

ROVIN'

President's Message

Despite the snowy weather we had another very successful Roc Day party (see reports later in this newsletter). Three vendors were unable to attend because of the weather and they were missed. However with snowed in folks in parts of the state the hall still seemed full most of the day as we saw folks from the North Country, Rochester, Syracuse, Corning, Morrisville and Binghamton.

The auctions did well, both for the guild and for the Food Bank of the Southern Tier. There was plenty of good food and socializing. Overall this leaves us with a challenge to match for next year. With that in mind there will be a short meeting of the committee right after this guild's business meeting to talk about what we did right and what we can do better next time.

Winter is prime spinning time so get busy, even if only for ten minutes a day. Maybe you can make some prize winning yarn to send to the State Fair or Hemlock. *Jim*

Due to an unexpected Diocesan meeting at All Saints, our March guild meeting will be held on Saturday, March 17th. That's the THIRD Saturday of March.



President: Jim Johnson 564-7178

Vice Pres.: Sue Quick

Treasurer: Vickie Marsted

Secretary: Audrey Lowes

Newsletter Editor: Susan Sarabasha

Roc Day: Jim Johnson

Membership: Wayne Harbert

Programming: Sharon Gombas &

M. Marjorie Inana

Library: Ruth Allen

WebMistress: Teresa Porri

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*The Black Sheep meet from 11am-3pm
on the 2nd Saturday of each month
at All Saints Church Parish Hall,
Rte 34B, in Lansing, NY*

February's Program

**BRING SOMETHING *RED* FOR SHOW
AND TELL. ANYONE SHARING A
RED ITEM WILL BE
AUTOMATICALLY ENTERED INTO A
DRAWING FOR SOME STITCH
MARKERS.**

**BE A SWEETIE & BRING A SWEET TO
SHARE.**



Report - Chinese Auction and Silent Auction from Ellie May

The silent auction allowed us to send \$415 to the Food Bank of the Southern Tier. The Chinese Auction earned \$687. We had 800 tickets and had 7 left.

These projects were successful because of the generous members who donated items and the sheep to shawl team who donated their scarves. Interestingly the black resin drop spindle had more than \$78 worth of tickets in the bag. It is too bad we did not have another.

Lee Millers scarf loom was a hit as well especially since we have never had one before. However the carefully handmade items make the auction the success it is.

Sharon and I thank each and every one of you for your contribution.

We are ready to accept items for next year.

We will plan some Sunday afternoons to work on projects.



Minutes cont'd



Mary Miller reported on the Tee Shirt order.

Long sleeved mock turtlenecks - \$20

Short Sleeved Tee's - \$12

Please sign up with [Mary](#).

We are using the old logo and it is silk screened so there should be no problem washing the shirts. Exact change or checks are appreciated.

Remember, you can find the Blacksheep Handspinner's Guild on **Facebook**:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Black-Sheep-Handspinners-Guild/>

Use it to find the latest info, post information on events or items for sale, add photos of your most beloved creations, and ask for help or info, and more.

You just never know what's going to happen next on FB. So please join our page--become a fan and visit often.

Ayne Sheldon will be happy to provide a tutorial on getting around on FB at one of our meetings.

Retreat in Skaneateles. \$120 includes meals. March 9-11 at Stella Maris. Sign up sheet with [Anne F](#)

Roc Day Committee Wrap Up meeting after our meeting.

Pay your dues, come to a meeting and receive your very own Black Sheep Handspinner's Guild Membership Card.

Once you have this card you can register at JoAnn Fabrics for their organization member discount right at the check-out



Do Knit Disturb room at the [Hotel Pelirocco](#) in Brighton, UK.

READY for RENTAL LOAN

Housed with [Sharon](#)
Felting machine, loom, wool combs,
random bits of wool

Housed with [Cathy](#)
carder (currently with [Jean T](#))



More Roc Day Photos

All by
Wayne



“When the times were pinching”

Wayne Harbert

As I write, it's Friday the Thirteenth. It's also St. Hilary's day, which follows Roc Day by a week. This was the first day, traditionally, on which one could marry after the Christmas ban. My first crop of flax is retting* in a tub down in the garage--the next phase in my experiment with growing and processing my own. I've built the needed tools for the following steps out of some of the odds and ends that clutter my barn. With a bit of reconfiguration, for example, an old, useless park bench has found new life as a serviceable flax brake. In this enterprise, as it turns out, I am following in remote familial footsteps. One of my early ancestors, William Wilcoxon, who arrived in Connecticut from England in 1635 at the age of 34, was recorded as a linen weaver. Whether he continued in that profession on this side of the ocean is not reported, but if so, he must have brought his own flax seed, since *linum usitatissimum* is alien to the Americas. The riches that the Europeans found on these new shores did not, for the most part, include sources for fiber. Besides flax, there were no domesticated sheep. Wool, it is true, can be had from wild mountain goats, wild mountain sheep and even bison, though not easily. (As the *Fleece and Fiber Sourcebook* puts it with perhaps just a bit of understatement, bison “don't take kindly to shearing.”) Native Americans out west did in fact spin those wild fibers on handspindles, and wove them into works of art. In more southerly latitudes, cotton had been cultivated since ancient times, though not yet in what we have come to think of as the Cotton Belt. Columbus encountered it in the West Indies in 1492, and it was the Spanish who, within fifty years of that encounter,

Continued on p5

WORKSHOP WITH CAROL WOOD**COMPLEX COLOR FROM NATURAL DYES----- COLOR
BLENDING AND SPINNING**

When: Saturday, April 28, from 9-4

Where: Our regular meeting place – All Saints Church

Cost: Members \$55 Non Members \$65 (includes material fee)

Contact: [Marjorie](#)

Description:

Learn about the possibilities of color blending and color theory from fiber “dyed in the wool” exploring the dramatic differences resulting from small changes in the proportions of primary colors, black and white. Using fleece pre-dyed by the instructor with natural dyes (cochineal, indigo, weld) and natural/black fiber, students will card, spin and ply yarns in order to learn about the interactions of colors and choosing colors to blend based on the desired results. The workshop will include an overview of natural dyes and their use; topics covered will also be applicable to synthetic dyes.

Note: Participants must be comfortable with spinning and plying on a wheel or a handspindle. Dye work will be described but is not the focus of the class.

Participants need to bring: hand cards, drum carder (optional) spinning wheel or handspindle, knitting or crocheting equipment for swatches (if desired) notebook, and specific project ideas (optional).

FIBERY EVENTSFiber Arts Festival

Saturday, February 20

11 – 5

Grey Barn B&B, S Lansing, NY

MD Sheep & Wool Festival

Sat & Sun, May 5th & 6th

W. Friendship, MD

Coggeshall RI Fiber Festival

Saturday, May 19

Bristol, RI

When the times were pinching cont'd

began to plant it in Florida. Here and there, indigenous people made cloth from the bast fibers of various trees, variously prepared, sometimes even weaving it on looms. But if my colonist ancestors out there in New England were to have the fibers their own custom and habit demanded, they had to bring them from home. In the early days, those fibers must have been hard to come by.

William Wilcoxon's son Timothy married Phoebe Birdsey(e), whose parents John and Phillipa were also among the early immigrants to Connecticut. A history of those parts offers some anecdotes about John and Phillipa, as recalled by the great-granddaughter of one of their neighbors: “One winter, in the early days when the times were pinching and money scarce, John Birdsey bought of his neighbor, Benjamin Miller, a number of bushels of wheat. Not having the money ready to pay for it, he took off his coat and gave that in payment, and wore a woolen frock during the winter.” The history goes on to tell us, ‘the same lady related this reminiscence of Mrs. John Birdsey, that during this straightened time she went into the woods to gather wool that had chanced to catch on the bushes, to knit an odd stocking for her little boy, who had burned one of his accidentally.’

Snug in my living room as the first sticking snow of the season scuds and whirls beyond the window, I try to imagine spending the winter—even one so legendarily mild as this has been—coatless for the sake of a winter's worth of wheat, or wandering the woods in the hope that the brambles had snatched enough wool from my neighbor's sheep for yarn to make my child a sock, and I find myself marveling at the courage, need, and hope that must have moved John and Phillipa and others like them forward in those distant pinching times.

~~*Retting is the process of submerging flax in water for a week or two until the soft tissue in which the fiber is encased rots away freeing the fiber.~~

If you have not already filled this membership info form out, please print it, do so and return it at a guild meeting **or** to Vickie Marsted, 29 Lincoln Ave, Cortland, NY 13045. Thank you.



Membership Form

Please type or print

Date: _____

DUES Record:

2011	2014
2012	2015
2013	2016
Joined guild in _____	

Name: _____

Address: _____

preferred email: _____

preferred phone # _____ birthday month (opt) _____

Please list your wheel(s)

We welcome spinners of all skill levels.
How long have you been spinning? _____

Do you: Knit? Weave? Crochet? Dye - (Natural or chemical) ?

Which of your skills might you be willing to share with a member or the group?
ie: teach beginning spindling or spinning or dyeing; teach a spinning / knitting / crocheting skill, etc

If you raise any fiber animals, please list them here _____

Which committee(s) are you interested in joining?

- Roc Day
- Membership
- Programming
- Charity Works
- Outreach including Events & Activities Schedule for non guild members
- Newsletter - advisory & review
- None
- Library
- Education
- Website
- Nominating Committee (occasional)

Would you be interested in chairing or co-chairing one of these groups? If yes, which one(s)?




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Southern Adirondack Fiber Festival
Greenwich, N.Y.

2009: "Best In Show" Natural Colored Fleece
New York State Sheep and Wool Festival
Rhinebeck, N.Y.

Christine Johnson
johnson.chris123@yahoo.com



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Beaded Heart Beret Knitting Class

Feb 21 and 28, 10 -1, at Spun Right Round, with Susan Sarabasha. Fun for intermediate knitters.

Call Renee to sign up. 607-753-7707

To place an ad

A check for \$5.00 made to BSHG for an ad to run three times for members; \$5/month for non members should be sent to our treasurer: Vickie Marsted, 29 Lincoln Ave. Cortland, NY 13045.

Send the ad to the newsletter editor, Susan S.
sarabasha@earthlink.net

If you have a question for her or others, you can email us through the links on page 1.

B&W Business card ads are free for Current members.

Convert your Baynes hook flyer to a SLIDING PINCH HOOK FLYER for \$32.00 including rebalancing. See Jim Johnson at a meeting or call 607-564-7178 or email hilltoppaddles@earthlink.net.



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