



Keep warm and share some fiber!

December 2007

EWES news

www.gvhg.org

A proud presentation of the

GENESEE VALLEY HANDSPINNERS GUILD

President's Message

Tina Turner

I can't believe that the year is almost over. December is here already, which means we will have our annual holiday fiber exchange! So bring 8 ounces of some lovely fiber, wrap it up pretty and bring it to guild disguised in a brown paper bag. Then the fun begins! Val Gropp will be our hostess for the event so I'm sure much fun will be had! Anyone who brings a package will go home with a package.

Remember that the December colors for the calendar are red, green and gold. The hope is to have the calendar ready by the January meeting, during which we will hold our annual "auction" (raffle). So go through your stash and excavate any items that are ready for someone else to enjoy. Tickets are 5 for \$1.

Keep coming up with ideas for next year's programs, or workshops. The more ideas we have the better for everyone!

Happy Spinning!

Membership Reminder

Our membership year runs from January through December, so it's renewal time!

If you haven't yet renewed, please do so at your earliest convenience.

Events Calendar

Date	Event
December 15	Holiday Fiber Exchange
January 19	Auction

*Except where noted, the Guild's regular meetings are held:
Every Third Saturday of the month
10:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.
First Presbyterian Church,
70 East Main St., Victor, NY.*

Come join us!

Editor's Corner

Courtney Richards



First, my apologies for the (very) late newsletter and lack of paper copy this month. I have not been able to completely fulfill my editorial duties for a number of reasons.

In that light, I'd like all of you to know that it has been my pleasure to serve as your newsletter editor for the past year. Unfortunately, this is my final issue. My circumstances are such that I am unable to continue in this role for the foreseeable future.

It is my hope that someone will quickly step up and keep our newsletter running smoothly. I will assist as much as I am able to.

Happy Holidays and a Joyous New Year!

December Birthdays

Valerie DeVries – 4
 Deborah Jordan – 4
 Christine O'Brien – 4
 Beth Ann MacVittie – 5
 Sue Sayre – 7
 Kathy Zodl – 7
 Pat Halpen – 9
 Sarah Reilly – 12
 Susan Sarabasha – 13
 Jean Warholic – 13
 Carol LaBorie – 17
 Karen Petito – 24
 Jim Johnson – 26
 Nancy McDougall – 28
 Serena Rachels – 29
 Bev Hazelton – 31
 Don Miller – 31

***Lots of birthdays this month!
 Best wishes to all!***

2008 Calendar Project

Don't forget to bring in items of the month to be photographed for the 2008 calendar!

January	white/silver/lt. blue	July	red/white/blue
February	pink/red	August	Caribbean blues
March	green	September	Fiber Fest picture
April	yellow	October	orange/black
May	purple/lilac	November	harvest colors
June	flower colors	December	gold/red/green

And now for something completely different...

Serena Rachels

Here is a web site showing a glass spinning wheel. That's right, a spinning wheel made entirely of glass!

http://andypaikoglass.com/sculpture/the_spinning_wheel/

GVHG Board

Position	Member	Phone	Email
President	Tina Turner	585-473-1265	turner@frontiernet.net
Vice President	Joan Berner	585-352-0852	jskberner@eznet.net
Secretary	Denise Syed	585-935-7121	denisesyed@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Pat Bernhard	585-624-5429	pbernhar@libraryweb.org
Church Liaison	Wendy Caffee	585-398-3079	largewhitedogs@aol.com
Fiber Festival	Anne Marie Graham	585-323-9556	aricc1@rochester.rr.com
Educational Coordinator	Stefanie Ecker	716-432-0397	lotus585@cs.com
Website & Library Coordinator	Carolyn Rivello	585-381-4309	daverivello@earthlink.net
School Age Education	Susan Sommers	585-352-5132	susan.sommers@juno.com
Membership	Diane Seely	585-889-3562	dseely@frontiernet.net
Warm Extremities	Jen Adams	585-624-4156	adamsclan@localnet.com
Newsletter Editor	(open)		
Demonstrations	Kristen O'Hearn	585-723-5996	kjzohearn@aol.com
Fleece Study (author/contact)	Linda Williamson Hodgkins	585-377-0588	lobstahcook@yahoo.com

Kudos and Miscellany

Willem Bolan Memorial Blanket

Alanna Wilcox

Willem Bolan was the son of my husband's bandmate. Born in January 2007 and diagnosed with infant leukemia two months later, he passed away in early October. I am creating a memorial blanket to present to Willem's parents on his birthday

I will be collecting squares for the blanket at the December guild meeting.

Squares should be 6" x 6", in a neutral color (beige, tan, brown) or baby blue/pastel green. The square can be knitted/crocheted/woven in any pattern using worsted weight yarn and must be machine-washable.

If you would like to attach a tag containing a message for the family, that would be awesome.

Warm Extremities

Jen Adams

A BIG thank-you to all who spun, knitted, crocheted, or donated fiber to our Warm Extremities program this season!!!! We had 50+ hats, numerous scarves, sets with hat + accessory(ies), mittens, mitts, neckwarmers, socks, 2 baby sets, 2 sweaters, a poncho, and 7 shawls. I will let you know at December's meeting about where everything went.

A reminder that this project can be worked on all year long—please keep up the great work! If everyone made one item per month (or every other month) just think of how many things we would have to give away! There are many who can benefit from the warmth and caring we share through our crafts. Again, **THANK YOU!**

Guild Farm Display Thank You

Linda Geiger

I hope everyone had the opportunity to see the Farm Display that was on display in the Commercial Building at the Festival this year.

Amy Klee had an idea to promote guild members' farms. Our guild photographer, Kris Shanahan, traveled from farm to farm taking pictures. Amy used the pictures to create a wonderful display.

A BIG Thank You to Amy and Kris for taking the time to help promote the small farms of today. You both did an excellent job.

Patrick Greene Carding Machine

Ray Rossiter

Will sell for \$900. Contact me at 216-5406 or see me at the December meeting.

This is the Supercard's "little sister" with fantastic carding action for all fibers.

- Handles all fibers with unique carding cloth plus choice of speed ratios.
- Three drum ratios, easily changed. Two ratio model also available.
- Internal motor, with all-fiber spirally wrapped teeth on the main cylinder.
- No join groove on the infeed as found in many lower quality carders.
- Steady motor speed that allows fiber feeding techniques with both hands.
- Slowest infeed speed option keeps fine crimp fibers from stretching, snapping back and making noils.
- Does not need table clamps.
- Tool set includes doffer stick, cleaning brush, batt lifter, hex wrenches, padlock and the essential Burnishing Tool.
- Extensive operating manual with many helpful carding tips.

Spinning on the Road

Linda Williamson Hodgkins

November started off with a bang and a blast! Celia Quinn, teacher and fiber artist from Alaska, came to town and gave a 3-day workshop. The workshop was held November 2-4 at Camp Arrowhead in Pittsford. The class size was defined as 20 students. Guild members in attendance were Tina, AnneMarie, Linda, Ray, Alanna, Serena, Pat, Ron and Lorraine. Seek them out at Guild to share their experience with you. We also had others join us from the Weavers Guild.

Lunch was catered every noon time by Jeffrey Scheer of Scheer Delights Catering (email: jeff@scheerdelights.com)

We devoured home cooking at its best. Entrées included: grilled chicken, garlic/lemon pork tenderloin, butternut squash soup, and Filo-topped chicken pot pie. There was a field greens salad with pears, walnuts, and blue cheese with yummy balsamic dressing offered on the side. We had roasted winter squash and fresh cooked green beans. Dessert was simple. Choices were: homemade peanut butter cookies, chocolate chip cookies, and chocolate frosted brownies. There was always plenty of hot coffee, herbal teas, cold soda, and bottle water available throughout the day.

Day One

We got to know each other and our wheels. We set up our notebooks to receive the 32+ fiber samples we were going to discuss, prep, spin, and label that day. The samples included merino wool, silk, cotton, flax, angora, alpaca and llama. We all received a spinning hook to use. Spinning with the hook brought us back to spinning basics. It was both a fun and useful lesson. I love my FREE hook!

Celia provided bits of lecture and demos on hand carding, flicking, Indigo Hound 5 pitch combs, and diz use. We learned about Scotch tension, Irish tension, double drive, flyers, bobbins, brake bands, and drive ratios. It was truly informative and allowed us all to use our wheels more efficiently. Celia had lots of woven and knitted garments on display. She also had sample yarns on mounting boards. I liked all the small folders she had with her visits to a Musk Ox farm, Cotton Fields and cotton harvesting, and suppliers of handy tools such as wool combs and plying kates. Celia brought lots of bags of fiber to purchase as well as books on spinning and silk worms.

Day Two

After an intense first day of spinning we were ready for what was to come—32 more samples. We worked on mohair, yak, goat, horsehair, flax, bamboo, hemp, ramie, camel, cashmere, buffalo, and QIVIUT!

We learned long draw and spinning from the fold techniques, twists per inch, and wraps per inch. And we practiced. We talked a little about Mabel Ross and “S” and “Z” spinning. We learned how to spin a balanced yarn and about setting the twist. Celia showed us her knitted samples that illustrated some of the pros and cons of the techniques. Celia dressed a distaff with flax and we listened to her lecture while the distaff was passed around so that we could all try spinning flax from the distaff. What fun!

The afternoon was all about cotton. We borrowed some brass Takli spindles from Celia. (we were able to purchase them later from her for \$10). She gave us an Article on Takli spindles. Celia says she purchases her spindles from India because they are well made and finely balanced. The lecture material was on all the different kinds of cotton. I had no idea that there were natural green and brown cottons. Her pictures of the cotton fields were beautiful. We learned how to spin this short fiber and how to make cotton punis. She also provided a handout on “adjusting your wheel to spin cotton.” Then there was lots and lots of spinning and practicing.

Day 3

Today we should have been well-rested with the extra hour we received from the end daylight savings time—ha, ha! We had about 17 more samples to discuss, prep, and spin.

It was silk day and I was so excited-still! We learned about Bombyx, Tussah, silk hankies, silk caps, cocoons, dyeing, degumming, combed and carded silk, and thrown silk. Then came manmade fibers: rayon, acrylic, polyester, ingeo, nylon, tencel, and soy silk. Lastly we worked with 50/50 blends of: Merino/Bombyx silk, camel down/tussah silk, and cashmere/tussah silk.

At the end of the day we had some time to purchase fiber and books. We reviewed Celia's source books on combs, niddy noddies, plying kates etc.

We jotted down Celia's email for questions and correspondence: quinnspins@yahoo.com

The day ended with feelings of time and money well spent. We headed home while Celia headed to NJ to rendezvous with another class of fiber enthusiasts. Note: She did happen to mention that she may be doing a class in Syracuse in April 2008. If you have the chance, take her class—it was well worth the investment.

Ads and Other Events

Play with Yarn—Westside, 2nd Fridays, 7-9 p.m.

Elizabeth Osborn

Bring your spinning, knitting and/or crochet to the Ogden Presbyterian Church and spend some time with like-minded people. The next few meeting dates are November 9, December 14, and January 11, 2008, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Directions: 2400 S. Union Street. From 490W take the 531W exit (this leads to Union Street). The church is one long block south of 531 on Union Street on the left side, at the corner of Union Street and Ogden Center Road.

Fiber Classes at All Things Art

Sara Burnett

Here are some of my upcoming classes at All Things Art. Hope to see you there!

Complex Felted Bags: Double-Pouch Bag with Multiple Pockets and a Wall—January 23, 24, 25

Ethnic Knitting: Expressions in Needle Art—Six Saturdays beginning January 26, 10:30-1:30

Nuno Felt Yardage and Scarves—February 20, 21, 22

All Things Art
65 Main Street
Canandaigua, NY

email: sjburnett@frontiernet.net
home phone: 585-554-3540
cell phone: 585-455-2912

Roc Day Celebration in Ithaca

Ruth Allen (ruthmumsie@wildblue.net)

The Black Sheep Handspinner's Guild of Ithaca, New York invites you to join us for our Roc Day celebration!

Saturday, January 12th, 2008
10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Varna Community Center on Route 366 near
Ithaca

Programs, Games & Vendors
Raffle Door Prizes & Spin-In!
Special Children's Activity Corner!
Buffet (no charge)

For further information, please call Jim Johnson at
607-564-7178

Weaving & Fiber Arts Center

Adult and Youth Classes at Village Gate
Weaving - Spinning - Knitting - Felting
Dyeing - Shibori - Kumihimo - Temari
Marbling - Papermaking
Beading - PMC jewelry

302 North Goodman, Rochester, NY 14607
585-461-1770

www.weaversguildofrochester.org

Genesee Valley Handspinners Guild Membership Application

- Full Membership** \$12/year Includes attendance at all meetings, receipt of *Ewe's News*, GVHG's newsletter, advance information for special workshops, the annual *Finger Lakes Fiber Festival*, access to GVHG's library, and the camaraderie of other hand spinners!
- Family Membership** \$17/year
- Newsletter Only** \$7/year —

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Birthday (mm/dd): _____

I would like to receive my newsletter by: E-mail -or- USPS

E-Mail: _____

What spinning wheel(s) do you own? _____

How long have you been spinning? _____ Would you like to demonstrate spinning? _____

Would you like to be a mentor? _____

What other fiber arts or hobbies do you do? _____

Do you have a favorite fiber(s)? _____

Do you own any fiber animals? _____

Would you like to be involved with planning the Fiber Fest? _____

Please make your check or Money Order payable to
Genesee Valley Handspinners Guild
and mail along with this form to:
 GVHG Membership
 C/O Diane Seely
 800 Chili Avenue Ext.
 Churchville, NY 14428

