

# ROVING

## President's Message

Here it is September already. By the time of guild meeting Labor Day is history and the State Fair is closed for the year. We can now all look forward the fall fiber festival season with Endless Mountains, Hemlock, Southern Adirondack and Rhinebeck coming soon.

BSHG was well represented demonstrating at the Wool Center on August 30<sup>th</sup> but only sparsely so in the Fiber Entries in the Home Arts Center. Maybe we can make it a priority next spring to get more people ready for sending in entries in July. Hope to see you all on Saturday, 9/10.

*Jim*

Our very own Vernice Church was awarded the BSHG prize we donated in honor of our past president Celia.

*Congratulations!*

**August Minutes**, taken by Sharon G.

Some minutes for August meeting:

We had some great items for show to include the beautiful competition shawls for our Sheep Thrills fleece-to-shawl team and Teresa's Bus Scarf, so called because it was spindle spun mostly on the bus to and from work. Lee and Cheryl Miller shared their tale of surprise baby doll lambs that are making their appearance.

*continued on page 2*

President: [Jim Johnson](#) 564-7178

Vice Pres.: [Sue Quick](#)

Acting Treasurer: [Sharon Gombas](#)

Secretary: [Audrey Lowes](#)

Newsletter Editor: [Susan Sarabasha](#)

Roc Day: [Jim Johnson](#)

Membership: [Wayne Harbert](#)

Programming: [Char Sharkey &](#)

[M. Marjorie Inana](#)

Library: [Ruth Allen](#)

WebMistress: [Teresa Porri](#)

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*The Black Sheep meet from 11am-3pm  
on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month  
at All Saints Church Parish Hall,  
[Rte 34B, in Lansing, NY](#)*

## September's Program

**We have filled up all our slots for  
the Celia Quinn Workshops.**

**Jim will be leading a session on  
tuning up your spinning wheel so  
we can have optimum working  
machines ready to go.**

**You need not be in a workshop to  
participate.**

## AUGUST MINUTES CONTINUED

New member Janice Tarantino, from Endicott, overdyes yarns and experiments with various methods of spinning dyed fibers such as carding after dying. We may talk her into sharing her knowledge with us.

Cathy gave us some info on negative ease in relation to knitting socks.

Our newsletter will be posted on our web site. Hopefully we can go paperless; to be discussed at a later date.

We had our first Roc Day meeting following our business meeting. Jim has kindly volunteered to continue as chair. Meetings will be held monthly following our guild business meetings. All are welcome. We would like to fill the various jobs available with able volunteers, so please do come.

Our spinning study group had its first

meeting and received fiber for our challenge. We look forward to seeing the results. I appreciate the push to try something different, so am giving lots of thought to what direction to go in. (see page 5)

### ***from Interweave***

Dear Guild Members,

We are pleased to announce that it's time for the Interweave Annual Guild Subscription Program! If you act NOW, you can get a full year of any of our 14 magazines for **only \$18.00 each!** This is the lowest price available and we have extended it to include the entire Interweave family of magazines. Click [here](#) to Subscribe Today.

Have friends in a guild that didn't get this email? Have them register at [www.interweave.com/go/guilds](http://www.interweave.com/go/guilds). After they are registered, forward them a copy of this email so that their active members may take advantage of the savings too.

We appreciate your support and look forward to hearing from you soon.

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## Program Calendar 2011 - 2012

January 8 Roc Day	February 12 Fiber Tasting	March 12 Member Made	April 9 Barn Sale
May 14 Elections /Committee Meetings	June 11 Spinning New Fibers	July 9 Spin-In  Dessert Dish-to- pass.	August 13 Spin-In  Bring a snack to share.
<b>September 10 Wheel Maintenance</b> (get ready for the CQ workshop)	October 8  ?	November 12 Felting Workshop	December 10 Holiday Party
January 14 Roc Day	11-Feb	10-Mar	14-Apr
12-May	9-Jun	14-Jul	11-Aug
8-Sep	13-Oct	10-Nov	8-Dec

## Black Sheep Handspinners ONLINE

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.

### The Law of Crochet

Well, obviously, these guys don't know a needle from a hook. But waaaayyyy back in 1852 the satirical Punch Magazine drafted these laws, I find it amusing that activities women take up can annoy men to no end, even over 100 years ago.

*Char*

### Roc Day Raffle –

**Items Needed** from Ellie

It is time to start thinking about your project for Roc Day. Hand done items are always the most popular.

Start by coming to Ellie May's house on **Sept 6** any time after 5. I will make potato soup and you bring what ever you want to add to the supper. If you are finishing a project that is not for Roc Day you are still welcome.

I live at 1360 Slaterville Rd. One mile east of the Ithaca Commons, on the corner of Honness Lane and Slaterville Rd (Rt 79 east). A big white Victorian House with a barn and big garage. 272-8224

I've been analyzing the **FB stats**. They haven't moved much, but we've not done a great deal to promote any real activity (yet.)

It's no surprise that 90% of the FB visitors are women, with the largest age group over 55 (37%.) Followed by the 45-54 age group (22%.) and then the 25-34 (20%.) And visits seem to peak over the guild meeting weekends.

Another point of interest is that our lowest group are women in the 35-44 age group (9.8%)

What does this tell us? Possibly that retirees, or empty nesters and college students are our groups of interest. And while we have a lot of active members (ie members who volunteer to boost the guild) we don't have any in the student aged group who could help us in identifying what the student types are who would be interested in the guild and how to reach them.

It would be interesting to identify the same stats for our ROC Day attendees, of whom many are attending with children. Also, the stats on ROC Day class attendees...who are they? There's a lot more research to be done in why our members join, what keeps them coming back, why they drop out, and how we can use this info to capture the attention of new members.

While we always want new members--it is also important to attract members who are willing to engage in helping to make the guild better and not just passive members who just like to sit & spin. This is the only way we will continue to improve the guild. It would help if we could find a little something which each member could do to contribute. For some it might be participating on a ROC Day activity, for others, it could be bringing new members into the guild or donating items for our auctions. There are MANY things each & every one in the guild can do to help. *Char*

## BSHG at the NYS Fair, 2011



More pics and info at [As the Bunny Spins](#).

### Black Sheep "Sheep Thrills" Competition Team Grazes into Third Place at Troy Fair!

After months of planning and practice, Jean Currie, Audrey Lowes, Anne Furman, Ruth Allen, Amy Burkholder (Carol LaBorie's sister), and Bill Bartlett gathered at the Troy Fair, with wheels, warped loom, dog flickers, funny t-shirts and lots of spirit. Our coach was Ellie May, who was unable to attend the fair. Christine Johnson was our source for three lovely, incredibly clean Romney fleeces.

The day was warm but breezy, and full of smells you only get at a fair: fried foods, all kinds of animals, and popcorn. The other teams were festive and coordinated. We all admired each other's work and had great fun flicking, spinning, plying and weaving. The judges, including our own Sharon Gombas, had positive comments about our fleece, the spinning, the pattern Bill chose to weave (which included border designs on all four sides - that really impressed the judges!), and the quality of the weaving and the finished product. We lost points primarily because we had used a commercial warp (the hand-woven one we had tried during our practice sessions clung to itself and slowed the weaving process), and because our shawl came up a bit short at the end.

All in all it was a lot of fun and a great learning experience. The camaraderie, cooperation and just plain fun made the day worthwhile. We have 3 finished shawls in lovely shades of gray; our first practice shawl with the hand-spun warp; the second practice shawl, and the competition shawl. At least one of these will be raffled or sold, with the profits going to a charity yet to be determined. Christine requested this in exchange for donating one of her fleeces, and the "Sheep Thrills" team is thrilled, (but not sheepish!) to do so.

Other guild members are encouraged to participate in future competitions- come on, jump right into the wool pool! It is great fun. *Ruth*



# Spinner's Study Group

A snapshot of our discussion on [Ravelry](#).

Please join us.

[forums](#) > [black sheep handspinners guild group](#) > [discussion board](#)

## Spinner's Study?

36 posts, 7 voices ([who?](#)), 27 readers  
started 2 months ago

[← previous page](#)

[1](#) [2](#)

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tchemgrl  
788 posts (10)  
moderator

posted 12 days ago (Saturday, August 20)  
reply to [dearmary's post #25](#)

26

Oh, I had that mixed up and thought it was just last week! No problem, and I may take you up on the CPW because I have some other sock weight yarn I want to do and I know it'll fly. :) I'll actually be out of town next Saturday so meeting on campus would be great.

[educational](#) [interesting](#) [funny](#) [agree](#) [disagree](#) [love](#)

[reply](#)



smokeyblue  
3607 posts (9)

posted 12 days ago (Saturday, August 20)  
reply to [tchemgrl's post #23](#)

2 replies 27

So maybe part of the problem I had was I twisted the fiber too much. OK I really do want to play so I will try with my slowest whorl and see what happens.

[educational](#) [interesting](#) [funny](#) [agree](#) [disagree](#) [love](#)

[edit](#) [delete](#) [reply](#)



tchemgrl  
788 posts (10)  
moderator

posted 12 days ago (Saturday, August 20)  
reply to [smokeyblue's post #27](#)

1 reply 28

Hmm, maybe, but your "normal" yarn is also a lot lighter and looser than mine to begin with. Because of the silkiness, it did feel like the line between "not enough twist" and "too much twist" was a lot more narrow than with the BFL and polwarth and multiwool batts I've been playing with lately.

Did you ply any of what you spun, or were you planning for singles?

[educational](#) [interesting](#) [funny](#) [agree](#) [disagree](#) [love](#)

[reply](#)



janendicott  
13 posts (7)

posted 11 days ago (Saturday, August 20)  
reply to [tunsehcc's post #16](#)

29

Both hands up! Though not elastic, I dig the robust character. Knit on giant needles, free formed fabric that dripped like spanish moss. I think it is a wonderful art media that begs to be man handled into something unique. The color is glorious! Spins a thick single very well.

[educational](#) [interesting](#) [funny](#) [agree](#) [disagree](#) [love](#)

[reply](#)



smokeyblue  
3607 posts (9)

posted 11 days ago (Saturday, August 20)  
reply to [tchemgrl's post #28](#)

30

Nothing plied yet. I was thinking of plying it with something else. However I will try a looser, for me, twist and see what happens. Maybe I will just give my singles to Jan to make an art piece. VBG

[educational](#) [interesting](#) [funny](#) [agree](#) [disagree](#) [love](#)

[edit](#) [delete](#) [reply](#)



janendicott  
13 posts (7)

posted 11 days ago (Sunday, August 21)  
reply to [smokeyblue's post #27](#)

1 reply 31

I just looked it up. Had to go by source breed/characteristics. Thought English Leicester is closest; staple, 7", 2 crimps/", luster high, bulk low... "This wool should be spun into a very bulky yarn, with 2 twists per inch in the finished yarn." Suggested uses... bulky outdoor jackets, hats and mittens. Very limited in use. Weaving excellent as un-spun for weft rugs. If spun fine with plenty of twist... excellent warp for floor rugs as would result in strong, shiny, smooth hard-wearing yarn. (Anne Field) For the low twist, did spin some then reverse spun to reduce twist before setting. Most just went with drop spindle for rustic feel.



## What do I get for my 20 bucks?

- The opportunity to be involved with a creative group of people dedicated to the art of spinning and many other textile arts.
- "me" time every month to do nothing more than spin, spin, spin... and chat.
- 10% group discount at JoAnne Fabrics.
- Facebook page to post newsworthy items and ask for help.
- Website with resources & archived newsletters, etc.
- Monthly digital newsletter with live links to features.

## Where does the money go?

- Rental for our wonderful space once a month, including Roc Day.
- The ability to pay a reservation fee to a professional teacher for workshops.
- Supporting Study Groups and Teams

## 10% Savings at JoAnn Fabrics all the time.

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.

1. Go to <http://www.joannfabric.com>
2. Scroll all the way down to the bottom of the page. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> column, 6<sup>th</sup> item down, you will see *Discount Cards*.
3. Click on those words then on the info page click on *Enroll Now*.
4. Fill out the form with the asked for information. Then click once more on *Enroll Now*.
5. You should be sent your discount card within 1-2 weeks.
6. To take advantage of the discount you will be asked to present BOTH cards at check-out.

## FIBERY EVENTS



### PA Endless Mountains Fiber Fest

Sept 10 & 11

### Dundee Scottish Festival

September 10, 10-7

### Finger Lakes Fiber Festival

September 17 & 18, Hemlock, NY

Vendors, workshops, contests, demos and more.

### S. Adirondack Fiber Festival

September 24 & 25

Washington County Fairgrounds  
Greenwich, NY

### Eastern Great Lakes Fiber Conf

October 7-10,

Chautauqua, NY

Workshops, classes, vendors

### NYS Sheep & Wool Festival

October 15 & 16, Rhinebeck, NY

The Big Shew!

### Fiber Festival of New England

Nov 5 & 6

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 Charlotte Sharkey, 5080 Perry City Road, Trumansburg, NY 14886. 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)?

**CELIA QUINN WORKSHOP INFORMATION**

When: Oct. 29 and 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Where: Hampton Inn and Suites, 26 River St., Cortland, NY

Time: **Be ready and set up by 9 am.** Workshop ends each day at 4 pm. One hour is allowed for lunch. You can bring your own or eat at one of the fast food places or restaurants close by. No food is available at the hotel. There will be coffee, tea, and water available.

**Student Material List for Oct 29 Spinning to Specification**

**Treadle Wheel** (avoid bulk type wheels. If you have a Louet, have one bobbin  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{2}{3}$  full to cut down on drag for fine yarns. Or have a fat core bobbin. Or put a piece of foam pipe insulation and a leader on the bobbin

Oil for wheel,	1 yard of any yarn to attach zip lock to your wrist
Ball winder or Kate for plying,	Dark sewing thread
Niddy Noddy,	Tape any kind
Unsharpened pencil,	Cardboard 8 1/2" X 11"
Ruler or inch gauge,	Magnifier (any kind)
Index cards (a few),	1 zip lock bag,
Knitting needles (selection of your typically used sizes)	
Quality fiber, a few ounces you are comfortable spinning	

2 or more skeins of yarn (all the same from a project you are working on). Measure the yardage of each skein and label. In class we will weigh them and compare them for margin of error between them (optional).

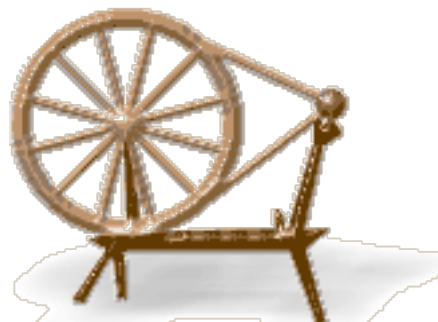
**Student Material List for Oct 30 Novelty Yarns**

Treadle wheel	3-4 bobbins
Oil	Hand carders
Niddy Noddy	
Zip lock bag (1 small)	Length of yarn to hang zip lock bag from your wrist
Index cards (12 -15)	Fine point permanent marker or ballpoint pen
Ball winder (optional)	Scissors


*Detached* lazy kate or a sturdy box and thin knitting needles to make a kate if yours is on your wheel

Plastic lid or shallow dish, or a little aluminum tart pans for use in stringing beads

Colored markers (as many as you like for decorating a paper yarn)







*Photo Copyright Christine Johnson, 2009-2011*

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**Christine Johnson**  
[johnson.chris123@yahoo.com](mailto:johnson.chris123@yahoo.com)



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Sat/Sun 11-3 or by appt.**

## For Sale:

### 1- Lendrum components:

Regular Flyer \$25

Fast Flyer \$25

Lazy Kate and 3 bobbins \$30

### 2. Jean Warholc spinning equipment:

Yarn winder with heart handle: \$50

Yarn winder (needs base) \$20

Swift with handwritten label Ross-Hill  
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Mini great wheel (wheel only) \$20

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Please support our members.*



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315-246-1178 [mflowers@wells.edu](mailto:mflowers@wells.edu)

## *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 acting treasurer:  
Sharon Gombas, 177 Salmon Creek Rd., Lansing, NY  
14882.

Send the ad to the newsletter editor, [Susan S. sarabasha@earthlink.net](mailto: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.



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*The Black Sheep Handspinners Guild was formed in 1973 and has been meeting to share spinning fellowship and techniques ever since. We welcome all spinners at all levels.*

BLACK SHEEP  
HANDSPINNER'S  
NEWSLETTER

311 Tupper Road  
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