



# THE WOOLPACK WATCH

A Newsletter of the Wasatch Woolpack Handspinners

**August 2014**  
**Volume 33, Issue 6**

## **OFFICERS**

**2012-2013**

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## **NEXT MEETING**

Aug 20, 2014, 7:00pm  
(mingling at 6:30)

This month we'll be at

### **Winchester Park**

1200 W Winchester St  
(6400 S)

On the Jordan River  
Parkway

[map/driving directions](#)

## **Spinning Saturdays**

Contact

[Kira.spins@gmail.com](mailto:Kira.spins@gmail.com)

if you are willing to  
host one for us.

## President's Message

Can you believe we've actually reached August? We had such an amazing time at Retreat and now it's time for the Great Basin Fiber Arts Fair and the Utah State Fair. I hope you all have several skeins and handmade items to enter in each. Please see [www.greatbasinfiberartsfair.org](http://www.greatbasinfiberartsfair.org) or [www.utahstatefair.com](http://www.utahstatefair.com) for more information on entering. I hope to see a lot more entries from our guild members this year. It's a great way to share our love of fiber with the community and there are prizes for the winners. Who doesn't like a prize?

Just a friendly reminder we have reached the end of our year and it's time to pay dues for the 2014-15 year. The deadline to pay to avoid the new penalty is the September meeting. Please contact Angela Shelby or use the PayPal link on our website, [www.wasatchwoolpack.org](http://www.wasatchwoolpack.org), to get your dues paid. Our monthly guild meetings are open to everyone, members and guests. Member privileges include but are not limited to Spinning Saturdays, the Christmas Party, discounted workshops, access to the guild library and Retreat. I don't want anyone to miss out because they didn't pay dues. Regular dues are still \$25, newsletter only out of towners are \$15 and there is a new family rate of \$45 applicable to immediate family members living in your home.

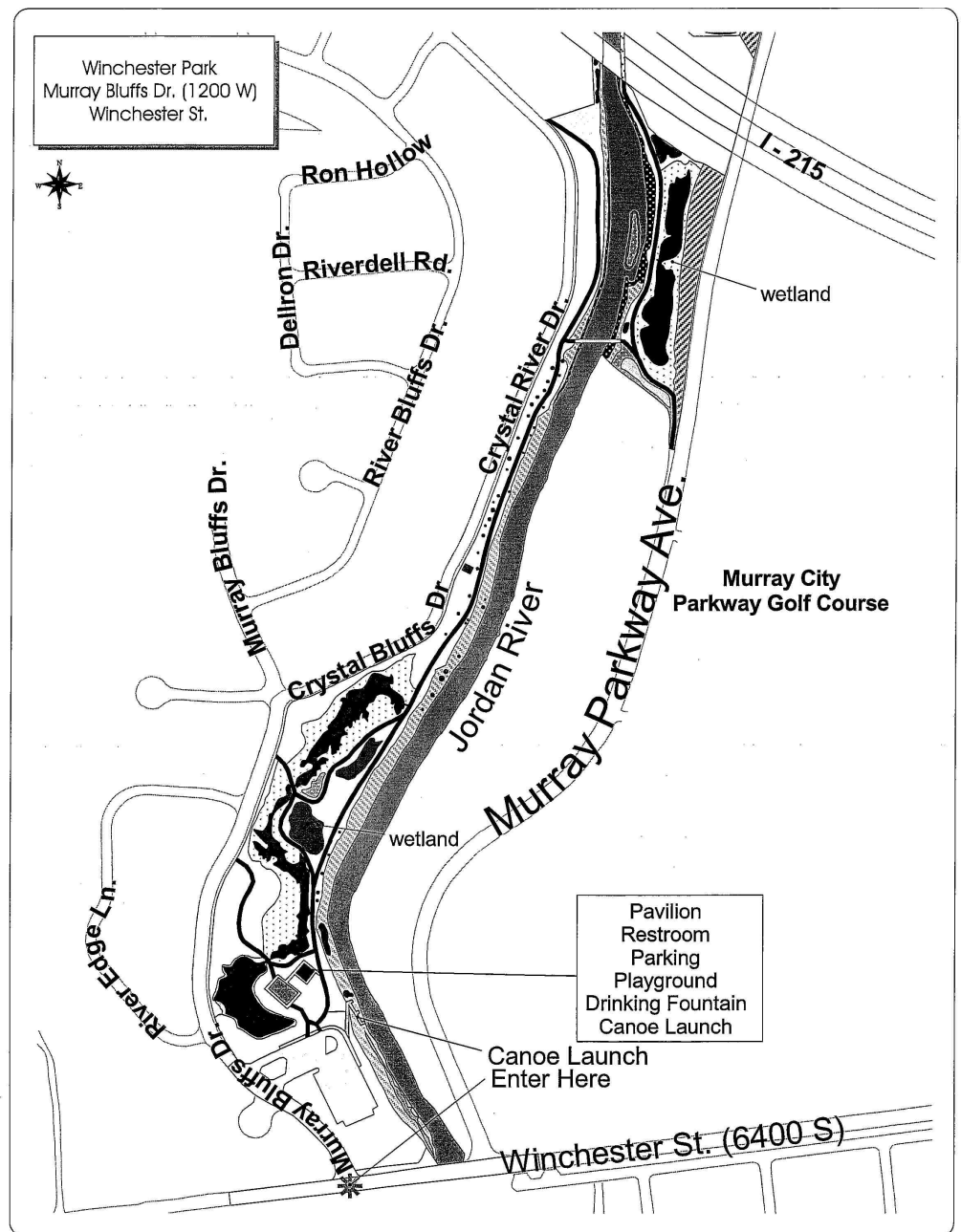
It's also time to say goodbye to being President and hello to a new Board. As I look back on the last two years, I'm happy and sad. I'm happy we have such great people to lead us into the next year and sad to not be at the head of all the fun. I know Cheryl, Jenny, Angela and Cyndi have great things planned for the next year and they are going to do an awesome job. I am looking forward to spinning more at meetings instead of giving announcements. :) Thank you for all your support during a time of change for the guild and I look forward to seeing you all at our meetings and activities.

Happy spinning!

Jill T.

***Join us on Wednesday, August 20th at 6:30 pm for a fun evening of spinning outdoors at Winchester Park. The Guild will provide sandwich fixings. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. And bring your spinning wheel or other project! We'll also have the swearing-in of officers as we pass the symbols of office and the responsibilities that go with them from our current officers to our new officers.***

Driving directions:  
Take I-15 to 7200 S. Go west on 7200 S. Turn RIGHT at the 1st stop light. Go to 6400 S (Winchester Rd) and turn LEFT. Winchester Park will be just after Jordan River on the Right. ([click here](#) to see it on google maps)



## Minutes from July 16, 2014 Meeting

If you want to be a judge for the Salt Lake County Fair, please talk to Malynda Allen.

Utah State Fair is September 4-14 and Great Basin Fiber Arts Fair is August 22-23. Get your entries ready. If you enter your items at Great Basin, for an extra dollar (to cover the entry fee) they will also be entered at the State Fair and picked up.

Retreat is July 31- August 3 Contact Judy Jackson if you still want to come and haven't signed up yet.

Remember dues need to be paid by the September meeting in order to avoid the penalty. See Angela Shelby or send them through PayPal.

The August meeting has a different location. Going back to an old tradition, we are having a potluck in the park. Please see the flyer for more information.

We are considering a group field trip to Stitches West in Santa Clara, CA being held February 19-22, 2015. This is an effort "to promote awareness and understanding of the art of handspinning and related activities, and to give spinners a sense of community and the opportunity to share, learn, educate, study, compete, and cooperate for their mutual benefit." (WWH bylaws). The guild would pay for the hotel rooms with 4 people to a room. Those who wish to attend would carpool and share gas expenses. You would be responsible for your own food and shopping costs. This would be open to paying members only. Please let Cheryl Stratton know as soon as possible if you are interested in going. You can go to [www.knittinguniverse.com](http://www.knittinguniverse.com) for more information.

For our meeting we did spinning and socializing. Thanks to Annie Toy for another great hospitality table. We also did show and tell, but I don't have my list of those people who shared with me now, so I will put it in the newsletter next month.



## A Look At Merino Sheep

by Carolyn Leigh Ferro

The foundation for Merino is thought to have been introduced to Spain from North Africa around the 12th century. Between the 13th and 14th centuries Spanish breeders introduced English breeds. It was after this that these sheep became known by the Merino name. Prior to the 18th century, all the Merino sheep were owned by King Ferdinand or his relations. It was a criminal act to export Merino sheep out of Spain at this time, punishable by death. This continued until after the Napoleonic wars in the early 1800's.

The term 'Merino' does not classify just one breed of sheep. There are dozens of strains and types of Merino sheep around the world. Each type is certainly in the fine wool category, and overall they share many characteristics, such as low micron count, small crimp structure, and good felting capability. However, the lineage of any particular Merino fleece will determine what one can most likely expect when purchasing a Merino fleece.

Merino is classified by fineness. The Ultra Fine category is the finest wool fiber in the world, with micron counts at 16 and under. Superfine wool is designated by a micron count between

17.6 and 18.5. Fine wool fiber diameter is 18.6 to 19.5. Fine-medium wool is 19.6 to 20.5. Medium wool is typically what one finds in standard commercial Merino top with micron counts of 20.6 to 22.5. Strong wool is 22.6 and up. This classification mostly finds itself in clothing, blended with man-made fibers to produce cheaper wool fashions and in the industrial textile market.

Tasmanian Merino, from the Australian island of Tasmania, are known for their fine micron count, high yield, and are a 'whiter white' than other Merino.

Saxon Merino is another Australian Merino. The breed thrives in higher rainfall and cooler areas. The Saxon Merino is the smallest, physically, of the Merinos, and likewise has the finest fiber. Several hundred years ago, Spanish Merino were bred by Prince Xavier of Saxony. In 1786, French King Louis XVI bred a Rambouillet stud by the name of Emperor with his stock. Emperor possessed latent English Longwool genes and this contribution played a huge role in the development of the Australian Saxon Merino. In the 1800's the Merino breeding stock



was dispersed. Some were exported to the Americas, some to Australia. Like the Tasmanian Merino, Saxon has a low micron count, but is creamier in color.

Peppin Merino is also an Australian Merino. Wool classifiers will refer to an Australian Merino as a 'Peppin Merino', or a 'non-Peppin Merino. This strain was started by the Peppin brothers in the Riviera in the 1860's, bringing together the Spanish Merino and the French Merino. This breed thrives in the dry inland areas of Australia, but also does well in the moister areas, partially due to the high lanolin content that protects the wool.

South Australian Merino is the largest animal of the Merino types. It generally has less skin wrinkles, and a larger fiber diameter than most Merinos.

Type A Merino, now a rarer conservation breed, was developed in Vermont. The goal was to breed a Merino, a small sheep, to have a larger skin surface area. To achieve this, they bred this Merino for greater skin wrinkles, already a Merino characteristic. These wrinkles, while achieving the goal, made this sheep even

harder to shear.

Sharlea is a registered name for a specific type of Saxon Merino. These sheep are raised under very careful, precise conditions, resulting in the finest micron wool found anywhere. The fiber diameter of Sharlea Merinos is between 12 and 15.5 microns, making this wool finer than most cashmere. Almost all Sharlea wool goes to high grade textile manufacturing, although occasionally some makes its way into spinners hands.

South African Merino is an example of Merino that is on the higher end of the micron count. The staple length is also longer as compared to finer Merino. South African Merino can be found in top form mostly, rather than raw fleece, and can be easier to spin as a beginning spinner than the Merino top that is typically found commercially. Development of the South African Merino began about 200 years ago and owes part of its genetics to the Australian Merino.

General Breed Statistics:

Average fleece weight: 6 to 14 pounds

Staple length: 2 to 4 inches

Micron count: 18 to 24

At a glance:

August 22-23	Great Basin Fiber Arts Fair at Salt Lake County Equestrian Park
August 28-30	Enter items in the Utah State Fair
September 4-14	Utah State Fair
February 19-22	Stitches West, Santa Clara, CA

## UTAH STATE FAIR -- Entry Information

### HOME ARTS DEPARTMENT

#### **Entries Received:**

Sections I & II

Thursday, Aug 28 (10 am-5 pm), Friday, Aug 29 (10 am-7 pm) & Saturday, Aug 30 (10 am-5 pm)

Sections III, IV, V, VI, & VII

Wednesday, Sept 3 (8:00 a.m. to noon only)

**Entry Charge (per entry):**

Sewing \$1.00

Foods .50

**Judging Dates: September 2 & 3 (applicable sections only)****Entries Released: Monday, Sept 15 (10 am-7 pm) & Tuesday, Sept 16 (10 am-5 pm)**

Exhibitors must read and abide by Living Arts General Rules.

**Entry Information**

1. No entry will be received in the Fair Office prior to the entry dates. Entries must be taken to the Zion Building.
2. No articles will be released prior to release dates.
3. Exhibitors may enter only one (1) item per lot number. Similar or like items may not be entered in different classes. Items should be entered in the class where they most fit.
4. Every exhibit must remain intact until specified release dates. Exhibitors are not allowed to help themselves in removing an entry. Assistants are provided for this purpose. The Fair is not responsible for articles left after release dates.
5. Only articles listed will be accepted for entry.
6. All articles in the Needlework and Home Handicraft classes must have been completed within the past two years. All exhibits in the Home Canning classes must have been prepared within the past year. ANY ARTICLE WHICH HAS BEEN ENTERED IN A PREVIOUS UTAH STATE FAIR WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
7. Entries are limited to residents of Utah.
8. All entries must be the work of the exhibitor and shown in his or her name. There is no age limit. Original designs should be so labeled.
9. The Supervisor reserves the right to refuse entries offered in case there is anything objectionable or not fit for judging or if the entry requires more space than can be allowed. No unfinished work will be accepted for entry. All articles must be clean, pressed, and if necessary, blocked.
10. If sending articles by mail or express, address them to the Home Arts Dept., Utah State Fair, 155 N. 1000 W., Salt Lake City, UT 84116. Sender's name and address should be plainly written upon the inside. All packages must be prepaid. Directions for return shipment must be provided. Articles entered will be returned at the expense of the exhibitor. All packages must arrive by August 30th.
11. Exhibitor's suggestions are welcomed and, where possible, classes may be added at popular request for the following year.
12. Unless specified by the exhibitor, the supervisor will classify articles.
13. All articles in this department must have either hand or machine sewing.
14. Soiled articles will be disqualified.
15. Items smaller than 9" must be mounted on fabric covered cardboard that is 2-3" larger than the item.

**Judging**

1. The judges are instructed not to award premiums unless the articles are deemed worthy of merit. If any article is not worthy of the first premium, the judges may award second or no premium, according to their judgement.
2. Extra prizes may be awarded only at the discretion of the judges and with prior approval from the State Fair Administration.
3. Supervisors and home arts employees and judges may enter articles for display only.
4. Identical articles entered in home arts as well as fine arts or creative arts, entered by the same person,

are subject to disqualification with no refund of entry charge.

5. Sweepstakes winners will not receive 1st place ribbon and/or money on same item.
6. Premiums will be paid as shown for that Class unless otherwise specified.
7. Judges decisions are final.

## **Entry Categories**

### **Exhibitors may not enter in more than one department in the same class.**

DEPARTMENT HA1 - PROFESSIONAL: For competition purposes, a person who teaches sewing, creates patterns, is a shop owner/manager, or who makes over one-half of their income sewing, must enter as a professional and be judged accordingly. One article will be chosen and awarded a Sweepstakes Prize of a trophy and \$25.00 if judges deem worthy.

DEPARTMENT HA2 - ADVANCED: For the more experienced person, but that does not meet the criteria for a professional. Six articles will be chosen and awarded a Sweepstakes Prize of a trophy and \$20.00 if judges deem worthy.

DEPARTMENT HA3 - AMATEUR: Six articles will be chosen and awarded a Sweepstakes Prize of a trophy and \$20.00 if judges deem worthy.

DEPARTMENT HA4 - SENIOR CITIZENS 62 AND OLDER will be given special consideration in all classes. One article will be chosen and awarded Sweepstakes Prize of a trophy & \$15.00 if judges deem worthy.

DEPARTMENT HA5 - YOUTH (16 and under who do not desire to enter regular classes) All lot numbers in the Needlework and Home Handicraft classes will apply to this division. One article will be chosen and awarded a Sweepstakes Prize of a trophy & \$15.00 if judges deem worthy.

DEPARTMENT HA6 - DISABLED INDIVIDUALS may enter a special class and premiums will be paid accordingly. Disability must be relevant to the entry. If disability is not declared, entry will be judged in the Amateur Division. One article will be chosen and awarded Sweepstakes Prize of a trophy & \$15.00 if judges deem worthy.

## **Grand Prize Award**

One awarded - all categories competing - \$30 and Trophy

## **SECTION 1 - NEEDLEWORK AND HOME HANDICRAFT**

The following score card will serve as a general guide to exhibitors of needlework and other home handicrafts in preparing their exhibits and will be followed by the judges in making awards.

1. Workmanship	up to 40
2. Design - beauty and originality	up to 20
3. Suitability of articles to purpose	up to 15
4. Harmony of colors and material	up to 15
5. Cleanliness - pressing and blocking	up to 10
6. Bonus Points - Original Design	up to 25
TOTAL SCORE	up to 125

## **CLASS Y - YARN**

All skeins should weigh at least 2 ounces and be properly tied in 4 places with self yarn. All skeins should contain at least 50% of fiber type named in lot. Judges reserve the right to change lot numbers if appropriate.

### **Handspun Yarn - Skein**

1st - \$4      2nd - \$2      3rd - Ribbon    4th - Ribbon

### **Cellulose - 50% or more**

1. Singles
2. 2-Ply
3. Manufactured fibers (acrylic, rayon, ecospun, soysilk, etc)

### **Wool - 50% or more**

4. Singles
5. Fine Breed Plied (e.g. merino, targhee)
6. Medium Breed Plied (e.g. jacob, romney)
7. Longwool / Double Coat Breed Plied (e.g. churro, lincoln)

### **Other - 50% or more of animal named**

8. Camelid
9. Goat
10. Rabbit
11. Silk
12. Other

### **Handspun Fancy Yarn**

13. Carded Blends of 2 or more fibers
14. Plied Blends of 2 or more fiber
15. Special Technique yarns (e.g. boucle, corespun)

### **Spinning for a Purpose (Must state purpose)**

16. Skein plus 4" x 4" finished sample

### **Handspun Yarn - Finished Article**

#### **Handknitting, Crochet, etc. (100% Handspun)**

1st - \$6      2nd - \$4      3rd - Ribbon    4th - Ribbon

17. Wearable Shaped (sweaters, vests, jackets)
18. Wearable Flats (shawls, scarves, afghans)
19. Socks
20. Accessories (gloves, mittens, hats)
21. Miscellaneous Article, not listed above

## Handlooped or Handwoven (100% Handspun)

1st - \$6      2nd - \$4      3rd - Ribbon      4th - Ribbon

22. 100% Utah Produced Fiber

## Handwoven Article

1st - \$6      2nd - \$4      3rd - Ribbon      4th - Ribbon

23. Wearable Shaped (sweaters, vests, jackets)

24. Wearable Flat (shawls, scarves, afghans)

25. Household Flat (blankets, throws, pillows)

26. Table Linen

27. Wall Hanging and Rug

28. 100% Handspun and Handwoven

29. Yardage

30. Tapestry/Navajo Weaving

31. Miscellaneous Article, not listed above

## Felting

1st - \$6      2nd - \$4      3rd - Ribbon      4th - Ribbon

32. Hats, Gloves, Accessory

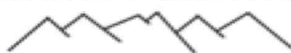
33. Miscellaneous Felted Item, not listed above



Alpacas for Sale  
Alpaca Fiber  
Products  
Roving,  
Custom Made  
Wooden Looms,  
(Round and Triangle Looms)

[www.altamistalpacas.com](http://www.altamistalpacas.com)

### Wasatch Watercolours



Fine dyed fibers for handspinners  
Take along spinning wheel bags

Judy Ede Jackson  
7642 South 2880 West  
West Jordan, Utah 84084-3721

<http://wasatchwatercolours.etsy.com>

### Judy's Novelty Wool



Judy Gunn  
1035 N. Main,  
Centerville, UT 84014  
801-298-1356

Basic beginning spinning classes,  
Sell: dyed wool roving, home grown wool  
fleeces,

Howard Handcards/Drumcarders, spindles,  
Miscellaneous spinning tools,  
and Crystal Palace Yarns

[woolone@aol.com](mailto:woolone@aol.com)



### We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.wasatchwoolpack.org](http://www.wasatchwoolpack.org)

It was requested that Danielle Jones be given credit as the formatter of Newsletters this year.