



WWH OFFICERS 2012-2013

President

Jill Tew
801.897-6318

Vice Presidents

Cathie Delewski
435-645-9514
Kathleen Fisher
435-615-1738

Treasurer/Librarian

Julie Davies
801.

Newsletter Editor

Shawn Clarke
801-707-8719

Assistant Editor

Annie Toy
801-949-8583

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 6-16
Utah State Fair

September 15
Spinning Saturday
Julie Davies
7335 Sandpiper Rd
Eagle Mountain, UT

September 19
WWH meeting
Pioneer Craft House

September 21-23
Navajo Weaving
Workshop
Call Sonya Campana

President's Message

Welcome to a new year of the Wasatch Woolpack Handspinners. It has been a busy summer of spinning and retreating and I am ready for more fun! I am so excited to be the President of our group this year. Along with the other Board members, I have so many ideas and things I want to share with you, but I discovered too soon there isn't enough time to squish in everything I want to do. But, we will do as much as we can, so we are working on some fun meetings where we can learn, share and teach together. Our September meeting will be a fun time to share our experiences from Great Basin Fiber Arts Festival and the Utah State Fair (and our many prizes, we hope) as well as an opportunity to help a local fiber producer answer questions about what characteristics a hand spinner wants in a fleece. Everyone who wants to will have an opportunity to spin some fiber and give feedback so be sure to bring a wheel or spindle to the meeting (like you wouldn't anyway?).

Here are some things to look forward to this coming year:

- The Dye Exchange will be in March and the theme is My Favorite Thing. Whether you dye with your favorite color, method or fiber, it doesn't matter, but we will want to hear something about why it is your favorite (I will even sing the song for you if you need some ideas). More information about how the exchange works can be found on our website, www.wasatchwoolpack.org , so check it out or ask someone if you have questions.
- I think challenges are fun and I look forward to doing them for lots of reasons, but mostly because it gives me an excuse to spin, knit, crochet or otherwise be creative. This year we will be having two challenges (because we can) and also some other fun surprises. I will be talking more about them in our upcoming meeting and the next newsletter, so stay tuned.
- Did you know that 2013 marks the 15th year the Wasatch Woolpack Handspinners has been its own group? Do you know how it all began? Do you know what activities we have done over the years? I know some of you do, but we also have a lot of new members who haven't been around for the fun. I think this gives us the perfect opportunity to collect stories, newsletters, pictures and other information about our group and compile a 15th anniversary history. Our bylaws direct us to do a history every

President's Message Continued

year for the library, but I am not sure how many histories I have seen in there so this will be a great chance for you to help with the collection by sharing your stories, pictures and memories. I look forward to hearing from everyone, both new and seasoned members, who have helped make up our group.

Our Board is excited to share the fun things we have planned so we hope to see many previous and new friends at our meetings. There are some of you we haven't seen for a long time and new ones we are waiting to meet. I know life get busy and stuff happens last minute, but we hope you can find some time on the 3rd Wednesday of the month to be with us. Even if you can't be to the whole meeting, it would be nice to see you for a little bit. We are still meeting at the Pioneer Craft House in the Great Room starting at 6:30pm for socializing with the meeting starting at 7:00pm. Those in attendance will be rewarded. Dues are only \$25 (unless you want to give us more) and can be mailed, paid at a meeting, or paid through PayPal (see the membership tab on our website for more details on how to do this). I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on September 19th! Happy Spinning until then!

-Jill

September's Hands-on

Everyone be sure to bring your wheels and/or spindles this month! You've got a little spinning to do for a good cause!

We have the opportunity to help a relatively new wool grower, and teach him what handspinners want. I met Stanley O'Larey when I was demo-ing at Thanksgiving Point. He's retired and has some land near Payson, and although he describes himself as a city boy, he wanted to use his land for something. So he did some research and decided to raise sheep. He chose Suffolk because they're a good breed for both meat and wool. A few years into his project, he has a small herd of Suffolk, with a couple of Merinos he's been given (which did a little breeding with the Suffolk, unbeknownst to him). He's been enjoying the meat and found places to sell it, but the wool is a different story. He found that the mills pay so little that it's not even worth the gas to haul fleeces up to Salt Lake. His granddaughter has been trying to learn to spin, but there's more wool than she can use. So he's trying to figure out what to do with it. He doesn't want to just throw it away.

So he brought me two big feed sacks full of wool. He wants to know if handspinners would buy it. He has done all his own shearing, but he doesn't yet know about keeping whole fleeces together, or about skirting. (He's got a lot to learn, but he's a quick study.) There is a lot of vegetable matter in there, but the wool seems really nice. It's not too short, or too coarse, like I hear people say about Suffolk.

I'm in the process of getting the wool sorted, washed and carded. I will bring it to the September meeting. I would like all of you to spin some bits, and tell Mr. O'Larey what you think of his wool. Anyone who wants to can also take some wool home with them. This is a great chance to play with some Down Breed wool and practice your woolen spinning. And your feedback will be very useful to Mr. O'Larey. He will greatly appreciate your help.

--Danielle Jones

New Member Introduction- Eleni Roberts

I started spinning several years ago and then was not able to continue. I just bought a new Ashford Kiwi spinning wheel and am excited to get back on track. My husband and I just bought our first alpaca from Blue Moon Ranch where he will continue to live. This is a dream we have had for many years and are finally making our first steps to get started. I love the entire process of washing, picking, carding and spinning the fiber. I am a knitter and crocheter and would like to learn how to weave. I look forward to seeing people that I was getting acquainted with as well as meeting new friends!

--Eleni

Suffolk – Down Family

Currently one of the most common sheep breeds in North America as they are raised for their meat.

Mature weights for Suffolk rams range from 250 to 350 pounds, ewe weights vary from 180 to 250 pounds. Fleece weights from mature ewes are between four and eight pounds with a yield of 50 to 62 percent. The fleeces are considered medium wool type with a fiber diameter of 25 to 33 microns and a spinning count of 48 to 58. The staple length of Suffolk fleece ranges from 2 to 3.5 inches.

Locks are white, dense, blocky and resilient but lofty and with a spiral crimp. The wool lacks luster but dyes nicely. It is recommended that drafting should be kept light and spun into a medium-thick yarn with a moderate twist to keep the loft and spring. Not noted for felting.

The following website sells Suffolk wool yarn. Her self-striping watermelon yarn is particularly popular.

<http://www.freshislefibers.com/shop/index.php?act=viewProd&productId=164>

--Shawn Clarke

Thank You Annie Toy for agreeing to become Assistant Newsletter Editor for the coming year! As you can see I need your help!

We will graciously accept all written articles or ideas that you have.

Thank you.

– your Newsletter Editor

Please remember to pay your dues. The membership form need only be filled out if there are changes to be made in address, phone number or email. Changes should be sent to Julie Davies.
Thank you.



We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.wasatchwoolpack.org



Shawn Clarke
2912 Gateshead Dr
West Valley City, UT 84120