

Aurora Colony Handspinners Guild (ACHG)

WeGo Report for the period October 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024

ACHG meets on the **fourth Thursday**. Most regular monthly meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. every 4th Thursday (June and September meetings are subject to change. Please check the [website](#) calendar for current dates and times). In April, July, and December there are no monthly meetings but there are other events. There is no meeting in November.

October

Membership Meeting, October 26th

Jean Cockelreas, knitter, felter, hatmaker, production weaver, and Fiber Tour Guide. My presentation will be two-fold. I will do a presentation on knit to felt; I'm given a lot of wool and I use it often in making hats and slippers. Since hand spinners have lots of lovely wool, this is one way to use it! I'll also do a presentation video a friend of mine made while we were in Oaxaca on a tour. It beautifully presents the place, its art and its people. I'll have a few rugs and items I have purchased there over the years as examples to see and touch.



November – No meeting

December – Holiday Party

Party – We were all having so much fun that apparently no one took pictures. We had a white elephant type of gift exchange where we could only 'steal' once, which was good or we'd have been there all night! One member got really good at opening gifts – hers was stolen 8 times!

January

Membership Meeting

The evening's program will be a presentation by Jim Crabtree who will be talking about the Sheep to Shawl group, its beginning and progress through demonstrations and a competition where the team made a first prize winning shawl. They will be highlighting the shawls that were made and also have them available for guild members to have the first opportunity to purchase.

Fiber Challenge

The annual guild Fiber Challenge kickoff took place at the January meeting. This year we are focusing on vegetable fiber, so the choices were flax tow, flax strick, and cotton in bleached and natural. There was also a flax/rayon blend, rayon by itself and a rose fiber. All 4 oz fiber bags were \$5. The reveal will be in May

February

Membership Meeting

Meet My Wheel –Our presenter for February is you! Bring your antique wheel, your one-of-a-kind, exotic wheel, or your favorite wheel. We're asking everyone to bring a wheel or a spindle to the meeting. We'll take our meeting time to "meet" each others' wheels. Tell us where you found that beauty, what you know about the origin of it, what it's best at doing, if it has a name, what you have to do to keep it happy, etc. Introductions will be followed by some mingling time so we can wander around and ask questions. Of course, no one is required to bring a wheel or spindle or to share about their wheel, but we'd love to hear from many of our members.

March

Membership Meeting

Breed Study Presentation - Jane Ratcliff, recipient of a guild scholarship, will share some of what she learned from a nine-month breed study. Jane studied twelve breeds and practiced spinning each breed in three different ways. At our meeting we'd also love to hear about your favorite breed. For show and tell, please bring something connected to your favorite breed. Maybe you have some unprocessed fleece, a picture of your fiber animal, a sweater, or some skeins of yarn. Bring it and tell us why you love this breed of fiber animal so much. Let us all get inspired and learn from each other.

Event: Antique Spinning Wheel Showcase
(see end of report for article)

Judith McKenzie Workshops

We were very excited to have two workshops with Judith, however she was unable to visit us due to illness, so we are waiting to reschedule.

Study Groups:

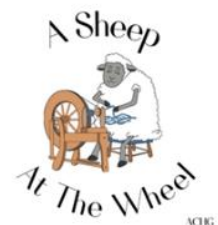
Knitting Study Group

This year the knitting study group focused on entrelac. Entrelac is a fun knitting technique that results in a diagonal basket weave pattern. It is even more fun if you can knit from right to left as well as left to right for short areas without turning your work

Sheep to Shawl

Our Sheep-to-Shawl (STS) Study Group is Team A Sheep at the Wheel.

A Sheep-To-Shawl event is a demonstration or a competitive event where a group of spinners and a weaver start with a fleece, card it, spin it, ply it and weave it into a beautiful wearable shawl. The ACHG study group wants to learn about breeds of sheep: what is best to use, and what is available in



our area. Our group also wants to learn how to spin and ply for both warp and weft, and to weave as a community and team.

We will be doing demonstrations on 12 to 14 different days at various Fiber Events and Fairs in 2024.

Members of ACHG, if they spin or weave (or not) can join the study group. This is a learning endeavor for all members who would like to participate. There are about 20 members, and the meetings are on Sundays.



Miscellaneous

Library

Our new Library Chair has added all our library items to Library Thing. This allows members to see what is in our library from a PC, tablet or smartphone. It can be nice to know you can try before buying. We are putting Library Tips in each newsletter.

Scholarships

ACHG provides scholarships to members and we have had several newsletter articles and guild presentations from our recipients.

Antique Spinning Wheel Showcase

Many exhibitors, demonstrators and volunteers participated in the 40th Annual Antique Spinning Wheel Showcase. It is an annual feature event of the Aurora Colony Handspinners' Guild. The Aurora Colony Museum hosted the event and worked with the guild on advertising and displays.

We had 19 exhibitors dressed in period costume spinning on their outstanding antique spinning wheels! Each wheel had a large professional display board with a description of the wheel that was being demonstrated. The exhibitors were able to take these posters with them at the close of the show.

This year's showcase highlighted the late renowned antique spinning wheel restorer Ron Antoine.

There was a special display of an article written by Ron Antoine telling the story of how he got started with restoring antique spinning wheels. Many of the wheels exhibited at the show were restored by Ron and they had a special designation on the poster for each wheel.

There was also a special exhibitor. Mary Ann Moore a life time member of the guild exhibited her modern Norwegian Double Table spinning wheel. It was made by Ron Antoine in 2015 from wood harvested from a black walnut tree that was on her father-in-law's property in Cottage Grove, Oregon. This wheel was an excellent example of the excellent craftsmanship that Ron Antoine was known for.



There were Special demonstrations going on each day. On Saturday the guild Sheep to Shawl Study Group did a wonderful **demonstration of a Fleece to Shawl event.** Members of the study group spun the yarn and wove a shawl. A special exhibit of the natural dyeing process for the warp yarn was displayed by Sandy Silver. Jim Crabtree and Rosalie Linse organized the demonstration.

The finished shawl was fulled or "Waulked" by guild members and members of the public on Sunday. Diane McKinnon

facilitated and explained the “Waulking” process. It was exciting to see how the fabric changed after just a couple of passes around the table.

We also had **Alpacas and Angora Bunnies!** Suzanne Campbell’s two young alpacas were on display both Saturday and Sunday. The Angora Bunnies were displayed by Deidra and Becky MacKimmie.

Guild Members Darlene and Della Ward were in the Steinbach Log Cabin demonstrating drop spindling and wheel spinning.

The soup kitchen was supervised by Kate Krisor. Many of our exhibitors and volunteers brought yummy soups, bread and snacks for our lunch on Saturday.



The Antique Spinning Wheel Raffle brought in \$337.00. It was won by **Lois Moore** of Friday Harbor, Washington. Lois was in disbelief when she received the phone call that she was the winner! She is a spinner and lives on Stone Haven Farm where they raise Shetland sheep. She purchased her tickets at the Oregon Flock & Fiber Festival at our guild demonstration booth.

The Wheel was picked up by her friend Angie Shephard and her son Levi on March 28, 2024 at the Old Aurora Colony Museum. Angie and her son were traveling to Oregon for a sheep farm tour put on by

the American Sheep Industry Council.

The Museum reported that the total attendance for the two day event was 121 visitors. The drop spindle kits that are consigned to the Museum gift shop were very popular. They sold all but 1 of the kits during the showcase. The Museum volunteers also had fiber arts activities for kids in the Wash House.

The Museum and ACHG are looking forward to next year’s showcase. Committee members had a productive wrap up meeting with the Museum staff and will be instituting some new procedures for next year’s showcase.