Society is planning to hold the Homestead Heritage Fair Day this year on September 25, 2021 from 10am - 3pm. They are looking for volunteers to demonstrate spinning during the event. In particular, a volunteer is needed who would be able to spin long-draw on the Historical Societies great wheel. If interested, please contact Gina Prentiss, ginaprentiss@gmail.com.



Dyer's Marker

There is an Indie Dyers Spectrum market being held this Saturday 11th (10-5) and Sunday 12th (10-3) in Geneseo. Check out The Woolroom@Longmeadow Farm for more information, or email longmeadow.wool@yahoo.com

Location: Valley Oak Event Center, 2242 Lakeville Rd. Route 20A, Geneseo, NY, 14454



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.



Stories From The Guild

Have you made something interesting, learned something new, or haven't been able to make it to meetings and want to show off your work? Send in a story! You can send them to the editor, Rachael, by email at rachael.siems.skye@gmail.com.

Making a Couch

Alena Hutchinson

Alena stuffed a couch with wool! Attached to this email is the video she took of the stuffing. Here's some stills from the process!





Casual Spinning & Lace Knitting

Rachael Skye

I got asked some questions at the last meeting, so here's a longer story about what I've been up to! First, Shelly Marino showed me how to spin a spindle with my feet, while I'm standing up and walking around. Some people were curious, so here's how to do it! I would not do this with delicate fiber, or fiber I really cared about making even and nice, but it's very nice for yarn I'm more casual about. It lets me keep spinning longer and makes it easy to walk around and chat.

To do it, place the spindle against the ball of one foot, squeeze it with the heel of the other, and swipe backwards. It's easier to do with good shoes, so you can brace the shaft against the sides of the soles. I'll attach a video to the email!



Second, I've been on a massive project knitting my first lace shawl, from commercial sock yarn. I chose the pattern Galadriel's Mirror, from Susan Pandorf (on Ravelry here: <https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/galadriels-mirror>)

It's quite a fun pattern! It doesn't have too many difficult stitches; I only had to learn bobbles (which are easy enough) and a three-stitch wrap. That took some time to get neat, but once I learned to do it with a cable needle it's gotten better. That said, it's tedious to do many in one row!



It took a while to figure out, but I have learned that the key to this pattern is to follow the lines formed by the columns of twisted knit stitches. These move in predictable ways, letting me follow the increases and decreases. I've included a picture with some of those lines pointed out, I don't know if it will make sense to see but it does make sense to do!



I am about 1/3 of the way through, and I am approaching the end of the first motif. I can knit the motif from memory after the 6th repeat, which is a bit of a trick for showing off to non-knitters. I am now thoroughly sick of the three-stitch wrap, and I am very ready to move on to the large nested chevrons that make up the next motif.





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 or mail it with your check for \$25 to: Louise Henrie, 417 2nd Street, Ithaca, NY 14850